Forward, March!

Community comes together to define University of the Future
For Claire Faulkner ’22, achieving focus is as simple as putting one foot in front of the other—but very, very carefully. She is among 30 or so members of the Quinnipiac Slackline Club. They meet in Pine Grove to practice their sport and invite curious onlookers to give it a try. Slacklining is walking and balancing along a flat length of webbing suspended between two anchor points. Faulkner slacklined a bit in her backyard before coming to QU, and says club president Daniel Dalton has given her pointers and challenges. “It’s a good study break, you meet new people and you learn to really focus on what’s in front of you,” she says. Newcomers notice their feet are wobbly until their leg muscles adapt, but club members are happy to offer shoulder or arm support. Máire Clarke ’22, a criminal justice major, joined the club after she saw its booth at the fall Involvement Fair. She’s worked up to walking 50 feet and also challenges herself to go backward and spin. Both say it’s their go-to for stress relief.
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Professor Jonah Warren has developed an award-winning video game called Sloppy Forgeries that allows players to replicate famous works of art in 90 seconds using their mouse as a paintbrush. Try it at go.qu.edu/sloppyforgeries.

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President Judy D. Olian walks in the inaugural procession with Kiku Jones, associate professor of computer information systems, carrying the university mace.

**COVER PHOTOS**

John Hassett

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WELDONS MAKE $15 MILLION GIFT

William Weldon ’71, chairman of Quinnipiac’s Board of Trustees, and his wife, Barbara ’71, have made a $15 million gift, the largest in Quinnipiac’s history, to support the initiatives outlined in the university’s strategic plan, positioning Quinnipiac as “The University of the Future.” President Judy D. Olian announced the gift during her inauguration speech May 1. “Through this gift, Barbara and Bill are infusing our future with promise, energy and confidence,” she said. “We are all indebted to them for their unwavering commitment to Quinnipiac over many years, for their leadership and vision, for lifting our collective sights, and for their personal friendship,” Weldon is the retired chairman and CEO of Johnson & Johnson. “Quinnipiac changed our lives. We are delighted to be able to contribute to our alma mater to embolden its future and to help the university continue to create opportunity for future generations,” the couple said in a statement. In April, Weldon was inducted into the Horatio Alger Association of Distinguished Americans, which honors individuals who have succeeded despite adversities, and who have remained committed to higher education and charitable endeavors. Weldon has been a pivotal force in shaping QU’s strategy and success. His commitment to improving the quality of life for veterans with physical and mental disabilities led the university to establish the Weldon Chair in Rehabilitation Medicine at its medical school.
DIVERSITY
AN UNTAPPED RESOURCE

Blair Taylor says this challenging time in history is also ripe with opportunities

BY JANET WALDMAN
PHOTO AUTUMN DRISCOLL

As Americans live through one of the most critical eras in the nation’s history, they should resist the urge to wring their hands in despair and instead embrace the opportunities the era presents, said Blair Taylor, former CEO of My Brother’s Keeper Alliance.

Taylor presented a lecture titled, “A Diverse World of Opportunity,” to a packed audience of students, faculty and staff this past semester. He is managing partner in XFC Partners (X-Factor), a firm he founded to create sustainable links between the globe’s largest corporations and untapped sources of talent. He also has served as president and CEO of the Los Angeles Urban League. He was invited to Quinnipiac by President Judy Olian, former dean of UCLA Anderson School of Management, from which Taylor graduated with an MBA.

“We have not effectively tapped into our diversity, one of our greatest assets ... and there is a strong and compelling business case for diversity,” he said, adding that unlocking the power of the era means putting energy against the biggest issues and threats to enable innovation to flourish.

The quest for diversity and inclusion has guided Taylor’s distinguished career and is what inspired him to head My Brother’s Keeper, the nonprofit launched by former President Barack Obama, which focuses on building supportive communities for boys and young men of color where they feel valued and have pathways to opportunity.

And opportunity is what he sees now.

“It’s time for us to be bold. The federal government is broken, and the lack of civility is detrimental,” he said, acknowledging that government requires compromise and collaboration, and it grinds to a halt when people don’t talk to each other.

He shared a story about a longtime Congressional historian he met who lived through the civil rights riots, nuclear threats and assassinations of the mid-1960s, when people wondered if the U.S. would survive. The difference between then and now, the historian noted, was that politicians from both sides of the aisle would debate the issues during the day and break bread together at night. “Now, they pass each other in the halls without saying hello,” Taylor said.

“But we’ve been through worse, and we will get through this as well,” he stated, cautioning his audience not to sleep through the era, or be discouraged, overwhelmed or paralyzed by news and events.

Diversity is important, he said, because “breathing your own exhaust” by listening only to people who agree with you often leads to stagnation. Yet Taylor, a former member of the global leadership team at Starbucks, said 97 percent of corporate leadership teams in the U.S. do not reflect ethnic diversity.

He quoted Margaret A. Neale, professor emerita in the Stanford University Graduate School of Business, who explored the issue of diversity in the workplace. She found that the worst kind of group for an organization that wants to be innovative and creative is one in which everyone is alike and gets along too well. Her research indicated that diverse groups by their very nature anticipate conflict and therefore are better prepared for it.

“And the more diverse the group, the higher the collective IQ, the better it will be at solving problems over just the smartest person in the room,” he said. He noted that people need to understand the difference between diversity and inclusion and practice them both. “Diversity says, ‘How many people are in my sphere of influence who don’t look or think like me’ while inclusion says, ‘I value their opinion, and I don’t try to turn them into me or make them something they are not,’” he explained.

During his talk and the Q&A that followed, Taylor offered students some tools to help them make a personal and positive impact.

“Don’t think you have to change the world. You all have a sphere of influence in this arena. Don’t wait—have the conversation now. Influence the conversations happening in your own sphere,” he said.

He also urged them to take leadership seriously. “Lead from where you are and never run away from who you are as a leader.”

He recommended that students be open to “smart” risks. “If you are afraid of failure, you can become paralyzed. Realize that you are going to have setbacks. It’s how you deal with them. I’ve run into walls, but there’s not a wall I’ve met that I couldn’t figure out how to circumvent.”

Blair Taylor conversed with about 20 students at a luncheon earlier in the day, telling them to push envelopes in their careers, “even if it causes you to ‘cross with the boss.’”
Van Jones

ADVOCATING FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE

CNN political commentator Van Jones, the CEO of the newly created REFORM Alliance, visited the university in March to address criminal justice reform with Connecticut Gov. Ned Lamont, state and national advocacy groups, and about 20 previously incarcerated individuals. Don C. Sawyer III, the university’s chief diversity officer, helped organize the event. The candid conversation was aligned with the Prison Project at Quinnipiac, an initiative to advance social justice through progressive, humane and empirically based solutions to crime. “When people are trying to turn their lives around,” Jones said, “we should throw them a lifeline and not an anvil.” Several of the previously incarcerated individuals present shared stories about trying to build new lives after being released from prison.

Nicole Antaya ’19

PERSEVERANCE PERSONIFIED

Nicole Antaya, a senior psychology major, graduated in May after spending the last six years earning a bachelor’s degree while fighting cystic fibrosis, a genetic disorder marked by chronic lung infections that sharply reduce a person’s ability to breathe. Antaya underwent a double-lung transplant in 2015 after her lung function fell to 18 percent and doctors gave her six months to a year to live. Undaunted, she never gave up her dream of walking across the Commencement stage. Her senior thesis was titled “Developing Post-Traumatic Growth Through Trauma.” Antaya said living with cystic fibrosis and earning her degree has inspired her to become a licensed clinical social worker.

Student Production

‘NEXT TO NORMAL’

The theater program presented “Next to Normal” this spring in the Center for Theatre Arts. The play is about a mother’s struggle with mental illness and her family’s efforts to cope. The play revolves around a mother, played by freshman Kayla Jarvy, trying to carry on as normal while battling manic depression. Senior Connor Whiteley played her husband, while the roles of the teenage children were played by freshman Bryan Donahue, a transplant recipient, author and veteran; poet Reginald Dwayne Betts; and Javier Polit, chief information officer of Procter & Gamble. Visit commencement.qu.edu for photos and stories.

Danielle Beerli

Kathy McAfee

SEIZING OPPORTUNITY

The People’s United Center for Women & Business presented inspirational programs by two female entrepreneurs this spring. Danielle Beerli, MSW, talked about her journey creating and running her not-for-profit Empower Her. Beerli grew up believing girls could accomplish anything. Having turned various childhood adversities into strengths, she decided to pursue a career in social work to help others. Kathy McAfee is the owner of Kmc Brand Innovation and co-author of “Defining You,” which helps professionals define their personal leadership brands. Her talk focused on how professionals can strategically position themselves for greater success by learning to articulate who they are, identify their signature work and be able to list results and outcomes, and introduce themselves more clearly and confidently.

Sarah Cowden and graduate student Louis Napolitano. Kevin Daly, assistant professor and director of the theater program, described it as a powerful musical that challenges the university community and audiences to consider the realities of mental illness.

Commencement

WORDS OF WISDOM

Quinnipiac awarded 3,051 degrees in seven Commencement ceremonies over two weekends. Dr. Pamela Wible, a family physician and pioneer in the ideal medical care movement, addressed graduates of the Frank H. Netter MD School of Medicine while Maria Araujo Kahn, associate justice of the Connecticut Supreme Court, spoke to graduates of the School of Law. The speakers for the two graduate ceremonies were John F. Lansing, CEO and director of the U.S. Agency for Global Media, and Dr. Reginald Eadie, president and CEO of Trinity Health of New England. Undergraduates received advice from Bryan Donahue, a transplant recipient, author and veteran; poet Reginald Dwayne Betts; and Javier Polit, chief information officer of Procter & Gamble. Visit commencement.qu.edu for more details.

Engineering Designation

MEETING CHALLENGES OF 21ST CENTURY

The School of Engineering recently was designated a Grand Challenges Scholar Program school by the National Academy of Engineering. Only 61 universities in the world share this designation including Duke University, Georgia Tech, Olin College and MIT. In 2008, the NAE identified 14 Grand Challenges for Engineering that are a call to action and serve as a focal point for society’s attention to opportunities and pressing challenges affecting quality of life. The Grand Challenges program provides a framework to supplement the school’s curricula.

Alumni Weekend

CELEBRATE WITH CLASS

All Quinnipiac alumni are invited to campus Oct. 18–19 for Alumni Weekend—two days of engaging events including the Alumni Golf Championship on Friday, class and affinity reunions, live music, family fun and a men’s ice hockey game against Maine. Go to alumni.qu.edu for more details and to register.
Working with children is all Molly Clarke, MD ’19, ever wanted to do. “Kids are funny and surprise you in so many ways. They are not inundated with social norms, and they are so honest. I want to be an advocate for them,” Clarke said, explaining why she chose to become a doctor.

The week before Match Day, she was counting the hours until she could open her envelope to find out where she was headed for her residency, hoping to get her chosen specialty. At exactly noon on March 15, she tore the red wax seal and tugged on the letter inside, her parents by her side in Burt Kahn Court on the Mount Carmel Campus, where the Match Day program took place. Just like that, the wait was over.

“This is amazing—I’m very lucky,” she said, tears of relief beginning to form. She’ll be continuing her medical education at one of the top children’s hospitals in the country—Children’s National in Washington, D.C., where she will specialize in pediatrics. “It has the top newborn intensive care unit in the country,” she noted.

Clarke was among 85 students in the third graduating class of the Frank H. Netter MD School of Medicine at Quinnipiac University who learned of their residency placements that day through the National Resident Matching Program. Members of the Class of 2019 were among the 44,600 medical students applying for 35,000 residencies in The Match, which uses a computer algorithm to produce a destination and a discipline for the next three or more years.

Overall, Netter students matched with residency programs across the country, including Rhode Island Hospital/Brown University, New York Presbyterian Hospital/Columbia University, Ohio State University Medical Center and UCLA Medical Center, along with Netter’s Connecticut affiliate hospitals—Middlesex Health, Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center, and St. Vincent’s Medical Center.

The Netter students matched in 19 disciplines, including family medicine, pediatrics, psychiatry, internal medicine and neurology. The residencies cover 25 states and the District of Columbia. For Dr. Bruce Koeppen, dean of the Netter School, Match Day is framed by a growing reputation for producing students who are well trained, compassionate and collaborative.

Before Match Day, Clarke said the best day of her life was finding out that she was accepted to the Netter School. “The faculty is so invested in the quality of our education. The professors are here primarily to teach us,” she said, adding that although many students choose a specialty, “They teach us to look at patients as a whole and not focus on just one problem to fix.”

Clarke singled out her MeSH preceptor, pediatrician Richard Geller, for preparing her well and described Dr. Robert Bona, Netter professor of medical sciences, as “someone who is incredibly smart. I did so well in my rotations because of his teaching.” She appreciated both doctors for their sense of humor. “In pediatrics, life can be sad, but humor and lightness is incredibly therapeutic.”

Kaitlin Renkosiak, MD ’19, is headed to Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center for an OB-GYN residency—her first choice. She did her rotation there in that specialty and enjoyed the staff very much. “I found that I liked helping women at some of the most intimate moments in their lives, from being the front-line person bringing life into the world to helping women with post-reproductive health challenges.”

She is especially interested in postmenopausal disorders and in surgeries that involve pelvic reconstruction. “Surgery involves being detailed and focused, and I find the operating room to be calming,” she said. She is also looking forward to working with future Netter students there.

Marisa Goshorn, MD ’19, and Colin Beals-Reid, MD ’19, were among 10 Netter couples who participated in the couples match. Goshorn matched with an OB-GYN residency at Bridgeport Hospital and Beals-Reid matched with an anesthesiology residency at Yale New Haven.

“It’s so different from undergrad because this just feels like such an accomplishment. It was hard. It was absolutely hard,” Goshorn said. “But we did it!”

Joseph Devlin, MD ’19, matched with a surgical residency at George Washington University in Washington, D.C., not far from his home in Maryland. Devlin studied at Netter through a full scholarship from the U.S. Air Force. “Life doesn’t get better than this. I’m so happy,” said Devlin, in a wonderfully raspy voice after all the shouting and crying. “I had a nightmare last night that something went wrong and I got disqualified from matching. I woke up in a sweat, but now it feels like I’m dreaming, I couldn’t be happier.”
CHILDREN MUST REIMAGINE ROLE MODELS

Education system remains racist, Love says

BY BRIAN KOONZ
PHOTO LAYOMI AKINNIFESI

Bettina Love uses words like smelling salts. She waves them all across America to open eyes, hearts and minds about how urban youth can use hip-hop music and culture to form social, cultural and political identities and create new ways of thinking about education and social justice.

Love brought her urgent, high-energy message to Quinnipiac in February for a lecture titled, “We Want To Do More Than Survive: Abolitionist Teaching.” Her message echoed the title of her latest book.

She was one of two keynote speakers for Black History Month; the other was Richard Edmond-Vargas, co-founder of Initiate Justice, a prison reform group. His lecture, the week before, was titled, “Cops, Gangstas, D.A.s and Thugs Share a Common Ancestor—Patriarchy.”

For Love, the lecture threads are not so different.

“My ancestors found joy in some of the most hideous conditions. I know that we can find joy. I know that we can dream together,” said Love, an award-winning author and associate professor of educational theory and practice at the University of Georgia.

Love is an unfiltered and unabashed speaker. Her remarks come from “400 years of receipts,” a raw acknowledgement of 400 years of slavery in America that began in Jamestown, Virginia, in 1619.

“How can we build a new world if we can’t critique this one?” Love asked, a Black Lives Matter sticker affixed to the lid of her laptop. “We’ve got to think about a world that centers around the most vulnerable—and then put them in the center.”

To illustrate her point, Love pointed to an education metric that attempts to define and categorize children through seven, distinct traits: grit, curiosity, self-control, social intelligence, zest, optimism and gratitude.

“Zest? That’s a soap,” Love said, growing impatient with what she deems worthless labels and categories. “And grit? How do you measure our grit? How do you live in a country for free—against your will in bondage—and you measure our grit? It doesn’t make any sense. But they have the audacity to measure our grit. That’s inherently racist.”

Ultimately, racism is a universal problem, not a parochial one. It’s not confined to people of color—nor should it be, Love emphasized.

“This is not biological. This is everybody’s fight,” she said. “It’s not black folks’ responsibility to fight racism. We didn’t start this, but we fight it because we want to survive.”

And yet, survival is hardly the goal here, Love said. Black people have an incredible canon of social contributions—art, literature, medicine, law, business, music, politics, athletics, finance and more.

The goal, the expectation really, should be for black people to succeed on their own terms, not some flawed—even racist—paradigm of accomplishment and value.

“Black people need to love themselves—not in spite of their blackness but because of their blackness,” Love said. “We’re not perfect. No, but is any group of people? But who has gone through what we’ve gone through on this land and given you our best, given you our brightest. And we do that in the name of justice.”

After her lecture, Love took questions from the audience. Aaron Robinson ’19, a broadcast journalism major who played on the men’s basketball team, asked about role models of color beyond rappers and athletes.

“If I’m a young black kid from the hood—and I want to be a doctor or a lawyer—there’s no one to teach me how to do that,” Robinson said.

Love knows a few things about playing college basketball. She earned a full athletic scholarship to play at Old Dominion University before transferring to the University of Pittsburgh, where she earned her bachelor’s and master’s degrees.

Love said the key for black and brown children is to reimagine role models. Inspiration and support don’t necessarily have to come from a law office or a hospital. The best advice and mentoring can be dispensed by family members, teachers, coaches, religious leaders or other important people in a person’s life. “You may not know a doctor or lawyer, but do you know folks who want to help you?” she asked.

“We have to protect all children’s potential. Every child has some gift. We have to find that gift and protect it.”

“It’s not black folks’ responsibility to fight racism ... but we fight it because we want to survive,” says Bettina Love.
Mike Hacku ’07, MS ’11, enjoys the reaction of friends and family members when they try on his Super Bowl rings.

After working for the NFL’s New England Patriots for nearly eight years, he recently was promoted to supervisor for Patriots.com and international content. He totally gets the instant smiles. As a kid growing up in Wallingford, Connecticut, the Patriots became his favorite team, too.

“There’s a lot of pinch-me moments in this job,” Hacku said. “Going to five Super Bowls and having the Patriots win three. Getting the rings. Riding in the duck boats in the [Super Bowl] parades with millions of people cheering, the confetti falling, all of that. This job is something I’ll never take for granted.”

Hacku, a journalism major who returned to Quinnipiac to earn a master’s in interactive media and communications, is the primary webmaster for Patriots.com and GilletteStadium.com. He also works with international agencies in Germany, Mexico, Brazil and China to help develop social media and newsletter content to promote the Patriots around the world.

In July, Hacku and two other Quinnipiac alumni—Mike Jurovaty ’05, the Patriots’ assistant director of media relations, and Angelique Fiske ’14, lifestyle editor at Patriots.com—will get Super Bowl rings to mark the Patriots’ 13–3 victory over the Los Angeles Rams last season. The players get their rings in a separate ceremony.

It will be the third Super Bowl ring for Hacku and Jurovaty, a management major, and the first for Fiske, who majored in journalism.

“This job has been such an unbelievable opportunity,” Fiske said. “I was given the chance to make it my own, and I’m so incredibly grateful for that. Being able to write in-depth stories about players, having fun with the fans—really, it’s something different every day. I have the best job in the world.”—Brian Koonz
Ayah Galal ’17
Breaking news, opening doors

INTERVIEW BY BRIAN KOONZ

After working as a producer at WTNH-News 8 in New Haven upon graduation, Ayah Galal began a new job at WFSB-Channel 3 in Hartford last December as the station’s first reporter/producer. She also is believed to be the first Connecticut reporter to wear a hijab—a Muslim head covering—on air. Galal grew up in Prospect, Connecticut, not too far from Hamden. Her father is a doctor and her mother is a teacher. After reading the morning news in high school, Galal found her calling at a microphone.

How did you choose your career?
I thought I wanted to follow in my dad’s footsteps and be a doctor. But then I took AP calculus and AP biology, and I was miserable. My parents said, ‘Do something that makes you happy.’ I remember coming to Quinnipiac’s Admitted Student Day, and all of the clubs had tables set up. I went over to the Q30 table and met the general manager at the time, Jon Alba ’15. We’re still friends. He talked about Q30 and student media. I loved politics too, so freshman year I decided to double major in journalism and political science.

What is your schedule like at Channel 3?
When I walk into the newsroom, I usually have no idea what I’m going to cover or where I’m going to be. I don’t know if I’m going to be producing my whole shift. I don’t know if I’m going to be reporting my whole shift. Many times, I do both. A while ago, I did a story about goats eating Christmas trees to recycle them. That’s definitely one of my favorite stories because it was so unusual. Of course, I also get to report more serious stories—breaking news, politics, things like that.

What is your job like as a producer?
The producer is the individual in charge of putting together the newscast—everything from selecting the stories that go into the show to writing the stories, creating the graphics and timing the show out. They time the show out in the control room and communicate with the anchors, meteorologists and reporters in the field. We’re the ones giving them time cues and letting them know about any last-minute changes.

How did student media prepare you?
I wouldn’t be where I am without what I did with Q30 and my classwork. Q30 helped me a lot, just in terms of giving me that hands-on TV experience. We dedicated a lot of time every week to a newscast. We always had meetings, and we did a lot of work. We would write stories. We would go out and cover stories on campus. We would build the rundown. All of that was excellent experience.

Whose broadcast work do you admire the most?
I really admire [“CBS This Morning” co-host and Channel 3 alumna] Gayle King. If you watched her demeanor during her interview with R. Kelly, she’s always so composed and prepared. I’m also a big fan of [“NBC Nightly News” anchor] Lester Holt. He has such a great broadcast voice. And CBS’s Steve Hartman, too. He’s such a good writer. His stories give you goosebumps.

What are your long-term goals as a journalist?
I’m so happy to be reporting in my home state where I grew up. But I think one day, I would definitely like to work at the network level, whether it’s covering politics in Washington, D.C., or working in New York City. Right now, I just have to keep learning and keep working hard.
ON THE RUN

Pals relax after raising funds for Best Buddies chapter

For Donohue, the race held a special meaning beyond completing the 13.1-mile course. He ran with his Best Buddies friend John Hendrick.

“This organization puts the focus on what these individuals can do instead of what they can’t,” said Donohue, who served as chapter president from 2017-18.

And then, there are the socks—canary-yellow hosiery with green, blue and red stars and a message on the bottom that declares, “If you can read this, 13.1 is done.”

To run in the half marathon as part of Team Best Buddies, Donohue and other club members had to meet a fundraising goal for Best Buddies Connecticut. Instead of just soliciting pledges, Donohue decided to raise money by selling custom Team Best Buddies socks designed by a member of Quinnipiac’s chapter.

In search of a manufacturing partner, Donohue reached out to John’s Crazy Socks, a Long Island-based company founded by Mark Cronin and his son, John, who has Down syndrome. The Cronins liked Donohue’s idea and agreed to work with Team Best Buddies.

And, just like the half marathon runners, the idea took off. For the design, Donohue held a contest and submitted eight ideas from past and present Best Buddies members at Quinnipiac. John Cronin announced the winning design, by Erin Schirra ’18, MHS ’22, in a YouTube video.

“I didn’t realize I could get so excited over a pair of socks,” Schirra said.

“It meant a lot to channel my art into something that will benefit Best Buddies, and ultimately, those with intellectual and developmental disabilities.”

BY ADAM DURSO
PHOTO AUTUMN DRISCOLL

It was easy to spot Nick Donohue ’18, MOT ’20, at a recent half marathon. He and his “buddies” were the ones sporting the bright yellow socks dotted with stars. Donohue and 23 others, including several occupational therapy faculty members, ran the Ion Bank Cheshire Half Marathon in April to raise money for Best Buddies, a global, nonprofit organization that fosters one-on-one relationships for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Donohue is among the 70 members of Quinnipiac’s Best Buddies chapter who spend time with their buddies, helping them to develop leadership skills and discovering fun activities they can do together.

Nick Donohue ’18, MOT ’20, at home with his buddy, John Hendrick. Their socks, created for the half marathon they ran, carry this message: “If you can read this, 13.1 is done.”
DEPARTING LEADERS RECOGNIZED

Their work has made a difference to thousands

BY BRIAN KOONZ

Mark Thompson and Lynn Bushnell are leaving Quinnipiac this month after distinguished careers during which they worked tirelessly to help Quinnipiac grow in bold, thoughtful ways.

Thompson, executive vice president and provost, became president of Wentworth Institute of Technology in Boston on June 1. “Personal relationships and a sense of community have been constants at Quinnipiac, no matter how much we’ve grown,” Thompson said in May. “Some schools, after they grow, they can lose their way. We haven’t lost our way.”

Bushnell agreed. She is retiring June 30 after a 25-year career. “I’m extremely proud of the people I’ve brought in to Quinnipiac. It’s a fabulous group, and they’ve all helped to create a strong sense of community here,” said Bushnell, who headed a division that included the Quinnipiac University Poll, Ireland’s Great Hunger Museum, public relations, media relations, the Office of Integrated Marketing Communications, special events and a radio station.

They were among 200 employees recognized for their contributions to Quinnipiac during a ceremony in May. During Thompson’s 21-year career, he was critical to the planning and launch of the Frank H. Netter MD School of Medicine and the School of Engineering. His vision also was felt broadly across the undergraduate landscape.

“One of the things I’ve tried to do is transform undergraduate education,” said Thompson, who counts presenting Quinnipiac diplomas to his daughters—Elizabeth ’16 and Kathryn ’18—as among his fondest memories. “We’ve developed skillsets that employers value. We’ve helped students become creative thinkers and critical thinkers.”

Thompson also said he’s tried to improve the graduate-level experience by expanding programs and reducing the time needed to complete them. He’s also delighted to see a substantial growth in the number of veterans enrolled at Quinnipiac.

Thompson was hired in 1998 as associate dean of the School of Business. Within five years, he was named dean. After another five years, he was chosen senior vice president for academic affairs. In July 2013, Thompson was promoted to executive vice president and provost, the university’s top academic officer.

Bushnell’s career also has been marked by several opportunities for leadership. She came to Quinnipiac in 1994 as the executive assistant to then-President John L. Lahey. A year later, she became interim director of public relations before being appointed vice president for public affairs in 1996.

Bushnell cited the museum as one of her major accomplishments. “The relevance of the story it tells through art is timeless and speaks to international issues of social justice, political oppression and hunger for people all over the world. Quinnipiac is lucky to be its steward,” she said.

Bushnell also was pleased with the three books she edited for the university: “Celebrating 250 Years of the New York City St. Patrick’s Day Parade,” “The Spirit of Quinnipiac University” and “Quinnipiac: The Lahey Years.”

Sipping from a mug decorated with photos of her grandchildren—Jackson, Tobin and Jacob—Bushnell pauses wistfully. Her office on Whitney Avenue is filled with memories, including two rings from Quinnipiac’s Frozen Four appearances in 2013 and 2016. Forever a Boston sports fan, Bushnell points out that Boston Bruins rookie Connor Clifton ’17, who played on that 2016 Frozen Four team, scored his first NHL goal on Mother’s Day against the Carolina Hurricanes.

The Quinnipiac connections never go away, not really. Bushnell estimates that she has planned and worked almost 100 Commencement ceremonies. “I’m going to miss the cyclical rhythm of the year, not just the changing of the seasons, but the excitement of having young people come in the fall,” Bushnell said. “I like watching them grow and develop and graduate in the spring. There’s always that sense of wonder.”
Support group shares experiences related to vision loss

BY ADAM DURSO
PHOTO AUTUMN DRISCOLL

Vision loss can make a trip to the grocery store or even cleaning the house an insurmountable task and can greatly diminish a person’s independence and autonomy. This experience is something that clients at Quinnipiac’s Lions Low Vision Clinic understand well.

Quinnipiac teamed with Lions International in 2015 to establish the center on the North Haven Campus. It offers occupational therapy and social work services to older individuals struggling with vision loss. These include providing corrective lenses, low vision watches and other adaptive tools, and educating clients about home health care services and programs such as Meals on Wheels. Perhaps the most meaningful resource, however, is a monthly support group where participants talk about the emotional issues that can stem from the loss of vision, such as depression, anxiety and social isolation.

“One of the aims of the group is to provide this kind of trusting circle of folks who are all in the same boat—or at least a similar one,” said Laura Mutrie, clinical assistant professor of social work. She started the group in 2016.

Members of the support group have conditions that range from glaucoma and retinitis to macular degeneration. Some are legally blind, can no longer drive, and must rely on voice recognition to identify people. Others have lost their vision as a side effect of medications or past surgeries. All have a unique story to tell.

“Each person’s needs are different, and we get to know them as best we can,” said Amanda Panniello, MSW ’19, a student volunteer who co-facilitates the group with Mutrie. “People usually don’t realize they are actively grieving the loss of these things,” Panniello said, adding, “That’s where we come in. It’s powerful and therapeutic for them. We laugh. We cry. It’s all good.”

Panniello’s work in the Lions Clinic led her to Stephanie Jacobson, assistant professor of social work, who was researching the effects of social isolation in older adults based on factors such as ethnicity/race, gender, population density and zip code. Jacobson was looking for dedicated students to assist her with the sheer breadth of her research. Panniello enthusiastically volunteered.

For their participation, Panniello and several peers received grant funds to attend the Gerontological Society of America’s annual meeting in Boston, where leading research on aging is showcased. There, she was surprised to learn that research on social isolation in older adults was sparse in the United States compared to other parts of the world.

Social isolation is not a problem yet for George Jafferis of New Haven, a widower and former cartographer for the Connecticut Department of Transportation. Jafferis underwent cataract surgery in 2012 but developed dry macular degeneration over the next several years. At 81, he still bikes, swims, hikes and never misses a pinochle game with friends, though he understands his condition eventually will make those activities difficult. It’s a frightening prospect he chooses not to hide from or face alone.

“My mother went blind late in life from diabetes,” Jafferis said. “She showed my siblings and I how courageous you could be in the face of such a debilitating thing.”

Courage, resilience and connectedness are the group’s core pillars. Members have formed strong bonds and have supported each other through other life difficulties, such as job loss, hospitalizations and the deaths of spouses. Including partners and other caregivers in the group has helped to foster a circle of friendship and caring.

“We don’t sing ‘Kumbaya’ or anything like that,” said group member Carmen Marattolo. “But we do help one another out here.”

Marattolo, a retired U.S. postal worker in his late 50s, has Usher Syndrome, a genetic disorder that diminishes both vision and hearing over time. He still isn’t afraid to tackle the more dangerous chores, often to the consternation of his wife, Anita, who came to the group to support her husband. Subsequently, she developed a retina issue she describes as a “stroke in her eye” that the group helps her navigate.

Like the Marattolos, North Haven residents Adam and Paula Mazeija, each in their late 60s, attend the group together. Paula lost her peripheral vision following cataract surgery.

“We all have to strive and look toward the future,” she said, grateful for the friends and support of the low vision group.
THREE BOBCATS SIGN NHL CONTRACTS

Shortridge to San Jose, Rafferty to Vancouver, Fortunato to Nashville

BY BRIAN KOONZ

For nearly 48 hours, the pendulum of emotions swung widely for Quinnipiac hockey standouts Andrew Shortridge, Brogan Rafferty and Brandon Fortunato.

After the Bobcats fell to Minnesota Duluth, 3-1, in the NCAA Midwest Regional Final in March, their locker room grew thick with disappointment. The season was over with a No. 7 national ranking, a shared ECAC regular-season title and a record of 26–10–2.

“It takes a little longer to take that jersey off for the last time, especially for the senior class,” said Shortridge, a junior who won this year’s Ken Dryden Award as the top goaltender in the ECAC with an 11–4–2 league record, a 1.47 goals-against average and a .938 save percentage.

Right about that time—even a little earlier, actually—his cell phone began to buzz with text messages.

“My family adviser had been keeping in touch with all the [NHL] teams that were interested in me,” Shortridge said. “I remember looking at my phone, and I saw a couple of texts from him. There were some teams with significant interest in me.”

Perhaps no team was more interested in Shortridge than the San Jose Sharks and their American Hockey League affiliate, the San Jose Barracuda. Shortridge signed a one-year, entry-level deal and made his AHL debut on April 13.

Just like that, the pendulum swung squarely to the side of euphoria, two days after the season ended in a strange locker room in Allentown, Pennsylvania.

The text messages were pretty much the same on Rafferty’s phone. And Fortunato’s phone.

“You’re so emotionally invested in wanting to win a national championship in college,” said Rafferty, who ended the season with four goals and 20 assists for 24 points. “When that doesn’t happen, it’s obviously heartbreaking.”
Like Shortridge, Rafferty was a junior. The gritty, right-handed defenseman had a decision to make: Come back to Quinnipiac for another year of college hockey or leave school for a shot at the NHL.

“I got on the bus after we lost, and my agent was texting me, and everyone was asking me what I was going to do,” said Rafferty, who earned his bachelor of science in finance this spring, after taking extra credits in summer school. “And then, you wake up Monday morning and you get the missed call from your agent and you’re like, ‘OK, here we go.’”

Rafferty signed a one-year, entry-level contract with the Vancouver Canucks and made his NHL debut, including the time-honored solo lap around the rink, four days after Quinnipiac’s season-ending setback. He played just over 12 minutes in a 3-2 road loss to the Nashville Predators on April 4.

“When you step on the ice for the first time, all the pressure and anxiety you’re feeling before the game goes away,” Rafferty said. “My family was in the building and saw me skate, so that was a special moment for them as well as me.”

Rafferty became the third former Bobcat to play his first NHL game in 2018-19, joining Devon Toews ‘17 of the New York Islanders and Connor Clifton ‘17 of the Boston Bruins. Clifton became the first QU alumnus to score in the Stanley Cup Final in May when he put the Bruins on the board in a 4-2 victory over the St. Louis Blues in Game 1.

Senior defenseman Chase Priskie, a top-10 finalist for the Hobie Baker Award as the nation’s top college hockey player, is expected to sign an NHL contract later this summer, after graduating from the School of Business in May with his MBA. Priskie told the Washington Capitals, who own his rights until Aug. 15, that he doesn’t plan to sign with them.

Fortunato, meanwhile, was a fifth-year senior with no college eligibility remaining. The skilled, sharpshootin defense man was playing the best hockey of his career when he broke his fibula in February during practice.

Fortunato finished the 2018-19 season with five goals and 23 assists for 28 points, good enough for second on the team in assists despite missing the last 12 games of the season.

“It was definitely a little nerve-wracking at first. I didn’t know I was going to be out this long,” said Fortunato, who graduated with his bachelor of science in entrepreneurship and small business management in May. “I’m grateful for the games that I did play. I never wanted the season to end the way it did, of course. But I’m very fortunate the games I did play were good enough for teams to be interested in me.”

Fortunato signed a two-year, entry-level contract with Nashville. Like his Quinnipiac teammates, the chance to play in the NHL—after all those years skating across frozen ponds and empty rinks—was a ticket to a dream.

“Honestly, it’s a really hard decision to make, and you have to make it quickly,” said Shortridge, a mechanical engineering major who hopes to finish his degree down the road. “Quinnipiac has given me so much over the last three years, but these opportunities don’t come around all that often. You don’t know if they’re going to come again, so you have to take advantage of them when you can.”

**AS GOOD AS GOLD**

Melissa Samoskevich ’19 didn’t waste any time proving she belonged on the U.S. Women’s National Team in April at the IIHF Women’s World Championship in Espoo, Finland.

Samoskevich scored a goal against Finland in the first game and another against Russia en route to the gold medal for Team USA. The performance marked the fifth straight world championship for the U.S. women’s hockey team.

Samoskevich and the Americans won in convincing fashion, outscoring the opposition, 41-5, in seven games, including 10-0 and 8-0 victories over Russia.

“It’s still kind of shocking to me. I’ve looked up to those girls for so long,” said Samoskevich, who graduated in May with a bachelor of arts in history. “To finally take the journey with them and celebrate, it was awesome. I still haven’t grasped it completely.”

After leading Quinnipiac with 13 goals this season, Samoskevich was named to the U.S. Women’s National Team roster in March for the IIHF world championship tournament. She also played for Team USA last November at the Four Nations Cup in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan.

“I give a lot of props to the girls. It’s not easy letting in a rookie the way they did, but they all made me feel at home,” Samoskevich said. “I’ve won gold medals with the Under-18 team, but it’s way different when you do it with the national team. I don’t know if I’ll ever have words for it because it’s such an honor.”

Samoskevich, who grew up in Sandy Hook, Connecticut, made a point of bringing her gold medal to campus.

“I wanted to show my professors, my teammates, my coaches—so many people have played a huge role in this,” she said. “I’m very grateful to everybody. They’re part of the journey, too.”

For Samoskevich, the journey took flight in a backyard rink before she attended Shattuck-St. Mary’s School in Minnesota for high school hockey, and then, Quinnipiac for ECAC hockey.

“It’s so awesome playing here because there’s such a strong support system and the facilities are great, obviously,” she said. “Not everyone can say they’ve had the Frozen Four at their school. I know a couple of the Wisconsin girls from national team stuff. They came in and they were like, ‘Wow, we’re impressed.’”

With professional hockey and the 2022 Winter Olympics in her sights, Samoskevich plans to focus full-time on her athletic career. Someday, she hopes to teach elementary school, or maybe, history at a prep school so she can coach hockey, too.

“I still have one more year of school [to earn a master of arts in teaching] before I can get certified,” Samoskevich said. “But right now, there’s still so much I want to do with hockey.”

— Brian Koonz
SPORTS STREAM

Women’s Basketball
BOBCATS EARN 3RD STRAIGHT NCAA BID
The women’s basketball team earned a third straight trip to the NCAA tournament in March as No. 11 seed Quinnipiac met No. 6 seed South Dakota State in the first round. Redshirt senior Jen Fay and senior Paula Strautmane, above, combined for 40 points and 14 rebounds in a 76-65 loss to the Jackrabbits. Fay, the Female Senior Athlete of the Year at Quinnipiac, also scored 25 points in an 89-81 victory over Marist for a third straight MAAC title. Overall, the Bobcats finished the season as the only team in the nation to be ranked in the top 10 in scoring defense, turnover margin and total steals.

Women’s Frozen Four
ICE CHAMPIONS CROWNED IN HAMDEN
For the second time in school history, Quinnipiac served as the host venue for the NCAA Women’s Frozen Four. The Bobcats also hosted the event in 2014. Wisconsin, this year’s No. 1 seed, was joined at the People’s United Center by No. 2 seed Minnesota, No. 4 seed Clarkson and unseeded Cornell. Wisconsin and Minnesota reached the semifinals with shutout wins over Clarkson and Cornell, respectively. In the championship game, Wisconsin won its fifth NCAA title with a 2-0 victory over Minnesota on March 24.

Men’s Basketball
YOUNG CAPS CAREER WITH AWARDS
Graduate student Cameron Young, who scored a MAAC record 55 points at Siena in February, ended his career as the MAAC Player of the Year. Young also earned an invitation to the NABC All-Star Game at the Final Four in Minneapolis and a spot on the NABC Division I All-District team. He finished his career with 1,350 career points in 70 games for the Bobcats to average 19.3 points per game, a program record. He also set a Division I single-season record at Quinnipiac with 728 points in 2018-19, the third-most points in a season regardless of division. The Bobcats finished the year with a 16-15 record—the program’s first winning season since 2013-14—and earned a postseason bid for the fifth time in school history.

Women’s Ice Hockey
SENIORS LEAVE WINNING LEGACY
Seniors Anna Kilponen, Kenzie Lancaster, Kate MacKenzie, Melissa Samoskevich and Randi Marcon ended their four-year careers with a 79-48-20 record. Lancaster, an alternate captain shown below, was honored with two prestigious awards for her success on the ice, in the classroom and in the community: the Mandi Schwartz Student-Athlete of the Year award given by ECAC Hockey and the Sarah Devens Award given jointly by ECAC Hockey and Hockey East. Marcon, an alternate captain, earned the Coaches’ Award for her achievements on and off the ice as a team leader.

Men’s Lacrosse
CUOMO, TOMSIK LEAD THE WAY
Senior attack Foster Cuomo, the preseason MAAC Player of the Year, scored six goals to lead Quinnipiac to a 10-9 win over Monmouth on Senior Day, the final home game of the year. The Bobcats ended the season with a tough 15-14 loss to Marist in the MAAC championship game on May 4. Cuomo and sophomore attack Jake Tomski led the team with a combined 70 goals and 41 assists. Tomski also tied a Quinnipiac record March 2 with eight goals in a 16-14 victory at NJIT.

Acrobatics & Tumbling
TEAM REACHES SEMIS AT CHAMPIONSHIPS
The acrobatics & tumbling team reached the semifinals of the National Collegiate Acrobatics & Tumbling Association National Championships in April before falling to host and eventual national champion Baylor. The Bobcats finished the regular season on a four-meet winning streak after beating West Liberty, King, Gannon and Alderson Broaddus.

Baseball
MAAC CHAMPIONS WIN FIRST NCAA GAME
Quinnipiac shocked No. 10 East Carolina, 5-4, on May 31 for the program’s first NCAA tournament win. The victory marked the 30th win of the season for the Bobcats, another hallmark for the program. Quinnipiac reached the NCAA tournament after winning the MAAC championship for the first time with a 6-5 victory over Fairfield in 13 innings. The Bobcats (30-29) ended the season with a tough 15-14 loss to Marist in the MAAC championship game on March 24.

Women’s Golf
GOLFERS FINISH TIED FOR 2ND
The women’s golf team tied Dayton for second place at the MAAC Championship at Magnolia Golf Course in Lake Buena Vista, Florida. Albany won the April 18-20 event. Senior Luciana Tobia and junior Alexandra Sazhin shot 2-over-par 74 to lead the Bobcats and finish among the top 10 individual scorers.

Women’s Rugby
JOIN THE CLUB
This fall, nine club sports teams will represent Quinnipiac against other area schools: co-ed tennis, men’s ice hockey, men’s rugby, women’s rugby, women’s figure skating, women’s dance, men’s lacrosse, women’s lacrosse and women’s soccer.
PIERRE SOUBRIER ’11, A FOUR-YEAR STARTER for the Quinnipiac men’s soccer team, remembers the first time he met his wife, U.S. Women’s National Team soccer player Crystal Dunn.

It was nearly five years ago in North Carolina, long before Dunn’s trip to France this summer to compete in the FIFA Women’s World Cup. Soubrier was the athletic trainer; she was the professional soccer star. As the two of them juggled a ball back and forth at a local soccer camp, there was chemistry, maybe even a spark.

Or so Soubrier thought.

“We met again in Houston, three or four months later, but she had no idea who I was,” Soubrier said, laughing as he told the story. “She introduced herself again, and I told her how we had met at the soccer camp, but she didn’t remember.”

Soubrier, who earned a bachelor’s degree in athletic training and sports medicine, was hired as the head athletic trainer for the Washington (D.C.) Spirit of the National Women’s Soccer League in 2015. Dunn, a rising star in professional soccer, had been selected No. 1 overall by the Spirit in the 2014 NWSL Draft.

After building a friendship—and juggling dates instead of soccer balls with the Spirit—the two developed a more serious relationship. They were married this past December.

These days, Soubrier is the head athletic trainer for the Portland Thorns of the NWSL, a job he began last January in the Pacific Northwest. Dunn, meanwhile, is a forward for the NWSL’s North Carolina Courage.

“We try to maintain our relationship the best we can while we’re apart. We know it won’t be this way forever,” Soubrier said. “I spoke with Portland about seeing Crystal play in the World Cup during my negotiations, and they agreed to let me go for 10 days ... hopefully, so I can see the quarterfinals to the final.”

A native of France, Soubrier is eager to show his country to Dunn and her family. It’s where he found his first love, a roster spot on the Academie of Toulouse Football Club for players from age 12 to 17. A few years later, Soubrier headed to America to learn English and study abroad, just like his two sisters.

He ended up at Scarborough High School in southern Maine. By the time he graduated, Soubrier had won a state high school championship and a state premier championship with the Odyssey Soccer Club. The exposure led to recruiting letters from Quinnipiac, New Hampshire, Maine and others.

But the buzz around Quinnipiac was different. Soubrier wanted to join head coach Eric Da Costa’s program, even if he still wasn’t entirely comfortable with English.

After sitting out his freshman year to get his academic footing, Soubrier had an instant impact on the Bobcats.

He was skilled and unselfish. By the time he was an upperclassman, he was a top player in the Northeast Conference.

As a junior, he led the team in scoring. As a senior, his leadership bloomed as a captain and a clutch player.

After graduation, Soubrier worked as an athletic trainer at Yale with several women’s sports. From there, he returned to Europe to pursue a master’s degree in London before coming back to Connecticut to work with local physical therapists and premier girls soccer clubs, including GCF Academy.

That’s when he met Tiffany Weimer, who played for the Washington Spirit and co-founded GCF Academy. Weimer, who grew up in North Haven, was recovering from an injury.

“Tiffany had torn her ACL (anterior cruciate ligament) and I helped with her rehab,” Soubrier said. “During a trip to Virginia to play a tournament with our club team, she checked in with the medical staff in Washington and introduced me.”

As things turned out, the team’s head athletic trainer had recently left. A serendipitous interview led to a job offer two days later. After spending three seasons with Washington, Soubrier headed to Portland this past winter as a new husband with a new position.

“Looking back on it now, I’ve done most of my work with women’s teams. I’ve rarely worked with men’s teams,” Soubrier said. “If that hadn’t happened, I never would’ve met Crystal.”

BY BRIAN KOONZ

QUINNIPIAC MAGAZINE
Try your hand at recreating artistic masterpieces with professor’s Sloppy Forgeries video game

It took Leonardo da Vinci at least three years to paint his famous “Mona Lisa,” but people who play professor Jonah Warren’s new “Sloppy Forgeries” video game get a mere 90 seconds to recreate this masterpiece and other famous works of art.

Warren, an assistant professor of game design and development, wowed judges at the 2018 Miami @ Play Festival with his fast-paced, two-player painting game that takes Pictionary to the next level. The computer version is slated to hit the market this fall, but Warren created an exclusive, single-player demo of “The Starry Night” for Quinnipiac Magazine readers to enjoy. Visit go.qu.edu/sloppyforgeries to try it.

Sloppy Forgeries, which won the best game award, gets its name from the quality of the paintings players are able to produce under pressure. Mouse in hand, each player views a blank canvas and a few simple painting tools offering color choices and paintbrush sizes. Up-tempo music announces the reveal of the first painting from art history, and it’s game on! It’s
In the wrist as players race to copy each painting as quickly and as accurately as they can.

"Inevitably, they are sloppy and bad, which is part of the fun," Warren says. "The computer scores are based on how accurate—pixel-by-pixel—your painting is versus the original."

Da Vinci, who hailed from Florence, Italy, died in 1519—500 years ago this past May. If he were to be resurrected tomorrow, he certainly would be puzzled by the concept of pixels and the 'F' word—forgery. That word originated in the 1590s. A true Renaissance man, da Vinci was said to have possessed "unquenchable curiosity" and a "feverishly inventive imagination," according to art historians.

An inventive imagination is a trait Warren and fellow game designers share and one that Warren nurtures in his students. They use the same tools in class that Warren uses to develop his games, working with the Unity creation platform.

In March, Warren invited one of his former students, Khaled Abu-Ghazaleh ’18, to attend the annual Game Design Conference with him in San Francisco. Abu-Ghazaleh, a game design/computer science double major now living in Kuwait, is helping Warren create a mobile version of his game for the iPhone and iPad, where one’s fingers serve as the paintbrushes.

Several game publishers have expressed an interest in Sloppy Forgeries, which Warren exhibited at both the GDC conference and last fall’s Day of the Devs event hosted by Double Fine Productions. Warren explained that he could release the game on his own, as he has with previous games, but partnering with a publisher can reduce upfront costs. "And with marketing, the company can get it out there in front of lots of people and the right people," he added.

Besides the "Mona Lisa," players replicate "The Scream" by Edvard Munch; "The Starry Night" by Vincent van Gogh; "La Danse" by Henri Matisse; "Composition with Large Red Plane" by Piet Mondrian; "Girl with a Pearl Earring" by Johannes Vermeer; and "Arrangement in Grey and Black No. 1" (aka "Whistler’s Mother") by James McNeill Whistler.

Warren chose the art for Sloppy Forgeries from famous paintings in the public domain to sidestep copyright issues. "I also chose works that could be abstracted using five to six colors, yet still be recognizable," he says, noting that the pointillism style of Georges Seurat would present difficulties.

The game is educational in several ways, says Warren. "As you work, you are looking closely at famous works of art labeled with the names of the paintings and the artists. You develop an understanding of why a painting was made the way it was. You also appreciate the concept of an ‘underpainting’ as you cover it with light and dark paint, completing as much as you can as quickly as you can by using broad strokes first, and doing finer areas later. It’s how you make a painting, and it’s how you play the game," he points out.

He kept the rules relatively simple. In a previous version, the player who completed 50 percent of a painting first would win. "But then I thought it just felt better to time players and see who got more done," he says.

Warren says the game’s name popped into his head one day, and he bounced it off his wife, Lauren Miller. "She kind of laughed and said, 'That’s so you,' and I said, 'That’s probably what it’s meant to be then.’ The couple has two daughters, Eloise, 5, and Greta, 2.

His current plan entails releasing a local multiplayer version of the game for PC about a month before making it available as a free-to-play online multiplayer game for iOS available in the AppStore this fall. "But you would then pay to unlock a version where you play other people on your phone or tablet, either remotely online or locally through Bluetooth," he explains.

The Miami @ Play Festival award was not Warren’s first. His “Word After Word” video game, which he self-published, was chosen as the best multiplayer game at the 2017 A MAZE: Playful Media Festival. In that game, players read a series of adjectives on screen and type a noun that most commonly follows that adjective. The game scores word pairs based on their frequency in a corpus of over a half billion words collected from books, magazines, TV...
shows and academic texts. The more common your word pairs, the higher your score.

“It’s hard to know if any game will be successful or fun until you’ve made it,” Warren says with a smile. Combine that with the amount of time needed to write code and create the program, and that makes game design for independent developers a risky industry. The prototype for Sloppy Forgeries, his eighth game, was created over the 2018 January break, but timing can vary dramatically, he said. Game design students get a taste of this annually when Quinnipiac hosts the Global Game Jam, when games are created in 48 hours.

“For commercial games played on Xbox, PlayStation or Nintendo, the graphics can be extraordinarily complex—creating 3D content includes modeling, texturing, lighting and animation, which can be very time consuming,” he says. “Making it interactive is another huge step, and then, of course, making it fun to play. It can take years,” he added.

**KEEPING IT REAL FOR STUDENTS**

Designing games on the side keeps Warren abreast of the rapid changes that often occur with gaming software tools so he can give his students real-world experience. “My knowledge would become obsolete in a few years otherwise,” he says. He earned a BA in computer science and visual art from Bowdoin College and a master of fine arts in design and technology from Parsons School of Design, where he also taught classes in game design and creative programming.

Warren encourages game design students to apply for volunteer positions working at trade shows and conferences. Such roles can lead to jobs later in this extremely competitive industry. “The reality is that there are more game design graduates than jobs,” he says, adding that most of the work is on the West Coast. Students send hundreds of resumes only to get a handful of interviews. But the skill set they learn at Quinnipiac prepares them to work in many industries related to game design, such as programming, design, user interface and user testing. They also learn soft skills, such as how to communicate ideas effectively and how to successfully navigate the artist-programmer relationship.

In 2014, students applied their skills after Warren wrote a grant proposal with Cory Ann Boyd, associate professor of nursing at Quinnipiac, and Mary Ann Glendon, professor of nursing at Southern Connecticut State University. Their collaboration resulted in a $10,000 Innovation in Accelerated Nursing Education grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the creation of an educational game that teaches nursing students about arterial blood gas analysis. Boyd described the game as a quick, easy learning tool. Two students spent their senior year programming and developing the game while a third created the graphics and illustrations.

Game design students returned to the lab to create another game for nursing students that involves teaching the basics of pharmacology. Six student teams were challenged with digesting the information and content and then creating the prototype. The teams presented their work to Warren and several nursing faculty members. The winning team—a programmer and artist—spent a summer internship developing the game with a Quinnipiac innovation grant and funds from QU’s Interdisciplinary Program for Research and Scholarship (QUIP-RS).

Warren believes games build community in several ways. “The culture around games is so rich, people connect, make friends, and compete against teams on campus and against other campuses. Currently, League of Legends is popular here,” he says.

“I really like experimenting with interactivity and figuring out interesting ways to interact with the computer. Most interactions involve getting the user from one place to another, but with games, it’s about exploration and just playing.”

— Professor Jonah Warren

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**ONLINE** Try the game demo at go.qu.edu/sloppyforgeries
PLAYERS DISPLAY THEIR BRUSHES WITH FAME

Game creator Jonah Warren displays some of the “forgeries” created by game competitors and collected over time. They show the various skill levels and degrees to which players are able to cover their “canvases” with the appropriate colors.

When the many player-generated forgeries are combined, they result in a blurry representation of the original image that indicates the “average” color value of each pixel taken from more than 100 paintings created by Sloppy Forgeries competitors.

“The Starry Night” was painted by Vincent van Gogh in 1889. The inspiration for this work was a pre-dawn view from his window in southern France.

The “Mona Lisa” is arguably the best-known painting in the world. It was painted by Leonardo da Vinci in the early 16th century.
“The Scream” was painted by Edvard Munch in 1893. A pastel-on-board version done in 1895 sold for $120 million in 2012.

La Danse was painted by Henri Matisse in 1909. It is part of the permanent collection of the Metropolitan Museum of Art.
Leadership

UNIVERSITY OF THE FUTURE

President shares vision for the University of the Future at Inauguration

The tall banners emblazoned with the distinctive “Q,” the palpable energy, the full complement of academic fanfare and regalia, all of it welcomed a historic moment and a great day May 1 as Judy D. Olian was inaugurated as Quinnipiac University’s 9th president.

“It may seem odd to anyone not from academia to hold an inauguration at the end of both a semester and the school year,” Olian told more than 1,000 people at the People’s United Center, including some of her family members who came from as far away as Australia and France.

“Yet as I finish my first year as president of Quinnipiac and begin my official term, it strikes me that this is the perfect metaphor for Quinnipiac. This is a university defined by constant beginnings.”

Moments earlier, as she made her entrance, Olian waved to faculty, students, staff, family and friends. She wore a navy and light blue gown with school seals on the front and four stripes on each sleeve to signify her office. Her hood was cardinal to reflect the cardinal and white school colors of the University of Wisconsin, where Olian earned her master of science and PhD in industrial relations.

The president was introduced by Board of Trustees chairman William Weldon ’71, the retired chairman and CEO of Johnson & Johnson. During her speech, Olian announced that Weldon and his wife, Barbara ’71, have made a $15 million gift—the largest in Quinnipiac’s nearly 90-year history—to support a new strategic plan: The University of the Future.

Olian explained that the strategic plan was developed with the collective input of all of the university’s stakeholders. It includes four pillars: preparing graduates for 21st-century careers and citizenship, building inclusive excellence, driving positive change in our local and global communities, and fostering lifelong connections and learning.
The plan also calls for the creation of an integrated advising center that will cater to the lifespan of students and alumni ... with lifelong career advising and credentialing for the duration of a graduate’s professional and personal life.

Among the transformative initiatives proposed in the strategic plan is the construction of a comprehensive academic and classroom facility, as well as a state-of-the-art health and wellness center with activities and programming that will support physical fitness, medical needs, mental health counseling and ongoing wellness and prevention education such as nutrition, mindfulness, family and addiction management programs.

To support Quinnipiac’s vibrant intellectual community of faculty and staff, the strategic plan calls for the investment in their scholarship and lifelong learning needs. Included in this is the investment in innovative capacity, in the form of new faculty, added research infrastructure and educational experiments. Facilities for classrooms, labs and faculty offices are vital to enable Quinnipiac’s thriving intellectual community.

The plan also calls for the creation of an integrated advising center that will cater to the lifespan of students and alumni, from academic advising for traditional students, professional advising in preparation for a graduate’s first job, to lifelong career advising and credentialing for the duration of a graduate’s professional and personal life.

“As the director of alumni relations and an alumnus myself, I’m truly energized by President Olian’s strategic vision for the university,” said John Arcangelo ’02. “Inspirational meaningful, lifelong engagement opportunities with our alumni will support the growth of our students, alumni community and Quinnipiac University as a whole.”

Weldon is also energized.

“Judy is an extraordinary visionary and a dynamic, collaborative leader. The team concept is very important to her and has really been a hallmark of her success,” Weldon said.

“The vision she has put together for Quinnipiac will take us into the future and help us not only identify the needs of our students, but help us meet those needs with a college education that is meaningful and hopeful,” she said.

“Lots of institutions are ambitious,” Olian said, “but Quinnipiac’s ambition is infused with dedication to our students’ emotional, spiritual and intellectual development, a drive to be relevant in our research and societal questions, a level of caring for others, and deep interest in where the puck is headed, to use an analogy we all understand here.”

University of Oregon President Michael H. Schill, who delivered the keynote address, told those assembled that “at no time in our history has a college education been so vital and so important as today. Yet, at no time in my memory has there been more doubt or dissension among the public concerning our institutions of higher learning.”

This contradiction, Schill explained, puts a premium on the leadership, fundraising and decision-making skills of college presidents. Before Schill and Olian were named to the top positions at their respective universities, they were friends at UCLA, when he was dean of the School of Law and she was dean of the UCLA Anderson School of Management.

“The seminal text on higher education leadership was written by Michael Cohen and James March in 1975,” Schill said. “It characterizes American universities as ‘organized anarchy’ characterized by ‘problematic goals, unclear technology and fluid participation.’ I’m not sure how that sounds to you, but I think Judy Olian is ideally suited to run ‘organized anarchy.’”

It is this bold, gutsy approach to leadership—Olian is decisive and deliberate as much as she is thoughtful and innovative—that will write the next chapter of Quinnipiac’s story.

“Judy Olian has a strong, moral compass. She is steadfast. She is loyal. She has an excellent sense of academic judgment,” Schill said. “She’s exceptionally ambitious—not for herself, but for the institution that she serves.”

Olian said at each juncture in Quinnipiac’s history, those who came before made “daring choices” backed by action, the pathway to a global, 21st-century vision of the future.

“In former president Samuel Tator’s day, this might have been called moxie,” Olian said. “Today, we would describe it as nimbleness or audacity. It is the spirit of the bobcat, our mascot: fierce, always moving, and surprisingly capable of prevailing in challenges much larger than its size would suggest.”

Olian also made a point of addressing the accessibility of higher education at Quinnipiac and elsewhere. “Education is a human right—and we will do our part,” she pledged, her comments met with enthusiastic applause.

The president speaks from her own experiences as a college student seeking an opportunity to improve herself and her world. “I came to America on an immigrant visa and received a scholarship to attend graduate school at Wisconsin,” Olian said. “That’s how I was swept up in the transformative power of U.S. higher education, and in the embrace of immigrants by the U.S. And that education never ends.”

To illustrate her point, Olian referenced a four-day stretch of events this spring that captured the diversity and breadth of ideas across the university’s campuses. During that time, she sat in on a teach-in about women and empowerment, a discussion about sex trafficking that drew upon the disciplines of law and medicine, a presentation about Ireland’s Great Hunger and a symposium that considered the connection between negotiation strategies and politics.

Charlotte Hammond, a biology professor and chair of the faculty senate, has spent the last 24 years teaching at Quinnipiac. She said the faculty believes in the richness and quality of the education here and Olian’s commitment to the future.

“The world is rapidly changing, and we are confident that Quinnipiac University, under your leadership, will be innovative and able to embrace these changes,” Hammond said in her remarks.

The Legends, Quinnipiac’s a cappella singing group, offered two songs during the ceremony, and the platform party pro-
Students gathered for a photo with President Olian by the Bobcat sculpture outside the People’s United Center after the inauguration. From left: Vanessa Udoji ’20; Esau Greene ’21; Luke Ahearn ’20; Sean Dacey ’19; Ashley Priante ’19; President Judy Olian; Shannon Flaherty ’22; Ruby Rosenwasser ’20, Emily Roskopf ’19; Nick Jermain ’20 and Alex Whelan ’20.

cessed from the arena to the strains of “Don’t Stop Me Now” by Queen, accompanied by Boomer the Bobcat and a group of students waving blue and gold pom-poms.

Members of the university community converged in the Rocky Top Student Center for a reception and to paint four murals to be installed at Yale New Haven Hospital. The art, which highlights the Hamden-New Haven area, is designed to bring comfort to patients and their families. One of the murals features a bobcat and another, a lighthouse.

Events at the student center also included three faculty-led discussions on the future of democracy, education and nutrition. At the reception, Matthew Williams, a junior biology major, said Olian has a proven record of successful fundraising at UCLA, where she raised $450 million for student and faculty support, innovative programming and capital improvements. Williams said he believes in her plan for the University of the Future.

As part of the week-long inauguration celebration, Quinnipiac showcased the work of students and their faculty advisers on April 30 at the Innovation Expo and Taste of the Arts.

At the Innovation Expo, students from the College of Arts and Sciences and the university’s eight professional schools presented projects ranging from the application of data and audience engagement to better understanding hunger in Hamden and using calculus to predict the spread of a future Ebola outbreak based on 2014 data from Sierra Leone.

“Differential equations aren’t my strong suit, so I really had to work hard,” said Abigail Long, a senior math major. “I also learned how math can be used in so many different ways.”

Talent also loomed large at Taste of the Arts as the Department of Visual and Performing Arts offered a sampling of student work at the Black Box Theatre. The enthusiastic audience enjoyed performances by the QU Chamber Orchestra, a short play starring students Paul Zoparti and Tess Adams, two numbers by the QU Jazz ensemble led by Kyle Saulnier, visiting instructor of music, and several songs by the QU Singers.

In the lobby, student artwork was on display, and visitors tried their hands at video games created by game design and development students.

Deborah Mawhirter, a member of the Parents Council, came to watch her daughter, Nicole, a junior physical therapy major who sang with the QU Singers. She also performed in “Little Shop of Horrors” and “The Wild Party” the last two years.

“This program was amazing. Nicole was not a theater major, but was able to carry on her passion with the arts at Quinnipiac,” she said.

The weeklong, community-wide inaugural celebration kicked off days earlier with an engaging mentorship event that brought Hamden and North Haven high school students together with Quinnipiac students and faculty to participate in presentations and activities exploring what it means to be a good, global citizen. QU students, faculty and staff also collected nonperishable foods to donate to food pantries in the region.

“We are an institution of lifelong learning,” Olian said, “and I am lucky to be a part of it. ... It’s a privilege to be among people who—in many different ways—are integral to the uplifting and noble pursuit of learning. Whether as a teacher, an administrator, a trustee, a spiritual leader, a staff member, or as a student—higher education is an experience that transforms a life.”
Dr. Pamela Wible is on a mission: She wants to help fellow physicians avoid the victim-blaming concept of “burnout” and live happier and healthier lives. She also wants to keep them from dying by suicide.

“Physician suicide is an epidemic, but nobody talks about it,” she says. Wible has certainly changed that. The family physician spends much of her time traveling the country to lecture about this little-known crisis. In addition, she has emerged as an advocate to change what she calls the toxic, “assembly-line” medical system that causes doctors to experience both physical and mental collapse.

“Practicing medicine is supposed to be joyful,” she says. And that is the message she imparted to the 85 graduates of the Frank H. Netter MD School of Medicine’s third Commencement on May 10. “Today’s med students are brilliant, and they are going to demand better. The tide is starting to turn,” she says.

Wible, who received her medical degree from the University of Texas, was working in Oregon in 2004 when she became exhausted, disillusioned—and suicidal. “I pretty much thought I was the only suicidal doctor that ever lived,” she says. “Both of my parents were doctors and this was not the kind of medicine I had dreamed about.”

The following year, she left the “rat race” to open her own clinic in Eugene, Oregon. She held a town hall meeting asking residents what they wanted and designed her 280-square-foot office in a beautiful wellness center using their input. “I’m the only doc; there is no staff,” she says. “But I make house calls, and I’m available for my patients 24/7.”

Eight years later, Wible found herself at a memorial service for the third physician in her town who had died by suicide. “I was appalled that suicide was never mentioned. Everybody knew it, but nobody would say it. Sitting at his memorial, I counted on my fingers how many doctors I knew personally who had died by suicide. I knew 10! I needed to know why.”

She began blogging about the issue. “Then the floodgates opened; everyone wanted to tell me about their dead son or husband,” she says. “I heard from family members, and doctors called, talking about their silent despair.”

Wible sprang into action. She started a physician suicide hotline, organized a variety of support groups for survivors, and even began leading retreats for widows. She also connected suicidal medical students with family survivors who lost children to suicide in medical school so they could support one another. Today, she runs more than 10 formal retreats a year and hosts dozens of ongoing private sessions, often with a doctor and a mental health specialist.

“We help them through their divorce or their problems at the hospital,” she says. “These activities have taken over my life. My practice is now more of a part-time hobby.”

So what’s causing this crisis? “Overwork and sleep deprivation—that’s a pretty lethal combination,” says Wible, noting that it is still common for residents to work 80-100 hours a week. Combine that with a culture that discourages showing emotions, and you have toxic working conditions.

“In medicine, you see people suffer or die every day. It’s hard; doctors have a lot of PTSD,” she says. “People can’t keep working like that without getting help.”

Wible says approximately 400 physicians take their own lives each year; according to her research, anesthesiologists are most likely to kill themselves. At the end of March 2019, Wible had 1,243 doctor suicides on her registry, where she also collects stories and photos. She was prominently featured in the 2018 documentary, “Do No Harm: Exposing the Hippocratic Hoax,” which focuses on this troubling issue.

Suicide prevention is just one part of what Wible dubs the “Ideal Medical Care Movement.” She also is helping doctors set up community medical clinics by holding retreats and teaching classes at medical schools around the country.

“Our tiny community clinic has now been replicated throughout the country; its super beautiful,” she says, adding that, contrary to popular opinion, she is able to make a good living. “People have this weird concept that either you are happy and poor or rich and miserable. They don’t understand that you can actually practice as a solo doctor in a small clinic—and earn more money.”

In fact, Wible says many specialists now tell her they want to switch to primary care. “It’s hilarious because in med school, you are told that the really smart people go into specialties,” she says. “But it’s starting to shift.”

When she is not working, Wible likes to hike and dabble in fashion design. “But really, I’m always thinking about medicine,” she says. “Helping people figure out how to become the doctor they always dreamed of being—that’s my passion.”
Jaclyn Lucibello, a former opioid user, jumped right into the deep end of the darkness.

“I am a convicted felon, and the choices of my past continue to live with me,” said Lucibello, who served three years at the York Correctional Institution in Niantic, Connecticut, and gave birth to a son while shackled to a hospital bed.

Lucibello shared her story at Quinnipiac as part of a seven-month, sharply focused summit, “Building Bridges and Finding Answers: The Opioid Crisis in Connecticut.” In her remarks, Lucibello described the spiral from a graduate student working as a social worker to someone she barely recognized, a woman haunted—and hunted—by addiction.

In response to this opioid epidemic sweeping the state and the nation, Quinnipiac partnered with the Connecticut Bar Association and the Connecticut Bar Foundation from November 2018 to June 2019 to come up with bold, innovative ways to help people with opioid use disorder. The Schools of Education, Health Sciences, Law, Medicine and Nursing all were involved in the forum.

After filling several prescriptions for Percocet to relieve post-surgical pain, Lucibello found herself hooked. But when the scripts stopped, the arrests began on larceny charges and other crimes in New Haven, North Branford and Guilford in 2009 to pay for her drug habit.

“Eventually, I could no longer get the prescription drugs, so what did I do? I turned to heroin,” Lucibello said, referencing the street-available substitute for the likes of OxyContin, Vicodin, morphine and codeine.

Although her story is raw with remorse, Lucibello is one of the lucky ones. In 2017, there were 1,038 accidental drug deaths in Connecticut, mostly from opioids, according to the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner.

Twenty-first century problems are too complicated to be solved by a single discipline,” School of Law Dean Jennifer Gerarda Brown said to hundreds gathered in the Ceremonial Courtroom.

The Quinnipiac summit brought together statewide experts representing law, medicine, public policy, social services, politics, education, nursing, law enforcement, EMS, treatment options and other fields. They all came to create connections, exchange resources and collaborate on solutions.

After that day-long kickoff in November, the attendees broke into 10 groups to study the opioid epidemic. Each group met several times before reporting their ideas, findings and strategies at a follow-up forum at Quinnipiac on June 7.

NEW BILLS DISCUSSED

Jennifer Herbst, a professor of law and medical sciences in the School of Law and the Frank H. Netter MD School of Medicine, led a work group of 24 people who studied law enforcement and legal matters.

The group included physicians, attorneys, law enforcement representatives, a mother whose daughter died of an opioid overdose, and public health professionals—a diverse room of perspectives and life experiences.

Among the topics discussed by the group was the introduction of two opioid-related bills in February by state legislators in the Connecticut General Assembly.

One of the bills, HB 6131, would require “transportation to a treatment facility that provides medical triage to a hospital after administration of an opioid antagonist.” In other words, anyone who is revived by naloxone spray delivered by a first responder—EMS personnel, a firefighter or a police officer—must be transported to a hospital emergency department or other comparable facility.

“The advantage of emergency departments is that they’re open 24 hours, of course,” Herbst said. “The downside is, not all emergency departments are staffed to handle someone with addiction particularly well.”

Herbst explained that emergency departments are designed to treat acute conditions, but not longer-term chronic conditions such as addiction.
“There isn’t any one string we can pull on and fix things ... no one person or group can do that. It has to be done with consensus and collaboration.”

— Professor Jennifer Herbst
on the new website—liveloud.org—including some public service announcement (PSA) videos to make the experience even more interactive.

Suddenly, help was just a few clicks away.

“NO MORE SHAME”—note the capital letters—shouts out from the home page of the liveloud.org website. With bold, colorful tabs and images, people can easily find the answers to questions about opioid use disorder, including family support groups, treatment options, risk factors and the disease’s impact on Connecticut’s communities.

LINKED BY A LEGACY

Last August, police and EMTs responded to more than 100 overdoses in three days on the New Haven Green. Although the synthetic cannabinoid commonly known as K2 was first thought to be laced with the powerful synthetic opioid fentanyl, officials later learned the K2 was tainted with Fubinaca, a highly potent synthetic cannabinoid developed by Pfizer as a painkiller.

While the New Haven incident was not directly related to Connecticut’s opioid epidemic—the frenetic response, the non-stop sprays of lifesaving naloxone, people suddenly and startlingly collapsing—everything echoed the grip of addiction.

Judge Anne C. Dranginis, a retired associate judge of the Connecticut Appellate Court, spoke candidly about a mother’s grief last fall. She addressed the summit with a recorded message about her daughter’s fight with opioid addiction.

“My Charlotte died on June 29, [2018] of an overdose. She was in Florida,” Dranginis said. “It happened after 12 years of a struggle with addiction. It happened in a way that broke my heart like it breaks all parents’ hearts.

“No one is immune, and that is why I have chosen to be very public about my loss,” Dranginis added. “So many young people feel the shame of addiction when we should just be enveloping them with love, treatment, prevention and education.”

However, even when prescribed and taken appropriately, opioids still can be highly addictive.

Joel Cartner, JD ’19, takes opioids to help relieve the pain and symptoms of cerebral palsy spastic diplegia, a condition where his muscles, especially those in his legs, are in a near-constant state of contraction.

“My first experience with opioids, I was 9 years old,” Cartner said. “I was having what’s called a muscle release surgery. They take the muscles—they cut them away from the bone—and they stretch them the length they’re supposed to be, and then they reattach them. The baseline of pain is indescribably awful.”

In 2011, Cartner had another surgery to address scar tissue buildup that had increased his chronic pain. This meant a longer, more closely monitored opioid regimen to help protect him against the threat of abuse.

For Cartner, voices like his are essential to better understanding the opioid crisis in Connecticut.

“The current state response has been really focused on how to prevent deaths,” Cartner said with conviction, calling it admirable, great and absolutely necessary.

“But for those of us who have these deep, personal connections to this crisis, it means a lot not just to tell the story to people who can actually effect change, which is great all by itself, but to be able to be part of the change,” Cartner said. “That’s so important.”

‘DOPESICK’ AUTHOR SAYS OPIOIDS HOOK WITHOUT DISCRIMINATION

By Brian Koonz

Best-selling author Beth Macy looked out at the Quinnipiac crowd and pointed her finger like a soul-stealing dementor from “Harry Potter.”


Macy came to Quinnipiac in March to give an unvarnished talk about addiction and the 72,000 people in the United States who died of drug overdoses in 2017—60,000 of them from opioids, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Her two lectures, one on each campus, were part of the university’s Campus Cross Talk series that, like the Building Bridges summit, sought to shed light on the opioid crisis and explore solutions.

“I know from experience there are people in this room who have lost people to drug overdose,” Macy said, offering her sympathies. “There’s nowhere this epidemic hasn’t reached.”

One of those places, Macy said, is a coveted neighborhood in Roanoke, Virginia, a city of about 100,000 in the Blue Ridge Mountains. This is where Tess Henry lived.

Henry, 28, was the daughter of a surgeon and a hospital nurse. She shined in her youth until an opioid addiction made her world desperate, even dangerous. Henry’s demons emanated from a toxic cocktail of cough syrup with codeine and hydrocodone pills, a prescription to beat bronchitis and ignite a death spiral that ended in Las Vegas in December 2017.

“Her [burned and beaten] body was found by another heroin-addicted person who was foraging for cans in a dumpster on Christmas Eve—and her murder remains unsolved,” Macy said. “So we’ve got to do better.”

Good families, bad families, heroin doesn’t care, Macy told the crowd as she described opioids and heroin as “molecular cousins.” The award-winning journalist was deliberate with her words.

The exact diagnosis for Henry and others is opioid use disorder. Henry wasn’t a worthless junkie or some dope fiend. She was a human being with a son, a love of poetry and a heart big enough to dream about beating this disease, Macy said.

And yet, access to potentially lifesaving treatment—and the unconditional love of friends and family—is often painfully elusive. Stopping cold turkey isn’t an option for many struggling with opioid addiction.

Medication-assisted treatment is the best approach, a protocol endorsed by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, Macy noted. MAT includes counseling, psychosocial therapy and medication approved by the FDA for the treatment of opioid dependence—methadone, buprenorphine and naloxone. “These medications also increase the likelihood that a person will remain in treatment, which itself is associated with lower risk of overdose mentality,” she said.

Only now, Macy said—after all the deaths and all the grief—is America finally taking notice of opioid addiction. In 1999, three years after Connecticut-based Purdue Pharma began selling the highly addictive painkiller OxyContin, Macy said Dr. Art Van Zee wrote a letter to Purdue Pharma from rural St. Charles, Virginia, a “politically unimportant place” with a population of just over 100.

Macy recounted Van Zee’s follow-up phone call with the drug manufacturing giant. “So Art called them up and said, ‘Look, I know it says on the insert your drug isn’t addictive, but I’ve got kids I immunized as babies who are now overdosing in the high school library. I think it is addictive.’ He was the first doctor in the country to push back,” Macy said.

Today, Purdue Pharma is currently the defendant in thousands of lawsuits, but the damage has already been done, Macy said. Just ask Tess Henry’s family.
On Top of Her G.A.M.E.

BY BRIAN KOONZ
PHOTOS AUTUMN DRISCOLL

Accelerated MBA student all business at world’s largest financial conference

Megan Martucci ’18, MBA ’19, paced the carpet, pursed her lips and exhaled. After nearly a year of planning, it was a waiting game now.

As the student chairwoman of the Quinnipiac G.A.M.E. IX Forum (Global Asset Management Education), the world’s largest student-run, three-day financial conference, Martucci’s job was to direct almost 40 volunteers from the School of Business. She was sharply dressed in a dark suit with heels, a white blouse and the requisite black headset, a passed torch of sorts for this crucial role.

It was 7:12 a.m. on March 28 in the big city. The West Promenade on the third floor of the New York Hilton Midtown Hotel still had a clear path to the ballroom, a massive space large enough for the 1,600 students and faculty mentors here from 154 colleges and universities representing 50 countries and 46 states.

But not for long.

President Judy Olian’s opening remarks were fast approaching at 8 a.m. Meanwhile, a sea of students still hadn’t come down from their rooms to the registration tables.

“There’s going to be a big rush at the end, you watch,” Martucci warned the student volunteers sitting behind the “A-D” sign at one of the registration tables. A few feet away, another student worker squatted like a baseball catcher, running a handheld steamer across a fabric screen set up as a backdrop for G.A.M.E. selfies and videos.

Martucci, a finance major from Patterson, New York, earned her bachelor’s degree and MBA at Quinnipiac in four years as an accelerated dual-degree (3+1) student. She is smart, accomplished and relentlessly driven.

So, as one might imagine, Martucci’s prediction was spot on.

By 7:45 a.m., the registration tables were hidden by throngs of students, but there emerged a palpable poise behind the tables. “Next please” instantly became the most professional and efficient greeting of the morning.

Among the colleges and universities that attended this year’s G.A.M.E Forum were Villanova, Purdue, Rice, Northeastern, the University of Chicago and Washington University in St. Louis. Even on just six hours of sleep—with duties that began promptly at 5:30 a.m.—Martucci was buttoned up as student chairwoman. This was her third G.A.M.E. Forum, her first time as chair. The forums provide the opportunity to leverage everything she had learned in Hamden and New York, from introducing the keynote speakers and connecting with business schools all around the world to closely working with the assembled VIPs.

Overall, 106 financial firms and organizations were represented at G.A.M.E. IX including 148 speakers, panelists, workshop presenters and student-managed portfolio judges, according to finance professor David Sauer, who chaired the program.

“This is such an amazing experience for Quinnipiac students,” Martucci said. “It isn’t until you get here that you realize how busy it is and how much there is to do. Now that I’m in charge of all the student volunteers, I have to plan everyone’s schedule and make sure all the shifts are filled so that everything runs smoothly.”

With the registration lines finally evaporated now, Martucci made her way to the ballroom. She sat by herself near the stage, waiting for the program to begin. It was time for Olian to address the crowd.

“To all the students who are attending, seize the opportunity to have conversations with fellow students about global currency or trade wars,” urged Olian, former dean of the UCLA Anderson School of Management. “And later, pick up those conversations with faculty and market experts one-on-one on those topics.”

Olian spoke thoughtfully and fluently about global markets for several minutes. As she left the stage to applause, Olian headed straight for Martucci and sat next to her. After a smile and some kind words from the president, it was Martucci’s turn to address this impeccably dressed casting call for 21st-century business jobs.


“After I came off the stage, President Olian said I did a good job, so that meant a lot to me,” said Martucci, who had practiced the intro enough to eliminate butterflies. She commuted to Stamford, Connecticut, last summer and again this school
Megan Martucci in Times Square in front of the Nasdaq building, where the digital display promoted the G.A.M.E. Forum.
year to transform an internship with global conglomerate Henkel into a job as a financial analyst after graduation. “It’s awesome seeing women in leadership positions at G.A.M.E.,” Martucci added. “Diversity is so important to solving problems and being successful in business or anything else. I think that’s what makes this conference so great, hearing all these views and opinions from people all over the country and all over the world.”

Heading out after the panel discussion, Cohen, a senior investment strategist and former president of the Global Markets Institute, said she is encouraged by the career outlook for women in finance. But women are still the minority in these roles.

“There are notable opportunities for women in finance, particularly those who are well prepared, either with economics or finance training,” Cohen said. “Women have shown they can do an extremely good job in positions involving research and portfolio management. Very often, portfolio managers who fail do so not because they’ve missed the upside, but because they have failed to properly recognize the downside. Women seem to do a much better job of risk-benefit analysis in that regard.”

Adam O’Rourke ’18, MBA ’19, an accelerated dual-degree (3+1) graduate, was among the student volunteers Martucci directed. On the second day of the conference, O’Rourke served as student ambassador to David Kudla, CEO of Mainstay Capital Management and the G.A.M.E. program co-chair.

O’Rourke also attended G.A.M.E. Forum as a freshman. He said his finance education at Quinnipiac prepared him well to get more out of the experience this time around.

“It’s amazing how much more I understand now,” said O’Rourke. “It’s amazing to have this kind of access to industry leaders and professionals, not just for networking purposes, but also to learn from them.”

Martucci, O’Rourke and dozens of other Quinnipiac business students also scored an exclusive look inside Nasdaq headquarters in Times Square. The annual tradition has become one of the highlights of the G.A.M.E. Forum.

On the second day of the conference, Rich Hanley, associate professor of journalism, served as moderator of a panel discussion titled, “The Future of Financial Reporting.” The topic driving the conversation was a recently released Quinnipiac University Poll that found 60 percent of adults believe “the way economic news is reported does not accurately reflect the reality of the economy for average Americans.”

As G.A.M.E. came to a close, Martucci exhaled once more, only this time without the mantle and responsibility of the student chair. But one question still remained: Who would be next year’s student chair?

Martucci explained that as part of her duties, she gets to name her successor. After considering the list of candidates, Martucci selected Greg Kaulins ’19, MBA ’20, this year’s VIP chairman and another finance major in Quinnipiac’s accelerated dual-degree program.

“I chose Greg because he is very smart and driven. Similar to me, he has worked his way up in his three years at G.A.M.E. His freshman year he was a volunteer, last year he was co-chair of VIP and this year he was chair of VIP,” Martucci said. “In the end, I believed Greg would be a great fit for G.A.M.E. X. He is committed to any task at hand, and I’m confident he will do a great job leading the team next year.”

The black headset comes later for Kaulins. The planning starts now.

Sitting in the boss’s chair daydreaming of being in charge is a sure way to get fired. But putting yourself in your boss’s shoes, figuratively, and thinking like the owner of the company is what Robert S. Kaplan recommends to get ahead.

He contends leaders are not necessarily born with special personality traits, but rather that leadership is a skill that can be learned and practiced from the first day on a job. As the former Martin Marshall Professor of Management Practice and senior associate dean at Harvard Business School, Kaplan has given the subject a lot of thought and is the author of three books on the topic, the latest titled, “What You Really Need to Lead: The Power of Thinking and Acting Like an Owner.”

Kaplan became president and CEO of the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas in Fall 2015. In that capacity, he shared his views on the U.S. economy in a packed room of students and professors during the second day of the G.A.M.E. IX forum along with Kathleen Hays of Bloomberg TV and Radio. Before the panel, he discussed leadership with Quinnipiac Magazine, offering tips to the newly employed as well as those already in supervisory positions. To begin thinking like an owner, you’ll probably need to ask your boss some questions to learn more about your unit and how it adds value to the company, he noted. Think about the kinds of things bosses must consider—what constituencies they need to worry about, for example.

“Work it. Read The Wall Street Journal and other periodicals every day. Think, ‘Gee, if I were my boss, I’d be thinking about this,’” he said.

And don’t wait to be the boss before you start thinking like an owner. “If you wait till then, you probably are not going to get the job—you’ve waited too long,” Kaplan advised.

“Eventually, you are going to be in a situation where an issue comes up at work, and by some miracle, they ask your opinion. If you practice this, you’re going to say, ‘You know, I don’t think we should do this,’” Kaplan said. Before meeting with other companies or CEOs, Kaplan said he often made it a point to solicit advice from the most junior person in the room.

He explained that graduates transitioning to the workforce are accustomed to the college agenda that dictates they “take this test, follow these rules, execute this … and we will grade you on how you do with our agenda.” Once you take a job, it’s your agenda, he pointed out.

“The biggest mistake young people make is thinking they need to keep their heads down,” Kaplan said. “You’ve got to do more than that. Figure out two or three things you must do to be great at your job, ask questions, and get some coaching about how to do that.”

Once you become a boss, the most important thing you can do is be open to learning and to understanding your strengths and weaknesses. “You can’t do it yourself. Ask your subordinates for feedback,” he said.

The reason leaders plateau or fizzle out, Kaplan said, is their inability to learn. “A lot of leaders think their subordinates expect them to know all the answers, but the biggest fear subordinates have is that their boss doesn’t know what’s really going on and doesn’t ask.”

And asking questions is not just for would-be leaders. “Bosses don’t need to have all the answers—but they do need to ask the right questions. It shows confidence, not weakness,” Kaplan observed.

He said this particular lesson has never been more critical for him. As president of the Dallas Fed, one of 12 in the Federal Reserve System, Kaplan oversees 1,200 employees. To maintain a pulse on his work force, he conducts skip-level meetings, walking the floors and soliciting advice from lower-level employees instead of waiting passively for direct reports to bring information.

“Leaders fail due to their inability to learn. People are not running into your office to give you bad news. You’ve got to go get it, and the biggest danger leaders face is becoming isolated,” Kaplan said.
NO WALK IN THE PARK

Cross country teams help locate Sleeping Giant’s blocked trails

BY ADAM DURSO

Hiking Sleeping Giant Mountain has been a pastime enjoyed—even taken for granted—by many members of the Quinnipiac community for decades. However, in May 2018, everything changed when a tornado ravaged the park and rendered the trails impassable and the park closed.

“It’s a major aspect of life at Quinnipiac that’s just been missing,” said Ben Lanza ’19, a finance major and member of the men’s cross country team. He and three fellow teammates participated in a trail scouting expedition on March 30, along with community volunteers. It was organized by Luis Arata, professor and chair of Quinnipiac’s Modern Languages Department and a member of the Sleeping Giant Park Association. The following day, 13 members from the women’s cross country team joined the effort.

An avid trail runner himself, Arata could sense the students’ eagerness to tackle the mountain once again on this warm spring day. For each of them, the Giant, as the mountain is affectionately known, is a place to practice, test their skills or just unwind.

The Tower Trail, a winding 1.6-mile route, meanders its way to the four-story stone observation tower. It’s been a popular hiking destination for the public and a rite of passage for Quinnipiac students, some of whom practice yoga at the summit or simply take in the views of the Mount Carmel Campus below and the surrounding valleys.

The SGPA had hoped the park would open for Memorial Day Weekend, but ongoing work made a late June reopening more likely.

“We rely on these trails,” said Jeff Venter ’21, a physical therapy major and one of Lanza’s teammates. “We use them all the time, and it just feels nice to give back.” They especially like the Diamond and Violet trails near the back.

Before they set out, Arata told the assembled volunteers, “Remember, this isn’t a race today—it’s a service to a park that means so much to so many people.”

Runners from across Connecticut joined members of the SGPA and students, faculty and staff from Quinnipiac during the two-day effort. They broke off into groups using AllTrails, an outdoor mobile app that uses GPS tracking to pinpoint the locations of “leaners”—fallen trees resting against other trees—and other dangerous objects and debris still obstructing parts of the seven trails.

After several hours, the volunteers returned to the base. They were tired and sweaty, some a bit scratched up, but in high spirits, energized by their trek up Sleeping Giant.

Arata knows that feeling well. His love for the mountain dates to 1982, when he first began walking its trails with his wife, Laurie. “I remember carrying our oldest son up there in a baby backpack before he could walk,” he said.

Seeing the trap rock mountain became a daily treat for Arata once he joined Quinnipiac’s faculty in 1991. Over the years, his walks became runs, and he developed a favorite seven-mile route. In 2018, he completed the Master Marathon, running all blazed trails in 10 hours. After triumphing over this challenge, Arata yearned to play a role in the park’s upkeep.

The SGPA was established in 1924 by local residents concerned with ongoing trap rock quarrying on the tract near the Giant’s head. The state park was created that same year when the SGPA donated 600 acres to the state Park and Forest Commission. The state added an additional 65 acres later that year.

“The task of maintaining its 30-plus miles was always a source of wonder for me,” said Arata, who joined SGPA in 2016 and was elected director-at-large in May 2018. Just over a week later, the tornado struck, and Arata was given a chance to give back in a way he’d never imagined.

“The amount of destruction was just overwhelming,” he said.

After the magnitude of the damage was realized, Arata took a course on safe chainsawing and joined the volunteer cleanup effort in early July, becoming a lead sawyer with one of 14 volunteer crews. Nine months and 2,700 hours later, he and his peers had cleared nearly 2,000 trees.

During the 2018-19 winter, snow, ice and wind caused many weakened trees and branches to fall, creating more work. That’s when Arata had the idea to organize small teams of trail runners and take different loops to scout all the trails. Work crews used the data gathered by volunteers to find specific locations in need of clearing when their cleanup work began in April.

“It was an unforgettable experience for everyone,” Arata said. “I still can’t believe a group of volunteers could do what was done in such a short period of time.”

With a nod to the reopening, Hiroya Tsukamoto performed a free concert at Quinnipiac in April that included a song he wrote titled, “To Hobbamock,” the Native American spirit who is an integral part of Quinnipiac’s “Legend of the Bobcat.”

According to the legend, Hobbamock was doomed to eternal sleep when a spell was cast over him, but his fierce companion, a stealthy giant bobcat, was spared such a fate and loyally defends its now Sleeping Giant and all that falls in its shadow.
Students participating in the Quinnipiac University in Los Angeles program joined faculty in attending a special screening of “BlacKkKlansman” in March with Oscar-winner David Rabinowitz ’09, an alumnus of QU’s film, television and media arts program. Rabinowitz earned an Oscar for best adapted screenplay for his work on the critically acclaimed film. After the private screening in Hollywood, he told the standing-room-only crowd what it was like to work on the film, to relocate to Los Angeles, and to build upon the success he enjoyed at Quinnipiac. Alumni from the region attended as well. “Don’t ever be afraid to get involved,” he urged his young audience. “You never know from where that key break will come.” Rabinowitz, who was among the founders of the Quinnipiac Film Society, remarked that the first screenplay he wrote when part of the club a decade ago was the foundation on which he built his career. He said although the scale was different, the process was not. Following a spirited question-and-answer session, the Southern California chapter of the Quinnipiac Alumni Association hosted a reception for screening attendees. There, Rabinowitz posed for selfies and offered students personalized advice for making the most of their time, both at Quinnipiac and in the QU in LA program.

— Jamie DeLoma
Mt. Blanc 2019 (France, Italy and Switzerland). He is the global service operational director at DXC Technology, and a retired attorney.

1979 PETER TEDONE of the Weatogue village of Simsbury, CT, recently retired after three decades at Vanits Life Insurance Company in Windsor, CT, including 18 as CEO. He also is retired from his longtime role as an active-duty EMT. He is an adjunct faculty member at the University of Hartford.

1982 LAUREN (SANDERS) WILLIAMS of North Haven, CT, has launched a successful consulting practice. She specializes in managed care case and utilization management programs for all health insurance lines of business. She formerly worked as vice president of medical operations at ConnectiCare and recently moved to North Haven with her husband, Ernie.

1983 DEBORAH (DECENTY) HAYES of Meriden, CT, has been a pediatric therapist for 20 years. She has three children, Matthew, KAELAN HAYES ‘17, MHS ‘18, and LOGAN HAYES ‘19.

1984 ANTHONY CRISCUOLO was appointed treasurer of Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts in July 2018. He lives in Hingham, MA, with his wife, Diane.

1987 PAUL CANAVAN of Ashford, CT, is an assistant professor at Eastern Connecticut State University. He was a presenter at the 31st Medical College of Wisconsin Sports Medicine Symposium in March 2019.

1990 MICHAEL FENSTER of Bayside, NY, recently began a new position doing accounts payable for Atlantic Veal & Lamb in Brooklyn, NY. He was planning his fifth annual Mini Finnly Quinni reunion in April at Eli’s on Whitney in Hamden.

1993 JONATHAN PICKLES ‘93, MAT ‘96, of Millbrook, NY, has been a language arts teacher since he graduated. He recently published a book for the educational market titled, “The Reader’s Trace,” which is about annotating, text coding and marginalia, and the many ways teachers can implement these techniques.

1995 ADRIENNE JENKINS of Middletown, CT, recently accepted a job for Corcoran Consulting Group as the director of revenue cycle management services.

2001 LISA (SCAVOTTO) CAPOGNA ‘01, MPT ‘03, of Milford, CT, was inducted into the Connecticut Field Hockey Hall of Fame in September 2018.

Class notes continue on p. 46
MICHAEL FORREST of Wethersfield, CT, is vice president and third-generation owner of Forrest Machine, an aerospace metalwork operation that recently expanded and relocated its production distribution facility to Berlin, CT.

2002 DANIEL MCCABE of Brain-tree, MA, and his wife, Leah, announce the birth of their first child, Maxwell Alexander Dan, on June 26, 2018. Daniel is a senior account executive at Intx Solutions, an information and technology company in Norwood, MA.

ARIANA (RAYNIS) MURPHY of Floral Park, NY, is the assistant dean for assessment and accreditation in the School of Education at Hofstra University.

2003 KEITH SIVERA of Austin, TX, has joined Ominn as the vice president of marketing. Ominn is a health and fitness company.

2005 JOSSELYN DECROSTAGRINDEL of Hamden was promoted to director of human resources at the Clifford Beers Clinic in New Haven.

NICOLE (DECARLO) MARTONE of Cheshire, CT, has received the master teacher of honor award from Kappa Delta Pi, International Honor Society in Education. She is an English teacher and head of the English department at Western Connecticut Home Care.

RIKKI MASSAND of Belle Mead, NJ, has been appointed by Mayor Sadaf Jaffer to serve a four-year term as a member of the Landmarks Historic Preservation Commission of Montgomery Township, Somerset County, NJ.

2006 JOSEPH COSS and his wife, HEATHEN M. COSS of Plainview, NY, are the parents of Ben, born Oct. 5, 2018, in Plainview, NY, is a mergers and acquisitions tax attorney. He recently published an article titled, "Don't Transfer That Interest! How the 'Mere Change Exemption' Provides Little Relief to Taxpayers" in the Albany Law Review.

2012 CARMEN CHAU, MS '12, of Meriden, CT, is a TV reporter and anchor. She is the lead nightside reporter and weekend anchor. She announced her engagement to her fiancé.

EMILY LAGER and MICHAEL SARIN of Brewster, MA, were married on July 28, 2018, at Falmouth Estate, MA, where the family lives. Derek works in press/communications at the Connecticut General Assembly's House Republican Office.

2011 JULIA BEAN '11, DPT '14, and KEVIN MILLER '11, DPT '14, of Cedar Grove, NJ, were married on Oct. 6, 2018. A fellow Bobcat, COREY LEWIS '11, DPT '14, officiated their wedding with 40 Quinnipiac alumni there to celebrate.

KATIE (HARRIS) CAROLAN of Boston recently was promoted to assistant vice president of content marketing for Brown Brothers Harriman.

MICHAEL HERSHEYFELD '11, MAT '12, of Austin, TX, founded the BlueScope Group, a change management consulting firm focused on K-12 education systems, offering change management in the areas of central office organizational design, theory of action development and alignment, school-based decision making and autonomy, student-based budgeting, and superintendent transitions.

ROBIN (CASSIELLA) STANLEY and her husband, DEREK STANLEY '11, MBA '12, announce the birth of a son, Jonathan David, on Oct. 2, 2018. Robin is manager of communications for marketing and media at Marianapolis Preparatory School in Thompson, CT, where the family lives. Derek works in press/communications at the Connecticut General Assembly's House Republican Office.
CAREER

TALENT SCOUT

Alumna’s internship leads to position diversifying Google’s workforce

BY JANET WALDMAN
PHOTO WEINBERG-CLARK

BRITTANY HAYLES ’17 CONSIDERED herself fortunate to be chosen for an internship at Google during her junior year—fewer than 5% of applicants get offers. The management major parlayed that experience into a job at the renowned tech giant, and now she’s the one recruiting college students for internships as a diversity staffing specialist at Google in Mountain View, California.

Hayles, who lives in San Francisco, was hired right after graduation, first as an associate account strategist. In that role, she helped Google advertisers optimize their marketing plans and improve their returns on investment, an area she was exposed to as a marketing solutions intern in 2016.

She enjoyed that role and was successful at it. “But I knew it was not where I wanted my career to be, long term. I’ve always been really passionate about diversity,” she said. “Growing up as a black woman, I saw people of color underrepresented in every facet of my life. I always wanted to see more people who look like me.”

During her own internship, Hayles made a point of networking with many Google employees. This served her well when, a few years later, she ran into a colleague she’d befriended during that internship who was now working on a Google team recruiting underrepresented talent through internships. Hayles knew that’s what she wanted to do next.

“The conversation was great timing. I met with the manager of that team, they were hiring, and I got my current job a few weeks later,” she said.

Google’s mission is to organize the world’s information and make it universally accessible and useful. To that end, it strives to employ a workforce that represents the users it serves.

As Hayles explains, “Google prides itself as being innovative and accessible. We can only do that if everyone is represented in the room. If everyone looks the same and thinks the same, the company will remain stagnant, and we will be behind the curve.”

She noted that Google’s workforce is about 1% black while black people represent roughly 13% of the U.S. population, according to the 2018 Census.

Her team prioritizes recruiting college students from underrepresented backgrounds who identify as black, Latinx, LGBTQ+, persons with disabilities and veterans. They seek students majoring in computer science, mechanical engineering and industrial engineering, and find them at campus events and through LinkedIn. Having done her internship at Google, Hayles can describe the company’s work culture and the challenging nature of the internship to prospective interns.

“Recruiting underrepresented students and interns is important because we like them to experience Google during an internship to attain the skills necessary to perform exceptionally during a full-time opportunity,” she said, adding that Google has a high conversion rate from intern to full-time employee. “We understand that to achieve a more diverse workforce, it’s important to start with students.”

“My internship was phenomenal and the most challenging experience I had in college. It was not a ‘go-grab-coffee’ internship,” she said. Before Google, Hayles did an internship with Rolls Royce.

Google is known for encouraging its employees to work autonomously. “Yes, we work on teams and rely on them for resources, but a lot of what I do is individualistic, and we are expected to navigate ambiguity. You have to learn to work diligently and efficiently or else you will burn out.”

Hayles appreciates what she terms Google’s dedication to employee job satisfaction—professionally, physically and emotionally. “The company provides a free shuttle from San Francisco, a variety of foods, a gym that offers fitness classes, meditation, and even cooking classes,” she said.

She feels her extracurricular life at Quinnipiac contributed to her success. She was among the founders of the Women Empowered organization, which seeks to prepare female students for life, both professionally and personally. “We discussed what a resume should look like, and how to deal with being the only woman on a team, among other things,” Hayles said. As a resident assistant for two years, she learned valuable people management skills and how to provide constructive feedback, both of which she uses in her current role.

Academics also played a role. “My professors emphasized the mentality that we had to work hard, no matter how stressed we were or how time-crunched we were,” she said.

“We had our projects and our deadlines. That work ethic and determination I learned at QU has trickled into my career. I would not be prepared for the rigors of this job otherwise.”
The gift established the Polish American Business Leader Scholars Program, which enables Polish students to earn their MBAs at Quinnipiac and gain experience working for U.S. companies before returning to Poland.

“I’m really focused on taking the chair to another level,” Novak said. “Poland has had 29 straight years of economic growth, the only country in Europe to do that. We can use the economy of Poland, along with the People’s United Center for Innovation & Entrepreneurship, to attract students to Quinnipiac, where they have an opportunity to study in Poland.”

Novak also is involved with four startup businesses in Poland. Closer to home, he continues to work as a consultant and management coach, sharing his experience and abilities developing talent and teams.
Needleman on Oct. 13, 2018, at the Hudson Mercantile in New York City.

**PETER UMBRIANNA** of Braintree, MA, is director of athletics at Weymouth High School in Weymouth, MA.

**PAIGE WEINERS** of Old Bethpage, NY, is senior global marketing manager at Beyond, a tech company.

2013

**KAITLYN KRIVITZKY** and **ALEX SMITH** of Short Hills, NJ, wed on Sept. 29, 2018.

**BRETT PALATIELLO** and **KELSEY KAMP ’14** of Hoboken, NJ, wed on Sept. 21, 2018.

2014

**JOANN CAZORLA** of West Milford, NJ, was promoted to account manager at Reputation Architects.

**STEPHANIE GRIFFIN** of Wallingford, CT, married Tim Fengler on Oct. 7, 2018, at Hawk’s Landing Country Club in Southington, CT. She is a marketing communications manager at the University of Hartford.

**RACHAEL (BRUST) WOLENSKY ’14, MS ’15**, of Bound Brook, NJ, was honored by the Software & Information Industry Association at the Business Information Summit as a finalist for SIIA’s emerging leader award. Rachael is a corporate communications and PR manager at ALM Media.

2015

**KARLA RODRIGUEZ, DNP ’15**, of Bayside, NY, is a clinical assistant professor. She presented her work, “Team Teaching Discovery Among Undergraduate Faculty in a Baccalaureate Program,” at the Sigma Creating Healthy Work Environments Conference in New Orleans, LA, in February.

**VICTORIA KOZAR** of New Milford, CT, was featured on the “Steve Harvey Show” and interviewed by ABC World News for her experience with the student-in-residence program at Quinnipiac. She discussed the importance of intergenerational relationships. She is a dementia program coordinator at Wilton Meadows in Wilton, CT.

**TARA PALUMBO ’17, MBA ’18**, of Glen Head, NY, is a marketing associate at Canon USA headquarters in Melville, NY.


2016

**RONALD COLAVITO, MBA ’16**, of Milford, PA, was appointed chief executive officer for Access: Supports for Living. He joined the company as an accountant in 2003 and most recently served as executive vice president and chief operating officer.

**NICOLE KREJCI LEGALLEY, MS ’16**, of Cleveland joined the Lorain Historical Society in the Advancement and Philanthropy Department.

**MEGAN MAHER ’16, MS ’18**, of Sleepy Hollow, NY, is the marketing and digital storytelling coordinator at the Clinton Foundation in New York City. In January, she attended the Clinton Global Initiative Action Network meeting in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

2017

**NOELLE BRASIER** of Phoenix completed a fellowship with Havas PR US in February 2019 and recently was promoted to the role of account executive. She is a part of the consumer team at Havas PR US, assisting with digital strategies, content creation, and media and influencer relations efforts.

**LIA GORDON** of Fanwood, NJ, is a sales coordinator for a national sales and activation team for Entercom. She works on national promotions (radio, digital and live events) for top-tier clients across the country.

**VICTORIA KOZAR** of New Milford, CT, was featured on the “Steve Harvey Show” and interviewed by ABC World News for her experience with the student-in-residence program at Quinnipiac. She discussed the importance of intergenerational relationships. She is a dementia program coordinator at Wilton Meadows in Wilton, CT.

**TARA PALUMBO ’17, MBA ’18**, of Glen Head, NY, is a marketing associate at Canon USA headquarters in Melville, NY.


2018

**ALI MUNSHI** of Trumbull, CT, recently received the courtroom scholarship at the Kline School of Law at Drexel University.
3. Maxwell Alan David McCabe, June 26, 2018, son of Daniel McCabe ’02 and his wife, Leah.
7. Harlen Gabriel, Jan. 24, 2018, son of Trevor Rank ’06 and his wife, Amanda, shown with brother Cameron.
12. Theodore “Teddy” Roger Post, Aug. 28, 2018, son of Sara (Fiore) Post ’17 and her husband, Kyle.
18. Parker Grayson, Oct. 29, 2018, son of Brian Lamendola ’06, shown with his brother, Cole Tomas.
22. Emmett James Spillane, Aug. 21, 2018, son of Amanda (Cherlin) Spillane ’09 and her wife, Bridget Spillane.
LINDITA VINCA, MSN ’12, DNP ’17, finds the human skin fascinating. The nurse practitioner has forged a career following her two passions: dermatology and teaching.

As a member of the team at Dermatology Physicians of Connecticut in Hamden since 2017, she helps patients find relief from eczema, psoriasis and acne, among other common conditions. “But sometimes we are challenged with out-of-the-ordinary things—for example, a rash we’ve never seen before caused by a rare disease such as the Zika virus,” she said.

“We also have to be aware that a lot of these skin conditions can be a manifestation of a serious disease like cutaneous lymphoma,” she added.

After graduating from Western Connecticut State University in 2007 with her bachelor’s degree in nursing, Vinca worked as a surgical ICU nurse. A few years later—seeking new opportunities—she enrolled part-time in the three-year, online nurse practitioner program at QU.

“It’s wonderful to be able to advance your career and step up from being an RN to an independent practitioner,” said Vinca, noting that nurse practitioners perform many of the same functions as physicians. “I see my own patients, I diagnose, treat, prescribe and educate on skin disease as well as prevention. I enjoy being hands on, such as performing surgeries of non-complex benign lesions as well as non-melanoma skin cancers,” she noted. “I particularly enjoy my job because I am constantly collaborating as a team with my colleagues: doctors, nurse practitioners and physician assistants.”

The number of nurse practitioners in the U.S. has grown more than 30% since 2010, partially due to a national shortage of primary care practitioners to meet the health care needs of a rapidly aging population. “We are a vital part of the health care team as providers, mentors, educators, researchers and administrators. We are involved in many indispensable ways,” she said.

Vinca recalls one of her most memorable cases: a 25-year-old woman who came in with a rash. “As I was performing my exam, I observed a concerning lesion on her leg; it ended up being a melanoma,” she said. Luckily, it turned out to be a melanoma in situ, which means the cancer was confined to the upper layers of the skin.

“Her case continues to resonate with me because it was my first professional experience with a melanoma, and she was so young. Had I not performed a complete skin exam, this could have been missed,” she said.

Vinca thrived in the QU master’s program despite working full time and caring for an infant. “The professors were very supportive; we were very lucky to have such extraordinary professors that served as astounding mentors,” she said.

Although Vinca had a longtime interest in dermatology—sparked in childhood when her beloved grandfather died of a malignant melanoma—dermatology rotations were rare and proved difficult to find. After earning her MSN, she took a job at an interventional radiology practice in Hartford. While she found that field intriguing, she never gave up on her passion.

“It can be quite difficult to switch tracks in the midst of your career, but I networked and studied until I eventually landed a dermatology job in 2015,” she said. Around the same time, a growing interest in teaching and leadership prompted Vinca to return to Quinnipiac. “Professor Laima Karosas [chair of the graduate nursing programs] had been a great mentor, and she encouraged me to go for my doctorate.” After earning her DNP in nursing leadership, Vinca was ready to share her knowledge with others.

She currently serves as a clinical preceptor for both Quinnipiac and Yale students and has lectured on dermatological topics at Quinnipiac’s School of Nursing and the Frank H. Netter MD School of Medicine. Last fall she joined the Yale University School of Nursing as a clinical instructor, where she teaches a health assessment lab. She is writing a chapter of a textbook on skin, hair and nails in collaboration with Karosas and Karen Myrick, associate professor in the School of Nursing.

Her time away from work is spent with her husband, Luti, 9-year-old son, Dion, and 6-year-old daughter, Sianna. They keep her busy with sports and other activities. “We love to travel as a family. There is so much to learn, and you realize what a tiny place you occupy in the world,” she said.

At this point in her career, she is happy to be working with dedicated people in a great profession. “And the best part is that I get the opportunity to build and sustain relationships with my patients and families,” she said.
1. The School of Business hosted a March reception for New York City alumni at Remi Restaurant after the first day of the G.A.M.E. (Global Asset Management Education) Forum. Enjoying the reception, from left, Darius Asgari ’18, Ty Guililat ’18, Julia Mee ’17 and Brandon Lyons ’18.

2. Caitlyn Fitzpatrick ’12 and Patrick Noonan ’12 catch up at the business alumni reception.

3. President Judy Olian greets alumni who were former chairpersons of Quinnipiac’s Big Event and who returned to QU this April to mark the 10th anniversary of this nationwide day of community service. From left: Vincent Contrucci, director of QU’s Office of Community Service; Jennifer Walts ’10, Patrick Noonan ’12, Melissa Trinks ’11, Olian, Matthew Braddak ’11, Gianna Costantino ’16, and Thomas Froton ’16. About 2,000 students, faculty, alumni and staff volunteered.


5. Florida alumni connected in February in Fort Myers to watch the New York Yankees play the Boston Red Sox. Jaime Cassesse ’07, right, attended with her father, John, her sister, Katie, and Katie’s husband, Ryan Fecher.

6. Under the reception tent at JetBlue Park are David Koehn ’00, MPT ’12 and Susan Koehn.

7. From left, Karsten Otto ’69, George Pertesis ’69 and Dennis O’Keefe ’69 celebrated 50 years as Quinnipiac alumni at the ballpark.
for several individuals with the conservator and guardian in New Haven and serving as
includes volunteering as legal
day at Pitney. Her pro bono work
1999
clinics, therapeutic day school, inpatient hospital, outpatient
campus, including a 178-bed
was promoted to director
1996
driving the strategy process.
and compliance matters for the
director and retired attorney.
She focuses on defending employ-
coverage forms for companies representing the architectural, engineering and real estate
marketplace.
KRYSTIE KUHL of Fairfield, CT, was promoted to managing partner at Finn Partners. She
oversees the New York and Chicago health groups and the U.S. pharma team.
2001
JOHN BURKE of Annandale, NJ, was appointed a judge of the New Jersey Superior Court in June 2017 by former Gov.
Chris Christie. He was assigned to the Family Division, Burlington Vicinage, in Mount Holly.
JASON WELCH was appointed chief legal counsel for the Connecticut Senate Republi-
can Caucus in February. He has been an associate at Beauley Insurance Co., a Lloyd’s of Lon-
don syndicate based in Farmington, CT. He lives in Bristol, CT, with his wife, Elizabeth, and their seven children.
2002
EUGENIA FRENZEL of Milford, CT, was promoted to director of pricing and practice manage-
ment economics at Perkins Coie, a 1,000-plus attorney international law firm.
2003
LUCIO DELUCA of North Haven, CT, is director of information systems for the Connecticut Judicial Branch. Before that, he served the judiciary as deputy director of judge support services.
2004
RYAN POE-GAVLINSKI of Waukanee, WI, is clinical director for the VOCA Restraining Order Clinic at the University of Wisconsin Law School.
2005
ANDREW STONE of Valdosta, GA, opened Stone Law Office in Valdosta in 2018. He focuses on general practice law. His wife, AMANDA STONE, MHS ’06, a physician assistant, opened Lake Park Family Care Clinic in 2018 in Lake Park, GA. The couple lives in Valdosta.
2006
BRYAN D. ZERHUSEN of Cheshire, CT, has joined Cantor Colburn in Hartford as chair of its law sciences practice group. Previously, he was co-chair of the law sciences practice group at Locke Lord.
Tolland, CT. The couple lives in Vernon, CT.
JAMES PARKER of Hamden is a vice president and trust officer at Essex Savings Bank. Before this position, he was a senior fiduciary advisory specialist with a large national bank.
2010
JOE REYNOLDS of Spring City, PA, is an assistant vice president in the National Envi-
ronmental and Construction Professional Liability Practice at RT Specialty/New Day. He is responsible for securing envi-
ronmental and construction-re-
lated professional liability coverage forms for companies representing the architectural, engineering and real estate
marketplace.
KRISTEN L. STUMPO ’07, JD ’10, is an associate at Goldberg Segalla in Hartford where she is part of the workers’ compensation practice group. She previously worked for Solimene & Secor, Middletown, CT. She focuses on defending employ-
ers, insurance companies and self-insured clients in workers’ compensation litigation.
2012
BRIAN VINCENT ALTIERI married Jessica Avilia Pace on Aug. 18, 2018, in Hartford. Brian is an attorney with Balzano and Tropiano in New Haven. The couple lives in Milford, CT.
MATTHEW CIARLEGIO of New Haven is an associate at Murtha Cullina in the firm’s litigation department. He is based in the New Haven office and focuses on commercial and business litigation matters.
MICHAEL MILLER of Cheshire, CT, recently accept-
ed a role as partner at Wiggins and Dana as an environ-
mental lawyer in the firm’s New Haven office.
BRITTANY (BUSSOLA) PAZ of Orange, CT, has joined the Shelton office of Ruane, vacationing in Ruane, she was an associate at Pattis & Smith and also had a solo practice focused on criminal defense and appeals.
2013
KYLE ZRENDA of Old Lyme, CT, has joined Suisman Shapiro in New London, CT, as
an associate on the firm’s civil litigation team in the areas of personal injury and medical malpractice.
2014
GENNA GOLDNER of New Haven has joined Stanley Black and Decker as its global privacy manager. She works with business stakeholders globally to drive privacy and protection compliance.
2015
TRAVIS NUNZIATO of Og-
densburg, NJ, is an associate at Laddey Clark & Ryan in the firm’s personal injury practice group. He focuses on car acci-
dents, products and premises liability claims.
2016
ALYSON BISCEGLIA of Lincoln, NE, is an associate at Ballew Hazen focusing in the areas of family law, corporate and business law, and estate planning. Prior to this, she practiced corporate law and estate planning in Connecticut and then Omaha.
KATE CLARK of Stuart, FL, is an associate at Joshua Deckard, a criminal defense and personal injury firm in Stuart. Prior to joining this firm, she was an associate at a boutique civil litigation law firm in Stuart.
MELANIE WHEELER of Barrington, IL, joined Derivative Path, a capital markets FinTech
group, as general counsel and chief compliance officer. Previously, she worked for 11 years in various legal and compliance roles at AIG Global Capital Markets.
2018
MARK J. PENNEY of Canton, CT, was appointed human resources director for the city of Bristol, CT, in February.
IN MEMORIAM
2017
John Ambrosevich ’59
Thomas Callahan ’74
Michael Hackett ’77
Timothy Lonergan ’93
2018
Priscilla (Noble) Addorns ’39
Fenner Burlingham ’72
Dibirama (Pallenberg) Burnham ’48
Mary (Scalzi) Connaughton ’42
Mary (Malone) D’Arnato ’78
Ernest Dell’Monico ’64
Cynthia Dennis ’75
Nicholas DiMessa ’48
Michael Ellesio ’65
George Gamble ’65
Elizabeth (Zulkowski) Graham ’43
Thomas Gray ’70
Gian Guardo ’91
Thomas J. Lane, MS ’12
Todney Harris, MAT ’98
Craig Henrici, JD ’81
Eitle Hubregtse, MHS ’82
Cheryl Hyder ’81
Philip Kearney ’98
Margaret Kelley ’48
Matthew Lane, JD ’09
Janet (Andersen) Larsen ’71
L. Sherry (Krawetz) Lettick ’65
Edward Levine ’58
Peter Lis ’71
Carmen Liuza, JD ’95
Irene Maculaitis ’42
Eugene Mahoney ’76
Kristi Melloni ’91
Martha (Romero) Milano ’36
Marylou Miller ’78
Robert Mortimer ’59
Harold O’Connor ’84
Daiga Osis, JD ’80
Daiga Pasquale ’95
John Paukaitis ’84
William Powanda Jr. ’68
Vincent Prato ’51
Jean Quandt ’43
Vera (Hanning) Roberts ’40
Richard Saddler ’92
Walker Selens ’56
Frank Serva ’73
Louis Sidera, JD ’03
Jean Siclunor (Quinnipiac trustee)
Susan Spellacy ’84
Michael Strouch, JD ’95
Richard Terbrusch, JD ’04
Henry Tercyak ’59
Alfred Tosetti ’59
Stephen Tomash, JD ’56
Muriel (Gardner) White ’37
Maureen (Norris) Wilkas, JD ’85
Richard Ziemba ’78
2019
Angelo Agos ’57
Carl Carlson ’74
Richard Carusone ’58
Sally Carllo ’78
John Cobbins ’77
Meghan Crilly ’06
Robert DeNardis, MPS ’90
Roger Friend ‘60
Paul Howarth ’91
Raymond Johnson ’72
Jeffrey L. Long ’66
George Meehan ’61
Marianne (Drauergis) Miller ’68
Salvatore Olano ’57
Barbara Jane (Fisher) Pederson ’56
Richard Reilly ’58
James Richardson ’54
Eric Stabell, MS ’11
Joseph Sullivan ’85
Like many successful lawyers before them, the career path traveled by Lindsay LaCava, JD ’05, and Maria Eberle, JD ’06, was strewn with long nights, billable hours and professional contacts. Of course, being partner at the New York City office of Baker McKenzie, one of the world’s most prominent global law firms, has been worth it for these two tax specialists.

LaCava’s and Eberle’s clients include a who’s who of Fortune 500 companies operating in almost every business sector. On any given day, they provide advice on state and local tax obligations, assist clients with mergers and acquisitions, and guide them through tax audits and litigation, going to court if needed.

“When you make partner, you are constantly thinking in terms of strategy, business development and managing your client relationships,” Eberle said.

Baker McKenzie sits 19 stories above Fifth Avenue in bustling Midtown Manhattan, a few blocks from Grand Central Station. The floor-to-ceiling windows in its many conference rooms look out on St. Patrick’s Cathedral, Rockefeller Center and other historic landmarks. It’s a much different view from their early days as associates—and one they imagined as law students. “We can definitely look around us each day and say, ‘Wow, we did it,’” LaCava said.

The duo has come to view their partnership and friendship as indispensable to their success, despite the fact that they never met in law school. The School of Law’s tax concentration gave LaCava, an undergraduate accounting major, the chance to combine her precision with numbers and ability to navigate complex rule sets. Eberle said she always enjoyed advocacy and was a fan of TV legal dramas. She had visions of herself as a criminal prosecutor or appellate advocate and at Quinnipiac, she excelled in tax moot court competitions.

Tax law professors emeritae Toni Robinson and Mary Ferrari, whom LaCava and Eberle both consider mentors, recalled them as outstanding tax students who were standouts among their peers.

“We’ve followed the professional progress of these two women from Big Four accounting to BigLaw, and their great success has been no surprise to us,” Ferrari said. The seeds of that partnership were planted in 2006, when Ferrari and Robinson put Eberle in touch with LaCava, who had graduated the previous year and had been working at the accounting firm Deloitte.

“They told me I should talk to Lindsay, and she put my resume on the desk of my future boss,” Eberle said. “The rest is history.”

Shortly afterward, LaCava left Deloitte for New Haven-based Wiggin and Dana, but their friendship blossomed while they were enrolled in New York University’s LLM program. They would finally get their chance to work together a few years later as partners at the law firm of McDermott Will & Emery in New York City. They joined Baker McKenzie together in 2015.

While they agree great things are happening for women in law, LaCava’s and Eberle’s rise in what remains a male-dominated profession has been challenging. Both have experienced gender bias at various points in their careers. Both are married with two young children each, and they work hard to strike a balance between their career responsibilities and family lives.

“We’ve been successful as women in large part because of our partnership and friendship,” LaCava said. “As a team, we each know that the other will always be there to help.”

Outside the office, LaCava and Eberle are active in the New York State Bar Association and in influencing changes in state tax laws. They speak at several state tax conferences each year and have published more articles than either of them can remember, including various articles for Tax Notes and Bloomberg BNA as well as a comprehensive treatise on New York tax law for Thomas Reuters’ Checkpoint Catalyst.

LaCava, of Wilton, CT, was named a “Rising Star” in tax law in 2015 by Law360 and has been selected by Super Lawyers as a New York-Metro “Rising Star” for tax each year since 2013. She serves as the secretary/treasurer for the tax section of the Connecticut Bar Association. Eberle, of New York City, has taught state and local tax law as an adjunct professor—most recently at Quinnipiac School of Law. It’s a role she’d like to continue. Both have been named in International Tax Review’s Women in Tax Leaders Guide.

“We know that we can make the biggest possible impact by being the best in our practice at what we do,” Eberle said. “We want this to be the place the next generation of state and local tax attorneys looks to and says, ‘That’s it—that’s my end goal.’”
DIAGRAM

POSTCARDS FROM DUBAI

There are few places that combine the wonders of the old world with the technology, architecture and luxuries of the new quite like Dubai in the United Arab Emirates. The young alumni travel program provided Ashli Johnson ’18 and two others the chance to experience this mix of ancient and modern up close.

“I have to admit, I was looking forward to the food the most,” said Johnson, who discovered a taste for ice cream made with camel milk.

The program’s international trips allow Quinnipiac alumni to experience other cultures while expanding their networks. “Destination Dubai,” one of three trips scheduled this year, ran from April 26–May 3. It included a cruise on a traditional Arabian sailing vessel, visits to the Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque and Burj Khalifa tower—and a night spent under the stars in the Dubai desert.

“I didn’t realize that was part of the trip when I signed up,” said Johnson. Belly dancing and a fire performance were on the agenda. “It was definitely memorable.”

Whether strolling through the marketplace of old Dubai or walking some of the world’s most pristine beaches, Johnson was able to plan and stay in contact with others on the trip through a travel app called BAND.

“That’s a big part of the experience,” said Johnson, a human resources generalist at Pratt & Whitney. “This trip gave me the opportunity to travel with other young professionals as motivated as I am.”

A trip to Croatia is planned for late September and a Mediterranean cruise in October. Visit alumni.qu.edu for details.

Ashli Johnson ’18, shown below, recently visited the Burj Khalifa tower during a visit to Dubai. The trip is one of several offered through the young alumni travel program.

Johnson dressed according to custom for her tour of the Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque in Abu Dhabi, the capital of the UAE. The mosque is the largest in the country and can accommodate 40,000 worshippers.

Among the excursions on the Dubai trip was a cruise on a traditional Arabian sailing vessel like the one shown here.

The psychology major’s desert tour included a camel ride, sleeping under the stars and getting acquainted with a falcon.

Visit alumni.qu.edu for details.
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