

BY FREDERIC PIERCE *Editor*

An entrepreneur to the bone

Patrick Mullaney '89 spent 12 years rising through the ranks of one of the largest medical device companies in the world.

By 2004, he was managing sales for the entire state of Georgia, supervising 60 sales representatives and being honored as the firm's national Distributor of the Year.

Then he got fired.
A change in company leadership and a disagreement over a patent for a medical device he'd helped his mechanical engineer brother secure, ended the career from which he thought he would retire.

"That was a tough time," Mullaney recalled. "When I got fired, I did something people normally wouldn't do. I went out and bought a boat and spent about three months on it, reading and figuring out the next step."

That next step was a leap of faith.
Heartened by the fact that most of the successful entrepreneurs he'd read about had been fired at least once before striking off on their own, Mullaney began raising money and working with his brother Michael to create VisionMed LLC; a company based on his brother's improved design of a device that helped surgeons treat orthopedic deformities.

Mullaney's specialty is taking newly developed medical devices and creating profitable distribution networks of doctors and medical professionals. He'd done it successfully for Smith & Nephew, a giant publicly traded corporation, and he knew he could do it successfully for a company of his own.

So, Mullaney spent the next two years developing his dream while working full-time at a new job managing New York sales for another giant orthopedic firm. Finally, the timing was right for the launch of ExtraOrtho, Inc., another new venture. It was a success. Within three and a half years, ExtraOrtho, Inc., was sold to a global orthopedic manufacturer.

But Mullaney was just getting started. He created a third company, Arrowhead Medical Device Technologies, which brought to market a new type of fusion device used to fix deformities of the toes.

Last year, Mullaney additionally was recruited to the board of directors of NexGen, Inc., a company that designs



Patrick Mullaney '89 is a serial entrepreneur who has successfully built and grown three medical device companies. ExtraOrtho Inc., a firm he founded and ultimately sold, marketed a unique external fixation device, pictured above, used to hold severely broken bones in place while they heal.



medical devices used to treat neurological and cardiovascular diseases. Mullaney came on board to turn those scientific concepts into marketable business products with profitable sales networks.

"It's not about money. I wanted a bigger challenge," said Mullaney, who lives with his wife and two children outside of Memphis, Tenn., a national hub for orthopedic companies. "I wanted something where I could say 'that implant that saved that person's life is in there because my team and myself invented it; because I put private equity investors together to make this company into something.' And that's exciting."

Mullaney traces the roots of his entrepreneurial success back to two transformative experiences he had as a young man: SUNY Cortland and Mr. Ding-a-Ling.

"Cortland is a great place to give you a good foundational understanding of networking; people skills," said Mullaney, a former business economics major. "It's a place that breeds a kind of entrepreneurial spirit. All my friends, all my fraternity brothers were always out doing something—someone's working at this place, someone's working at that place, we were always working—and I think it's because we weren't handed silver spoons when we were growing up."

Mullaney grew up in the Albany, N.Y., area, one of four children in a middle-class family. A competitive swimmer and baseball player in high school, he was attracted to Cortland by the sports culture on campus

and his desire to understand the fundamentals of how the economy works.

"I always knew I wanted to be an entrepreneur," he said. "I'm a salesman. I just didn't know what I would sell."

In high school, while his peers were getting summer jobs at fast food restaurants, Mullaney, then 17, rented a refrigerated panel truck and started his own "Mr. Ding-a-Ling" ice cream franchise.

He was behind the wheel seven days a week, selling pre-packaged ice cream out of the brightly colored vehicle. Truck rental and ice cream cost him about \$700 a month, but by the end of the summer he could clear \$3,000 or \$4,000, he said.

Soon, he was renting a second truck and paying one of his friends commission to drive. He followed it with a third for special events around the Albany, N.Y., area.

"It pretty much put me through college," Mullaney said, noting that the income, coupled with support from his parents and some college loans, allowed him to attend college.

"It also taught me about distribution, which is what I do today. It taught me what you buy product for, what your goods sell for, what your margins should be."

Mullaney's work ethic was instilled in him by his parents at a very young age. He and his siblings were always up early on weekends and always had odd jobs. When he borrowed money from his parents to start his endeavors, he always paid it back on time.

As a SUNY Cortland freshman, Mullaney worked as a dishwasher in the cafeteria at Winchell Hall, then as a bouncer and a bartender at the Dark Horse Tavern downtown.

"I was there every Friday and Saturday and at least one or two days during the week," Mullaney said of the Dark Horse. "I made a lot of money. I wanted to buy the place a few years after I graduated, but I was never able to put it together."

After Cortland, he earned a master's degree in economics from the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs at Syracuse University. He had his eyes on Wall Street, where he landed an internship and initially hoped to become a bond trader.

Someone else, however, had his eyes on Mullaney. His most fateful business contact came along because of Mr. Ding-a-Ling.

One of the parents Mullaney became friendly with along his ice cream route was a sales representative for Smith & Nephew, a giant medical technology firm based in Memphis that does business in more than 90 countries.

The man told Mullaney that he was a good salesman and should get into medical sales. When the young ice cream entrepreneur replied that he didn't have a background in science, the experienced sales representative offered to take him on as an apprentice.

Mullaney spent nearly two years barely scraping by as an apprentice, learning the medical device business from the inside out, before becoming a full-fledged sales representative in 1993. The company sent him to Memphis for six weeks of intensive training that included crash courses in anatomy, kinesiology, physiology and metallurgy.

He found he enjoyed the challenge of the business. He especially liked engaging in highly technical conversations with surgeons and advising them in the operating room about how to use new products.

"You'll be in there with doctors who are highly trained, very smart, and you're in there advising them through a surgery where the patients are on the table, and they're listening to you. I loved it. Loved it! I still do surgeries maybe four or five times a month now. I used to be in surgery four or five times a day. I was working 12-hour, 14-hour, sometimes 20-hour days."

Mullaney's six weeks of training in Memphis did more than make him an asset in the operating room. It enabled him to meet his wife, Randi Jo, a Memphis native. The couple struck up a conversation in a nightclub over the resemblance the shirt she was wearing had to the "puffy shirt" on a then-popular "Seinfeld" episode.





PRESIDENT’S Message

SUNY Cortland’s entrepreneurial spirit

BY ERIK J. BITTERBAUM *President*

Charles Darwin, the father of evolutionary biology, once said: “It is not the strongest of the species that survives, nor the most intelligent that survives. It is the one that is the most adaptable to change.”

Darwin’s observation applies to more than island birds and tortoises. It helps inform College educators about what they must do to prepare students for success in the modern world.

Most SUNY Cortland alumni would probably agree that their College experience made them stronger; whether it developed their work ethic, taught them to persevere in pursuit of goals or buttressed their self-confidence. And a SUNY Cortland education, focused on achieving academic excellence across a diverse range of disciplines, clearly nurtures and challenges curious minds.

But in our increasingly competitive world, strength and intelligence are simply not enough.

Professional success, in fields ranging from education to economics, requires the ability to quickly react and adjust to changing circumstances. It requires the vision to see opportunities where others see nothing but challenge. In college, young people learn how to evolve. At SUNY Cortland, we want to make sure our graduates continue to evolve and adapt for the rest of their lives.

That is why the College is taking steps to make sure our campus culture nurtures the spirit of entrepreneurship, one of the primary strategic goals of the 64-campus State University of New York system. By tapping into the expertise of our faculty and the experiences of our alumni, by opening our students’ eyes to possibilities they may have never

considered, SUNY Cortland can both groom future success stories and help revitalize the nation’s economy.

The College is already a major economic engine in Central New York. It is Cortland County’s largest employer and last year generated more than \$250 million in regional economic activity. In addition, we offer the largest nationally accredited teacher education program on the East Coast. As such, the College not only prepares young people for careers, but molds the educators who will nurture the nation’s future workforce. Our diverse range of degrees and majors regularly produces influential professionals in fields ranging from law and medicine to sport management and recreation.

Many of our alumni ultimately find success by taking a risk when they see an opportunity that others either missed or were too timid to act on. Our graduates have built companies, restaurants and theme parks. They’ve found success as solitary entrepreneurs, independent consultants, savvy investors, authors, artists and actors. They’ve transformed networks of contacts into marketing firms and event-management companies. Red Dragons own chain franchises, run mom-and-pop businesses and open health-, wellness- or fitness-related enterprises.

Patrick Mullaney ’89, who has created and sold a series of medical device companies, believes there is something about the SUNY Cortland experience — the social atmosphere, the relationship building, the self-confidence gained — that cultivates entrepreneurs.

We agree. And we are building on that foundation. Business economics is now one of our most popular and fastest-growing majors. The Economics Department has run

an annual business idea competition for several years, and the College has an active Entrepreneurship Club.

Last fall, the College stepped up its efforts and offered a two-course economics sequence in entrepreneurship. Taught by a local businessman, students learn how to successfully turn an idea into a profitable venture by developing plans for a viable business.

SUNY Cortland students also are gaining experience working with local entrepreneurs through the College’s partnership with the new Cortland Business Innovation Center downtown. Strategic internships with small businesses give students broad, real-world experience with how independent shops and service providers operate. At the same time, the students are bringing unique skills — such as website development or social media marketing — to companies that need them.

In the future, we hope to engage more of our alumni to share their entrepreneurial experience and insight, either through our executive-in-residence program, social media or publications like *Columns* and *Moments*.

Cortland students are high-achieving, high-energy people who aren’t afraid to reach for big goals. Strengthening those traits creates the kind of professionals who will continue to be in demand as our economy becomes more dependent upon innovation and entrepreneurial spirit. Our students will have the strength, the knowledge and the adaptability to make a difference, no matter how quickly the world around them changes.

Sliding into success

BY FREDERIC PIERCE *Editor*

It was summer in Paso Robles, Calif., and J.J. Walsh ’78 and his buddies were feeling the heat. The long, dry August days of this Central California wine region typically range between 90 and 100 degrees and frequently climb higher than that.

One of Walsh’s friends, his partner in a restaurant and some other business ventures, mentioned offhand that he really wished there was a waterpark nearby.

Their lives were never the same.

“It was probably the worst reason to build a waterpark in the world,” Walsh recalls with a laugh. “But we didn’t know any better. We did all the work ourselves. We came up with the design, the concept, and we built it. I had a shovel in my hand every day for about four years. At the end of each day, I was exhausted.”

The Ravine Waterpark, a professional attraction owned, built and operated directly by Walsh and his two partners, opened to rave reviews in 2007. Featuring a 195,000-gallon wave pool, a kiddie “Tadpool,” and twisting, plunging water slides with names like Kamikaze, Anaconda and Vertigo, this family attraction continues to be both a tourist draw and a recreational staple for residents.

It wasn’t the first time that Walsh, a former SUNY Cortland health major, took on an unfamiliar business challenge and succeeded. Since moving to California’s central coast shortly after graduation, he has worked with partners to create, manage and sell two restaurants, a recreational vehicle park and a truck stop. He currently co-owns and manages both The Ravine and Creeky Tiki, a fun, community-focused bar and restaurant in downtown San Luis Obispo’s historic district.

“For me, entrepreneurship is an example of ‘I don’t know what I want to do when I grow up,’” Walsh said. “I’m not a guy that’s going to go sky diving, but I’m not averse to taking a financial risk. I think the part of me that made me an entrepreneur was that I’m not afraid to fail and start over again. I think that might be something that a lot of people would not,



or could not, be willing to do.”

Turns out, there were good reasons why other entrepreneurs shied away from the waterpark idea.

“You’ve got safety concerns, health concerns, engineering concerns, financing concerns and all kind of government approvals you’ve got to get,” Walsh said. “I got to know all of the inspectors pretty well. The learning curve is very steep.”

Walsh never studied business at SUNY Cortland, but he says the College prepared him for success as an entrepreneur. It wasn’t so much what he learned, but the fact that he learned how to learn.

Faculty members such as Professor Emeritus Barry Batzing, who enthusiastically engaged students in his biology classes for 36 years, were instrumental in sparking Walsh’s desire to become a lifelong learner; to confidently dive into tangles of complicated new information, digest what is important and act on it.

In 2009, Walsh established the Barry L. Batzing Scholarship Fund to assist health or biological science majors who have studied microbiology at SUNY Cortland. He said Batzing’s microbiology lessons are still helping him with issues such as water quality and health regulations at Ravine.

Walsh graduated from Cortland with the idea of becoming a health teacher. Teaching jobs, however, were scarce. Walsh ended up moving to California’s wine country with a buddy to look for opportunities.

To support himself, he tended bar and worked in restaurants, spending several years getting a crash course in restaurant entrepreneurship at F. McClintock’s Saloon and Dining House, a western-themed restaurant in Pismo Beach.

Walsh worked nights at McClintocks, which allowed him to spend his days working for a friend’s landscaping company.

“I told him, ‘Don’t pay me. One day, I’m going to need the money and I’m going to ask you for it in one lump sum,’” Walsh recalled. “After five or six years, a restaurant property became available, and I had the money I needed.”

The restaurant building — located in nearby Templeton, about halfway between Los Angeles and San Francisco — needed a facelift, and Walsh and a partner did all the renovations themselves. They weren’t quite ready when they opened for business, but their money was gone and they needed to start generating cash. The gamble worked. A.J. Spurs, saloon and dining hall, which offers a free t-shirt to anyone who can finish one of its 35-ounce sirloin steaks, was a success.

continued on page 17

Learn more about SUNY Cortland entrepreneurs on pages 16-17.

Columns is published by the
SUNY Cortland Alumni Association,
SUNY Cortland, 207 Brockway Hall, P.O. Box 2000,
Cortland, NY 13045-0900
Phone: 607-753-2516 | Fax: 607-753-5789
Email: alumni@cortland.edu
Facebook: /sunycortlandalumni
Twitter: @cortlandalumni

Columns

Frederic Pierce
Editor

Jennifer Wilson
Associate Editor

Kimberly Pietro
Vice President for
Institutional
Advancement

Gradin Avery
Associate Vice
President for
Communications

Michael Bersani

Tony DeRado

Fran Elia

Ingrid Jordak M.S.Ed. '93

Tracy Rammacher

Dan Surdam
Contributing Editors

Michael Sgro
Executive Director
of Alumni Affairs

Erin Boylan
Associate Director
of Alumni Affairs

Nicholas Koziol
Associate Director
of Alumni Affairs

Richard Coyne '07
General Manager
Alumni House

Katie McKenna '12
Interim Assistant Director
of Alumni Affairs

Christine Smith '04
Interim Associate Director
of Alumni Affairs

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION BOARD

Peter Kanakaris '70
President

Gary DeBolt '73
Vice President

Joseph C. Eppolito '74
Treasurer

Nancy Niskin Sorbella '82
Immediate Past President

Richard Cecconi '74

Tara Clancy
Student Representative

Carolyn Cooke '66

Peter Dady '74

Paul Fardy '63

**Dorothea Kreig Allen
Fowler '52, M '74**
Foundation Board
Representative

Carl Gambitta '63

Ronnie Genee '03

Deborah DeProspo Gloor '76

David Hennessy '53

Dana Korman
Student Representative

Maureen McCrystal '00

James McGuidwin '63

Brian Newman '84

Kimberly Pietro
Ex Officio

Lexi Robinson
Student Representative

Ronnie Sternin Silver '67

Cheryl Singer Sullivan '81

Carol Statkevics Suto '73

Gordon Valentine '68

Judy Wolfe '84

EMERITUS BOARD REPRESENTATIVES

Marian Natoli Atkinson '54

Jeffrey T. Beal '76

Harry Bellardini '56

Marjorie Dey Carter '50

Bonnie King Comella '88

James Newlands '65

Carole Wilsey Phillips '48

Elizabeth Pujolas '86

Gloria Quadrini '59

Arnold Rist '47

Kathleen Hoefert Schuehler '78

Estella Eckler Vangeli '47

Notice to Columns readers

The editors of *Columns* would like to apologize for the lateness of this issue.

We faced a variety of challenges this year that occasionally forced us to choose between timeliness and quality. In most of these situations, we decided to make *Columns* as robust and interesting as possible — even if it meant rescheduling deadlines so that important stories could be included.

Rest assured this unintentional delay does not reflect a permanent change. We remain committed to producing two high-quality editions of *Columns* every year.

ALUMNI

Perspective

Expanding the red dragon tent

BY PETER KANAKARIS '70 *Alumni Association President*



Since becoming president of the SUNY Cortland Alumni Association this past summer, I've thought a lot about the membership of our association: past, present and future.

The demographics of SUNY Cortland's student population, like those of New York state and the nation as a whole, have changed significantly since I earned my bachelor's degree in 1970 and my master's in 1975.

When I graduated in 1970, more than 80 percent of the people living in New York state identified themselves as non-Hispanic whites, according to the U.S. Census. Now, more than 40 years later, Census figures show barely 58 percent of New York's population falls into that category.

The number of New Yorkers identified as Africana, Latino, Asian or Native American (ALANA), meanwhile, rose by more than 55 percent, from 3.6 million people to 5.6 million.

A similar change has taken place on campus. Over the last 40 years, the percentage of ALANA students at SUNY Cortland has increased six-fold: from barely 4 percent to nearly a quarter of the student body today.

Change is good. We are becoming a more diverse and accepting community: racially, ethnically and with regard to religion, sexual orientation and gender identification. As a nation of immigrants built on the concept of the great "melting pot," we know that there is strength in diversity; the strength of new ideas, new energy, new approaches.

SUNY Cortland, as an educational institution, respects and appreciates this strength, and seeks to embrace diversity in all that it does. Welcoming all students regardless of race, religion, disability or any other factor, means making everyone feel welcome every day, in all aspects of college life; from academics to athletics, from social gatherings to student organizations, and from residence life to reunions.

That's right, reunions.

We, as SUNY Cortland's alumni association, have an obligation to reach out to *all* of our fellow graduates. Consider our mission statement: "...to represent and serve its alumni by culti-

vating and fostering positive and lasting relationships between the alumni and the College community. The Alumni Association strives to link the past, present and future of SUNY Cortland through communicating, programming and networking activities that involve and encourage all to support the College and its mission."

Given the changes that have occurred over the years, I have come to believe that accomplishing this goal may require more than simply making sure all alumni receive *Columns* and alumni association mailings. We may need to reach out actively to graduates from a wide variety of backgrounds, professions, lifestyles or experiences to make sure *all* former students feel they are welcome members of the SUNY Cortland family.

That's why, as president, I have created a committee to explore ways that we can enlarge the Alumni Association tent to welcome a greater diversity of graduates. Encouraging diversity should be part of what we do, every day. And it should include reaching out beyond our traditional alumni base to connect with incoming and current students. We need to make sure they feel that SUNY Cortland's alumni association will welcome them into its ranks as enthusiastically as the College welcomed them on campus.

Committee members include Leroy "Lee" Clark '81, Isidro R. Dela Rosa '09, Bianca C. Hendricks '12, Jamie M. Piperato '12, Ronnie Sternin Silver '67, Cheryl Singer Sullivan '81 and Joseph A. Vallo '79. They will have met, along with staff, by the time you read this and are engaged in this process of analyzing what groups of alumni are underrepresented in the association and recommending ways to address it.

Noelle Chaddock Paley, director of multicultural life and diversity, Michael Sgro, executive director of alumni affairs, and Erin Boylan, associate director of alumni affairs, will serve as liaisons to this group.

As president, I have made it my personal goal that, before my term is up, *all* alumni will feel welcome, appreciated and engaged with SUNY Cortland. I have no doubt that, working together, we will succeed.

Go Red Dragons!!

Seeking red dragon opinion

Are you reading this?

It may sound like a silly question, but it's something that the staff members of SUNY Cortland's public relations and alumni affairs offices ask themselves constantly. And not just when they're putting together *Columns*.

The question comes up when they're talking about *Moments*, the Alumni Association's monthly electronic newsletter, or about the Cortland College Foundation's annual report.

It's raised when they're deciding whether to mail information to alumni or electronically.

And it's in the minds of everyone who posts items on the SUNY Cortland or Alumni Facebook pages, or promotes an alumni event in a Tweet.

As your alma mater, SUNY Cortland wants to communicate with you in the most efficient and effective way possible. That's why, in the coming months, the College will launch a multi-media alumni communications survey.

We're going to reach out with every communications medium at our disposal to find out *how* you want to hear about what's happening at SUNY Cortland, learn about alumni events or participate in the College's exciting educational mission. We want to know *what* you are interested in

learning about the College, its students, faculty, sports teams and fellow alumni.

Should *Columns*, SUNY Cortland's biannual alumni newspaper, move to a magazine format? Would alumni rather have an interactive online version, or would some combination of the two make sense?

The communications world is changing rapidly. With more than 64,000 alumni ranging in age from their early 20s to their early 100s, the College understands that multiple media must be used to stay in touch. That's why the communications survey that will be mailed to you in the coming months won't be the only method used to gather your opinions and preferences.

The survey will be available online later this year through the College's website (cortland.edu) and Facebook pages. Alumni will receive links through *Moments* and individual email messages. Many graduates will receive phone calls from students armed with an oral version of the short survey.

So please, take a few minutes to fill out the form or chat with our survey callers. This is your opportunity to influence how you remain in touch. For more information, feel free to contact the Public Relations Office at 607-753-2232 or email public.relations@cortland.edu.

**SUNY Cortland Alumni
Association Chapters**

ADIRONDACK

Beryl Cooper Szwed '70

157 Kiwassa Rd., Saranac Lake, NY 12983
H 518-891-5008 • szwed@northnet.org

ATLANTA

Lisa Falvo Santangelo '77

13825 Bethany Oaks Pointe, Alpharetta, GA 30004
H 770-664-1805 • lisasan55@att.net

BOSTON

Alumni Affairs Office

607-753-2516

CAPITAL DISTRICT

Mike Horelick '67

1702 Western Ave., Apt. 106, Albany, NY 12203
H 518-452-1412 • mhoreli1@nycap.rr.com

Bob Samaniuk '00

866 Oregon Ave., Schenectady, NY 12309
H 518-357-3035 • tmiamid@aol.com

CORTLAND

Alumni Affairs Office

607-753-2516

HUDSON VALLEY

Nancy Niskin Sorbella '82

1347 Peekskill Hollow Rd., Carmel, NY 10512
H 845-225-8640 • jsorbella@aol.com

LONG ISLAND

Cindy Mardenfeld '93

108 Town House Village, Hauppauge, NY 11788
C 516-510-6176 • cindy@mardenfeld.com

MID-ATLANTIC

Meaghan E. Hearn '05

meaghanehearn@gmail.com

NEW YORK CITY

Robert Vinal '71

52 Howton Ave., Staten Island, NY 10308
H 718-356-3512 • robertvinal224@gmail.com

ROCHESTER

Alumni Affairs Office

607-753-2516

SOUTHERN TIER

Betsy Sandwick Lomonaco '63

171 Felters Rd., Binghamton, N.Y. 13903
607-772-8312
jlomonac@stny.rr.com

SYRACUSE

Lou Chistolini '65

104 Genesee Rd., Camillus, NY 13031
H 315-487-3862 • lchistol65@yahoo.com

Lou Pettinelli Jr. '55

9415 Wickham Dr., Brewerton, NY 13029
H 315-676-7175 • louispett@yahoo.com

WESTERN NEW YORK

David Dengler '78

100 Ruskin Rd., Eggertsville, NY 14226
H 716-835-3332 • W 716-837-2070
djdbflo@yahoo.com



Alumni Adventures

Where we've been

Chapter Events

ADIRONDACK CHAPTER

Forty-five alumni attended a family-style barbecue picnic at Antlers in Raquette Lake, N.Y., on Saturday, July 28. Members of the SUNY Cortland Alumni Association Board of Directors were there to greet alumni. Attendees enjoyed activities such as canoeing, kayaking and swimming at the community beach.

CAPITAL DISTRICT CHAPTER

Fifty alumni, family and friends met in Saratoga Springs, N.Y., for a day at the races on July 29. This year, alumni and their guests enjoyed a free upgrade to the At the Rail Pavilion and were served a buffet lunch with access to the betting windows and closed-circuit televisions. Alumni also were able to stand track-side and enjoy the races.

C-CLUB HALL OF FAME

More than 200 alumni returned to campus Oct. 19-20 to honor the newest members of the SUNY Cortland C-Club Hall of Fame.

John "Jack" LaBombard '63, Tony Seaman '65, Ann Dunwoody '75, Rick Armstrong '79, Paul Alexander '82, Tracey Armstead '86 and honorary member Fran Elia, SUNY Cortland sports information director, were lauded, along with the 1980 to 1999 women's soccer teams. C-Club members enjoyed watching the Red Dragons defeat Rowan University on the gridiron and then attended the annual banquet.

CORTACA JUG 2012

On Nov. 10, more than 550 alumni watched as the Red Dragons defeated the Ithaca Bombers and captured a Cortaca Jug "three peat" at the SUNY Cortland Stadium Complex.

The 54th Cortaca Jug gave alumni and friends an opportunity to watch the much-anticipated game at the stadium or attend one of three Cortaca Jug events. Alumni winners in the annual Alumni Cortaca Jug ticket lottery picked their prizes up at the Lynne Parks '68 SUNY Cortland Alumni House before heading to the Stadium Complex. Varsity athletes from 1990-2012 gathered for breakfast in the Corey Union Exhibition Lounge before being shuttled to the game. The Alumni Association also provided two opportunities for alumni to watch the game indoors in case of inclement weather. A social at The Stone Lounge on Main Street gave guests time to mingle with friends while enjoying the televised game. The second event was held at the Parks Alumni House, where alumni and friends enjoyed lunch and cheered the Red Dragons on to victory while watching the game on an 80-inch projection screen.

All alumni, no matter their location, shared in the excitement when the Cortland Red Dragons held the Ithaca Bombers for the last minute of the fourth quarter to be crowned the winner of the coveted Cortaca Jug. Again.

CORTLAND CHAPTER

Cortland alumni hosted a wrapping party for more than 100 students and staff members at the Lynne Parks '68 SUNY Cortland Alumni House on Dec. 5.

The staff of each residence hall adopted a disadvantaged Cortland family for the holidays. They raised money to purchase gifts for the parents to give to their children over the holidays. The alumni greeted them with hot cocoa, cookies, cupcakes and candies. Students and alumni wrapped the gifts and shared stories of their experiences at SUNY Cortland. Each student also was presented with a holiday-themed gift.

DALLAS-AREA SOCIAL

Dallas-area alumni joined former classmates attending the NCAA convention on Jan. 16 for a social at the Gaylord Texan hotel in Grapevine, Texas. Twenty alumni and friends enjoyed a College update from President Erik J. Bitterbaum and refreshments compliments of the Alumni Association. Alumni also discussed the upcoming athletic season with Athletic Director Mike Urtz '94 and Associate Director Tom Cranfield '93.

DINING AND INTERVIEWING ETIQUETTE DINNER

Twenty-two alumni and community members assisted the Career Services and Alumni Affairs offices on Oct. 23 at the annual Dining Etiquette Dinner.

More than 80 students attended the program, designed to help prepare and educate students on the best practices to use throughout a job interview process. Alumni and community members shared stories, advice and career knowledge with students. Louie Larson, associate director emeritus of Career Services, shared his knowledge and exuberant personality as he led guests through various dining etiquette tips over the three-course meal.

FRIENDS OF LACROSSE

Former Red Dragon men's lacrosse players enjoyed a weekend of activities Oct. 12-13 at the Friends of Lacrosse: Celebration of Champions gathering on the SUNY Cortland campus.

More than 90 alumni and friends golfed, played or cheered at the alumni lacrosse game and watched the home football game against SUNY Brockport in style with President Erik J. Bitterbaum in the Stephen J. Hunt '72 VIP Lounge. On Saturday evening, alumni, current players and coaches gathered in the Corey Union Function Room for a banquet. Coach Steve Beville and Cortland College Foundation board members Judson W. Smith '76 and James A. Bonaventura '79 kicked off the Friends of Lacrosse campaign, an ambitious fundraising initiative with the goal of raising \$500,000 for men's lacrosse.

Golf tournament glues father-daughter bond

BY MICHAEL BERSANI *Staff Writer*

As a child, Julie Gentner Murphy '03 followed her father to the softball diamond. As a teenager, she decided to attend his alma mater for college. And as a professional, she works at the financial consulting firm he partnered for nearly 40 years.

So when Gerald "Gerry" Gentner '66 passed away after a four-year battle with cancer in 2012, Murphy considered ways to keep her father's memory alive.

One was the SUNY Cortland Alumni Association's Western New York Golf Tournament, which took place Aug. 19 at the Glen Oak Golf Course in East Amherst, N.Y. For the first time in 2013, the tournament will be known as the Gerry Gentner '66 Memorial Western New York Golf Tournament, named after a man who showed unwavering support for his alma mater and those associated with it.

"My dad loved everything about Cortland when we went back to visit," said Murphy, a former sport management major who starred in softball and field hockey at the College and now chairs the golf event that will bear her father's name.

Gentner, a legendary softball coach at Williamsville South High School, also loved helping people. It's why he jumped at

the chance to support the annual golf tournament when his daughter grew attached to it in the early 2000s.

The Western New York Chapter event, which celebrated its 11th year in 2012, and now makes a permanent nod to Gentner, raises scholarship funds for a SUNY Cortland student who is a resident of one of the region's eight counties. A junior or senior with at least a 3.0 grade point average and meaningful participation on campus receives the \$1,000 award.

"My father gave his whole life to people," Murphy said. "It didn't matter if you were the



Julie Gentner Murphy '03 and her father, the late Gerald "Gerry" Gentner '66, shared many bonds, including coaching the Williamsville South High School softball team and golfing at SUNY Cortland's Western New York Golf Tournament.

custodian of a high school or the president of a corporation; he treated everyone the same and never wanted anything in return."

Gentner was a popular fixture at the golf tournament, partly due to his contagious spirit and also because of his reputation as a softball whiz. He won 299 games during a 15-year coaching career at Williamsville South, including three state titles in a seven-year span.

Murphy coached alongside her father after his cancer diagnosis in 2007 and took the team's reins after his death in January 2012.

The father-daughter duo also played as much golf as they could in Gentner's final years, with the College's Western New York tournament serving as another one of their shared bonds.

This past year, Murphy played 18 holes at the Glen Oak Golf Course with her father in mind.

"You felt he was missing, for sure," she said.

But the overall purpose of the event – Cortland alumni reconnecting to benefit a current student – paid tribute to Gentner's spirit.

"People always say that they're trying to live their life more like Gerry," Murphy said. "He was always so positive and so willing to give back."

HAMILTON PICNIC

The annual Hamilton Alumni Picnic, hosted by Hank '49 and Sallie Von Mechow, was held on July 17. Twenty alumni and friends were greeted by College President Erik J. Bitterbaum and his wife, Ellen Howard Burton. Fred '77 and Patricia Vecchio Von Mechow '98 assisted in the event planning and setup. President Bitterbaum met with alumni and their families and gave an update on the College.

NEW YORK CITY CHAPTER

On Oct. 27, 10 SUNY Cortland alumni and friends attended a football pregame tailgate event at the Rock 'n' Joe Coffeehouse and Bistro. Following the tailgate, which featured SUNY Cortland giveaways, the alumni handed out pom-poms and fans cheered on the Red Dragons as they defeated Kean University 31-17. Other chapter events included:

- A crowd of 90 alumni and Red Dragon fans gathered on Nov. 10 at Manny's on Second for the New York City Chapter's Cortaca Party. Robert Vinal '71 hosted the event. A raffle of SUNY Cortland items took place and the crowd cheered when it was announced that the SUNY Cortland Alumni blankets that were sent had been donated to a local relief organization for Hurricane Sandy victims. The Cortland Red Dragons defeated Ithaca 16-10 by holding off the Bombers inside the 1-yard line with only 40 seconds remaining and secured their third consecutive Cortaca Jug victory.
- New York City area alumni gathered at The Malt House in Manhattan on Dec. 20 to celebrate the holidays with their fellow Cortland graduates. Peter Kanakaris '70, president of the SUNY Cortland Alumni Association Board of Directors, attended the event and greeted guests. The party was coordinated by New York City chapter chair Robert Vinal '71 and offered opportunities for alumni to reconnect with their fellow graduates and alma mater. Guests also enjoyed free SUNY Cortland giveaways.

NEW YORK JETS TRAINING CAMP

The SUNY Cortland Alumni Association hosted a variety of events in conjunction with the New York Jets Summer training camp held July 28 to Aug. 15. Alumni volunteers greeted camp attendees at the Alumni Welcome tent and handed out autograph markers and Cortland decals.

- Graduates were able to watch practice in style in the hospitality tent on Aug. 2 and Aug. 14. More than 200 alumni and friends gained sideline access while enjoying a breakfast. Finally, 47 people met head coach Rex Ryan, former general manager Mike Tannenbaum, and the New York Jets coaching staff on Aug. 11 at the Meet the Coaches reception.



tion at the Parks Alumni House. Coach Ryan and staff graciously answered alumni questions and signed autographs. Alumni enjoyed a lavish hors d'oeuvres party in the elegant house while gaining access to the popular NFL team. Event proceeds supported the Alumni Association.

NEW YORK JETS VS. NEW YORK GIANTS

Fifty alumni and friends joined President Erik J. Bitterbaum in the exclusive Toyota Coaches Club in MetLife Stadium to watch the New York Jets take on the New York Giants on Aug. 18. Guests enjoyed watching from a patio directly behind the Jets bench and dined on a gourmet buffet. Event proceeds benefitted the Alumni Association.

PARKS ALUMNI HOUSE 100 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

On Aug. 1, donors who named a room at the Lynne Parks '68 SUNY Cortland Alumni House enjoyed a special gathering during Jets camp. This was followed by a cocktail party at the Parks Alumni House. The series continued as follows:

- On Sept. 15, the Parks Alumni House Charter Patron donors were treated to a brunch at the house prior to the Homecoming football game vs. Western Connecticut. Attendees watched the game in the Stephen J. Hunt '72 VIP Lounge as the Red Dragons defeated the Colonials 72-14.
- On Dec. 9, the Parks Alumni House welcomed more than 150 visitors and provided live entertainment, along with period appropriate food as the house was decked in a Victorian theme for its eighth annual Holiday Open House.

SOUTHERN TIER CHAPTER

Sixty-four alumni, family and friends attended the 14th annual Alumni Picnic and Binghamton Mets game at NYSEG Stadium in Binghamton, N.Y., on Aug. 18. Guests enjoyed a picnic lunch, SUNY Cortland raffle and an inning in the Maines' Skybox for dessert and drinks. A special thank you to Maines Paper & Food Inc. for underwriting picnic costs and for the generous use of the skybox. The Southern Tier chapter committee is looking for additional volunteers to help plan future events. Interested individuals should contact Nick Koziol, associate director of alumni affairs, at nick.koziol@cortland.edu. Another chapter event:

- On Oct. 20, 33 alumni embarked on a bus tour of the Seneca Lake Wine trail. Guests enjoyed a visit to a local creamery, five different wineries and dining at the Castel Grisch for lunch. Erin Kirby Eckert '01 and Gregory Eckert '04 assisted in coordinating the event. On the bus, Erin provided historical background for each winery. Alumni also answered SUNY Cortland trivia questions for a chance to win SUNY Cortland alumni apparel. The evening was capped with shopping and dining in Watkins Glen.

WESTERN NEW YORK CHAPTER

Julie Gentner Murphy '03 organized a tournament for 28 golfers on Aug. 19 at the Glen Oak Golf Course to support the Western New York Scholarship for local WNY students who attend SUNY Cortland. For the story, see page 4. Individuals interested in planning next year's event or contributing to the scholarship should contact the Alumni Affairs Office.

calendar

O F E V E N T S

For updates, check the alumni online calendar at cortland.edu/alumni

June

30 New York Jets Florham Park Reception, Florham Park, N.J.

July

12-14 Alumni Reunion 2013, SUNY Cortland
26-28 Alumni Association Board of Directors Retreat, Camp Huntington, Raquette Lake, N.Y.

August

2 Brew at the Zoo, Syracuse, N.Y.
17 Multicultural Alumni Reunion Kick-Off Party, New York City
18 Western New York Memorial Golf Tournament, East Amherst, N.Y.

September

7 The Red Dragons at the Zoo, Syracuse, N.Y.
20-21 C-Club Hall of Fame/Homecoming Weekend, SUNY Cortland
20-22 Hearts of Gold Reunion, Recreation, Parks and Leisure Studies alumni and students, Raquette Lake, N.Y.

October

18-19 Multicultural Alumni Reunion, SUNY Cortland

November

16 Cortaca Jug, Ithaca Stadium

A Year in Review



In September, President Erik J. Bitterbaum joined Cortland alumni in Seal Beach, Calif., at a reception hosted by Patricia Larkin Husak '72 and William Husak '72 at the Old Ranch Country Club. Present, front row from the left, were the president's wife, Ellen Howard Burton, Manager of Leadership Gifts Michael Katz, Frances Grover '45 and Anne Apgar Cook '53; middle row, Vicki Levine Michaels '68, Gail Klein Spear '68, Kathie Kingett '68, George Ampagoomian '65, Barbara Ampagoomian, Jessica Romeo Hollowell '67 and Brenda Bianchino; and in the back row, Elizabeth Glynn '00, Megan O'Toole '02, Raquel Shmilovich '81, Arvin Shmilovich, Richard Michaels '67, James Sellars '59, William Husak '72, Patricia "Tish" Larkin Husak '72, Joan Steiner Blank '68, Stephen Vercelloni '92, Charlie Blank, Kevin Rich '79, Richard Bianchino '63 and President Bitterbaum.



Attendees relax on the porch of the Casino building during the Antlers Picnic in Raquette Lake on July 28. Attending, from the left, were Gary DeBolt '73, Gwen DeBolt, Richard "Chic" Cecconi '74 and Ronnie Sternin Silver '67.



College president Erik J. Bitterbaum wraps gifts with Michele Sovinsky, a senior childhood education major from Bohemia, N.Y., during a Wrapping Party that benefited disadvantaged Cortland families on Dec. 5 at the Lynne Parks '68 SUNY Cortland Alumni House.

REUNION 2013

SUNY CORTLAND ALUMNI

Register Today to Attend July 12-14!

The Alumni Association is excited to have the reunion classes and highlighted groups back to campus! The Half Century Club (Class of 1963 and earlier), Classes of 1948, 1953, 1958, 1963, 1968, 1973, 1978, 1983 and 1988, Nu Sigma Chi sorority and Beta Phi Epsilon (1927-1995) fraternity will join on campus for a full weekend of fun, memories and opportunities to learn all that is new and impressive about SUNY Cortland. While the above groups have received a reunion registration packet in the mail, the Alumni Association reminds graduates that everyone is always welcome to attend!

REGISTER TODAY!

Please note that the deadline for Reunion registration is June 30, 2013. Complete your reunion registration form enclosed in the registration packet or visit cortland.edu/reunion to print a copy. Completed forms should be mailed to Alumni Affairs Office, SUNY Cortland, Brockway Hall Room 207, P.O. Box 2000, Cortland, NY 13045.

QUESTIONS? DIETARY RESTRICTIONS?

Please call the Alumni Affairs Office at 607-753-2516 for additional information.

SEE WHO'S ATTENDING

Visit cortland.edu/reunion weekly for an updated list of attendees. Encourage your friends and former faculty to register and watch their names appear!

SPONSORSHIPS NOW ACCEPTED

The Alumni Association is excited to announce sponsorship opportunities for Alumni Reunion 2013. Alumni, businesses and friends have the chance to make our Reunion program an even greater experience and advertise their organization through an Alumni Reunion 2013 sponsorship. Become a Friend of Reunion Sponsor. This sponsor will be listed on the Reunion Luncheon Program given to approximately 350 attendees and on the Reunion Golf Program, shared with approximately 60 attendees. The association will continue its popular captain-and-crew golf tournament where alumni are invited to sponsor the Full Event, a Beverage Cart, a Meal, a Side Game, or a Hole. (Price donations are welcome, too.) The cost of this sponsorship is \$100.

Visit Us Online

cortland.edu/reunion

 [/sunycortlandalumni](https://www.facebook.com/sunycortlandalumni)

 [@cortlandalumni](https://twitter.com/cortlandalumni) #CortlandReunion

Deadline for Reunion registration is June 30, 2013.

Additional information and a complete list of sponsorships can be found by visiting cortland.edu/reunion. Reunion sponsorships are a great way to advertise your business, celebrate a birthday or milestone event or surprise former roommates with a message. The Alumni Association thanks you in advance for your support. All funds raised will support Alumni Reunion 2013 and future alumni events.



Schedule of Events

FRIDAY, JULY 12

- Alumni Association Fundraiser Golf Tournament
- Class of 1958 Seneca Lake Day Trip
- Class of 1953 Cayuga Lake Luncheon Boat Cruise
- Class of 1963 Cayuga Lake Luncheon Boat Cruise
- Nu Sigma Chi Sorority Skaneateles Luncheon Boat Cruise
- General Registration and Information
- Reunion Committee Members Recognition Reception
- Reunion Welcome Reception hosted by the Cortland College Foundation
- Class of 1963 50th Reunion Dinner
- Class of 1958 55th Reunion Dinner
- Nu Sigma Chi Sorority Welcome Party
- Beta Phi Epsilon (1927-1995) Fraternity Welcome Party
- Dinner On Your Own at Local Restaurants

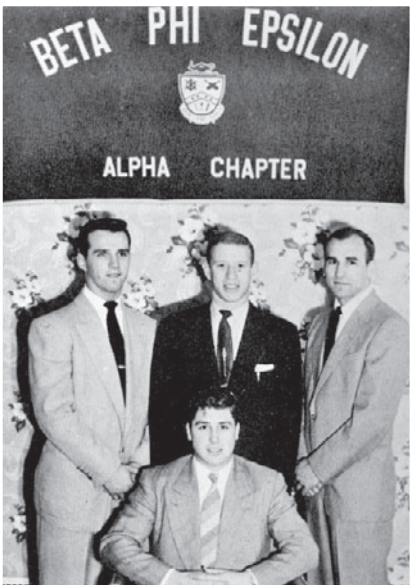
SATURDAY, JULY 13

- General Registration and Information
- Partners in Leadership Breakfast
- Hot Breakfast Buffet
- Beta Phi Epsilon (1927-1995) Fraternity Breakfast Business Meeting
- Exploring the Natural History of Hoxie Gorge
- Academic Building Open Houses
- The Lynne Parks '68 SUNY Cortland Alumni House Tours
- Class of 1948 Social
- Classes Without Quizzes
- Nu Sigma Chi Sorority Alumnae Tea
- Guided Campus Tours
- Class of 1949 Reunion 2014 Meeting
- Alumni Luncheon and Awards Ceremony
- Cortland Downtown Partnership's Taste of Downtown and Sidewalk Festival
- Class of 1948 Social
- Ago/Tri Sig/Sig Rho Sorority Annual Meeting
- All-Greek Reception (underwritten by the Nu Sigma Chi Legacy Fund)
- Half Century Club and Classes of 1948 and 1953 Dinner and a Musical
- Nu Sigma Chi Sorority Dinner
- Beta Phi Epsilon (1927-1995) Fraternity Dinner
- Class of 1958 Celebration
- Class of 1963 Celebration
- Class of 1968 Celebration
- Classes of 1973 and 1978 Celebration
- Classes of 1983 and 1988 Celebration

SUNDAY, JULY 14

- All Class Farewell Breakfast
- Nu Sigma Chi Sorority Farewell Breakfast
- Beta Phi Epsilon (1927-1995) Fraternity Farewell Breakfast
- Social Media for Business
- Beta Phi Epsilon (1927-1995) Fraternity House Tour

Reservations are required to attend reunion events. Visit cortland.edu/reunion to register by June 30, 2013.



Power outage can't darken Super Bowl trip

BY MICHAEL BERSANI *Staff Writer*

Sean Murray '80 didn't panic when a portion of the Mercedes-Benz Superdome's lights went out during Super Bowl XLVII. But the text messages still poured in asking about the crowd's mood and his safety.

Seated in the darker section of the Superdome with his wife, he simply chuckled to himself.

"It was like: 'I'm at the Super Bowl, how could I not be having the time of my life?'" said Murray, the winner of SUNY Cortland's raffle package for the football getaway in New Orleans.

The Feb. 3 sports spectacle saw the Baltimore Ravens hold off the San Francisco 49ers, 34-31, in a dramatic game that proved far from ordinary in more ways than one.

And Murray and his wife, Deb Henretta, witnessed it firsthand, along with more than 71,000 screaming fans.

"It was just a great experience all the way around," said Murray, who resides in Cincinnati. "The game was icing on the cake, with the cake being the city of New Orleans itself."

SUNY Cortland was able to offer the once-in-a-lifetime trip to the Big Easy through its close ties with the NFL's New York Jets, which used the College campus as its official training camp site in three of the past four years. The team plans to return in 2013 and possibly beyond that, bringing with it many of the fringe benefits like the Super Bowl tickets.

Murray and his wife were the latest beneficiaries of the College's unique partnership, winning a grand prize that included two tickets, bed and breakfast accommodations and funds to offset travel expenses, all thanks to a \$100 raffle ticket.

All told, the deluxe package was worth \$4,400.

"Having not won much else in my life, it was a blessing," said Murray, who holds a juris doctorate and a master's degree in educational psychology from the University at Buffalo. "To me, it's a good way to give back with just a little bit of incentive."

In 2012, SUNY Cortland sold 299 tickets and raised close to \$30,000 through the fourth-year raffle — a record amount that went entirely to undergraduate scholarships, graduate assistantships and student programs.

That student-focused purpose was the real reason for Murray's participation, although the ability to cross off the



Sean Murray '80 and wife Deb Henretta pose outside of the Mercedes-Benz Superdome prior to Super Bowl XLVII in New Orleans.

nation's biggest sporting event and a popular travel destination from his bucket list certainly sweetened the pot. Murray joked that the most valuable prizes he had won prior to the Super Bowl raffle were a \$7 payout from a Powerball drawing and a goldfish at a birthday party from his childhood.

That same sense of humor served him well in New Orleans, a welcoming place where he befriended many strangers on streetcars.

"New Orleans itself was worth the trip," Murray said. "As a matter of fact, I thought to myself: 'I'm not sure I could go to another Super Bowl unless it was in New Orleans.'"

"Every single person we met was willing to go out of the way to help us."

They soaked up a weekend of southern hospitality without overdoing it — wandering through the French Quarter at their own pace, marveling at historic mansions and tasting all of the delicacies that New Orleans has perfected. They also made their way down Bourbon Street in the early evening, but passed up attempting to navigate it after the game.

"You wouldn't have been able to move," Murray said. "It was crazy."

On game day, the couple arrived early to again take in the sights and sounds. The face value of each corner end zone ticket was \$1,250 and they were surrounded by a sea of Ravens fans, "which made it feel like we were sitting with the home team," said Murray, who wasn't pulling hard for a specific

Are you SUNY Cortland's next big winner?

Stay current with the College's Super Bowl raffle Web page, cortland.edu/super-bowl, which soon will include details about the 2013 drawing. You could win a trip to Super Bowl XLVIII at MetLife Stadium in East Rutherford, N.J.

team. He wished only to witness a competitive game.

One of the night's more memorable moments occurred even before kickoff, when recording artist Jennifer Hudson joined students from Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Conn., to perform "America the Beautiful."

"It was powerful, as you might imagine," Murray said. He recalled that the first half seemed to fly by as if the game was being played with a running clock. And with the Ravens leading 28-6 after the second half kick-off, he became slightly concerned the Super Bowl would turn into a snooze-fest.

The lights, of course, would go out for more than a half hour, which for Murray was far from a reason for concern.

"To be honest, we were on the dark side of the stadium and if it had not been a pro game, they could have kept playing," he said. "People saw it as a reason to settle back, have another drink and take everything in."

They'd watch a near-historic San Francisco comeback fall just short in a nail-biting finish. But for Murray and Henretta, who also have witnessed marquee events such as the Indianapolis 500 and college basketball's Final Four, the weekend was worth it even before they walked through the Superdome's turnstiles.

"The surrounding (of the Super Bowl) was better than anything I had ever been to," Murray said. "New Orleans made the difference."

Are you SUNY Cortland's next big winner?

Stay current with the College's Super Bowl raffle Web page, cortland.edu/super-bowl, which soon will include details about the 2013 drawing. You could win a trip to Super Bowl XLVIII at MetLife Stadium in East Rutherford, N.J.

team. He wished only to witness a competitive game.

One of the night's more memorable moments occurred even before kickoff, when recording artist Jennifer Hudson joined students from Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Conn., to perform "America the Beautiful."

"It was powerful, as you might imagine," Murray said. He recalled that the first half seemed to fly by as if the game was being played with a running clock. And with the Ravens leading 28-6 after the second half kick-off, he became slightly concerned the Super Bowl would turn into a snooze-fest.

The lights, of course, would go out for more than a half hour, which for Murray was far from a reason for concern.

"To be honest, we were on the dark side of the stadium and if it had not been a pro game, they could have kept playing," he said. "People saw it as a reason to settle back, have another drink and take everything in."

They'd watch a near-historic San Francisco comeback fall just short in a nail-biting finish. But for Murray and Henretta, who also have witnessed marquee events such as the Indianapolis 500 and college basketball's Final Four, the weekend was worth it even before they walked through the Superdome's turnstiles.

"The surrounding (of the Super Bowl) was better than anything I had ever been to," Murray said. "New Orleans made the difference."

Are you SUNY Cortland's next big winner?

Stay current with the College's Super Bowl raffle Web page, cortland.edu/super-bowl, which soon will include details about the 2013 drawing. You could win a trip to Super Bowl XLVIII at MetLife Stadium in East Rutherford, N.J.

team. He wished only to witness a competitive game.

One of the night's more memorable moments occurred even before kickoff, when recording artist Jennifer Hudson joined students from Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Conn., to perform "America the Beautiful."

"It was powerful, as you might imagine," Murray said. He recalled that the first half seemed to fly by as if the game was being played with a running clock. And with the Ravens leading 28-6 after the second half kick-off, he became slightly concerned the Super Bowl would turn into a snooze-fest.

The lights, of course, would go out for more than a half hour, which for Murray was far from a reason for concern.

"To be honest, we were on the dark side of the stadium and if it had not been a pro game, they could have kept playing," he said. "People saw it as a reason to settle back, have another drink and take everything in."

They'd watch a near-historic San Francisco comeback fall just short in a nail-biting finish. But for Murray and Henretta, who also have witnessed marquee events such as the Indianapolis 500 and college basketball's Final Four, the weekend was worth it even before they walked through the Superdome's turnstiles.

"The surrounding (of the Super Bowl) was better than anything I had ever been to," Murray said. "New Orleans made the difference."

Are you SUNY Cortland's next big winner?

Stay current with the College's Super Bowl raffle Web page, cortland.edu/super-bowl, which soon will include details about the 2013 drawing. You could win a trip to Super Bowl XLVIII at MetLife Stadium in East Rutherford, N.J.

team. He wished only to witness a competitive game.

One of the night's more memorable moments occurred even before kickoff, when recording artist Jennifer Hudson joined students from Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Conn., to perform "America the Beautiful."

"It was powerful, as you might imagine," Murray said. He recalled that the first half seemed to fly by as if the game was being played with a running clock. And with the Ravens leading 28-6 after the second half kick-off, he became slightly concerned the Super Bowl would turn into a snooze-fest.

The lights, of course, would go out for more than a half hour, which for Murray was far from a reason for concern.

"To be honest, we were on the dark side of the stadium and if it had not been a pro game, they could have kept playing," he said. "People saw it as a reason to settle back, have another drink and take everything in."

They'd watch a near-historic San Francisco comeback fall just short in a nail-biting finish. But for Murray and Henretta, who also have witnessed marquee events such as the Indianapolis 500 and college basketball's Final Four, the weekend was worth it even before they walked through the Superdome's turnstiles.

"The surrounding (of the Super Bowl) was better than anything I had ever been to," Murray said. "New Orleans made the difference."

Are you SUNY Cortland's next big winner?

Stay current with the College's Super Bowl raffle Web page, cortland.edu/super-bowl, which soon will include details about the 2013 drawing. You could win a trip to Super Bowl XLVIII at MetLife Stadium in East Rutherford, N.J.

team. He wished only to witness a competitive game.

One of the night's more memorable moments occurred even before kickoff, when recording artist Jennifer Hudson joined students from Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Conn., to perform "America the Beautiful."

"It was powerful, as you might imagine," Murray said. He recalled that the first half seemed to fly by as if the game was being played with a running clock. And with the Ravens leading 28-6 after the second half kick-off, he became slightly concerned the Super Bowl would turn into a snooze-fest.

The lights, of course, would go out for more than a half hour, which for Murray was far from a reason for concern.

"To be honest, we were on the dark side of the stadium and if it had not been a pro game, they could have kept playing," he said. "People saw it as a reason to settle back, have another drink and take everything in."

They'd watch a near-historic San Francisco comeback fall just short in a nail-biting finish. But for Murray and Henretta, who also have witnessed marquee events such as the Indianapolis 500 and college basketball's Final Four, the weekend was worth it even before they walked through the Superdome's turnstiles.

"The surrounding (of the Super Bowl) was better than anything I had ever been to," Murray said. "New Orleans made the difference."

Are you SUNY Cortland's next big winner?

Stay current with the College's Super Bowl raffle Web page, cortland.edu/super-bowl, which soon will include details about the 2013 drawing. You could win a trip to Super Bowl XLVIII at MetLife Stadium in East Rutherford, N.J.

team. He wished only to witness a competitive game.

One of the night's more memorable moments occurred even before kickoff, when recording artist Jennifer Hudson joined students from Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Conn., to perform "America the Beautiful."

"It was powerful, as you might imagine," Murray said. He recalled that the first half seemed to fly by as if the game was being played with a running clock. And with the Ravens leading 28-6 after the second half kick-off, he became slightly concerned the Super Bowl would turn into a snooze-fest.

The lights, of course, would go out for more than a half hour, which for Murray was far from a reason for concern.

"To be honest, we were on the dark side of the stadium and if it had not been a pro game, they could have kept playing," he said. "People saw it as a reason to settle back, have another drink and take everything in."

They'd watch a near-historic San Francisco comeback fall just short in a nail-biting finish. But for Murray and Henretta, who also have witnessed marquee events such as the Indianapolis 500 and college basketball's Final Four, the weekend was worth it even before they walked through the Superdome

Mary Joy’s legacy of hope

BY FREDERIC PIERCE *Editor*

During last year’s Cortaca Jug weekend, Bill Sherlach ’80 and his wife, Mary Joy Greene Sherlach ’78, laughed and traded stories with friends and old classmates in their normal tailgating spot near Park Center.

“They came back for that game every year,” said Dan MacNeill ’79, SUNY Cortland’s football coach and Bill Sherlach’s former teammate. “Bill and Mary Joy were part of a group of us that went to Cortland together and have stayed close. Cortland was just such a big influence on our lives.”

The annual gathering in the parking lot of Park Center has been a game-day tradition for more than a decade. In recent years, the older sons and daughters of the Sherlachs’ friends began attending as well, Bill Sherlach said.

“It was kind of neat,” he said. “Last year, one of our daughters was able to come and hang out with the kids of some of our friends. It was like Mary Joy and I were looking at the next generation.”

A little less than a month later, Bill Sherlach was again looking at many of the same faces. Only this time the old Cortland friends had gathered near Newtown, Conn., to grieve in the aftermath of the unthinkable.

On Dec. 14, 2012, Mary Joy Sherlach was one of the first people killed in a shooting massacre at Sandy Hook Elementary School that left six adults and 20 children dead.

The horrific event shocked the world and sparked national debates about gun safety, school security and mental health care. And it forever changed the lives of Mary Joy Sherlach’s family, her friends and the thousands of people touched by the former school psychologist’s dedication to helping others.

“It’s always somewhere else, until it’s not,” Bill Sherlach said. “It really brings home just how vulnerable a teacher’s situation can be. You just never think someone’s going to walk into a school and start shooting 6-year-olds.”

.....
“Mary’s actions were heroic and exemplified courage, compassion and dedication. We are proud to call her one of our own.”

—ERIK J. BITTERBAUM *President*

.....
Gunman Adam Lanza, a troubled 20-year-old who killed himself after the shootings, broke into the locked school by shooting out a glass door with a semi-automatic rifle. Mary Joy Sherlach, a former SUNY Cortland psychology major, was among three people who reacted to the sound of the gunshots by running toward the intruder in an effort to keep him away from the children. Mary Joy Sherlach shouted warnings that have since been credited with saving lives.

Within seconds, however, the women became Lanza’s first victims.

In February, President Barack Obama awarded Mary Joy Sherlach and the five other women killed in the attack with Presidential Citizens Medals, saying they “gave all they had for the most innocent and helpless among us.”

Bill and Mary Joy Sherlach’s daughters Maura Schwartz, a high school music teacher and choir director in New Jersey, and Katy Sherlach, a doctoral candidate in chemistry at Georgetown University, joined their father at the White House to accept the award from the President.

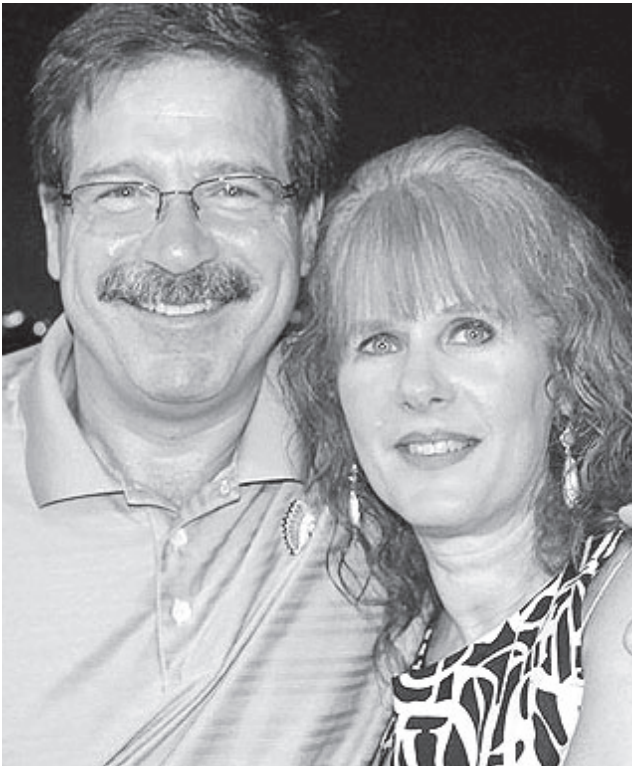
As both Mary Joy’s alma mater and the home of New York state’s largest accredited teacher education program, SUNY Cortland was deeply affected by the violence in Sandy Hook.

“Mary Joy’s actions were heroic and exemplified courage, compassion and dedication,” SUNY Cortland President Erik J. Bitterbaum said. “We are proud to call her one of our own.”

Mary Joy Sherlach’s memorial service was dotted with SUNY Cortland alumni, including MacNeill and John Simek ’79. Simek had introduced Bill Sherlach, then his football teammate, to Mary Joy Greene, with whom Simek had attended Vestal Central High School.

Wearing a Miami Dolphins jersey in honor of Mary Joy Sherlach’s favorite professional football team, Simek delivered her eulogy. He recalled her energy, compassion and the fact that he introduced Bill to her only after telling him that he thought Bill’s chances of getting a date with his high school friend were slim.

In recognition of her courage and selflessness, Mary Joy Sherlach will be recognized posthumously as a SUNY Cortland Distinguished Alumna during Alumni Reunion 2013. The award



Bill Sherlach ’80 and his wife Mary Joy Greene Sherlach ’78. Mary Joy was killed late last year during a mass school shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Conn.

is the SUNY Cortland Alumni Association’s highest honor.

Also this spring, the Student Government Association (SGA) voted to dedicate permanently its annual children’s festival during which hundreds of community children come to campus for games and activities led by SUNY Cortland students to Mary Joy Sherlach’s memory. SGA officers presented a plaque stating that intention to psychology department representatives at the annual student leadership banquet in April.

“Ms. Mary Joy J. Sherlach has become an inspiration for many of the students here at SUNY Cortland and for individuals across the country,” said Jonah Reardon ’13, outgoing executive assistant to the president of SGA. “We wanted to show our condolences to the residents of Newtown, Conn., and to the Sherlach family. We finally realized that there was nothing more perfect then dedicating an event in which we honor the joy and love of children in the memory of Mary Joy, who spent every day appreciating each child for their unique gifts and talents.”

Mary Joy Sherlach, who graduated cum laude from Cortland, had been Sandy Hook’s school psychologist since 1994. She earned her master’s degree in psychology from Southern Connecticut State University in 1992, after working as a rehabilitation assistant in a psychiatric facility and as a psychology assistant at a group home for disabled adults.

“She always was going to be in a helping profession; it was just a matter of how she was going to do it,” said Bill Sherlach, who met his wife of 31 years at a SUNY Cortland semi-formal at Neubig Hall in 1976. “People came up to me at her wake and talked about what a difference Mary Joy made in their child’s life. I’ve received thousands of letters. There are four or five boxes of them in the garage that I haven’t opened yet and another four or five boxes at town hall.

“I certainly married up,” said Bill Sherlach, noting that when they were students, his wife was inclined to spend time in the College library while he was more likely to head to the Dark Horse with his buddies. “I married way up.”

But Bill Sherlach, now a vice president and portfolio manager for Morgan Stanley, said he is determined to continue Mary Joy Sherlach’s legacy. Part of this was creating Mary Joy’s Fund through the Fairfield County Community Foundation (FCCFoundation.org), a philanthropic organization that supports community initiatives in Newtown and surrounding areas. Mary Joy’s fund is dedicated to making mental health care available to children and teens, regardless of income.

“If you’re poor, there are usually services available. And if you’re wealthy you have access to services. The problem is families in the middle who can’t afford it and can’t get help,” Bill Sherlach said. “If I spend the rest of my life behind this, and it keeps one kid from doing what that kid did at Sandy Hook, it will be worth it.”

In the wake of the shootings, SUNY Cortland began accepting donations to fund a scholarship in Mary Joy

Sherlach’s memory. It will be given to a deserving psychology major in the fall semester.

Bill Sherlach also has been active with “Sandy Hook Promise,” a group that promotes a multi-faceted approach to making communities safer by advocating common sense changes in the areas of gun safety, school security and mental health services. The non-profit, grassroots organization successfully pushed for stronger gun safety legislation in Connecticut, although leaders believe responsible gun ownership is just one part of a much larger set of issues that needs addressing if explosions of violence like the Sandy Hook shootings are to be avoided.

Since the shootings, SUNY Cortland has sponsored two well-attended “teach-ins” related to Sandy Hook and dedicated to the memory of Mary Joy Sherlach. The Feb. 5 panel discussion focused on gun legislation. The April 9 event explored mental health issues related to gun violence and school safety.

Perhaps the most visible memorial to Mary Joy Sherlach on the SUNY Cortland campus will be near the parking spot where the Sherlachs and their friends regularly do their Cortaca tailgating.

A memorial tree honoring Mary Joy Sherlach will be planted this fall near the southwestern corner of Park Center, in the strip of grass between the building and the parking lot.

The tree, a living symbol of the hope Mary Joy Sherlach brought into children’s lives, will be dedicated in September, the same weekend as the first SUNY Cortland home football game, said MacNeill, who has been working with College administrators on the project. Bill Sherlach, who is donating funds for the tree, plans to return to campus for the ceremony.

“It will be right next to where they tailgate,” MacNeill said. “Then, when our group comes back to campus, they’ll gather in the shade of Mary Joy’s tree.”



SUNY Cortland students and neighborhood children enjoyed themselves April 20 during the Mary Sherlach Children’s Festival. The Student Government Association this spring decided to rename the annual event in memory of the former school psychologist.



Leighmarie Weber, president of the SUNY Cortland Student Government Association, holds a new friend at the Mary Sherlach children’s festival. Weber is wearing an official 2013 festival T-shirt, which includes a logo that reads “In Loving Memory of Mary J. Sherlach.”

View from the hill

Campus construction booming

The SUNY Cortland campus currently is experiencing a level of earthmoving, concrete pouring, leveling and building not seen since the original construction of the current campus during the 1950s.

The projects include construction of a new Student Life Center on the former Carl “Chugger” Davis Field, erection of a new residence hall near the base of College Hill, renovation and expansion of Bowers Hall and complete makeover of the Dowd Fine Arts Center. And all of it is being done with an eye toward energy savings and environmental sustainability. Here’s a rundown:

DRAGON HALL

When the College’s newest, 228-bed, environmentally friendly residence hall opens at the start of the Fall 2013 semester, students will be calling it Dragon Hall.

That’s the temporary name students chose for the new structure at the intersection of Neubig Road and Broadway during an online vote in December. Dragon Hall will be used by the campus community until a permanent name is established by a gift made through the College’s naming program. Details about that program are available on the campus website at cortland.edu/campaign.

When ready for occupancy, the \$21 million building’s interior will resemble the six-year-old Glass Tower Hall. It will have one more story than Glass Tower and its façade will be different, but the residence will offer many of the same student amenities, such as a suite configuration and air conditioning.

STUDENT LIFE CENTER

The \$56 million Student Life Center is under construction on the former Carl “Chugger” Davis Field. This unique, multi-purpose building will be the new focal point for student recreation, social interaction and experiential learning — a one-stop shop for a variety of healthy activities aimed at students with a wide range of abilities, backgrounds and interests.

The new complex will include a recreational swimming pool, golf simulators, a climbing wall, racquetball and basketball courts, a suspended indoor track, an outdoor pursuits center, a multiple-activity gymnasium, a 300-seat dining hall and much more. Construction began last October, and the center is expected to open by December 2014.



The metal frame of SUNY Cortland’s new planetarium rises from the construction site surrounding Bowers Hall. The science building’s \$43 million renovation and expansion is just one of four major construction projects currently underway on campus.

DOWD FINE ARTS CENTER

The College is completing the final phase of renovations that began in 2000. Windows for art studios are being added on the west wing of the building to give students more natural light by which to work. The upgrade also encompasses roof work and mechanicals such as air conditioners.

SUNY Cortland is renovating the entire lower two floors, including the theater and gallery, and adding a sprinkler system throughout the building. The complete renovation will be done by December 2013.

BOWERS HALL

A new addition is rising out of the ground where the former main entrance and museum wing were demolished

last summer, as the College’s primary science facility undergoes expansion and renovation. The expanded science building will feature state-of-the-art laboratories and a new planetarium. It will open fully for the Spring 2014 semester.

Planners anticipate that all of the new work will meet stringent environmental standards and help reduce the campus’ carbon footprint. The College is aiming to certify the Student Life Center and Dragon Hall with Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Gold and Silver ratings, respectively. Those ratings indicate projects meet high national standards for environmental conservation in building construction. The Student Life Center would be the first building in Cortland County to be certified LEED Gold.

Michael Sgro named executive director of alumni affairs



Michael D. Sgro

Michael D. Sgro, former director of alumni and parent relations at SUNY Oswego, joined SUNY Cortland as executive director of alumni affairs on Feb. 18.

In his new role, Sgro provides leadership and direction for the College’s Alumni Affairs Office and the Cortland College Alumni Association, Inc. He also assists with major gift development on behalf of the Cortland College Foundation, Inc.

Erin Boylan, associate director of alumni affairs, had directed the department on an interim basis since June 2012.

For more than 15 years Sgro, a Syracuse, N.Y., native, has ascended the ranks of higher education at several institutions in New York state, earning a reputation for work related to student and alumni programming, career networking and social media.

“Mike understands alumni affairs as an industry and has a real passion for alumni engagement,” said Kimberly Pietro, the College’s vice president for institutional advancement and Sgro’s supervisor. “His leadership on a national level and knowledge of the field will position Cortland as a model among our peers.

“I know Mike and the entire alumni affairs staff look forward to a successful year of interacting, communicating and meeting with our graduates so that they can continue to connect with their alma mater, its faculty and its students.”

Sgro led alumni and parent relations projects for the Oswego Alumni Association, overseeing all programs, staff and initiatives dealing with the school’s graduates. Those efforts include reunions, regional events, social media and student-focused programs such as the Future Alumni Network, an undergraduate group he advised.

The bulk of Sgro’s alumni-related work came at Le Moyne College, his alma mater, where he served as assistant director of alumni and parent programs from 2006 to 2010. There, he launched many different programs for alumni and parents and introduced family-focused services such as the college’s Day at the Zoo and its Dolphin Kids website. He also created the school’s Non-Profit Network, which offers service opportunities to alumni nationwide, and directed all of his department’s web and social media efforts.

He co-chaired the college’s administrative forum from 2007 to 2009 and served as the staff advisor to the Creating Awareness, Reaching Equality LGBTQ student group.

Sgro spent five years at New York University’s Leonard N. Stern School of Business before his time at Le Moyne, working first as the associate director of student activities for master’s of business administration (M.B.A.) students before getting a taste of graduate-focused work as the senior associate director of alumni affairs.

He oversaw the events, staff and services related to 40 clubs during his tenure as associate director of M.B.A. student activities from 2001 to 2005, managing relationships with student leaders, university administration and corporate clients while overseeing many other student-focused daily duties.

As the university’s senior associate director of alumni affairs, Sgro developed regional and corporate events built on relationships with active alumni volunteers. In that role, with the help of university faculty members, he developed the Life Long Learning workshop series.

In between his stints at Le Moyne and Oswego, Sgro worked for CampusGroups, an online community management company based in New York City, where he served as its marketing and communications manager. He oversaw all of the company’s public relations duties while creating web content and managing several projects to grow the brand’s reach.

Sgro began his career in higher education at Fordham University as a residence hall director from 1997 to 2001, working with students and creating programs for them at both the undergraduate and graduate levels.

He holds a bachelor’s degree in psychology from Le Moyne and a certificate in project management from the American Management Association in New York City.

Sgro resides in Cortland.

Hilltop happenings

Jets camp a success

Last summer, for the first time ever, a professional National League Football team played at SUNY Cortland's stadium complex. Nearly 10,000 people filled the stands for the N.Y. Jet's annual Green and White Practice on Aug. 4., capping the team's third year of summer camp practices at SUNY Cortland. Improvements to the new stadium, including a new all-weather, soft-fiber artificial turf field, persuaded Jets head coach Rex Ryan to hold the annual event — which pits the first-string offense against the first-string defense — there instead of on the adjacent grass practice field.

The New York Jets 2012 Summer Training Camp drew more than 35,630 fans to campus, generating more than \$5.5 million in economic activity for Cortland County, according to an economic impact study by three SUNY Cortland faculty members. The survey, done by SUNY Cortland Professor of Economics Kathleen Burke, Assistant Professor of Geography Wendy Miller and Associate Professor of Economics



The New York Jets played in the SUNY Cortland Stadium Complex for the first time last August, as the team's annual Green and White Practice drew an estimated 10,000 spectators to campus. The Jets will hold their fourth training camp at the College this summer.

Timothy Phillips, used more than a dozen College interns to collect and analyze data. The New York Jets provided SUNY Cortland students even more hands-on internship opportunities, providing more than 50 internships helping with aspects of training camp ranging from communications and

marketing to athletic training and event management. The New York Jets will be back again for three weeks this summer. Definite camp dates have not yet been released. Check newyorkjets.com for updates.

EMS wins statewide honors

SUNY Cortland's student-run Emergency Medical Services (EMS) received a rare honor in 2012. The operation was named the top emergency response agency in New York state for 2012. SUNY Cortland EMS, a volunteer organization that began 37 years ago in a residence hall storage room, was named the New York State EMS Council's 2012 Agency of the Year, a designation that rarely goes to a campus emergency squad.

Over the past year and a half, SUNY Cortland EMS helped flood victims in the Binghamton, N.Y., area, launched new programming related to underage drinking on campus and in the community, and watched its membership reach an all-time high. And it did all of that while responding to hundreds of emergency calls on campus without dropping a single one. "How many students have thousands of people per week that they're responsible for?" asked Assistant Provost for Teacher Education Marley Barduhn, the group's advisor. "These are student professionals who have a legal obligation to respond and they have a medical obligation to treat. And they do a great job."

College featured at State Fair

The New York State Fair, the largest annual event in New York state, featured a new attraction this past year: SUNY Cortland. The College exhibited there for five days of the Fair's 12-day run, greeting alumni, answering questions for prospective students and giving away red SUNY Cortland sunglasses that were worn by thousands of Fairgoers. The exhibit, the most elaborate of any campus participating in the highly visible SUNY system tent, became a popular stop for visiting students, faculty, staff and alumni. The location of the booth gave the College's visiting friends a great location from which to enjoy musical acts like the J. Giels Band and Eddie Money on the Fair's main free concert stage. The SUNY system exhibit was so successful that the tent will be operated in the same location during the 2013 Fair. SUNY Cortland plans to have an even greater presence. Look for details later this summer in *Moments*, the monthly electronic newsletter for alumni.

Students stream to voting booths

SUNY Cortland does more than produce new graduates. It's also really good at creating new voters. Cortland students visited their local polling places in impressive numbers on Election Day, after a campus group's remarkable effort to register more than 1,500 students. The College's New York Public Interest Research Group (NYPIRG) chapter, a non-profit and non-partisan organization devoted to activism, led the charge that resulted in 1,611 new voter registrations this fall. That number was the third highest among 20 campuses statewide where NYPIRG is active. It trails only Borough of Manhattan Community College, a CUNY institution of more than 24,000 students, and Binghamton University, which claims a student population nearly twice as large as SUNY Cortland.



Liz Lenzi, a senior early childhood and childhood education major from Gansevoort, N.Y., enjoys a moment with an elementary student at Groton Elementary School. Lenzi spent two full weeks immersed in classroom life at Groton as part of a new teacher education program.

Teacher education innovation

Two new, innovative SUNY Cortland teacher education programs are giving prospective teachers more intensive, hands-on classroom experience while helping area schools in Binghamton, N.Y., and Groton, N.Y. meet ever-increasing challenges. Last fall, the New York State Education Department awarded SUNY Cortland a \$429,197 grant to engage future high school science and mathematics teachers in a full-year teacher residency program at Binghamton High School, a high-needs, urban school district. The proposed program, offered in collaboration with Binghamton High School, enabled approximately 12 SUNY Cortland students to spend one full academic year, starting in the fall of 2013, immersed in clinically rich study and the application of teaching practice. "SUNY Cortland has always been a leader in teacher education and this grant allows us to remain at the forefront of innovation," said Angela Pagano, associate professor for biological sciences. "By embedding candidates within the school culture, we are providing them with the most authentic preparation experience possible." The College is taking a slightly different approach in the nearby Groton School District, which employs several SUNY Cortland alumni.

A new partnership between the College and district involves two weeks of early, hands-on classroom experience in which aspiring educators forego their regular, on-campus classes and follow the course of the entire Groton school day. The education students — at a point in their college careers where they are not yet eligible for traditional student teaching — are there from the time the children arrive until they depart and are involved in every other aspect of an elementary school pupil's busy school day. The 15 SUNY Cortland students involved in the November pilot program didn't lead classes, but they helped the Groton teachers with classroom activities while they observed the rhythms of a real classroom.

Comparison highlights Cortland's value

SUNY Cortland spends more per student on actual instruction than a national sampling of similar public colleges. It also produces significantly better graduation and retention rates, according to a U.S. Department of Education report. And it accomplishes all that while charging tuition that is lower than most of its comparable institutions, where tuition costs are growing at a much faster rate. The 2012 Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System Data Feedback Report found that SUNY Cortland stacks up very favorably against 34 public colleges with similar degree programs and student enrollment. The annual survey collects information from roughly 7,500 U.S. colleges and universities and compares institutions across a variety of categories. "When I look at the report, I'm impressed by many of the figures," College President Erik J. Bitterbaum said. "But what stands out the most to me is how much SUNY Cortland invests per student on instruction and academic support." In 2011, SUNY Cortland spent 22 percent more per full-time student on instruction and academic support than the median amount

spent by members of its comparison group, according to the survey. The College that fiscal year invested \$11,380 per student on faculty, instructional materials and other items directly related to academic learning. That is \$2,068 more than the median \$9,312 spent per student on those items by its counterparts. SUNY Cortland dedicated nearly 70 percent of the \$16,823 it spent per student in 2011 to instruction and academic support. The other comparable institutions in the report spent a median of 61 percent of their budgets directly on education. Non-instructional costs included research, student services, institutional support and other core expenses. "This clearly demonstrates our commitment to academic excellence and to ensuring that all of our students learn to the best of their ability and are challenged by rigorous courses taught by top-notch faculty," Bitterbaum said. "Our students have wonderful amenities and a truly incredible range of recreational activities, but our No. 1 priority is the quality and effectiveness of the education we provide."

Child Care Center marks anniversary

The SUNY Cortland Child Care Center's first clients are now promising young adults — living testaments to the center's early, and positive influence in their lives. In January, the not-for-profit childcare center quietly marked two decades of helping infants, toddlers and preschoolers develop and learn at Cortland County's only nationally accredited childcare agency. The center, which opened on Jan. 11, 1993, has enrolled hundreds of babies and youngsters between the ages of six weeks and five years from Cortland and neighboring counties while providing a living laboratory for generations of the College's future educators and professionals. The childcare facility has left an indelible mark on many area children as well as on parents who placed their youngsters at the facility while striving to earn a college degree.

The sweetest win comes off the field

BY MICHAEL BERSANI *Staff Writer*

Two hours before his team’s usual Saturday afternoon kickoff, SUNY Cortland head football coach Dan MacNeill ’79 already was delivering a victory speech.

His squad had yet to take the field against Brockport in a pivotal Oct. 13 home game. The stands were empty. Most players were busy conversing over the traditional team breakfast in Neubig Hall.

Yet MacNeill, his hands shaking and his voice cracking at times, addressed a small group of people gathered inside the Carl A. “Chugger” Davis Administration Building at the College’s Stadium Complex entrance.

He spoke to two in particular.

“This is our football program’s biggest victory,” MacNeill said, nodding to a 2-year-old girl smiling on her mother’s lap and a muscular linebacker seated next to them. “Today, we have a face for our victory.” Camera shutters clicked and tears trickled down a few faces.

The day was a Super Bowl of sorts for John Stephens, a junior physical education major from Goshen, N.Y., and Clara Boyle, a toddler from Menlo Park, Calif.

Flash back to the spring of 2010, which seems like a lifetime ago. That’s when Stephens, a high school senior at the time, toured the SUNY Cortland campus with his parents, Paul and Pat, as part of a recruiting visit.

The College’s reputation in the physical education profession and the quality of the school’s athletic facilities stood out to them. So did the football team’s participation in the “Get in the Game, Save a Life” National Marrow Donor Program (NMDP), a potentially life-saving effort involving a mouth swab to obtain cheek cells. On average only one in every 540 members of the NMDP registry will go on to donate bone marrow or blood stem cells to a patient.

Still, those odds didn’t deter Stephens or his parents.

“No question, we just did it,” he said.

More than 30,000 people have registered for the national drive since Villanova University’s football team launched the program in 1992. SUNY Cortland joined in 2009 and has contributed four potential matches in four years, including John Stephens.

The start of college came and went in a flash for Stephens. He enjoyed his classes and captained the SUNY Cortland junior varsity football squad.

Then in October 2010, less than two months into his undergraduate experience, he received the initial phone call from an NMDP advisor. It was about a newborn girl who required a bone marrow donation.

In California, Clara Boyle was enduring three months of chemotherapy blasts as a baby. A tube stayed taped to her face to provide food and oral medication. Needles regularly pricked her skin. There were many bouts with nausea and even more sleepless nights for her parents, Brooke and Alan.

Across the country, Stephens knew very little about Clara’s need — no name, location or diagnosis, only her age and her gender. Bone marrow donors and recipients are complete strangers to each other during the most grueling parts of the process. Rules forbid contact between the two sides until well after the potential recovery. And even then, both sides must consent to communication.

Stephens discussed it with his parents and his head coach, who encouraged him, and he reported to the Cortland Regional Medical Center for blood work.

Meanwhile, the doctors treating Clara at Lucile Packard Children’s Hospital at Stanford detected something frightening: she was suffering from aspergillus, a potentially deadly fungal infection for cancer patients.

“It’s what kills patients,” Brooke Boyle said. “Her numbers became something you couldn’t calculate. The chances were so slim.”

Stephens’ November appointment to extract the bone marrow was postponed while Clara’s infection was treated.



John Stephens



During her visit to Cortland, Clara Boyle received a toddler-sized football jersey bearing the name and number of John Stephens, the SUNY Cortland linebacker who aided her fight against cancer with a blood marrow donation.

“During this whole process, you’re just so grateful for this boy,” Boyle said. “It blew me away that this kid was in no way a kid. I was so thankful he was willing to do what he was willing to do for a complete stranger.”

Stephens eventually donated his bone marrow in January 2011, at Strong Memorial Hospital in Rochester, N.Y., during an hour-long extraction process that required anesthesia. Doctors took twice the amount required and sent it to the West Coast, where Clara received the transplant the very next day.

“She’s a newborn girl and I’m a 230-pound linebacker,” Stephens joked. “So even though they took more than they needed, the pain I felt wasn’t too severe.”

Clara’s health improved dramatically — so quickly that doctors waited to tell the Boyles due to a fear of dashing their hopes. She went home roughly a month later in early February and slowly acclimated to life as an infant. Stephens received word in the spring of 2011 that his recipient’s condition had improved, but that’s the only news he heard for more than a year due to the contact restrictions.

The toughest part for him was the waiting that ensued. Stephens checked in monthly with his NMDP advisor, hoping to learn his recipient’s identity each time.

“I always wanted to know who it was,” he said. “My family knew from past stories it could take up to a couple years and that we needed consent (from both sides).”

Then, in August, he sat down at his computer and opened an email that answered many of the questions from the past two years.

The message’s title said it all.

“You saved her life,” it read.

“Her name is Clara Violet Boyle,” Brooke Boyle’s email message began. “She is very much alive. I imagine that’s the answer to your biggest question. And I have no idea how to thank you or how to really begin the conversation with you.”

Doing well because of doing good

John Stephens’ emotional meeting with Clara Boyle wasn’t the only piece of uplifting news to come out of SUNY Cortland during the fall semester. Students, faculty and staff members collectively made several other humanitarian efforts across campus. Those included:

Hurricane Sandy relief: The College didn’t quit its relief assistance when Hurricane Sandy, the second costliest storm in U.S. history, stopped making headlines. With roughly 40 percent of its student population made up of Long Island natives, SUNY Cortland pressed on with projects launched in the days after the hurricane. A team of students, faculty and staff members coordinated a campus-wide donation drive that began in early November. By the time the holiday season arrived, three truckloads of much-needed supplies had been delivered to a makeshift collection shelter in Freeport, N.Y. Monetary donations topped \$1,300 and the College’s Student Government Association encouraged groups to keep hurricane relief in mind as the beneficiary of future fundraisers.

Blood donation push: In amassing 65 units of blood during the annual Cortaca Challenge Blood Drive, SUNY Cortland collected enough donations to save nearly 200 lives, based on estimates from the American Red Cross website. That boost was especially helpful when the blood drive took place in early November because hundreds of similar events were canceled in the wake of Hurricane Sandy. Additionally, American Red Cross CEO Kay Schwartz and other administrators from the organization visited SUNY Cortland in February to recognize the College for its long history of successful and life-saving blood drives.

Relay for Life: SUNY Cortland’s 2012 Relay for Life event built on the success of previous years, with more than 700 participants contributing nearly \$29,000 to the American Cancer Society’s fight against cancer. The all-night walk inside Lusk Field House in early December featured close to 60 teams united as part of the world’s largest walk to end cancer. During an eight-year run, the College’s Relay for Life events have pulled in more than \$300,000.

Boyle sent the email the same day she received Stephens’ contact information and one day before Clara was given a clean bill of health. Stephens stared at the screen.

His eyes welled with a few tears of joy.

“To finally know a name, where they’re from, what they went through,” he said. “It was overwhelming.”

Boyle’s message told the family’s backstory and detailed Clara’s battle with leukemia.

“I’ve been waiting a long time to be allowed to contact you,” the email continued. “But I also haven’t known what I wanted to say to you or what you’d want to know or say to us. It’s kind of impossible to truly express our gratitude, and I also do not know what you have thought about how this moment would go.”

The note praised Stephens for his deciding to donate.

“You made a choice that many people don’t make,” it read. “And your choice and your self-sacrifice and your prayers saved our daughter’s life.”

One line in particular struck Stephens.

“Your blood is clearly running through my daughter’s veins,” Boyle wrote. “She *loves* football.”

Without even speaking to each other, both Stephens and the Boyles shared the same dream: get Clara to a Cortland football game so she could see “her football player,” as she refers to Stephens, in action.

A swashbuckler speaks



Jeffrey Brooks '04 took to the Dowd Performing Arts Center stage to play a leading role in SUNY Cortland's production of the musical "She Loves Me."

BY JENNIFER WILSON *Associate Editor*

When Jeffrey Brooks '04 was a child and his parents didn't have time to find a babysitter, his mother, a music director for a school performing arts program in Marathon, N.Y., would set up his crib next to where young actors trod the boards under theatrical lights.

"So I almost literally grew up on the stage," recalled Brooks in a recent telephone conversation from New York City. "I got to spend a lot of time at the theater."

One of the first graduates from SUNY Cortland's musical theatre program, Brooks has parlayed his tall, burly frame and multiple talents into a flourishing acting career.

Since graduation, Brooks has performed in musicals on Broadway and in national tours of "Disney's Beauty and the Beast," "Oklahoma!" and tours with one company of "Bathhouse! The Musical" and "Moosletoe: A New Moosical."

Most recently, he finished 934 shows of just over 1,000 curtains in the non-Equity national tours of "Disney's Beauty and the Beast."

"I think I had the most performances clocked of any actor on these tours," he said of his combined work with several "Disney's Beauty and the Beast" runs.

Brooks primarily performed as an understudy for the role of the oafish, vain bad guy, Gaston, but also filled in for the Beast as well as for assorted enchanted furnishings. Brooks personally prefers to play the Beast.

"The emotional arc of The Beast is a lot more interesting because he starts out as just a beast and develops into a man, whereas Gaston just stays Gaston, except he gets a little more evil at the end. I enjoy playing The Beast more."

As the romantic rival to The Beast for the attentions of the female lead character, Belle, he has earned some fine reviews in mid-sized cities around the U.S.

Brooks previously appeared in just under 400 shows with the national tour of "Oklahoma!," where he was the principal actor of another villainous character, Jud.

"I'm more attuned to sing the old-style tunes," said Brooks, noting his low-pitched, baritone vocals also are better suited for the bad-guy roles.

Brooks' pursuit of the stage arts inspired him to seek professional training in dance and movement, vocal technique and performance, acting and scene study, and stage combat.

"I've focused on building myself up as a triple threat with the three major tools of acting, singing and dancing," he said. "If you can do all three of those, you're what's called a 'triple threat.'"

A swashbuckler at heart, he used his fight choreography training to work as a fight captain, helping fellow actors accomplish martial roles, on his most recent run with "Beauty."

"I'm more into stage fighting rather than dancing," he said. "I want to bring something to the table that's a little more unique and I have developed a penchant for that in the last few years."

In high school in the Marathon (N.Y.) Central District, Brooks was tugged between his interests in theatrical performance and athletics. His mother, Dolores, pulled on one arm and his father, Richard M. Brooks '72, grabbed the other.

"My father wanted a basketball player and he got one in high school," said Brooks, noting his dad coached girls' softball and basketball at the school. "But my mother wanted a performer and I think she won out."

"However, I hadn't done any musicals before and I hadn't done any dancing up to that point," he noted. "Basketball was a whole different way of moving than dancing."

As a college freshman in 1999, he witnessed the splashy arrival of musical theatre in the Dowd Fine Arts Center. Kevin Halpin, an associate professor of performing arts, had joined and set up the program with his wife, Cynthia Halpin, a choreographer and lecturer.

"Kevin and Cindy changed things around there," Brooks said. "I got to be part of a brand-new program and I helped them build it from the ground up. That program is just near and dear to my heart. It really helped shape what I was going to do for the rest of my life."

Halpin recalls Brooks — who was part of the first graduating class of musical theatre majors — as a green and eager freshman who would try anything and quickly morphed into a leader.

"Our process was that you auditioned and if you didn't get called back, you performed with the ensemble," Halpin said. "We didn't have time to see if there was a role for him so we didn't call him back for 'Little Shop of Horrors.' But Jeff showed up at the first rehearsal anyway and I told him, 'We don't really do things that way.' But then I thought about it and said, 'OK, stay.' And we created a role that didn't exist in the play for him, a dental patient. From then on, Jeff became sort of this 'everywhere' guy for us."

"I was lucky enough to be part of the first shows when I was a freshman: 'Little Shop of Horrors' and 'Music Man,'" Brooks said. "I was really into dancing, and I got to where I was doing a very solid job with an ensemble in a major musical theater show."

Cynthia Halpin started all her dance ensemble protégés out as beginners, Brooks

recalled. She assured them that if they trained they might move up in their roles. From his freshman year, Brooks danced seven days a week.

Brooks soon moved into the principal or leading roles, including as a sophomore the part of the creepy Master of Ceremonies in the College's production of "Cabaret."

"He performed it brilliantly," Halpin said. "Traditionally, that role was played by more of a skinny, frail, pale man, which he was not. The key was he had to be frightening but seductive at the same time and he did that really well."

This was an exciting time for Brooks because he was booking professional roles starting between his freshman and sophomore years of college with summer and regional theaters. The performing arts companies were limited to the off-seasons for hiring student actors as nonprofessionals.

"Three days after graduation I was cast as Gaston in the New Bedford (Mass.) Festival Theatre production of 'Disney's Beauty and the Beast,'" Brooks said.

Reflecting his strong school spirit, Brooks has offered help to recent graduates in New York.

"Jeffrey was always positive about the work," Halpin said of his former protégé. "He tried really hard to get everyone to focus. He was a really gregarious guy and was part of establishing from the very beginning that feeling that we are all in this together. That spirit exists to this day."



BY FREDERIC PIERCE *Editor*

Distinguished Service Professor Robert Spitzer is chairman of SUNY Cortland’s Political Science Department and an internationally respected authority on gun legislation.

He is also a lifelong fan of the theater.

That’s why he and his wife were the first members of SUNY Cortland’s extended family to participate in the College’s “Take a Seat” campaign to support performing arts programming and the Dowd Fine Arts Center.

“Theater has always been a joy for my wife Teresa and me,” Spitzer said. “We have both seen many wonderful productions in the Dowd Fine Arts Center Theatre over the years, and have also even performed in a few.

“In addition, we wanted to acknowledge my late mother in this way, because she had a lifelong love of the theater that was imparted to me. She was a performer herself in her younger days, and she attended some productions in Dowd. Finally, we wished to honor our colleagues and friends in the Performing Arts Department, for whom we share an abiding respect and admiration.”

For decades, the SUNY Cortland Performing Arts Department and Dowd Fine Arts Center Theatre have served as both a training ground for eager young talents and as a popular cultural venue in Central New York. Every year, thousands of people pass through Dowd’s doors to enjoy musical theater productions, dramatic works, original plays and concerts presented by the department’s musical ensembles.

More than 40 recitals, concerts, plays and other events take place there annually, making it the most highly visible — and prestigious — performing arts venue for the campus community. It is also incredibly diverse, offering performances that range from Shakespearian productions and classical music to family-friendly Broadway standards and edgy, modern dramas.

“Our program offers something for everyone,” said David Neal, chairman of the Performing Arts Department. “Whether you love modern Broadway musicals like ‘Rent’ or ‘Sweeney Todd,’ or enjoy classic dramatic productions such as ‘A Doll’s House’ or ‘The Importance of Being Earnest,’ you’ll find something on our schedule that you can enjoy and appreciate.

“Generations of Cortland students have fond memories of the performing arts, either as a participant or a member of the audience,” Neal said. “We plan to continue making those special moments possible for a long time to come.”

To do that, SUNY Cortland needs your help.

By making a tax-deductible gift of \$1,000 through the “Take a Seat” campaign, payable in three installments, an attractive nameplate bearing the supporter’s inscription will mark whatever seat he or she selects in the completely renovated main theater of the Ruth E. Dowd Fine Arts Center. It’s an opportunity for donors to honor a student, a family member, a production — whatever is meaningful to them.

The theater is currently undergoing renovations as part of a larger building upgrade that is scheduled for completion in December.

Like other aspects of “Educating Champions, the Campaign for Cortland,” the “Take a Seat” campaign is not intended to support construction, but to enrich programming and create new and exciting opportunities that help SUNY Cortland students discover themselves, their talent and the larger world.

Gifts through the program will help build a fund to bring nationally respected instructors to campus. During the current academic year, for example, the department was able to bring Broadway performer and internationally respected choreographer Terrie Robinson to campus as a dance lecturer.

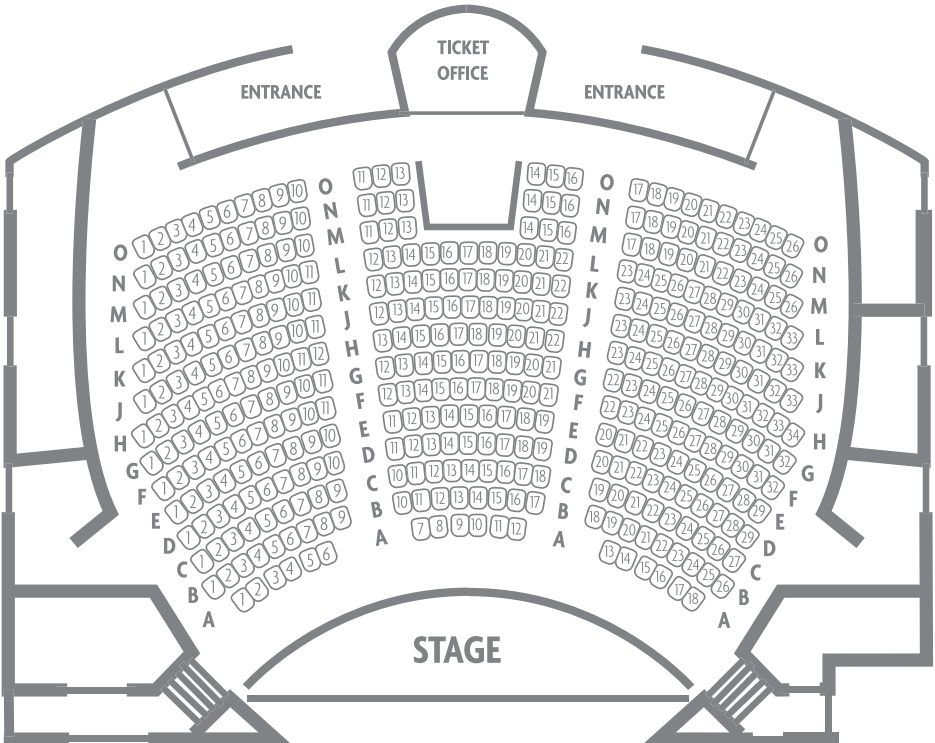
The fund will be used to enhance already impressive campus productions. It will offset the cost of set materials and modern lighting and sound equipment, allowing the College to raise the bar for student standards to the professional level they will experience in the working world.

The campaign will support long-established performance ensembles and allow the department to create new, high-profile concerts that will encourage even more members of the community to experience SUNY Cortland’s talent.

Perhaps most importantly, the fund will provide scholarships for talented and deserving students.

“We would like to be able to establish a scholarship fund that would attract new students as well as support the education of students who are already here,” said Kevin Halpin, associate professor of performing arts. “These scholarships could be used as a recruitment tool. They will be used to help raise the level of student we’re bringing in.”

Performing arts faculty really has no limit about how far SUNY Cortland’s program can go. And all members of the College Community have to do to help move it along is to stand up, and take a seat.



To learn more about the Take-a-Seat program, its installment payment option or to make arrangements to permanently inscribe the theater seat of your choice, call the Cortland College Foundation at 607-753-5744, or send an email message to ccf@cortland.edu.



by JENNIFER WILSON *Associate Editor*

Starting their first semester at college has always been exciting for SUNY Cortland freshmen.

But this fall, several dozen incoming students will begin their college careers with a real adventure.

Up to 40 students will have an opportunity to experience a weeklong orientation in the pristine Adirondack wilderness surrounding SUNY Cortland's Center for Outdoor and Environmental Education at Raquette Lake.

The new Adirondack Trail Blazers program is part of the College's ongoing effort to open the unique wilderness opportunity offered through Huntington Memorial Camp and Antlers to greater numbers of SUNY Cortland students, alumni and other members of the College community.

Widening student access to this remote retreat, which generations of alumni recall as having a transformational impact on their personal, academic or professional lives, is the driving motivation behind the College's Campaign for Raquette Lake, an effort to raise \$1.5 million for the Raquette Lake Endowment Fund.

"The endowment will provide all interested SUNY Cortland students with the opportunity to experience Raquette Lake," said Kimberly Pietro, the College's vice president for institutional advancement. "The very remoteness that makes Camp Huntington and Antlers so unique makes it difficult to expand and diversify programming there. This fund will help us expand our use of the facility and make it easier for students to travel there."

The fundraising initiative is part of "Educating Champions: The Campaign for Cortland." The campaign to support the College's major priorities was launched in Fall 2011 and has made steady and significant progress in raising a total of \$25 million by the end of June.

Meanwhile, the Cortland College Foundation has strengthened its commitment to support and expand the use of Huntington and Antlers by taking ownership of Antlers from the Auxiliary Services Corporation (ASC), which bought the property in 1965. The ASC in May formally transferred the property to the Cortland College Foundation.



For its part, SUNY Cortland will significantly improve the Antlers facility by pledging \$1 million for future upgrades to the infrastructure and by expanding the operation at Antlers to three seasons.

Traditionally, students with majors in the departments of art and art history, biological sciences, childhood/early childhood education, geology, history, physical education and recreation, parks and leisure studies have had an opportunity to learn-by-living at the rustic, Adirondack complex. With support from the endowment fund, greater numbers of students from those fields — and many others — will have an opportunity to participate.

Raquette Lake visions



Starting this summer, more SUNY Cortland students and others than ever will experience this wildness at the College's Center for Outdoor and Environmental Education at Raquette Lake. Clockwise from above, a pair of students builds their trust and confidence on the Huntington Camp's ropes course; a class learns to rough it at a remote campsite near Raquette Lake; and a canoe flotilla embarks on an exploration of the lake.

An early example of that is the Trail Blazers program. Near the end of this summer, as many as 40 accepted newcomers who have completed orientation on the main campus will add a week-long visit to Huntington.

"The overall goal is to help them make that transition from a relatively structured, home-based high school experience to a more independent lifestyle and the challenges of attending college," said Robert Rubendall, who directs the College's Environmental and Outdoor Education Center, which has facilities near Albany and at Hoxie Gorge in addition to Raquette Lake.

During the program, the participants will take in the sights and sounds of nature. They'll swim or paddle in the brisk lake waters, pitch tents for three nights on unspoiled shores and climb a high ropes course at Camp Huntington, the only designated National Historic Landmark in the SUNY system.

"They are learning self-discipline, making choices on their own, learning to stick to a schedule and basically connecting with other students coming in as well as faculty and upper class-members," Rubendall said.

Afterward, the group will return to the main campus to share weekend activities with their new classmates before the start of fall semester classes. The initiative is modeled on a wilderness immersion program started by Dartmouth College in the 1960s and adopted by many colleges.

"They have become more and more popular over the years as children become more and more dependent upon their parents," Rubendall said. "There is a better success rate for the

students, a better student retention rate by the colleges. They immediately have a peer group. They have friends, they know more of what's expected of them on a college campus. We hope to involve them more quickly in the resources and networks that are available to them on campus."

The program is open to all new students, regardless of major or economic background. It involves a fee, but the College will find resources to send young scholars on the trip, even if they cannot afford the cost, Rubendall said.

Similar programs run by other colleges are traditionally supported through funds endowed by alumni association members, Rubendall said.

As part of expanding the use of the camps, biological sciences majors are exploring the bogs and forests at Raquette Lake in increasing numbers. And two SUNY Cortland history professors won a National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) grant to bring 80 schoolteachers from across the country to this unique learning resource in an effort to enrich the American social studies curriculum as two separate weeklong groups during July. The two SUNY Cortland professors consider the region to be an historical goldmine about the country's industrial and cultural development.

The professors, Kevin Sheets and Randi Storch, will help immerse educators in the sights, sounds and smells of the Adirondacks as they learn about late 19th and early 20th century American history from the unique perspective of the wilderness.

"It's possible to teach all the themes of America's Gilded Age — but out in the wilderness," Sheets said of the planned "Forever Wild: The Adirondacks in the Gilded Age and Progressive Era" program, which focuses on a period that stretches roughly from the 1870s to the early 1920s.

"I've been taking students and teachers there and gone myself, and I think it's amazing to be in that experience — remote but accessible," Sheets said, noting the camps have Internet access. "A visit to the camps gives a sense of why people in the late 19th century gravitated to places like that. It's purposely remote. Yet in the wilderness they carved out these (romantic) landscapes. They brought with them the creature comforts that they knew; they brought their staffs."

There is this sense of the juxtaposition of remoteness and comfort, the different classes and the gender roles of men and women in the camps.

"What a great mission it is for the College to preserve that space," Sheets said.

For more information about that mission and to see a video about the Campaign for Raquette Lake or visit the website cortland.edu/raquette or contact the Cortland College Foundation, Inc. at SUNY Cortland, Brockway Hall, Room 307, P.O. Box 2000, Cortland, NY 13045; or call 607-753-2518; or email ccf@cortland.edu.



cortland.edu/raquette

Finish line in sight for ‘Educating Champions’

“Educating Champions, the Campaign for Cortland,” SUNY Cortland’s five-year effort to raise \$25 million in support of its strategic vision, revolves around one guiding principle: It’s about people, not projects.

Students their education, their well-being, their metamorphosis into well-rounded, career-focused adults are the priority of every key initiative, not the brick-and-mortar facilities that surround them.

“How can we have as great an impact on people as possible?” said Vice President for Institutional Advancement Kimberly Pietro. “That’s the question that has led our thinking with the ‘Educating Champions’ campaign and it’s one that will move us forward in the future.”

The campaign, which ends June 30, had raised more than 98 percent — \$24,655,000 — of its targeted goal as of early May.

“We’re in good shape thanks to the people and the priorities that guide us as an institution,” Pietro said. “Cultivating academic excellence, providing transformational learning experiences, promoting physical and emotional well-being, and maximizing College resources as part of a sustainable culture are tasks that we already perform well. The funds secured through this campaign will allow us to continue to be a national leader in these areas.”

The four institutional priorities Pietro outlined have guided what is only the College’s second major fundraising effort in its 144-year history. The campaign was launched publicly in September 2011 after a three-year silent phase. Generous contributions from alumni, students, employees and friends have strengthened the Cortland College Foundation in the year and a half since.

From the founding of the College, deserving students have been able to attend, regardless of their economic situation or social background. Often, scholarship dollars were part of the equation that made college financially possible. It therefore shouldn’t come as a surprise that the largest single share of funds raised through the campaign — at least \$10 million — will be used to support scholarships for SUNY Cortland students, Pietro said.

But the campaign also supports a wide variety of opportunities for students to expand their horizons beyond the classroom once they get here.

Kristin Neal, a senior biology major from Englewood, Colo., came to SUNY Cortland for the College’s women’s basketball program. She became involved in scientific research and discovered her true passion through a project funded by a \$3,000 undergraduate summer research grant.

“I felt so independent in that I had to think for myself,” said Neal, who studied the life-threatening form of pneumonia known as Legionnaire’s disease. Specifically, she investigated the temperatures and concentrations of chlorine required to kill the bacteria that causes Legionnaire’s disease; an endeavor that could someday save lives.

“If you see the people that undergraduate research affects, you see the bigger impact,” Neal said.

Undergraduate research offers just one of the many transformational moments SUNY Cortland students may discover during their college careers. Others include wilderness experiences at Raquette Lake, service-learning opportunities through the College’s Institute for Civic Engagement and internship paths paved by Career Services.

Each of those moments could create a profound impact on SUNY Cortland students. And all are supported by a campaign-related fund.

“Educating Champions, the Campaign for Cortland” also will fund student-focused programs related to physical, emotional or social well-being slated to take place in the College’s newest and most innovative facility. The Student Life Center, which will become the nexus of campus life, won’t be built using campaign dollars. Those dollars will, however, support the diverse array of recreational, athletic and educational programs that will bring the \$56 million complex to life.

Along the same lines, another campaign priority is to create a campus culture of sustainability, both environmentally and economically. The campaign can help do this, in part, by strengthening the Cortland Green Initiative Program and establishing a business incubator that bridges campus and community. The green initiative seeks 100 percent

Make the final campaign push

SUNY Cortland is within 2 percent of reaching its \$25 million goal for the most transformative fundraising campaign in College history. Help us ride the momentum to its June completion.

Make a gift online by visiting cortland.edu/campaign.

Mail a check made out to Cortland College Foundation, Inc., at P.O. Box 2000, Cortland, NY 13045.

Stay up to date as the finish line approaches by liking SUNY Cortland on Facebook and following @SUNY_Cortland on Twitter.

savings in energy costs over the next decade through increased consumption tracking and awareness efforts; the incubator example involves using students’ talents to solve local business needs, which in turn will supply a level of experience only the real world can provide.

The campaign clock is running down. With less than half a year remaining before “Educating Champions” closes, some of these priorities remain underfunded. For many of these initiatives, just a few dollars can make a big difference.

“With the help of alumni, faculty, staff, parents and friends, SUNY Cortland has built on past successes and has positioned itself to play an even greater role in positively transforming the lives of its students,” Pietro said. “It’s an exciting time to be involved with SUNY Cortland.

“If anyone has been thinking about playing a larger role in supporting their alma mater, this is the perfect time to do it.”



SUMMER ALUMNI CAMP 2013 Five Sessions in July and August

In summer 2013, the Outdoor Education Center at Raquette Lake will offer alumni and their families several different stay combinations at Antlers and Camp Huntington to fit everyone’s budget and timeframe. Activities will include boating, campfires, good food, hiking and time to relax with family and friends. Camp Huntington provides a remote lakeside getaway and Antlers offers easy access to all the Adirondack attractions.

The Antlers seven-day session is July 6 to 12. The Antlers five-day session is Aug. 26 to 30. The Antlers three-day session is Aug. 23 to 25. The Camp Huntington six-day session is June 30 to July 5. The Camp Huntington four-day session is June 30 to July 3.

RENT THE KIRBY CAMP Weeks from June 16 to Sept. 7, 2013

The Kirby Camp at Raquette Lake will be available to SUNY Cortland alumni, faculty, staff and their guests on a one-week basis.

Visitors arrive at the Antlers facility on Sundays at 2 p.m. to be transported by boat to the Kirby Camp. They depart on Saturdays at 10 a.m. Camp guests enjoy a delightfully remote and rustic experience featuring gas-powered lights, stove and refrigerator. The camp has cold, running water and a composting toilet. There are canoes and paddles for your use. The two bedrooms feature bunk beds in one and a queen-sized bed in another. A maximum group of eight individuals can occupy the camp. Renters must bring their own groceries.

WINTER ALUMNI RETREAT 2014 Dates to be announced

The annual five-day Winter Alumni Camp at Huntington Memorial Camp is growing in popularity. Please inquire about next year’s winter camp, offering cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, saunas, stargazing and much more, or visit the webpage at cortland.edu/outdoor.

Register Now!

Alumni and their families are invited to take advantage of upcoming great opportunities to stay at Raquette Lake. Join old and new friends in a spectacular Adirondack setting at a price that’s hard to beat.

A brief description of the camps follows. Complete details, including camp rates, deposit fees and times of arrival and departure, are available on the registration form on our website at cortland.edu/outdoor.

REGISTRATION AND IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Please note that for all three programs, participants are required to bring their own linen and or sleeping bags and personal toiletries, with blankets and pillows provided.

To register and for more information, visit the Outdoor Education Center website at cortland.edu/outdoor and select the Raquette Lake page, then select the Upcoming Events button to complete and download a registration form. Or call the OEC at 607-753-5488 to arrange for a form to be mailed to you. Please read all registration instructions carefully before completing and mailing it with your deposit check.

Graduate plans stellar events

BY JENNIFER WILSON Associate Editor

Cindy Mardenfeld '93 tells people that if you think she's into networking now, you should have seen her in college.

Foreshadowing her recognition in 2007 as one of Long Island's "Top 40 Executives Under the Age of 40" by *Long Island Business News*, Mardenfeld designed her own internship as a fundraiser for the Cortland chapter of the American Cancer Society while a student at SUNY Cortland.

Mardenfeld, the founder and president of Infinity Relations, Inc., is still charting her own path.

Her company, a New York-based, high profile event-planning firm, organizes corporate, non-profit and private events of every description locally, internationally and throughout Canada. She is a familiar and welcome face at Long Island corporate gatherings, benefit walks, golf tournaments and high-visibility social gatherings.

The company is powered by a reputation she built through years of successful fundraising and event planning for non-profit organizations, starting at SUNY Cortland.

Among her early accomplishments with the American Cancer Society, Mardenfeld organized a "Great American Smokeout" publicity campaign in high-traffic areas around the SUNY Cortland campus to raise awareness about the health threats of smoking. A 1992 feature article on the front page of *The Cortland Democrat* includes a picture of her alongside her Zeta Chi Theta sorority sisters volunteering for the American Cancer Society at the formerly named Cortland Memorial Hospital's annual community health fair.



Entrepreneur Cindy Mardenfeld '93 speaks with John Kominicki, publisher of *Long Island Business News*, at the 15th annual 40 Under 40 Gala at the Crest Hollow Country Club, Woodbury, N.Y., on Jan. 24

She said the College played a vital role in laying the groundwork for her approach and for the mission of Infinity Relations, Inc.

"Through my relationships with my professors, mentors, friends and members of my sorority, I developed valuable interpersonal skills, which have proven to be vital to my success," said Mardenfeld, a former communication studies major.

"There is an art to networking," she said. "It's more than simply meeting people, exchanging business cards and making a follow up call. You need to establish a rapport, do your homework and check out their website. When you follow up, let them know you did your research and suggest synergies between your companies."

"College taught me to do that. You do your homework when you're pitching to the media. You have to have all your facts to be a credible source."

Her clients include Leviton Manufacturing, Techo-Bloc, Inc., Autism Speaks, The Clark Gillies Foundation, and Molloy and Farmingdale Colleges. She has arranged a wide variety of events, including award ceremonies, team building activities, multi-city and multi-state product launches, media attention, galas and industry specific events. By working with international companies, she has learned to address the cultural differences specific to the event locales.

Mardenfeld launched Infinity Relations, Inc., in 2002, using contacts she developed while working in the non-profit sector.

"After many years in the non-profit sector, it was clear that there was also a demand for event planning services in the private sector," she said. "We now help companies in such areas as using events as a vehicle to increase their bottom line, increase customer and client retention, and team-building activities internally and externally."

She attributes the company's success to her past professional experiences in fundraising work with organizations such as the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, United Cerebral Palsy, the American Cancer Society and Cancer Care of Long Island.

"These experiences gave me on-the-job experience in fundraising," she said.

As a director of special events for the American Cancer Society from 2000 to 2002, she parlayed her networking skills into a long-term arrangement with FedEx to deliver

daffodils to donors on Long Island and the metro area. Throughout the years, the relationship saved the charity hundreds of thousands of dollars and countless staff and volunteer hours.

Her most successful ventures with the American Cancer Society involved recruiting, training and motivating key volunteer leaders in the Rocky Point community to organize, plan and implement the first successful Relay For Life event in Suffolk County. On the big day, there were 100 teams, 1,000 participants and the charity raised more than \$125,000, an accomplishment that exceeded the campaign's goal by an astonishing 80 teams and \$105,000.

"That was one of the most proud moments in my fundraising career," she said.

She also takes pride in her abilities.

"When properly executed, event planning services are a time-consuming and difficult task," Mardenfeld said. "I have found that my passion for the field and my clients enables me to efficiently navigate the challenges inherent to each event and execute them in an enthusiastic, passionate and effective manner."

In recent years *Newsday* and the Metro New York/Long Island Edition of *Golfing Magazine* have both profiled her for advice on how to carry out a charity soiree with aplomb.

"I once planned four events in one week," Mardenfeld recalled. "It's about being really organized and having the right teams of people working with you. If you really love what you do, it comes naturally."

Mardenfeld is proud of her Cortland roots.

"I believe in the mantra of 'pay it forward,'" she said. "I wanted to help alumni so years ago I decided the best way to stay connected was to become the Long Island chapter chair."

Entrepreneur

continued from page 1

In conversation, it becomes clear that Patrick and Randi Jo have been partners not only in marriage, but in the high-risk/high-reward decision-making entrepreneurship requires.

"I trust him, I know it's going to work out," said Randi Jo, who ran a hair salon with her mother for years before the mother-daughter team sold it. "It's fun for him. You have this company, you take it as far as you can go for a few years, and you sell it. It's exciting."

It's also very gratifying. Mullaney's business success has allowed the couple who live comfortably, but not extravagantly to use their resources to help others.

"Cortland is a great place to give you a good foundational understanding of networking; people skills."

— Patrick Mullaney '89

When a massive earthquake devastated Haiti in 2010, Mullaney was able to ship about \$800,000 worth of his orthopedic equipment to the Caribbean Island nation to help the thousands of survivors whose limbs were crushed by falling debris. Whenever one of his companies has excess medical equipment



Patrick Mullaney '89 explains an innovation developed by Arrowhead Medical Device Technologies, one of his firms. Mullaney's Arrow-Lok digital fusion system is used by foot surgeons to correct toe deformities.

it no longer needs, he donates it to Doctors Without Borders, where the instruments can be put to good use in developing nations across the world. Last year, when a young disabled girl in Mullaney's community needed bone grafts and other treatments because of a rare autoimmune disease, he and his wife covered her bills.

"We believe you've got to give back," Mullaney said. "To know that you're enhancing the lives of people is just the greatest thing. You can't beat it."

That sense of civic responsibility was something that SUNY Cortland helped

cultivate. As a brother in the Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity, Mullaney volunteered time as a Big Brother for a local boy in need. He worked with the family, counseling the parents as well as doing fun things with their son, for about two years.

Mullaney's steady and impressive climb up the corporate ladder at Smith & Nephew, became endangered when, after years of discussions with his engineer brother about medical devices, he encouraged him to actually put his thoughts about an orthopedic device on paper and apply for a patent.

New leadership at Smith & Nephew thought Mullaney should have been arranging things so the patent fell to them. They asked him to turn it over. When he explained that it belonged to his brother, not his employer, they let him go, prompting the soul-searching that eventually turned Mullaney into a full-time entrepreneur.

He couldn't make the leap, however, without raising some investment capital first. He returned to New York and managed operations in the state for DePuy Orthopaedics Inc., a Johnson and Johnson company, overseeing \$50 million in business a year. Tired of traveling and separation from his family, Mullaney returned to Memphis in 2008 to focus on his own business.

He hasn't looked back since.

His latest business venture, NexGen Medical Systems, gives him an opportunity to oversee market devices that perform science fiction-like jobs and save lives by removing dangerous blood clots or inserting medication or stem cells into specific parts of the brain. Mullaney serves on the company's board of directors and executive committee.

"Don't get me wrong, I enjoyed the big company," Mullaney said. "I did it for a while, it was great experience and I'll be forever passionately loyal to them. But now, my job is taking my small company and selling it to big companies. And that's what's awesome."

"I certainly hope that many current and future college students are inspired to go after their dreams and work hard. They need to understand that there will be many obstacles in their way, but persistence pays off. With a dream and determination you can accomplish great things. Never give up!"

New course encourages entrepreneurial spirit

BY MICHAEL BERSANI *Staff Writer*

Her senior year's most rewarding courses were anything but easy A's, says business economics major Maya Gelernter. She and several other classmates found themselves getting down to business during the 2012-13 academic year, dreaming up innovative products and new business ideas as part of two new classes devoted to entrepreneurship. Besides sharpening the skill sets of the young entrepreneurs, the new curriculum targeted a clear goal: secure funding for the students to lift their business ideas off the ground. "It's not about getting an A or a B," said Gelernter, of West Hempstead, N.Y. "It's about getting the funding to make these ideas a reality." Special Topics in Management: Entrepreneurship I and II, the consecutive three-credit courses taught downtown at Main Street SUNY Cortland, welcomed students from all majors. That's because entrepreneurship taps into a way of problem solving that crosses many disciplines outside of business, according to Brian Ward, the lecturer and local executive who teaches the course with Adam Megivern, the executive director of the Cortland Downtown Partnership. "This isn't just taking a class that teaches you about the specific field that you're in," said Ward, the president of Cortland Line Company, a leading manufacturer in fly-fishing equipment that traces its roots back to 1915. "It's about learning how to build a business plan around it. "In a larger sense, it's about the real world." The real world encompasses more than just test scores, the students agreed. They learned the importance of big-picture concepts tied to money borrowing as well as detailed tips related to website design. They heard directly from guest speakers that included the vice president of a local bank and an intellectual property lawyer, in addition to local business leaders like their professor. "Being graded on a one-sentence elevator pitch isn't as easy as it seems," said Matthew Bailey, a business economics major from Ballston Lake, N.Y. "It's more real life and more practical. At the same time, it's tougher because there's no one book with all of the answers in it." The initial course offered during the fall semester laid the foundation for teaching students about entrepreneurship, which Ward loosely defined to his students as the investment of a person's ideas, time and money into a product, service or business with a viable economic upside.

"If you really want to be an entrepreneur, you've got to risk your time, you've got to risk your money and you've got to risk your ideas," Ward said. At the outset, students identified general business problems and potential ways to fix them. By the end of the first course, a panel made up of local business owners assessed six group business plans. The three projects deemed most viable carried on into the spring semester. Eleven students opted to continue with the second portion of the course, refining their ideas for different business idea competitions throughout the spring. And just as with the first semester, a smaller event was held for successful local entrepreneurs to judge the trio of polished products. "What we'd love to have is alumni, possibly even alumni investors, come back every year to that end-of-year pitch competition," said Kathleen Burke, an associate professor of economics who helped coordinate the elective as it developed during its first year. "Ultimately, we'd love to give alumni the right of first refusal to invest in these great ideas." Students declined to divulge the specifics about their business ideas to protect their yearlong work's viability even after the course ends. They were, however, open to sharing the different industries that the final projects touch on: nutrition, food and technology. When the three most viable projects were determined at the end of the fall semester, some businesspeople from the community even remarked that they would consider investing in a solid final product, Burke said. A strong town-gown relationship tied together by entrepreneurship promises yet another positive outcome down the road. "On the academic side, we have our students trying to develop their own business ideas using the know-how of successful local businesses and people in the

SUNY Cortland's young entrepreneurs

Interested in helping SUNY Cortland's young entrepreneurs turn their new business dreams into realities? Contact Kathleen Burke, professor of business economics, at kathleen.burke@cortland.edu or 607-753-2434 to learn how you can assist their entrepreneurship efforts.



Brian Ward, a lecturer at SUNY Cortland, chats with business economics majors Maya Gelernter, left, and Valerie Turner about the business plan for their final project in Special Topics in Management: Entrepreneurship II.

community," Burke said. "Then, within the community, we use the talents of our students to assist small, growing businesses." Leaders of small local businesses repay the favor by serving as mentors for each of the project groups. Craig and Michelle Brooks, the owners of the Coffeemia beverage shops in Cortland, taught Gelernter that failures are both inevitable and valuable, she said. "Sometimes, learning what not to do can be just as important," Gelernter said. "You can often pull more from failure than you can from success and they taught me that." Student-interest in creating business ideas outside of the new course work — among them an Entrepreneurship Club formed in 2012 and a Cortland County Local Business Idea Competition swept by SUNY Cortland students last spring — tells Burke that there's a market for other projects tied to entrepreneurship at the College. The Cortland Business Innovation Center (CBIC), for instance, opened on Main Street in the fall and uses SUNY Cortland students to drive new programming efforts for local businesses. During the spring semester, the center utilized two College interns to pilot a

website development program for three local organizations. Future plans include relying on professional writing majors for CBIC writing content and students in SUNY Cortland's Geographic Information Systems computer lab for mapping needs. "It's an example of how the entire community can work together to get start-ups going," Burke said. Ward has taught both entrepreneurship courses with the expectation that every student can evolve into an entrepreneur. So far, he has yet to be proven wrong. His SUNY Cortland students all agree that they're more business savvy for having taken the courses. But they're also quick to point out that the process of developing products and ideas isn't easy as they once thought. "Just having a good idea isn't enough," Gelernter said. "(Being an entrepreneur) takes so much more than that."

Sliding into success

continued from page 2

"For the first four or five years it was a full-time, non-stop thing," said Walsh, who was responsible for 130 employees. "It was pure, organized chaos and it was a great learning experience." The partners soon opened another A.J. Spurs, this one in nearby Buelton. That restaurant was featured prominently in the 2004 Oscar-nominated film "Sideways." After several years of successful operation, the partners sold the restaurants, and Walsh looked for other opportunities. Eventually, he noticed that the roads and highways in the

Paso Robles area were filled with recreational vehicles driven by tourists visiting the wineries. There were, however, no RV parks. Walsh and some partners changed that. They bought the right land, installed the infrastructure and started the business. It took off, and they sold it. That success led to a partnership for a truck stop that was similarly sold. And that, eventually, led to the waterpark. To learn about the business, Walsh embarked on a cross-country tour of the nation's waterparks. He visited 29 of them

across the United States, talking with general managers and owners and speeding through some amazing water slides. He quickly realized that running a waterpark was different from any other venture in which he had been involved, because people's lives were at stake. Safety considerations and vigilant, well-trained lifeguards are critical to the operation of the park. That's why Walsh, prepared to be a health teacher, has taken it upon himself to personally certify each of Ravine's 100 lifeguards. He's out

there every day when the park is open, making sure that all safety standards are met and lifeguards remain focused on the carefree visitors in the water. "It turned out not to be as much fun as I thought it would be," Walsh said jokingly. "You have to know a lot to be an entrepreneur, and you have to know a lot to do what I do. But there's a lot of people like me out there, including people from Cortland. People who see an opportunity and say 'Why not?'"

Biography Honors Emilio DaBramo '48

Emilio "Dee" DaBramo '48 ran 31 bombing missions during World War II and survived crash landing behind enemy lines. He was SUNY Cortland's first All American soccer player, yet devoted most of his life and career to helping people with physical and mental disabilities, including 12 years as New York director of the Special Olympics. His innovative programs dramatically improved graduation rates in disadvantaged areas, and are still applicable today.

In short, DeBramo is an inspiring guy. So inspiring, in fact that David Hennessy '53, M.S.Ed. '62 decided to write a biography in tribute to the former longtime Mamaroneck, N.Y., school administrator after a relatively short acquaintance.

Hennessy hopes that the support of future SUNY Cortland scholarships also will be accomplished with royalties from the sale of his book, *Never Give Up on a Kid — The Chronicles of the Life and Career of Emilio "Dee" DaBramo, Educator/Humanitarian Extraordinaire*. "Never give up on a kid" is a phrase DaBramo used frequently, and it paraphrases his attitude toward children who faced challenges to success.

Hennessy first met Dee in 1998 when he stayed overnight at the hospitable DaBramo's house in the Catskills at the mid-point of a 1,000-mile fundraiser bike ride. Hennessy's cycling journey through New York state, accompanied by Arnold Rist '47, a distinguished alumus and Alumni Association emeritus board member, raised funds for the Dr. Ralph A. Brown Scholarship Fund, named in honor of the College's late, revered distinguished teaching professor of history.

Hennessy, who had served in the Navy — underwater in a submarine rather than in the Army Air Corps as a radio operator on a B-24 Bomber during WWII like DaBramo — was floored by DaBramo's lifelong accomplishments. During Hennessy's brief visit, he encountered many people whose lives had been positively affected by DaBramo's dedication to youth and persons with disabilities.

"In a very short time, the picture of why so many people in the community had expressed their love and respect for Dee was becoming clearer to me," said Hennessy, a SUNY Cortland Alumni Association board member. "It was his sense of community, his love of kids, especially for those with special needs, his sense of fairness, his kind and outgoing personality and his leadership ability that endeared him to all."

Hennessy also realized that DaBramo had begun slowly losing his memory and decided to find out more about the man before it was too late. His volume follows DaBramo's 45-year career, which began in 1948, as a teacher and administrator.

As a radio operator on a B-24 bomber during World War II, DaBramo earned the Distinguished Flying Cross, four Air Medals and four Battle Stars.

"He and his fellow crew members flew on 31 missions over German-occupied Europe," wrote Hennessy. Hennessy returned to SUNY Cortland to pursue a master's degree, finishing in 1962 after serving five years as an officer in the U.S.

Navy Submarine Service.

"The exploits of (DaBramo's) crew are well documented, including the disastrous carpet bombing raid at St. Lo, France, and the heretofore untold story of the air delivery of 700,000 gallons of fuel to General Patton's Third Army tanks in France during Operation Cobra."

DaBramo also survived being shot down over Cologne, Germany, and crash landing.

After the war, while studying at SUNY Cortland, DaBramo was the first of the College's All-American soccer players in 1948. In later years as an alumnus, he worked on the College's Admissions Council.

Hennessy's book describes a number of DaBramo's accomplishments while employed in the Mamaroneck Union Free School District.

"He solved the high school dropout problem that was endemic in the socially, culturally and economically deprived neighborhoods," Hennessy said.

Hennessy could relate to DaBramo as an educational pioneer, having himself taught elementary science, via television, from 1958 to 1962 in the Cortland City schools covering grades two through six in 90 classrooms.

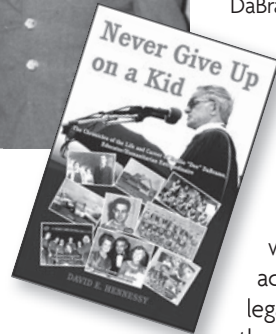
"His alternative school APPLE Program, which stands for 'A Place where People Learn Excellence,' and his Summer Co-Op Program designed for the targeted neighborhoods, were a huge success," Hennessy noted. "The APPLE Program garnered a 90 percent graduation rate and a resulting college graduation rate of better than 70 percent."

During his career, DaBramo served as president of the New York State Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance, and was named one of 10 honorees lauded as 1992 Healthy American Fitness Leaders (HAFL), which promotes physical fitness and health awareness in the U.S.

DaBramo's early work with mentally and physically challenged individuals, in the late 1940s through the 1960s, caught the attention of Eunice Kennedy Shriver, Hennessy wrote. She appointed him as a volunteer member of the Joseph P. Kennedy Foundation's Advisory Committee and as a clinician for the Special Olympics.

DaBramo served for 12 years as the New York state games director for Special Olympics.

Richard Keelor, a former officer of the President's Council for Physical Fitness and Sports (PCFSN) under Presidents Nixon,



Clockwise from the upper right, Emilio "Dee" DaBramo '48, left, relaxes with his friend and fellow graduate, David Hennessy '53, M.S.Ed. '62; the cover of the biography about DaBramo; and DaBramo proudly in uniform.

Carter and Reagan, wrote very passionately of DaBramo when contacted in the course of Hennessy's research.

"The key to Dee's professional career, and what he stood for, was empathy, audacity and enthusiasm," Keelor wrote. "Yes, he knew his subject and had all sorts of academic credentials, but experts are a dime a dozen. Dee's legacy will be the extent to which he changed the lives of the people and organizations he unselfishly served."

In May, the PCFSN paid tribute to DaBramo as one of its five 2013 Lifetime Achievement Award winners.

SUNY Cortland always held a special place in DaBramo's heart. In a 1991 interview he said: "I hope to continue helping the alumni making Cortland State better."

He was a Beta Phi Epsilon member. A 1969 SUNY Cortland Distinguished Alumnus, he made the College's C-Club Hall of Fame and received an honorary doctorate at SUNY Cortland from SUNY.

To help make DaBramo's wish come true, Hennessy and his wife, Milly, created the Cortland Appreciation Scholarship Fund. It will be started with proceeds from the biography and managed by the Cortland College Foundation.

The scholarship will benefit students of Cortland County.

"(DaBramo's) philosophy of 'never give up on a kid' and the organizational structure of these programs are well documented and translatable to almost any school system," said Hennessy, who recommends his book to teachers and administrators.

The biography also may be of interest to historians of WWII, the WWII G.I. Bill and the Special Olympics.

Never Give up on a Kid can be ordered online directly from the publisher at authorHouse.com and Amazon.com or from a local Barnes and Noble retail bookstore. The book also is available at the SUNY Cortland bookstore.

For more information on the author or book, contact Hennessy at bccscholarships@att.net.

Sweetest

continued from page 11

The Boyles welcomed a second daughter, Rosalyn, into the world last winter and in the months leading up to the visit, Stephens communicated with them over the phone and through Skype often. Family members and friends from both sides stepped up to make sure the Boyle family's first big vacation would happen by raising more than \$4,000 to cover the trip's expenses.

In Cortland, the picture of Clara that Stephens set as his computer desktop wallpaper and the dog tag he wears with her name on it kept him counting down the days.

Stephens rearranged his usual pre-game routine ahead of the Brockport contest and met the Boyles in person for the first time — "a moment of pure happiness and relief" in his own words — just before his head coach delivered the victory talk to both families.

"Most wish to be blessed," MacNeill told the small group. "Those involved in a higher cause look to be blessings."

On the field that day, Stephens and the Boyle family all served among the team's captains. Clara received her own toddler-sized Cortland jersey with Stephens' name and No. 34 on it. And Stephens, for his part, finished with arguably the best game of his college career in picking up a few special teams tackles and getting his hand on a blocked punt.

"We felt so proud to be Clara's parents, so fortunate to have met such wonderful people like John and his family, so



SUNY Cortland junior John Stephens met 2-year-old Clara Boyle in person for the first time before his football team's Oct. 13 game. Brooke Boyle, Clara's mother, also is pictured.

lucky to make the trip," Brooke Boyle said. "I still get teary-eyed thinking about it."

The eventual 45-27 win that Cortland put up on the scoreboard paled in importance to the day and a half that followed, when Stephens spent as much time as he could with Clara and her family. They shared meals, tasted fall treats at Hollenbeck's Cider Mill and took in Ithaca's waterfalls together.

In those precious moments, John Stephens and Clara Boyle both touched their life's blessing in person.

For Clara, Stephens' bone marrow donation quite literally saved her life. And for Stephens, the toddler's triumph turned him from a somewhat shy, soft-spoken observer into an emotional leader.

"It's not every day that you meet someone so young who has been through so much," he said.

The toughest part of the entire process for Stephens wasn't making the decision to donate his bone marrow or the extraction process that left him with temporary back pain.

"The hardest part was saying goodbye Sunday evening," he said, noting that the visit wasn't a one-time thing and that the families will see each other again when the Stephens visit California this summer. "They had traveled thousands of miles just to see me, so I know I needed to take in every moment."

Clara was asleep by the time the Boyles arrived at their hotel, so her football hero carried her to bed and offered a gentle kiss goodnight. Stephens took the weekend's memories with him to go along with the sense of purpose that Clara has provided him.

Often, he thinks back to their first phone conversation and the first time he heard her voice.

"Clara said: 'Thank you for my bone marrow,'" Stephens remembered. "It was incredible to hear that from a 2-year-old, not even close to anything sports- or football-related."

"It's something a lot higher than sports," he said. "It's life."

Class Notes

HOW TO SEND CLASS NOTES

We enjoy hearing from you and encourage you to continue sending us your news. Please use our online form, available at cortland.edu/alumniupdate. Those without Internet access should fill out the Class Notes information form on Page 22 completely and send information to the Alumni Affairs Office, SUNY Cortland, P.O. Box 2000, Cortland, NY 13045, or by email at alumni@cortland.edu.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please withhold written submissions announcing your important life accomplishments until after the fact, when we will gladly report your promotion, marriage, new baby, etc. For weddings, please include the date, city and state, spouse's full name and premarital last name. For births, kindly include the exact date of birth.

WEDDING PHOTOS AND OTHER IMAGE POLICIES

Given the volume of photos and electronic images submitted to us, not all material can be used. High-resolution, digital color images are preferred. Submissions that are blurry, poorly lit, pixilated, or grainy are not likely to be published. We are unable to use PDFs, images embedded in text files and in previously printed news and magazine clippings. Please adjust digital cameras to the highest quality setting in order to meet our minimum size standard of 1 MB (megabyte) for small portraits and 3 MB for group shots.

We reserve the right to select wedding images for publication based on available space, photo quality, timeliness and the number of Cortland graduates shown in the photo. Please send your photos when announcing your wedding, as we will not publish a photo for nuptials previously announced in *Columns*.

ALUMNI REUNION 2013

Classes, beginning with their 25-year reunion, are invited to celebrate Reunion every five years. Reunion classes will gather July 12-14, 2013, on the SUNY Cortland campus. Special reunion celebrations for 2013 include the classes of 1938, 1943, 1948, 1953, 1958, 1963, 1968, 1973, 1978, 1983 and 1988. These classes, along with sisters of Nu Sigma Chi, brothers of Beta Phi Epsilon between the class years of 1927 and 1995, and members of the Half Century Club (Class of '63 and earlier), will receive Reunion registration packets in the mail. Register today to join in on the fun by visiting www.cortland.edu/reunion.

The Alumni Affairs Office reminds everyone that Reunion is open to all SUNY Cortland alumni regardless of graduation year. Alumni who are not members of the above listed groups may request a registration packet by emailing the request to alumni@cortland.edu or by calling the Alumni Affairs Office at 607-753-2516 or completing the form found at cortland.edu/reunion.

1940

Jane McIntyre Jennings is the resident pianist and choral director at the Heartfields Assisted Living Center in Fredricksburg, Va. In June 2012, she attended her 75th high school reunion, which took place in Marathon, N.Y. Retired in 1979 from teaching elementary-level children at Groton Central School, she has lived at Heartfields since 1999.

1949

The National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association inducted **Otis Sennett '49, M '59** of Baldwinsville, N.Y., into its 2012 Hall of Fame in December in San Antonio, Texas. Otis, who was inducted in 1986 into the SUNY Cortland C-Club Hall of Fame, is retired as Baldwinsville High School's athletic director. After he joined the district in 1949, Otis began as an elementary physical education teacher and coach of four sports. He guided the school's athletics from 1954 to 1983 and held the rare distinction of

being the only New York state high school athletic director to be honored nationally by both the interscholastic coaches and athletic administrators organizations. Among many accomplishments, he is credited with successfully developing girls athletics to be accepted into varsity and junior varsity programs. The National Athletic Administrators Association honored him with its Distinguished Service Award for his role in establishing the organization in New York state in 1983. He also was presented two New York State Coaches Special Honor Awards, in 1969 and 1982. After retirement, for 17 years he continued his involvement as Section III executive director, with duties that encompassed 106 high schools. He was instrumental in developing the majority of the Section III administrative policies, rules and by-laws. The New York State Athletic Administrators Association created an award of excellence in his name in 2005. In 2008, he was inducted into the New York State Public High School Athletic Association Hall of Fame.

1955

U.S. Navy **Cmdr. George McCabe** was inducted in August into the Cincinnati Tennis Hall of Fame for winning several national titles in singles and doubles competitions and three world titles in doubles matches. George traveled to Croatia in September as captain of the Gardnar Mulloy Cup Team for 80-year-old players that was among the 10 U.S. teams competing in the Super Senior World Championships.

Members of the Class of 1955 gathered for a second year with a dinner cruise on the "Canandaigua Lady" in the Finger Lakes, wrote **Rosa "Rosie" La Sorte Rich**. The alumni were treated to lunch as well as an opportunity for a boat ride, kayaking or swimming in Keuka Lake at the summer cottage of Phil and **Dolores Halliday Reynolds**. Also attending were **Robert "Bob" Lewis**, **Marilyn Knowles Dixon**, **Clarence Mephram**, **Helgi Laett Mephram '57**, **Constance "Connie" Saulsbury Tilroe** and **Catherine "Cathy" Panto Welner**. A third annual mini-reunion is planned for next July. Contact Rosie or Bob for details.

1957



Four former classmates from 1957 who also were Nu Sigma Chi sisters met at the Saratoga Racetrack in July. Present, from the left, were **Margaret Murray Cashen**, **Patricia O'Sullivan Stark**, **Valerie "Val" Tietje** and **Margaret "Pinky" Young Morahan**.

1960



For almost two years, sopranos **Barbara "Bobbie" Kilian Bernstein '60**, shown on the left, and **Rebecca Gordon Pullman '72** sang together, often side by side, in the Church by the Sea choir at Madeira Beach, Fla., never realizing they had something else in common besides congregational fellowship. A chance conversation about "Cortland apples" led to the discovery that sparked a mini-meltdown of hugs and happiness in the choir room.

1961

Jeffrey Smythe and **Linda Healey Smythe** of Pinehurst, N.C., celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in July with a family cruise to the Virgin Islands. The couple met in their first year of college and married on July 7, 1962. They have two sons, grown and married, and two grandsons. Jeff was an athletic director for large schools in New York state and retired in 1995. **Margaret "Peggy" Plaumann Larson** and **Roy Larson '62** marked 50 years of marriage in June 2011 at the Mohonk Mountain House in New Paltz, N.Y. Present were their four children and spouses and all 11 of their grandchildren.

1968

REUNION 2013

Fern Yasser Kupfer retired in 2011 from Iowa State University, where she had taught creative writing.



Susan Lewis Levine '65, **Evelyn Meyerson Adler '65**, **Miriam Pisk Miller '65** and **Ruth Klein Gach '65** and their husbands got together last August in Poughkeepsie, N.Y. The friends are shown, from the left in the photo above. The women are friends from childhood, former Alpha Delta sorority sisters, Cortland classmates and were all elementary education majors. In July, Miriam also discovered Cortland connections with William Hopkins, professor emeritus of psychology, and **Dorothy Hanson Hopkins M '73** at the annual Shaker Seminar in the Winterthur Museum, Garden and Library in Delaware. Additionally, on a two-week tour in Turkey, Miriam made connections with **Miriam Lasky Greenspan '69**, with whom she shares, besides a first name, her major.

1969

Wayne Bayer recently was elected vice president of the New York State Public Employees Federation (PEF), the largest professional staff public employee union in the United States. He previously served PEF as a shop steward, Executive Board representative and chairman of the PEF Capital District and PEF/ New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, Division 169 Political Action Committees. Wayne has master's degrees in education from the University of Vermont and in public administration from the Rockefeller College of Public Affairs at SUNY Albany.

Gail Woyke Hill was named the head men's and women's tennis coach at Wesley College in Delaware last January. A retired science teacher, Gail coached both tennis and field hockey at Lake Forest (Del.) High School for 20 years and brought home a pair of Southern Division and Henlopen Conference titles. A five-sport athlete at SUNY Cortland, she excelled at tennis, lacrosse, gymnastics, field hockey and track and field.



Classmates gathered in 2012 for their annual reunion at the summer home of **Shirley Lenker '54** in Southampton, N.Y. This marks the 35th year this group has been celebrating together. Present, from the left, were **Jane Fraser Record '54**, **Barbara Hill Kingsley '54**, **Shirley**, **Madeline Stossel Allopenna '53**, **Jean McDougall Strothmann '53**, **Mary Burleigh McDonald '54** and **Wilda Bovee MacKnight '54**.

1972

Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education (NASPA) has named **Raymond Franco '72, M '75** to receive its 2013 Scott Goodnight Award for Outstanding Performance as a Dean Award. He retired in August from SUNY Cortland and was designated vice president emeritus for student affairs and institutional advancement. He was honored in March at the association's annual conference awards conference in Orlando, Fla. Raymond was selected as an exemplary senior student affairs officer for his tenacity, vision and compassion in creating a dynamic and thriving environment for SUNY Cortland students, administrators and faculty members; in addition to serving as a role model for student affairs practitioners in general. "Throughout his career, Dr. Franco learned and lived every aspect of student affairs — and he generously shared his knowledge and skills with others," wrote SUNY Cortland President Erik J. Bitterbaum in his letter of support. Raymond focused on raising funds to create a vibrant student life, health and wellness center, secured more than \$20 million in funds for the institution's foundation despite the recent recession, mentored students and administrators to excel in the student affairs profession, frequently presented at regional and national student affairs conferences, and taught courses on leadership to students over the course of 25 years. He also served as project director for a \$250,000 federal alcohol awareness grant, was a member of the Multicultural and Gender Studies Council, chaired the Fall Freshman Conference and served as president of the SUNY Housing Administrators. The award is given to an administrator who has demonstrated sustained professional service in student affairs work, high-level competency in administrative skills, innovative response in meeting students' varied and emerging needs, effectiveness in developing junior staff members and leadership in community and university affairs.

1974

Virginia Carney Corbett retired in June 2010 as a physical education/adaptive physical education teacher from Katonah-Lewisboro School in Katonah, N.Y., after serving 30 years.

1975

In late October, **Nancy White Dinicolantonio** started a new job in manufacturing support at General Motors International Operations in Shanghai, China.

1977

Scott Israel ran successfully as the Democratic candidate for Broward County (Fla.) sheriff in November. Broward, home to Ft. Lauderdale and more than 1.7 million people, is the second most populated county in Florida. Scott retired as police chief of North Bay Village in 2008 after serving 25 years in the Fort Lauderdale Police Department and retiring with the rank of captain/S.W.A.T. commander.



Several graduates from the 1970s and three of their children who later also graduated from Cortland gathered in May 2012 at the NCAA lacrosse championship. Present, in the front row from the left, were **Michael Millstein '11**, **Barbara Faigin Millstein '77** and **Alyssa Tyson '12**; and back row, **Fritz Favorule '76**, **Shawn McDonald '75**, **Stuart Millstein '07**, **Christopher Tyson '75** and **George Weissman '76**.

1985

Marsha Tureski Riggs retired from the Sumter (N.C.) School District in June 2012 as a deaf/hard-of-hearing teacher after serving the school for 33 years.



Lollypop Farm, the Humane Society of Greater Rochester, N.Y., added **Robert Salmon '78** to its board of directors to oversee one of the area's oldest and best-loved charities. Robert currently directs corporate communications for Carestream Health and has served in a variety of leadership roles at companies including Ketchum public relations and marketing in New York City, ViaHealth in Rochester and Eastman Kodak Company. He has a management certificate from Rochester Institute of Technology and is a past member of the board of directors of Medical Motor Services, Rochester.

1981

Sheila Dugan Snyder was one of six recent Golden Apple recipients chosen from among 3,000 educators at the Collier County School District in Naples, Fla. Teachers are nominated, observed and interviewed throughout the school year, and scored on effectiveness of classroom management, curriculum, instruction quality, student-teacher relationships and other areas. Sheila teaches special education. Sheila writes: "I am grateful to be able to do something I love, teach. It all started at Cortland."



The Rochester, N.Y.-based law firm of Harter Secrest & Emery recently promoted **Anne Majewski Wells '81** to assistant director of marketing and client services. She joined the company in 2005 with extensive experience in financial, legal and not-for-profit marketing. She lives in Brighton, N.Y., with her husband and two daughters.

1982

Robert Hofmann of Waterbury, Vt., was elected vice chair of the board of directors of Vermont Public Television (VPT), Vermont's statewide public television network. Robert is senior vice president and senior operations officer for Union Bank in Morrisville, Vt.



Geri Knortz '74 writes that six former Theta Phi Alpha sorority sisters gathered recently at her Hinesburg, Vt., home to celebrate the 60th birthdays of four of the group and a reunion of all six who participated in the study abroad program at the Deutsche Sporthochschule in Cologne, Germany, in 1973 and 1974. The three-day weekend featured a "double trifecta" of events, six activities to celebrate their sixth-decade birthday: hiking, biking, kayaking, golfing, swimming and "German bier trinken." The gathering was inspired by the 65-mile walk of Theta Phi sister **Patricia Sullivan '69** of Stamford, Vt., earlier this summer, to celebrate her 65th birthday. The walk took place in southern Vermont and various friends, sorority sisters and other Cortland alumni walked with her on each of the six days. Attending, from the left, were: **Karen Uhlendorf '75** of Hyde Park, Vt.; Geri; **Carol Willenbrock '74** of Las Vegas; **Susan Zawacki '74** of Brandon, Conn.; **Theresa "Teri" Tiso '74** of Miller Place, N.Y.; and **Susan "Sue" Knapp '76** of Fayetteville, N.Y. Susan and "Sue" are shown wearing their actual Deutsche Sporthochschule athletic garb.

1978

Marie Richardson Green, a financial advisor with Edward Jones Investments, received the company's "Spirit of Caring Award" in August. The award recognizes financial advisors who exemplify the values, culture and spirit of giving back. Only 178 of the firm's 12,000-plus financial advisors received that honor. Marie is married to **Lawrence "Larry" Green '77**. They live in Cortlandt Manor, N.Y., and have four children.

INSIGHT Into Diversity magazine presented its first-ever Higher Education Excellence in Diversity (HEED) award to the State University of New York system, whose diversity office is run by **Carlos Medina**. "Aligning SUNY's strategic planning goals with the diverse communities the system serves has helped us recognize new opportunities to build strong pathways between diversity and academic excellence," said Carlos. "It is deeply rewarding to see SUNY be nationally recognized for its diversity efforts, something we're very passionate about." Carlos heads the system's Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. *INSIGHT Into Diversity*, the oldest and largest diversity-focused publication in higher education, also presented the award to SUNY Brockport.

1976

"These past five retirement years in Sarasota County, Fla., have far exceeded my expectations," wrote **Kenneth Dittmar**. "Besides the great weather, my wife and I enjoy playing and watching tennis. My nephew plays professionally and we enjoy seeing him play at the Sarasota Open and on television. Our last celebration was my mother's 90th birthday and she is doing so well."

John Gratto retired in August as superintendent of schools in Sag Harbor, N.Y. He has begun a new position at Virginia Tech as an assistant professor in the graduate school of education, teaching classes in educational leadership.

1973

Classmates may recall **Bruce Casagrande '73, M '78** as an outstanding lacrosse attackman in the early 1970s, but since Superstorm Sandy the residents of Lindenhurst, N.Y., have thought of him as their guardian angel. Bruce, of Amityville, N.Y., was the subject of a Nov. 10 *Newsday* profile. Bruce grew up in Lindenhurst and, after the storm, looked for ways to help his old neighborhood. The owner of Auto Emporium in Amityville, he distributed warm meals and clothing. He also gave out gasoline, propane, kerosene, firewood and his own creation, a car battery converter that gives residents a few days' worth of power. Bruce created a website that aimed to connect specific needs with people looking to help, campbulldog.net.



Edward Stendardi, Jr. '72 and his wife, **Deborah Maguire Stendardi '72**, met with Delta Kappa Beta alumni and their spouses in June at the home of **Richard "Rich" Kincaid '71** and his wife, Sharon, in Spencerport, N.Y. Gathered were, from the left, Ed, Debbie, **Vincent Daniele '69**, Jim Schweis, Kathleen Daniele, Sharon, Rich and **Steven Heinz '72**.

The National Park Service (NPS) has selected **Celeste Bernardo-Dunn** as the new superintendent of Lowell National Historical Park (NHP) in Massachusetts. Created in 1978, Lowell NHP is an interpretive park woven from a variety of historic sites, 19th century textile mills, preserved canals, museums and landmarks to tell the story of the American Industrial Revolution. Celeste, a 25-year park service veteran, began her new duties in June 2012. She worked at the park from 1992 to 1995 as a supervisory park ranger and has called Massachusetts home in a host of other NPS assignments. Most recently, Celeste served as deputy superintendent at Boston National Historical Park and Boston African American National Historic Site. Prior to that, she served as superintendent at New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park and education director for the private, nonprofit U.S.S. Constitution Museum at the Charlestown Navy Yard. While she was there, the Constitution museum earned the National Award for Museum and Library Service, awarded by former First Lady Laura Bush, to recognize the museum's commitment to public service, exemplary and innovative programs and community partnerships. She currently sits on the National Park Service Education Council.

James Costa received a one-year fellowship in May 2012 at the Berlin Institute for Advanced Study to research Charles Darwin's original experiments and study how they can be used to enhance education today. The fellowship will enable James, a biology professor at Western Carolina University and executive director of the Highlands Biological Station, to complete research needed for a book now under contract with Harvard University Press. The institute where he will be a fellow is a nonprofit research institute supported by an association of organizations that include the major research bodies of the Federal Republic of Germany, the Prussian Cultural Heritage Foundation and the Berlin universities. James was named a Distinguished Alumnus in 2012.

1986

Renee Spear '86, M '91 began her duties as the new executive director at Catholic Charities of Tompkins/Tioga in October. Formerly a residential manager for Catholic Charities of Broome County, she has extensive experience in human services, including nearly 15 years of residential and clinical services at the J.M. Murray Center in Cortland.

1990

The Fulton (N.Y.) Board of Education appointed **Jeffrey Charles** as secondary assistant principal at the G. Ray Bodley High School in November. Following eight years as a physical education teacher at Christian Brothers Academy in DeWitt, N.Y., Jeffrey relocated to Texas, where he worked at three districts. Since returning to Central New York in 2009, Charles has been a physical education teacher with the Phoenix (N.Y.) Central School District.

Hoosick Falls (N.Y.) Central School football coach **Ronald Jones** has something in common with Glens Falls (N.Y.) coach **Patrick Lilac '91** and Burnt Hills (N.Y.) coach **Matthew Shell '92**: All three coaches had football teams that competed in last fall's state championship battles. All three attended and played football at SUNY Cortland. Ron and Pat even roomed together at the school. "We also were together at Norwich," said Ron of Pat.

1991

Sarah Ioele, an associate and director of business development and marketing with King + King Architects of Syracuse, N.Y., in July was certified by the Institute for Professional Excellence in Coaching (IPEC). Located in Shrewsbury, N.J., IPEC is the most prestigious program of its kind in the United States. Students complete a rigorous, yearlong graduate program of study. Graduation qualifies Sarah to become a member of the International Coaching Federation, which helps transform organizations and leaders with its unique coaching method. Sarah will serve as King + King's executive coach to help inspire others and build employee engagement.

1993

Peter Crump was honored in October with the Technology Alliance of Central New York Outstanding Teaching Award, which is intended to facilitate community awareness, appreciation and education of technology. Peter teaches fifth grade at Donlin Drive Elementary School in the Liverpool School District. He is married to **Elizabeth Mueller Crump M '93**.

Michael Pero recently became superintendent of the Pittsford (N.Y.) Central School District. Michael served as principal of Barker Road Middle School from 2005 to 2011, and has been an assistant superintendent in the district since 2011. He joined the district in 1994 as a health educator.

1995

Lt. Col. Michael Fitzgerald has served the United States Marine Corps in many capacities since graduating, including two tours of duty in Iraq. In March 2012, he took command of the 1st Supply Battalion at Camp Pendleton, and was promoted to lieutenant colonel on Nov. 1.

2001

Since May, **Michelle Singletary '01, M '02** has directed Syracuse University's SummerStart and its Syracuse Success Initiative. Previously for more than five years, Michelle was an assistant director in the university's Residence Life Office.

2002

Jonathan Brown accepted a new position as senior personnel administrator with the New York State Office of Mental Health in Albany. He works directly with psychiatric centers and provides them with human resources support.

2004

Lauren Atwood of Rensselaer, N.Y., is an associate attorney in the legal practice of Girvin & Ferlazzo, P.C. in Albany, N.Y. Lauren earned her law degree from Albany Law School in 2009. In law school, she served as a senior editor of the *Albany Law Review*. She also was judicial intern to the Hon. Eugene P. Devine, J.S.C. and the Hon. David R. Homer, United States magistrate judge. At Girvin & Ferlazzo, P.C., she concentrates her practice in a variety of civil litigation matters, from commercial litigation to personal injury.

2005

Twelve classmates attended the 30th birthday party of **Kevin Demassio '05**. "Kevin married my college roommate, **Rebekah Locke Demassio '04**, in 2007," wrote **Lauren Atwood '04**, about the recent gathering.



James Peeler '04 and **Elizabeth Buscema '06** exchanged wedding vows on July 31, 2010, at Herrington Harbour on the Chesapeake Bay in Maryland. James and Elizabeth live in Solomons, Md., with their newborn son, Camden. James teaches at the elementary level and Elizabeth is a speech pathologist. Both are employed by St. Mary's County Public Schools. Attending, first row from the left, were James and Elizabeth; second row, **Tim Smith '06, Emily Fisher '07, Susan Ditttrich '09, M '10, Andrew Smith '06, M '09, Larry Peeler '70, Susan Kielawa Peeler '73, William "B.J." Carson '06, Charles "Chuck" Baldo '06** and **H. Jacob "Jake" Bluhm '04, M '11**.



Jodi Pondiscio '04 and Alexander Antunes were married on Aug. 4 in Secaucus, N.J. Present, from the left, were Emily Gibson, **Melanie Stevens '04, William Gibson '04, Jodi, Alexander, Laura Lape '04** and **Kristin Conlon '06**.

2007

Andrew Chevalier earned a Doctor of Naturopathic Medicine in June from the National College of Natural Medicine in Portland, Ore. Andrew now practices natural medicine in southern New Hampshire. **Kathleen Steenburgh Ritchie** is marketing manager at Dixon Schwabl Inc., the *Democrat & Chronicle* in Rochester reported recently. Before joining Dixon Schwabl, she oversaw staffing and forecasting for a regional office of Geico Insurance. Kathleen later worked as a project manager at the University of Rochester's Warner School of Education.

2010

Christopher Ryan returned to NBA Entertainment in December 2011 after the six-month lockout. The former sport management major serves as a broadcast assistant in the NBA's Broadcast Operations Center in Secaucus, N.J. Chris is the son of **Richard Terence Ryan '76** and Denise Giachetta-Ryan. At Cortland, he was the *Dragon Chronicle's* sports editor and a singer with the Rock & Blues Ensemble.



Present, front row from the left, are: Hope Hicks, **Maura Conroy Golden '04, Amie Dean Tannuzzo '05, Lauren, Rebekah and Sabrina Wadd Pravel '06**; and, back row: **John Fiacco '04, Anthony Hockenberry '05, Kevin, Russell Yake '05, Jonathan "John" Pravel '04** and **John Tannuzzo '04**.



Rosemary Gregory '07 and **Brandon Fisher M '11** were wed on Aug. 18 in Sidney, N.Y. Graduates and current SUNY Cortland students present were, kneeling from the left, **Ryan Fries '08** and junior Cesar Gonzalez; and standing from the left were **Krystal Hills Poplawski '07, Jessica Dvorscak '07, Ryan Poplawski '07, Jennifer Murphy '08, Kara Lewandowski '08, Rosemary, Brandon, Katie Liberatore '08, junior Natalie Gregory** and **Katie Deck '10**.



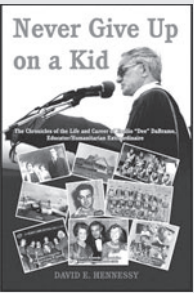
Krista Lennox '07 gathered with classmates, most of whom were former SUNY Cortland swimmers, this past summer in the Outer Banks of North Carolina. Attending, front row from the left, were **Heather Fairchild '11, Kelly Bonsted '07, Nicole LaBarge '07, Samantha Buckley '10** and Krista; and back row, **David "Dave" Dow '09, Michael "Mike" Sears '08, Jeremy Cuebas '08, Jason Wiese '07, Hiram Rhoads '09, Brett Humphreys '08, Patrick Connolly '07** and Dan Semrow.

ALUMNI IN PRINT



David Hennessy '53, bike rider for scholarships extraordinaire, is once again raising money to endow future SUNY Cortland scholarships. This time he hopes many other alumni will feel as much admiration and fondness for **Emilio “Dee” DaBramo '48** as he does, and will be inspired to honor Dee with the

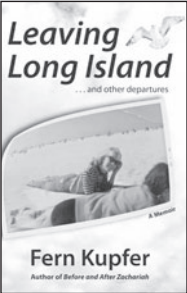
purchase of Dave’s biography of the retired Mamaroneck, N.Y., Union Free School District teacher, administrator and 1969 SUNY Cortland Distinguished Alumnus. Available through AuthorHouse, *Never Give Up on a Kid*, a 358-page book released in October, chronicles how Dee solved his high school’s dropout problem during his 45-year career. Children were failing; an endemic problem in the community’s socially, culturally and economically deprived neighborhoods. His alternative school APPLE Program — A Place where People Learn Excellence — and his Summer Co-Op Program designed for the targeted neighborhoods were a huge success. The APPLE Program achieved a 90-percent graduation rate and a resulting college graduation rate of better than 70 percent. Dee’s deeply humanitarian philosophy of “never give up on a kid,” and the organizational structure of these programs are well documented in the book and translatable to almost any school system. Dave met Dee almost by chance, long after graduation, while staying at his home in the Catskills during the course of a 1,000-mile fundraising bike ride. The pair is pictured together above, with Dee on the left. The two have a military background in common as well as a pioneering approach to the field of education: from 1958 to 1962, Dave modeled science teaching to elementary school children in multiple classrooms via television. “Although I did not experience working with Dee during his career, I feel as if I really know him well,” said Dave, who corresponded with 50 or more individuals to accomplish the publishing enterprise. “I might even say that the writing of his biography has enriched my life beyond expectation.” *Never Give Up on a Kid* can be purchased for \$19.95 as a paperback, \$31.99 hardcover and for \$3.99 as an electronic book. Dave and his wife, Milly, of Nashville, Ind., decided that all proceeds from the book sales will become a gift to the Cortland College Foundation. The text may be ordered directly through the publisher at authorhouse.com or through a Barnes & Noble retailer or from Amazon.com.



Alesia Kunz '66 recently released a speculative self-published work of fiction, *The Power of Indigo*. In a future world where fire-bombings, same sex relations and programmable SexDolls are the norm, Leila, a martial artist and resister, battles the State’s violence and mind control with astonishing creativity while trying to control her own warring compulsions. Alesia describes her novel as “a stirringly sensual, dazzling exploration of our relationship to gender, to the environment, to power and technology and an inspiring call to evolve before it is too late.” Since graduating from Cortland, Alesia has earned her M.A. and Ph.D. She has taught at the University of New Mexico, San Francisco State University and has been practicing and teaching Aikido for 30 years. She has a daughter and lives and works in the San Francisco Bay Area.



Fern Yasser Kupfer '68 has a new book, *Leaving Long Island*. “I graduated in 1968 and had three roommates named Barbara,” she wrote. “Their photos are in the book and I’m sure there are alums who would be interested.” Born in the Bronx, Fern moved with her family to suburban Long Island in the



mid-1950s. *Leaving Long Island* is the story of a woman whose life experience includes the loss of a child, the explosive end of a long marriage and the discovery of a genetic inheritance endemic to the Ashkenazi Jewish population. This second-half-of-life memoir strives to offer a compelling narrative of both pain and happy second chances. Fern’s work has appeared in *Newsweek*, *Redbook*, *Family Circle*, *Woman’s Day*, *The Women’s Review of Books*, *the Chronicle of Higher Education*, *Parents and Cosmopolitan* magazines. For more than a decade, her popular columns “Mothering” and “A Certain Age” appeared regularly in the Long Island newspaper, *Newsday*. Fern was a recipient of the Myrtle Wreath Award by the Nassau County Hadassah, the largest women’s philanthropy in the nation.

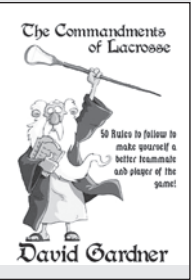
Matthew T. Mahar '81 is a co-author of the 2011 book, *Fitness for Life*, a comprehensive yet easily accessible text, designed for the general course in physical activity, fitness and health at colleges and universities. Published by Blue Door Publishing, the volume’s overall goal is to provide students with skills and knowledge necessary for behavior change. Chapters cover all of the traditional components of physical fitness, including aerobic fitness, body composition, muscular strength, endurance and flexibility. In addition, chapters focusing on

physical activity and health, exercise prescription, physical activity adherence, stress management and nutrition are written with the goal of behavior change in mind. Each chapter has associated laboratory activities that can be detached and turned in as class assignments. Matthew is a professor in the Department of Kinesiology at East Carolina University in Greenville, N.C. He also directs the university’s graduate program and the Activity Promotion Laboratory.



A new children’s book by **Donna Eychner Mucks '82** is called *Good Days Are for Walking*. “It is about our walk with cancer with our dog Tasha,” Donna wrote. “It is told through her eyes, and is meant to be a resource for children dealing with cancer in their lives. There are discussion questions and a small glossary in the back of the book.”

Since graduating, **Stefani Jackenthal '88** has traveled the world as an adventure and wine journalist. Her stories have appeared in *The New York Times*, *Outside* magazine and on NPR’s “Weekend Edition with Scott Simon.” Stefani describes her book, *Wanderlust Wining*, as a fun, delicious guide to outdoor activities, wineries and restaurants in wine regions across the United States.



David Gardner '97, M '02 played on the varsity lacrosse team all four years at SUNY Cortland, so it might not come as a surprise that he is the recent author of a book on tips for aficionados of the sport. *The Commandments of Lacrosse* offers 50 rules and strategies to follow to become a better teammate and player of the game. The commandments are good for both boys and girls lacrosse, new players and old, parents, coaches, officials and fans of the sport. “After giving my players the commandments on a single sheet of paper at the end of the year to help them improve in the off season, I developed them into an email and audio series around 2010 and turned them into a book in both physical and digital format,” David writes. Released this past July, the book is self-published through CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform.



Keep in Touch

NAME _____ CLASS YEAR _____
FIRST PRE-MARITAL LAST

ADDRESS _____

IS THIS A NEW ADDRESS? ☐ YES ☐ NO IF YES, WHEN DID IT CHANGE? _____

DATE OF BIRTH _____

EMAIL* _____ WORK PHONE _____

HOME PHONE _____ CELL PHONE _____

OCCUPATIONAL TITLE _____

NAME OF EMPLOYER _____

BUSINESS ADDRESS _____

SPOUSE/PARTNER _____ CLASS YEAR _____
FIRST PRE-MARITAL LAST

CLASS NOTES _____

PLEASE RETURN COMPLETED FORM TO: Alumni Affairs Office, SUNY Cortland, P.O. Box 2000, Cortland, NY 13045-0900 or fax to 607-753-5789 or send email to alumni@cortland.edu. Alumni also can update their alumni records by visiting cortland.edu/alumniupdate.

* By providing your email address, you are expressing an interest in receiving electronic communications from SUNY Cortland.

Alumni on Campus



Suad Joseph '66, a distinguished professor of anthropology and women's studies at University of California Davis (UC Davis), returned to campus on Dec. 7

to help faculty improve their chances of landing prestigious research grants. Suad, shown on the left in the Corey Union Exhibition Lounge, presented a seminar on "Writing Powerful Research Proposals for Today's Funding Climate." Approximately 35 faculty and staff attended. The seminar drew strongly upon her experience as a grant proposal reviewer for such agencies as the National Science Foundation, Ford Foundation, U.S. Department of Education, Canadian Research Council, and other review teams. She is the founding director of the Middle East/South Asia Studies Program at UC Davis. SUNY Cortland's Alumni Association presented her with its 1994 Distinguished Alumnus Award for her groundbreaking anthropological research in her native Lebanon and in 2011, the College named her to its Academic Hall of Fame for her outstanding scholarship both as a student and in her career. She has a strong record in the area of grants and external funding; in this field, she has been working with university faculty throughout the country on grant development and administration.

Marriages

Lauren Fiteni '03 to Gregory Verderosa on July 21 in Garden City, N.Y.
Jodi Pondiscio '04 to Alexander Antunes on Aug. 4 in Secaucus, NJ.
James Peeler '04, M '06 to **Elizabeth Buscema '06** on July 31, 2010, in Herrington Harbour, Md.
Jaclyn Ferrentino '05 to James Kiera on Aug. 11 in Orchard Park, N.Y.
Rosemary Gregory '07 to **Brandon Fisher M '11** on Aug. 18 in Sidney, N.Y.
Nicole Dovi '09 to Jonathan Hiller on June 9, 2012 in Ithaca, N.Y.
Reva Marshall '11 to Scott Morse on July 14 in Moravia, N.Y.
Emily Weddle M '08 to Mark Colvin on Aug. 6, 2011, in Homer, N.Y.

Little Dragons

Joseph M. Morse '01 and **Laura Prestopnik Morse '02**, a son, Leo Emerson, on Jan. 27, 2012.
Michelle Cairo Partenza '02 and **Joseph Partenza**, a son, Luke Joseph, on April 27, 2012.
Meaghan Wagner McDermott '03 and **Thomas McDermott '04**, a son, Kellen Thomas, on May 13, 2012.
Brenna Waldron Phillips '03 and **Keith Phillips Jr. '05**, a son, Ryan Joseph, on June 8, 2012.
James Peeler '04, M '06 and **Elizabeth Buscema '06**, a son, Camden James, on May 9, 2012.
Erin Gondeck Hodges '06 and Josh Hodges, a daughter, Elizabeth, on April 24, 2008, and a son, Edward Louis, on June 23, 2012.
Kevin Slade '06 and **Jenna DeMayo Slade '07**, a daughter, Kaylee Ann, on April 5, 2012.

In Memoriam

Edythe Dowding Knapp '32
M. Josephine Butler Zaharis '34
Lena Esther Morse Fay '36
Eleanor Badger VanLoon '36
Eleanor Smith Elliott '37
Margaret Walker Docteur '39
Dorothy Harvey Fleischman '39
Geraldine Furey Kenny '39
Virginia Sanders McGoldrick '39
Charles Witty '39
Myrtle Hurlbut Milles '40
Marie Battermann Whitehill-Mairhuber '40
Ruth Guignard Werder '42
Elinor Hunter Abrams '43
Frances Fellows '44
Phyllis Smith Pidlypchak '44
Barbara Minnis Haskell '46
Norman Richard Corbin '47
Thelma Downing Pangburn '47
Charles Schwartz '47
Marion Lucille Piper '48
Francis Redmond '48
Edith Struglia Tankersley '48
Donald Hall '48
Jean Townsend Dayton '49
Ida Frimet Greenwald '49
Gwendolyn Tinker McCabe '49
Henrietta Huxford McNeil '49
Dorothy Cristaldi Will '49
Charles Murphy '50
Joseph Carra '51
Ramona Estelle Dubick Mirabito '51
Elizabeth Connolly Raulli '51

Joseph Fink '52
Josephine Walrath Lord '52
Gerald Crowell, Jr. '53
Albert Renken '53
Louise Wavle '53
Louis Zych '53
Joan Denton Nickerson '54
Brona Barrows Sachs '54
Carl Schmidt '54
Charles Stevens '54
Allan VanNostrand '54
William Boyd '55
W. Anne Whitehouse Noll '55
William Stevenson '55
Jay Clarke '56
Kathryn Kent '56
John Lewis '57
Carolyn Pomeroy Woods '57
Phyllis Dworin Aaron Noone '58
Marion Miller '59
Frederick Smith '59
Martin VanVleet '59
James Colclough '60
MaryJane Durkee Foster '61
Roger Seibert '61
Sheila Montague '62
Ira Sheier '62
Clair Wilkins '62
Lore Dietrich Brock '63
Raymond Patten '63
Kathleen Hartnett Andrews '64
Carol Lowensberg Weissfeld '64
Angelo Perna '65

Patricia Kofka Spota '65
Ruth Haff Kirk '66
Norma Brock Patrick '68
William Pestell, Jr. '69
James Lee Skorko '70
Howard Snyder '70
Joseph O'Connor '70
Carolyn MacDonald '72
Francis Crosby '73
Carolyn Guido '73
Barbara Muscynski Phalen '73
Jeffrey Ameer '74
Theodore Brent '74
Janet Ellis '74
Earl Gilkey '75
Elizabeth Jensen '76
Joyce Marie Ruddock '76
Linda Buettner '77
Renee Sacks Keselman '78
Mary Joy Greene Sherlach '78
Frank Lenney '79
Hugh McFarland '82
Virginia Coroniti M '85
Kelly Monaco Oatman '85
John McCarthy '87
David Cooper '91
Martha Murray M '92
Robert Guzzo '02
Chad Lundwall '06

Where memories are made

Still looking for that perfect place for your wedding? The Lynne Parks '68 SUNY Cortland Alumni House offers elegant common rooms and picturesque grounds to set the scene of your special day!

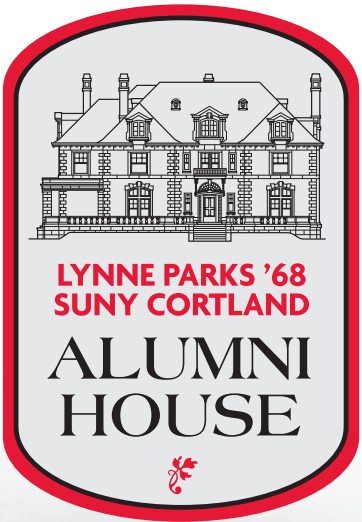
We realize that each wedding is unique and we are committed to helping you plan the details that will make your day unforgettable. Wedding packages are available that provide access to the entire grounds for a weekend. An on-site event coordinator will lead you through the planning process and can provide helpful information on services such as florists, entertainment, photography and cake specialists. From your first visit to the Parks Alumni House to your big day, our friendly staff will be on hand to help create your vision of the perfect wedding.

Our facility accommodates:

- ◆ 175 guests for an indoor mingling reception
- ◆ 75 guests for an indoor sit-down meal
- ◆ 250 guests for an outdoor mingling or seated reception

The Parks Alumni House offers:

- Beautiful, fragrant gardens for outdoor ceremonies
A large lawn area for outdoor receptions
Magnificent common rooms for indoor events
- ◆ A patio for dancing
 - ◆ Tent rentals
 - ◆ Table and chair rentals
 - ◆ Linen rentals
 - ◆ Catering options
 - ◆ Bed and breakfast accommodations
 - ◆ Seasoned and attentive staff



29 Tompkins St., Cortland, NY 13045 | 607-753-1561 | alumnihouse@cortland.edu

PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR MORE INFORMATION

cortland.edu/alumnihouse • Facebook: /ParksAlumniHouse • Twitter: SUNYAlumniHouse

Obituaries

ANDREW BANSE, a professor emeritus of music and dean of graduate studies who served the College for 33 years, died on May 19, 2012, in Fort Myers, Fla.

Banse joined the SUNY Cortland faculty in 1946 and was an educator or administrator until his retirement in 1979. At that time, he was the College's longest serving faculty member. He was dean of graduate studies and continuing education.

In 1952, Banse founded the College Community Orchestra. He was the conductor and played violin.

Banse chaired the Music Department and was acting director of elementary and secondary education, director of summer sessions and continuing education, and chair of the College Faculty Senate. In the late 1960s he established a community roundtable as a forum for the College to bring community leaders together to discuss mutual problems.

RAY BEARD, a professor emeritus of speech and theater arts, died on Dec. 7, 2011.

Beard joined the SUNY Cortland faculty in 1958. He was director of debate and forensics and served as acting chair of what was formerly called the Speech and Theater Arts Department from 1970 until 1973.

A charter member of the American Forensic Association, Beard ran the annual College debate tournament on campus for many years.

Beard assisted the SUNY Faculty Senate as parliamentarian from 1973 to 1985 and as an officer and was honored by the organization in 1988 as a "faculty senator emeritus."

At his retirement in 1985, Beard was an elected member of the Cortland County Legislature from Homer, N.Y. He moved to Lady Lake, Fla.

FRANK A. BURDICK of Cortland, a professor emeritus of history who was a noted expert in the Vietnam War era, died on Jan. 19.

Burdick retired from SUNY Cortland in 1998 after a 34-year career and subsequently taught part-time at the College for an additional 15 years.

A Brooklyn native and Korean War veteran, in August 1963 he attended the march on Washington and heard Martin Luther King Jr. give his "I Have a Dream" speech. Burdick joined the College that year but took a two-year sabbatical in 1964 to pursue his doctorate in history at University of Iowa. He returned to the College in 1966 as an assistant professor, eventually rising to the rank of professor in 1980.

Burdick served the College as acting associate dean of arts and sciences during 1985 and again from 1988 to 1990. He also chaired the History Department.

He was recalled as a popular teacher who held his students to the highest academic standards. His strong commitment to students was honored with the establishment of the Frank Burdick Scholarship in 2002, which was made possible by two former students, Margaret Palmer Young '85 and Charles Young '85.

Burdick developed the African American Studies concentration in Social Studies and designed one of the first college courses on the Vietnam War. He reviewed numerous books on the war and wrote several articles on the military's role in the development of war strategies and tactics. He also won three National Endowment for the Humanities fellowships for further research on the war and spent one summer on a fellowship at the United States Military Academy at West Point.

In the late 1970s, he received a New York State Council on the Arts grant to create Cortland County's first oral history project.

He initiated the program that provided the foundation for the College's current Educational Opportunity Program. Between 1979 and 1983, Burdick was president of the SUNY Cortland Chapter of the United University Professions.

Contributions in his name can be made to the Cortland College Foundation, directed to the Frank A. Burdick scholarship fund at SUNY Cortland, P.O. Box 2000, Cortland, NY 13045.

MARCIA CARLSON of Virgil, N.Y., a professor emerita of recreation and leisure studies who served the College for more than 26 years, died June 12, 2012.

Carlson joined the SUNY Cortland faculty in 1962 and held teaching and administrative positions until her retirement in 1988. She developed the department's Outdoor Education Practicum at Camp Huntington and coordinated it for many years. The program remains a model for current majors. She also spearheaded the creation of the College's interdisciplinary minor in outdoor education.

Carlson worked with countless organizations, including the Boy Scouts and the Girl Scouts, to instill a love and respect for the outdoors.

She was recognized nationally as a pioneer and noted authority in the field of outdoor education. Carlson was an active leader in numerous professional organizations, including national,

statewide and regional chapters of the American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance (AAHPERD) national. She was a charter member of the New York State Outdoor Education Association. A camping consultant, she was a popular presenter for many groups and organizations throughout her career.

Carlson received many national and statewide awards for her extensive work in the field of outdoor education. In 1984, she was presented the Outstanding College/University Teacher of the Year Award by the Eastern District Association of AAHPERD. In 1986, Carlson received the Julian W. Smith Award, the most prestigious national honor bestowed by the National Council on Outdoor Education. For significant contributions to the field, she received the 1992 Harlan "Gold" Metcalf Award by the New York State Outdoor Education Association. When Carlson retired, the Recreation, Parks and Leisure Studies Department established an award in her honor.

Carlson's strong commitment to Camp Huntington and outdoor education led to the naming in 2000 of a new classroom at the Raquette Lake facility, the Marcia K. Carlson Classroom.

Contributions in her name may be directed to the Cortland College Foundation, Inc., for the enrichment of the Dr. Marcia K. Carlson Classroom, Brockway Hall, SUNY Cortland, P.O. Box 2000, Cortland, NY 13045.

JOHN E. FORSTER, an associate professor of health, had served the College for 24 years at the time of his death on Jan. 19 following a long illness.

Forster joined the College in 1989 as an assistant professor in the Health Department and was promoted to his current rank in 1996.

Widely recognized for his superb teaching abilities, Forster specialized in research methods, health behavior and public health statistics. During one sabbatical, he wrote a textbook on quantitative research and statistics.

A frequent presenter for student groups, Forster lectured on wellness topics including smoking cessation and alcohol and drugs education.

He made a number of regional and national presentations for the American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance as well as the American Public Health Association. Within the community, he was a board member of the American Cancer Society and the American Heart Association. Forster also was an avid runner.

His wife, Robyn Forster, a SUNY Cortland counselor and coordinator

of the substance abuse prevention and education program, and two sons, survive him.

ALAN HAGER of Chicago, a professor emeritus of English who served the College for 11 years, died on Dec. 15.

Before coming to SUNY Cortland in 1993, he taught at Loyola University and the University of Oklahoma.

An authority on 16th to 18th century British literature, Hager was a prolific scholar and researcher. His insightful published works spanned poetry, prose and drama genres and included articles on Shakespeare, Milton, Sir Philip Sidney and major authors of the Tudor Era. He wrote nine books on Shakespeare, Milton, Sydney and other 16th to 18th century authors as well as many articles and book reviews.

He retired in 2004. The recipient of several awards, Hager was very active in professional organizations, making scores of presentations, chairing the renaissance section of the International Society for Neoplatonic Studies and organizing the Central Renaissance Conference in Chicago.

CATHERINE HANCHETT, a senior assistant librarian emerita, died on Feb. 29, 2012, in Chapel Hill, N.C.

She joined the Memorial Library staff in 1973. During her 16 years, she helped the staff through the long process of ushering in the age of computerized cataloging. She retired in 1989.

She never stopped learning, doing research on the Glen Haven community near Cortland and on McGraw's New York Central College, a racially integrated institution of higher learning operated by abolitionists from 1849 to 1860. Both projects are still referenced by scholars.

Hanchett's late husband was Walter Hanchett, professor emeritus of history. Catherine Hanchett made gifts to SUNY Cortland to establish a scholarship in her husband's memory, the Walter S. Hanchett Award for Social Studies/History.

PATRICIA SHEDD, a professor emerita of English who served the College for 15 years, died on Sept. 18 in Southington, Conn.

As a junior at Keene State College, she was among the first women to join the New Hampshire Civil Air Patrol. After successfully petitioning the college president, she became the only woman among naval cadets to take classes and flight training, leading to a private pilot's license for which she was certified in 1943.

Shedd joined SUNY Cortland in 1970. She initiated and taught the College's first course on women in literature. In addition to teaching, she supervised student teachers and organized conferences of teachers from central New York schools.

For several years, Shedd served as co-editor of *Choice*, the newsletter of the Cortland Coalition of Women of Choice. Highlights of her career are included in *Feminists Who Changed America 1963-1975*, an encyclopedia of leaders in the "second wave" women's movement. She retired in 1985.

LAWRENCE SMITH, an associate professor emeritus of mathematics who served the College for 34 years, died on Jan. 17 in Syracuse, N.Y.

A native of Queens, N.Y., he joined the Mathematics Department in 1961.

Smith specialized in functional analysis and received several National Science Foundation Faculty Fellowships to pursue his research in computer science, algebra and geometry.

He participated for many years in the joint summer meetings of the American Mathematical Society and the Mathematical Association of America.

Smith previously taught high school mathematics.

LOUIS VANARIA, a professor emeritus of American history who served the College for more than 33 years, died on Sept. 30 in Port St. Lucie, Fla.

Vanaria was recruited in 1957 to become the College's first professor of secondary social studies methods. He led the development of the graduate studies program for educators and created both the Master of Science in Education and the Master of Arts in Teaching programs in secondary social studies. Vanaria chaired the History Department from 1970 to 1979, coordinated the visiting Asian Scholars Program, taught an extremely popular New York state history class and served on many College committees.

For 25 years, Vanaria was the book review editor for *Social Education*, the official journal of the national Council for Social Studies. As a member of the Cortland Historical Society, he wrote essays on Italian immigrants. For many years he contributed an annual Columbus Day letter to the editor in *The Cortland Standard*, expertly chronicling the continuing significance of the famous explorer's voyages.

As a member of the Cortland City Planning Commission, Vanaria chaired the Zoning Task Force and assisted in implementing a major revision of the city zoning ordinance in 1978.

He retired from the College in 1990.

Arbor Day project takes root

BY FREDERIC PIERCE Editor

The lyrics of SUNY Cortland's alma mater begin with the phrase, "By lofty elm trees shaded round." So it was fitting that College President Erik J. Bitterbaum and other campus community members gathered April 26 beneath the limbs of a majestic elm near the Miller Building — a Scot's elm (*Ulmus glabra*) to be exact — to launch both an ambitious campus tree-naming program and an annual Arbor Day celebration.

A nameplate identifying the species of the tree and providing a QR code linking to additional information was the first of dozens of identifying labels that the College hopes to post on different trees during the 2013-14 academic year.

Together, the labeled trees will make up a new "Campus Tree Walk" that inquisitive strollers can explore with a smartphone, iPad or other device able to read QR codes. In all, SUNY Cortland's sprawling campus includes about 1,500 trees, according to Professor Steven Broyles, chair of the Biological Sciences Department and a member of the campus Tree Advisory Committee.

"We want to demonstrate that we understand and value the importance of trees in providing a healthy and sustainable environment," Bitterbaum said. "Starting this year, we will formally recognize Arbor Day on campus. Eventually, we hope to be designated as a "Tree Campus USA."

Ninety college campuses across the country are designated as a "Tree Campus" by the national Arbor Day Foundation. In the State University of New York system, only the SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry in Syracuse has that honor, which indicates a campus' trees are effectively managed and its students both understand the value of trees and are engaged in their support.

"The campus recognizes that trees are an economic, as well as an aesthetic, asset," said Broyles, noting that the towering elm on which he and President Bitterbaum screwed a temporary version of the sign pulls about 2,000 pounds of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere every year.



Bitterbaum and Professor Steven Broyles attach an informational nameplate to an elm tree outside the Miller Building during SUNY Cortland's first Arbor Day ceremony.

One of the elements of SUNY Cortland's application for the designation is an annual campus recognition of Arbor Day. Bitterbaum began that new tradition that day, pledging to celebrate on campus the importance of trees to the environment every Arbor Day.

Winter season spotlight

By FRAN ELIA *Sports Information Director*



It was a hot winter for SUNY Cortland athletes, who earned national recognition in gymnastics, wrestling and swimming. The men's basketball team, meanwhile, won its first SUNYAC title in 13 years. Here's a look at some of the best moments from the 2012-13 winter campaign.

Gymnast wins all-around and vault national titles

Senior women's gymnast Sarah Nadrowski of Buffalo, N.Y., won two individual national titles during an exciting winter season for the SUNY Cortland athletic teams. Nadrowski concluded her stellar career in storybook fashion when she won both the all-around and vault titles at the 2013 National Collegiate Gymnastics Association (NCGA) Division III Championships in Whitewater, Wis. Nadrowski earned four All-America honors at the meet and 12 All-America awards overall as a Red Dragon. She also was named Eastern College Athletic Conference (ECAC) Division III Women's Gymnast of the Year for the second straight year after winning league all-around, vault and uneven bars crowns. Junior Courtney Mangini of Commack, N.Y., finished second nationally on floor exercise. She is a seven-time All-American in three seasons. Junior Stephanie Sladky also picked up an All-America award on floor exercise. Head coach Gary Babjack, in his 15th season at Cortland, was named the NCGA Division III Coach of the Year after guiding the Red Dragons to a third-place national finish — the program's best since 2008.

Men's hoops wins 1st SUNYAC title since 2000

Behind the strength of a senior-laden roster, the Cortland men's basketball team finished with a 24-5 record, won its first SUNYAC title in 13 years and advanced to the second round of the NCAA Division III tournament. Under the direction of 18-year head coach Tom Spanbauer '83, the Red Dragons tied a school record for victories in a season. They captured the SUNYAC regular-season title, then hosted and won the league postseason tournament with double-digit wins over Oswego and Plattsburgh. Cortland won its NCAA opener versus Elms College in convincing fashion, 85-59, before losing to Middlebury in a 67-63 heartbreaker in the second round. Jesse Winter of Rockville Centre, N.Y. — one of the team's five seniors — earned first-team All-East and All-SUNYAC honors. He averaged 15.3 points per game and became Cortland's career scoring leader with 1,525 points. Senior Jeremy Smith of the Bronx led the Red Dragons with 15.5 points per game. The second-team All-SUNYAC guard finished sixth in career scoring at 1,362 points. Spanbauer was named both the SUNYAC and East Region Coach of the Year.

Three wrestlers earn national honors

Senior Jared Myhrberg of Queensbury, N.Y., freshman Bobby Dierna of Webster, N.Y., and sophomore Lou Puca of Huntington, N.Y., all earned All-America honors at the 2013 NCAA Division III Wrestling Championships in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Myhrberg finished third nationally at 197 pounds for the second straight year. He finished the season with a 39-2 record and completed his collegiate career with a 117-20 mark to rank second at Cortland in victories. He also set a school record with 51 career pins. Dierna, the Empire Collegiate Wrestling Conference (ECWC) Rookie of the Year, placed third nationally at 149 pounds. He concluded the year with a 35-3 record. Puca finished sixth nationally at 174 pounds and ended the season 30-7. Led by 11th-year head coach Brad Bruhn, the Red Dragons finished ninth in the final national team standings — their fifth top-10 showing since 2004. The team also set a new school record for dual-match wins with an 18-2 record.



Senior Sarah Nadrowski won national titles in the all-around and on vault at the National Collegiate Gymnastics Association Division III Championships. She completed her four years at Cortland with 12 All-America honors and was a two-time ECAC Division III Gymnast of the Year honoree.

PHOTO BY DARRYL ZEHRE PHOTOGRAPHY

Sarah Culmo earns swimming accolades

Junior Sarah Culmo of West Islip, N.Y., capped a shining season by earning honorable mention All-America recognition in both an individual event and a relay at the 2013 NCAA Division III Women's Swimming and Diving Championships in Shenandoah, Texas. Culmo finished 15th nationally in the 50-yard freestyle with a time of 23.69 seconds after posting a school-record time of 23.65 seconds in the event's preliminaries. She also teamed with senior Jessica Evans of Hamburg, N.Y., junior M.K. Dugue of Binghamton, N.Y., and sophomore Michaela Auer of Oswego, N.Y., to finish 12th in the 200-yard freestyle relay. The Red Dragons, under 11th-year head coach Brian Tobin '94, finished 37th in the final national team standings and placed second at the SUNYAC Championships — their best league finish since 2007. Culmo won league titles in the 50-yard freestyle and 100-yard freestyle, as did the aforementioned 200-yard freestyle relay quartet.

Other winter highlights...

- Brian Tobin's men's swimming and diving team won its first SUNYAC title since 1998, ending Geneseo's 14-year reign as league champion. Tobin was named SUNYAC Coach of the Year. Senior Justin Nelson of Jamestown, N.Y., freshman Mathew Hasbrouck of New Paltz, N.Y., and freshman Andrew Cremer of Blue Point, N.Y., all broke school individual-event records at the meet.
- The women's indoor track and field team won its second straight SUNYAC title and its 16th overall. Seventh-year head coach Steve Patrick '97 earned SUNYAC Coach of the Year honors. Junior Sarah Bonnell of Norwich, N.Y., set a meet record in the long jump at 18' 11.25" and senior Amber Stephens of Stony Point, N.Y., broke her own school record in the triple jump with 38' 9.75".



Senior guard Jesse Winter helped lead the Cortland men's basketball team to a 24-5 record and its first league title since 2000. He was named first-team All-East and All-SUNYAC, and he finished as Cortland's career scoring leader with 1,525 points.

PHOTO BY DARRYL ZEHRE PHOTOGRAPHY

Complete coverage of SUNY Cortland's 25 varsity athletic programs is available online at:
cortlandreddragons.com

Eight 2012 teams compete in NCAA postseason

By FRAN ELIA *Sports Information Director*

Highlighted by the SUNY Cortland football team's third straight victory over Ithaca in the annual Cortaca Jug game, four Red Dragon fall sports teams advanced to NCAA postseason play in 2012. The autumn's athletic accomplishments followed a similar winning spring season by SUNY Cortland teams. Four sports teams earned NCAA tournament berths in the spring of 2012.

Here are some highlights from that successful year.

Dramatic goal-line stand wins Cortaca Jug

Cortland stopped Ithaca College on a 4th-down play from inside the 1-yard line in the game's final minute to earn the Red Dragons a 16-10 win in the annual Cortaca Jug rivalry football game in November. The victory at the SUNY Cortland Stadium Complex gave Cortland a three-game winning streak in the series for the first time since 1966-68.

That heart-stopping win was just one of many thrilling moments during the Red Dragons' 9-2 football season. Cortland bounced back from an opening-day loss to win nine straight games, including a 20-19 home win over Framingham State of Massachusetts in the NCAA tournament's first round. Cortland was eliminated the following week and tied for ninth place nationally.

Football coach Dan MacNeill '79, in his 16th season at the Red Dragon helm, led the team to a 7-0 record in the New Jersey Athletic Conference (NJAC) for the program's sixth league first-place finish. He was named the NJAC Coach of the Year as he guided the program to its eighth NCAA showing.

Senior offensive tackle Mike Wutzer of Colonie, N.Y., was chosen as a D3football.com honorable mention All-American. Wutzer, senior offensive guard Randy Bloom of Orchard Park, N.Y.; senior cornerback Pete Furey of Niskayuna, N.Y.; and junior kicker/punter Mike DeBole of Webster, N.Y., each earned All-East honors.

Cortland averaged 33 points and nearly 400 yards of offense per game. Furey led the team with five interceptions. DeBole made a school-record 16 field goals, hit 36-of-37 point-after kicks and averaged 40.1 yards per punt.

Volleyball team wins third straight SUNYAC crown

The Cortland women's soccer and women's volleyball teams each claimed SUNYAC titles and made return trips to NCAA tournament play during the 2012 fall season.

The volleyball team posted a 34-6 record for its sixth 30-win season in eight years. Cortland swept Fredonia and host Buffalo State in straight sets to win its third straight SUNYAC title and 19th overall. Eighth-year head coach Pam Hoerup '90 was named SUNYAC Coach of the Year for the second consecutive season.

Cortland advanced to the second round in its 24th NCAA tournament appearance and tied for 17th nationally.

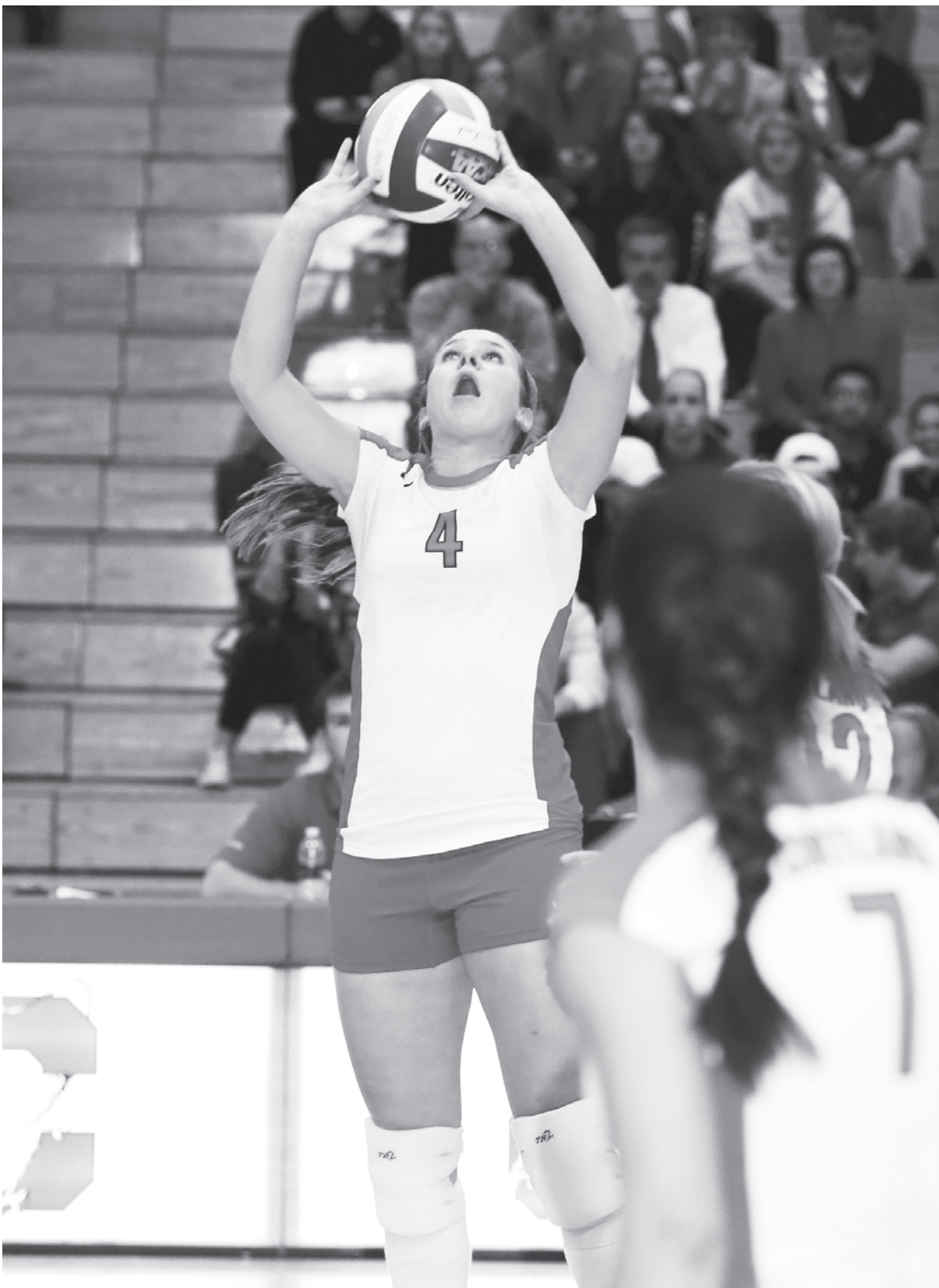
Following the season, seniors Kristen Guercio of Smithtown, N.Y.; Ashley Coyle of Mt. Hope, N.Y.; and Natalie Zacpal of Islip, N.Y., were named honorable mention All-Americans. Guercio's school career-record 6,041 assists make her only the ninth player in NCAA Division III history to reach the 6,000-assist plateau. Coyle graduates second in the school record book with 1,803 career kills. Zacpal led the team during the season with 135 blocks and a .330 attack percentage.

Women's soccer team earns league title

The women's soccer team finished the season with a 12-5-6 record. The fourth seed in the six-team SUNYAC tournament, the Red Dragons won three straight games — capped by a 2-1 victory over Oneonta in the finals — to earn their first league title since 1991.

In the NCAA tournament for the second straight year and 16th time overall, the Red Dragons opened with a 1-0 win over Springfield College that gave ninth-year head coach Heidi Woodcock her 100th career win. Cortland then advanced past William Smith College, ranked eighth nationally, in penalty kicks before losing, 2-1, to Brandeis University in the "sweet 16" to tie for ninth nationally.

Junior forward Kelly Knight of Rochester, N.Y., led the Red Dragons with 18 points (five goals, eight assists), including the game-winning goal with less than seven minutes left in the SUNYAC title game. Sophomore goalie Taylor Hudson of Victor, N.Y., recorded eight shutouts and made the crucial penalty-kick save at William Smith that allowed Cortland to advance.



Senior setter Kristen Guercio of Smithtown, N.Y., was named an honorable mention All-American after helping the Cortland women's volleyball team win a SUNYAC title and advance to the NCAA Division III tournament second round in 2012. Guercio became only the ninth player in Division III history to surpass the career 6,000-assist mark.

PHOTO BY DARL ZEHR PHOTOGRAPHY

Men's cross country earns NCAA bid

The Cortland men's cross country team, led by fifth-year head coach Steve Patrick '97, qualified for the NCAA Division III Championships for the second straight season. The Red Dragons earned an at-large berth after their third-place finish at the NCAA Atlantic Regionals and finished 23rd nationally at the championship race in Indiana this past November.

Sophomore Nick Marcantonio of Glens Falls, N.Y., earned All-America recognition with his 23rd-place national finish in a field of 280 runners. He also was one of five Red Dragons to earn all-region honors by placing in the top 35 at the regional meet along with senior Tom Hopkins of Syracuse, N.Y.; sophomore Jarred Iacovelli of Manahawkin, N.J.; junior Tim Lee of West Babylon, N.Y.; and senior Joe Blazey of Newark Valley, N.Y.

Emily Cotey wins SUNYAC cross country title

Junior Emily Cotey of Norwood, N.Y., won the individual title at the 2012 SUNYAC Women's Cross Country Championships last fall. She is Cortland's first champion in that race since 2008.

Cotey and senior Jordyn Naylon of Fairport, N.Y., each finished in the top 12 at the NCAA Atlantic Regionals and qualified individually for the NCAA Championships.

Spring highlights from 2012 include...

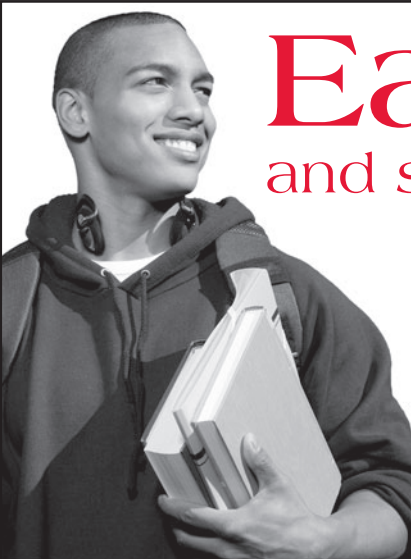
- The Cortland men's lacrosse team set a school record with 21 victories in 2012 and almost recorded a perfect season before losing a hard-fought battle with also unbeaten Salisbury University, 14-10, in the NCAA Division III Championship Game. The contest was held in front of more than 17,000 fans at Gillette Stadium in Foxborough, Mass.
- The men's lacrosse team played in the national championship game for the fifth time in the last seven years. Along the way, the team won its fifth straight State University of New York Athletic Conference (SUNYAC) crown and qualified for the NCAA playoffs for the 28th time in school history. Sixth-year head coach Steve Beville was named the SUNYAC Coach of the Year.
- Senior attackman Mike Tota of Webster, N.Y., led the Cortland men's lacrosse team with 46 goals and 77 total points. A three-time All-American and two-time Academic All-American, Tota graduated as the school's career leader with 174 goals scored and he finished second with 247 points.



PHOTO BY DARL ZERH PHOTOGRAPHY

Cortland's defense celebrates after stopping an Ithaca running back just short of the goal line on fourth down in the game's final minute to clinch the Red Dragons' third consecutive Cortaca Jug victory. Cortland finished the season 9-2, won the New Jersey Athletic Conference title and advanced to the second round of the NCAA Division III tournament.

- The Cortland women's lacrosse team posted a 20-2 record, won its 14th straight SUNYAC title and again advanced to the NCAA Division III "final four" before losing, 7-5, to eventual national champion Trinity College (Conn.) The 2012 season followed a similar script to the 2011 campaign, in which the Red Dragons went 21-2 and lost by two goals to national champion Gettysburg in the NCAA semifinals.
- Senior women's lacrosse midfielder Lindsay Abbott of South Onondaga, N.Y., earned All-America honors for the fourth straight season. She finished with 71 goals and 59 assists for 130 points, and ranks third in NCAA Division III women's lacrosse history with 441 points (256 goals, 185 assists).
- Cortland capped another stellar baseball season with a national fourth-place finish at the NCAA Division III World Series in Wisconsin. The Red Dragons finished 41-9-1 for their sixth 40-win season. The program also captured its 30th SUNYAC title and advanced to the World Series for the 11th time during the spring.
- During one stretch in 2012 the baseball team won 23 straight games, including three victories in the SUNYAC tournament, four at the NCAA Division III New York Regionals and its World Series opener. The team eventually finished 2-2 at the eight-team series.
- Junior pitcher Ray Angelucci of Commack, N.Y., and senior pitcher Aaron Schuldt of Liverpool, N.Y., were America Baseball Coaches Association All-America selections. Angelucci and junior shortstop John Adornetto of Commack, N.Y., earned spots on the D3baseball.com All-America squad. Angelucci finished with a 12-1 record and 1.50 earned run average and set a school record for wins in a season. Schuldt was 8-1 with a 1.80 ERA and 94 strikeouts and Adornetto batted .374 with 44 runs scored and 13 stolen bases.
- Sophomore softball outfielder Meaghan Kohler of Franklin, N.J., enjoyed one of the most prolific offensive seasons in school history in 2012. A first-team All-American last year, Kohler batted .359 and set school single-season records with 17 home runs and 68 runs batted in. Her efforts helped lead the Red Dragons to a 41-10 campaign. Kohler led all Division III players nationally in runs batted in and tied for second in home runs.
- The Cortland softball team reached the 40-win plateau for the fourth straight year in 2012 and qualified for the NCAA playoffs for the ninth time in 10 years. The Red Dragons tied for 17th place nationally, and 18th-year head coach Julie Lenhart became only the seventh coach in NCAA Division III history to reach 700 career wins. Her current overall record of 722-300-2 in 23 seasons includes a 602-223-2 mark at Cortland.
- Three Cortland student-athletes — junior baseball pitcher Zachary Badanes of Syosset, N.Y.; junior women's lacrosse defender Jamie Flood of East Islip, N.Y.; and senior men's lacrosse attackman Mike Tota of Webster, N.Y. — earned NCAA "Elite 89" Awards during the 2012 spring season. The Elite 89 is presented to the student-athlete with the highest cumulative grade-point average participating at the finals site for each of the NCAA's 89 championships across three divisions.
- Senior Alyson Dalton of Sherrill, N.Y., was recognized as an All-American at the 2012 NCAA Division III Outdoor Track and Field Championships with her fourth-place national finish in the 10,000-meter run. In addition, Dalton and senior Jenna Evarts of West Islip, N.Y., were both named Women's Track and Field/Cross Country Academic All-Americans.
- Cortland's men's and women's outdoor track and field teams each won SUNYAC titles in the spring of 2012. The Red Dragon men captured their first league title since 2008 and their 11th overall, while the women earned the top spot in the league for the 15th time and second year in a row.



Earn Rewards and show your Red Dragon Pride!

Now you can help the SUNY Cortland Alumni Association.
A percentage of every purchase you make with your SUNY Cortland Alumni Association Select Rewards Visa® Card goes to support important programs and services provided by the SUNY Cortland Alumni Association.

Plus, you earn rewards points that can be redeemed for almost anything!

- 1,000 bonus points after your first purchase, and rewards starting at just 1,500 points!

1 Bonus points will be awarded when you use your new Visa Card for the first time. Bonus points will only be awarded to new accounts. Existing accounts do not qualify. **2** Accounts must be open and current to earn and redeem points. **3** Some limitations apply. Details are provided to cardmembers. **4** U.S. Bank provides zero fraud liability for unauthorized transactions. Cardholder must notify U.S. Bank promptly of any unauthorized use. Certain conditions and limitations may apply.

APPLY TODAY!
Call 888-327-2265 ext. 73028 or
visitusbank.com/SUNYCortland



- 1 rewards point for each \$1 of net purchases²
- Your choice of virtually any reward — gift certificates, merchandise, free travel, or even cash back — with the *Choose Your Own Rewards* program
- Enjoy other great Visa benefits³, including zero fraud liability⁴ protection, Warranty Manager, Auto Rental Collision Damage Waiver, Travel Accident Insurance and more



Cortland State University of New York
College at Cortland
P.O. Box 2000
Cortland, NY 13045-0900
Alumni Affairs Office

SAVE THE DATE!
MULTICULTURAL
ALUMNI REUNION
OCT. 18-20

The Alumni Association and the Multicultural Life and Diversity Office will host a weekend full of activities to reconnect with friends, share personal experiences and expertise with current students, and learn all about what's new with SUNY Cortland.

Make sure you are on the invitation list to stay current with all multicultural initiatives in the upcoming year. Visit cortland.edu/alumni and complete the Diversity, Equity, Social Justice and/or Multicultural Life Initiatives form. You won't want to miss out on this great reunion or the opportunity to learn about all of the new programming.

For more information, visit cortland.edu/alumni.



25



3



8



11



15

Non-Profit Organization
US Postage
PAID
Utica NY 13504
Permit #57

Inside this edition

An entrepreneur speaks

Patrick Mullaney '89 is a rising star in the medical device field

1

Peter Kanakaris '70

Alumni Association president seeks alumni program diversity

3

Alumni Adventures

4

Gerald "Jerry" Gentner '66

Western New York golf tourney honors a big-hearted man

4

John Stephens

Football player is champion to California toddler

11

Dowd Delivers

The center houses a growing, thriving arts community

13

Adirondack Camps

A campaign will open the remote campus to more scholars

14

Class Notes

19- 24

Spring and fall sports wrap-up

Eight teams land NCAA post-season berths

25-27

Columns

SUNY CORTLAND **ALUMNI NEWS** SUMMER 2013

.....

THE SWEETEST WIN

A life-saving move united John Stephens and Clara Boyle. Learn more on page 11.

