What the Hack!
New degree equips digital defenders to defy technology
FRONT AND CENTER

TOTALLY BOARD

Wherever junior graphic design major Donovan Brinson is headed, it’s safe to bet his skateboard is taking him there. He’s a familiar figure on Bobcat Way. “I ride it to and from classes, and when I’m not studying or working,” he says. Brinson has owned a skateboard since he was 12, but didn’t ride much until his senior year of high school, when a friend fanned his interest. It got him out of his house and helped him deal with the grief of losing his brother, who died in a car accident. “It picked up from there, and now I ride every day,” he says. Skateboarding has become a way for Brinson to focus and to clear his mind during finals, midterms and other stressful periods. He is thankful to the campus community for accommodating his passion. “It’s a pretty laid back culture here,” he said. “I’ve even thought about finally starting a skateboarding club.”
Junior Donovan Brinson is known as "the skateboarding guy" around the Mount Carmel and York Hill campuses where he can be found practicing techniques and tricks including the difficult 360 hard flip.
4 END OF AN ERA
After serving 31 years as Quinnipiac’s president, John L. Lahey retired on June 30, 2018. His many contributions include growing the university’s enrollment, its endowment and its reach.

11 SAY CHEESE
Jason Goldstein ’00 impressed celebrity judges with a variation of his Parmesan meatloaf that features three kinds of cheese when he appeared as a Food Network Star finalist.

13 SECOND CHANCE
Travis Roy was on the ice for 11 seconds—in his first college hockey game—when he crashed into the boards and never got up. But, as he told a Quinnipiac crowd, his life wasn’t nearly over.

17 YOUNG AGAIN
After limited playing time as a junior, basketball player Cameron Young ’18 is back for a fifth season, thanks to an NCAA ruling. He suits up this season as the top returning scorer in the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference.

18 Digital Defenders
Protecting data has always been the objective of cybersecurity. But it’s not just about computers. Today’s hackers target power grids, financial and transportation networks, and even smart refrigerators. A new master’s program is helping to prepare tomorrow’s cybersecurity experts.

30 ‘The Worst Day’
Stacie D’Antonio, EDL ’10, has spent 25 years as a teacher and administrator in Connecticut. It wasn’t until the last few years that active shooter drills became part of her job description. In an era of school safety and gun violence, the importance of preparation and relationships is critical.

34 Moving Picture
David Rabinowitz ’09 co-wrote the screenplay for Spike Lee’s “BlacKkKlansman,” released in August. The film, which details an undercover investigation into the Ku Klux Klan, won a prestigious award at Cannes and is generating Oscar buzz.
26 Take Me Out, Coach
Associate editor Brian Koonz spent two days at Quinnipiac’s summer baseball camp with boys from the Hamden area. He played catch with them. He did relay races. He took some swings. And then he left on crutches after pulling a calf muscle running to first base.

38 Raising the Bar
Denia Perez, JD ’18, earned her law degree last May, but as a DACA recipient, she was prohibited from taking the bar exam. Perez and law professor Sheila Hayre spearheaded a successful initiative to amend the Connecticut Bar Association’s admissions language to allow her and other DACA students to sit for the exam.

49 Brick by Brick
Who says you can’t have fun at work? Matt Besterman, MS ’16, is the public relations manager for LEGOLAND New York, a brand-new amusement park set to open in Goshen, New York, in 2020.

54 Law
Learn what School of Law alumni are up to on the notes page and read about Rich Smith, JD ’00, who uses his law degree as vice president of HR strategy and management for Kaiser Permanente in Oakland, California.

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LAHEY ERA DRAWS TO A CLOSE

There were some tears and lots of smiles as the Quinnipiac community bid John L. Lahey a fond farewell during the annual Employee Recognition ceremony and reception in late May, when retirees and faculty and staff celebrating milestones are saluted.

Lahey retired June 30 after 31 years at the helm of Quinnipiac, handing the wheel to Judy D. Olian, former dean of the UCLA Anderson School of Management.

At the employee event, a video titled “The History of Quinnipiac” was shown, and an oil painting depicting Lahey in his Commencement regalia was unveiled. The painting hangs in the Arnold Bernhard Library.

This month, he traveled to Ireland to accept the Presidential Distinguished Service Award for the Irish Abroad, presented annually by the president of Ireland to recognize service given to that country or to Irish communities abroad by those who live outside Ireland.

He plans to return to Quinnipiac in Fall 2019 to teach philosophy. Until then, he is enjoying retirement in Florida with his wife, Judy.

During his time here, enrollment grew from 1,900 students to more than 10,000, and the endowment grew from $3 million to $530 million. His legacy includes the development of three campuses as well as a law school, a medical school, an engineering school, a museum dedicated to the history of Ireland’s Great Hunger, Division I athletics, and a nationally recognized poll.
MONSTROUS THOUGHTS ENCOURAGED

Novel course examines creator-creation relationship

BY JANET WALDMAN

THE IMAGE OF THE FRANKENSTEIN MONSTER has scared generations for decades. Mary Shelley introduced him as a central character in her 1818 novel. He’s been the inspiration for a 1931 horror film starring Boris Karloff, a TV sitcom, a cereal, and parodies such as Mel Brooks’ “Young Frankenstein.”

Sometimes he’s green, usually he’s mean. His creator, Dr. Victor Frankenstein, didn’t even name him, referring to him mostly as “the creature.” Of course, Shelley is the true creator of both of these characters. Lore has it that she penned the novel after telling ghost stories with her famous poet friends Percy Bysshe Shelley (her future husband) and Lord Byron one afternoon when inclement weather in the Swiss Alps rendered them housebound. She was 18 when she began the novel and 20 when it was published.

On its 200th anniversary, “Frankenstein” is the inspiration for a capstone course this fall in the College of Arts and Sciences, taught by its dean, Robert Smart, and associate dean, Diane Stock. Her background is in anthropology, his in world literatures, providing students with a two-dimensional view.

Students in the course, all seniors and juniors, are discussing the novel’s scientific, technological, political and ethical dimensions and creating a signature work to share their insights about the novel’s relevancy today. “We encourage them to reflect upon their entire Quinipiack education, rather than their major, and to think about how all they have learned here is interconnected and really informs them as a person,” says Smart.

“Mary Shelley’s Frankenstein” has become a cultural metaphor for the creator fearing the creation, according to Smart. “Any time you talk about creating something that could come back to bite us or kill our children, the Frankenstein book comes to mind!”

Shelley’s imagination no doubt was fueled by her upbringing. Her father was William Godwin, one of the important philosophers of the time, and her mother was Mary Wollstonecraft, a philosopher and feminist writer who died a month after giving birth to her. Their living room was a gathering spot for intellectuals. Mary Shelley met the married Percy through her father and they carried on an affair before marrying after the suicide of Percy’s first wife. They had three children together, but only one survived to adulthood. Percy himself drowned, leaving Shelley a widow at age 24.

As students consider the complex relationship between creator and creation, several 21st-century issues jump to the fore, among them the propagation of nuclear weapons and their potential to devastate the earth; the growth of cyber intelligence versus user privacy; and the media’s creation, through boundless coverage, of a politician who labels them enemies of the people.

The creature thought he was a human being until frightened people mistreated him. It was then he began to lament his woeful existence, and he punished his creator by killing Frankenstein’s new bride and other family members.

“We have a tendency to create our own monsters,” says Smart. Victor Frankenstein did not set out to build a monster, and therein lies the conundrum. His motives were to eliminate disease and death by studying the body—“good motives but poorly thought out,” says Stock. “And a bit narcissistic,” adds Smart.

Another radical concept for 19th-century readers is that Shelley had Victor create a man in a lab without the involvement of God. Smart notes that her book came at an interesting time in history, when four revolutions were credited with spawning ideas about what it means to be a human being (the central question of the 1818 version of the novel): the American Revolution (1765-83), the Haitian Revolution (1791-1804), the French Revolution (1789-99), and the Irish Rebellion (1798).

John Tenniel was among the first to adapt the Frankenstein metaphor to his political cartoons, drawing “The Irish Frankenstein” as a monstrous ape-man feared by the British and yet not capable of dealing with independence from Britain. The French Revolution and its peasant protests “scared the hell out of everyone,” notes the dean.

The successful slave rebellion in Haiti raised fear in the southern United States decades later, where blacks outnumbered whites. “We created slavery—a monster that might kill us in our beds,” says Smart.

“The greater the fear, the more likely humor will emerge,” Smart says, pointing out that “The Munsters” sitcom in 1964-66, Brooks’ “Young Frankenstein” in 1974, “The Rocky Horror Picture Show” in 1975 and other works functioned as a sort of societal safety valve during the years the Cold War raged between the U.S. and Soviet Union.

“The real Frankenstein is building bombs that will destroy the world, and we get funny films,” he observed.

Smart referenced the late mythographer and author Joseph Campbell, who inspired George Lucas, creator of the “Star Wars” franchise. “Campbell believed that we are attracted to monsters because they reveal something about us. They are intensely personal, and confronting them likely holds a key to our self-knowledge and understanding,” Smart says.
Chris Berman

‘DO SOMETHING FUN’

Long before ESPN broadcaster Chris Berman won 10 Emmys and scored a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame, he called a darts competition in a New York City ballroom when the fledging network was starved for content. Eventually, he went on to anchor a studio host for the network’s Baseball coverage and serve as a play-by-play for ESPN’s Major League flagship program, call play-by-play for the NFL portfolio. Berman visited the university in May to speak with communications students during a pair of talks about the evolution of ESPN. All those memorable years later, Berman told students he wouldn’t change a thing about his career. “If you do something fun, you’ve got 90 percent of America beat,” he said. “The money, the this, the that—the perks will come, maybe—but if you do something you really love … just go for it and be around it. Let people know you’re ready to be out there to work and be eager. Somebody who is having fun and being eager will get anybody’s attention.”

Fred McKinney

INNOVATIVE SPACE

On Oct. 24, an open house was held at the newly renamed People’s United Center for Innovation & Entrepreneurship in the Lender School of Business Center. The center supports the entrepreneurial spirit at Quinnipiac, helping students turn ideas into viable business solutions through workshops in finance, marketing, design, business plan development and start-up mentoring. Fred McKinney, the Carlton Highsmith Chair of Innovation & Entrepreneurship, is the center’s new director. He previously served as managing director of minority business programs at Dartmouth College, was a member of the President’s Council of Economic Advisers in Washington, D.C., and launched several successful startups.

Judy Olian

Sara Longobardi

INSPIRING WORDS

President Judy Olian, right, was one of two dynamic leaders sharing career wisdom and experiences at a program Nov. 6 sponsored by the People’s United Center for Women & Business at Cascade in Hamden. Sara Longobardi, senior executive vice president for retail banking at People’s, also addressed students, faculty and the public during the free program, “Women in Leadership: Lessons from the Top.”

Honorees

EXCELLENCE NOTED

Six faculty and staff members were honored by the Center for Excellence in Teaching and Service to Students in October during the 16th annual awards dinner. The center supports and recognizes members of the university community who provide superior teaching and service to students. This year’s teaching honorees were Lynn Byers, professor of mechanical engineering; Scott McLean, professor of political science; and Robert Yawson, assistant professor of management. Service honorees were Ray Ciarlelli, public safety officer; Lauren Erardi, director of academic technology; and Ronda Kolbin, public services librarian.

Joining Forces

OPIOID SUMMIT

The Schools of Law, Medicine, Nursing, Education, and Health Sciences came together to launch a two-part summit Nov. 9 titled “Building Bridges and Finding Answers: The Opioid Crisis in Connecticut.” The purpose of the summit, held in association with the Opioid Task Force of the Connecticut Bar Association, is to address the state’s opioid crisis, share information and discuss strategies to deal with it. More than 100 representatives are participating from various fields and will generate policy recommendations, identify programs to help and support those afflicted by opioid addiction. Ten working groups will reconvene in June 2019 to present their findings and create a plan to move those ideas forward.

Mary Snow

JOINS POLLSTERS

MIDTERMS DISCUSSED

Students and members of the Quinnipiac community discussed the significance of November’s midterm elections and some of the issues important to voters during a program in September with Douglas Schwartz, director of the Quinnipiac Poll, and Mary Snow, the poll’s newest analyst and media spokesperson. The duo said the value of polls, besides defining issues, is that they give average Americans a voice and help ensure that elected officials don’t just listen to the loudest voices out there. The QU pollsters took the opportunity to query students about whether they were motivated to vote in the midterm elections, which often suffer from low turnout, and they were pleasantly surprised by how many hands shot up.

Select Company

ACCOUNTING

In the School of Business, both the undergraduate accounting program and the newly launched MS in accounting were awarded AACSB accreditation—the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business. Quinnipiac is one of only a few programs in the region and one of two in Connecticut to receive it.
Quinnipiac Magazine

Iraq Duty Inspires Career

Army background and child’s birth allow PA to experience the ‘care’ in caregiving

By Adam Durso
Photo Autumn Driscoll

Anthony Boguslawski, MHS ’18, had many opportunities during his physician assistant clinical training to practice good patient care. But when his wife went into early labor in late July, he was suddenly placed in the roles of patient and family member.

He was looking forward to celebrating his Aug. 11 graduation from Quinnipiac’s PA program when his wife, Samantha, pregnant with their first child, needed an emergency cesarean section.

Their son, Nolan, was born nearly two months premature and remained in the hospital for more than 30 days. The experience was humbling, he said. “It reminded me how important it is to comfort patients, letting them know what is going on and earning their trust.”

Boguslawski first learned how powerful and essential that level of trust is while serving in the Army during the Iraq War. He initially joined the Army out of a sense of patriotism following the 9/11 attacks, spurred by heroic stories of his grandfather, a veteran of the Polish military during World War II who survived imprisonment at Auschwitz.

To his surprise, Boguslawski learned that heroism can take many forms.

As an infantry platoon leader, Boguslawski was in charge of 40 soldiers at a small outpost in the remote town of Mahmoudiyah. When they weren't searching for caches of enemy weapons or supporting offensive missions, his platoon often provided security for government contractors on various projects, among them a series of makeshift medical checkpoints that provided care for Iraqi citizens.

Boguslawski knew that he and his platoon could do their part to help the local population in a similar way. While on patrols, his medic frequently provided rudimentary care, as well as wound care, and administered antibiotics and simple painkillers to civilians.

“Opportunities always came up to help, and we did everything we could,” Boguslawski said. “We let locals know that we were there for that reason.”

Preventing wounds from becoming infected, ensuring that bones mended correctly and enabling the residents of Mahmoudiyah to go about their already difficult lives pain-free fostered a strong relationship. In gratitude, local families often would cook for platoon members and even invite them into their homes for a meal. “It was just the 40 of us out there, so that rapport mattered,” he said.

Boguslawski’s experience was an uncommon one, and it made him realize he could help more people as a healer than a fighter. “I don’t remember the exact light bulb moment,” he said, “but at some point I decided to pursue a career in medicine after the Army.”

He decided that the role of physician assistant would give him the autonomy he desired and provide future leadership opportunities. After his discharge from the Army, Boguslawski began researching PA programs. He was aware of Quinnipiac’s Top 5 national ranking—the PA program remains one of the most competitive in the country with a 14 percent acceptance rate—and its impressive graduate pass rate on the PA national certifying exam. His interest was piqued when he learned of its reputation as a veteran-friendly school.

The support he received from Quinnipiac’s Office of Veteran and Military Affairs, specifically from its director, Jason Burke, made his decision to attend Quinnipiac an easy one. “It was obvious even during my initial interview that there was tremendous support for vets here, and that my experiences mattered,” he said.

The program was as rigorous and intellectually challenging as Boguslawski had hoped. His ability to stay calm in confusing and difficult situations returned to him.

“Many students and professors often describe PA school as the hardest years of their lives,” he said, noting that his time in the military prepared him well for life’s challenges.

As he completed clinical rotations in internal medicine, primary care, emergency medicine and psychiatry, his experiences dealing with people living with stressful situations returned to him.

“There were language barriers, religious differences and other cultural roadblocks that can make those situations more tense and difficult,” he said, “but I had dealt with it all before.”

Today, Boguslawski practices in general surgery at Mid-State Medical Center in Meriden, Connecticut.

With his family healthy and happy and his career just begun, he believes that to fulfill his role in the health care system, he must give back.

“My long-term goal is to be at a place where I can volunteer my skills to those who need them most,” he said.

Anthony Boguslawski, MHS ’18, at the White Coat Ceremony for the physician assistant program in August.
COMMUNITY KNOWS NO BOUNDS

Camp No Limits focuses on preparing teens for college and beyond

BY BRIAN KOONZ

The smile sprinted across Samantha Clift’s face. As teens from several states ran, wiggled and jumped through a grassy obstacle course on the North Haven Campus, Clift ’19 soaked up the wonderful moment.

The silly laughter, the squeals of joy—the optimism was everywhere at this new segment of Camp No Limits designed especially for teens with limb loss.

“I love seeing kids with similar differences bonding, making friends and having a great time,” said Clift, an occupational therapy major from Massachusetts who lost her right hand in an accident when she was 6 years old.

“Making that connection with other kids,” Clift said, “and realizing you’re not the only one—that there are tons of people who have limb loss and live perfectly normal lives—you see there’s nothing you can’t do. Just knowing that is comforting. That’s what is so great about this camp.”

For the fourth straight summer, Quinnipiac served as host for Camp No Limits. For kids with limb loss and limb differences, Camp No Limits gives them the chance to make friends, have fun, try new things, learn new skills and, yes, laugh.

In addition to games, relay races, sled hockey, basketball and other activities, Camp No Limits features a carnival and life skills training. More than 30 children from around the country visited Quinnipiac’s North Haven and York Hill campuses for the camp in July.

“Camp No Limits really gives us a sense of community,” said Kim Hartmann ’76, MHS ’82, a professor of occupational therapy and director of the Center for Interprofessional Healthcare Education. “Everyone just comes together and makes these incredible bonds. That’s the biggest reward people feel.”

This summer, teens participating in the camp’s “Prepping for Our Future” program navigated the obstacle course, made their own smoothies in a model apartment, sat behind the wheel of a driving simulator, and learned about 3-D printing and how it can be applied to prosthetics.

Clift was one of dozens of occupational therapy, physical therapy and medical students partnering with the campers. She said the experience is about paying it forward. “My parents instilled in me that I should never give up, and going to occupational therapy really helped with that,” Clift said. “My OT had one hand, too, so that’s what made me want to be an occupational therapist. If she could help teach me, I knew I could do it for other people, too.”

The skills and activities were designed to help prepare teenage campers for college. There also were programs for parents, including sessions on college admissions, financial aid and Sec. 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, which mandates equal access to education through accommodations and other means.

For the campers—some of them new to Camp No Limits, many more well-versed in the joy of simply being a kid—the interactions matter. They matter deeply, in fact. The bonds carry over from activity to activity, a time when hugs and high-fives emerge as the standard greeting and a gift of friendship.

Isaiah Wims, a 17-year-old novice driver from Maryland, connected with Clift to check out her modified Honda CR-V. A smile spread across his face, too, as he shut the car door and looked out from the windshield. The customized controls on Clift’s steering wheel make driving safer and more accessible.

“My parents’ car doesn’t have those buttons. They would definitely make things a lot easier,” said Wims, who has attended Camp No Limits all four years. “I like how we help each other. Now that I’m one of the older kids, sometimes I’ll help the younger ones tie their shoes or trim their nails, different things like that.”

Hartmann said it’s heartwarming to see campers return and reconnect with friends they haven’t seen in a year. “Those connections will empower them when they go to college. When they’re excited to see each other like that, that’s the best … I love that part.”

BY BRIAN KOONZ

CorRales Dupree of Richmond, Virginia, sizes up his shot this summer at Camp No Limits, which is geared to children with limb loss and their families.
1. About a dozen students modeled outfits made from recycled household goods and products on Earth Day in April as part of Hanna Hejmowski’s Eco-Fashion Design class. The fashion show at the Carl Hansen Student Center was one of several events commemorating Earth Day at Quinnipiac. Here, Dorah Labatte ’18 wears a dress made from stenciled coffee filters. Labatte earned bachelor’s degrees in journalism and mathematics in May.

2. Kyle Lopez ’19 dazzles in his Earth Day vest decorated with cutouts from Quinnipiac Magazine and other publications.

3. Students show off their outfits made from silk flowers, stenciled coffee filters, handmade tissue paper flowers, shopping bags, newspaper, papier mâché and more.

4. Earth Day rocks were among the crafts available on the quad, where food truck fare nourished the visitors.

5. Emma Robinson ’19 shops a selection of plants.

6. Olivia Curtin ’21, helps Cara Sagnella ’21 adjust her dress made from paper receipts and shopping bags.

7. Timo Rissanen, assistant professor of fashion and sustainability at Parsons School of Design, asked students to think about the fact that of the 150 billion garments produced every year, a third are sold, another third are discounted, and the last third ends up in a landfill.
Kumba Hinds, MD ’17

Tending to the needs of the underserved

INTERVIEW BY OLIVIA ABEL
PHOTO DAVID WILLIAMS

Kumba Adia Hinds always knew she wanted to be a doctor, but her education pointed her in a specific direction. “I love being a physi-
cian and find it incredibly rewarding. That being said, I recognize that as a physician I can impact the person in front of me,” she says. “If I can meld my interests in medicine and public health, I can affect both individuals and the greater population in a meaningful way.” The member of the inaugural class of Quinnipi-
ac’s Frank H. Netter MD School of Medicine is a second-year resident in family medicine at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where she blends her two passions. “I’m focusing on maternal/child health in under-
served populations here and abroad. It will be a great way to bring my interests together.”

What sparked your interest in public health?
As an undergraduate at Yale University, I majored in the history of science, history of medicine, and international studies. I became interested in health systems development through a course in Western medicine in West Africa while studying abroad in Ghana and through exposure to health systems abroad in Ghana and Senegal. I also had an internship with a public health consulting firm in New Haven. I went on to earn an MPH at Yale in Health Policy & Administration.

What was it like being part of the first class at a new medical school?
I enjoyed being part of the first class, but it was also a bit scary! There was a lot of pressure around our success and on our ability to match. There were only 60 of us, so we were a pretty close-knit bunch.

What is your residency different from what you imagined?
I am extremely well supported by my residency program, above and beyond what I expected. We work hard but there is a lot of love and support from all levels. I feel incredibly fortunate to be at UNC Family Medicine and I have bonded closely with my classmates—we have really become a family. I have a lot more autonomy than I thought I would. From day one I’ve been a primary care provider to a group of patients.

What was it like being part of the first class at a
new medical school?
I enjoyed being part of the first class, but it was also a bit scary! There was a lot of pressure around our success and on our ability to match. There were only 60 of us, so we were a pretty close-knit bunch.

Did you have a favorite professor there?
There were so many great professors, but I really liked Dr. Howard Selinger [family medicine chair]. He was my mentor and was very supportive. But he was very supportive of anyone involved in family medicine.

What was your Senegal fellowship like?
I interviewed health professionals one summer from different countries throughout the African continent to get their perceptions on internationally funded health development efforts. I learned that a lot of projects only involve the in-country physicians after the projects have been developed by others. Some of the providers expressed frustration with the later involvement because it really affects the success of the project.

The American Academy of Family Physicians chose you to be part of a one-year Emerging Leader Institute. Tell us about that.
I was paired with a mentor to help with a project of my choosing. I worked with a collection of community health centers in Connecticut that had begun using electronic platforms to do consultations or e-consults. Previously, the underinsured population would have to wait a really long time for care. So, I looked at the records of patients who had participated to see how effective it was in decreasing their wait time. It was pretty effective!

You got married in July. Is your husband also a doctor?
I did! We got away for a honeymoon in Nice and Paris that was wonderful. My husband is not a physician; he owns a real estate company in Boston. I learn so much from him about entrepreneurship that I hope to incorporate into my future practice.

What do you do for fun?
Besides sleep? Ha ha. I’ve been working a lot of nights lately. I like the usual things—spending time with loved ones, traveling and reading corny romance novels.

Do you watch doctor shows on TV?
Nope! I am not a big TV watcher.

Where do you see yourself working after your residency?
I see myself working in an academic setting—one that would allow me to practice medicine, deliver babies and pursue my global health research interests.
Could you make your favorite dish on deadline under the eyes of some of the world’s best chefs while being filmed with 11 other competitors just waiting to eat you alive? Jason Goldstein ’00 did. The psychology major, now a New York City chiropractor, was a finalist on Season 14 of the “Food Network Stars” reality TV show. “I crack all day and chop at night,” says the author of a food blog he named “Chop Happy.”

He knows his comfort food concoctions are delicious—family and friends tell him so. But when two of his gastronomic heroes—grill master Bobby Flay and Giada De Laurentiis, the queen of Italian cooking—complimented his meatloaf Parmesan burgers, his heart sizzled.

Goldstein met the celebrity chefs during the first episode, which aired this past summer. The chefs served as mentors for Goldstein and the other contestants who vied for culinary fame. “Both of them really cared about us and put us at ease,” he says.

This was not Goldstein’s first cooking demo on national TV. About three years ago, he made bacon and roasted garlic-infused burgers for a “Good Morning America” segment with Robin Roberts, a GMA co-anchor and patient at his Oasis Chiropractic and Wellness Center. He’s been in practice for 11 years.

“Food Network Stars” was filmed at Universal Orlando’s Volcano Bay theme park in Florida. Each finalist prepared his or her signature dish in that episode, but with a wrinkle. It had to be a theme park-friendly, fast-food version. Goldstein shape-shifted his meatloaf Parm into grillable patties.

The meatloaf recipe is among hundreds on his blog, many with how-to videos filmed by his husband, Tom Chuong. The blog gets 10,000 to 15,000 visitors a month. The effervescent Goldstein loves to dance in his cozy kitchen in the Chelsea section of Manhattan while cooking, and he adds a “dash of gratitude” to every dish, along with the salt. His philosophy: Make cooking easy and the food satisfying after a long day.

Goldstein was eliminated, but not devastated. He grabbed his spatula and moved on to “Star Salvation,” where ousted contestants compete to earn their way back to “Food Network Stars.” When host and chef Alex Guarnaschelli requested “breakfast for dinner” in 35 minutes, he recalls thinking, “I knew I had to do something bold.” He made a bagel from scratch, then whipped up soft scrambled eggs. Bacon cooked in the oven for 10 minutes and cheese completed the sandwich.

Guarnaschelli was impressed, and he advanced to the next round—creating a weeknight meal using only one vessel. He was given a sheet pan on which he roasted salmon with Dijon lemon sauce, bread crumbs, tomato and asparagus. “Heat the pan while cutting and prepping—when you put the salmon down, you’ll get a crispier skin,” he advises.

Guarnaschelli proclaimed the dish good, but too salty. And just like that, Goldstein was out again. He shed a tear as he taped his goodbye speech, but his positive personality shone through.

“There is always something to be grateful for, something to learn. Four years ago I didn’t have a food blog, and suddenly I was one of the top chefs in America competing on a TV show. Life is amazing.”

Jason Goldstein ’00 mixes his meatloaf Parmesan burgers on the set of “Food Network Stars.” He was a finalist on the popular show.

The recipe calls for half of the meat mixture to be placed on a baking sheet. Then the cook makes a well and tucks lots of mozzarella cheese inside, topping it with the remaining meat and slathering the whole loaf with tomato sauce before baking. More cheese is sprinkled on top for the final 10 minutes. It’s incredibly rich and filling, a bit like lasagna without noodles.

In the final part of the food challenge, Goldstein was tasked with persuading a female park guest to try his dish over that of another contestant who made rabbit empanada. Ultimately, she chose to taste the other guy’s creation. Flay and De Laurentiis remarked that while they appreciated Goldstein’s passion for food, he should have described his dish in more detail.

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Stefan Christov, assistant professor of software engineering, recently coached a team of engineering students to victory at the annual conference of the Consortium for Computing Sciences in Colleges, held at the University of New Hampshire.

In a display of speed, efficiency and skills, the team, composed of two software engineering students and one computer science student, finished first in the programming contest, besting 28 other teams from 25 colleges and universities across the Northeast.

“I am very proud of our students,” Christov said. “I knew we were strong, but I wasn’t expecting a first-place finish in the team’s first appearance.”

Teams were asked to solve a series of complex problems, including writing a program that checks whether a bank customer has reset a password properly and creating a calculator that could compute using numbers in different bases. “Big companies like Google and Microsoft often give applicants problems like these during job interviews,” Christov said.

He continues to co-supervise a team of mechanical and software engineering majors as they develop a simulator to help Quinnipiac’s cardiovascular perfusion students learn to prepare for various emergency scenarios. The machine enables a perfusion faculty member to manipulate various parameters, such as patient vital signs, to simulate life-threatening situations and observe how students react by performing interventions.

“This functional prototype is an example of an important interdisciplinary project that illustrates our school’s focus on hands-on learning, which gets stronger every year,” Christov said.
Long before the frightened whispers and the neck brace, Travis Roy remembers family dinners when he couldn’t wait to clean his plate. It didn’t matter what food was on it. In his mind—the hockey-filled head of a coach’s son—it was the longest prelude ever.

“In the house I grew up in, just off the kitchen, there was a closet. And right above the door, someone had screwed one of those metal pencil sharpeners,” Roy told about 200 students and others who’d come to hear him speak this fall at Quinnipiac during a talk sponsored by Pi Kappa Phi fraternity. “My dad would always hang his whistle off the pencil sharpener. Underneath, there was a bag of hockey pucks,” Roy said. “After dinner, Dad would head to the closet, grab his whistle and the pucks, and we were out the door.”

The small rink where Roy skated better and faster than the other kids in Yarmouth, Maine—and just about everywhere else—was the perfect place to launch a boy’s dream. By comparison, Walter Brown Arena at Boston University, where he found himself years later, was enormous, with national championship banners adorning the rafters.

On Oct. 20, 1995, the Terriers raised a red-and-white banner to mark their fourth national championship. Roy watched the pregame ceremony in awe with his teammates. He was one of four freshmen hoping to play in the season-opener against North Dakota.

“Two minutes into the game, we scored,” Roy recalled. “The place went nuts. The bench went crazy. The pep band started playing, and then, there was a tap on the back of my shoulder that I had been waiting for my whole life.”

When Roy jumped onto the ice and skated like a rocket in his BU uniform, everyone cheered, none louder than his father, Lee. Eleven seconds later, Roy flew headfirst into the boards and did not get up. He was face down on the ice he loved. Roy was the first to know he was paralyzed. He was 20 years old and would never walk again, let alone skate like the wind.

“Lee Roy came out of the stands that night when his son didn’t get up. He leaned into the circle of staff to give a pep talk, but he never saw the small puddle of melted ice made by his boy’s panicked breath as he said, “C’mom, Trav. Get up. Be tough. There’s a hockey game to win.”

Roy couldn’t turn his head to look into his father’s eyes. “I told him my neck hurt and I thought I was in big trouble,” Roy told the audience of mostly students, many of whom weren’t even born when he got hurt. “And I was in big trouble.” Roy knew his father was crumbling inside. This, he could surely feel.

The X-rays and tests confirmed the worst: Roy had fractured his fourth and fifth cervical vertebrae, leaving him a quadriplegic unable to care for himself. Nearly 23 years later, Roy travels the nation to share how he healed from the inside out.

“For the first 20 years of my life, I pretty much chose my challenges. Most of them took place inside the curved dash-erboards of an ice hockey rink,” Roy said. Everything changed after the accident. For the first four months, he stared at the anonymous ceiling tiles of a Boston hospital and wondered, “Is this how the rest of my life is going to be?”

Roy posed the same question to the crowd. “Think about your goals, whether they are personal or professional, this semester or this year. How much do you want to make them happen? Take a chance that could change your life? Do you know what happens when you don’t take a chance? Generally nothing.”

Roy took a chance when he left Boston, the city where he lives today, for the Shepherd Center in Atlanta, a rehabilitation hospital for patients with spinal cord and traumatic brain injuries. There, he learned to scuba dive in the pool and to paint with his mouth. Most of all, Roy learned to live again.

Six months after his accident, Roy was back in Yarmouth. A few months later, he was studying communications at BU—he graduated in 2000—and working on his autobiography “11 Seconds.” The book was published in 1998, the year after he started the Travis Roy Foundation, which has raised more than $12 million for spinal cord research and grants to help those with spinal cord injuries pay for adaptive equipment.

The advocacy, the honesty, this is Roy’s daily challenge, the one that he chose. Sometimes, he explained, pushing the joystick of a wheelchair forward is the first step, and just maybe, the most important one.
SERVING UP DOMINANCE

With 5 straight MAAC titles, the Bobcats are the team to beat

BY BRIAN KOONZ

THEIR GROUP PHOTO ALMOST LOOKS LIKE THE Quinnipiac women’s tennis team is waving at the camera—until you catch the big sign, the fancy trophy and the matching T-shirts.

As it turns out, the wave is actually a five-finger salute—one finger for each of the last five Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference titles. But what makes this championship run even more remarkable is that Quinnipiac is unbeaten in MAAC play at 47-0.

And, no, that’s not a typo.

After starting three freshmen in last spring’s MAAC championship—Dominique Vasile, Payton Bradley and Courtney Nash—the top-seeded Bobcats broke open a close match against No. 2 seed Marist for a 4-1 victory and the MAAC swag.

For fifth-year head coach Paula Miller ’96, who also serves as director of tennis at Quinnipiac, these coming-of-age matches cement a program. The younger players lose the freshman label and gain the respect of the upperclassmen.

“Every time I wear something that says ‘Quinnipiac,’ it helps us get our name out. Back in the day, we were South Carolina; San Diego and Ontario, Canada. Returned from a recruiting swing though Charleston, the Bobcats, Miller is chasing the next class of recruits. Those teams will be coming for us.”

I also know a couple teams brought in some good players.

forward now to the new season. I’m excited about it, but Miller said recently from her office. “But we have to look at what the pressure is like in the championships,”

I go over there,” Carlson said with a grin. “Honestly, the thing that I notice the most about Paula is her demeanor doesn’t change. Even with all of her success, she is still that go-with-the-flow coach who gets it done.”

In the meantime, Miller and the Bobcats look to add to their dominance in MAAC women’s tennis.

“At some point, in some year, in some match, we’re going to lose one,” Miller said. “It’s going to happen someday. I just hope it’s further down the road.”

1. Sophomore Dominique Vasile puts away a volley in the MAAC finals against Marist. Vasile was named last year’s MAAC Rookie of the Year and Player of the Year. She also was First Team All-Conference at No. 1 singles and No. 2 doubles with senior Proyfon Lohaphaisan and was MAAC Player of the Week four times.

2. Senior Proyfon Lohaphaisan warms up for her singles match in the MAAC finals against Marist. She was named MAAC Player of the Week twice and First Team All-Conference at No. 5 singles and No. 2 doubles with sophomore Dominique Vasile. She also was a member of the MAAC All-Academic Team.

3. Sophomore Payton Bradley and senior Jennifer Lu pair up to win their doubles match in the MAAC finals against Marist. Both were named First Team All-Conference at No. 2 (Lu) and No. 3 (Bradley) singles.

4. Senior Alex Mircea hits a winning forehand in her doubles match in the finals against Marist. Mircea was a member of the MAAC All-Academic Team.

5. Senior Jennifer Lu and junior Layla Rodriguez hug after the MAAC championship victory. Both were members of the MAAC All-Academic Team.

6. We are the champions! Five fingers signal five consecutive MAAC titles. The team, coached by Paula Miller ’96 (back row, fourth from right), is 47-0 in MAAC play since joining the conference.
Men’s Ice Hockey
NEW CONTRACTS FOR PECKNOLD AND FORMER BOBCATS
Head coach Rand Pecknold, who is coaching his 25th season at Quinnipiac, signed a contract extension this summer through the 2022-23 season. Pecknold guided the Bobcats to national championship games in 2013 and 2016. The NHL’s New York Islanders continue to fill their roster with former Bobcats. In July, defenseman Devon Toews ’16 signed a two-year contract. In May, forward Travis St. Denis ’16 signed a two-year, two-way contract between the Islanders and their AHL affiliate, the Bridgeport Sound Tigers. Also in May, defenseman Connor Clifford ’17 and the Boston Bruins agreed on a two-year deal. In July, forward Matthew Peca ’15 and the Montreal Canadiens agreed on a two-year contract.

Women’s Ice Hockey
A NATIONAL PROFILE
Senior forward Melissa Samoskevich shined for USA Hockey during the offseason. In August, she attended the USA Hockey National Women’s Festival in Lake Placid, New York, where she was chosen for the Under-22 Select Team that competed in a three-game series against Canada. In September, Samoskevich was one of 37 athletes invited to the U.S. Women’s National Team Evaluation Camp in Biddeford, Maine. Closer to home, the 2019 NCAA Women’s Frozen Four will be played March 22-24 at People’s United Center.

Men’s Basketball
PROGRAM ON THE RISE
After a promising first season and a trip to the MAAC tournament semifinals, head coach Baker Dunleavy signed a five-year contract extension in August. Dunleavy, a 2006 Villanova alumnus, took the Bobcats to Philadelphia on Nov. 10 to open the 2018-19 season against his alma mater, the defending national champions. On Dec. 16, Quinnipiac will continue its non-league schedule against Drexel in the Hall of Fame Holiday Showcase at Mohegan Sun Arena in Connecticut as part of a one-day tripleheader. Rhode Island will play West Virginia and Tulsa will meet Dayton in the other two games.

Field Hockey
LEADERS RECOGNIZED
Head coach Becca Main was selected to the NCAA Division I Field Hockey Committee this fall. She is one of five committee members, and her term will run through the 2022 season.

Women’s Basketball
WINNING WAYS LEAD TO ANOTHER NCAA TRIP
For the second straight year, Jen Fay, above, and the Bobcats earned a trip to the NCAA tournament—and a win over Miami. This year’s victory over the Hurricanes set up a second-round matchup against 11-time national champion UConn in Storrs; Quinnipiac played hard, but lost to the Huskies to finish the season at 28-6.

Acrobatics & Tumbling
A STRONG FINISH
The No. 3 seed Quinnipiac acrobatics & tumbling team reached the national championship meet last spring, but fell to No. 1 seed and unbeaten Baylor. The two teams will meet again Feb. 24 during the regular season at Baylor’s campus in Waco, Texas. Last season, the Bobcats were led by Camren Diaz and Abby Ziser, who were named All-Americans by the National Collegiate Acrobatics and Tumbling Association.

Golf Team
ALL IN THE FAMILY
Jenn Whaley ’16 was hired as the Bobcats new assistant coach in August. She served as a team captain for three seasons, including her senior year, when she helped Quinnipiac win the first of two straight MAAC championships. Her mother, former PGA golfer Suzy Whaley, a volunteer assistant coach for the Bobcats since the 2013-14 season, became the 41st president of the PGA of America on Nov. 9. Four members of the Bobcats 2017-18 team were selected to the Women’s Golf Coaches Association’s All-American Scholar Team: senior Abby Chase, junior Julia Kemmling, sophomore Alexandra Sazhin and freshman Queenie Lai. Chase and Lai ended the year with 4.0 GPAs.
The emergence of Cameron Young '18 as a star on Quinnipiac's basketball team is a testament to the difference sports can make in a kid's life.

Growing up in Compton, California—one of the toughest addresses in Los Angeles County—Young was just 11 years old when his grandmother and cousin were murdered in 2007. The pain was sharp, but it never distracted him. The hope of basketball came a few years later when Young found his way to Westchester High School in LA, and ultimately, Quinnipiac.

A 6-foot-6 guard, Young led the Bobcats last year as a senior, averaging 18.8 points and 6.8 rebounds. He started all 33 games and set a school scoring record for a Division I season with 622 points. The performance was a stark contrast to Young's junior season at Quinnipiac, when he watched his Division I dream from the bench as a junior college transfer. He played in just six games in 2016-17, the fewest of any team member. Young sat out the rest of the season because of coaching decisions and a crowded roster, not because of any injury.

"It was hard for me, but I had a lot of support from teammates and my family," Young said after a recent workout on Lender Court at People's United Center. "I just kept working hard in practice and never gave up."

Given his limited minutes as a junior, Quinnipiac officials petitioned the NCAA last spring for a fifth year of eligibility for Young, who earned his bachelor's degree in psychology in May. After reviewing the case, the NCAA granted the waiver for Young, who will suit up this season as the top returning scorer in the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference.

"When Cam's playing his best," Quinnipiac coach Baker Dunleavy said, "he's right up there with anybody we play."

Young could have transferred to a basketball program with a higher profile, perhaps a Big East school or a Pac-12 school. But that was never the plan.

"I really like the environment here—the school, the coaches, my teammates," Young said. "I wanted to stay here and be around people I know and I'm comfortable with."

When Dunleavy arrived in March 2017 as Quinnipiac's new coach, everyone started fresh—perhaps no one more than Young. "Cam's been through a lot of adversity, and it's shaped who he is," Dunleavy said. "When you unlock him and you get to know him better, you see how bright he is, and how much he listens and thinks about things."

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Cybersecurity program gives the ‘good guys’ tools to wage the battle against data breaches

BY BRIAN KOONZ
ILLUSTRATION PAUL BLOW
Modern refrigerators have every imaginable convenience. You want a built-in camera to check out the milk situation while you’re at the grocery store? Done. How about a door panel to mirror your TV while you’re in the kitchen? Check. And who couldn’t use a voice-activated shopping list?

Today’s technology delivers a cold place to store your food and a home entertainment system, all in one slick, stainless steel package. Of course, this convenience—whether you’re accessing it through Bluetooth, Wi-Fi or both—requires a home network connection.

The technical details are a bit more complex, however. “If a hacker can compromise your smart refrigerator, for example, he could then gain access to your home network, and in turn, other devices attached to your network—your PC, your tablet, your phone, etc.,” Rian says. “Once he does that, he has access to your most sensitive personal information—bank accounts, contacts, passwords, everything you do in the digital world.”

Security experts predict these cyber threats and breaches will only increase. In 2017, the FBI’s Internet Crime Complaint Center received more than 300,000 complaints with reported losses in excess of $1.4 billion.

Never before has the world been as vulnerable to cyber breaches as it is today. That’s the bad news. The good news is that cybersecurity is one of the fastest-growing and best-paying fields, according to ISACA, a cybersecurity peer organization with 140,000 members in 180 countries.

Seizing the opportunity to educate those professionals and fill those jobs, Quinnipiac designed and launched a master of science in cybersecurity program this fall. The fully online curriculum is the School of Engineering’s first graduate degree. Program director Frederick Scholl, who has taught at Vanderbilt University and earned his bachelor’s degree and PhD from Cornell University, thinks cybersecurity is everyone’s responsibility, from consumers to chief information officers.

“People are just sitting on their couches watching Netflix or playing video games or shopping online, and they don’t realize that they’re at risk,” Scholl said. “There are so many devices that could be hacked, from smart thermostats to smart refrigerators to smart home security systems. And you don’t even have to have a lot of money to create these devices. You can do it with a simple script or a simple packet sniffer.”

And that could be a problem. This connection increases the possibility for a “malicious actor,” more commonly known as a hacker, to compromise other devices on a home network and potentially access your family’s personal information.

“The bad guys are out there looking for information, and they know no bounds. Whether that information belongs to an individual or group of people, a company’s proprietary intellectual capital, or to sensitive or classified government data, they will do whatever they can to gain access to their targets,” says John Rian ’02, MBA ’04. Rian is a lead technologist/cybersecurity engineer at Booz Allen Hamilton, a Virginia-based management and information technology consulting firm.

And it’s not just consumers at risk here, Scholl said. Businesses—from Fortune 500 companies to department stores—must also be aware of the risks and take steps to protect their information systems.

“The bad guys are out there looking for information, and they know no bounds. Whether that information belongs to an individual or group of people ... they will do whatever they can to gain access to their targets.”

— John Rian ’02, MBA ’04
Protecting medical records is also important. Unlike credit cards and bank accounts, numbers that can be replaced, your medical profile is like a fingerprint. It’s unique.

stores—are susceptible to attacks. Over the past few years, Yahoo, Lord & Taylor, Home Depot, Target, JPMorgan Chase, T-Mobile and Equifax, among others, have made national headlines after their networks were compromised. A recent ISACA survey concluded that only 38 percent of IT professionals believe their organization is prepared for a sophisticated cyberattack.

“The bad guys will always readjust to whatever you’re doing from a defensive standpoint,” said Brian Kelly, Quinnipiac’s chief information security officer. “With all these consumer breaches, none of them has ever been the fault of the consumer. So the question now becomes: ‘How do we advocate, how do we insist that companies keep our data secure?’ All you did that made you a victim was shopping at Target or any of the other stores with data breaches.”

At the same time, hospitals around the world have fallen victim to ransomware, a blackmail scheme that shuts down vital systems with malicious software. Meanwhile, social media has become a digital destination for influencing elections and peddling fake news. And financial, transportation and energy networks have become targets of cyber breaches.

“These [network] threats are real. Malicious attackers are smart people. That’s their job,” said Karolyn Maloney ‘08, a senior director of IT hygiene, identity & access management, and global security at Aetna in Hartford. “The nation states and governments that sponsor these people are making huge investments in them. The United States is also very skilled in cybersecurity and making huge investments of its own. It’s a constant battle.”

Rian agreed with Maloney’s assessment. “You now have more sophisticated, conniving attackers trying to compromise everything from companies down to individual people to open a door that will lead to important information,” Rian said. “Devices that have made our lives easier, like tablets and smartphones, have also made it easier for attackers—so much that I tell family members to think twice about where they leave their phone. After all, you wouldn’t go and leave your wallet on a table at a busy restaurant. Why would you leave your phone unattended?”

BIG BUSINESS, BIG DATA

At Aetna, Maloney and Sofia Bayne ’84, a director of IT hygiene and privileged user management solutions—are critical members of an exhaustive cybersecurity department.

They are among those charged with protecting the sensitive information of Aetna’s customers and vendors. That’s a big job, a really big job considering that in 2017, Aetna served 22.2 million medical members, according to its annual report.

“Cyber threats are real and they happen every day. A clean IT environment is critical to what we do,” Bayne said. “If there are vulnerabilities, we need to track them and neutralize them. How do you manage your assets? That’s a really important question. Aetna doesn’t have one giant server with all of our assets. We have 20,000-plus servers. Strategy is all about risk mitigation.”

While it’s easy for consumers to focus on financial vulnerabilities, protecting medical records is also important, maybe even more so. Unlike credit cards and bank account numbers that can be replaced, your medical profile is like a fingerprint. It’s uniquely yours.

This is why hackers will pay $1,000 or more for your electronic medical records, according to a story published by Forbes in April 2017. You can’t put a freeze on your past.

“It used to be that all the attention was on the financial industry, but then hackers realized health care has all that data and more,” Maloney said, adding that hackers have grown more aggressive in attempting to access these digital records. She said Aetna’s response has been comprehensive and proactive. “We’ve selected the people, the technology and the processes to minimize and mitigate our exposure.”

Aside from accessing a person’s medical information, including birthdays and health histories, hackers also can manipulate prescriptions and billing claims once they compromise someone’s electronic files.

What’s more, as technology and medicine advance at blinding speed, even more health data is being collected and stored, from fitness trackers that count your steps to smartphone apps that measure your sleep patterns.

Maloney said next generation authentication adds another layer of security for web and mobile app users, including those customers who interact with Aetna.

“Next generation authentication works with behavioral authentication—how you walk, the Wi-Fi connections that you connect with, who you call,” Maloney said. “All of this
Frederick Scholl knows that cybercrime is a moving target with an accelerator pedal pressed to the floor. He is committed to building a robust program that will be constantly and purposefully evolving.

information can be aggregated so that NGA can tell with very high confidence that this is me. Or, if the information is different from my profile, it can conclude that this is not me. It's really a unique tool in our industry."

The advances and the challenges of technology are constantly redrawing the cyber roadmap.

People are already wearing prosthetic devices that use microcomputers to improve joint functionality and mimic nerve signals. Likewise, there are pacemakers and other devices that transmit data to doctors with remote monitoring via smartphones and home networks.

“When you're in IT, nothing really surprises you,” Bayne said. “We’re always reading and going to conferences. Robotics and [artificial intelligence] are going to play a huge role in our everyday lives in the future.”

NEW PROGRAM, NEW OPPORTUNITIES

When Quinnipiac officials decided to add an MS in cybersecurity, they sought input from alumni who were already working in the field. There were countless details to work out—the curriculum, the online delivery of classes, the ability for students to earn credentials while they worked on their degrees.

Maloney and Bayne were two of the alumni who provided direction. Others included Robert Porter ’91, chief revenue officer at Verodon, and Mark Santino ’91, a head of sales operations and strategic planning at Palo Alto Networks. Jonathan Blake, a professor of computer science and software engineering who served as interim program director before the program launched, also offered valuable insight. Kelly, the university’s chief information security officer, also helped to make corporate connections and pull together resources.

“Quinnipiac will need to keep pace with the industry, and that’s tough in cyber,” Bayne said. “For the program to be successful, you really have to look out two or three years and then ask yourself, ‘OK, what should we be offering?’ It’s very important to keep looking ahead.”

As part of that strategy, Scholl said he constantly leverages his relationships with cybersecurity experts, both in the public and private sectors, to stay involved with current and future trends in the industry. But like others in the field, Scholl said problem solving and tenacity also are vital skills for today’s cybersecurity professionals.

“To me, the most important factors in pursuing a cybersecurity career are curiosity and a desire to learn,” Maloney said. “It’s not so much about having the technical background at this point in time. If you’re committed to the work and have good critical thinking skills, it’s a great job with a very bright future.”

Twelve students are enrolled in the inaugural class of the MS in cybersecurity program. Their backgrounds are in business, finance, security and computer science.

“This 36-credit program teaches IT infrastructure, networking technology, database security, cryptography and the advanced cyber operations management skills needed to assume a leadership position in the rapidly evolving field. The curriculum is closely aligned with the knowledge units established by the National Security Agency/Department of Homeland Security National Centers of Academic Excellence in Cyber Defense Education. The program is also open to non-degree-seeking students interested in taking individual course modules as stackable credentials to expand their current knowledge in operating systems, cryptography, networking, databases, security and computation theory. Scholl knows that cybercrime is a moving target with an accelerator pedal pressed to the floor. He is committed to building a robust program that will be constantly and purposefully evolving.

“We want our students to be lifetime learners of security, absolutely. We want to be a resource for them because the field is changing so quickly,” said Scholl, who holds 13 U.S. patents and graduated from Harvard’s internet law program in 2001.

Scholl comes to Quinnipiac after helping design and launch the College of Computing and Technology at Lipscomb University in Nashville. “It was very challenging, but it presented a lot of good opportunities,” he said. “We graduated about 130 students [in IT, security, data science and software engineering] over three years.”

Before Scholl was named the cybersecurity program director at Quinnipiac, he was a consultant on Wall Street and an entrepreneur. He also worked as a security manager for Nissan America. Earlier in his career, Scholl said he was the “geek in a white lab coat” conducting research and product development for 13 years.

It’s precisely this blend of higher education initiatives and business experience that gives Scholl the credentials to prepare cybersecurity students for the real world. And the virtual one.

“My vision and the vision of Quinnipiac is to make cybersecurity technology as accessible to as many people as we can,” Scholl said. “I’m really interested in the adult learner, people who may want to change roles. It’s going to create new opportunities. This program is not going to be a mass-produced product. It’s really focused on career transitions and jobs.”

Ryan is eager to see how the program evolves.

“There are always going to be bad guys trying to do bad things. I’m hopeful this new program will help more Quinnipiac alumni contribute to the greater good.”
ALUMNI GIVE
NEW PRESIDENT
PERSPECTIVE AND RETROSPECTIVE

BY BRIAN KOONZ

Besides socializing, attendees use Alumni Weekend to enhance their professional networks

The more Quinnipiac stories she heard at Alumni Weekend in October, the more President Judy Olian leaned in to listen. Some of the stories originated on the school’s first campus in New Haven. Other tales were interrupted by rounds of laughter, still going strong decades later. Olian could sense these stories were part of a shared, living narrative.

“It’s impressive to me that people aren’t just connected; they’re connected with great affection for the institution,” the president said last month. “That’s very special.”

As Olian navigated the various Alumni Weekend events—from a golf tournament at the New Haven Country Club and a law school reception on the North Haven Campus, to a pep rally at the Rocky Top Student Center, a men’s soccer game, and women’s and men’s ice hockey games at People’s United Center—she discovered more and more about Quinnipiac’s DNA.

At the Heritage Luncheon for alumni who graduated 50 years ago—or more—Olian met people who sat in classrooms at the Junior College of Commerce and Larson Junior College, well before Quinnipiac moved north to Hamden with a new name and a new campus.

“Going back to the ’50s, I was struck by the fact that there were quite a number of women at Quinnipiac,” Olian said. “They were in different fields than some of the ones we’re offering today, but they were there.”

Shirley Gustafson ’43 was one of those women. So were Marilyn Gerard, Anne Balogh and Ruth Barnett, all from the Class of 1952. Together, they were among the 1,200 alumni who came back last month to find a university that has grown to include three campuses with 10,000 students and more than 100 programs of study.

“It was amazing to see all the changes that have taken place on the main campus,” said Gregory Clary, who earned a journalism degree in 2008 and returned to Quinnipiac for the first time in 10 years with his wife, Caitlyn Cleaver. “We even went to the North Haven Campus to check out the law school and the medical school. They were both really impressive. But it was also funny how I walked down the corridors of Tator Hall thinking, ‘This is exactly how I remember it.’

These days, Clary works as a producer at CNN covering the White House and Capitol Hill. He said his education, particularly the hands-on studio opportunities, gave him the confidence and skills to succeed.

“Our professors prepared us for local news because most people will start off their careers in a smaller market and work their way up,” Clary said. “I was lucky enough to get an internship at CNN my junior year. I had worked at Q30 and the [CNN] people were impressed that I already had television experience.”

After Clary completed his internship, he returned to Quinnipiac for his senior year. “Having worked at CNN as an intern and then giving them a call once I got my degree to tell them, ‘Hey, I’m available for employment now,’ made the transition to my career so much easier,” he said.

A decade later, Clary is covering the Trump administration, the confirmation hearings of U.S. Supreme Court nominees and other news of the day in Washington. In addition to his producer role, Clary writes for the CNN website.

Whenever I introduce myself to a politician I’m about to interview, or to somebody who is a new co-worker, they always say, ‘Oh, Quinnipiac. You guys do the poll.’ But the recognition is more than that now,” Clary said.

For recent graduates, events such as Alumni Weekend are a social snapshot, an opportunity to reconnect, tailgate, catch a hockey game and tell those timeless stories (see photos on page 53). But Olian also sees the bigger picture. She knows Quinnipiac alumni want to cultivate career-enhancing relationships, too.

“Alumni are looking to connect, not just for social purposes, but for new learning and business purposes as well,” Olian said. “The demands of professional careers are changing at an unprecedented pace; by reconnecting with Quinnipiac and with each other, our alumni are sampling some of the learning and social networks they need on an ongoing basis in their professions and personal lives.”

Olian is clearly eager to hear from Quinnipiac’s alumni. She values their feedback on their time at the university, how they see their learning and professional needs changing, and she wishes to see them participating actively in the life of the campus—mentoring and connecting with current students and contributing as engaged and proud alumni for life.
Field of dreams slowly morphs into the stuff of nightmares

As soon as I felt the pop, I knew I was in trouble. First base never seemed so far away as it did that day at John Delaney’s baseball camp.

Delaney, the fifth-year head coach of the Quinnipiac baseball team, runs an annual summer camp for local children on the Mount Carmel Campus. This year, 54 boys signed up to polish their diamond dreams and make new friends.

My assignment was to grab a glove from my closet and join these aspiring baseball stars on the field. Delaney and his summer camp coaches teach participants fundamentals of the game and strategy. They also oversee relay races—the wheelbarrow challenge, anyone?—and lead warmups and stretching. I was there to participate.

“For the first couple of years, we did a lot of drills, but now we just want the kids to have fun,” said Delaney. He was selected as the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference Coach of the Year in 2018 after guiding the Bobcats to a 16-8 record, the program’s best season in the MAAC.

I arrived that first day as the middle-aged outlier with a notepad, a Quinnipiac T-shirt and the look of someone
Koonz and his campmates, right, enjoy a game of Pickle, where their running skills are tested as they sprint between bases. Below, wheelbarrow relay races inject an element of fun. Koonz and his partner were the victors!
ON THE FIELD

The highlight at baseball camp—without fail—is playing the game that everyone loves. Sometimes, it’s old school hardball. Other times, it can be the unpredictable flight of a Wiffle Ball.

desperate to fit in. After stretching on the grass, we formed a half-dozen relay race lines.

The wheelbarrow challenge was first. Everyone in my line paired up and as I looked around, I heard a voice in the desert: “I’ll be your partner,” said a confident kid with honey highlights in his brown hair.

The rules were simple: One person walks with his hands—as fast as he can—while the other person holds his legs like a wheelbarrow. Twenty yards later, they turn around and switch spots. As we rounded the turn, I glanced over at the competition. We were right in the thick of things.

Propelled by adrenalin and cheers, we crossed the finish line first. The boys all celebrated like they had just won the World Series. In some ways, while the shine of summer was still in full bloom here, I suppose they had.

But the highlight at baseball camp—without fail—is playing the game that everyone loves. Sometimes, it’s old school hardball. Other times, it can be the unpredictable flight of a Wiffle Ball.

On the second day I visited camp, Wiffle Ball became my swift and unflattering demise. There were no special accommodations for my ego. I was up. My mighty swing produced an infield roller and I attempted to leg out a single while extras straight out of “The Sandlot” watched in horror.

Halfway to first base, the pop and resulting pain in my calf erased any notion I could compete with these kids. I hopped over to a nearby golf cart to see Kayla Roddy ’17, a certified athletic trainer assigned to the camp. Roddy pressed and prodded my leg before driving me to the training room for further examination.

“How old are you?” she asked once we got settled. “Fifty-three,” I replied. “In fact, today is my birthday.” Roddy pulled out some crutches and told me I likely had a strained calf muscle. “You fit the profile,” she told me without hesitation. And just like that, with an efficient and eviscerating four words, the destruction of my dignity was complete.

This abrupt ending was disappointing because the morning had gone so well. Flanked by two boys at fielding practice, I stood between the fringe of the infield and the expanse of the outfield.

The kid on my right wore his allegiance for all to see. The interlocking “NY” on his cap was the timeless logo of the New York Yankees. “I always go to Bat Day,” he told me. Naturally, I was curious which Yankee signatures were stamped on his bats: “Oh, I have Aaron Judge. And Didi Gregorius, too.”

The boy on my left didn’t have any discernible loyalties. So I went with the obvious teams for baseball fans in Connecticut—the Yankees, the Boston Red Sox and the New York Mets.

One by one, he shook me off like a pitcher working with a new catcher. Finally, I gave up and learned the Baltimore Orioles had won this boy’s heart. “The Orioles were my Pop-Pop’s favorite team before he died,” the boy said. “Now, they’re mine.”

Sharing the national pastime is the connection that galvanizes generations. Baseball is a simple game, really. Two teams, nine innings, three strikes and you’re out. It’s the memories that matter most—a seat next to your Pop-Pop at the ballpark, a Little League jersey with a dry cleaner’s name on the back, a catch with your best friend at summer camp.

Even an old guy with a bum leg knows that.

ONLINE See more baseball practice photos at magazine.qu.edu
Church Street School principal Stacie D’Antonio, EDL ’10, took a deep breath this fall before sending students and teachers into the frenetic response of a lockdown drill.

D’Antonio has spent the past 25 years making lesson plans, grading assignments and shaping young lives as a teacher and an administrator. It wasn’t until the last few years, after schools became targets and headline news, that active shooter drills became part of her job description.

For the 350 students at Hamden’s Church Street School one September day—and students all across the country—these drills are the new normal, another page in their school experience. For their principals and teachers, they are at once jarring and disturbing.

“As educators, we didn’t come into education because we wanted to worry about shooters in a school,” D’Antonio said. “We came in because we wanted to educate kids, and we wanted to help them become the best people they could be. Unfortunately, in this world and at this time, it’s something we have to consider and prepare for.”

Last April, the School of Education sponsored “Gun and School Violence: An Interdisciplinary Concern” at Quinnipiac’s North Haven Campus. Anne Dichele, dean of the School of Education, said the need to address gun violence in schools and elsewhere is “no less than a moral imperative.”

“However you believe—as a citizen and a world human being—we need to act,” Dichele said at the event. “Our schools, our teachers, our students need to be safe and free to learn.”

Russ Dallai, principal of North Haven High School, was among the speakers at the well-attended forum. Others included Khalilah L. Brown-Dean, associate professor of political science; Gerald Conlogue, professor emeritus of diagnostic imaging and co-executive director of the university’s Bioanthropology Research Institute; and Connecticut’s U.S. Sen. Chris Murphy, via video. The program was organized by Jennifer Dauphinais, visiting assistant professor of education.

Learning has always been the directive of teachers. Students learn best when a classroom is built on collaboration, acceptance, curiosity, and of course, safety. Although active shooter drills are not required under the Connecticut General Statutes, they have been held in school districts such as Newtown, Wallingford, Bridgeport, New Canaan and others.

“School safety and gun violence is at the forefront of the discussion, but it’s not the only thing we should be focusing on. How do you allay children’s fears, even just by going through these drills?” Dichele said. “There are kids out there who experience violence and abuse day after day after day. I’m not so Pollyanna to think we can fix the world ... but we do have a responsibility to prepare our teachers for a very complex job.”

One way the School of Education accomplishes this is by assigning student teachers to schools with a culture that may be different than their own.

“Oh course, we teach the academics and I think we do them very well,” Dichele said. “But we also need to prepare our teachers for a broader understanding of the world and other cultures. That’s critical for a holistic approach to teaching and being able to reach kids in deeper, more meaningful ways.” The School of Education held a follow-up forum earlier this month with a focus on social and emotional learning.

D’Antonio recalled that students and professors talked a lot about school safety and climate when she was a student.

“When you have a strong foundation in school climate and you can set that up, it really helps you build success for other things,” D’Antonio said.

Today in contemporary America, those other things include active shooter drills in our schools and proactive outreach for disengaged students.

D’Antonio understands that relationships matter in a classroom, the same way social interaction and trust matter.

At Church Street School, two school psychologists and two social workers conduct weekly classroom programs about conflict, sadness and other mental health and quality of life issues.

“Everybody knows everybody here. The social workers and the psychologists know the kids in the rooms,” D’Antonio said. “If the kids have to come out of class and talk, or if they need help, it’s not ‘Who are you?’ They already know each other.”

In October, D’Antonio became principal of the Ridge Hill School in Hamden. Along with her books and photos, D’Antonio packed a commitment to safety and grassroots relationships. But she still had to learn a new school—the classrooms, the hallways, the students, the teachers—every nook and cranny, as she put it. And that takes time.

Sixth-grade teacher Kara Breen cautions her students to be silent during a lockdown drill at Church Street School in Hamden. Breen is enrolled in Quinnipiac’s sixth-year diploma in educational leadership program.
Your only choice in a classroom is not just to lock your door and cower in a corner ... You have options.

— Principal Stacie D’Antonio

The second forum, titled, “The Real Story Behind Safe Schools,” featured remarks by Fay Brown of the Yale Child Study Center and the Comer School Development program; Judy Puglisi, a recent principal at Metropolitan Business Academy, a magnet high school in New Haven; and Marlene DeBells, a school-based social worker at Side by Side Charter School in Norwalk.

AWARENESS IS CRITICAL
Richard Arroyo ’00, principal of the Enlightenment School in Waterbury, Connecticut, guides about 150 students in grades six through 12 at the city’s alternative school for at-risk students. As someone who was an at-risk student himself, he appreciates the struggles—and applauds the successes—of his students. He has little patience for labels and low expectations in his hallways.

“When you talk about teaching school safety, I talk about teaching life,” Arroyo said. “When I was a kid—I’m 49 in October—we did the under-the-desk, put-your-hands-over-your-head drill. Why? In case they dropped a bomb. Was it going to save us? Maybe not. But it was a drill, and drills prepare you to succeed. If you practice something enough—whichever it is—you get better at it.”

Arroyo knows that life isn’t a snapshot. After graduating high school, he worked in maintenance, construction and garbage hauling. It was honest work, but it wasn’t what he wanted to do for the next 50 years. So Arroyo did some soul-searching and began taking classes at a local community college. Almost a decade later, Arroyo earned his bachelor’s degree from Quinnipiac and set out to help others learn.

“Most of our problems in school occur when a troubled student is upset about an issue and acts out on campus. Or maybe they leave campus and come back,” Arroyo said. “Making everyone aware—of themselves, of each other, of their actions, of their surroundings—is important. That awareness leads to a preparedness about school, about life, about handling the tough situations.”

But what about when that tough situation becomes a school shooting? What happens then? For D’Antonio, who began her teaching career at Church Street School in 1993, the best strategy is candor and honesty.

“I’m transparent. When I’m scared, I say I’m scared. When I don’t know the answer, I say that I don’t know the answer,” D’Antonio said. “When I say to staff with tears coming down my face that you’re going to have to make really hard decisions if God forbid the worst day of your life happens, I mean it. But we all hope and pray that’s never the case.”

After years of hopes and prayers, the shootings continue and more communities become synonymous with tragedy—Sandy Hook, Parkland, Columbine. The active shooter drills continue as well.

There is nothing pleasant about these drills, of course. While it’s impossible to scrub and sanitize the need for these 10-minute rehearsals for the worst, it’s also impossible to ignore the threat of school shootings.

“You can’t just talk about it and train about it and forget about it,” D’Antonio said during the summer in her office at Church Street School. “That doesn’t work in real life. It has to come up. It’s a topic of conversation at our staff meetings several times a year.”

D’Antonio pivots her chair as she points to the shatterproof film covering all of the first-floor windows at Church Street School. Next, she points to the “duress buttons” fastened near the top of the door inside every office and every classroom. The buttons are wired to the Hamden Police Department to be used only in the event of a school shooting.

BY THE BOOK
Hamden is among 4,200 districts across America that follow the protocol and strategies of the Ohio-based ALICE Training Institute. ALICE is an acronym for alert, lockdown, inform, counter and evacuate.

“It’s not a linear formula, it’s a method of thinking. It gives people options,” D’Antonio said. “Your only choice in a classroom is not just to lock your door and cower in a corner, where if someone did get into your room, you’d all be sitting ducks. You have options.”

Depending on where the emergency is happening, D’Antonio said, students and their teacher could run out of a building. Or they could barricade a door with classroom furniture. As a last resort, they could fight back and disrupt an active shooter by hurling fire extinguishers, chairs, staplers, books, tape dispensers, backpacks, anything they could get their hands on.

Arroyo knows a few things about fighting back. He was no stranger to trouble as a teenager. By the time he graduated from high school, he was hanging out with the wrong crowd at the wrong times. Today, Arroyo uses his past to leverage the future of his students, to diffuse the anger and the discontent before it gets dangerous. Or worse.
“There’s a pretty tough neighborhood up the road from our school called Long Hill—the Long Hill projects,” Arroyo said. “There are some guys up there—OG’s [original gangsters] as they call them—that I know from way back. So when one of the kids from ‘The Hill’ gets in trouble, I tell them to go see MC [a longtime Hill resident].”

Arroyo gets MC to vouch for him and establish his street credibility with ‘The Hill’ students. Once they trust Arroyo, he can help them—in school, in life, in times of trouble.

“They ask me how I know MC,” Arroyo said. “I tell them, ‘Never mind how I know MC. Just go ask him about Rich Arroyo.’ They always come back, ‘OK, OK, I got it.’ It works because I’m not that person anymore. That’s what they need to see. They need to see they have options in life that don’t involve bad choices.”

In a generation fixated on “Fortnite” and other video games, learning is more visual than ever.

NowThis, a leading news brand on social media, came to Church Street School last June to videotape an active shooter drill for an upcoming documentary.

D’Antonio said a sixth-grade class simulated a door barricade and a counterattack for the producers. The footage is expected to demonstrate best practices in schools, she said.

D’Antonio credited West Woods School principal Daniel Levy, the district’s safety coordinator, for developing the lockdown plan and other emergency measures for the Hamden Public Schools. She said the regimen serves as a powerful tool to improve classroom safety, especially for newer teachers.

“I really haven’t had new teachers talk about school safety during the interview process, but I’m thinking that might be an important question to include,” D’Antonio said. “Again, no one goes into education to do school shooting drills, but it’s something that needs to be talked about and prepared for.”
Alumnus David Rabinowitz ’09 turns book into Hollywood script with ‘BlacKkKlansman’

As his motorcade pulled to a stop, David Rabinowitz ’09 peered out the car window at the expectant throngs waiting to wave to Hollywood big shots. He adjusted his black tie and smoothed the collar of his tux as he waited his turn to step onto the red carpet at the Cannes Film Festival.

Clicking cameras and flashing strobes fueled the electric atmosphere encircling this city on the French Riviera. Rabinowitz walked in with famed director Spike Lee and actors John David Washington (son of Denzel), Adam Driver and Topher Grace. They were all there in May to attend the premiere of their award-winning movie, “BlacKkKlansman,” which opened to critical acclaim nationwide on Aug. 10.

Lee and Oscar-winning producer Jordan Peele (his “Get Out” won best original screenplay in 2017) made the movie, adapting the screenplay Rabinowitz wrote with his high school friend, Charlie Wachtel, also in attendance this evening.

Entering the theater, they were ushered to seats reserved for them. Once the credits rolled and they spotted their names (as writers and producers), the metamorphosis from dream to reality was complete. What’s more, the film garnered Cannes’ prestigious Grand Prix award, a 10-minute standing ovation and, since then, Oscar buzz.

“Pretty crazy and a bit overwhelming” is how Rabinowitz describes Cannes. The New Jersey native and former member of the Quinnipiac Film Society had never attended the annual festival, where many genres of films premiere and where film industry insiders go to network. He met the film’s cast members at a cocktail reception before the showing.

David Sims, culture writer for The Atlantic, described the film as “loaded with broad comedy, bold speechifying, blunt depictions of racism, and astonishing visual flair.” In August, he wrote: “It is a Spike Lee movie, made with the kind of artistic and political verve that recalls his best work. ‘BlacKKKlansman’ has all the subtext of a trolley cart to the face, but Lee’s argument begins and ends with the fact that this is an unsnubable moment in America.”

Rabinowitz and Wachtel wrote the screenplay after reading an autobiography by Ron Stallworth, the first black police officer to join the Colorado Springs Police Department in the 1970s. In his book, Stallworth tells the story of how he responded to an ad in a local newspaper placed by the Ku Klux Klan, which was looking for new members. He answered the ad using his real name while posing as a racist extremist.

When a Klan member asked to meet Stallworth, the detective recruited his white partner, named Flip Zimmerman in the film, to go in his place. He dubbed them “the combined Ron Stallworth.” Zimmerman went to Klan meetings while Stallworth handled the phone conversations that took place during their undercover investigation. They were able to expose white supremacists and sabotage cross burnings, even meeting with former KKK grand wizard David Duke, portrayed by Grace.

Intrigued by the story and its relevancy today, Rabinowitz and Wachtel discovered that nobody had the film rights to the book at that time. They informed the publisher and Stallworth of their intention to adapt it for a film. Stallworth was open to the idea and got involved in the creative process.

The film’s August release coincided with the one-year anniversary of the riots in Charlottesville, Virginia, in which a young woman was struck and killed by a car driven into a clashing crowd of white nationalists and anti-fascist protesters. Lee incorporated footage of the incident, as well as news clips from Trump’s remarks about the riots into the finale, segueing from the image of a fiery cross to the illuminated torches of the Charlottesville marchers.

Rabinowitz, a film, television and media arts major, worked in the news industry in New York before moving to LA in 2012. He and Wachtel previously had co-written a pilot for a TV show, but this film would become their big break.

The writing team pitched the idea to a producer acquaintance, Shaun Redick, who was in the early stages of producing “Get Out” with Peele and shared the idea with him. To their surprise and delight, Peele said he was in.
“We met with Peele in 2016, and he gave us notes and we did a rewrite based on that. When his ‘Get Out’ opened in February 2017, we could tell it was going to be something,” Rabinowitz recalls. “His notes were great—straightforward, easy to implement, and they made the script a lot better,” Rabinowitz says. “It was clear in that meeting that Jordan knew exactly what we were going for in the script, and that he had an excellent sense of story telling.”

Peele asked Lee if he’d be interested in directing. And Lee climbed aboard.

“That was our pipe dream,” Rabinowitz says. “When we started writing, it was basically a joke between us: Yeah, Spike Lee is going to direct this. We never really took it seriously until we heard that Lee was meeting with the producers.”

Rabinowitz tells students he meets in the Quinnipiac in Los Angeles program about “aligning yourself with the right people. It’s so important.”

“Meeting Spike was very cool,” says Rabinowitz, who has been a Spike Lee fan since high school. His two favorite Lee flicks are “25th Hour” and “Do the Right Thing.” Other Quinnipiac students had the pleasure of meeting Lee when he visited Quinnipiac in February 2011 as the keynote speaker for Black History Month.

“Spike Lee has never been hesitant throughout his career to preach to us,” says Raymond Foery, professor of film, television and media arts. He considers the film one of Lee’s best of the past decade. Foery developed and teaches a Quinnipiac course called Spike Lee’s America.

The duo is working on a new screenplay for a movie about a mob hitman nicknamed ‘Animal.’

“His most successful films are those in which he manages to entertain at the same time. This film is one of those. His message is as clear and strong as ever, but his characters are well-drawn, his plot is tight, and his cinematic prowess is clearly evident. And to have a QU alumnus so intimately involved in such an ambitious project should make us all proud—I certainly am,” Foery says.

Rabinowitz notes that scripts can change considerably from the writer’s final submission to the finished product, with edits even made during shooting. Kevin Willmott, a University of Kansas film professor, was brought in for a final rewrite, and Rabinowitz and Wachtel were given the shooting script, on which they made notes.

As he watched the film that night in Cannes, Rabinowitz paid close attention to audience feedback. “When a line I wrote would get a reaction, it was like, ‘Alright, that was me. I did that one,’” he says. And since the movie opened, he’s been enjoying the great reviews from film critics and friends alike.

Adapting a book to film is never simple, he remarked, noting that Stallworth’s book was written in the manner of a police report. “The tough thing is that books can give insight into a character’s thoughts while movies have to dramatize those thoughts and make them visual.”

While writing the screenplay, they found that some of the book chapters could be made into scenes, but they also decided to introduce a specific threat posed by the Klan that serves as the movie’s backbone and bolsters the cinematic structure. They also consolidated several people the author wrote about into one female character.

“And we needed to invent most of the dialogue to make it a story that could support a film while keeping true to the book,” he says.

As the script evolved, Lee added his voice and injected more politics into it, according to Rabinowitz. “They kept our ending but added to it.” Lee has called Charlottesville “the horrific act of domestic, American homegrown terrorism.”

In an article in The Kansas City Star, Willmott said one of the reasons the story resonates so deeply with modern audiences is its cultural relevance. “Unfortunately, as Spike likes to say, David Duke and Donald Trump were the co-writers on the script,” he explains. “The things that the Klan said in the past, David Duke and the president say those things today about the present.”

Rabinowitz discovered his talent for screenwriting in high school. At Quinnipiac, he refined that talent while concentrating on film production, learning more about shooting and editing. With Professor Liam O’Brien, he learned to translate what he wrote into films and even produced a short film with no dialogue. Professor Emerita Becky Abbott helped him with production techniques.

“When you are writing a screenplay, it’s always going to be interpreted by others, and my time at Quinnipiac with the film society showed me what happens after that critical step. Instead of the words staying on the page, they were spoken by actors, shot by cameras operated by crew, lit by lights set up by gaffers, and edited into a finished film.”

Rabinowitz says writers can pull in a fee in the low six figures for a script, and more if a bidding war ensues. Factors that affect the bottom line include fees for an agent, or legal and managerial fees and taxes.

He and Wachtel made enough money from the film to enable them to write full time for a while. In June, they pitched another book adaptation, a true story about a notorious Boston 1960s mafia hit man named Joseph “The Animal” Barboza. He became one of the first to participate in the federal witness protection program, “but he broke the rules and suffered the consequences,” says Rabinowitz.

They were elated to learn in July that Fox 2000 Pictures had acquired the movie, based on Casey Sherman’s 2013 Animal: The Bloody Rise and Fall of the Mob’s Most Feared Assassin.” They are working on the screenplay now. Its working title is “Thacher Island,” where Barboza spent time before testifying in a mob trial.

They are in talks with a company about producing the pilot they wrote before “BlacKkKlansman” and also have finished another screenplay about a Latino-American sports agent who attempts to smuggle Cuba’s top baseball player out of the country.

“We were inspired by stories of Cuban athletes who have defected here over the years and went from making $10 a month to millions a year,” he says.

When time permits, Rabinowitz enjoys performing at an LA improv theater. “It’s fun and it helps with my writing,” he says. He and Wachtel still marvel at how everything seemed to break in their direction, from getting the “BlacKkKlansman” book rights to attracting a big-name director and producer. “There was a lot of serendipity,” he acknowledges.

And a true Hollywood ending.

In photo illustration, clockwise from left: Adam Driver, John David Washington, Laura Harrier, Ryan Eggold and Spike Lee.

Photos courtesy of Focus Features
Denia Perez, JD ’18, set out to earn a law degree so she could fight on behalf of undocumented immigrants and one day change U.S. immigration policy at a systemic level. When existing Connecticut Bar Association policy threatened to derail her career before it began, Perez, with the support of Quinnipiac School of Law, chose to fight for herself.

Perez, a DACA recipient, spearheaded a successful initiative to amend the CBA’s bar admission language to include individuals covered under the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, which protects eligible immigrant youth from deportation. Under the amended guidelines, DACA beneficiaries meet criteria as lawful residents insofar as they are “legally authorized to work in the United States,” enabling them to sit for the bar exam and legally practice law.

“This provides hope for DACA students like me who previously may have felt skeptical about pursuing the legal profession in Connecticut,” Perez said. “It reminds them, too, that Connecticut is a welcoming place for immigrants.” The U.S. Department of Homeland Security reported 690,000 DACA recipients living in the country as of September 2017.

The plight of the immigrant is one with which Perez is familiar. Her parents emigrated from Mexico when she was 11 months old, eventually settling in Santa Rosa, California. While the term “undocumented” did not enter her vocabulary until years later, Perez was made aware early that she was not born in the U.S. and that her family didn’t have “papers.” “My parents have always been very honest with me about everything,” she said.

Perez remembers a particularly frightening period when she was 8 years old and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, commonly known as ICE, was conducting employment raids in her area. Her mother and father did not hide the gravity of the situation.

“I remember that conversation well,” Perez said. “They told me what could happen, but that they had to go to work to put food on the table. They had to pay the bills.”

The possibility that her mother and father could be arrested and deported loomed over Perez each day, and she grew increasingly fearful of coming home from school to an empty house. The deportation scare would crop up again in
2010, when Perez was a student at Santa Rosa Junior College. Facing removal proceedings, her parents were unsure if they could afford to appeal.

“I had nothing greater to lose than my family,” Perez said. “My experiences have really fortified me.”

These experiences also motivated her to get involved. After graduating from college and being granted DACA status in 2012, Perez took a job as a legal services coordinator for Educators for Fair Consideration, an organization that assists undocumented youth pursuing higher education. In 2013, she became the first DACA beneficiary to serve as a representative on the U.S. Board of Immigration Appeals, where she advocated for clients in immigration proceedings.

“I was exposed to the many flaws in immigration law,” she said. “It really spurred my decision to become a lawyer.”

Perez applied to Quinnipiac and was awarded the prestigious Dean’s Fellows Scholarship in 2015. As a student, she conducted “know your rights” workshops and did advocacy work for Connecticut’s immigrant community in New Haven. She also organized the law school’s first DACA panel through the Civil Justice Clinic, which brought together representatives from the nonprofit Connecticut Students for a Dream to share their stories and perspectives.

“Denia really raised a lot of awareness and formed great connections with students around the issues of DACA and immigration,” said Jennifer Gerarda Brown, dean of Quinnipiac’s law school.

Perez said she hadn’t thought about the issue of CBA’s admission guidelines until a conversation with mentor Maggie Castinado, JD ’98, a public defender in New Haven and board member of the Connecticut Hispanic Bar Association.

“Maggie told me that CHBA was involved in an ongoing effort to change the language, but that its resources were stretched thin,” Perez said. When she was approached during her second year of law school by incoming CHBA president Alfredo Fernandez about getting involved, Perez agreed. “My outlook shifted,” she said. “I started thinking about this not just in terms of myself, but other young people who may want to pursue a career in law in Connecticut.”

Perez took on the work through the Civil Justice Clinic and approached Professor Sheila Hayre for help. Hayre had worked with students on high-impact advocacy projects in the clinic before, including the highly publicized case of Toto Kisaku, a Congolese performance artist and Middletown, Connecticut, resident who was granted asylum in 2018 after fleeing political persecution and almost certain death in his home country.

In Perez, Hayre recognized something special. “Denia really understood the importance of community context,” she said. “She knew how to connect with people, lawyers and non-lawyers alike, and get them behind her to facilitate social change.”

By Perez’s third year, she was researching legal constraints and openings, as well as situations in other states along with Hayre and others in the Civil Justice Clinic. “In certain states students were applying and then fighting for years over whether they would be eligible or not,” Hayre said. “We needed to address this head on and push for a total rule change.”

In addition to the CHBA, their proposal enjoyed full support from numerous other organizations, including the Connecticut Bar Association’s Immigration Law Committee and its Diversity and Inclusion Committee. It also received the official endorsement of the deans of Connecticut’s three law schools.

“My support for the initiative was totally driven by my respect for Denia, my regard for the work she’s done and my expectation that she will be an incredible lawyer and leader,” Brown said.

On Feb. 16, 2018, Brown accompanied Perez and Hayre as they delivered the proposal to the Connecticut Bar Examining Committee in Hartford. Perez also recounted her story as both DACA beneficiary and hopeful lawyer, which resonated with the room of Connecticut Supreme Court justices, elite trial judges and the former president of the CBA.

“She gave them insight into the bigger picture,” Hayre said. “They saw how important and broad this issue was through Denia’s lens.”

Perez and Hayre defended the proposal twice more before the amended language was unanimously adopted by the rules committee of the Connecticut Supreme Court on June 13. On Nov. 2, Perez officially became the first DACA recipient to be sworn in by the Connecticut State Bar.

“I am truly proud of what we’ve accomplished in Connecticut,” she said. “I was excited. I celebrated, but there is still more work to be done.”

Perez began a two-year fellowship with the Immigrant Justice Corp in September. She was placed at the Brooklyn office of social justice nonprofit Make the Road New York, where she does deportation defense work.

She knows she must reconcile her future plans with a precarious present. Her parents finally received their green cards in 2016, and her three brothers were all born in the U.S., so she remains the only member of her family without legal status. Her father petitioned for a green card on her behalf in November 2017, but it may take several more years to be approved. “My only hope is that Congress can get its act together soon,” Perez said.

Until comprehensive and humane immigration reform is passed, Perez goes to work each day with the ever-present threat of DACA being repealed and the subsequent loss of her work authorization. In the face of such insecurity, and amid divisive political rhetoric and increasingly disturbing news stories surrounding immigration, she simply follows the example her parents set for her many years ago.

“They never got stuck or felt sorry for themselves,” Perez said. “Their perseverance inspires me to push through really intense moments of doubt and uncertainty.”
More than 450 Quinnipiac alumni and their guests gathered for a fun outing at Yankee Stadium in August. Members of #BobcatNation were easily recognizable with their co-branded Yankee caps featuring Boomer the Bobcat stitched on the side.

Many of those in attendance enjoyed a sold-out pregame reception, catching up with old friends and making new ones. Afterward, their stories and smiles followed them into the right field seats as the Yankees took the field to do battle with the Toronto Blue Jays.

Four friends from the Class of 2016 connected at the game to cheer for the Yankees. “We’re all friends, and we all met at Quinnipiac,” said Bianca Waffenschmidt, a third-year student in QU’s doctor of physical therapy program. “And now we’re all here!”

Other alumni spotted at the game included Katie Meriano ’86, MHS ’91, JD ’00, professor of occupational therapy, and her husband John ’81, MBA ’88, associate vice president for auxiliary services, as well as former registrar Dottie Lauria ’79 and Al Carbone, former associate dean of admissions.

The next generation of #BobcatNation also turned out. Tyler Toledo ’22, a film, television and media arts major from Queens, New York, enjoyed the game with his father, Ted. “Quinnipiac was the first school to accept me and that meant a lot,” Toledo said. It also was a great night for the Yankees, who trailed 4-0 early but took home a 7-5 victory in a rain-shortened affair.
1971
ELMAR HABERMAS of Winston-Salem, NC, played at the Soccer Fest National Adult Soccer Tournament in Bellingham, WA. His team placed second out of 14 teams in the over-70 division.

1972
THOMAS LINDNER of Deep River, CT, has been selected as a Beacon Award winner by the Shore Publishing Newspapers of Connecticut. The award recognizes 15 volunteers who help fulfill the shoreline community’s promise as a place of well-being, opportunity and safety.

1974
HENRY BASSOLI retired in 2008 after 35 years in IT application development with AT&T. Since then he has been consulting and doing website development for small local businesses. In June 2018, he launched the website WallingfordCIMusicEvents.com to promote musical performances in his hometown.

1975
PHILIP JONES of Milford, NJ, retired in 2010 from the New Jersey Department of Transportation after 33 years of service.

1976
RAFAEL CASTALDI of Westerly, RI, is an ordained deacon in the Roman Catholic Church. He presided over the wedding of his son, Joseph, to Mia Grills on May 27, 2018, at the Weekapaug Chapel.

1977
SHARON (MELLOR) Buzon of Okatie, SC, retired after 30 years in Children’s Protective Services as a social work supervisor.

1979
ALLEN FEINBERG of Deerfield Beach, FL, is a volunteer at Boca Raton Regional Hospital.

1980
MICHAEL ABELO of Milford, CT, was promoted to community relations director for Visiting Angels Home Care.

1984
KATHRYN (ELEK) RUGGIERI of Hillsborough, NJ, joined Withum in May 2018 as a principal in the health care advisory area. Kathryn will be expanding Withum’s revenue cycle and consulting services.

1988
DEIRDRE ROGUSKY of Amherst, NH, was the Souhegan Woods Ladies Club Golf Champion in 2017 and received the Helen Lockwood Trophy through NHWGA. The trophy is presented to the player who shows the greatest improvement in handicap index during the current season. Deirdre was also low gross champion in the Mixed Team Classic at Hodgkroft Country Club for the second year in a row.

1990
MICHAEL FENSTER of Bayside, NY, held his fourth annual mini Flinn Quini reunion in April 2018 at Eli’s on Whitney. Attendees from the Class of 1990 included: MIKKI (MORENA) HARKIN, GINA (DEANGELO) ZUK ’90, MAT ’94, GREG SCHROKO, STEVE CHILDS, SUE (KRAYESKY) CULOTTA, SIMONA (BARUCCA) NERNER. From the Class of 1989: TRACEY (MEANEY) KELLY, RON MELE and SIOBAIN (MCINERNEY) MCHUGH. From the Class of 1999: KATHY (LACAVA) MENDINO. Michael is looking forward to holding the next reunion in 2019.

1991
DARRYL BALASKI of Dripping Springs, TX, is a principal instructor at Oracle University in Texas.

1993
CHRISTY (CARMOSINO) PALUMBO of Hamden was awarded the Hamden Regional Chamber of Commerce Home-Based Business of the Year award for 2017 as a business owner/consultant with a global MLM health and wellness company. In January 2018, she became the chairperson for the Hamden Regional Chamber of Commerce Women in Business Committee, which recognizes and promotes women throughout the community and raises scholarship funds for future women entrepreneurs.

1994
MARK SANTINO of Guilford, CT, is senior vice president of operations for MKACyber, a cybersecurity start-up that handles worldwide operations, corporate strategy, sales, finance and HR. He also was elected to the board of directors for the Friends of Amani USA (Amani Centre for Street Children is based in Tanzania) over the summer.

1999
CHRISTINE (WAGNER) DEFIGLIO of Hillsdale, NJ, became board certified last spring in physical rehabilitation by the American Occupational Therapy Association. This distinction has been accomplished by less than 1 percent of all occupational therapists nationally.

2000
RICHARD ARROYO of Wolcott, CT, successfully defended his dissertation, “The Role a Mentoring Program Plays on the Professional Growth of Novice Urban K-12 Administrators,” at the University of Hartford in April 2018. He is the principal of Enlightenment School in Waterbury, CT.

2003
JASON GOLDSTEIN of New York City recently was chosen as one of the “Food Network Star” finalists for season 14 and also appeared on the “Star Salvation” show. Jason owns Oasis Chiropractic in Manhattan, and also writes a culinary blog.

2004
ALLISON (TAIT) ENRIGHT of Milford, CT, received the 2018 “40 under 40” award from the Fairfield County Chamber of Commerce Women in Business Committee, which recognizes and promotes women throughout the community and raises scholarship funds for future women entrepreneurs.

2005
JILL (CIMMINELLO) MAGDA ‘03, MBA ‘07, and her husband announce the birth of a son, Austin Joseph, on May 3, 2018.

2006
ANGELIQUE (HANLON) MCAULIFFE ‘03, MAT ‘04, of Hamden was named Seymour (CT) Teacher of the Year and is in the running for the annual State Teacher of the Year honor.

2007
ERIC JACKSON of Basking Ridge, NJ, received a Daytime Emmy for producing a live performance with the cast of Broadway’s “Dear Evan Hansen.” He accepted the award at the Daytime Creative Arts Emmys ceremony in Pasadena, CA, in April 2018. He is currently a producer at NBC’s “Today” show.

2008
ALLISON MAYER ’04, MPT ’06, married Thomas Pratte on Jan. 13, 2018, in Austin, TX.

2009
KAYLIN (WOOD) MOSCO ’04, MOT ’06, DANIELLE HILL ’04, and KELLEY PARKER ’04, MPT ’06, served as bridesmaids.

2010
TODD PAGEL ’04, MAT ’05, of Metuchen, NJ, was named New Jersey Veteran of Foreign Wars’ Teacher of the Year. Todd is a history teacher at John Adams Middle School in Edison, NJ.

2012
JESSICA (BAILEY) ALLEN of Monson, MA, is a learning and performance consultant at MassMutual’s broker-dealer, MML Investors Services. She has been with the company for 11 years.

2014
SUSAN CANDIDO of Sandy Hook, CT, earned her doctor of nursing practice and passed the ANCC board certification for nursing informatics. She also became certified in teaching health and nursing.

2016
JESSICA (BAILEY) ALLEN of Monson, MA, is a learning and performance consultant at MassMutual’s broker-dealer, MML Investors Services. She has been with the company for 11 years.

2018
RACHEL (MARGOLIS) SIEGAL, of Attleboro, MA, was named Seymour (CT) Teacher of the Year and is in the running for the annual State Teacher of the Year honor.

2019
ANNA MCCLUSKEY, of Monson, MA, is a learning and performance consultant at MassMutual’s broker-dealer, MML Investors Services. She has been with the company for 11 years.

Class notes continue on p. 44
Avenue Elementary School in Madison, CT.

JESSICA (DEMERS) PUK and her husband, Jonathan, announce the birth of their son, Logan Paul, on Nov. 8, 2017.

AISLIN MACMASTER of Bantam, CT, was nominated for the 2018 Nightingale Award for Excellence in Nursing. AISLIN is an intensive care unit nurse at Charlotte Hungerford Hospital.

2008 EVAN HAUT is the president of Ammon Labs in Linden, NJ, where he lives. Ammon Labs is a second-generation, family-owned business that provides testing services for substance abuse.

BRIAN PARKE of Southbury, CT, is a certified financial planner and partner in the Connecticut Capital Management Group in Milford, CT. He recently cut the 20th anniversary ribbon at the new location.

MOLLY QUERIM married Jalen Rose in July 2018 in New York City. Molly is a sports anchor and moderator for ESPN’s First Take and Jalen is a former NBA athlete who works as a basketball analyst for ESPN.

KIMBERLY (DENNY) RYDER and her husband, TODD RYDER ’08, MS ’13, announce the birth of their son, Colin Bennett, on June 25, 2017.

LAURA PASSARELLE ’10, MOT ’12, married Jonathan Vaughn on Nov. 17, 2017, in Bellport, NY. ASHLEY (GOLDBACH) WRASE ’09, DPT ’13, and JULIANNE (LOSCALZO) GLEESON ’10, MAT ’11, were bridesmaids in the wedding. The couple lives on Long Island, NY.

CHRISTOPHER PIA ’09 of Stratford, CT, RICHARD WALLACE ’09 of Weehawken, N.J., RYAN WALLACE ’09, MBA ’11, of Weehawken, NJ, and THOMAS CUCCI ’09 of New York, NY, all TKE alumni, created the BigBlueBulance—a used ambulance they converted to a tailgate vehicle to use at all New York Giants football home games.

2007 AUDREY BISHOP HELLER ’05, MS ’07, and her husband, RYAN HELLER ’05, announce the birth of triplets—Karoline, James and Dylan—on May 24, 2018. The triplets join their big brother, Connor, 3, at the family’s home in Saco, ME. Aubrey is assistant registrar at the University of New England. Ryan is an assistant store manager with Hannaford.

STEPHANIE (WHITE) HOLDEN and her husband announce the birth of a son, Hunter James, on April 17, 2017.

SUZANNE (CONWAY) MURPHY and her husband announce the birth of a son, Daniel Liam, on May 30, 2018. The family lives in Oxford, CT.

ANDREA (SZYMONA) QUINZEL and her husband, Gary, adopted a daughter, Avery, born on Feb. 27, 2017.

2006 ERIC OPEPAARD and his wife, Erica, announce the birth of a son, Isaac Edison, on June 21, 2018. Isaac joins his big brother, Owen, at their home in Celebration, FL.

JAMES STEWART of Upper Grandview, NY, CHRISTOPHER PIA ’09 of Stratford, CT, RICHARD WALLACE ’09 of Weehawken, N.J., RYAN WALLACE ’09, MBA ’11, of Weehawken, NJ, and THOMAS CUCCI ’09 of New York, NY, all TKE alumni, created the BigBlueBulance—a used ambulance they converted to a tailgate vehicle to use at all New York Giants football home games.

2007 RUDWIN AYALA of Delray Beach, FL, recently was named a partner in the South Florida law firm of Cohen, Blostein & Ayala, PA. The firm focuses on medical malpractice and wrongful death litigation.

KARRI DAVIS of Milford, CT, is a critical care nurse educator at Lahey Health in Burlington, MA.

KARA (WALSH) PALLEY and her husband, DAVID PALLEY ’08, announce the birth of a daughter, Jennie, on May 1, 2018. Jennie joins her big brother, Liam. The family lives in Winter Park, FL.

DAVID RABINOWITZ of Los Angeles attended the Cannes Film Festival in May 2018. David co-wrote the screenplay for “BlackKklansman,” which was produced by Jordan Peele and directed by Spike Lee and opened in August.

2008 STEPHANIE (ANNUNZIATA) L’ARCHEVEQUE and her husband, Michael, announce the birth of a daughter, Quinn Michelle, on Sept. 2, 2017.

AILEEN GONZALEZ, MAT ’10, married Paul Pasciasepe on July 18, 2018. Aileen is a science teacher at Lincoln Middle School in Meriden, CT. The couple lives in Waterbury, CT.

JACOB BEAN ’09 and his wife, KELLY BEAN ’10, announce the birth of a daughter, Emma Yu, on July 7, 2018. Aileen is a science teacher at Lincoln Middle School in Meriden, CT. The couple lives in Waterbury, CT.

RANDI (IACO) PLAKE, MS ’12, married Anthony Distasio, former QU sports information director, on July 7, 2017.LEXI was formerly a member of the women’s lacrosse team at Quinnipiac.

JESSICA (DEMERS) PUK and her husband, Jonathan, announce the birth of their son, Logan Paul, on Nov. 8, 2017.

2009 CHRISTINE (BENSON) BEAN and her husband, JACOB BEAN ’09, announce the birth of a son, Henry, on Dec. 5, 2017.

KATHLEEN CHECCA of Bellingham, MA, became a licensed realtor in Massachusetts and Rhode Island. She previously worked in education.

JANELLE DRISCOLL of Boston has started her own company, JY Media, a modern-day PR/marketing firm.

GRAFON MCGHRAT ’09, MBA ’10, of Foxboro, MA, was promoted to director of operations at Forrester, a $400M research and advisory firm in Cambridge, MA. Grafon is responsible for the global operations of Forrester’s consulting practice that spans 11 cities in five continents.

KARA (WALSH) PALLEY and her husband, DAVID PALLEY ’08, announce the birth of a daughter, Jennie, on May 1, 2018. Jennie joins her big brother, Liam. The family lives in Winter Park, FL.

2010 BRETTE PETTY married Philip Farrelly on May 5, 2018, in Andover, NJ. KATIE (HARRIS) CAROLAN ’11 served as the matron of honor.

MEGAN SIMPSON and ALDEN MORSE ’11 were married on June 9, 2018, in New Jersey. The couple lives in Long Valley, NJ.

KRISTEN (BABOWICZ) SOLITRO ’11, MAT ’12, and NICHOLAS SOLITRO welcomed twins on March 26, 2018. Their names are Jack Thomas and Emilia Danielle (middle name after Quinnipiac, where her parents met).

2012 KAYLA COOGAN and TIMOTHY O’ROURKE JR. ’13, MD ’17, were married on June 3, 2017, in Warwick, RI. The couple lives in Providence, RI.

CHRISTOPHER GAMBELLA of New York, NY, recently joined Morgan Stanley as an assistant vice president within the firm’s global investment manager analysis unit.

JAMIE HILL of Jersey City, NJ, married Brian Liebeskind on June 3, 2018, at the Merion in Cinnaminson, NJ.

ANDREW MCDERMOTT married Katie Capozzi on June 2, 2018.

CHRISTINA MELOMO and PAUL CHILELLI ’12 were married on Oct. 27, 2017, in Whitehouse Station, NJ. The couple lives in Edison, NJ. They met during their junior year at QU.

RANDI (IACO) PLAKE, MS ’12, recently returned to Quinnipiac to teach an introductory communications course. She lives in Middletown, CT, with her husband, Brendan, and their two daughters. Randi also teaches courses in public speaking, social media and new media at several colleges in Connecticut.

ELIZABETH SCHROEDER and RYAN WALKER ’12 were married on Sept. 30, 2017. The couple lives in Boston.

MARY SIMEULI of Westfield, MA, recently became the Title IX coordinator and access officer at Springfield College in Springfield, MA.

2013 AUDREY CUPP of South Plainfield, NJ, recently celebrated her 13th anniversary at the South Plainfield Public Library as a library assistant for children and adult services.

ZACHARY RUSSO ’12, MBA ’14, of Middlesex, NJ, recently became the new sports information director for the Alma Scots in Alma, MI.

2014 CASONDRA (STINSON) MACOSKI ’14, of Naugatuck, CT, earned her PMP certification (project management professional) in March and recently became a project manager at X-Gen Pharmaceuticals.

KEVIN NOONAN ’14, MBA ’16, of Hamden, recently became the assistant director of athletic communications at Quinnipiac in July 2018.

DYLAN POLLACK married Giselle Ramos on Nov. 4, 2017, at Crest Hollow Country Club in Woodbury, NY.

2015 THOMAS ALBANESE ’15, MS ’16, of Burlington, VT, is a news associate producer and a sports department contractor at WCAX Channel 3 in Burlington.

JAY HOLT, MS ’15, and his girlfriend, Vania, announce the birth of a son, Maverick Malachi, on Aug. 9, 2018. He joins his big sister, Milani Daniella, at the family’s home in Danbury, CT.

JENNIFER PARADIS ’09, MS ’15, of Meriden, CT, recently became the executive director of Beth-El Center’s board of directors. Beth-El serves individuals and families through a temporary shelter and feeds 80 people daily in its soup kitchen.

WENQIAN SHAO, MBA ’15, of New Haven is heading the North American and European Division of a Chinese multinational company. She was included in Forbes’ 30 Under 30 list of female business professionals.
ASTHMA LEADS TO CAREER IN HEALTH CARE

Former patient returns to manage the center that treated him

BY DONNA PINTER
PHOTO AUTUMN DRISCOLL

For John Midy ’12, MBA ’15, what goes around truly has come around.

As a teenager, Midy received health care services from Family Centers, which operates a school-based health center at the high school he attended in Stamford, Connecticut. A frequent visitor to the health center due to his chronic asthma, Midy was chosen to be featured on the organization’s pamphlets.

Today, he works there, managing the Family Centers Health Center in nearby Greenwich. The shift from patient to provider is a reflection of Midy’s belief that all things happen for a reason.

From an early age, Midy understood the value of hard work. He knew he needed to excel to beat the odds stacked against him. Growing up in a low-income housing project in Stamford, he saw how hard his parents worked. With meager resources and unsafe surroundings, the family struggled.

His mother, Marie, suffered from myriad health issues, yet she worked hard and never gave up hope that her children would have a better life.

“I realized at a young age that no matter how hard things are, life is beautiful, and life is not just a destination, it is a journey you go through,” he said.

Because of the need to monitor his asthma, Midy visited the school nurse often. There, he established a rapport with the staff and developed a deep appreciation of health care.

“I was treated with such warm kindness,” he said.

A football injury during his sophomore year of high school sent Midy to physical therapy. As an athlete, he was fascinated with how trainers helped people recover. Midy realized this was his calling.

When it came time to search for colleges, one really stood out—Quinnipiac. With its beautiful campus and highly rated health science programs—including physical therapy—Midy was hooked.

Financing his education proved challenging, however, and there were times Midy thought he might have to leave school. Through scholarships, loans and work study, he was able to stay.

He entered the dual-degree BS/DPT program, completing his BS in health science studies with a minor in biology. Halfway through the graduate program, however, he decided he was better suited for a management role, so he switched to the MBA program with a focus on health care management.

“I wanted to be doing more than treating one patient at a time. I wanted to impact the health care industry as a whole,” he said.

Midy’s takeaway from his study of physical therapy was the belief that the body, mind and spirit are interconnected and must be addressed to truly help patients achieve optimal health.

Through internships with Hartford Hospital and the Atria Larson assisted living facility in Hamden, he sharpened his managerial skills and learned about regulations, policy and the responsibilities of being a care provider.

As part of his duties as clinical manager, Midy oversees the health center and its staff, directing the billing and day-to-day operations. He also manages the outreach team to bring more clients into the office.

“I was always the type of person who understood more than just therapy; I understood policy and business too,” Midy said. Plus, he was a natural leader.

At QU, Midy immersed himself in as many activities as he could manage. He worked for the Technology Center as a program coordinator. He was also an RA and a member of Tau Kappa Epsilon fraternity. He joined the Ballroom Dancing Society, becoming co-president in 2014, and he helped organize the first Dancing with the QU Stars charity event.

“Through dance, Midy found a way to bring faculty, staff and students together. ‘I wanted to leave my mark on campus doing something that would get the entire community to interact,’ Midy said.

Nowadays, he is still dancing, but mainly with his fiancée, Maria V. Vazquez, who also works at Family Centers as a family support provider for the Nurturing Family Network. Ironically, Midy met Vazquez through a religious group that included some friends from Quinnipiac.

“Everything connects in the end. It’s like there is a reason things happen,” Midy said.
TEAMING UP TO CHANGE BEHAVIOR

Life coach helps clients with personal or professional transformation

BY ANDREW CLARK

Behavioral coach Lisa Ciccomascolo, MS ’15, lives for the aha moment her clients experience.

“It’s that pivotal moment in the coaching process, when I’m asking questions, and they experience a shift,” says the owner of Intuitive Coaching LLC. She engages with a wide range of clients across the country, from executives to individuals looking to make behavioral changes to improve their personal lives or careers.

One of her greatest challenges is helping clients take that next step. She recalls a former client, a practicing respiratory therapist who had chain-smoked for years. “He knew the dangers of smoking and would tell his patients to quit, yet he continued to smoke two packs a day,” she said.

“He smoked to handle stress. Together, we identified ways to eliminate the connection between stress and cigarettes and identify tools he could use to replace that behavior. In his case, his doctor prescribed a nicotine patch and he also became an awesome student of guided meditation,” she noted.

Ciccomascolo said people often have the desire to change their behavior, but find they are not ready or are resistant to change. She determines where her client exists within the five stages of change: precontemplation—they have no intention of changing behavior; contemplation—they realize they should change a behavior but have not yet committed to do so; preparation—they form an intention and begin to take action; action—they modify their behavior (by dieting or meditating, for example); and maintenance—they switch the focus from changing a behavior to maintaining or ingraining it.

Using specific assessments and inquiry, Ciccomascolo is able to explore a client’s limiting beliefs and then move the individual to a new perception, thus creating the opportunity for change.

Before she began her master’s degree in organizational leadership at Quinnipiac, Ciccomascolo believed her services fell into the realm of coaching. During her coursework, however, she came to understand that she’d been functioning as more of a consultant than a coach. She learned that there are boundaries a coach observes. A coach does not offer therapy (delve into a client’s past) or engage in consulting (tell them what to do). A coach is an advocate, supporter, and a partner in the client’s journey to change.

“I received a solid education in leadership and was inspired to learn more,” Ciccomascolo says of her time at Quinnipiac.

She later began graduate studies in evidence-based coaching and is currently pursuing a doctoral degree in organizational development and change.

“I learned how to hone my listening skills. I learned from management professor Angela Mattie about being a role model from a female leadership position and about corporate leadership from Robert Yawson [assistant professor of management]. What I learned at QU moved me forward in my current profession.”

Ciccomascolo coaches her clients from home or her office in Rocky Hill, Connecticut, via phone, online sessions and in person. She has coached high performers from corporations such as Facebook, Neiman Marcus, Dow Chemical and Comcast and recently was offered a contract to coach individuals in the U.S. Navy and the U.S. Department of Defense. She is building her global presence by collaborating with a research firm in Singapore that is determining future trends in the coaching industry.

Her days are varied. “I could be engaging with a client through texts, researching behavioral studies, or coaching,” she says.

Last summer, Forbes selected her to be a member of its Coaches Council, an invitation-only collection of renowned business and career coaches. She earned her professional certified coach accreditation through the International Coach Federation. She also holds a certification from Myers-Briggs and has a certificate in mediation and conflict resolution from Community Mediation in Hamden.

Career change is another area where clients seek her help. Ciccomascolo finds that many already have an idea of what they’d like to do but have not consciously realized it. “I elicit that answer from them through coaching,” she says.

She remembers a female client who had a business career in analytics and came to the realization that she just didn’t love that field, yet she was afraid to make a move. “She did love photography and was out taking photos every weekend. We created little steps to move her in that direction, not overnight, but determining how she could earn a living taking pictures.”

Ciccomascolo coached her through the steps required to launch a business, and the client is now working on a website to showcase her photos. She is on her way to becoming a full-time photographer. “When you love what you are doing, it’s not work,” says the coach.
2016

MATTHEW BESTERMAN, MS '16, recently became the PR manager of Legoland in Yonkers, NY. He lives in Salisbury Mills, NY, with his wife and three children.

JACQUELINE MILOWE of Canton, MA, recently joined her father in their family-run wealth management practice, Milowe Wealth Management Group, at the Royal Bank of Canada.

LYNN RAPSILBER, DNP '16, of Torrington, CT, was recognized by Hearst Connecticut Media Group in its Salute to Nurses 2018 as one of the Top 10 nurses in Connecticut.

MARY RUNEY ’16, MA ’17 of Attleboro, MA, recently was included in an article in The Sun Chronicle titled, “Classroom Heroes: Teachers Work to Connect Students with Material.” Mary teaches math at Attleboro High School.

LAURANCE SELNICK, MS ’16, of Cheshire, CT, was elected the new board chair for NEACH, a nonprofit trade association. He is senior vice president at Webster Bank.

MATTHEW URBAN, MBA ’16, of Sevierville, TN, has been accepted into the PhD program in business administration, organizations and social change track at the University of Massachusetts Boston. His research will investigate how to achieve sustainability transitions in corporations through alignment with executive compensation and sustainability goals, how to identify and eliminate greenwashing, increase sustainability and to establish business leadership in the fight against climate change.

JENNIFER WHALEY of Cromwell, CT, was hired as the assistant coach for the Quinnipiac women’s golf team. She is also a finance consultant for Aetna in Hartford.

ALEXA CUCCIARRE of Fair Lawn, NJ, recently became a recruiting coordinator at Digitas.

BRET SEGELMAN recently accepted a job with MGM Resorts International and moved to Las Vegas. He is on the marketing and promotional launch team for a new resort/casino, Park MGM.

SUSAN TOUPONSE, MBA ’17, recently became alumni relations manager at Fort Worth Country Day School in Fort Worth, TX, where she lives.

2018

ADELIA COUSER ’17, MAT ’18, of Merrimack, NH, is a Spanish teacher for grades three through five in Windham, NH.

TIMOTHY LOWERY, MS ’18, of Hollidaysburg, PA, has accepted a federal position with the Social Security Administration.

DANIELLE MCGREGOR of Kendall Park, NJ, began a new job in the nurse residency program at Jersey Shore University Medical Center in Neptune, NJ.


ASHLEY PORRASO of Hamden is an emergency room nurse at Yale New Haven Hospital in New Haven.

DANIELLE RADEKE of Jackson, NJ, was selected for a three-year intensive training program in pediatric, post-partum and NICU nursing, allowing her to become an expert in all three specialties. She also continues to explore her passions for theater and writing, enabling her to become a playwright, actress, director and stage manager off-Broadway. One of her college-written plays is being produced by a professional theater company.

CHRISTOPHER THORKILSEN of New Canaan, CT, recently began working for Octagon Marketing as an account trainee on BMW’s ultimate driving experience team.

2017

ELAYNE BARRENTINE of Port Jefferson, NY, began working for the NBA in the production/content department in November 2017.

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FORMER BOARD CHAIR FREDERICK MANCHESKI PASSES AWAY

BY ADAM DURSO
PHOTO/QU ARCHIVES

STUDENTS HURRYING TO CLASSES IN THE ECHLIN CENTER each day probably don’t think about how the building got its name, nor do they focus on the history of the sports arena when cheering on the Bobcats.

Frederick Mancheski was closely intertwined with both of those buildings. The business executive, philanthropist and longtime chair of Quinnipiac’s Board of Trustees passed away on Aug. 1, 2018, at the age of 92.

“Fred was driven, innovative, ethical and just the kindest human being,” said Donald Weinbach, vice president for development and alumni affairs at Quinnipiac. “He possessed all of the great characteristics that you would expect in a leader.”

Weinbach first met Mancheski before either of them was associated with Quinnipiac. They were working on a Connecticut Congressional campaign in 1980. Weinbach described him as a good friend with an inexhaustible work ethic, curious mind and charitable spirit.

The eldest of six children, Mancheski was born in Stevens Point, Wisconsin, on July 21, 1926. He learned the value of work at a young age. A leg injury in his teens curtailed his boyhood dream of becoming a test pilot. Instead, he attended the University of Wisconsin at Madison, graduating with a BS in mechanical engineering in 1948.

Mancheski joined the Echlin Manufacturing Co. in New Haven in 1963 and became president of the aftermarket automotive parts manufacturer after just one year. After being promoted to chairman and CEO in 1967, he set about turning Echlin into a Fortune 500 company with more than 100 subsidiaries worldwide.

Joseph Onorato ’71, Mancheski’s CFO for nearly 20 years at Echlin, remembers his boss as an engineer at heart who was as much at home on the manufacturing floor as he was in the boardroom. “You never saw an individual with a more active mind than Fred,” Onorato said. “I used to say that every year I got older, he got smarter.”

Mancheski’s business acumen, talent for leadership and thirst for knowledge fostered admiration from many, including former Quinnipiac president John L. Lahey, who asked Mancheski to join his newly formed Board of Trustees in 1988. The latter accepted and became chair in 1990.

When he needed to raise $4.5 million for a new health sciences building, his first major undertaking as president, Lahey turned to his board, reminding them that their investment was in more than bricks and mortar. Lahey often said, “People give to winning things; they give to things that are bigger than life.”

In Quinnipiac, Mancheski always saw a winner. He convinced his company to secure the naming rights for what would become the 40,000-square-foot Echlin Health Sciences Center. His significant financial contributions also turned many other ambitious building projects into a reality, including the Lender School of Business Center and Quinnipiac’s sports arena, recently renamed the People’s United Center, on the York Hill Campus.

Mancheski retired from Echlin in 1997, and the company merged with Dana Inc. in 1998. He became chairman emeritus at Echlin and continued serving on the board at Quinnipiac, as well as other organizations. The bulk of Mancheski’s post-retirement energies, however, were directed toward Connecticut Hospice in Branford.

“When it came to charitable giving, Fred’s two main focuses were always health and education,” Onorato said. Mancheski was guided by a deep appreciation for how important hospice care is to families and the community at large.

While serving as chairman of the board for Connecticut Hospice, he facilitated its relocation to the site of Echlin’s corporate headquarters in 2000. He believed that the beachfront facility, which overlooks Long Island Sound, was the ideal place to make an end-of-life transition.

“The beach property was as much for the staff and families as it was for the patients,” Onorato explained. “Aesthetically it was comforting, soothing and inspirational for all.”

Mancheski retired from Connecticut Hospice in 2010, and health issues forced him to step down from the Quinnipiac Board of Trustees in 2013. His last great gift to the university is now a $2.6 million endowed scholarship fund for engineering, funded through his philanthropic Mancheski Foundation.

“Fred had the biggest smile on his face when he found out we were launching an engineering program,” recalled Weinbach, fondly. “We brought him to some of those early engineering classes, and he just relished that.”

Mancheski’s health continued to decline, and his last days were spent with his wife of 40 years, Didi, and their family by his side in the very hospice he was so involved with.

“I know he probably thought about the circle of life at the end,” Weinbach said. “So many people have been comforted by Connecticut Hospice through the generosity Fred demonstrated that it was fitting for others to comfort him, Didi and the family.”
PR EXECUTIVE IN FOR A RIDE

Fun is assembling new LEGOLAND one brick at a time

BY ADAM DURSO

Many people spend their lives searching for a “fun” job while others believe that such a thing doesn’t exist. For Matt Besterman, MS ’16, fun is one of the building blocks on which his current position was founded.

In May, Besterman was named public relations manager for LEGOLAND New York, the newest location for the theme park inspired by the popular toy.

“My business these days is basically getting children excited about fun,” Besterman said. “It really is a dream opportunity.”

Slated for a 2020 grand opening, LEGOLAND New York will be the biggest theme park yet built by Merlin Entertainments. Under construction on 500 acres in the town of Goshen, New York, just over an hour from New York City, the 150-acre resort will feature more than 50 rides, shows and attractions, including the popular Lego Mindstorms, Bricktopia and Lego City; and a 250-room Lego-themed hotel. It will be the third LEGOLAND in the U.S. (others are located in Winter Haven, Florida, and Carlsbad, California), and the ninth in the world behind locations such as Japan, Denmark, England and Dubai.

When he isn’t conducting regional, national and international media outreach or planning PR events, Besterman is helping redesign the resort’s website and guiding its social media strategy.

“There are so many aspects to this,” he said. “My job is never boring.”

Falling into what he considers the “brass ring” of jobs was unexpected and involved equal parts foresight and serendipity. Prior to joining the LEGOLAND team, Besterman worked for 20 years as a TV news producer, 10 of them at NY1 News in Manhattan, where he directed coverage of stories ranging from the devastation of Superstorm Sandy to the annual New York City Marathon.

Besterman, who lives with his family 15 minutes from Goshen, had covered the development and site selection process of the park since 2015, while serving as executive producer of Spectrum News Hudson Valley. During this time, he realized that his field was drastically changing. He enrolled in Quinnipiac’s MS in Interactive Media and Communications program to keep on top of those changes and expand his career outlook.

“I hadn’t decided yet if I was going to stay or leave TV news, but I wanted to be prepared for whatever came next,” he said.

The online communications program gave Besterman a broad background in user experience (UX), web and graphic design techniques, social media strategy and various digital storytelling platforms. A few months after completing the degree, Besterman decided a career change was in order.

“I’d had enough of covering fires and shootings,” he said. “I’m a storyteller—it’s what I do—but I wanted different stories to tell.”

Over the next year, Besterman worked as an independent public relations consultant and freelanced for several firms. His chance to tell the kinds of stories he wanted came in early 2018, when LEGOLAND posted the public relations manager position. Besterman jumped at the opportunity, but wasn’t entirely confident that his hard news background would be a good fit at first.

“Throughout that whole interview process, I thought, ‘Nah, this isn’t going to happen.’”

But Besterman made an impression with his public relations experience, diverse skillset, knowledge of the New York media and enthusiasm for the park and its parent company. He quickly realized his decision to return to school and earn his master’s when he did was a prescient one.

“The skills I learned in my program really stood me in good stead while I was changing careers,” he said.

That change came at an opportune time. The resort, Besterman believes, will be a central attraction in a major tourism corridor that stretches across the Hudson Valley. He is already helping to plan the release of annual passes, advance hotel reservations and other future promotions.

“We are the first major theme park to open in the Northeast in decades,” Besterman said. “And we fit with the Hudson Valley’s identity as a center for creativity.”

He looks forward to attending the 2020 ribbon-cutting with his wife and children. While his kids, currently 20, 18 and 16, may be a bit older than the park’s target demographic of 2-12, Besterman hasn’t ruled out other possibilities.

“They certainly won’t be too old to work at LEGOLAND, will they?” he quipped.

Matt Besterman with a tabletop model of the LEGOLAND New York theme park under construction.
WEDDINGS
AND BIRTHS

1. Derek Bruce Costanza, April 7, 2018, son of Lindsay (Mashel) Costanza ’07, MAT 08, and husband, Joseph Costanza ’07, MBA ’10.
2. Laura Passarelle ’10, MOT ’12, and Jonathan Vaughn, Nov. 17, 2017.
3. Daniel Liam Murphy, May 30, 2018, son of Suzanne (Conway) Murphy ’05.
4. Eloise Marie Schussler, June 24, 2018, daughter of Justin Schussler, MS ’15, and wife, Cristina.
11. Vivian Rose Scanlon, June 4, 2018, daughter of Emily Scanlon ’18.
13. The Heller triplets—Karoline, James, and Dylan—born May 24, 2018, with brother Connor, 3. They are the children of Aubrey (Bishop) Heller ’05, MS ’07, and her husband, Ryan Heller ’05.
IN MEMORIAM

2016
John Bartosz, JD ’95
Michael Hallquest ’05
Charles Hardy Sr. ’58
Marie (Staehli) Harrison ’78
Patricia Ann Holman ’85
Lynn Holmes, JD ’93
Mary (Ulbrich) Koblis ’50
Michael Mettler ’76
Louis Onofrio ’56
Bernard Snelick ’47

2017
Louis Adler, JD ’00
Bernard Baer ’17
Richard Baker Jr. ’80
Donald Barbault ’69
Helene (Guterch) Belas ’37
Josephine (Funaro) Bonay ’80
Danielle (Brandon) Bradley ’93, MBA ’98
Stuart Braun ’74
Helen (Pierson) Bulger ’37
William Calabrese ’70
Thomas Candelent ’69
Robert Cascio ’76

Athis Cattaruzza ’48
Sidney Comen ’38
Clark Coughlin ’54
Guy Cullen ’58
Martin Cummings ’49
Robert Doolittle ’55
Mary Dzialo ’41
Michael Farno ’69
Linda Ferretti ’61
Barbara (Hermanns) Freudenstein ’46
Andrea Gendron Hogan, JD ’04
Allen Gittleman ’74
Barbara (Supowitz) Greenberg ’61
Russell Harlow ’64
Julie (McGuire) Hayes ’82
Herbert Hennessy ’51
Ebba (Swanson) Hourigan ’39
Elaine (Lenzi) Kennedy ’49
Barbara (Franson) Klein ’49
Walter Lyons ’54
Ruth (Thompson) MacMillen ’37
Joseph Maino ’69
Edward McKeon Jr. ’62
Janice (Hodges) McLeod, CER ’95
John Meaney ’63

Muriel (Buttrn) Newton ’34
Georgia (Leary) Nichols, JD ’83
James Niziolek ’87
Donna-Jeanne (Delong) Oddie, JD ’81
Marjorie (Jones) Oliver ’39
Calvin Phillips Jr. ’76
Terry Rizzico ’83
Frank Rusher Jr. ’68
Michael Tierney, JD ’87
George Trecarten Jr. ’96
William Van Lieshout ’64
Jean (Cooper) VanSickles ’44
Henry Walsh Jr., LLM ’85, JD ’83
Michael Willams ’05, MBA ’07

2018
Louis Base ’41
Lawrence Brockway Jr. ’57
Andrew Brown ’67
Angeline (Saccomone) Cama ’48
Brendan Canty, JD ’87
Albert Carbonari ’48
Dennis Carruth ’91
Linda (Brandi) Cateau ’43
Joseph Colantonio Sr. ’58
Geary Corves Jr. ’52

Henry DeMartino ’61
Rose (Carruth) Earley ’56
William Flynn ’78
Marvin Foxworth ’50
Alfred Fusco ’67
Jonathan Gaddis ’15
Camille (Esposito) Gerosa ’59
Joseph Giardina ’53
Carol (Conrad) Gittus ’84
Daniel Goldstone, MAT ’98
Edward Gorman Jr. ’59
Wendy (Naples) Grosso ’83
Pierre Hakim ’05, JD ’08
Marc Heining ’12
Robert Held, MS ’12
Martha (McGaw) Hirsch ’77
Robert Iadarola ‘48
Janis Lee (Pizer) Kahn ’67
William Kaiser ’58
Lucy (Tondalo) Kaluski ’65
Earl Katz ’37
John Kelly, JD ’89
Beverly Komoka-Keller ’62
Emmanuel Laboy ’15
Dennis Letherod ’72
Lila (Scolnick) Liner ’42
Marshall Litsky ’54
Blanche (Laich) Little ’36

Dorothy (Quinn) Malone ’57
David McWhirt ’83
Ann Merithew ’66
Muriel (Levine) Meyerson ’47
Anthony Milea ’13
Joseph F. Muto ’86
Edna (Greenberg) Newman ’56
John Nowicky ’79
Andrew O’Book ’52
Nicole Patterson ’10
Evan R. Philippi ’11
Maryann (Scorsesi) Pitofsky ’85
Kenneth Reed III ’83
Robert Reig ’61
Dennis Saas ’70
Robert Sandillo ’66
Mark Saracco ’06
Thomas Silengo ’75
Barbara (McIntyre) Staehly ’84
Frederick Staples II, MHS ’06
Richard Terbrusch, JD ’04
Brian Thorp ’65
Thomas Ullmann ’72
Jason Wardell ’03
William Withington ’55
Joseph Wood ’13
Jessie (Lee) Yip ’43

CALENDAR

November 28, 2018
Mindfulness at Work, 6:30 p.m., Project Farmhouse, 76 E. 13th St., New York City, $10 includes refreshments, wine and beer. Hosted by New York Metro Alumni Chapter and Alumni Career Services.

January 26, 2019
Drawing Workshop with artist and Boston College art professor Sheila Gallagher, 10:30 a.m., Ireland’s Great Hunger Museum, 3011 Whitney Ave., Hamden. Fee includes general museum admission, go to ighm.org for register.

February 6
“Cops, Gangstas, DAs and Thugs Share a Common Ancestor—Patriarchy,” a talk by Richard Edmond-Vargas, co-founder of Initiate Justice, who was featured in the CNN documentary, “The Feminist on Cellblock Y,” 6:30 p.m., Burt Kahn Court, Mount Carmel Campus. Free.

February 13
“Get Free: Hip-Hop Education, Civics, and Social Justice,” a lecture by Bettina Love, PhD, an award-winning author and University of Georgia professor known widely for her research on hip-hop education, youth activism and community transformation, 6:30 p.m., Mount Carmel Auditorium, Mount Carmel Campus, Free.

February 23
Red Sox play the Yankees, time TBD, JetBlue Park, Fort Myers, hosted by Quinnipiac’s Alumni Association. Parents and alumni welcome, visit alumni.qu.edu/events for details.

February 27-March 3
Quinnipiac Theater program presents “Next to Normal,” 7:30 p.m. Wednesday-Saturday, 2 p.m. matinees Saturday and Sunday, Theatre Arts Center, 515 Sherman Ave., Hamden, go to theater.qu.edu for tickets.

February 28
PILP Auction, 5:30 p.m., School of Law Center, North Haven Campus, proceeds benefit students working in public interest law.

March 28-30
G.A.M.E. IX Forum (Global Asset Management Education), New York Hilton Midtown Hotel, registration required, get details at qgame.qu.edu or by email at qqame@qu.edu or by calling 203-582-3988.

April 6
Big Event day of community service at 100 sites in the Hamden and New Haven area, for students, alumni, faculty and staff.

April 9
Ireland’s Great Hunger Museum hosts a free reception to mark the return of the museum’s permanent collection from its tour of Ireland. Visit ighm.org for details.

April 13
6th Annual New Play Festival of student-written works, performed and directed by students, 2 p.m. and 7 p.m., the Barrow Group’s MainStage Theater, 312 W. 36th St., New York City. Produced in collaboration with the Barrow Group Theatre Company. Go to theater.qu.edu for tickets.

April 25
An Evening of Art for Educators, 4-6 p.m., Ireland’s Great Hunger Museum, 3011 Whitney Ave., Hamden, for K-12 teachers and administrators, features tour, brainstorming with staff about curriculum, wine and hors d’oeuvres. Free.

May 11
Graduate Commencement, People’s United Center, York Hill Campus: 9 a.m. for School of Business, School of Communications and School of Education; 1 p.m. for College of Arts & Sciences, School of Health Sciences and School of Nursing; 5 p.m. for School of Law.

May 16
Bill Mecca Roundball Open, 11 a.m., Tradition Golf Club at Wallingford and Tradition Golf Club at Oak Lane, Woodbridge. Cost: $160 per golfer, registration required.

May 18
Undergraduate Commencement, People’s United Center, York Hill Campus. Schedule: 9 a.m. for School of Health Sciences and School of Nursing; 2 p.m. for College of Arts & Sciences and School of Communications.

May 19
Undergraduate Commencement, People’s United Center, York Hill Campus: Schedule: 9 a.m., for School of Business and School of Engineering.
1. More than 1,000 alumni and their guests returned to Quinnipiac for Alumni Weekend Oct. 5–6 to enjoy a golf tournament, receptions, special celebrations for milestone years, alumni sports matches, tailgating and other activities on the York Hill Campus capped by men’s and women’s ice hockey games. From left: Ariana Verducci, Ashley Liese, DOT ’18, Christina Colandrea ’14, MAT ’15, and Anthony Perfetto Jr.

2. Cary Adams ’16 swings a sledgehammer as friends cheer him on during Alumni Weekend.

3. Catching up at the Heritage luncheon at the People’s United Center during Alumni Weekend are Irena (Bafuma) Zavednak ’68 and Judith Basarab Yale ’68.

4. At the Aetna alumni reception, hosted by Lou Ursini ’86 are, from left, Rachel Moon ’16, Lianna Jackter ’05 and Jenn Whaley ’16.

5. The Alumni Championship winning gross team, from left: Gary Henderson, Michael Siciliano, Burke Henderson ’04 and Taylor Henderson ’07. The tournament took place Oct. 5 at the New Haven Country Club.

6. Tracyee Scott and her daughter, Gillian Scott ’22, a physical therapy major, shop the Artisan Craft Fair and Market sponsored by the Sustainability Committee in the Athletic and Recreation Center on the Mount Carmel Campus during Parents and Family Weekend in October.

7. Law Dean Jennifer Gerarda Brown, center, chats with Nancy Rose, JD ’93, right, and Arielle Smitt, JD ’18, at the 25th reunion reception Oct. 20.
LAW SCHOOL CLASS NOTES

1983
JOSEPH A. GEREMIA JR. of Bethany, CT, was recognized for the fourth consecutive year on the Connecticut and New England Super Lawyers list under the family law practice area. Joseph, whose law practice is in Waterbury, is married to Michelle Geremia, a QU biology professor.

PAUL KLEMOV of West Palm Beach, FL, founded PowerLegal, a law firm in West Palm that provides consumers with the opportunity to be represented by an attorney at costs similar to those charged by Legalzoom.

1987
LOUIE KIRSCH-GOODWIN of Scottsdale, AZ, conducted a webinar for Edupliance titled, “Bullying in Schools: Legal Issues & Practical Strategies.”

1988
DONNA M. GENOVESE of Pleasantville, NY, is a founding partner in Goldschmidt & Genovese, matrimonial and family law, with offices in New York City and White Plains.

1989
RICHARD FRANKEL of Port Washington, NY, is of counsel with Ruskin Moscou Faltischek on Long Island and CEO of Red Rock Global Capital Ltd. He spent 26 years in law enforcement as a prosecutor and an FBI special agent. He is also an on-air consultant for ABC News. Richard is married to Christine Sommero Frankel and they have five children.

AMY LOMBARDO of Fairfield, CT, joined the health care practice of Wilson Elser Moskowitz Edelman & Dicker in the White Plains, NY, office as of counsel this past June.

1991
KEVIN C. FERRY of Avon, CT, operates Ferry Law in New Britain, focusing on personal injury, medical malpractice and criminal law. He has brought mindfulness to his law practice through exploring meditation in its various forms, including Tai Chi, Qi Gong, yoga, permaculture and tea culture.

1994
KEVIN LAWlor of North Haven, CT, has been appointed the new chief justice state’s attorney for operations in the division of criminal justice by the Connecticut Criminal Justice Commission. He oversees the operational and investigative bureaus at the Office of the Chief State’s Attorney and also assists in prosecutions in the state’s 13 judicial districts.

1997
CHARLES LEE MUDD JR. of Western Springs, IL, was selected to participate in the First United Nations Conference on Space Law and Policy in September 2018 in Moscow. Since 2017, Charles has expanded his law firm to include representing entities involved in the commercial space industry. He completed a graduate level astrophysics class at the University of Chicago that year.

1999
THOMAS SAADI of Danbury, CT, was confirmed by the Connecticut General Assembly as commissioner of the Connecticut Department of Veterans Affairs in February 2018. He previously served as acting commissioner, chief of staff and general counsel. Thomas is also a major in the U.S. Army Reserve, assigned as the chief legal officer of the 411th Civil Affairs Battalion. He is also serving his 10th term on the Danbury City Council.

2003
MARK SCHNITZLER of Fairfield, CT, established his own law firm in July 2018 with offices in Fairfield and Greenwich, CT, focusing on real estate, probate litigation and personal injury.

2004
MICHAEL MENAPACE of North Granby, CT, a partner at Wiggin and Dana, was installed as the president of the Hartford County Bar Association in May. His practice focuses on complex commercial litigation, the insurance and reinsurance industries, and data breach/cyber-liability issues.

2005
CHRIS GALLAGHER of Warminster, PA, is an associate at Thomas Thomas & Hafer in August 2018, focusing on property insurance. The firm is based in central Pennsylvania.

2006
STEPHEN YOST of West Redding, CT, has joined Collins Hannafin of Danbury, focusing on commercial transactions and taxation.

2011
ROB SHEPHERD, JD/MBA, recently was promoted to manager at Durbin Bennett Tax Advisors in Austin, TX, where he handles estate planning, consulting and compliance services to high net-worth individuals and their various entities.

2012
PREENA RAO of Newtown, CT, has opened a new law firm in Trumbull, CT, Rao & Jo, with a colleague, Daniel Jo. She previously worked for five years at the Stamford-based Pickel Law Firm before opening her own practice in September 2017.

2013
EDWIN M. HERNANDEZ GARCIA of New York, NY, an associate at Reinhardt LLP in New York City since December 2015, practices in the areas of business and family immigration.

2016
ABIGAIL MAUSEMEYER of Coplay, PA, associate general counsel at Pencer Services in Palmerton, PA, was named one of Cablefax’s top regional power players for her work at Pencer Services and Blue Ridge Communications.

2017
HEATHER FENNELL was promoted to assistant general counsel at Northwell Health. She was awarded a one-year fellowship upon graduation and also was chosen to receive the Saul Katz award from Northwell, given annually to the current fellow who received the highest evaluations during the fellowship program.

2018
KATELYN DAY joined Hopkins & Abbondanza in Portland, ME, as an associate attorney. She specializes in estate planning and real estate transactions.

FORMAN DISCUSSES INCARCERATION

When JAMES FORMAN JR. was a public defender in Washington, D.C., he petitioned a judge to waive the sentence his 15-year-old black client faced, based on a lifetime of hardship.

Forman was floored when the judge, also black, cited his own hardships during the civil rights movement as rationalization for the harsh sentence he ordered. “The judge had invoked the same history that motivated me to become a public defender, but he had somehow flipped it on its head and used it as a justification for why he needed to lock up Brandon,” explained the Yale Law School professor and Pulitzer prize-winning author.

Forman explores the issue of mass incarceration in his 2018 Pulitzer-prize-winning book, “Locking Up Our Own: Crime and Punishment in Black America.” His talk was attended by students from the Schools of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences.

“One of the reasons why we have the largest prison system in the world is that we have demonized and otherized people and have created this scary conception of the criminal,” he said. — Kimberly Shepherd
LAW DEGREE ENHANCES HR CAREER

Legal background assists Kaiser VP in human resources role

BY OLIVIA ABEL
PHOTO JAMES TENSUAN

Growing up in Oklahoma, Rich Smith, JD ’00, didn’t dream of a law career, even though he did enjoy the legal exploits of TV’s “Perry Mason.” “In fact, I wanted to be a businessman,” he said.

The first in his family to go to college, Smith graduated from the University of Oklahoma with a bachelor’s degree in management and jumped right into a personnel job at Fleming Foods. Over the next 15 years he earned an MBA and built a successful human resources career that had him hopping around the country to take increasingly senior positions.

Over time, though, Smith felt a growing desire to attend law school. “I knew if I didn’t do it, I would always wonder—what if?” said Smith, who enrolled in Quinnipiac’s School of Law in 1997. It was a hectic period: He continued to work full time as a human resources manager at Union Carbide in Danbury. After work, he commuted an hour to campus and attended class for more than three hours (four nights a week during some semesters). He lived this busy schedule for more than three years. He even witnessed the birth of his second son the day after his first law school exam.

“Once I got started, I knew this was something that was interesting and exciting—and come hell or high water, I was going to finish,” Smith said. After graduating cum laude in 2000, he passed the bar the first time he took it.

You won’t find Smith in a courtroom, however. He is using his degree to further his HR career. He is vice president of human resources strategy and management for Kaiser Permanente in Oakland, California.

“This field is becoming so much more legalistic; being a lawyer definitely gives you a step up. It really helps you think through problems and helps an organization get more value out of the role, especially in smaller or mid-sized firms that don’t necessarily have in-house counsel,” said Smith. He meets many other non-practicing lawyers working in HR.

After law school, Smith landed a job as senior director of human resources at Pfizer in Manhattan. Eight years later he moved on to become regional vice president of human resources for Kaiser Permanente in Portland, Oregon, before assuming his current role.

“The Kaiser people were definitely interested in the fact that I was a lawyer,” he said. “My last role with Kaiser was very much a tactical day-to-day role; I interacted with the unions and dealt with benefits and more. My current job is more strategic and includes managing a large budget and the strategic investment process.”

Moving his wife of 31 years and his two sons around the country—they lived in six states— was good for all of them, he said. “It took us out of our comfort zone and it was very exciting.”

Does he have a favorite spot? “Every one of these places has some really fond memories, as well as things that weren’t so great. Portland grew on us much more than we originally thought it would, for lots of reasons.”

With such a busy schedule, he doesn’t have many hobbies. “I like to get out and walk. The quiet time gives me an opportunity to think,” he said. “I do like to read; John Grisham is my favorite author. And I like to hike and travel.”

Looking back, Smith said one of the highlights of his career occurred before law school while he worked at Mobil Chemical. In order to become the best human resources executive possible, he needed experience working with labor unions. But Mobil Chemical had only one plant with organized labor, in Edison, New Jersey. Luckily, the position opened up and the Smith family moved once again. But the union contract was about to expire in months, and without a deal, a strike was likely.

“I went in and learned about the people and the contract and took some crash courses in labor negotiations; I successfully negotiated a new three-year agreement. The New Jersey teamsters were a little intimidating, but I got it done,” he said.

“I’ve tried to build a career with a variety of different experiences at different levels in different geographies to show myself that I could be adaptable in any situation. I have no regrets.”
The Dog Clicker

“Dogs always want to please you—that’s how they’re programmed—but they need to know how,” says trainer Kristen Iannucci.

‘GOOD DOGGIE’ A CLICK AWAY

Try the click and treat method to capture a behavior you want in your dog and drill it home. Inexpensive clickers are sold at pet supply stores, but even a pen will do. Timing is important. Keep body language neutral so as not to send mixed signals.

COME! SIT! STAY! ROLL OVER!

Focus on one behavior per training session. When the dog shows you the one you want, click and treat. Spend 2-3 minutes with a puppy and 5-10 for an older dog.

‘BAD DOGGIE’ DOESN’T WORK

Kristen Iannucci ‘10, co-owner of Happy Homes Dog Daycare & Training in Woodbridge, Connecticut, knows a positive and stress-free learning environment is just as important for dogs as it is for people. The QU graduate (veterinary technology major) and her partner use positive reinforcement and fear-free training practices, whether they are training a puppy, an unruly teenage dog or a new rescue with bad habits. Iannucci owns the business with veterinarian and head trainer Tracy Johnson. “Positive reinforcement isn’t about correction; it’s about rewarding good behavior,” says Iannucci. Johnson does behavior consultations and in-home training while Iannucci runs the daycare.

One of their biggest challenges is working with dogs previously “trained” with aversive techniques and intimidation tactics, such as the use of shock or prong collars. “These dogs aren’t nearly as happy, pleasant or responsive as others,” Iannucci notes, adding that often, dogs don’t connect the unwanted behavior with the discipline, turning pet training into a cycle of continuous punishment. “Traditional punishment-based methods don’t tell dogs what you want,” Iannucci notes.

Happy Homes subscribes to a “click and treat” method that asks for a behavior, pairs it with a cue and connects it with a reward through the use of a clicker. Dogs figure out that wrong behaviors, such as incessant barking, don’t get them anything, but obeying cues yield a positive outcome. “Eventually, the dog chooses to make the right decision and will continue to do this when its owners aren’t around as well,” Iannucci says.

CHEW ON THIS!

Catch unwanted chewing behavior in the act and immediately replace a chair, for example, with something appropriate to chew on, such as his dog toy. If the dog goes to its toy instead of the chair next time, click and treat.

DITCH THE DOG-FIGHT!

Address your dog’s anxiety by finding a distance where she is comfortable and not reacting and give her a yummy treat. Slowly decrease the distance from the trigger as you continue to reinforce calm behavior.

DOWN ON JUMPING!

Teach opposing behaviors. Have a friend knock on the door and enter your house, and simultaneously drill another behavior into your dog, like sitting, to counter the jumping. Click and treat the goal behavior.

Try the click and treat method to capture a behavior you want in your dog and drill it home. Inexpensive clickers are sold at pet supply stores, but even a pen will do. Timing is important. Keep body language neutral so as not to send mixed signals.

Focus on one behavior per training session. When the dog shows you the one you want, click and treat. Spend 2-3 minutes with a puppy and 5-10 for an older dog.

“Dogs always want to please you—that’s how they’re programmed—but they need to know how,” says trainer Kristen Iannucci.

Try the click and treat method to capture a behavior you want in your dog and drill it home. Inexpensive clickers are sold at pet supply stores, but even a pen will do. Timing is important. Keep body language neutral so as not to send mixed signals.

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