Too Close to Call
‘Margin of error’ played starring role in presidential election

Looking for Home
Med student helps Syrians cope with camp conditions

Under Pressure
Scholars test dirt strength in engineering workshop

Ribbeting Hobby
Science professor clicks with frogs
CODE FOR SUCCESS
Reshma Saujani helps young women narrow the gender gap by offering them opportunities to explore careers in engineering and computer science.

FINISH LINE
Clinical psychologist Joseph Galasso ’00 founded the Special Spartans race, which motivates children with special needs to tackle new challenges and build confidence on an obstacle course designed for them.

SONGSTRESS
Junior Brenda Alderete knows what it’s like to have a song shoot to the top of the charts. In fact, she’s released two of them on iTunes.

COLD, HARD FACTS
Bobcats goalie Chris Truehl dreams of a pro hockey career despite a medical condition that causes him to be allergic to ice and sensitive to the cold.

The Frog Whisperer
Biomedical sciences professor Lisa Cuchara is also an award-winning photographer whose portrait subjects include the more than 70 pet frogs she owns. Between teaching, research, nature photography and instructing pathology assistant students in forensic photography, her busy life keeps her hopping.

Too Close to Call
The director of the Quinnipiac Poll predicted a close presidential race in early October, when polls showed Donald Trump closing in on Hillary Clinton in some states. In fact, Doug Schwartz says their final polls were within 3 points of the actual results, well within the margin of error. So why were most people surprised?

Looking For Home
Medical student Sara Rahman was profoundly touched by her experiences volunteering at a camp for Syrian refugees in Greece. The worst part of the job, for her, was rationing food to people trying to remain hopeful in the face of tragedy.
Alumni

45 REFLECTIONS
Class of ’98 grads Thomas Kelly and Chris Delenick share fond memories of Father Louis Evangelisto. They say he “believed in the inherent good in all of us.”

47 AT THE PENTAGON
Major Jamahl Evans, JD ’00, puts his law degree to work at the Pentagon as a financial management officer. He makes sure his fellow Marines get the best training and equipment.

48 YOUR NEWS
Check out the wedding and baby photos you submitted and catch up with all the news of your classmates in this section, as well as photos from events including Alumni Weekend, Parents and Family Weekend and law school receptions.

32 Team Mobile
One little boy unable to walk because of cerebral palsy received the gift of motion from engineering student Rachel Davis and several professors who put their heads together to build him a neon yellow, remote-controlled electric car.

36 Peace Work
The Albert Schweitzer Institute brought three female Nobel Peace Prize recipients from Iran, Yemen and Liberia to campus for a lecture in which they described how women and young people organized to effect change and denounce crimes against humanity.
MENDING MINDS AFTER QUAKE

Srijan Adhikari, a second-year student in the Frank H. Netter MD School of Medicine, wondered how schoolchildren in his native Nepal were handling the psychological and social effects following the 2015 earthquake that ravaged the country. He returned to Nepal recently for a capstone project, presenting educational workshops on how to spot depression to help eliminate the stigma associated with the illness. His project built on the lessons learned in his global public health class. He was inspired by the positivity of the Nepalese people. “The earthquake devastated the country, but still, people are trying to make a normal life,” he said. “Natural disasters are part of our world. We can’t change what happened but we can make the best of what we have.”

See the video at magazine.qu.edu/nepalcapstone
Reshma Saujani, founder and CEO of Girls Who Code, said it’s possible to close the gender gap in technology by shattering stereotypes and offering girls more opportunities to explore careers in the field. Saujani presented the lecture, “Designing a Better Tomorrow: Overcoming the Gender Gap in Technology,” in October.

“Tech jobs are among the fastest growing in the country, yet girls are being left behind,” Saujani said. “By 2020, there will be 1.4 million jobs available in computing-related fields. Women are on track to fill just 3 percent,” she noted.

Girls Who Code teaches about computer science through a variety of real-world projects in several areas, including art and storytelling, robotics, video games, websites and app development. The organization has grown from 20 female participants in New York in 2012 to 10,000 girls in 42 states. “That’s the same number of girls who graduate each year with a degree in computer science,” Saujani said. “That’s progress.”

A graduate of Yale Law School, Saujani began her career as an attorney and activist. She also has served as deputy public advocate for New York City. She’s come to the conclusion that girls do not think the tech industry is open to them because there are few role models. “You cannot be what you cannot see,” she said.
Ron Insana Talks Dollars and Sense

Economic uncertainty a given, says finance pundit

By Doug Daniels
Photo Autumn Driscoll

Donald Trump is still settling into the Oval Office, and a new Congress has been sworn in. With every new president comes some level of economic uncertainty, said Ron Insana, a veteran financial journalist.

How and if Trump decides to implement the proposals he campaigned on—many of which would represent a dramatic departure from the actions of former administrations—could have a profound impact in the near and long-term, he warned when he spoke before a packed room of business students and members of the Quinnipiac community in November.

“What the economy has in store depends on how Donald Trump prioritizes his policies,” said Insana, who did not back Trump in the election. “If he starts with a $3 trillion tax cut, that would supercharge economic growth in the near term. The market might not be stable, but we could see rapid growth and strong market performance in the early stages of his presidency,” he said.

Over the course of three decades and five presidential administrations, Insana has made a successful career in broadcasting, analyzing the economy and the financial markets. An Emmy-nominated journalist who serves as a contributor to CNBC and MSNBC, Insana began as a market analyst for the Financial News Network in the 1980s and has become one of the most recognizable faces in the business media world.

He also delivers the Market Scoreboard Report to radio stations around the country and is known for his high-profile interviews that have included Presidents Clinton and Bush; billionaire investors Warren Buffett, George Soros and Julian Robertson; captains of industry Bill Gates, Jack Welch and the late Steve Jobs.

Although Trump’s anti-trade message played a significant role in his electoral success throughout the Rust Belt last November, Insana fears that if his actions as president reflect his rhetoric from the campaign, the effects could be devastating.

“If Trump identifies China as a currency manipulator, starts building the [estimated $25 billion] wall with Mexico and tries to renegotiate NAFTA, that could have a dampening effect on economic activity,” Insana said. “And trade wars with Mexico and China could create a global recession.”

Insana shared that he stumbled into his financial media career by chance. He graduated from college with a film degree and no knowledge of finance or economics, but when a friend offered him an off-camera job at the Financial News Network, he accepted it until something better came along.

One day, when the small network’s only two anchors both called in sick, Insana was forced to go on camera and bluff his way through hours of economic discussions. This experience triggered a new passion for the subject area, and his career took off.

Economically speaking, it’s an extremely exciting time, according to Insana. “One single election outcome isn’t going to detail the technological progress being made in the United States. The opportunity is there and your skill set is there. Markets will go up and down. This is just the ongoing sweep of history,” he noted.

He advised students to be flexible and to embrace unexpected opportunities that come along as they make their way in the work place. He also predicted that the next decade or two would present game-changing advances that will transform business and the economy in ways nobody had imagined a few years ago.

“Technological innovation has become increasingly important. When you look at things happening in medical technology and with 3D printing—these things are extraordinary innovations that will alter the work place over the course of your careers,” he said.
Hartford, Connecticut

Justice Dennis G. Eveleigh

SUPREME SESSION

The School of Law hosted the Connecticut Supreme Court in the school’s Ceremonial Courtroom in October. On the docket: two appeal cases. One focused on a New Haven police officer acquitted of sexually assaulting two women in a bar; the other addressed the confidentiality of psychiatric records. “We are very proud to be a part of the venerable tradition of ‘on-circuit’ arguments, when the court brings its proceedings into the community,” said Dean Jennifer Gerarda Brown.

USA

The Schwanbecks

BROADCAST BLUES

Karin Schwanbeck, associate professor of journalism, and her husband, Bill, an adjunct communications professor, screened their documentary, “Small Markets, Big Dreams: 5 Journalists Start Their Careers in TV News,” at QU in October. The film focuses on the early-career struggles of young TV journalists around the country. The piece took first place in the Broadcast Education Association’s super-regional faculty documentary competition.

Ferguson, Missouri

Nyle Fort

BLACK LIVES MATTER

Nyle Fort, a young minister and organizer of the Black Lives Matter movement in Ferguson, Missouri, visited campus in November to discuss the election and his experiences as an activist. Fort told the crowd, “Democracy is what we do, not just on election day, but the day after and the day after that.” He also said, “Vote, yes, but realize that is not the totality of what it means to be engaged in a democratic society.”

Karnataka, India

Elena Bertozzi

FAMILY PLANNING RESEARCH

Elena Bertozzi, associate professor of game design and development, was awarded a $100,000 grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to design an innovative method for understanding cultural norms that influence family planning decisions in adolescents in Karnataka, India, using a game-like tool that collects information about childbearing intentions and family planning values. Bertozzi will work with Aparna Sridhar of UCLA’s School of Medicine. The data will be used to design more effective family planning educational materials.

Turkey

Aydoğan Vatandaş

POLITICAL UNREST

Investigative journalist Aydoğan Vatandaş came to campus in December to speak about the political situation in Turkey following a recently attempted coup d’état in which thousands of teachers, judges and anyone deemed an enemy of the state was thrown in jail. The program was hosted by the Peace Islands Institute and the Albert Schweitzer Institute.

Palm Beach, Florida

Tim Malloy

COLLABORATES WITH PATTERSON

Tim Malloy, assistant director of the Quinnipiac University Poll and a former broadcast journalist, co-authored a nonfiction book with blockbuster author James Patterson and John Connolly, “Filthy Rich,” a New York Times best-seller, tells the story of Jeffrey Epstein, the billionaire convicted of murder and his experiences as an activist. Fort told the crowd, “Democracy is what we do, not just on election day, but the day after and the day after that.” He also said, “Vote, yes, but realize that is not the totality of what it means to be engaged in a democratic society.”

New York City

David Asman

AHEAD OF THE G.A.M.E.

Fox Business anchor David Asman is among keynote speakers who will headline the first day of the three-day G.A.M.E VIII Forum (Global Asset Management Education) March 30-April 1 at the New York Hilton Midtown Hotel. The annual event brings together more than 1,200 students from 37 countries and provides a unique opportunity for interaction with key leaders from the financial services industry. Other notable speakers include Ralph Acampora of Altaira Capital Partners, Abby Joseph Cohen of Goldman Sachs, Douglas Coté of Voya Investment Management, Frances Donald of Manulife Asset Management, Kathleen Hays of Bloomberg Radio, Tom Keene of Bloomberg News, Jeffrey Kleintop of Charles Schwab and David Kudla of Mainstay Capital Management, among others. Visit qgame.qu.edu to register and obtain more information.

Hamden, Connecticut

Team 6Pack’d

SOCIAL DRINKING

Two student teams split $4,500 in prize money during a December digital business class competition. Taking first place was a team named 6Pack’d, which pitched an app that allows craft beer aficionados to share their experiences in a social media environment. Team “Find, Play, Win” pitched an app designed to help students meet new people through intramural and pick-up sports.

Wallingford, Connecticut

Joseph Huberman

SENIOR MOMENTS

As part of a unique pilot program, QU students Victoria Kozar and Joseph Huberman, below, moved in to the Masonicare assisted living facility in Wallingford, Connecticut, where they are spending the school year helping to care for more than 100 elderly residents. “The idea is to promote intergenerational experiences,” said Huberman, a graduate occupational therapy student. Kozar is a senior health sciences major.
Quinnipiac mourned the passing of two important members of its community last fall and remembered each at a memorial service. Kevin Basmadjian, dean of the School of Education, passed away in October. David King, former associate dean of the School of Law, died in November. Both battled long illnesses.

Basmadjian joined the Quinnipiac faculty in June 2004. He served as an associate professor and director of the master of arts in teaching program in the School of Education, and as the university’s first faculty leadership fellow with the Office of Academic Affairs. In August 2012, he was appointed interim dean for the School of Education and in April 2014, he was named dean.

“Kevin was a great leader who managed to bring a diverse group of faculty together and create a tight-knit unit made up of individuals who support each other and love working together,” said Mordechai Gordon, professor of education.

“Most importantly,” Gordon said, “Kevin was a master diplomat and builder of bridges. He knew how to get his point across without offending anyone, serving as a model for those of us who are a little more impulsive and rough around the edges.”

David King served as the law school’s associate dean for academic affairs for almost a quarter century, and also assumed the role of interim dean from 2000-02. He joined the former University of Bridgeport School of Law in 1978 and was among the faculty leaders who were instrumental in guiding its transition to Hamden after Quinnipiac acquired it in 1992. King taught courses in property, land use and urban planning, and trusts and estates. He was respected and well-liked by students who voted him Professor of the Year several times.

“Students were always the primary focus of David’s work, and he was most gratified when he was interacting with them, in and out of the classroom. Generations of students benefitted from his careful preparation, extensive knowledge, rigor, and effectiveness as a classroom teacher,” said Dean Jennifer Gerarda Brown.

King graduated from Dartmouth College and was drafted into the U.S. Army, where he served as a sergeant with the 18th Military Police Brigade in Vietnam. After, he attended Cleveland-Marshall College of Law and also earned an LLM from Harvard Law School.
EMBRACING OBSTACLES BUILDS CONFIDENCE

Psychologist designs race for kids with special needs

BY ADAM DURSO
PHOTO MICHELLE MCLAUGHLIN

JOSEPH GALASSO ’00 WATCHED intently as children lined up for the kick-off of the second annual Special Spartans race in Stamford, Connecticut.

“There is something about the starter saying ‘Go!’” says Galasso, a clinical psychologist. “Once the race starts, you’d never guess this was a separate heat from other Spartan races. Their determination is the same.”

Galasso is a founding partner of the COR Group, a New Jersey-based network that provides a range of psychological, behavioral and educational services to individuals with developmental and intellectual disabilities. Through his nonprofit Omnes Foundation, he developed Special Spartans to deliver authentic, confidence-building experiences to those individuals. Kids race in tandem with family, friends or volunteers on courses that include climbing walls, mud pits, a log carry and spear-throw. Special Spartans is an offshoot event of the Spartan Race, the premiere obstacle course event in the world.

“It has been truly exciting to see, but at the same time, a sad commentary on how these kinds of events, by and large, don’t exist for this population,” said Galasso, who majored in psychology at Quinnipiac and went on to earn a master’s in industrial/organizational psychology and a doctorate in clinical psychology.

Galasso is working hard to change this lack of inclusiveness. Now in its third full year, Special Spartans has grown from a single race in New Jersey to 17 nationwide, held in such venues as AT&T Stadium in Texas and Boston’s Fenway Park. “We are trying to really make this a national event,” Galasso says. “We would like to see this population represented at every Spartan race.”

Galasso attended every Special Spartans event last year. He has been surprised by the level of community involvement, from elite athletes to common people willing to assist with everything from transportation and registration to running the course with participants. “That was not entirely by design,” Galasso explains. “Much of our volunteer support has happened totally organically.”

Another “happy accident,” as Galasso puts it, was the superhero theme that has come to define the Special Spartans events. From Captain America and Spider-Man to The Flash, volunteers began attending all of the races in 2016 dressed as their favorite comic book characters.

“I don’t think it’s possible to exhaust all of the metaphors there,” Galasso says. Like the heroes from page and screen, racers also must call upon hidden reserves of strength to accomplish a great physical feat or triumph over adversity. For many Special Spartans, the most difficult forms of adversity are not physical.

“In many ways, there are more obstacles before the course than there are on it,” Galasso says. These include sensory overload and the fears associated with being in a crowded, unfamiliar place.

Despite these difficulties, Galasso is interested in what he calls “authentic successes.” For him, Special Spartans is about more than just showing up and running a race; it’s about completing a race. So far, every race has enjoyed a 100 percent completion rate.

“They are so thrilled with themselves once they cross the finish line,” he says. “It is a very normalizing experience for them.” He explained that for these children, it’s more than a finish line; they cross into a greater community, overcome the same obstacles as their peers, and learn that they are just like everyone else.

“Therein is the whole point of what we do professionally,” Galasso says. “As far as I’m concerned, if the people I work with can’t gain functional skills, integrate into other environments, or into a broader social context, then I’ve failed at my job.”

Besides his COR Group work, Galasso has served as the official team psychologist for the NBA’s Brooklyn Nets since 2014. A busy schedule isn’t enough to slow Galasso down, nor diminish his desire to see Special Spartans grow on a national, and even global scale.

“I operate in two gears at all times,” he explains: “Go and improve.”

PHOTO MICHELLE MCLAUGHLIN

Joseph Galasso ’00, right, founder of the Special Spartans Race, watches as a participant in the rope-climbing segment gets some help from Spider-Man.
THE CLEAN HOUSE

1. Senior Jennifer Dupre played Virginia in “The Clean House,” presented by QU’s Main Stage Theater Company. A self-proclaimed “neat freak,” Virginia is speaking to her sister, Lane, whose husband has just left her. Faculty member Keely Baisden directed the play.

2. Seniors Khalid “DJ” Bilal and Christina Comizio had dual roles—their primary roles as Charles, Lane’s husband, and Ana, his mistress, and secondary roles as the parents of Mathilde, who appear in flashback memories.

3. Virginia hugs cleaning woman Mathilde, portrayed by freshman Lauren Salato-Rosenay, after they learn that Lane has fired her.

4. In a dual scene, Charles and Ana deal with the reality of Ana’s cancer returning while Virginia and Lane play cards and try to adjust to Charles leaving Lane to be with his love, Ana.

5. Christina Comizio, as the vivacious Ana, dramatically shares the story of how she and Charles met in the hospital where she was recuperating from cancer treatment. Their mutual attraction was instantaneous and irresistible.

6. Lane, portrayed by senior Amber Hopwood, right, plays a doctor who’s hired a Brazilian woman named Mathilde to clean her house. However, Mathilde hates to clean. So, Lane’s sister, Virginia, does it on the sly. In this scene, Virginia and Lane are told that Ana’s cancer has returned and she is dying.
BRENDA ALDERETE ’18

Between her studies and her sorority activities, this junior found the time to write, record and publish two singles.

INTERVIEW BY OLIVIA ABEL
PHOTO AUTUMN DRISCOLL

When Brenda Alderete began her freshman year, she thought she’d have to shelve her singing to hit the books. Happily, she’s managed to do both. In September 2015, the Paraguay native released her first single on iTunes, “Time Moves On,” which quickly shot to No. 1 in her home country. Since then, the junior sociology major and member of QU’s a cappella group, The Legends, has belted out the national anthem at a Bobcats home hockey game, sang solo at the United Nations on International Friendship Day and released her second single, “Believe Again,” in December.

How old were you the first time you sang in public? I was 7 and I sang something from “Beauty and the Beast” at the local theater company’s summer camp show in town. I was shy, but being on stage was the only place I really felt comfortable.

“Time Moves On” was your first foray into song writing? Yes. A high school friend, Noreen, who studies songwriting in Nashville encouraged me. She’d play the guitar and then ask me, “What are you feeling? What do you want people to hear?” We came up with a melody and kept singing it to each other until finally we said, “There, that’s it.”

How did that song get recorded? A family friend has a studio in his basement. We met a few times and then he sent me five or six different versions until we found the perfect one. He mastered it, mixed it, and then he submitted it to iTunes for me. It was No. 31 on iTunes Top 100 Best-Selling Singer/Songwriter Singles on Sept. 22, 2015.

What was the reaction on campus? I was in class when the song was released, and I started getting lots of text messages. I thought, “Oh. My. God!” I couldn’t believe the outpouring of good wishes from so many people. A few days later, I walked into my room, and all of my roommates were sitting on their beds listening to it and blasting it on their speakers. It was surreal.

What are your songs about? “Time Moves On” is about how the world keeps spinning—even if we wish we could make it stop—and the difficulty of living apart from those we love. “Believe Again” is about growing up and losing the sense of magic that comes with the holiday season. I feel there are people in our lives who make it possible for us to believe in the magic again.

Tell us about The Legends. It’s a co-ed group of 18. We record on campus and we sang the national anthem at Madison Square Garden in January 2016 for the Rivalry on Ice hockey game. There were 12,000 people there. I was nervous—I’m always in the front row because I’m short. But it was an incredible feeling. Our group also was featured in a video distributed on social media and sent to alumni as a holiday message.

How about your solo national anthem gig? I spent the whole day warming up and then went for a sound check. I was worried I’d mess up the lyrics. Our hockey team is so well respected, and I wanted to make sure I would do this school justice. They put out a little red carpet and you walk out onto the ice. The whole time I was imagining what would happen if I slipped and fell in front of everyone. But I felt really happy with it.

Do you have a favorite singer? Carrie Underwood. She is an awesome writer and she really puts a lot of effort into her performances.

What else keeps you busy? I was just elected president of my sorority, Phi Sigma Sigma—148 girls. I never saw myself as someone who would be involved in a sorority, but it’s so not like it is in the movies. These girls are some of my biggest supporters, and I’m grateful for the opportunities this organization has given me. Plus, I’m working on an album.

You moved from Paraguay to Long Island when you were 3. Do you stay connected to your roots? Yes. A high school friend, Noreen, who studies songwriting in Nashville encouraged me. She’d play the guitar and then ask me, “What are you feeling? What do you want people to hear?” We came up with a melody and kept singing it to each other until finally we said, “There, that’s it.”

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Students in Kipp Hopper’s residence hall were shocked to hear the melodic sounds of a harp wafting from the sophomore’s room recently. “I didn’t tell them I was getting a harp,” says Hopper about the used instrument he purchased for a few hundred dollars this fall. “They like it. Sometimes I’ll take it to someone’s room and play for a bunch of people.”

Hopper is not the only one to discover the joys of this ancient instrument; he is one of seven students currently studying the harp at Quinnipiac. The one-credit class consists of individual, weekly half-hour lessons with professional harpist Haley Hewitt. “I’ve tried playing the trombone, the piano, and the guitar, says Hopper a biomedical sciences major. “But this is something I want to stick with.”

Hewitt, who won the U.S. National Scottish Harp Championship in 2013, says students like the harp for a variety of reasons. “Some people love the sound or they think it’s beautiful. Some say it reminds them of angels or fairies. Most people find the music very relaxing.”

The harp program started two years ago when junior Daisy Melendez expressed a desire to continue her harp studies at college. The department rented one, and the following year, two lever harps were donated. Hewitt focuses mostly on Scottish music. “But for their final project, they bring in something, and we learn it together,” she says.
What was the best time in Dr. Christine Van Cott’s life? Spending a year in New Zealand with her family while doing a surgery fellowship. The second best? Interning at the FBI. But developing the surgery curriculum and teaching students at the Frank H. Netter MD School of Medicine, which will graduate its inaugural class this May, ranks pretty high.

A surgical oncologist affiliated with St. Vincent’s Medical Center in Bridgeport, the primary clinical partner for the Netter School, Van Cott encourages her students to build relationships with patients. “It’s an honor to know these patients and to hear their stories,” she says. “It’s also OK to cry with your patients and for your patients. The day you stop feeling is the day you should no longer be a doctor,” she says.

Realizing that she cannot save every patient, she’s come to measure success differently. “My successes are getting somebody to their daughter’s wedding or getting them to the birth of their first grandchild.”

She’s the married mother of “two munchkins” who visit her in the hospital and tell jokes to her patients in the waiting room. “It’s important for them to know that when I’m not home with them, I’m doing something meaningful,” she says.

Van Cott acknowledges that she’s not a “classroom” educator. “My students learn in the trauma bay, in the operating room and in the emergency room. They learn in my office, they learn on the fly, they learn in the hallway,” she says.
Six standout professors and staff members were recognized at the 2016 Center for Excellence in Teaching and Service to Students award ceremony in October.

Odette Franceskino, Director of Financial Aid, School of Law
Franceskino, who celebrated 20 years at Quinnipiac in July, has a reputation as a caring administrator. “Borrowing money is not typically an enjoyable experience, but each encounter with Odette is always a positive one,” says student Mary-Caitlin Harding, who nominated her. Harding says Franceskino kept in touch with her prior to her first year of law school to ensure she was comfortable with the process. Franceskino, who earned her MBA at QU, says her philosophy is simple: “We are here for the students.”

John Reap, Assistant Professor of Mechanical Engineering
Reap, who taught for two years at Virginia Tech before joining Quinnipiac in 2012, is proud to have helped build the School of Engineering from the ground up. “I think helping students to learn, achieve and grow as human beings is a good use of my talents,” he says. His students agree. “I can confidently say that he stands above the rest in many ways,” says engineering grad Matthew Powers ’16. “He uses everything and anything he can think of to communicate knowledge to his students.”

Lani Keller, Assistant Professor of Biology
Keller attributes her love of biology to the abundant wildlife she was exposed to growing up in Alaska. “We had moose in our yard,” she recalls, adding that is where she developed her interest in fruit flies. She uses them as a model organism to research the mechanisms of development. Biology student Sara Olyaei says Keller is always willing to make herself accessible to her students and dedicates her time to advise, encourage and motivate them. “If you can get one person excited, that opens up the gate,” Keller says.

Mark Tortora, Associate Director of Education Abroad Programs
Tortora, who graduated from Quinnipiac alongside his twin brother, Matt, in 2005, studied in Scotland his sophomore year and later headed to Ireland to pursue a master’s degree in sociology and globalization. “The different cultures, nuances, morals and values showed me that there is a bigger picture. It was life changing,” he says. Since 2007, Tortora has been committed to helping Quinnipiac students have similar enriching experiences.

John Polascik, Assistant Bursar
Since 2004, Polascik has handled delicate financial matters, including collecting tuition payments. “I prefer to be on a first-name basis with parents and students,” he says. “I want parents to feel they made the right choice in sending their child to Quinnipiac.” Dominic Yoia, associate vice president and director of financial aid, calls Polascik an unsung hero and one of the university’s greatest assets. “His sensible approach has turned hundreds of potential attrition statistics into hundreds more proud alumni of Quinnipiac University.”

Dr. Christine Van Cott, Assistant Professor of Surgery and Surgical Clerkship Director, Frank H. Netter MD School of Medicine
Van Cott, a surgical oncologist at St. Vincent’s Medical Center in Bridgeport, says developing the surgery curriculum for a new medical school has been a labor of love. Her students love her dedication. “Dr. Van Cott is collegial, respectful and professional in all interactions. She serves as a role model, especially to those of us aspiring to become surgeons,” says medical student Timothy O’Rourke. “She empowers students to lead, to be confident in our abilities, and to never stop learning.” (Read a profile of Van Cott on page 12.)
The Bobcats enjoyed a breakthrough season in 2016 that shattered records and brought the volleyball team to its first Division I conference championship match. The team logged 21 victories, more than doubling its previous Division I record set a decade and a half ago. The third-seeded Bobcats advanced to the MAAC Championship match in late November after an exciting win against sixth-seeded Niagara two days earlier in the tournament’s opening round. Quinnipiac fended off a match point and went on to win that game 3-2 before defeating Marist 3-1 in the semifinals to earn a shot in the final against top-seeded Fairfield. After saving four match points, Fairfield ultimately prevailed, but Quinnipiac maintained pressure until the end, coming to within one point of tying the third set. Sophomore Kat Miller led the team with 11 kills, and along with freshman Maria Pan-sari, was named to the All-Tournament team. Senior Allison Leigh ended her successful career at Quinnipiac by breaking QU’s Division I record with 184 blocks. Senior Cody Michaels, who became only the third player in Quinnipiac’s Division I history to break the 1000-dig mark with 1,004, said, “We gave it everything we had, right up until the very end. The work that every person put in, the running and the difficult days—it has all been worth it.”
DESPITE THE COLD
Goalie defends body against allergy to ice

By Adam Durso
Photo John Hasset

Defending the net against some of the fastest skaters and top shooters in ECAC Hockey isn’t the most difficult aspect of Bobcats goalie Chris Truehl’s job. It’s the periods of inactivity, the moments when the action is on the other side of the blue line, that are the hardest for the junior goaltender.

“You’ll see me skating around a lot, stretching my legs, moving my arms,” Truehl says. “If I start to feel my body stiffen, or my skin begin to tighten and feel uncomfortable, I absolutely have to move.”

While many people claim an adversarial relationship with the cold, Truehl’s is particularly unique. He suffers from a condition called cold urticaria—or cold hives. He is allergic to ice and highly sensitive to very cold temperatures.

“I know. There is absolutely no shortage of irony there,” he jokes.

Truehl became aware of his condition in 2013, while playing hockey as a member of the U.S. Air Force Academy team. Following an intense practice, the young goalie stepped into an ice bath to rejuvenate. After several minutes, he started to feel discomfort and noticed red welts forming on his skin. The welts spread to his lower body, growing darker and more painful. At first, the coaches and medical staff thought he’d been bitten by something.

After some tests, it became clear the painful hives covering Truehl’s body were an allergic response to the ice-cold water. The news was baffling as Truehl, a Wisconsin native, had no family history of cold urticaria and had grown up embracing the outdoors, tough Midwestern winters and winter sports.

“Hockey, skiing, snowboarding. I was involved in pretty much every major cold-weather sport and pastime you can think of,” he says.

Truehl attributed his condition to events that occurred a year prior. As part of his Air Force training, he’d had to complete a survival exercise with four of his peers in the woods of Colorado. It was June, and they were prepared for dry, 90-degree heat.

An unexpected weather system, however, blindsided Truehl and his team. For five days, they plodded through rain and hail, the temperature dipping at times below 40 degrees. By the end of the exercise, frostbite covered nearly 40 percent of Truehl’s skin. The Air Force physician who treated him told Truehl that while he would recover, he might experience certain side effects as a result of his exposure.

“I thought, ‘OK, maybe my skin will just be a bit more sensitive going forward.’” The news was worse. The condition ended his military career, disqualifying him from all graded positions.

“It pretty much drove a stake right through every aspect of my future,” he says.

Having started more than 50 games in two years as a goalie for Air Force, Truehl knew his experience and skill would generate collegiate interest. “I leaned on the fact that I’m a veteran,” Truehl says. “I’ve played No. 1 teams before sellout crowds. I’ve been everywhere.”

While he looked at three or four colleges, a close friend suggested Quinnipiac. After a one-on-one meeting with head coach Rand Pecknold, the choice was made.

Truehl finds creative methods for dealing with his condition during games. After heavy sweating, it is not uncommon for him to change his thermal undershirt to keep from freezing. “I don’t get to ‘cool down’ until the end of the game,” he explains.

Ice baths are out of the question, and he relies on heat and electric stimulation to mitigate soreness and injury. The economics major has his sights set firmly on a pro career. He credits his coaches and the team medical staff for their support, for helping him to adapt and helping him continue to grow as a player.

“They know I’m strong, and they don’t have to question my mental toughness or physical ability,” says Truehl. “I don’t let the pressure get to me. I give 100 percent every day, all the time. If I do my job right, I know it helps everybody else do theirs.”
Men’s Ice Hockey
IN FRIENDSHIP FOUR

Men’s ice hockey headed to Belfast, Northern Ireland, to play in the 2016 Friendship Four Tournament in November. The team shut out St. Lawrence in the first round in the SSE Arena, but fell to Vermont, 5-1, in the championship game. The players also toured the region and visited two schools. At Holy Trinity Primary School, the student athletes taught hockey to the schoolchildren, some of whom had never seen the game.

Acrobatics & Tumbling
JOIN ECAC LEAGUE

Quinnipiac’s acrobatics and tumbling team has joined the newly formed ECAC Acrobatics & Tumbling League—the first of its kind in the nation. Other members include teams from Alderson Broaddus University, Gannon University and King University. Competition begins this year.

Women’s Rugby
CHAMPIONS AGAIN

The rugby team bested Central Washington University, 46-24, for the 2016 NIRA National Championship win.

Hockey & Hoops
ON AIR AND ONLINE

This is Quinnipiac’s second national championship in a row. The team advanced to the championship game after beating Army West Point, 65-8, in the NIRA semifinals. “There’s always been such a strong feeling of pride for our program among our team members since we began in 2010, but achieving two national championships consecutively has certainly amplified that pride,” said Becky Carlson, head rugby coach. Senior Flora Poole, a standout player for the 2016-17 season, tied for first place in “steals at the tackle” in a single game with three against Central Washington. During the season, she recorded 20 tries, 52 solo tackles and 20 assisted tackles and became the first Bobcat in program history to record a try in every game.

Facilities
NEW FIELDS TAKING SHAPE

Two state-of-the-art athletic facilities will emerge this fall from the giant dirt mounds created as construction crews demolish the turf field off Hogan Road on the Mount Carmel Campus. Each facility will feature a turf field and a stadium building; one will be shared by the men’s and women’s soccer and lacrosse teams, and the other is for women’s field hockey. “They are a fantastic addition for our Division I sports teams,” said Sal Filardi, vice president of facilities and capital planning. The soccer and lacrosse facility will seat 1,500 spectators while the field hockey building will accommodate up to 500 fans. Both will house locker rooms, team training rooms, broadcast-ready press boxes, a first-aid station and public restrooms. Additionally, the facilities will provide new venues for sports journalism and athletic training majors to practice their crafts.

Cross Country
FINISHING STRONG

Women’s cross country earned a 14th-place finish at the 2016 NCAA Northeast Regionals at Van Cortland Park in New York City in November. One of the most decorated runners in program history, senior Niamh Ashe, took 42nd place among 254 competitors. Ashe had a first-place finish on the team in 18 of her 19 career appearances. Juniors Emily Wolff placed 64th, Kaleigh Roberts took 72nd place and junior Katelyn Veron finished 144th.

Women’s Basketball
RANKED 2ND IN POLL

The women’s basketball team earned a program record No. 2 ranking in the College Insider Mid-Major Poll in January.

Men’s Hockey
FIRST NHL POINT

Former Bobcats standout Matthew Peca ’15 became the first men’s ice hockey alum to score a goal in the National Hockey League on Jan. 3 when his Tampa Bay Lightning played Winnipeg. He also was first to record a point in the NHL with an assist on Alex Killorn’s goal in the Dec. 31 game against the Carolina Hurricanes. Tampa Bay had recalled Peca from the Syracuse Crunch earlier that week.

For the latest scores and news, visit quinnipiacbobcats.com.
SEAN LIGHT KEEPS LAKERS HANGING LOOSE

Job is a stretch for former Bobcats hoopster

By Benjamin Gleisser
Photo Ty Nowell

Sean Light ’10, assistant strength and conditioning coach for the Los Angeles Lakers, watches the team’s morning shoot-around practice. He notes how smoothly big men D’Angelo Russell and Nick Young pivot with their hips as they twist their bodies and aim for the basket. In about an hour, he’ll accompany the team as they fly to Sacramento to play the Kings.

Heading back to his office at Staples Center, the Lakers’ arena, Light says his coaching philosophy is to find ways “to maximize the efficiency of the human movement system.” He is fascinated by how the body works.

“When there’s a problem, I dive as deep as I can into the player’s physiology and kinesiology to find out why the injury occurred. For example, you can’t just treat hamstrings with traditional stretching; you must look deeper into the issue—faulty breathing patterns may be putting a strain on the hips, which yanks the hamstrings.”

Light is a strong proponent of the mind-body connection: “The brain governs the body. For example, when you have a back spasm, why is the brain telling the muscles to be tight?”

Growing up in Colts Neck, New Jersey, Light played basketball in high school and at Quinnipiac, where he was on the 2009-10 Bobcats team that won 23 games, the most in the school’s history, but lost the last game of the season by one point and missed going to the NCAA postseason tournament.

“That game remains the most exciting basketball environment I’ve ever been part of. The students and the town came out to support us. The entire student section was full. It was such a shame we couldn’t come away with the win, but our team had 15 warriors, and I’m proud to have been a part of everything we accomplished,” he says. He is still friends with many of his former teammates.

Light laughs when asked how a journalism major ended up easing the aches and pains of professional athletes. “I was a pretty good writer, but I had no idea what I wanted to do with my life,” he says. “After graduation, I thought maybe journalism wasn’t for me and decided to see what else was out there.”

As a Bobcat, he worked with Brijesh Patel, head strength and conditioning coach, and was impressed with Patel’s work ethic. Intrigued and wanting to learn more about the strength and conditioning field, he volunteered to work alongside Patel.

After earning a master’s degree in sports performance and injury prevention from California University of Pennsylvania in 2014, Light landed a summer internship with the minor league Class-A Staten Island Yankees, with a bit of help from his brother, Pat, a pitcher with the Minnesota Twins. That led to a full-time position as a strength and conditioning coach with the Arizona Diamondbacks.

“I didn’t get the job because I worked with the Yankees,” he says. “I was hired because I worked with Brijesh. Turns out, everyone in the industry knows him and respects him.”

When he visited Quinnipiac after working with the Yankees, Patel asked him questions about what he’d seen. He wanted to keep learning about anything new in the strength and conditioning industry.

“It was so cool, my mentor treating me like I was his mentor.”
Lisa Cuchara remembers the first time she photographed a frog. It was 2012 and the biomedical sciences professor was visiting a butterfly farm in Massachusetts. She was instantly smitten when the owner brought out a red-eyed tree frog and allowed her to take pictures.

She’d already established a reputation as an up-and-coming shutterbug. A serious academic during the week—Cuchara teaches courses like Infections of Leisure and Transplantation Immunology—she spent many weekends shooting weddings alongside her photographer husband, Tom.

But after the farm visit, Cuchara and three of her photography pals decided to buy a red-eyed tree frog of their own from a breeder. “It would spend a month at my house and then rotate around,” says Cuchara. “The problem was, I got lonely when I didn’t have the frog.”

Cuchara’s husband suggested she buy a few frogs of her own. “He would live to regret those words,” says Cuchara with a laugh.

Twenty frogs soon took up residence in the Cuchara household, living in terrariums on the dining room table. Fast-forward a few years and Cuchara had cleared out their third bedroom to make room for an ever-growing gang of amphibians. “At one point I had over 150 frogs,” she says. “It’s now down to about 70.”

Living with her models has paid off. Recently, five of Cuchara’s photos—including one of a frog perfectly perched on a calla lily—were cited in an international competition sponsored by the Professional Photographers of America. Three of the photos were selected for the esteemed “loan collection” and are currently traveling around the world.

Although Cuchara has garnered local and regional awards for years, this was her first international “loan” honor. It’s all part of her busy dual life: dedicated professor and award-winning photographer. Over time, the worlds have increasingly overlapped. She teaches a biomedical photography course at Quinnipiac, is the faculty adviser to the university’s photography club and also runs dozens of photography workshops for the public. How does she manage it all? “I don’t sleep much,” she says.

Growing up in the small town of Napanoch, New York, in the Catskill Mountains, Cuchara always liked science, nature, and, yes, frogs. “Once for Mother’s Day, I gave my mom a frog; I poked holes in the wrapping paper so it could breathe,” she says. “When I was 14, I asked for a copy of “Grey’s Anatomy” for my birthday.” Around the same time, a camera given to her by a family friend sparked a new creative interest. “It gave me the opportunity to notice things, to pay attention to the details,” she says.

Later, at Albany Medical College, Cuchara vacillated between pursuing a doctoral and a medical degree until an immunobiology rotation helped her find her niche. “It just clicked for me,” she says. “I realized that I wanted to come up with a cure instead of just treating people after they get sick.”

Cuchara enjoyed her first job at the National Cancer Institute, where she researched how the protein Interleukin-7 could help the immune system fight cancer. She followed that up with eight years as the director of the organ transplant lab at Yale University. “I loved it,” she says. “But at a certain point I realized I liked mentoring students better.”

In 2006, an opportunity arose when the longtime immunology professor at Quinnipiac died unexpectedly, and Cuchara was hired. The position called for “engaging students,” which Cuchara has done through several collaborative research projects. Her main areas of study include antibiotic resistance, the transmission of...
At one point Cuchara had 150 frogs; it’s now down to about 70.

1. Red-Eyed Green Tree
Pixel was Lisa Cuchara’s first frog. This species hails from the rainforests of Central and South America; the red eyes are believed to be predators.

2. Golfodulcean Poison Arrow
This frog, native to Costa Rica, is commonly found near slow-moving streams. They’re considered endangered in the wild, but are plentiful in captivity.

3. Spring Peeper
Cuchara named this small chorus frog DAK (after the Adirondacks), where she found him hiding in plants a friend gave her. He loved being photographed and would press his face up to the glass when she was photographing other frogs.

4. Golden Tree
Native to tropical Asia, these frogs can change color depending on their surroundings or the time of day. Cuchara placed this frog on black acrylic to get the reflection.

5. Blue Webbed Gliding
These frogs have adapted in nature to have webbed feet for swimming but for gliding across a tree canopy. They inhabit the tropical jungles of the Amazon and the forests of south-east Asia.

6. Blue Sipaliwini
Also called the Dyeing Poison Dart Frog, Cuchara’s pet is captive bred. These small frogs are native to a limited area in the Sipaliwini Savannah, located in southern Suriname, a large grassland punctuated by pockets of jungle.

Cuchara’s husband often lends a hand with this hands-on class. That’s nothing new; the pair has been working closely together since 2001 after getting acquainted at the New Haven Camera Club. “Meeting someone through a mutual hobby is a good way to date,” says Cuchara. “Besides, I don’t think either of us could have progressed to these levels without being married to another photographer. It helps so much.”

The Cucharas continue to run a popular photo studio in downtown Hamden, but they no longer shoot weddings. Instead, they teach an ever-growing list of photography workshops and photo tours; some are weekend-long affairs. Night photography can be studied at the Sleepy Hollow Cemetery, a local beach or at an abandoned mental institution in Pennsylvania. Architecture-focused courses may take place at nearby Gillette Castle or in Grand Central Terminal.

“We’ve been taking students to a lot of car yards lately,” says Cuchara. “Old cars from the ’20s, ’30s, ’40s and ’50s are awesome.”

The couples’ budding interest in urban decay—think abandoned prisons and psychiatric institutes—recently landed them their first book deal. “The Art of Photography Rusty Dusty Places: Beauty in Decay,” which will be published by Amherst Media this year, also features some of Cuchara’s 180-degree panoramic prints.

Despite her busy schedule, Cuchara tries to schedule a weekly frog photo session. “If you do it enough and you are patient, you can get some great shots,” she says. “People call me the frog whisperer because I seem to have a knack with them. Sometimes I would get 100 good pictures while the rest of the people in my group might get one. I’d be telling the frog to do something—and he would.”

Cuchara admits her persuasive powers have limits. “People ask me, ‘Can you make him sit Indian-style?’ I say, ‘No, of course not—he’s a frog.’”

She credits her success to her natural affection for the frogs, as well as her commitment to handling them properly. “The frogs seem to sense that I really like them and want to portray them,” she says. “You have to be very careful about having any lotions on your hands because their skin is so thin and absorbent. Even the flowers they pose with have to be pesticide-free. In winter, those flowers are hard to find, and that’s when people started buying me little cars, school buses, submarines. I even have them posing on tiny skateboards.”

She considers the frogs, which can range in price from $5 to $1,200, as pets, but admits she selects them for their looks—the more colorful the better. “At one point I bought a skink [lizard], but he was not a good pet because he didn’t like to be photographed, so I donated him,” she says.

The frogs, who live in groups of two or three in a terrarium, are misted daily and fed every other day, a task that takes almost an hour. Some of them eat fruit flies while others prefer crickets, waxworms or hornworms. “I don’t keep any frogs that eat mice,” says Cuchara. “That’s a deal breaker for me.”

They definitely have unique personalities. “Some of them sing; the males tend to carry a key. But just like people, frogs have good days and bad days. And sometimes they don’t want to be photographed.”

She notes that many people are surprised that she has a large collection of colorful poison dart frogs. She explains that, if raised in captivity, the colorful frogs are not poisonous. The average golden dart frog “is estimated to contain about one milligram of poison, enough to kill about 10,000 mice or 10-20 humans or two African bull elephants,” she says.

“This frog is used by local indigenous hunting cultures who soak their arrow tips and darts in the poison to keep their tips deadly for years,” she says. “But I can touch him without dying because in captivity, he’s only eating crickets.”

Frogs aren’t the only wildlife creatures that fascinate Cuchara. She keeps a pair of binoculars on her desk in her office on the Mount Carmel Campus because egrets, great blue herons and osprey visit the campus pond. Cuchara also enjoys watching osprey at Farm River Park and a well-known pair of nesting bald eagles (and the occasional eagle) in Hamden.

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Tom Brady, chair of the biomedical sciences department, introduced her to Chaffinch Island, off Guilford, Connecticut, where she captured an award-winning image of a male osprey flying in with a flounder for the couple’s three new chicks. Getting these shots takes patience. Cuchara lay on her belly “for hours and hours hours” in the sand dunes at a Long Island beach to capture an award-winning shot of three birds.

Creating great photos challenges Cuchara to come up with new techniques. “About 50 percent of my pictures are straight out of the camera, no Photoshop,” she says. “The other 50 percent I go crazy with Photoshop. My belief is that you always take the best possible photo to begin with, but I love that we, as artists, have so many amazing tools to help with our creative vision. It’s a really wonderful time to be a photographer.”

She longs to do a series on Sleeping Giant Mountain from a spot right outside her office window. “I want to stand right there and take the same picture every day, once a month, for a year. Then I’ll create a slide show,” she says. “I haven’t found the time to make it happen, but I will.”
The day after a bombshell tape about Donald Trump sent yet another jolt through the often-bizarre presidential campaign, pollster Doug Schwartz stood before an audience during Quinnipiac’s Alumni Weekend in October to discuss the state of the 2016 race.

Despite the fevered media coverage and the perception of political turbulence, the race between Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump had, for most of the past year, been remarkably stable, as measured by the Quinnipiac Poll and others. The candidates had traded fleeting shifts in momentum after their respective conventions and the first widely viewed debate, but Clinton appeared to hold a modest, yet solid, national lead at this point.

Schwartz, director of the poll for 21 years, told his audience: “Our national polls on average have shown Clinton leading Trump by four to five points, but in the battleground states we have consistently shown a close race.” He noted that pundits have repeatedly been wrong about Trump’s chances.

“So to think this race is over is a mistake,” he observed. A prescient observation indeed.

On election night, as one battleground state after another fell to Trump, virtually every pundit expressed surprise. They realized they had not only underestimated the New York businessman’s appeal throughout the so-called Rust Belt states, but overestimated Clinton’s ability to re-create the voter turnout operation that had swept Barack Obama to power.

Politicians and their supporters have always picked fights with pollsters who release numbers they don’t like. The topic of polling has become a bubbling cauldron of debate on social media, with some alleging (even Trump himself) that polling outlets intentionally release inaccurate numbers that appear to give one candidate a lead. Schwartz dismisses this type of paranoia by explaining that more than anything, pollsters just want to get it right.

“The last thing that we want is to be wrong on Election Day,” Schwartz said.

That’s why Quinnipiac is one of the few public opinion organizations that still uses the “gold standard” of polling. Rather than rely on automatic surveys that
Schwartz noted that the Quinnipiac poll, along with other major national polls, was accurate within the margin of error. “Exit polls showed that the late deciders broke for Trump. Our final polls released within the last week of the election were within 3 points, on average, of the actual results, which is well within the margin of error.”

are prohibited by federal law from calling cell phones, Schwartz and his team conduct all of their polls with live interviewers who have been trained to stick exactly to a script to ensure consistency. Then the results are weighted to reflect the demographic composition of the area being polled, according to the U.S. Census.

There was a perception that the polling industry was caught off guard by Trump’s victory, but Quinnipiac’s poll fared better than most. For example, it forecast Trump’s strength in Ohio with its final survey, which was closer to the final result than the polling average.

Reflecting on the presidential polling, Schwartz noted that the Quinnipiac Poll, along with other major national polls, was accurate within the margin of error. “Exit polls showed that the late deciders broke for Trump. Our final polls released within the last week of the election were within 3 points, on average, of the actual results, which is well within the margin of error.”

To put things in perspective, despite the negative press polls received just after the election, the 2016 polls were off by about the same amount as they were in 2012, when nobody seemed to notice.

“In 2012 the average of the major national polls had Obama up by one point, and he won by four. In 2016 the average had Clinton up four, and she ended up winning the popular vote by two points, Schwartz pointed out. “It’s important to remember that polls do have a margin of error. They said this was a close race, and it ended up being a very close race.”

The key distinction is that the polling results in 2016 pointed to a different election outcome than what actually occurred. Still, while much of the polling in 2016 was within the margin of error, this election can offer some lessons for pollsters, the media and the public.

The media’s interpretation of the data certainly fueled the misfire. Most pundits failed to acknowledge that the polls actually showed quite a close race, with Trump within striking distance if there happened to be a normal level of polling error. In other words: there were indications of Trump’s strength in the polls, but most analysts simply didn’t report it.

Another theory about why polls may not have fully captured Trump’s standing is the idea that there were “shy” Trump voters who weren’t candid with pollsters. “We have to really consider the frightening possibility that people aren’t telling pollsters the truth, and that when they say they haven’t made up their minds, they actually already have,” said Scott McLean, professor of political science, at a panel discussion the day after the election.

“The truth is, it’s socially unacceptable to be a Trump supporter in certain circles. And another piece of this is that in a close race, polls aren’t catching people who are making up their minds at the very end. According to exit data [compiled by national media outlets on Election Day] about 8 percent of voters made up their minds in the final two days of the campaign, and a plurality of those voters broke for Trump,” McLean said.

Schwartz has faith in the reliability of live interview polls, but he also thinks some adjustments to the methodology moving forward are possible. For example, his team might consider using voter registration lists instead of using the random dialing method it currently uses.

Another unique way the Quinnipiac Poll obtains a more random and balanced sample is to ask for the person in the household with the next birthday to complete the survey. This is an effective way to address the statistical fact that women disproportionately answer the phone, which can result in an undersampling of men.

The broader polling industry recognizes that it faces modern challenges and is committed to adapting to the times. The American Association for Public Opinion Research is analyzing the 2016 election to assess how modeling and methodology can be adjusted to better reflect the electorate.

As for Schwartz and his team, they’ll be busy polling key gubernatorial races this year in New Jersey and Virginia that often serve as bellwethers for how voters are reacting to a new president. They’ll also be closely monitoring the New York City mayoral race as incumbent Bill de Blasio seeks re-election.

With a new party in control of all three branches of government, the Quinnipiac Poll plans numerous surveys on the big issues and the proposals coming from President Trump. And let’s not forget—the start of the 2020 presidential campaign is only a few years away.
London’s Rose Playhouse, erected in 1587, debuted plays such as Shakespeare’s “Romeo and Juliet.” Over time, the playhouse completely vanished from all maps—lost until 1989, when the remains of the once vibrant theater were found buried below an office building being demolished to make way for a new one.

The world has been inhabited by modern humans for about 200,000 years. More often than not, the road to development, although it may be paved with good intentions, literally crosses over archaeological sites. Following an outpouring of support, civil engineers collaborated with archaeologists to preserve the theater, explained Ari Perez, assistant professor of civil engineering at Quinnipiac.

“Once you dig something up, you cannot put it back. In the example of the Rose, if you were to excavate it completely, you would destroy it. In general, if you can preserve the site in situ, it’s much better,” says Tamara Leskovar, a visiting scholar who received a prestigious...
“Thanks to interdisciplinary and collaborative work, we can swiftly tailor solutions to today’s problems, like archaeological conservation. The School of Engineering at Quinnipiac has built incredible facilities that can be used to work with researchers and educate our students.”

— Ari Perez, assistant professor of civil engineering

1. Playing with pipes
Students use the pipe network bench and pump-testing equipment in the hydraulics workshop to analyze water flow.

2. Ebb and flow
The wind tunnel illustrates such concepts as lift and drag.

3. Pressure power
Ari Perez, assistant professor of civil engineering, examines a consolidation frame to test soil in the geotechnical workshop.

4. In Production
Students use the performance optimization workshop’s fully automatic production line to experiment with automation.

5. Model experience
"Toy City" diorama allows students to solve a transportation problem by determining the shortest path between suppliers and customers using an algorithm and calculating the distances between the suppliers and customers.

6. Sand testing
Tamara Leskovar, visiting Fulbright scholar, and civil engineering junior Jayvon Johnson, right, listen as Perez describes the properties of Ottawa sand (from Illinois) that make it ideal for strength testing.

Fulbright Scholarship to conduct research at Quinnipiac during the 2016-17 academic year.

Combining Leskovar’s archaeological knowledge with Perez’s civil engineering expertise, and using equipment in the School of Engineering’s geotechnical workshop, the duo is testing pressure changes in soil and how the change in pressure affects artifacts.

“My interest is on how the environment affects the archaeological remains that are preserved in situ, the ones you do not excavate,” she said. “Ari is interested in this from a civil engineering perspective. We kind of make a great match.”

Leskovar began this research during her doctoral program at the University of Ljubljana in her native Slovenia. She continued it while working for the private archaeological firm, Arhej, and as a Marie Curie Early Stage Researcher in Archaeology working on projects in the Czech Republic and Slovakia.

She selected Quinnipiac, in part to work with Perez, whom she met at the Preservation of Archaeological Remains In Situ conference, and to use the School of Engineering’s modern workshops and equipment, which rival larger research institutions. As a teaching institution without doctoral students doing research, there is less competition for lab time at Quinnipiac.

Leskovar and Perez hope to find out. For now, they
mean the walnut is being affected. It may or may not be affected. We don’t know.”

Returning to his baked-goods analogies, Perez explained, "Say you bake brownies with walnuts in the middle. Just because the brownie is affected doesn’t mean the walnut is being affected. It may or may not be affected. We don’t know."

Leskovar and Perez hope to find out. For now, they would like to develop new procedures for researchers that will lead to data that can guide future construction near archaeological sites. They are on the forefront of this research. Only since the 1980s have researchers been interested in investigating in situ preservation of artifacts, and not much research has been conducted thus far.

“It’s the Wild West of research,” Perez said.

He believes that archaeological materials should be treated as nonrenewable resources. Civil engineers can benefit from a basic understanding of archaeology and how to spot what could be an important site, especially given the pressure to finish construction projects more quickly and cheaply. Similarly, archaeologists can benefit from a basic understanding of engineering, to know when construction can be harmful to a site.

With the right information, Perez said engineers can find a way to build and, at the same time, protect heritage sites. “The point of being an engineer is to solve problems,” he observed.
Medical student Sara Rahman was inspired by the generosity and spirit of the Syrian refugees at the camp where she volunteered.

Med student witnesses refugees’ despair and determination

BY DOUG DANIELS

ILLUSTRATION SHONAGH RAE

Sara Rahman knows what it's like to stare hunger in the face.

The third-year medical student spent 10 days in Greece last summer volunteering at the Ritsona camp for Syrian refugees, an hour north of Athens. With scarce supplies and three modest meals distributed daily, it was common for tensions to flare and for people, often hungry and desperate, to beg for more.

The camp provides food and shelter for roughly 600 refugees, most of whom fled their homes in Syria—a country that has endured more than five years of a brutal civil war that has created the largest humanitarian crisis since World War II.

The toughest part of the job, Rahman recalls, was looking them in the eyes and apologetically turning them away because of the strict rules regulating how supplies were rationed. Every family got a meal ticket that specified how many adults and children were entitled to provisions, and Rahman would mark the ticket to note that the family had received its provisions for that day. But it wasn't a perfect system. Sometimes a refugee would show up with a card that appeared to be marked, but claiming they hadn't gotten any food yet. Rahman would have to refuse them, unsure if there had been an honest mistake.

"To deny somebody food is absolutely horrible, especially if you don’t know whether they're telling the truth," she says. "Did someone steal their card? Will they go hungry today? Your ethics are challenged. A lot of families would send their young kids to get supplies, and I'd have to say no if their tickets had been marked. It was heartbreaking."

Rahman, a Muslim of Pakistani descent, speaks Arabic. She feels a deep connection to the refugees, most of whom took harrowing paths to get there. Some bartered for transportation, or walked great distances through neighboring Turkey, or braved the treacherous waters of the Aegean Sea on homemade rafts that often capsized. One man who lost his entire family when their raft sank made a habit of gathering trash from around the camp every morning and then bringing it to Rahman for disposal. When she asked him why he chose to do that, he explained that he needed a purpose.

Summer temperatures could exceed 100 degrees, and with no air-conditioning and limited water supplies, Rahman would dip into her own pocket on occasion to buy bottled water to hand out on particularly hot days.

She persuaded her parents to accompany her on this trip, and she and her mother worked distributing clothing and supplies from a warehouse packed with donations. Residents would have 10 or 15 minutes to quickly grab whatever they could. Because there were no laundry facilities, people needed new clothes almost daily, and Rahman devised a system to help make the process more efficient, sorting clothes by gender and size and drawing diagrams to assist people unable to read.

Since the war erupted, nearly 5 million people have been displaced, with many relocating to Europe. Greece has served as an entry point for asylum-seekers desperate for a chance to rebuild their lives in Sweden, Germany, the UK and elsewhere.

As the public backlash to the influx of refugees rippled across the continent, the asylum process largely stalled, stranding more than 50,000 refugees in primitive camps throughout Greece. The fates of these families are tied to the shifting political currents within the European Union, which so far has accepted about 5 percent of the refugees its members initially pledged to help.

Rahman developed her passion for service and social justice as a Near Eastern Studies major at Cornell University. The Syrian war broke out while she was in college, and she followed it closely, eager to find a way to help citizens caught in the crossfire. When one of her mother's friends told her about the Echo100Plus organization, an Austrian-based charity that coordinates volunteer trips, Rahman jumped at the opportunity to get involved. She had traveled abroad previously to volunteer, working with Habitat for Humanity in Jordan, but she wasn't entirely prepared for the emotional toll this trip would take on her.

"It was really tough adjusting to my life when I came back to the U.S.," she says as she scrolls through a photo gallery from her time at the camp. "You can hear about the difficulties of people across the country and around the world, but it's completely different when you actually face the harsh reality of inequality. You realize how lucky you are."

"The refugees’ spirit and generosity inspired Rahman. "They had absolutely nothing, and still they were dragging me into their tents for tea or a snack or even dinner with their families. The hospitality just flowed from their hearts."

Rahman recalled that her father initially was hesitant to go. "He said, 'I don't speak Arabic, how am I going to help? Wouldn't it be better if we just gave money?"' But after coming with me, his whole mindset changed. He understood that smiles and just small understandings were enough to make an impact. Both he and my mom worked incredibly hard."

Rahman observed glimmers of happiness and optimism. After her shift, she would walk around the camp and get to know the families. The camp experience made such a profound impact on Rahman that she can't wait to return, perhaps this spring. This time she hopes to bring some of her fellow students and faculty from the Frank H. Netter MD School of Medicine with her. She recognizes not everybody can travel overseas to help directly, so she has been active in encouraging people to contact their elected officials to request policies that address the refugee crisis.

"You can choose to be an effective advocate without a lot of work," she says. "If a congressman gets 100 emails from different people over the course of a couple of weeks, that will make a tangible difference."
Nolan Green raced through the quad with an entourage that hustled to keep up. He was not late for class nor in a rush to catch the shuttle bus. Nolan, 3, was testing his new wheels.

Running alongside his neon yellow Minions-themed car was senior engineering student Rachel Davis, who built the remote-controlled vehicle in a School of Engineering workshop with the help of three professors. They toiled for weeks to outfit the electric car for Nolan, who is unable to walk and talk as a result of cerebral palsy. The effort was part of the national GoBabyGo! program in which toy ride-on cars are modified for kids with disabilities.

Nolan’s mother, Toni, said, “When Nolan is riding in his car, there is a freedom that he has. He can experience what typical kids do. He’s happy and much more vocal. When you stop him, he will let you know that he’s not finished and wants to keep going.”

The car project was done using a summer research grant, and Nolan’s parents brought the vehicle back this past fall for some fine-tuning and a joyride around the quad.

“I had not had any experience working with cars before this project,” said Davis, a mechanical engineering major, premed student and chemistry and mathematics minor from Inglewood, Tennessee. “I’m one of the maybe two mechanical engineering students in my class not interested at all in cars, but this project was fun as it appealed more to my interests in health science and helping others.”

Davis worked 12 hours a day, five days a week, over eight weeks to learn and then build the system that allows Nolan to control the car’s speed and steering through an accelerometer attached to his head. While he learns to adapt to the accelerometer, his parents use the remote control to move the car.

Jose Ríofrío, assistant teaching professor of mechanical engineering, instructed Davis on a daily basis, imparting the engineering concepts she needed to complete the project. He explained that he was asked to lend a hand with the project by Rose Flammang ’07, an adjunct physical therapy professor at Quinnipiac and a pediatric physical therapist at the Connecticut Children’s Medical Center. She is also the GoBabyGo! coordinator for Connecticut. Davis was chosen after she expressed interest in the project.

While he admits that adapting the car was in his wheelhouse, he said the project initially was outside of Davis’s comfort zone. “She did it for the end goal of helping out a child,” he said.

Ríofrío said Davis had to learn Arduino computer programming to make the sensors, input controls, throttle and forward/reverse mechanisms work. “We broke the connections between the steering wheel and the tires so that the motor could control the wheels with a small computer that decides when to steer in response to the remote control,” he said.

Davis created some of the parts using the School of Engineering’s new 3D printers. “She studied the geometry of the car to know where to attach the parts and how to design them to marry the external parts to the car frame,” Ríofrío noted, adding that she needed to calculate the forces and the torque the steering wheel could endure.

The project was far from easy, and it helped that Davis is an excellent student, Ríofrío said. Davis admits that she keeps a busy schedule, but she’s happiest when she is being challenged.

“I wanted to make the car great. I don’t like letting people down, especially a little boy. When I get into something, I really get into it,” Davis said.

Flammang and Michelle Broggi, clinical associate professor of physical therapy, helped build a special seat for the car and worked with Davis to ensure Nolan’s special needs would be met. Flammang met Nolan two years ago at an adaptive equipment clinic at the medical center.

“I saw how interested he was in his environment, despite not having the ability to access and explore it himself,” said Flammang. “I knew I could not sit by without trying to get this kid moving somehow. I needed to find a way to get him to be able to explore like other kids his age.”

The car cost about $400, compared to the roughly $35,000 price tag of a power wheelchair, and suited the layout of Nolan’s home better.

“Seeing him smile when he realized he could move himself independently for the first time ever was inspiring,” Flammang said.

When Davis entered QU, she said she fully expected
Rachel Davis took advantage of the School of Engineering’s new 3D printers, as well as the mechanical engineering workshop, to develop the car.
Davis worked 12 hours a day, five days a week, over eight weeks to learn and then build the system that allows Nolan to control the car’s speed and steering through an accelerometer attached to his head.

to go on to medical school. “The very first day I met Dr. John Reap as my adviser, I told him, 'I want to go to medical school, I’m just doing engineering for fun.” Turns out it was so much fun I am considering pursuing engineering as a career, but right now I’m focusing on medical school applications,” she said, noting that her mother is an engineer.

“The School of Engineering has really helped me grow as a person,” she said. “I literally think of my engineering professors as a second set of parents and the other 11 mechanical engineering students in my year are like brothers and sisters.”

Nolan’s mom feels incredibly blessed. “There are other people who are not as fortunate. It has been overwhelming. We are very grateful for all the help we have gotten from Quinnipiac.”

Quinnipiac’s involvement with GoBabyGo! did not stop with Nolan. The Physical Therapy Department presented four children with special electric cars at its fourth annual “Walk & Roll,” a walk to benefit the Connecticut chapter of the National Spinal Cord Injury Association in October. The PT professors and students worked with facilities department employees to modify three Minions cars and a John Deere Gator car by removing the foot pedal accelerators and replacing them with hand buttons. This was not a viable option for Nolan as he does not have consistent control of his limbs. A group of physical therapy alumni helped fund the cars by donating money in memory of a former classmate’s son who died of leukemia.

Davis is currently working on her senior design project in which she and two other mechanical engineering students are fabricating an eco-brick, a reusable building block, for a client in Guatemala.

“I believe with my whole heart the world is going to see some truly amazing things coming from this School of Engineering,” she said. “I have yet to meet someone in this department—student or faculty—who I didn’t think was going to change the world in some way or another.”
Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Tawakkol Karman is an optimist who sports a wide and ready smile. Hidden well is the deep disappointment she carries below the surface. She and two sister Laureates shared their remarkable stories of perseverance in the face of adversity when they spoke last fall at several programs hosted by the Albert Schweitzer Institute.
A medical student in the audience asked Tawakkol Karman how she keeps going despite setbacks. Her reply: “Because I am still alive and I still dream. How can I encourage others and then give up? I started dreaming for all the people. I have responsibilities. I decided to be in the front line, so I cannot betray the people in their dream to have freedom.”

TAWAKKOL KARMAN
Journalist

The Yemeni journalist and civil rights advocate is a study in contrasts. She received the 2011 Nobel Peace Prize for her efforts to incite a revolution—albeit a peaceful one—that toppled Yemen dictator Ali Abdullah Saleh from power in November that same year.

She was a key leader in the movement in which women and college students took to the streets to oust Saleh’s 33-year regime. In fact, she was dubbed the mother of that revolution. Karman, the founder of Women Journalists Without Chains, began leading protests against Saleh in 2010 and 2011. Her trademark floral headdress is unique in a country where women wear conservative black chadors.

“We carried flowers and our dreams for a good life… and in our peaceful way, we forced him to resign in 2011,” said Karman, who shares the 2011 prize with Leymah Gbowee of Liberia and Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, current president of Liberia, for their nonviolent efforts to ensure the safety of women and involve them in peace-building work.

“The revolution was the result of believing that we will achieve our dream,” Karman said. “He [Saleh] killed, injured and arrested a lot of people, but the will to continue to make the peaceful revolution was greater,” she explained.

For two years, Karman helped draft a constitution that would guarantee equality and freedom. She dared to hope. “But,” she drew out the word, her smile fading, “Unfortunately and suddenly, a coup happened. Militia supported by the ousted president collapsed everything.”

Ten thousand people went to prison, newspapers were closed, and radio and TV were censored. “But did it collapse our dream or our will to continue? Of course not!” she exclaimed.

She noted that every great revolution is followed by a counterrevolution. “At the end, the people will win. We continue our struggle, and we will not give up. It’s our destiny and our future. We decided to free the world—not just Yemen—from tyrants like him.”
Shirin Ebadi was the first female judge in Iran until the 1979 Islamic revolution, when conservative clerics decided that Islam forbids women from holding that position. She was stripped of the judgeship and made a clerk of the court she had presided over. The founder of the Defenders of Human Rights Center in Iran, she has used her career to fight for basic human rights for women, children and refugees, and was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2003 for those efforts.

Ebadi said the life of a woman in Iran is worth half of a man’s. “Divorce is extremely hard. Compensation after a car accident is half as much for a woman, and there are many other discriminatory laws.” Harrased for years by the Iranian government, she left the country in 2009, when her law office was raided and some colleagues and relatives were arrested. Women crusading for equal rights were regarded as national security threats and more than 100 were jailed. The government also confiscated her property, which was sold at auction. “At 63 years of age, I lost all I had. I decided to make success out of failure. I worked harder, wrote 14 books, founded three NGOs, opened my own law office, and defended the most difficult and serious political cases in Iran. I got 26 honorary doctorates. Imagine if they had not fired me from my judgeship.” Her droll wit drew a hearty laugh from her audience.

Her latest book, “Until We’re Free: My Fight for Human Rights,” was published in 2016. She travels often, using her freedom to give voice to the people she left behind. “The government thought they could put me away and even threatened to kill me. They know well that as long as I live, I will not close my mouth.”

Earlier in the day, she told students that every problem presents an opportunity. She noted, “Sometimes you must take a step back in order to jump higher.”

The Liberian peace activist shares the 2011 Nobel Peace Prize with Tawakkol Karman. Gbowee is best known for bringing Muslim and Christian women together to wage a nonviolent movement that helped end Liberia’s second Civil War in 2003.

Her grandmother issued what would become a life-defining challenge when Gbowee was a young girl. She related that she and her sisters believed community gossip that an elderly woman who lived across the casaba patch from them was a witch. Gbowee’s grandmother took her to visit the woman, despite her fears, and challenged her to open her mind. “She taught us to engage with people, even ones the community says are not worthy of your friendship, who are not part of your social class, who don’t share your religious beliefs or values.” That day, she recalls, led her to social work and the path she chose, and her leadership is illustrated in the award-winning documentary, “Pray the Devil Back to Hell” (2008).

“In the world today, with Islamophobia, negativity that surrounds us, and terrorist bombs, we as individuals can be the change we wish to see if we open our minds and bring young people to the place where they can understand that,” she said.

Speaking to the capacity crowd in Burt Kahn Court, Gbowee warned, “Every time you act on a stereotype or prejudice, a tin wall is built between you and that person. The wall gets thicker and eventually, you don’t see humans, you see the object of your stereotype.”

She continued, “We need to examine those things we hold true about the other and begin to tear down the invisible walls. Yes, the three of us Laureates cannot change the world. The world can only be changed if we all take the open-mind challenge, step into spaces we don’t imagine stepping into, and only then we will be able to conquer evil and bring the world back to its feet.”
More than 800 alumni and guests enjoyed themselves at Alumni Weekend Oct. 7 and 8. Friday’s events included the Alumni Heritage Luncheon, honoring the Golden Bobcats, and milestone reunion celebrations for the classes of 1966, 1991 and 1996.

Saturday began on an energetic note with athletic alumni games. In North Haven, School of Education alumni gathered for a breakfast and inspirational lecture while School of Law alumni met for a luncheon and later, coffee with Dean Jennifer Gerarda Brown. On the Mount Carmel Campus, Doug Schwartz, director of the Quinnipiac Poll, discussed the presidential campaign, and families relaxed at a block party in the Alumni Gardens with games, a bounce house for the younger Bobcats, and food trucks.

The weekend culminated with a Homecoming Tailgate Party in the Rocky Top Student Center on the York Hill Campus. More than 350 alumni and guests reconnected before cheering the men’s ice hockey team to a 5-2 victory over Northeastern. Guests at the tailgate enjoyed music, a beer tasting from local breweries, games, a photo booth, and spectacular views from the Rocky Top Terrace. Save the date for the 2017 Reunion Weekend Nov. 3 and 4.
GRATEFUL TO BE ALIVE

Rescue gives audio pro a sporting chance

BY OLIVIA ABEL
PHOTO AUTUMN DRISCOLL

FROM THE RIO OLYMPICS to the New York Rangers, Ben Shapiro’s work as an audio engineer lets him experience the highs and lows of the sports world. He doesn’t take any of his adventures for granted after a life-changing event in 2007.

Three months before he was to graduate that May, he flipped his car off a small bridge in Hamden. “I was sober and awake at the time of the accident, but I spent half an hour underwater,” says Shapiro. “When the Hamden Fire Department pulled me out, I wasn’t breathing, I had no heartbeat and a half gallon of mud was in my lungs. When I arrived at Yale-New Haven Hospital, I was given a 5 percent chance of survival.”

Not only did Shapiro survive, but he returned to class just three weeks later and graduated on time. Today, he has virtually no complications from the accident. “The left side of my face is pretty much all titanium,” he says. “But it has healed so well, most people don’t even notice the scar.”

After his miraculous recovery, Shapiro forged a close relationship with the men and women of the Hamden Fire Department. “Wherever I go around the world, I send them photos of me wearing the HFD hat; that way they know I’m thinking of them and that I’m grateful for their actions that night.”

Several months after graduation, Shapiro landed a job at the Empire City Casino in Yonkers, New York. Quickly promoted to broadcast supervisor, he stayed at the casino for five years, all the while doing freelance work for major sporting events, from the World Series to the NBA Finals. “But I’ve always wanted to work for myself,” he says. In June 2012, he quit his job to pursue freelance opportunities as an audio engineer. “It’s been the best experience of my life,” he says.

The Queens resident is regularly booked for New York City-based professional hockey and baseball games. Shapiro, who grew up in the Boston suburbs, insists that he does not allow his Red Sox loyalty to interfere when he is working at a New York Yankees game. He also squeezes in diverse gigs like the New York City Columbus Day Parade, America Ninja Warrior, and the 2016 presidential debate at Hofstra University. In addition, he runs a small business focusing on IT consulting and web development; the seeds of this endeavor began at Quinnipiac, when he pursued a computer information systems minor.

Shapiro is also thankful for the four “amazing” years he spent earning his BA in communications at Quinnipiac. He took his first media production class in his freshman year and never slowed down through senior year, when he was not only general manager of the Q30 TV station, but also worked alongside audio professionals running wires and microphones at televised QU basketball and hockey games.

The three weeks he spent handling audio for beach volleyball events at the 2016 Summer Olympics in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, were the highlight of his career thus far. “It was an unbelievable experience; a dream come true,” he says. Although he worked seven days a week, he enjoyed the daily walk along Copacabana Beach to get to the beach volleyball arena, as well as a sunrise hike up Rio’s second-highest peak. “On the way down we saw wild monkeys in the forest,” he says. “It was one of those once-in-a-lifetime experiences.”

Shapiro expects his career to deliver many more breathtaking moments. “The beautiful thing about what I do,” says Shapiro, “is that with technology and techniques changing rapidly, there is always more to learn, more amazing experiences to have.”
CLASS NOTES

1948
LOUIS MATSON JR. of Venice, FL, reports he recently celebrated his 90th birthday.

1963
WALTER NESTER JR. and PATRICIA (JUDGE) NESTER ’76 celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on July 21, 2016. The couple lives in North Haven, CT.

1976
EUGENE MAHONEY of Palm Beach Gardens, FL, reports that he is paralyzed in a hospital in Miami, but getting better. His condition has not changed his enthusiasm for living.

DONALD PANETTA worked many years as a financial and sales analyst for a cosmetics company and is now selling residential real estate in Nassau County. Donald ran for a seat on the Board of Education in the Great Neck school district’s special election on Dec. 6. He lives with his wife, Lori, in New Hyde Park, NY. They have two children: Eric and Marissa.

1977
THOMAS ROCHE of Wallingford, CT, and BRYAN LEITCH ’09 of Hamden, coach the Fairfield High School boys’ ice hockey team, and recently won the state championship. Thomas has been coaching for more than 25 years and Bryan was one of the all-time leading scorers for the Quinipiac men’s ice hockey program.

1979
TIM KRING of Fayetteville, AR, a faculty member at the University of Arkansas, is the head of the entomology department in the Virginia Tech College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. Tim has a master’s and doctoral degree in entomology from Texas A&M University and is a devotee of integrated pest management. He was the recipient of the 2009 Entomological Society of America Award for Excellence in Integrated Pest Management, Southern Branch; and the Distinguished Scientist Award, International Organization for Biological Control, Nearctic Regional Section.

1980
ELAINE (CRADDY) ADANS of Enfield, CT, was named to the American Occupational Therapy Association’s Roster of Fellows. Elaine is working toward a master of public policy and administration at Northwestern University. She is the corporate director of regulatory compliance for Genesis Rehab Services.

ALBERT CARFORA of Branford, CT, is a fifth-grade math and science teacher at Betsy Ross Arts Magnet School in New Haven. Albert officiated the Connecticut Class M Girl’s State Basketball Championship at Mohegan Sun Casino.

1982
DONALD BERRIE is an auditor for the state of Maine. He moved from Connecticut to Cushing, ME, in 1994 and reports he is still helping the locals correctly pronounce Quinipiac.

1983
TAMARA HAYDEN traveled in October 2016 with a group from First Presbyterian Church of Ambler to Duclos, a community in the Artibonite Valley in Haiti. The mission group worked with Haitian community leaders to construct a cistern and water building. They also distributed soccer balls and donated footwear to residents. Tamara does digital marketing for Merck and lives in Blue Bell, PA.

1984
DONALD DESIDERATO of Burlington, CT, is the chief information officer for the New York Life Insurance and Agency technology. Don is also a member of the insurance group senior leadership team and was previously the CIO for New York Life’s investments group technology.

ROBERT SIREN of Easton, CT, was recently appointed to the University of West Florida’s board of trustees by Florida Gov. Rick Scott. He began a five-year term in March. Robert also serves as a board member for Unipharm and Roman Capital. He is the founder of Bay State Cable Ties in Crestview, FL.

1987
WILLIAM OLEX of Lambertville, NJ, joined TMG Health as a director of information management. Bill earned his master’s degrees in management and technology management from Stevens Institute of Technology.

1988
TAMMY (BOUCHER) MAGUIRE, chief financial officer for BlumShapiro, has been recognized in an article by the Hartford Business Journal for her innovation and management style. Over the past few years, Tammy has been involved with several mergers, improved employee benefits, and the implementation and use of user-friendly financial modeling software. Tammy lives in Southington, CT, with her husband and their three children.

KEITH WOODWARD ’88, MBA ’92, of Durham, CT, associate vice president for facilities operations at Quinnipiac University, is the 2016 recipient of the Rex Dillow Award for his article, “Facilities and School Security.” The award is given annually to recognize the top article submission to Facilities Manager magazine. Keith, a co-chair of Quinipiac’s Emergency Management Team, was recognized at APPA’s 2016 awards reception in Nashville, TN.

1990
DEBORAH KATZ of Middletown, CT, recently joined Wesleyan University as the director of marketing.

1991
REBECCA SPIRITO DALGIN, PhD, associate professor of counseling and human services for the University of Scranton, recently received the Excellence in Integrating Diversity in Learning Award for her work merging international issues and perspectives into the curriculum. Rebecca earned her master’s and doctorate from Syracuse University and lives in Moutain Top, PA.

1992
KURT TREIBER, MBA ’92, is the first inductee named to the Risk Manager Honor Roll by Trident Public Risk Solutions. Kurt has served as risk manager for the Town of Wallingford for 16 years. He lives in Branford, CT.

1994
JAMES CLARK, MBA ’94, has joined the family-owned company Handy Seafood as vice president of food service. James has been in the food service industry for 32 years and has worked for Sara Lee and Heinz USA. He lives in Flowery Branch, GA, with his wife, Kelly, and their two children: Nick, 17, and Jilly, 14.

1995
JAMES DELISLE of Smithfield, RI, is the director of sales and client services at Tufts Health Plan. James has been with Tufts for nearly 20 years, most recently as manager of regional client services. He is a licensed accident and health insurance producer in Massachusetts and Rhode Island.

1996
RICHARD MADONNA of Demarest, NJ, is vice president for finance and administration at Connecticut College. He previously worked as vice president of finance and operations at Union Theological Seminary in New York City. Richard spent 10 years in various audit and finance positions at Yale University, is the co-founder of the Yale Entrepreneurial Institute, and is the founder of the Union Food Lab incubator in Harlem.

TKE brothers Jeff Berman ’93, Sal Nesci ’92 and Marc Feinstein ’88 enjoyed some fraternity memories during Alumni Weekend in October when they connected at the tailgate party in the Rocky Top Student Center on the York Hill Campus prior to the men’s ice hockey game. Save the date for the 2017 reunion Nov. 3 and 4.
FROM BEDSIDE TO BOARDROOM

Health care executive gives nurses a voice

BY SARAH NETTER
PHOTO AUTUMN DRISCOLE

Susan Kosman, MS ’09, began her health care career as an energetic candy striper in her native Brooklyn. Today she champions the voices of nurses as an executive with health services giant Optum.

“I think nurses have a very global and very deep perspective of how health care is delivered,” Kosman said, “because they are delivering a good portion of it—they know what works, what doesn’t work, and what gets in the way.”

As invested as nurses are in the care of their patients, they only recently have been given a seat at the table with administrators, physicians and other health care executives as they discuss and develop strategies for new procedures and patient care models.

Kosman, vice president for strategic initiatives in population health management operations at Optum—part of UnitedHealth Group—has risen in her field, working to develop, deliver and evaluate services for a variety of health and wellness programs, from weight loss and smoking cessation to chronic conditions such as diabetes.

“While nurses have always been a trusted part of the medical team, they are only now being recognized as capable of running practices and leading large teams,” she said. She’d like to see nurses as executives become the norm.

“I think that took longer to evolve because of the historical perspective and maybe the caricature of what is a nurse.”

That caricature, she said, is one of a caring, empathetic—and largely female—bedside contingent. Respected, yes, but not always considered part of a strategic or administrative team.

“I think in some circles that has already changed and in others, it is evolving,” she noted. “Nurses are running hospital systems and they’re leading businesses and engaging corporate America... and I think that’s a really positive trend.”

It’s a different world for nurses than when Kosman began her career, fueled, in part, by her father’s death from a sudden heart attack when she was a teenager. “I saw from a personal perspective an opportunity to help people and be in a place where you could engage folks in meaningful lifestyle changes,” she said.

“Every time you help somebody, you think, ‘Oh, that’s more time they get to spend with their family.’”

After graduating from the State University of New York Downstate, Kosman began working at a pediatric medical center that treated children for everything from cancer to kidney failure. “I always felt that it was a privilege when someone let you into that moment in their life when they were at their most vulnerable,” she said.

She rose through the ranks, first in the field and then as a nursing leader in operations with not-for-profit and private health care organizations. After earning a master’s degree in organizational leadership at Quinnipiac, she was named the first chief nursing officer at Aetna. Kosman, a proud “lifelong learner,” later earned her doctor of nursing practice. Kosman recently joined Quinnipiac’s Health Affairs Board of Fellows, a group of individuals who provide advice, act as a sounding board and help to advance the agendas of the university’s Schools of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences.

She wants nurses to keep pushing to get their voices heard. After all, she said, nurses are always on the frontline of medical care.

“The seat at the table is important,” Kosman said. “I think it’s important to be at that moment of distinguishing conversation that then translates into strategy. And nurses should not only be executing the strategy—they need to be at the development stage.”
1. Women’s ice hockey alumni proved they’ve still got game in August. From left, Nicole Connery ’16, Kelly Babstock ’15, Elena Orlando ’14, and Cydney Roesler ’16.

2. Class of ’91 alumni, from left, Christy (Komazec) Keegan, Ron Royster and Jennifer (Pasciak) Kanning, reconnect during a cocktail party for their 25th-year celebration at Reunion Weekend in October.

3. Freshman Madelynn Seruya relaxes on the quad with her father, Steven, during Parents and Family Weekend in October, when more than 6,000 visitors from 28 states and the Dominican Republic spent quality time with their students.

4. Class of 1986 members who attended Reunion gather for a big photo at the Homecoming Tailgate outside the Rocky Top Student Center, York Hill Campus.

5. Golf foursome, from left: Mike Rizzo, JD ’95, Rich Balisciano ’69, Paul Calamita, MBA ’92, and Pete Ricciardi ’68 at the Alumni Golf Championship last July in Fairfield.

6. Sliding some fun in during Reunion Weekend’s family block party at the Pat Abbate ’58 Alumni House and Gardens are Angela (Citino) Egan ’07 and her son, Jaxon.
REMEmBERING FATHER LOUIS EVANGELISTO (1924–2016)

He was a believer in the inherent good in all of us

BY THOMAS J. KELLY ’98
AND CHRIS DELENICK ’98

ON JUNE 19, 2016—Father’s Day—the Quinnipiac University community lost a dear friend when Father Louis Evangelisto went to his eternal reward surrounded by family and holding the hand of his dearest friend, Joe Sledge.

From 1989 to 2004, Father Lou served as Quinnipiac’s chaplain. Although his office was officially listed as Student Center 209, his presence was felt across campus. From his weekly radio show on campus station WQAQ (featuring big band music and hosted under the pseudonym “Tony Feliciano”) to his rushing of one of QU’s fraternities, Father Lou did more than just conduct Sunday Mass; he connected with students.

As a college chaplain, his masses were a sanctuary for people of all faiths. In his homilies, Father acknowledged his own humanity and imperfections by saying “these hands have sinned.” He was a realist who balanced his awareness of the weekend life of a typical college student with his humanization of the Jesus who turned water into wine. During reflections on a previous week, he often would ask students, “Would you be proud of your actions if Jesus were hanging out with you this weekend?”

Father Lou’s mission and life of service in the faith was not based in an ivory tower or lived in a vacuum; it was based in the real world. Before he began at QU, he was a military veteran who served in Vietnam and retired as an Army colonel. He was 40 when he voluntarily joined the Army during the Vietnam conflict and asked to be assigned there because that’s where he felt his service was needed most. Despite seeing the worst of humanity up close during that time, Father Lou maintained his belief in the inherent good in all of us.

He was famous for his mischievous sense of humor. Legend has it that on a September day when he was not wearing his traditional priest’s collar, Father Lou introduced himself to students in the cafeteria as a trucker who stopped on campus for a cup of coffee, proclaiming that “Quinnipiac has the best coffee on I-91.” With his strong Italian face and broad shoulders, he often looked the part!

We are proud to be among the people working to set up an endowed scholarship in Father Lou’s honor.

He considered his time as Quinnipiac’s chaplain to be his most meaningful as a priest. “Faith, Family and Friends” were emphasized during his lifetime of ministry, and he lived those core values to the fullest as he continued to perform our marriages, funerals for our parents, baptize our children and make sick visits to hospitals well into his retirement.

For many of us, Father Lou was our Connecticut father, brother, grandfather and wacky friend all rolled into one brilliant priest. While the faculty educated our minds, Father Louis Evangelisto took care of our hearts and souls. He turned a part-time chaplain’s position into a full-time job and a lifelong investment in our lives.

So much about Quinnipiac has changed in the last 30 years, but what remains is the university’s commitment to a student-oriented approach to education. As Quinnipiac continues to evolve, it’s important to secure the legacy of the men and women who make Quinnipiac home. Beginning in 2018, the university chaplain will award a scholarship to a student, taking into account Father Lou’s legacy, which includes charitable service, military service, a love of family and friends, and service to the Quinnipiac spiritual community of all faiths. If you’d like to contribute to this fund, please contact Andy Bernstein, director of annual giving, at andrew.bernstein@qu.edu or 203-582-7882.
1999

GLENN JURGEN ’99, MBA ’05, of Wallingford, CT, is the human resources manager at Lightstat Inc. in Barkhamsted, CT. Glenn serves on the Quinnipiac Management Advisory Council.

RACHEL (MARGOLIS) SIEGAL and her husband, Jed, announce the birth of a son, Tyler, on May 26, 2016. The family lives in West Hartford, CT.

2000

ODETTE (GEORGE) FRANCESKINO, MBA ’00, of Prospect, CT, director of financial aid at Quinnipiac University’s School of Law, received the Distinguished Service Award from the Eastern Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators. Odette currently serves as the vice president of EASFPA and previously served as treasurer, EASFPA representative and conference committee co-chair.

1997

PHILIP GODUT of Cromwell, CT, recently was named Teacher of the Year for 2017 at Somers High School. Philip is a social studies teacher and is an adjunct professor of history at Quinnipiac.

1998

ANTHONY COSTANZO and his wife welcomed their first child, Brooke Lynn, on July 7, 2016. The family lives in Wethersfield, CT.

KRISTOPHER JONES of Cheshire, CT, recently was featured in an article that praises his work at Bristol Hospital's Center for Wound Care and Hyperbaric Medicine. The article discusses his involvement in the cutting-edge technology and care provided to patients with venous ulcers.

BONIVIERON LEONARD of Marion, CT, published her first book, “Character by Design,” a biblical perspective about character.

BRYAN SMITH ’98, MAT ’03, of Wallingford, CT, recently was named Teacher of the Year in North Haven, CT.

2002

DEBORAH GREAVES O’SHEA of Providence, RI, has been appointed director of social media at Southern New Hampshire University. Deborah spent three years as the social media manager for CVS Caremark.

RACHEL (HECHT) SHOLA and her husband, Joseph, announce the birth of a daughter, Brianna Belle, on July 6, 2016. Brianna was welcomed home by her big sister, Chloe, 2. The family lives in Windham, NH.

2004

RICKETTE ESCARAVAGE married Joseph Fox on April 18, 2014, in Avon, CT. The wedding party included JILL (CIMMINELLO) MAG-DA ’03, MBA ’07; DANA (COSSEGLIO) DOUCETTE ’04, MAT ’06; ALAYSA MANSOLF ’06; BROOKE (PERCOSKI) CULLEN ’09; AMELIA (TRITT) AGUILAR ’03, MPT ’08; and GREGORY DOUCETTE ’04, MPT ’06.

2005

SUZANNE CONWAY married Daniel Murphy on April 16, 2016, at the Bee & Thistle Inn in Old Lyme, CT. The couple lives in Oxford, CT.

JAIME GLANOVSKY and Ryan O’Connell were married in September. Jaime works as a statistician at Pratt & Whitney in East Hartford, CT. The couple lives in South Windsor, CT.

MICHAEL KOBYLANSKI, MS ’06, of Cheshire, CT, associate director of athletics/communications at Southern Connecticut State University, was among 15 individuals who were recognized by the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation as one of “New Haven’s Finest.” Michael has worked at SCSU for nine years and this year was in college athlete administration.

NW SHAW married RUDY NAST ’05 on May 9, 2015, in Old Saybrook, CT. They met during their junior year, in the Hill residence hall, dated briefly in college, and reunited seven years later in Washington, D.C. at a meeting, when NW was a urology resident and Rud, an audiology student. The couple lives in San Diego and both are pursuing careers in the medical field.

BRIDGET SHILLET of Glendale, CA, was promoted to director of sales at Noor, a catering venue in Pasadena, CA.

SEAN CABLE ‘04, the bride’s brother, served as a groomsman. LAUREN CABLE married

LAUREN CABLE married Brendan Neiger on Oct. 17, 2015, at Yale’s Battell Chapel in New Haven. AMANDA (CRISCUOLO) BELTRAN ’07 served as maid of honor and SEAN CABLE ’04, the bride’s brother, served as a groomsman. Lauren is employed by Yale University and lives with her husband in Bethany, CT.
CAREER

POSTED AT THE PENTAGON

Major Jamahl Evans applies legal skills as a Marine

BY ADAM DURSO
PHOTO KHUE BUI

When Major Jamahl Evans, JD ’00, signed on for active duty with the U.S. Marine Corps in 2001, he couldn’t have known his law degree would help him procure the best training and equipment in the world for his fellow Marines. Fifteen years later, he is serving his country as a financial management officer at The Pentagon.

Back then, Evans had no idea how crucial the timing of his decision to enlist would be: One month after taking his oath, and as he prepared to enter officer candidate school, the 9/11 terror attacks blindsided the nation. As he watched footage of United Airlines Flight 175 colliding with the south tower of the World Trade Center, his resolve strengthened. “I had not one second thought about becoming a Marine.”

After graduating from Atlanta’s Morehouse College in 1994 with a degree in French, Evans considered a career in education, but decided to pursue a JD instead and moved to New Haven. He graduated law school, married his college friend, Maria, and joined the Marines. The couple now lives in Alexandria with their four children. Following his commissioning in 2002, he was assigned to the position of financial management officer. He recalls a popular recruitment commercial depicting a would-be Marine scaling a fiery mountain and slaying the dragon up top with a sword.

“You never saw anyone reconciling the budget for slaying said dragon,” he jokes.

Evans initially looked upon the financial post as a non-traditional use of his law degree, but he soon realized financial management would be where he could best apply his talents. Chief among these were the legal research, analytic and interpretive skills he gained at Quinnipiac.

“I understood that I could leverage my education here because most aspects of military organization, operations and financial management are bound to laws,” he says.

Evans interprets some of the most significant laws in the nation, including Title 10 of the United States Code—the legal basis for the roles, missions and organization of each of the armed services.

“Any of these documents can come into play at any time,” Evans explains. “They determine what a command can purchase and how federal appropriations can be used.”

As a budget analyst and exercise officer at San Diego County’s Camp Pendleton in 2003, Evans helped manage a $100 million budget for training and operations. In a similar role in Afghanistan in 2009, he coordinated joint and multinational military exercises in the Philippines, South Korea and Australia. During his second deployment to Afghanistan in 2014, he served as a director for the Financial Management Oversight Division.

Evans’ position is intertwined with several defense and federal agencies, Congress and the Office of Management and Budget. He credits his Law of Politics course with giving him an understanding of the political environment and an awareness of how individuals and organizations operate within it.

“Professor John Pavia reinforced his curriculum with in-class interviews of notable figures from the Connecticut political arena. Nowhere in my career has this understanding better served me than while working at the Pentagon,” he says.

He also retains much of what he learned in Martin Margulies’ Criminal Law class. “I try to remain focused on the ball, the crux of a case, to ensure that my argument relates to it, the ball being the legal execution of taxpayer dollars in support of Marine Corps operations.”

Finally, he credits his mother for counseling him to absorb information gleaned from respected professionals and then find ways to shape it into effective action.
1. Jillian Vryhof ’10 and Andrew Vazzano ’10, MS ’14, June 14, 2014.

2. Steven Altmann ’08 and Kristen Perry ’09, May 20, 2016, with their fellow Bobcats.


5. Dena Farber ’08, MS ’12, and Paul Rozanski, MS ’13, July 22, 2016.


7. Lauren Salzman ’10 and Brian Kersten, June 18, 2016.

8. Andrew Merrick ’10 and Jennifer Courtney ’12, MOT ’13, July 9, 2016.


11. Samantha Sardella ’11, MAT ’12, and David Anstett ’11, Oct. 8, 2016.

12. Suzanne Conway ’10 and Daniel Murphy, April 16, 2016.

13. Laura Regan ’08 and Alex Wayne, May 29, 2016.


KIM EVANS '07, MBA '11, and BILL RIGA, MS '15, were married on July 15, 2016, in Spencer, MA. The couple lives in Hamden, where they both work at Quinnipiac—Kim as director of alumni and parent relations, and Bill as associate men's ice hockey coach.

ASHLEE LAROCHE married Michael Sherman on Dec. 31, 2015. Ashlee is an operations analyst at Genesis Advisors in Boston, where the couple lives.

JANETTE LOPEZ '07, MBA '09, of Collingswood, NJ, was promoted to senior associate marketing manager, soup brand development, at Campbell Soup in Camden, NJ. Janette recently worked for Campbell's North American Foodservice Division.

JOHN “JACK” O’BRIEN of North Hollywood, CA, was promoted to showrunner’s assistant on the new CBS sitcom “Man with a Plan,” starring Matt LeBlanc.

MAX WINITZ of Sarasota, FL, recently became the communications and public/media relations manager for the 2017 World Rowing Championships in Sarasota in 2017. Max was a weekend anchor at WWSB for the past five years.

2008 DANIELLE APPEL '08, MBA '14, and ANDREW MCCARTHY '06, MS '07, were married in Westport, CT, on Sept. 16, 2016.

GEORGE BIKAKIS, MAT '08, of Berlin, CT, recently was named Teacher of the Year.

NICK CADAVIS of New Rochelle, NY, recently was promoted to NYPD detective.

MATTHEW CARIANI and TATIANNA WISNIEWSKI '08, MAT '09, were married on July 8, 2016, in Edinburgh, Scotland. The couple lives in Union City, NJ.

COREY CONTRINO and JOHN FISCHER were married on Aug. 28, 2015, at The Venetian in Garfield, NJ. JILLIAN BLUMBERG of Centerville, MA, was the maid of honor and KERRI WADEYKA of Hoboken, NJ, was the bridesmaid. The couple lives in Bay Shore, NY.

DENA FARBER '08, MS '12, and PAUL ROZANSKI, MS '13, were married on July 22, 2016, in Brookfield, CT. The couple lives in New Haven.

LAURA NOEL works at the Office of Corporate Relations at MIT as a communications specialist. She and her husband relocated to Boston this past summer.

LAURA REGAN of Marblehead, MA, and Alex Wayne on May 29, 2016, in Great Barrington, MA. VERONICA FIORE '08, MAT '09, was a maid of honor. KRISTEN SMITH and ALANA (COHEN) WEINBERG '08, MAT '09, were bridesmaids.

WESLEY SHAY of Middletown, CT, is a registred radiologist assistant in interventional radiology at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in New York.

JESSICA (FINE) SOLWALSKY, MS '08, of Bethesda, MD, joined the Division of Information Technology in the Learning Technology Strategy Group at the University of Maryland, where she will work with students, faculty and staff to encourage the use of new technology. Jessica previously worked at Boston University for six years, and is currently pursing a PhD in education.

2009 LAUREN KUCHMAK of Smithtown, NY, graduated from Ross University School of Medicine in May 2015 and is in her second year of family medicine residency at Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson at CentraState Medical Center in Freehold, NJ.

MEGHAN DOWDELE '09, DPT '13, of Chicago, IL, married SAMI LIMAITAINEN '10, MBA '12, on July 9, 2016, in Dobbs Ferry, NY. The two met at Quinnipiac in Dana English Hall. SEAN COUGHLIN '11 was a groomsman.

ERIN LISCINSKY '09, MAT '10, of Sheferton, CT, married Ryan Rasmussen on July 1, 2016, at Willowdale Estates in Topsfield, MA. Erin is a teacher at Edward Hopkins School in Hopkinton, MA. The couple lives in Northbridge, MA.

AMANDA ROMIG and JOHN MCCINTOCK of Macedon, NY, celebrated their first wedding anniversary on Sept. 5, 2015.

2010 STEPHANIE ANNUNZIATA married MICHIEL L’ARCHEVQUE on Aug. 13, 2016, at the Mountain View Grand in Whitfield, NH. Included in the bridal party were Stephanie’s Phi Sigma Sigma sisters, Nicole CELLI ’11, EMILY T. CALLAHAN ’11, CHELSEA (NASO) MARTIN ’11 and HEIDI HITCHEN ’13. The couple lives in Concord, NH.

MATTHEW GALO and CAITLIN (GOLDERO) GALO ’11 were married on Oct. 23, 2015. The two were at Quinnipiac, where they were both studying film, video and interactive media. Matthew is working at the TODAY Show, and Caitlin is a manager of communications for USA Network, both part of NBCUniversal. Matthew previously held positions at MSNBC and Fox News, while Caitlin spent four years at Bravo and Oxygen Media. They both began their careers as members of the prestigious NBCUniversal East Coast Page Program. Caitlin serves on the board of directors for Quinnipiac’s School of Communications.

LINDSAY OLIVERI ’10, MS ’14, and BRIAN MONACK ’10 were married on Aug. 5, 2016, at the OceanCliff Resort in Newport, RI. The couple lives in Waltham, MA.

LAUREN SALZMAN married Brian Kersten on June 18, 2016, in Farmington, CT. Lauren is a designer in Quinnipiac: University’s Office of Brand Strategy and Integrated Communications. JESSICA JOHNSON ’10 served as a bridesmaid. The couple lives in Milford, CT.

MEGAN SCULLY of Los Angeles is the post produc- tion supervisor on NBC’s “Superstore.”

NICHOLAS SOLITRO married KRISTEN BABOWICZ ’11 on July 16, 2016, in Bristol, CT. Nick is an attorney at Robert E. Craven & Associates in North Kingstown, RI. Kristen is a kindergarten teacher at Nathan Hale Arts Magnet School, in New London, CT. The couple lives in Richmond, RI.

COURTNEY SULLIVAN ’10, MHS ’12, of Greenwich, CT, is a registered radiologist assistant at Weill Cornell Medical Center and administers the Weill Cornell Imaging Consultation and Radiologic Expertise program, one of the hospital’s major patient-centered care efforts.

JILLIAN VRYHOF and ANDREW VAZZANO ’10, MS ’14, were married on June 14, 2014, at the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart in Newark, NJ. Bridesmaids included KEREN FISHBAIN ’10, MOT ’12, and ALISON LARSON. Grooms- men included JAMES PA- LATINI of North Plainfield, NJ, AUSTIN VRYHOF ’08, ANDREW FLETCHER, DAN PRESSL and LEONARD NESLIN ’12. Jillian is the assistant manager of retail development for Citizen Watch Company. Andrew works for the New York Red Bulls as senior manager of digital and social media. The couple lives in Verona, NJ.

ROBIN CASSELLA and DEREK STANLEY ’11, MBA ’12, were married on Sept. 23, 2016, at St. Patrick’s Cathedral in New York. The couple lives in Alexandria, VA.

LEA STROUD of Brookhaven, NY, is an associate manager and team leader at The Siegfried Group—NY Metro. Lauren joined the firm in 2013 and prior to that, she worked for Deloitte as an audit senior.

2012 GEORGE BATTLE of Cheshire, CT, recently was appointed to lieutenant colon- nel, office of field operations, within the Division of State Police. George is a 28-year veteran of the Connecticut State Police and has worked as a patrol trooper, detective and a resident trooper sergeant. He is a graduate of the FBI National Academy.

RANDI (IACO) PLAKE of Middletown, CT, works in the communications office at Wesleyan University. Previously, she worked for four years at Middlessex Community College, where she oversaw social media and publicity for the college. She continues to teach com- munication courses there.

MARY SIMEOL of West- field, MA, graduated from Western New England Uni- versity School of Law in May 2016 and is an assistant district attorney for Hampden County in Springfield, MA.

ANDREW STUBBS- STROUD of Brewster, NY, is one of the lead singers and guitar players in his band, Karma Darwin. The group has been together.
since 2013 and released its debut album in May 2016. The band has performed at many venues throughout New York, Connecticut and Massachusetts.

EBONY WALMSLEY of Middletown, CT, recently became a communications associate at Connecticut Coalition for Achievement Now (Con- CAN) in New Haven.

2013

STACEY AMODIO, MAT '13, and TREVOR BIGGART, MAT '13, were married on Aug. 13, 2016, at the Old Saybrook Point Inn in Old Saybrook, CT. CHRISTINA ACUNZO, MAT '13, of Branford, CT, was in the bridal party. Stacey and Trevor met while at Quinnipiac, and both are elementary school teachers in Hamden. Stacey teaches 5th grade at Shepher Glen Elementary and Trevor teaches 1st grade at Ridge Hill Elementary. The couple lives in New Haven.

ANTHONY DI MEGLIO of Robbinsville, NJ, works at Northwestern Mutual, where he is one of its top financial advisers. Anthony is also a college unit director in the company’s Top 10 internship program, mentoring 11 college interns this past summer. He has won several awards including Top 100 New Clients.

TAYLOR HEALEY of Salem, NH, is an oncology nurse at Smilow Cancer Hospital at Yale-New Haven Hospital. Taylor was named Nurse of the Year and was featured in an issue of New Haven Magazine’s Health Care Heroes.

SHANNON MAZURICK of Avon, CT, published the following books: “Poetry as the Year Goes By,” “Reflective Poetry: Petals of the Heart,” “Gemma: The Search for the Gem,” “Gemma: The Treasure Hunt with Griffin,” and “Gemma: The First Day of School with Honoray.” The three Gemma books recently received the Mom’s Choice Award. In November, Shannon, who has cerebral palsy, was crowned Ms. Wheelchair Connecticut 2017. She will serve as a spokeswoman, discussing awareness, acceptance and understanding of disabilities with the general public.

KIRSTEN MCMAHON celebrated her one-year anniversary as the promotions manager for the radio station North Shore 104.9 WBOQ in Beverly, MA, where she lives.

MERCY QUAYE of New Haven is the communications director for the New Haven Board of Education. Mercy was previously a news reporter at the New Haven Register.

ERIC TURICO ‘12 moved to Palm Springs, CA, where he operates Angel Messages By Eric, his spiritual healing practice.

MEAGHAN WILLIAMS of Auburn, MA, is the athletic trainer at Guilford High School in Guilford, CT. She lives in Wallingford, CT.

2014

CALLIE BARKLEY of New York, NY, recently was promoted to account executive at Edelman Public Relations in New York City, working on major CPG food brands, including Campbell’s Soup, Triscuit, Ritz Crackers and Good Thins.

MATTHEW BLOOM of Somerville, MA, works as an analyst with the group technology team of corporate strategy and business development.

CHRISTINA BOEHELE was named branch chief for communication and education with National Park Service Fire and Aviation Management. She lives in Boise, ID.

KEVIN NOONAN ’14, MBA ’16, of North Stonington, CT, recently became the assistant director of athletic communications at Colgate University.

LAUREN PERNAL of Dayton, NJ, is the assistant to the head of revenue and the executive director of beauty strategy at Conde Nast in New York, working for Glamour and SELF magazines. Lauren lives in Manhattan.

TARA RICE ’14, MAT ’15, of Tarrytown, NY, is a third-grade teacher at Weston Intermediate School in Weston, CT.

ZACHARY WATKINS ’14, MBA ’15, of West Islip, NY, recently became a sales strategist with Contently, an industry leading content marketing company. He is moving to Hoboken, NJ.

2015

MANASA BASAVARAJU, MS ’15, and Ajeya Jayaram announce the birth of a son, Adhvik T. Ajeya, on April 6, 2016. The family lives in Manchester, CT.

SAMANTHA CHASE of Simsbury, CT, recently was accepted into the Alpha Chi honors society, Missouri Pi chapter, through her MFA program at Lindenwood University.

ADAM COOPERSMITH ‘15, MBA ‘16 of Randolph, NJ, is an associate at Cushman & Wakefield in the brokerage services team, specializing in tenant representation, national account management and agency management assignments. Prior to joining Cushman & Wakefield, Cooper smith interned there and also at RBC Wealth Management, where he assisted high net worth clients with their fixed-income portfolios.

JOHN GRIECO, MS ’15, of Burlington, VT, recently was named chief technology officer for the University of Vermont Health Network. He also has served as director of technical services and operations at Partners HealthCare System in Boston and has more than 21 years of experience in information technology.

DIAMOND HAWKINS ’15, MBA ’16, of Bridgeport, CT, is the program coordinator of development working with the Law School Fund at Yale Law School.

KYRA OCHWAT ’15, MAT ’16, of Farmington, CT, recently became a math teacher at Weston High School in Weston, CT.

2016

KIRA DIAZ of Shelton, CT, is a teaching assistant at the University of New Haven.

ASHLEY HAMILTON, MS ’16, of Dallas, TX, recently was promoted to the position of impact director at City Year Dallas.

CRYSTLE PHILLIP, MS ’16, of Middletown, CT, is a media operator at ESPN and an adjunct professor at Newbury College in Boston.

BIANCA SOLANO of Sandy Hook, CT, is a Peace Corps volunteer in Pretoria, South Africa. For 27 months, Bianca will teach English, among other skills, in the province of North West.

SARAH SOUCY of Manchester, NH, joined EVR Advertising as a media coordinator.

GRACE THOMAS of Hamden is a personal care assistant helping clients with fine motor skills.

Class notes are a click away! www.quinnipiac.edu/submit-classnote
1. Mckenna Belle Cody, August 20, 2016, daughter of Lauren (Abbate) Cody ’95, JD ’00, and granddaughter of Nancy Abbate ’65.


4. Emma Rose Fox, Jan. 18, 2016, daughter of Renee Escaravage ’04 and husband, Joseph Fox.

5. Adhvik T. Ajeya, April 6, 2016, son of Manasa Basavaraju, MS ’15, and Ajeya Jayaram.

6. Jared Anthony Grasso, April 20, 2016, son of Jared Grasso ’02 and wife, Andrea.

7. Brianna Belle Shola, July 6, 2016, daughter of Rachel Hecht Shola ’03 and husband, Joseph.


PERFUSIONIST LIVES FOR THE CUTTING EDGE

Innovation makes his heart beat faster

Michael Cordisco ’97, MHS ’11 heads the perfusion team at Stamford Hospital.

BY DONNA PINTEK
PHOTO MARK CONRAD

Michael Cordisco ’97, MHS ’11, has been stopping hearts—and restarting them—for nearly 20 years. As chief of perfusion at Stamford Hospital, he and a team of seven operate the cardiopulmonary bypass machine that does the work of the heart and the lungs during cardiac surgery.

Cordisco has spent his career advancing the field of cardiopulmonary perfusion. From helping develop new procedures to researching techniques and devices that offer the greatest likelihood of success, his focus is on improving patient outcomes.

After high school, Cordisco knew he wanted to work in medicine, but hadn’t yet found his niche. The pivotal moment came when his father had open-heart surgery. He was awed by the science and technology he observed as well as the way the cardiac team worked. That prompted him to apply to Quinnipiac’s perfusion program. He liked the autonomy and responsibility that field offered.

“Perfusion is the type of job where you have ultimate responsibility for a few very important things in the procedure. No one else can do those things. Not the surgeon, not the anesthesiologist, not the cardiologist or the nurse,” he said.

“Perfusion students leave school with a certification and can do the job. But early in your career, you really don’t feel clinically competent until you’ve positively affected the outcome of a procedure. When you do that, you feel like a professional, like someone who actually made a difference,” he said.

A Connecticut native, Cordisco lives in Brookfield with his wife, Carrie, and their three children: Justin, 15; Nathan, 11; and Emma, 6. Following his graduation from Quinnipiac with a BS in health sciences in 1997, he was hired as a senior certified perfusionist at Montefiore Medical Center in the Bronx. There, he rounded out his craft by learning pediatric perfusion, and he helped to establish a pediatric cardiac transplantation program at Montefiore—the first of its kind. He enjoys the challenges of pediatric perfusion and maintains a per diem position with Connecticut Children’s Medical Center in Hartford.

Cordisco returned to Quinnipiac and earned his MHS in 2011. He became interested in ways to improve health care outcomes following cardiopulmonary bypass, a procedure sometimes associated with adverse neurologic outcomes, such as stroke or neurocognitive changes. He began researching different techniques that could affect outcomes, such as temperature modification and the use of sensors to measure cerebral pressure and oxygen levels.

Perfusionists also are involved in other procedures, such as ECMO (extracorporeal membrane oxygenation)—a life-saving adaptation of cardiopulmonary bypass done outside the operating room. ECMO originally was used with pediatric patients, but has been adapted and used successfully for patients of all ages suffering from life-threatening pulmonary disease.

He recently earned his MBA at MIT with a focus on health care, innovation and entrepreneurship. He is the founder of All Cell Recovery, a medical device development and manufacturing startup that offers viable alternatives to blood transfusion. Avoiding a transfusion is always preferable, because patients who receive blood have longer hospital stays, more infections and worse outcomes, Cordisco explained.

After two decades in the operating room, he still looks for ways to improve outcomes for patients. It’s one of the reasons he joined the Health Affairs Board of Fellows at Quinnipiac. “I realized these are the students and physicians who will be dealing with these challenges and issues with health care every day,” he said.
2013 Sarah Jane (Gallivan) Caruso '85
Thomas Flannigan '77
Mary (Michaels) Foley '39
Edith Meyers '52
Patricia (Harris) Orefice '93, MBA '97

2014 Larry Fremeth '74

2015 Barbara (Crook) Ehrfeldt '83
Carl Gagliardi '57
Lucille McManamy '75
Grace (Fritsche) Mobeck '41
Walter Fire '48
Anne (Crisco) Solimini '43

2016
Peter Abbagnano '60
Wayne Addy '73
Andrew Amendola '49
Susan-Mary (Merola) Aylward '79
Joan (Moore) Beach '48
Carolyn (Chapin) Blackwood '49
Genevieve (Rubb) Bogaczyk '92
Edward Bridgham '51
Janet (Geraci) Broadent '39
Josephine (Mitchell) Burke '94
David Butterfield '77
Janet (Castle) Butterworth '55
Richard Cassella '73
Beryl (Resnick) Cohen '50
Janet (Garrison) Criscio '73
Steven Augustus Cremonni '78
Andrew Czekalski '66
Ralph DeAngelio Jr. '75
Philip DeLise '60
Rose Ann (Santia) DiLeila '57
Lois (Wardwell) Donaghy '72
Joseph Drignat '77
William Fazzino '60
Mildred (Benso) Fuller '37
Judith George '85
Irving Goldberg '48
Gloria (Mubarek) Goodhouse '46
Carla (Anderson) Grigley '81
John 'Jack' Groves '66
Pericles "Pat" Hallelifias '76
William Hammel '85
William Heaply Jr. '48
John Henry '85
Kathleen (Cocroran) Hipona '87
Philip Joffe '89
Jerome Kaprinski '66
Russell Kennedy '72
Evelyn (Toelle) Klaiber '35
Roberta (Foote) Koontz '61
Matthew Kosky '69
George Krodel '67
John LaViola '49
Alphonse Leonardo '68
Nicholas Liguori Jr. '50
Joseph Liseo '93
Lawrence Lynch Jr. '57
Michael Malchik, JD '93
Francis Mann '41
Frances (Feltovic) Masiak '48
Sandra Maturo '68
Patricia McAllister, JD '82
John McGeever Jr. '40
Mary (McGuire) McGivney '61
Gerald Melillo '66
Helen (Grieco) Myers '67
James Mutrie Jr. '48
Carolyn (Cowing) Nowakoski '47
Judith O'Cconnell '70
Olga (Vendittl) Parente '39
Pasquale Petrucci '62
Georgette Quigley '67
Jason Quinn '92
Valerie (Klee) Raucci '92
John Reilly '57
John Renehan Jr. '62
Karen (Abbate) Riches '92
Charles Ruhe '55
Edgar Sanchez Sr. '76
Ronald Schneider Sr. '65
Charles Shaboo '60
Charles Shelton, MS '12
John Sickola III '84, MBA '92
Mary (Moody) Small '38
Frederick Smith '82
Raphaella (Gambardella) Soula '42
Winifred (Denison) Specter '40
Dawn (Sutherland) Leary '70
Douglas Valentine '72
Ronald Vestuti '86
Judith (Nelson) Walz '00
Madeline (Kinney) Wasilewski '49

IN MEMORIAM

the history of presidential
spouses and Melania Trump's
possible impact on the role, 7
p.m., North Haven Memorial
Library, 17 Elm St. Free.

March 2
Public Interest Law Project
Auction, 6:30 p.m., Ceremoni-
al Courtroom, School of Law
Center, North Haven Campus.

March 2-6
"The Wild Party," Quinni-
piac's spring musical, is a
steamy prohibition tale by
Andrew Lippa. Show dates:
March 2-5 at 7:30 p.m. and
March 6 at 2 p.m., Clarice
L. Buckman Theater, Mount
Carmel Campus.

March 17
St. Patrick's Day Parade
in New York City, March
with alumni and parents.
Reception follows at
Heartland Brewery.

March 20-April 1
G.A.M.E. VII Forum (Global
Asset Management Edu-
cation), New York Hilton
Midtown Hotel, registration
required, visit game.qu.edu.

April 8
4th Annual New Play
Festival, 2 and 7 p.m., 312
W. 36th St., New York City.
Features seven original plays
written, directed, performed
and stage-managed by
Quinnipiac students.

April 28-29
"Acts of Compassion," 7:30
p.m. Friday, and 2 and 8 p.m.
Saturday, Black Box Theater,
College of Arts & Sciences
II, Mount Carmel Campus.
Campus Cross Talk presents
short plays based on stories
collected from the QU com-
muunity. Free.

May 14
Commencement ceremonies
for the School of Law and
the School of Medicine, TD
Bank Sports Center, York
Hill Campus.

May 16
"From White Hats to the
White House: 'Scandal's
Framing of Female Political
Power," 7 p.m. Lisa Burns,
professor of media studies,
discusses how this ABC
 drama reflects some of the
real life challenges still fac-
ing women in politics, North
Haven Memorial Library, 133
Elm St. Free.

May 18
Bill Mecca Roundball Open,
Laurel View Country Club,
HAMDEN, and The Traditions
Golf Club, Wallingford.
Registration required.

May 20-21
Undergraduate Commence-
ment, TD Bank Sports
Center, York Hill Campus.
For the College of Arts and
Sciences and Schools of
Business, Communications,
served as assistant chief disciplinary counsel for the Connecticut Judicial Branch, where she ensured attorney compliance with the Connecticut Rules of Professional Conduct. She previously owned and managed her own law firm, representing individuals and businesses in the purchase, sale and refinancing of residential and commercial properties.

JOHN LYON, of Barre, VT, along with three generations of his family, continues a Barre tradition. Along with his mother, Ann Wilkins Lyon, and maternal grandmother, Barbara Wilkins, he owns and operates Wilkins Harley-Davidson in South Barre. The dealership was founded in 1947 by John’s late grandfather, Harry.

2003
MICHIELLE E. ESPEY of Garden City, NY, an associate at the Garden City law firm of Moritt Hock & Hamroff, was appointed by the Nassau County Bar Association to serve as co-chair of its tax law committee, effective June 1, 2016. Michelle concentrates her practice in tax law, including individual and business tax planning, state and local tax services and tax controversy matters.

2005
JOSEPH “JAY” ARCA III of West Hartford, CT, a partner at Halloran & Sage, has been selected to the Connecticut Law Tribune’s New Leaders in the Law Class of 2016. He was selected by a panel of four judges from the Connecticut legal community and recognized for his efforts in four areas: development of the law, advocacy/community contributions, service to the bar and peer/public recognition. Jay also was selected as a 2016 Rising Star for the sixth straight year. He practices primarily in the areas of litigation, insurance and cyber security.

2008
SYLVIA K. RUTKOWSKA of Middletown, CT, has been named a principal at DiZialo, Pickett & Allen law firm. Sylvia joined the firm in 2010 and practices primarily in personal injury, litigation/pre-litigation, land use and municipal matters. She has been recognized as a Connecticut Super Lawyer Rising Star consecutively since 2013. Connecticut Law Tribune’s New Leader in the Law, and the Connecticut Women’s Education and Legal Funds’ Woman to Watch.

2009
MEAGHAN MARY COOPER of Patchogue, NY, is an attorney at Robinson & Cole, focusing on health law. She has been appointed to a two-year term on the board of directors at Interval House, Connecticut’s largest domestic violence intervention and prevention agency. Meaghan regularly advises hospitals, physician groups, community providers, and other health care entities on health care issues and general corporate matters.

2011
ROBERT SHEPHERD, JD/ MBA ’11, of Austin, TX, married T. Jordan Hill on April 16, 2016, in Austin. Rob was recently promoted to supervisor at Durbin Bennett Tax Advisors in Austin, where he provides tax planning, compliance and consulting services to high net worth individuals and their entities.

2014
KRISTINA PORTER of Bridgeport, CT, has joined the law office of Carroll, Cursheed & Moore of Middletown as an associate.
Living in the Moment
Unplug for a few seconds to practice being mindful with this experiment.

1. **STOP. LOOK. BECOME AWARE.**
   Turn off your phone—think about your thinking

2. **WHAT DO YOU SEE?**
   e.g., the last page of this magazine

3. **WHAT DO YOU FEEL?**
   e.g., the paper’s texture

4. **WHAT DO YOU HEAR?**
   ocean waves, traffic, the hum of the furnace

5. **WHAT ARE YOU NOTICING?**
   The tick of a clock, someone laughing

6. **HOW DO YOU FEEL?**
   Relaxed, content, impatient

7. **WHAT WAS THAT LIKE FOR YOU?**

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MINDFULNESS

Going to the gym may be one New Year’s resolution that’s fallen by the wayside for many of us. Psychology professor **Tom Pruzinsky** and the Campus Cross Talk Committee suggest focusing instead on a different kind of workout—mindfulness. Being mindful is often described as an “awareness of the present moment, without judgment and with acceptance.” Compassion, empathy and mindfulness are skills. The more you go to the mindfulness gym, the empathy gym, and the compassion gym, the stronger you get,” according to Pruzinsky. Lectures and workshops are planned this spring to make the Quinnipiac community more mindful.*

*Find them and more events at calendar.qu.edu.
Quinnipiac University is pleased to announce that Aer Lingus is now the Official Travel Partner of Quinnipiac University. Alumni, parents, faculty and staff will be provided discount airfare to Ireland and Aer Lingus destinations throughout Europe from Hartford, Boston, JFK, Newark and Washington, D.C.

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