The Hamden Hunger Project
Students shine a spotlight on food insecurity
FRONT AND CENTER

First-year engineering students launch bottle rockets on the lawn outside the Center for Communications and Engineering. From left are: Jeremy Conboy, Timothy Reid (hidden), Sadjell Mamon, Richard Kretzmer, Shivani Bhagania, Brendan Dooley, Citlalli Santiago and Katherine Rodriguez.

HAVING A BLAST

Every fall, first-year engineering students devise and launch bottle rockets made from 2-liter soda bottles for their World of Engineering class, which provides an introduction to the engineering disciplines to assist students in declaring a major. Their choices are civil, industrial, mechanical, computer science and software. The rocket-making project is part of the mechanical section. Students work in groups to design rockets that hopefully will land at or close to a predetermined target. Factors such as weight, density, aerodynamics and design come into play. The bottles are half filled with water and the air inside is pressurized. Upon launch, the high pressure forces the water out through the back, generating thrust.
**Front**

**News**

9 **GAME ON!**
What if there were an app that could connect people at a sporting event on their phones. Even better, what if the idea could be monetized with sports teams and advertisers. There is such an app, and three alumni are hard at work on it.

10 **HAIL THE QUEEN**
Jessica Schear ’01 dons the crown of Queen Maria Isabella four times a week at Medieval Times in Lyndhurst, New Jersey, winning the hearts of patrons young and old and especially female fans. After 34 years with a king on the throne, it was time for a change.

11 **ESPORTS**
Esports are gaining momentum at universities across the country, and Quinnipiac has joined the competition as a member of the ECAC, vying for victory in games like Rocket League and Super Smash Bros.

**Sports**

14 **POLISH INFLUENCE**
Field hockey midfielder Bianca Strubbe came to Quinnipiac in 2018 after playing on the Polish senior national field hockey team, blending her European style into the American game and becoming the team’s top scorer.

**Features**

18 **Food Chain**
Seventeen students studying community-based journalism took a multimedia deep dive into the issue of food insecurity in Hamden. Not only did they write about the issue, but they increased visibility about where individuals in need could find meals and food pantries.

40 **The American Way**
Controversy in the U.S. about immigration is nothing new. In fact, founding father Ben Franklin, back in 1731, was loath to welcome German immigrants. The head of New York City’s Tenement Museum visited Ireland’s Great Hunger Museum at Quinnipiac to discuss the topic.

32 **Healing Journeys**
Dr. John Young and his wife, Dianne, a nurse practitioner, visited Quinnipiac to share stories about their 25 years of mission work bringing health care to impoverished countries. They are helping to fund an endowment that will expand global outreach opportunities for students.
24 Half a Century!
In 1969, Quinnipiac launched an occupational therapy program that would evolve through 50 years of technological, social and educational advances to become a nationally ranked powerhouse with more than 3,000 alumni who leave indelible marks on the lives of children, adults, veterans and numerous other populations across the country.

28 Is That a Fact?
Social media consumption of news has increased to levels unmatched in legacy journalism. Suddenly, the world is at your fingertips with a swipe and a tap. But is what you read really the truth? Fortune magazine CEO Alan Murray tackles the topic.

Alumni
45 YOUR NEWS
Check out the wedding and baby photos you submitted and catch up with all the news of your classmates in this section, as well as photos from Alumni Weekend.

48 ‘STRAINED’ RELATIONS
Kalioppe Emmanouil ‘85 operates Stani Dairy, a family business that makes artisan-strained Greek yogurt at its Ansonia, Connecticut, facility. She works alongside her three daughters, who have Quinnipiac educations in common, and her husband and son-in-law, who helped found the business.

54 LAW
Learn what School of Law alumni are up to on the notes page and read about Tanya Bovée, JD ‘01, managing principal at the Hartford office of Jackson Lewis P.C., one of the country’s largest labor and employment law firms.

Diagram
56 HAPPY NEW YEAR!
Quinnipiac’s mascot Boomer has a few wishes for 2020!

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Nearly 1,000 members of #BobcatNation and the Hamden community converged on the quad around Halloween for the annual Boomer’s Boo Bash. Student-athletes and members of 20 QU student clubs played games with the visitors including corn hole, basketball toss, Jenga and badminton. Costumed children enjoyed a bounce house and were invited to choose candy treats from the many booths run by students, local businesses and community organizations including the Hamden Police Department. Adults also were invited to bring electronics for recycling by Green Monster and documents for disposal by ProShred. “Boomer’s Boo Bash is a great way for Quinnipiac and the Hamden community to connect by doing something fun that both college students and families can enjoy,” said Kaleigh Oates ’20, a member of the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee.

Women’s lacrosse team members ran a bowling game for visitors to Boomer’s Boo Bash. Coaching their guests are senior Kayla Moreau ’20 and first-year student Sophia Iaccino, right.
Six faculty and staff members recognized for excellence

THE UNIVERSITY HONORED six faculty and staff members in October at the 17th annual Center for Excellence in Teaching and Service to Students awards ceremony. Award recipients who show extraordinary service to students are nominated by students, alumni and colleagues within the university community, and some of their comments are included here.

The 2019 honorees are: Adrienne Betz, professor of psychology and director of behavioral neuroscience; Joseph DiGioia, custodian; John Greenleaf, associate professor of civil engineering and director of the civil engineering program; Dennis Hanlon, fabrication support specialist in engineering; Susan Norkus, professor and associate chair of athletic training and sports medicine; and Susan Scoopo, secretary for the School of Communications.

ADRIENNE BETZ joined the Quinnipiac family in 2009. “She challenges students to constantly improve their own work ethic,” said Zachary Culver ’17, adding, “She is open and honest with her criticism, but will support students in achieving their goals.” Betz’s colleague, Martine Mirrione, assistant professor of biomedical sciences, attributes the high student attendance at their weekly Neuroscience Research Group to Betz’s dedication in offering new opportunities to motivated students. “Her enthusiasm demonstrates her commitment to lifelong learning and to bringing new and engaging experiments and activities to her teaching,” Mirrione said. In regard to learning, Betz said, “Although I am the teacher, my students are not the only ones who learn, and learning does not end in the classroom or the lab.”

JOHN GREENLEAF has taught at the university for six years. He strives to build a rapport with his students and develop a classroom atmosphere that is inclusive, welcoming and safe. “He makes classes more interesting and always makes his students the priority,” said Jimmy Mazich ’20. “He’s always willing to talk—which is one of the most important qualities students can find in a professor.” Lynn Byers, professor of mechanical engineering, said Greenleaf inspires his students to think deeply about course concepts and about their roles as future professionals. “His classes are consistently characterized by innovative instructional design, ingenious use of demonstrations, high-quality laboratory experiences … with the perfect amount of enthusiasm and humor.”

SUSAN NORKUS joined Quinnipiac 20 years ago. “Dr. Norkus has been the most positive influence on my education and life during the past two years,” said Eden Montgomery ’21. “I cannot express how grateful I am to have a professor who makes me this excited to keep learning and growing.” Norkus said she teaches students to treat every situation individually. “By the end of the semester, they know that ‘always’ or ‘never’ are rarely the case in health care.” She has overseen the development of many initiatives in the athletic training program including the preseason football program that places students in football clinical rotations at institutions across the country.

JOSEPH DIGIOIA has been a member of the facilities team for 20 years. Millie Hepburn, adjunct nursing professor, said, “Through his authentic and inherent social intelligence, Joe showcases the spirit of true selflessness and thereby improves the intentions and emotions of the environment, somehow making us all approach our day desiring to be better people.” In recent years, he has taken on the role of mentoring for the Quinnipiac-Cheshire Transition Collaborative partnership, working closely with students on the autism spectrum, teaching them his trade and life skills. “Joe’s expertise and professionalism go far beyond his custodial care,” said Peggy Gray, associate professor of nursing.

DENNIS HANLON helps engineering students bring design projects to life as a fabrication support specialist. He teaches students to safely operate equipment while offering guidance on optimal project design. Students often refer to him as their hero for sharing his years of manufacturing knowledge. “Dennis always seeks to assist students with a task—whether it’s for academic purposes or pure curiosity,” said Michael Austin ’20. “His relaxed, yet approachable, attitude makes it easy for anyone to ask him for help.” Hanlon has said he enjoys challenging students because he recognizes their potential, even if they don’t. “They panic when they first get their projects, but I know where they’ll end up, even if they don’t believe it,” Hanlon said.

SUSAN SCOOPO is a secretary in the School of Communications. “She’s a go-to problem-solver, motivated to provide students the best possible experience,” said Laura Willis, assistant professor of health and strategic communication. Scoopo, an alumna of Quinnipiac, said she enjoys watching students create and master their craft. “I like to hear about their successes, internships, or just what is happening in their lives,” she said. She met her husband, Donald, at QU, and children Matthew ’20 and Lauren ’23 now attend. Hilary Fussell Sisco, chair and associate professor of strategic communication, said, “While Sue may be the first face you see in the McMahon Center, her infectious attitude, endless energy and never-ending optimism will stay with you for a long time.”
Beverlee Dacey
FORUM EXPLORES LEADERSHIP
Two successful female business owners participated in a panel discussion, “Becoming an Authentic Leader,” in October.

Winston Strategic Partners, CEO and founder of Winston, provided tips on leadership. The event was sponsored by the People’s United Center for Entrepreneurship and the Women’s United降温 & Business and the Women Presidents’ Educational Organization. Beverlee Dacey, president of Amodex, and Diane Winston, CEO and founder of Winston Strategic Partners, provided tips on leadership.

Former trustee makes gift
WRITERS’ ROOM DEDICATED
Chris Roush, left, dean of the School of Communications, celebrated the dedication of The Writers’ Room on Oct. 2. Among the attendees were Ken and Susan Neilson, pictured above, whose philanthropic support helped establish the space. Ken Neilson was a Quinnipiac trustee for 11 years. The inscription on the plaque notes the room is “dedicated to the writers who make us laugh, cry, think and enrich our lives with their words.” The room serves as a tribute to the growth and relevance of the Film, Television and Media Arts Department at Quinnipiac and features a comprehensive digital library of Academy Award-winning films from 1927 to the present as well as notable Emmy Award-winning TV shows and digital copies of selected film and television screenings for research purposes. It also includes glass writing boards and a large modular table that fits 18 students in a writing classroom setting.

Leadership Team
5 NAMED TO TOP POSTS
Quinnipiac welcomed five new senior leaders this academic year. Janelle Chiasera was appointed dean of the School of Health Sciences, replacing William Kohlhepp, who stepped down to replace William Bushnell, who retired after 25 years. Richard was named dean of the School of Communications. Previously, he was the Walter E. Hussman Sr. Distinguished Professor in Business Journalism at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Todd Sloan, assistant vice president for development at American University, became vice president of development and alumni affairs, replacing Donald Weinbach, who retired after 20 years in that role. W. Eric Sykes was appointed vice president for enrollment management. He joined Quinnipiac from Emerson College, where he was associate vice president of enrollment management and dean of admission.

Transfer Agreement
3 COMMUNITY COLLEGES ON BOARD
Graduates of Gateway Community College and Housatonic Community College can seamlessly transfer to Quinnipiac under a new agreement announced in July by Quinnipiac President Judy Olian and Paul Broadie II, president of Gateway and Housatonic, shown in photo. Norwalk Community College signed a transfer agreement in November. Students from those colleges will be guaranteed admission into a bachelor’s degree program with third-year (junior) status at Quinnipiac on the condition that they graduate from their respective community college with an associate degree and a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0. Students interested in dual admissions can take one Quinnipiac course per year free of charge while enrolled at each of those schools.

Khalielah Brown-Dean
BOOK EXPLORES U.S. POLITICS
Khalielah Brown-Dean, associate professor of political science, discussed her new book, “Identity Politics in the United States,” in November with Lucy Nathanchal, executive producer and host of WNPR’s “Where We Live” radio program. In the book, Brown-Dean examines the polarized nature of U.S. politics and contemporary challenges such as immigration, gerrymandering, the rise of the religious right and the MeToo movement, all within longstanding political frameworks. “There’s no question that America is incredibly divided,” Brown-Dean said. “I wrote the book to help people understand how we got here and, more important, how we move forward.” She was inspired to write the book after the 2016 presidential election. The conversation was recorded for broadcast on WNPR.

Susan Bysiewicz
SPEAKER SERIES
The People’s United Center for Innovation & Entrepreneurship kicks off its spring speaker series on Feb. 4, 2020, in the North Haven Auditorium with Susan Bysiewicz, Connecticut’s lieutenant governor. The free, 12-part series features corporate innovators, entrepreneurs, QU alumni and experts who focus on financing entrepreneurial startups. Most of the programs take place on Wednesdays from 3–5 p.m. in the School of Business, SB-109, Mount Carmel Campus. Visit go.qu.edu/speakerseries

Kenya. She will travel to Nanyuki, Kenya, where the Institute for Global Public Health at Quinnipiac has a program of education, research and clinical experience in cooperation with the Department of Medical Services and Public Health of Laikipia County, Kenya. She first traveled to Nanyuki in the summer of 2017 to work on her capstone research project—establishing and running a youth empowerment camp in partnership with Mukogodo Girls Empowerment—and she plans to continue this work.

Kristen Zozulin
KENYA FELLOWSHIP
The American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene awarded Kristen Zozulin, a fourth-year student at the Frank H. Netter MD School of Medicine, a Benjamin H. Kean Travel Fellowship for a global public health elective in


Kenya.

NEWS STREAM
FAMILIAL FACES

1. Zion Sandy ’23 and his parents, Mark and Tamika, joined thousands of other parents, grandparents and siblings at the annual Parents & Family Weekend in October. Families enjoyed athletic events, crafts, an Artisan Fair with a sustainability theme, bingo, salsa lessons, faculty presentations and a Family Fest on the quad.

2. Alissa Walkowiak ’23 gets acquainted with Boomer during bingo in the Mount Carmel Auditorium.

3. Families try their hand at making sushi, with Chartwells staff providing the instruction.

4. Lianna Feher ’23 hangs out with her parents, Bill and Teresa.

5. Stephen Gomez ’21 competes in a ladder toss game with his parents, Mia and Jerry, on the quad.

6. The band Sugar entertained at Family Fest, which also featured food trucks, carnival games and a station to build teddy bears.

7. Jasmin Jawaid ’21 had fun decorating pumpkins with her parents, Miladys and Mohammad.
LEAH LAVIN ’19, MS ’20, displays what peace means to her at the 17th World Summit of Nobel Peace Laureates in Mérida, Mexico.

A group of 30 Quinnipiac students and alumni represented the Albert Schweitzer Institute at the 17th World Summit of Nobel Peace Laureates in Mérida, Mexico, in September.

Ten Nobel Peace laureates attended, and students had the opportunity to meet some of them. The laureates included Frederik Willem de Klerk, state president of South Africa from 1989–94; Juan Manuel Santos, president of Colombia from 2010–18; Lech Walesa, president of Poland from 1990–95; human rights and peace activists Leymah Gbowee of Liberia, Tawakkol Karman of Yemen and Shirin Ebadi of Iran. They also had a question-and-answer session with Bernice King, an American minister and daughter of slain civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr.

Layomi Akinnifesi ’19, MBA ’20, attended and documented the summit with photos. She noted that being with others interested in sustainability, climate change and world peace was inspiring.

This was the third summit she attended; the first two were in Rome and Bogotá. “I feel like I am seeing history in the present by meeting laureates who take action by standing up for what they believe in and galvanizing grass roots movements in their respective countries,” she said.

Akinnifesi grew up in Malawi, a developing country in Southeast Africa. “When I was younger, I existed in a bubble of privilege because my family was more well off than others and didn’t have to deal with AIDS, child marriage and poverty. Looking back, I think of what I could have done differently or what I can do now to make a positive impact in the communities around me,” she said.
CROWDPLAY APP LETS FANS ENGAGE

Keep your eye on the ball ... and your phone

BY BRIAN KOONZ

ON A CHILLY SUNDAY AFTERNOON in Foxboro, Massachusetts, Andrew Pizzi '19 discovered his eureka moment as a Quinnipiac sophomore. He was at Gillette Stadium with thousands of fans watching the New England Patriots play when he noticed how many people were staring at their phones.

"During the action. During timeouts. During any opportunity, really, to check emails, texts and social media. "The Patriots are a great team, obviously, with multiple Super Bowls, but I noticed everyone kept looking at their phones," said Pizzi, who studied entrepreneurship and small business management. "This one person was on her phone the entire time. The husband was getting mad, but I realized that I kept looking at my phone, too."

What if there was a way to connect people to the game with their phones, he mused. Even better, what if there was a way to monetize the idea with sports teams and advertisers. He realized he had the entrepreneurial seed of an award-winning business plan.

After three years of developing the concept, building a brand and signing clients, the CrowdPlay app for iOS devices has become a reality for Pizzi, the startup's CEO, along with Dan Picone '19 and Mike Cusano '14.

The free app engages fans at games by having them compete against each other for cash prizes. The app generates questions about the teams during the game. To play, fans follow the game instead of their social media timeline.

"What we discovered—as fans ourselves who go to live sporting events—is that we've been distracted by our phones, too," Pizzi said. "If people constantly look at their phones for reasons unrelated to the game, it diminishes the fan experience, and you have a less-energized crowd."

The CrowdPlay app enables teams and advertisers to build deeper relationships with fans at a time when revenue streams are not as lucrative as they have been. "Fan engagement is a problem that's happening across the board, from all the major sports leagues to the minor leagues and college athletics," Pizzi said. "Attendance affects all of it—ticket sales, concession sales, millions of dollars in lost revenue. If fans don't come to the games, that's all lost revenue."

The CrowdPlay app helps to stop the revenue bleed by enhancing the fan experience and making it fun for those at the venue. "By sending out questions strategically during stoppages in play," Pizzi said, "it encourages fans to follow the game more closely so they can answer the questions correctly."

"Sponsors choose the question categories where they want to appear to better connect with fans. We've proven this avenue to be more effective than the more traditional signs on scoreboards and other locations at the stadium."

So far, People's United Bank has emerged as one of the main sponsors in the CrowdPlay app. The app's sports clients include the Hartford Yard Goats minor league baseball team and college athletic departments at Quinnipiac, Yale, Sacred Heart in Fairfield, Connecticut, and the College of the Holy Cross in Worcester, Massachusetts.

After each game, CrowdPlay users are asked how many sponsors they recall seeing on signs around the stadium and whether they can name those sponsors. Users also are asked how many sponsors they recall seeing in the app and to identify them. Out of nearly 1,000 survey respondents, 71% recall every sponsor in the app, Pizzi said.

"Andrew did exactly what our program is designed for," said Dale Jasinski, associate professor of entrepreneurship and strategy. "It's not a very good major for passive learners. But if you're a jockey and you find a horse you want to ride, it can be an awesome experience."

Last year, Pizzi and the others piloted the CrowdPlay app at Quinnipiac men's hockey games at the People's United Center. They also won a student pitch contest at the People's United Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship. The judges included Sara Longobardi, senior executive vice president, retail banking, at People's United Bank, which funded the contest's $5,000 in prize money that included the $3,000 grand prize.

"The CrowdPlay app truly stood out as a great solution to a contemporary problem," Longobardi said. "It's such a logical, tech-savvy way to deal with our obsession with our phones and engage attendees at a game. I was so impressed with CrowdPlay's approach."

The CrowdPlay team followed that win with an impressive showing in the annual MassChallenge Boston program for aspiring entrepreneurs. The app was among 105 startups chosen out of 1,800 to receive funding, office space, mentorship and other assistance.

"That was really big for us," Pizzi said. "It was validation that we were on the right track and doing well."

Q/News

A Quinnipiac University men's ice hockey fan uses the CrowdPlay app last season during a men's ice hockey game at the People's United Center.
was time for a change. After 34 years with a king on the throne, it announced the arrival of its new monarch. jousting knights made headlines when it later famous for extravagant costumes and of patrons young and old. The dinner the - dependent ruler who has won the hearts channels an even-handed, tough and in- Maria Isabella, the show’s leading lady, she Every time Schear dons the crown of Queen Medieval Times in Lyndhurst, New Jersey. 1,000 people when she joined the cast of venues for an arena that can seat over way shows while working as a makeup artist, which I still do. I’ve worked in reality casting for shows like “Top Chef” and “CHOPPED,” but acting is my passion. When a friend told me they were looking for a Medieval Times princess, I thought it would be fun, so I auditioned. How did you become cast as queen? I started working there about 6½ years ago, in the role of Princess Catalina. She didn’t say much and was more or less a prop. That show ran about four years before the company decided to change the dynamic from king to queen. The decision was made literally overnight. The princesses weren’t guaranteed the part; we had to audition. The queen has been popular? Given the current social climate, the rise of #MeToo and other movements, we knew the show would have a big impact and get a lot of press. Vogue ran stories about the queens for international women’s day in 2018, and we were featured on “The Tonight Show” this past fall. Jim- my Fallon and his musical guest. Post Malone, came to Lyndhurst and did a skit pretending to be knights jousting. Is it important to see a woman in charge? Seeing a woman come out on horseback and deliver these lines is empowering for young girls. Many come up to me after the show, hug me and tell me that they are really glad I’m in charge now. I have a 2-year-old daughter, and I look forward to taking her to the show when she’s old enough. Boys really like the queen, too. She presents them with a woman in a position of leadership and shows them how women should be treated. What is the show’s storyline? Queen Maria Isabella is holding a tournament, the first since the passing of her father, the king. She’s still finding her way as a queen. She’s alone, so naturally her chancellor keeps advising her to get married, which she rejects. The games commence, and eventually an irate knight speaks out of turn and tells her chancellor that she doesn’t belong on the throne. Then, the drama really unfolds. What’s the queen like? She is friendly and polite, loves the people in her kingdom, but hates being talked down to. She’s wise and can read people. There is definitely an edge to her that comes out at times, but she remembers that as a queen, she has to be composed. How did you prepare for the role? First, I had to learn how to ride a horse. Then I watched every movie about queens and female sovereigns I could find. I like observing how other actresses present themselves as monarchs, especially Cate Blanchett in the movie “Elizabeth.” How many perform- ances do you do? In our busy season, we may do 9–10 shows per week, of which I’m in 4–5. Some- times we do 3 in a day. What’s your favorite aspect of this role? Each actress plays Queen Isabella a bit differently, though I’d say I play her the edgiest. On a certain night I might feel a bit sassy, and as an actress, I’ll channel that. I have a very “Game-of-Thrones”-like exchange with the knight who questions my legiti- macy. I deliver one of my favorite lines—“Well within my royal command is it to have you slain where you stand”—and then choose a champion to fight him. Your biggest challenge? I have to mount and dis- mount a horse in front of a large crowd while looking graceful in a long dress. Guests are encouraged to cheer for their knights, and it’s challenging to deliver your lines in a medieval dialect while they are shouting. Anything can happen, especially when you’re dealing with live animals, but it’s a blast. What do you remember from Quinnipiac that prepared you? Lee Stroko, a former the- actor professor who cast me in “The House of Bernarda Alba,” would say: “How you rehearse is how you perform.” I hear his voice in my head to this day.

Q AND A

Jessica Schear ’01
All Hail the Queen of Medieval Times

INTERVIEW BY ADAM DURSO

Actress Jessica Schear traded Off-Broadway venues for an arena that can seat over 1,000 people when she joined the cast of Medieval Times in Lyndhurst, New Jersey. Every time Schear dons the crown of Queen Maria Isabella, the show’s leading lady, she channels an even-handed, tough and in- dependent ruler who has won the hearts of patrons young and old. The dinner theatre famous for extravagant costumes and jousting knights made headlines when it announced the arrival of its new monarch. After 34 years with a king on the throne, it was time for a change.

Can you describe your career? I booked two national theater tours after I graduated with a communications major and a theater minor. Later, I took workshops at the Stella Ather Conservatory and HB Studios. I did several Off-Broadway shows while working as a makeup artist, which I still do. I’ve worked in reality casting for shows like “Top Chef” and “CHOPPED,” but acting is my passion. When a friend told me they were looking for a Medieval Times princess, I thought it would be fun, so I auditioned.

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How many performances do you do? In our busy season, we may do 9–10 shows per week, of which I’m in 4–5. Sometimes we do 3 in a day.

What’s your favorite aspect of this role? Each actress plays Queen Isabella a bit differently, though I’d say I play her the edgiest. On a certain night I might feel a bit sassy, and as an actress, I’ll channel that. I have a very “Game-of-Thrones”-like exchange with the knight who questions my legitimacy. I deliver one of my favorite lines—“Well within my royal command is it to have you slain where you stand”—and then choose a champion to fight him.

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What do you remember from Quinnipiac that prepared you? Lee Stroko, a former theater professor who cast me in “The House of Bernarda Alba,” would say: “How you rehearse is how you perform.” I hear his voice in my head to this day.
Quinnipiac group competes against other universities

BY STEVE NEUMANN

ESPORTS IS GAINING MOMENTUM at universities across the country, and Quinnipiac has joined the competition. In the world of collegiate esports, students take part in multiplayer video game competitions, individually or as teams. These matches are watched by fans all over the world who either attend live events in arenas or tune in on TV or online. Streaming services like Twitch allow viewers to watch their favorite gamers play in real time, just like watching the Super Bowl.

When the ECAC (Eastern College Athletic Conference) contacted professor David Tomczyk two years ago about joining a new esports league it had created, he was hesitant. Although he’s a professor of entrepreneurship and small business management at Quinnipiac, teaches in its game design program, and is the adviser for the game club, he had no experience managing esports teams.

“Fortunately, I have a couple of students who have been helping me coordinate the different esports teams,” Tomczyk says, mentioning senior Eddie Maher, who serves as the group’s student coordinator. Maher, who double majors in game design and computer science, plans to get into game design after graduation.

“I feel like esports is the culmination of years of entertainment reaching the pinnacle of competition, where before the games were just recreation,” Maher says. “It used to be something to do in your off time, but now it’s a way of life, a community that brings people together.”

Quinnipiac is also competing in the MAAC this season and its Esports Championship in March in Atlantic City, New Jersey. Next fall, the Bobcats will compete exclusively in the MAAC under the Electronic Gaming Federation in New York City, according to Kiernan Ensor, the MAAC’s director of esports.

The games cover a wide variety of experiences. League of Legends and Overwatch are position-driven and skill-driven games, and Super Smash Bros. Ultimate combines rapid decision-making and fast reflexes in digital battles. In Overwatch, each player on the five-member team selects from a roster of over 30 characters, each with a unique style of play that is divided into three general roles. Players on a team work together to secure and defend critical points on a map or escort a payload across the map in a limited amount of time.

In Super Smash Bros. Ultimate, teams of five send their members to do one-on-one battles against their opponents, much as a wrestling team would do. “Esports draws on a lot of the same skills and mentalities as traditional sports,” Tomczyk says, “and the game space has always been open to people of all abilities, genders, races and backgrounds.”

It’s the same for job opportunities in esports. Professional esports is a widely popular phenomenon worldwide, and predictions are that it will soon become a billion dollar industry.

There are careers in sales, marketing, public relations, accounting and law as well as jobs for players, coaches and team managers. On the creative end, there are careers in software development, game and animation design, and other paths for game publishers and the leagues themselves.

Justin Ellis, who has been the captain of Quinnipiac’s Super Smash Bros. team, is a junior English major with a minor in sports studies and journalism. He sees esports as a great way of forming bonds with others.

“It’s essentially like any other sports team,” Ellis says, “but many people have considered it an antisocial activity in the past. Video games aren’t just a solo player chilling by themself—it’s really a bonding thing, and an ever-growing community.”

One of the biggest highlights for Matt Scoopo, a senior film, television and media arts major with a media studies minor, was getting to the playoffs in the ECAC Esports’ “Overwatch” league tournament in Albany this past spring. With 18 college teams competing, it was the largest esports tournament ever held in upstate New York.

“We got to play on stage against Canisius College,” Scoopo says. “We had a live audience, and the game was streamed to Twitch with people doing commentary and camera work. We didn’t win, but it was still a tick off the bucket list and a super fun experience.”

Cate Martin, president of the game club and an Overwatch player herself, thinks the early successes and camaraderie of Quinnipiac’s esports teams will encourage others to learn more about the phenomenon. Ultimately, the group hopes to become a club sport.

“I really hope that esports gets gamers out of their dorm rooms,” Martin says. “Gamers are seen as a kind of solitary species, but we don’t have to be because when we get together, we have a lot of fun.”
Professor Jason Scozzafava and his students are studying human longevity in Nicoya, Costa Rica.

BLUE ZONES AND LIVING TO 100

Jason Scozzafava has taken students to Central America and the Caribbean to discover the marvels of the human body.

Earlier this year, the clinical assistant professor of health science studies traveled with 13 students to Nicoya, Costa Rica, to study human longevity. Nicoya is one of five “Blue Zones” around the world where people live to be 100 years old at 10 times the rate of people in the United States, according to National Geographic. The others are Ikaria, Greece; Sardinia, Italy; Okinawa, Japan; and Loma Linda, California.

Scozzafava and his students focused their Blue Zone work on the Ticos, the native community of Costa Rica. The students researched the local diet of the Ticos, along with their family trees, social interactions, happiness levels and fitness habits.

In December, Scozzafava returned to Nicoya with his students to measure the fitness levels of the Ticos. This time, students added two new metrics to their research: grip strength and gait speed. In other words, the harder people squeezed a measuring device and the quicker they walked, the healthier they tested.

Students first learn about ethical field research methods in Scozzafava’s International Health Research class. Then they apply that training to independent study projects and capstones, such as their work in Costa Rica’s Blue Zone.

“It’s student-driven research. It’s not my research agenda, it’s theirs,” Scozzafava said. “I’ve found there’s a pretty good buy-in with that. The students learn more because they own the work.”

— Brian Koonz
Zainab Awelenje, JD '18, remembers how her cousin, Shawn, was affected by his parents’ divorce. “Often times, he was caught in the middle,” she said.

But one day, a young lawyer worked across the aisle with the opposing attorneys. He ultimately helped to negotiate a court-ordered plan to best serve Shawn’s needs into adulthood.

“It was at that moment,” Awelenje said recently, “that I learned that lawyers have the power to create a positive situation. The change in my cousin was immediate, and I wanted to create that difference for someone else. Since that day, law was the only thing I was interested in.”

Her education at Quinnipiac School of Law, its Center on Dispute Resolution and other professional experiences broadened her legal skill set and gave her the tools to seamlessly shift from the adversarial strategies of litigation to the less confrontational measures of alternative dispute resolution (ADR).

“I was interested in ADR because issues were resolved very efficiently, which helps low-income litigants who cannot afford a lengthy trial,” said Awelenje, a native of Baltimore. “I took advantage of the workshops at Quinnipiac on mediation in the global community and mediation with land/use environmental issues.”

Awelenje continues to apply the alternative dispute resolution lessons she learned at the School of Law and through a 40-hour mediation certificate program at Quinnipiac’s nationally ranked Center on Dispute Resolution.

After working as a judicial intern for Judge John Sparks Jr. at the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces, Awelenje served a judicial clerkship for Superior Court Judge John J. Burke III, JSC, for a year in Burlington County, New Jersey. Awelenje described Burke, a 2001 Quinnipiac School of Law alumnus, as “a great mentor. As his law clerk, I gained the practical experience required to become a competent attorney.”

Since graduating from Quinnipiac, Awelenje has mediated a number of family law and land-use issues. When she conducted the first mediation in her legal career, Awelenje seized the opportunity to make a difference, much like that lawyer who brokered the deal with Shawn’s parents. Ultimately, she helped the two parties find common ground.

Awelenje credits her School of Law education for preparing her for that moment. “I realized the value of tools I’d learned in classes like Professor [William] Logue’s negotiation class and Professor [Carolyn] Kaas’ mediation workshops and seminars,” Awelenje said. “I put those tools to great use, and we had a successful mediation.”

Today, she is an associate at Malamut & Associates in New Jersey. Awelenje encourages School of Law students to explore workshops, externships and other active learning to build their resumes and enrich their educations.

“Students will learn a lot at the workshops held at the School of Law, externship opportunities or organizations such as the Connecticut Mediation Association,” she said. “Those resources will be helpful in providing practical experience that will be useful, even after graduation.”
STICKING WITH IT PAYS OFF
By Brian Koonz

Graduate student Bianca Strubbe saw the text last March and felt her heart start to race, maybe even sink a little.

Strubbe, a standout midfielder on the field hockey team and a native of Poland, read the text again—just to be sure she didn’t miss something. The text was as succinct as it was cryptic.

“Come to my office. We have to talk,” head coach Becca Main requested.

After a winter of uncertainty combined with the mysterious text, Strubbe now sat across from Main at the Rec Center and learned the NCAA had approved her petition for a sixth year of play.

Strubbe came to Quinnipiac to play field hockey in 2018 after competing on the Polish junior national team from 2009-15 and the Polish senior national team from 2015 to the present. But she wanted more.

For six months, Strubbe and Main wrote statements, researched records and crafted a timeline to document a whole year of her intensive training for the Polish National team with the goal of earning Strubbe a sixth season of NCAA eligibility. It was a tall order by any estimate, even for the 6-foot Strubbe.

The NCAA gives Division I student-athletes five years to finish four years of athletic eligibility. A fifth year is automatically built into athletic scholarships in case of a serious injury or because of limited playing time. A sixth year of eligibility is much less common. Petitioners must prove the student-athlete missed two seasons of competition.

“The NCAA doesn’t want to penalize [foreign] athletes for playing on national teams,” Main said. “Bianca spent two years in deep training. One year, she was in very deep training, so we took that year and documented it [for her petition]. She wrote the most amazing state-
ment. I’m absolutely convinced that after the NCAA read it, they went, “Oh my gosh.”

“Of my gosh, indeed.

“I was so excited, I can’t tell you,” Strubbe recalled in September after playing a match against the University of Connecticut. “I thought I was only going to get to play one season here. Instead, I get to play two."

After a year of blending her European style with the American game in 2018, Strubbe dominated opponents this fall as a second-year graduate student. She is poised to graduate in May with a master of science in sports journalism.

Strubbe led the Bobcats (5-13) this season with 21 points on nine goals and three assists. Her nine goals tied her for fourth place in the Big East Conference, an elite field hockey league with four teams ranked among the top 25 in the country at the end of the regular season—No. 3 UConn, No. 18 Liberty, No. 19 Old Dominion and No. 25 Providence.

“My coaches and teammates tell me I play very aggressive. They say I’m dangerous on the goal. I don’t want to hit anyone, obviously. I just want to score a goal,” Strubbe said with a grin.

“I feel like the national team experience that I brought here has helped my teammates. They are learning from it, too—asking me questions, trying new things. I’m very happy to help them, but I’m also learning from them. We’re learning together."

At 23 years old, Strubbe was easily the most experienced player on the Bobcats this season. She has appeared in over two dozen international games and competed on six national championship teams in Poland.

“I have played in a lot of important games in my life—the Olympic qualifications, the European championships at the highest level—but I wouldn’t say I’m a leader,” Strubbe said.

“I’d say I’m a grandma with experience. Actually, that’s what everyone calls me. Even though I’m considered young for European field hockey, in the U.S., I’m pretty old."

As far as Main is concerned, Strubbe was absolutely the leader of the Bobcats in 2019—on the field, in the locker room, in the classroom, on the road, everywhere.

Even so, Main stops short of calling Strubbe grandma. “She might be great-grandma,” Main laughs without apology, but rather, admiration and respect. “I love to talk the game with her. I like to listen to her. I like to ask her questions. She’s had an impact here pretty much like no other. She’s much older than everyone else on the team, but she doesn’t shrink the duty of being the wise one, the guru, the sensei.”

Last summer, Strubbe and her Polish teammates played in the FIH Series Finals in Hiroshima, Japan—with an eye toward the 2020 Olympics—but failed to advance after finishing fifth out of a pool of eight teams.

But for a while in Poland, well before she ever pulled a Quinnipiac jersey over her head, Strubbe had grown frustrated with field hockey.

After picking up the sport at 7 years old in her hometown of Wroclaw, a city of nearly 650,000 in southwestern Poland, Strubbe left her parents and brother at 15 to study and train with the national team.

Over the next four years, Strubbe developed into a world-class field hockey player. However, the success came with a cost. Suddenly, field hockey wasn’t fun anymore. It was relentless. Strubbe needed some time away from the grind, so she headed to America for a new adventure.

Looking back, Strubbe’s time at Quinnipiac has been memorable and often magical. In October, she scored twice in the Bobcats’ 5-2 win over Brown for Main’s 200th career victory. In November, she was named to the All-Big East Second Team by the league’s coaches.

There were no cryptic texts this time, only a clear message.

Given the opportunity, Bianca Strubbe will make a difference.
You've got to treat every single game feel like a big event. There's got to be ownership in what is happening here.

Senior guard Taylor Herd was named to the All-MAAC preseason second team and junior guard Shaq Edwards, pictured, was named to the All-MAAC preseason third team.

Men’s Ice Hockey

FROM BRIDGEPORT TO BELFAST IN 2020

Head coach Rand Pecknold and the Bobcats will appear in two regular-season tournaments in 2020. The Bobcats will battle UConn on Jan. 25 in the first round of the inaugural Connecticut Ice Festival at Webster Bank Arena in Bridgeport, Connecticut. On Jan. 26, the Bobcats will play either Yale or Sacred Heart. Next season, Quinnipiac will join Army West Point, Mercyhurst and Sacred Heart at the Friendship Four in Belfast, Northern Ireland. “It’s an outstanding way to showcase women’s hockey and the strength of the game on an international stage,” head coach Cassandra Turner said. Senior defender Kati Tabin, above, also took part in Hockey Canada’s BFL National Women’s Team Fall Festival in September for a second straight year.

Women’s Ice Hockey

QU, MERRIMACK MEET IN IRELAND

The Bobcats will face Merrimack College in the second Friendship Series on Jan. 4–5 in Belfast, Northern Ireland. “It’s an outstanding way to showcase women’s hockey and the strength of the game on an international stage,” head coach Cassandra Turner said. Senior defender Kati Tabin, above, also took part in Hockey Canada’s BFL National Women’s Team Fall Festival in September for a second straight year.

Bobcat Club

WINTER SPORTS KICKOFF EVENTS

The Bobcat Club held its annual Faceoff and Tipoff events this fall to kick off the 2019–20 season for men’s and women’s ice hockey and basketball. ESPN reporter/host Jeremy Schaap gave the keynote address for the hockey function. College basketball analyst Seth Greenberg, another ESPN fixture, was the keynote speaker for the basketball event. Greenberg, flanked by men’s and women’s basketball head coaches Baker Dunleavy and Tricia Fabbri, above, urged those fans in attendance to make every game feel like a big event. “You’ve got to treat every single game with energy, passion and enthusiasm because you want to do what you’ve got to do, you’ve got to create a championship environment. There’s got to be ownership in what is happening here.”

Women’s Soccer

FINISHING STRONG

After trailing 2–0 in the MAAC quarterfinals with 25 minutes remaining in the second half, No. 5 seed Quinnipiac rallied to stun No. 4 seed Marist, 3–2, on the road. With the win, the Bobcats won their 10th game of the season and advanced to play No. 2 seed Fairfield in the semifinals. Goalkeeper Meaghan Phillips, above, was selected as the MAAC’s Co-Rookie of the Year. She was joined on the MAAC’s All-Rookie Team by right back Kayla Mingachos and center midfielder Olivia Scott.

Women’s Basketball

BOBCATS SECOND IN MAAC POLL

Fresh off a third consecutive NCAA tournament appearance, head coach Tricia Fabbri and the Bobcats will look to make it four straight in March. Although Quinnipiac was picked second behind Marist in the MAAC’s preseason poll, the Bobcats earned two first-place votes.

Senior guard Taylor Herd was named to the All-MAAC preseason second team and junior guard Shaq Edwards, pictured, was named to the All-MAAC preseason third team.

Men’s Soccer

RIDING MOMENTUM

The Bobcats won five of their last six regular-season games to earn a spot in this fall’s MAAC tournament. Senior Eamon Whelan, above, headed into the conference tournament with 35 career goals, which tied for fifth nationally among active Division I players. It also ranks third in the program’s history. Whelan scored the only goal in Quinnipiac’s 1–0 win over Fairfield on Senior Day.

Volleyball

TURNING A CORNER

Under first-year head coach Kyle Robinson, the Bobcats reached the MAAC championship match this season. Quinnipiac fell to No. 1 seed Fairfield, 3–1, after beating No. 2 seed Canisius, 3–2, in the semifinals and No. 3 seed Rider, 3–1, in the quarterfinals. The Bobcats finished the year at 14–16. Senior Alejandra Rodriguez and sophomore Olga Zampati were named to the MAAC All-Tournament Team.

Women’s Cross Country

ALL-MAAC HONORS FOR TWO RUNNERS

Two Bobcats received all–league honors following the MAAC Cross Country Championships in November in Holmdel, New Jersey. Sophomore Emily Young and senior Morgan Voight were named to the All-MAAC team for their top-15 finishes in the women’s 6K race. Young finished first for Quinnipiac and 11th overall with a time of 22 minutes, 28.24 seconds. Voight took 14th place overall with a time of 22:32.70.

Men’s Basketball

CHASING A MAAC CHAMPIONSHIP

After posting the first winning record in five years, head coach Baker Dunleavy hopes to build off last year’s success in 2019–20. The Bobcats were picked to finish third in the MAAC’s preseason poll behind Iona and Rider. Junior guard Rich Kelly, above, was selected to the All-MAAC preseason first team in a vote of the league’s coaches. The same group voted junior forward Jacob Rigoni to the All-MAAC preseason third team. In preparation for this season, the Bobcats played three exhibition games in Canada over the summer.

Women’s Cross Country

KICKOFF EVENTS

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FOUR SCORE

Coaches mark milestone anniversaries this year

By Brian Koonz

After years of serving as leaders, mentors and visionaries, four head coaches are celebrating milestones this season.

Last year, Rand Pecknold marked his 25th anniversary as head coach of the men’s ice hockey program. This season, it’s Eric Da Costa logging 15 years, Tricia Fabbri and Becca Main with 25, and Dave Clarke with 20.

For Da Costa ‘01, MBA ‘03, the 15-year head coach of the men’s soccer program, success is built across the eras. As a former Quinnipiac soccer player, Da Costa understands the collective process of building something special.

Since joining the MAAC in 2013–14, Da Costa’s teams have gone 44–15–11 in regular-season conference games, with three appearances in the league title game. “I can only do things one way. I do what I believe in,” Da Costa said.

“When I first came as a first-year in 1997, it was a transition year from Division II to Division I.”

A few years later, Da Costa was among the youngest head coaches in the country at 24 years old.

Da Costa credits his values and love of soccer to his father, Laurenio, who died this summer after battling melanoma. His funeral was Aug. 28. Quinnipiac’s first game was the next day. “My father was a blue-collar, hard-working man,” Da Costa said. “He valued and prioritized family.”

For Fabbri, three consecutive trips to the NCAA women’s basketball tournament, a Sweet 16 appearance in 2017 and eight straight 20-win seasons didn’t happen with a snap of her fingers. The building process for a 25-year career began in 1995–96 with an ambitious recipe for success.

In 2007, with momentum in the Northeast Conference and the opening of the $52 million TD Bank Sports Center, now the People’s United Center, Fabbri found her secret sauce.

“With that, we exploded,” said Fabbri, the all-time winningest coach in program history with more than 400 career victories. “We went from a regional program to a national program with this amazing, four-sport facility. It’s a real crown jewel.”

Since Quinnipiac joined the MAAC, the Bobcats have gone 97–13 in the conference, including four unbeaten seasons. The program also cracked the national polls for the first time at No. 23 at the end of the 2016–17 season.

“Toward that, we exploded,” Fabbri said. “You can’t skip steps.”

For Main, MS ’18, who also marked her 25th season this year, the days of taping ankles and coaching at the same time are gone, but never forgotten.

“The first person who walked me around campus was [senior associate athletic director] Billy Mecca,” Main said. “We went out on the field—and that’s all it was back then, a grass field—and he asked me, ‘Where do you want to put field hockey?’ Never in my wildest dreams did I think we’d be playing in this beautiful facility we have now.”

But long before the Quinnipiac Field Hockey Stadium opened in 2017 as one of the top field hockey venues in America, five different programs shared the same grass field off Hogan Road.

As head coach, Main has led Quinnipiac to three NCAA tournament appearances, most recently in 2013, when the Bobcats captured the MAAC tournament championship. It was the school’s first MAAC championship in any sport.

Today, as a member of the Big East Conference, Main’s program competes at the highest level of Division I field hockey against some of the best programs in the country.

For Clarke, MS ’10, the winningest coach in women’s soccer history with 161 victories, success is a shared mission on the field and in the classroom. It began with his arrival in 1999, the same year the program reached the Northeast Conference championship game. The next season, Clarke’s team won the NEC title to earn a bid to the NCAA tournament.

Clarke also has left his mark in the MAAC. This season, the Bobcats reached the semifinals of the conference tournament. In 2016, the team finished with a 12–7–1 record and played in the MAAC title game.

Clarke always knew the MAAC represented a step up in competition and a chance for his players to get better.

“I’ve got this insatiable desire to learn and to challenge myself, to get out of my comfort zone,” Clarke said. “We’ve worked very hard to establish a culture and a philosophy to develop success in all areas as students and players.”
Students shine a spotlight on food insecurity

Just down the street from the Mount Carmel Campus, a handmade sign outside Grace and St. Peter’s Episcopal Church on Dixwell Avenue declares Friday night as “Dinner for a Dollar Night.” For an hour each week, the basement of this Hamden church becomes a pop-up restaurant with a hot buffet, a table stacked with bread and enough folding chairs for 60 people.

In contrast, the university’s dining team serves nearly 9,000 students, faculty and staff on a typical day across three campuses. Choices are abundant.

Hamden resident Christy Czekaj is a regular at “Dinner for a Dollar.” Her visits began after she and her husband retired and took in their two grandchildren. Although the couple’s fixed income fell short, they made it work somehow. A resourceful Czekaj turned to “Dinner for a Dollar” at the church with the bright red doors. “These people welcomed us with open arms,” Czekaj said. “There were weeks when we came, and we didn’t have a dollar.”

For 17 students studying community-based journalism last spring with professors Amy Walker and Courtney Marchese, testimonials like the one from Czekaj became a social awak-
The students discovered that hunger doesn’t end with a thoughtful meal or a bag of groceries. There remains a hunger for dignity, an innate hunger for respect that transcends race, gender, age or other classifications.

Food insecurity—the lack of reliable access to food—isn’t just a problem in America’s cities and impoverished pockets of Appalachia, the students learned. It’s a problem everywhere, including Hamden.

“Some of the people are homeless. Some of them have mental disorders, I really wanted to tell their stories, but I felt like I didn’t belong at first, that I almost didn’t have the right to tell their stories,” said Samantha Bashaw ’19, who will graduate with a master’s degree in journalism this spring. “The Hamden Hunger Project made us feel uncomfortable—and that’s not necessarily a bad thing.”

Hunger doesn’t end with a thoughtful meal or a bag of groceries, Bashaw and the other students discovered. There remains a hunger for dignity, an innate hunger for respect that transcends race, age, gender or other classifications.

In a 2019 study commissioned by the United Way of Greater New Haven, researchers learned nearly 1-in-8 adults and 1-in-6 children in Hamden experience food insecurity. Other numbers were just as alarming. Almost 42 percent of Hamden’s schoolchildren were eligible for free or reduced lunch during the 2016–17 academic year.

And yet, that’s only half of this hunger story. Hamden is a town bisected by a line roughly south of Hamden Plaza. Below it, household income, unemployment and access to food affect people in measurable and often unforgiving ways. Above it, household income often tops $100,000 and families are usually smaller, with greater economic agility.

The United Way’s study—*Facts and Faces: Food Hardship in Hamden*—is illuminating in its conclusions. Limited resources mean limited options. Food competes with medicine, rent, heat, child care, transportation, clothing and other expenses.

“According to the Brookings Institution, income inequality in the Greater New Haven Region is among the highest in the country,” the study states. “From 2006–12, the gap between the region’s rich and poor expanded at a rate three times faster than the national average and much faster than statewide growth in income disparity.”

**HITTING THE STREETS**

For a long time, these statistics lived on anonymous spreadsheets. But a collaboration between the School of Communications and the New Haven Independent website shed light on them. Suddenly, the Hamden Hunger Project and hamdenhungerproject.com were born.

The initiative was funded by a $35,000 grant from the Online News Association with support from the Excellence and Ethics in Journalism Foundation, the Knight Foundation, the Robert R. McCormick Foundation, the Democracy Fund, the Scripps Howard Foundation and the Rita Allen Foundation.

“I don’t think students necessarily realize how valuable local news is to a community,” said Amy Walker, an assistant professor of journalism. “I feel it’s our duty to teach students how to cover different types of communities—and to do it in ways that include voices they may not usually hear.”

So instead of filling a COM 400 class with journalism theory, Walker built a deliberate syllabus to explore food insecurity in Quinnipiac’s backyard. Marchese added to the content creation with two students from her data visualization class.

The multimedia curriculum touched every base. Students wrote stories and created videos. They took photographs and produced audio storytelling, including unfiltered food insecurity testimonials recorded in a story booth at the Hamden Public Library, a storytelling model fostered by the Listening Post Collective.

In the story booth, people shared how it felt to shop the shelves of a food pantry, to apply for food stamps through the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program and to live with food insecurity every day.

“It’s a special opportunity when the students are just starting to develop a broader world view and a better understanding of their local community,” Marchese said. “To see the discovery in their eyes when they come across new data, and they talk to people in the community who are being affected by hunger, that’s the best. They learn how to make the data human, how to put faces on the story and make it more meaningful.”
Marchese and her students designed billboards overlooking Dixwell Avenue in Hamden to help hungry people find healthy food. Framed in orange rectangles, these billboards wondered aloud in boldface type—“Looking for a Hamden food bank or pantry? Text HUNGER to 888111 for locations near you.”

Kaylin Bracey, a senior chemistry major and journalism minor, spent Saturdays on the other side of that text chain, her thumbs at the ready to load a list of food banks and pantries. Other students took shifts, too. Most people wanted to know where to get healthy food in Hamden. Sometimes, the texts sought help finding food in New Haven or North Haven.

Bracey, who grew up in Hamden, also spent time interviewing patrons and volunteers at Christ the Bread of Life Mobile Food Pantry for her class article. The church sponsors the food pantry with the Connecticut Food Bank on the second Wednesday of each month in Hamden.

“Too honest, I really didn’t know about the hunger issue in Hamden before taking the class,” Bracey said. “Amy was the one who told me about the mobile food pantry, I actually wrote my article about it after I volunteered there a couple of times and talked to some of the people there.”

The conversations were profound and stirring, Bracey said. They provided a glimpse into the lives of people who rely on the generosity of others to fill their refrigerators and cupboards.

“I have some food, but sometimes I run out,” said food pantry patron Karen Person, 65, who recently retired from Yale New Haven Hospital after 37 years. “And sometimes, I don’t have enough cash on me to get it, so [the food pantry] works out.”

**THINKING OUTSIDE THE BOX**

But what if you don’t have a car and can’t get to the food bank? Or you can’t grab a CT Transit bus or hail a rideshare service? Marchese, an associate professor of interactive media and design, often considers those same questions. She worked with students on data visualizations—easily absorbed charts and graphics—for the Hamden Hunger Project and the United Way report.

“One of the more surprising things about the study was transportation. That really jumped out at me,” said Marchese, pointing out that 22 percent of the people in southern Hamden don’t have a consistent way to get to the store or the food pantry. “Of course, these people are all hungry. But if you don’t have access to any of these places, how are you going to eat?”

This is the reality for many facing food insecurity. The struggle is never one-dimensional.

Wynton Borders, MS ’19, and Rick Lessard, MS ’19, wrote about the “Voices of the M.L. Keefe Community Center” in Hamden. They enhanced their work with poignant audio interviews. One man, Adrian Curry, was unabashed in his support of the Keefe Center as an essential resource for those facing hunger and other challenges.

“This is the best thing that ever happened to Hamden,” Curry said. “It gives me a place to come and work for the community and myself. If I can come in and plant some tomatoes, some collard greens, some kale, etc., it will give me something to do and a way to help the other people.”

For her part, Bashaw photographed some of the Keefe Center patrons and shared anecdotes of hope and resilience across Hamden. Her writing and images liberated people from tired labels and boxes that never tell the whole story on income eligibility forms.

Bashaw also coordinated with Sue Hudd, a sociology professor, to bring donated produce from ShopRite in Hamden Plaza to the Keefe Center food pantry. Every Tuesday morning, Bashaw and Hudd drove to the back of ShopRite and wedged, stuffed and stacked almost 40 boxes of bananas, pineapples, onions, tomatoes, squash and other produce into Hudd’s Honda SUV and Bashaw’s Toyota Camry.

“Sometimes, when people see produce in the store that’s a little bruised or a little tarnished, they’ll pass it up and go for something better,” Bashaw said. “The produce we collected was perfectly fine. It was perfectly healthy. If we didn’t take it, it would’ve just been thrown out.”

Hudd said the ShopRite program began last year after students in her class, Social Stratification, did a needs assessment for the Keefe Center. After crunching the numbers,
“I loved working with this community. This project really explored what journalism can be and maybe what it should be.”

— Michaela Mendygral ’19

it became clear people yearned for fresh produce. So Hudd approached ShopRite to develop a partnership.

“T”o me, this is what sociology is supposed to be,” Hudd said. “We identified a need and then we looked at both sides of the issue. Social inequality is an emphasis of social stratification.”

Walker and Marchese also worked with Sujata Gadkar-Wilcox, an associate professor of legal studies and director of the Global Engagement Fellows program, and Sean Duffy, executive director of the Albert Schweitzer Institute and a professor of political science. Students in the Global Engagement Fellows program are studying food insecurity with Gadkar-Wilcox. Duffy, meanwhile, serves on the Hamden Food Security Task Force in addition to his other roles. Duffy said there is anecdotal information that some Quinnipiac students struggle with food insecurity. The university has formed a committee to explore the issue and plans to survey students about their own food insecurity experiences.

“The seed for all this really came out of conversations with Sujata and Sean,” said Walker, a former Albert Schweitzer Faculty Fellow along with Marchese and Gadkar-Wilcox. “We’re always looking for new ways to explore issues with our students. When I learned that 60 percent of teachers in Hamden kept food in their drawers for students, that stuck with me—and I knew it was something we should be covering.”

AMPLIFYING AWARENESS

Chris Roush, dean of the School of Communications, is eager to see more issues-driven reporting projects. In fact, the first three episodes developed by the new Quinnipiac University Podcast Studio explore food insecurity in Hamden. The episodes were produced by Ben Bogardus, an assistant professor of journalism.

“One of the most critical results of [hunger] is that some people are making hard choices,” Roush tells listeners in the debut episode. “They’re choosing not to eat well in order to pay their bills.”

The refrain is all too common and all too painful in Hamden. While many student interviews took place at food banks and church dinners, others were held at bus stops and Hamden Plaza.

The Quinnipiac University Podcast Studio is a natural platform to share that work more broadly.

“The importance of podcasting continues to grow and evolve,” Roush said during a recent interview. “It’s one of those things that every communications school around the country needs to be thinking about. I look at the podcast studio here as us being at the forefront of that commitment to powerful storytelling.”

It’s precisely that approach to innovation that appealed to Michaela Mendygral ’19. She didn’t study design and journalism at Quinnipiac to be silent and passive. She wanted to be curious, driven and challenged.

“I love working with the community,” Mendygral said, “and this project really explored what journalism can be and maybe what it should be. It’s a give-and-take process, especially when you’re doing solution-based journalism.

‘Are you crossing a line when you ask people for their quote, their story? They really don’t get much in return except for being in the story. But I feel like we gave people some of the most basic information they should have—where to find fresh food for themselves and their families.’

For Paul Bass, the collaboration between the School of Communications and the New Haven Independent was greater than the sum of its parts.

“I love this project. Really, Amy did all the work with her students,” Bass said. “They did some terrific articles that we published [at newhavenindependent.org]. For us, it’s such a great way to connect with a journalism school and work together to reach the same people in different ways. That’s my favorite way of interacting, where the students get to run with their ideas and explore things in new ways.”

Walker said the Hamden Hunger Project was intentionally designed to force students to consider their community on a deeper level. But it also was meant as a mandate for today’s newsrooms.

“Newsrooms need to do a much better job with diversity so they can better cover the diversity around them,” Walker said. “It’s a priority for me that we don’t ignore parts of Hamden. We need to actively look for opportunities to report on important public issues like food insecurity. That’s where we can make a real difference as journalists. This story is just one part of that.”
Empathy and compassion still major tools in an occupational therapist’s bag

In 1969, scores of American veterans were returning from Vietnam, their lives irrevocably changed by physical and psychological wounds. Concurrently, children with disabilities could not hope for the same educational outcomes as their peers, and older adults with mobility issues often found themselves sidelined.

That same year, a small occupational therapy program in Connecticut was launched. That program would evolve through 50 years of technological, social and educational advances to become a nationally ranked powerhouse with more than 3,000 alumni who leave indelible marks on the lives of children, adults, veterans and numerous other populations across the country.

The story of Quinnipiac’s OT program is one of both inclusivity begun 50 years ago remains unchanged. Classes are no longer held in shaky metal trailers on the Mount Carmel Campus. Pottery and leather stamping are no longer part of the curriculum, nor is the U.S. Army Craft Manual required reading. However, as Betsey Smith, senior associate dean of the School of Health Sciences and a 1979 OT alumna, reminded several generations of graduates, the culture of compassion, adaptability and inclusivity begun 50 years ago remains unchanged.

“I want to make sure that the newer graduates appreciate that this hasn’t changed,” said Smith, speaking at a 50th anniversary celebration held in September on the North Haven Campus. “It’s important for people to understand where we came from, and the legacy of the individuals who came before.”

No figure looms as large as the late Ruth M. Griffin, the founding director of Quinnipiac’s occupational therapy program. Griffin graduated from the Boston School of Occupational Therapy at Tufts University in 1946 and went on to become a highly sought-after leader in her field, both nationally and internationally. She arrived at Quinnipiac College in 1969 to develop the OT curriculum in what was then the School of Allied Health and Natural Sciences.

As chief architect of OT at Quinnipiac, Griffin developed an interdisciplinary program alongside faculty from the physical therapy department. The finalized curriculum was divided into three areas of practice—mental health, physical disabilities and pediatrics—and many courses integrated both OT and PT students.

“Ruth was interprofessional in every sense,” said Kim Hartmann ’76, MHS ’82, professor of occupational therapy and director of the Center for Interprofessional Healthcare Education at Quinnipiac. “Her enthusiasm for the rehabilitation sciences paved the way for all future OT alumni.”

In Griffin, Smith remembers an outspoken, deeply knowledgeable and forward-thinking mentor who reminded students that their job was to help people live their own uniqueness. She also instilled in them a healthy fear of growing complacent in their profession.

“Ruth always said that it was our responsibility to create our future,” Smith said. “She made sure we had our 5- and 10-year plans mapped out.”

The OT program’s first 10 years were marked by tremendous growth. The number of graduates increased from 13 in the inaugural class of 1974 to 49 by the start of the next decade. Increased enrollment forced the program to move from spaces at Gaylord Hospital in Wallingford and classrooms at Albertus Magnus College in New Haven in the 1970s to a building on Sherman Avenue in Hamden at the start of the 1980s. It was known affectionately as the “Sherm Shack.”

“There were 42 of us together for three semesters in that one room,” recalled a smiling Hartmann.

The role of OTs significantly expanded in many arenas over that period, thanks to the passage of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Education for All Handicapped Children Act of 1975. The latter was significant for Smith, who got her first job in a public school system in 1979. She is amazed at how far her profession has come with supporting a student’s ability to participate in school activities.

“A lot of what we were doing back then was trial and error,” said Smith, “but we were always able to determine where our patients were emotionally and what they needed next.”

Fellow alumna Virginia Ells ’82, an occupational therapist who specializes in hand therapy at Yale New Haven Health in Guilford, also counts empathy among a therapist’s assets.

“Because OT education includes mental health and psychosocial components, we are always in touch with our patients’ emotional well-being,” Ells said.

Clients often arrive in Ells’ office for their first appointment frightened or still shell-shocked from surgery. They may have replanted fingers, tendons and nerve transfers or joint arthroplasties. Much of their therapy is focused on the completion of common, real-life tasks, such as cutting food, dressing, or activities to facilitate their return to work. Ells strives to establish rapport and trust, even as she sometimes guides patients through difficult, but necessary exercises.
“My compassion definitely shines through during therapy,” she said. “I reassure my patients that while what we’re about to do might be painful, it’s not harmful.”

Advances in technology in the 1980s, particularly with computers, significantly impacted OT education, and Quinnipiac was determined to stay on top of it. In 1984, Apple gave the department 10 Apple 2E and 10 2C computers and also trained OT students on software designed to help people with cognitive and thinking disorders improve their memory, attention span and reading speed. The software was so new that it was still being beta tested.

Today, OT students have an even greater array of cutting-edge resources at their disposal, including motion analysis and biomechanics labs, and a model apartment that teaches them how to deliver care in a residential setting. For Hartmann, the “bells and whistles” are only half of what has enabled Quinnipiac to graduate highly skilled occupational therapists. “I attribute it to the educational connection between the faculty and students over the years,” Hartmann said. “Our program is built upon the transfer of knowledge between human beings.”

Elizabeth Francis-Connolly ’81, dean of the School of Interdisciplinary Health and Science at the University of St. Joseph in West Hartford, and vice chair for the American Occupational Therapy Research Foundation, agrees. She recalled Quinnipiac faculty being role models who held her to incredibly high standards, but also allowed her to fail and learn from their mistakes. Most importantly, Francis-Connolly remembers how she and her classmates shaped their teachers.

“Leaders influence those they lead and are in turn influenced by them,” Francis-Connolly said.

She believes that, like all good leaders, OTs learn from their clients to help them reach their potential. Ells also likens the relationship between occupational therapists and their patients to that of a teacher and a student.

“We give our patients the tools to be active and willing participants in their therapy and teach them how to manage pain on their own,” she said.

In 1990, President George H.W. Bush signed the Americans with Disabilities Act into law. That same year, the OT program moved into the new Echlin Health Sciences Center on the Mount Carmel Campus. Occupational therapists continued branching out into newer, community-based settings over the next decade.

Quinnipiac expanded its OT curriculum to include a master’s in occupational therapy in 2003, following a national mandate for OT programs to do so by 2006. To further meet the demands of OT education, the program moved again in 2009 to the spacious and interdisciplinary Center for Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences on the North Haven Campus. “It can be difficult for higher education institutions to keep pace with so much change, but we are ahead of the curve,” said Sal Bondoc, chair of Quinnipiac’s occupational therapy department.

Bondoc joined the OT faculty in 2006 and became department chair in 2013. He was instrumental in the conversion of the master’s program into the post-professional occupational therapy doctorate in 2014 as well as the rollout of the certificate of advanced graduate studies in occupational therapy in 2019. Both were designed to enable current OT professionals to earn stackable micro-credentials in a range of different specialties, such as hand therapy and school-based learning.

“OT is an à la carte service, and it’s as relevant today for babies in the NICU as it is for adults in advanced age,” Bondoc said.

Bondoc has experienced how the term “occupation” has been expanded in his field to encompass all of the meaningful and necessary things that can occupy one’s time and help form one’s identity. He recalled seeing an 85-year-old patient in a clinic who was puzzled as to why he’d need “occupation therapy” because he’d been retired for so long. “I explained that OT is about living life to the fullest, participating in society and being safe,” Bondoc said. “You could say that our profession suffers from a poor naming convention.”

Virginia Ells ’82, left, a certified hand therapist, helps Justin Brownell with a new prosthesis at her office in Guilford, Connecticut.
While a name change is unlikely, more changes in OT education are on the immediate horizon. The Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education currently acknowledges both the master’s and the doctorate as points of entry for practice in OT. Bondoc believes that the doctorate will become the preferred entry point in the next five years. In response, the OT department approved its entry-level occupational therapy doctorate, which will admit its first class in May 2020. It is the first entry-level professional doctorate offered in Connecticut and will develop OT educators and practice leaders well versed in research and scholarship.

For Bondoc, the entry-level doctorate will cement Quinnipiac’s place as a prominent leader in OT education for many years to come.

“I think of our 50th year as a metaphorical springboard for the next 50 years, not just for OT education at Quinnipiac, but regionally and nationally,” he said.

It is difficult to imagine what the next 50 years will bring. Not long ago, prostheses were heavy and expensive to make, and it could take months for patients to receive them. Today, OTs can work with engineers and surgeons to craft a prosthetic hand in a few hours using 3D printers.

“The low-tech is so good now that we can make effective interim devices for patients until the real thing arrives,” Hartmann said.

Telehealth and tele-rehabilitation also make it possible for patients to receive OT wherever they live via telecommunication networks and the Internet. Hartmann sees it all as the future of care delivery and is confident that Quinnipiac’s OT students are more than ready for it.

“The embrace of technology has always been a thread running through this program, and I believe it will see us through whatever comes next,” Hartmann said.

Smith, meanwhile, is finalizing a capstone course exploring the role of OTs in helping previously incarcerated individuals reenter the community. Not even Griffin, who died in 2008 at the age of 84, could have imagined OTs and their students working in state prisons.

“We are nimble,” Smith said. “We are exemplars at being willing to change and serve the community’s needs as they are identified.”
Ain’t It The Truth?

BY BRIAN KOOKZ
ILLUSTRATIONS SEYMOUR CHWAST

Fortune magazine CEO Alan Murray talks 21st-century journalism

As a 9-year-old boy, Fortune magazine CEO Alan Murray covered Outlook Drive in suburban Pittsburgh like nobody’s business. If a neighbor lost a cat, Murray knew about it. If somebody’s grandmother was visiting, he knew that, too. Murray filled his pad with stories of swim meets and small town wonder. His mother, Catherine, brought each tale to life on her Corona typewriter, and together, they produced 30 copies of “The Outlook Outlook” at a nickel apiece.

“My mother saved all those newspapers because that’s what mothers do,” Murray said. “There’s nothing particularly distinguished about any of them. They were just a collection of facts.”

A lifetime later, facts have never been more important. Murray visited Quinnipiac in October for a lecture titled, “The Death of Truth: The Future of Journalism in the 21st Century.” His talk marked the debut of a speaker series at the School of Communications with Dean Chris Roush.

“That’s pretty much been the currency of my whole life and career—facts,” Murray told his audience of students, faculty and interested community members. “Using facts to tell stories, using facts to make arguments, using facts to connect people, but always based in the currency of facts. Unfortunately, we live at a time when facts are under attack.”

If nothing else, Murray is an evangelist of the truth. It is the core of his work.

Murray’s pursuit of the truth has served him well during a distinguished journalism career with some of the most respected publishers in the industry. Before his current role, Murray oversaw 24 magazines as chief content officer at Time Inc. Murray also spent more than two decades at The Wall Street Journal in several leadership roles.

But the days of commuter trains packed with newspaper readers in every seat are gone. Today’s digital news is instantly available on smartphones, tablets and computers, often without vetting, fact-checking and publishing corrections when mistakes are made.

The Twitter wars, the political hot takes, the ax-grinding personal attacks. It’s all digital static.

“It’s a ‘buyer beware’ world for journalism. In a way, what’s happened is that journalism has become a marketplace,” Murray said. “Now, people are consumers of journalism. It’s not all that hard to figure out if you’re watching or reading a news site that has only one point of view.”

Murray paraphrased the late U.S. Sen. Daniel Patrick Moynihan for some additional clarity: “We are entitled to our own opinions, but we are not entitled to our own facts.”

As print circulation has declined across the board, social media consumption of news has increased to levels unmatched in legacy journalism. Suddenly, the world is at your fingertips with a swipe and a tap.

Murray, who also served as president of the Pew Research Center from 2012–14, referenced a particularly telling survey conducted during his tenure. The survey revealed that 50 percent of Americans with online access get their news from Facebook.

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For half of the country, news consumption has become news by algorithm, a homogenized script of political echoes and choir responses. There are no fact-checkers or editors here with questions about objectivity, fairness and accuracy.

This Just In: Social Media

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Artificial intelligence meets natural selection. Which news will you choose?

“I don’t know that we’ll reach a point where there’s one news source that everyone accepts,” Murray said. “But I do believe we have to somehow get back to where there are certain facts everyone accepts. If we can’t get back to that, I fear our democratic society can’t work.”

While some wondered if PBS, NPR or The New York Times could emerge as a unifying force, Murray didn’t think it was likely. All three news organizations have a core audience that tends to be “very coastal, very left-leaning, very liberal and rejected by conservatives,” he said.

According to Pew survey results, The Wall Street Journal has “the most balanced level of respect on both sides of the great divide,” Murray said, but it’s still a big ask to expect any organization to be the standard bearer for consensus.

Despite the partisan pollution choking our devices, Murray recalled one particular tweet by Trump in December 2016 that precipitated a $4 billion freefall in Lockheed Martin stock. “It was a really significant event. We need to have the same degree of alarm about the deterioration of truth and the deterioration of respect for facts in society.”

“It doesn’t help matters that media companies continue to struggle with their business models in the absence of reliable, sustainable revenue sources,” Murray said. Murray said 80–90% of annual increases in digital advertising are funneled to Facebook and Google, with the rest to Apple and Amazon. Shrinking bottom lines lead to shrinking staffs and shrinking coverage.

Paywalls and digital subscriptions may be distasteful to some, but they are an economic reality for today’s media companies. The downside, Murray said, is that paying for news limits access to information as well as democracy.

All The President’s Tweets

Murray declined to bring President Trump into the discussion about facts, but he did acknowledge Trump’s influence. And his live-wire Twitter account. As of October, Trump had 66.4 million followers—just outside the top-10 global accounts, according to brandwatch.com.

“He has a peculiar attitude toward facts,” Murray succinctly acknowledged. “But I think the problems we have as a society predated his election and will continue long after he’s gone.”

Even so, the impact of Trump’s tweets can’t be ignored by journalists. As official White House communications, they impact U.S. diplomacy, business, politics, law and any other agenda ripe for the president’s attention.

Murray recalled one particular tweet by Trump in December 2016 that precipitated a $4 billion freefall in Lockheed Martin’s market value in a single day, according to multiple media outlets.

“Based on the tremendous cost and cost overruns of the Lockheed Martin F-35, I have asked Boeing to price-out a comparable F-18 Super Hornet!” — @realDonaldTrump

Tom Contiliano, chief of client relations for Bloomberg News, also visited Quinnipiac this fall to discuss business journalism with students, faculty and staff. After the presentation, Contiliano opened his laptop and navigated the software of his Bloomberg terminal.

“I’ve always thought there was an overexaggerated intersection of politics and business, but in the era of Trump, you really can’t say that,” Contiliano said, pointing to a screen dedicated to Trump’s tweets—scrolls and scrolls of them. “You see Amazon there. And he has no problem commenting on GM and the strike this fall,” Contiliano said. “When you get to something where he’s tweeting about a company, you can see the impact on the market immediately.”

Roush, whose background is in business journalism, said career opportunities are booming. Bloomberg News employs 1,100 journalists in New York City alone.

“Business journalism is the last growth area of journalism. Big news organizations like The Wall Street Journal, CNBC and Bloomberg have been adding jobs in the past few years,” Roush said. “While you hear about newspapers cutting jobs, in business journalism, there are plenty of jobs available—and they’re good-paying jobs. Here at Quinnipiac, we just need to start exposing our students to the Bloombergs of the world, the Fortune magazines of the world.”

Just The Facts, Please

The families on Outlook Drive in suburban Pittsburgh don’t get the same press coverage they once did. The boy with the notepad and scoops left a long time ago to make a name for himself and his facts in New York City and Washington, D.C. These days, Murray lives in Fairfield County.

While most of his audience showed up for a lecture about the death of truth, Murray finished his talk with the story arc of a revival-tent preacher.

It turns out he’s actually hopeful about journalism. “Ultimately, I’m optimistic because I believe it matters,” Murray said. “We are in a very bad moment in terms of respect for facts and respect for the truth, but I do see signs that people are starting to get it. I’m raising this issue because I think it’s important that we all recognize that it’s important. If we do that, we can begin to get to a better place.”
Medical missionaries honor Albert Schweitzer’s legacy with gift to fund global engagement for students

In Guatemala, girls born with cleft lips or palates rarely become brides.

“It puts a cleft in your life—you can’t get married,” said Dr. John Young, explaining that Guatemalans consider the condition a curse from God. “But once repaired, you are looked upon as special—that God has favored you—so it’s really a critical surgery there.”

Young and his wife, Dianne, a nurse practitioner, visited Quinnipiac in October to share stories with students and faculty about their 25 years of short-term mission work bringing health care to impoverished countries. They showed slides of two young Guatemalan sisters grateful for the cleft palate surgery they received on one of the couple’s medical trips. They have been to Guatemala 20 times and also to Thailand, Africa and Jamaica.

Their first trip changed their lives forever, and they want Quinnipiac students to also experience what they call the “ecstasy of healing.” The couple helped start the “Reverence for Life” endowment fund at the Albert Schweitzer Institute at Quinnipiac University to expand global outreach opportunities for students.

Schweitzer was a physician and theologian who founded a hospital in 1913 in Lambaréné, Gabon, Africa. He won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1952 for his work. He is also one of John’s heroes.

“We are here to give honor to Schweitzer’s ethic—reverence for life—which was evident in all he did,” said John, a family physician in Bakersfield, California, since 1980. HELP International, a nonprofit that provides medical, educational, community development and more to help alleviate poverty in Latin America and other developing regions, had heard that the Youngs had been to Jamaica for medical missions and contacted John to see if he’d be willing to go to Guatemala. After encouragement from Dianne, he said yes.
INSPIRATION

“I hope we can spark some interest in others to go and see how big of a difference the touch of a hand can make.”

— Dianne Young

He took on the role of team leader for a number of years, recruiting team members from many disciplines. He explained that a typical team consists of general, plastic, ENT, or gynecological surgeons, primary care doctors, dentists, ophthalmologists, nurses and an assemblage of cooks and “MacGyvers” who repair and devise just about anything the teams need. On the Bakersfield teams, a prosthetic team also has gone several times. The team leader is responsible for recruiting personnel and gathering supplies so the team runs productively and efficiently. “It’s often miraculous to see everything fall into place,” he said.

Some of the more common surgeries—in addition to cleft palates—include cataracts, gallbladders, tonsils and hernias. John said the surgical facilities can resemble sets from the TV show “M*A*S*H.” Primary care doctors play a key role in screening surgical patients to make sure they are low-risk candidates for surgery.

“We can’t have any patient die, or the team might not be invited back to their community,” he said, adding that there is a very spiritual component to what they do. “The people we help feel like we are sent from God.”

The Youngs say the trips challenge participants with a blend of uncertainty, adventure, anxiety and creativity. “You discover things about yourself and other people,” John said. It’s also a way for the couple to live a favorite Bible verse: “Love thy neighbor as thyself.”

Dianne has been to Africa eight times. She has traveled to Africa, Guatemala and Thailand this year alone. In Tanzania, she worked with children in several compassion centers. In Guatemala, she worked with a medical team and in Thailand, she helped with construction of a new church building. Her inspiration is Mother Teresa. “She treated each person she met as though they were Jesus,” Dianne said.

President Judy Olian attended the Youngs’ presentation and called them role models who have incorporated Schweitzer’s values into their lives. “We live in a world of privilege, and we aspire to be global change agents at Quinnipiac and agitators for good—it’s part of our strategic plan,” she said.

Thanks to the Youngs’ gift, students will have the opportunity to engage in the global community as they develop what she called “global brain” and hopefully imbue that changed world view into the rest of their lives. She pointed out that 40 students and faculty members were able to interact with Nobel Laureates recently at the World Summit of Nobel Peace Laureates in Mérida, Mexico, thanks in part to the Youngs’ gift.

Dianne feels blessed to have had the chance to make a difference in the health of so many people over the years. “And I hope we can spark some interest in others to go and see how big of a difference the touch of a hand can make.” All four of their children have gone on a trip, and they are hoping their 12 grandchildren will want to get involved some day.

She recalled the story of a young man in a car accident who suffered compound fractures in his leg. “The doctors did the best they could, but he was not healing, and they thought they would have to amputate his leg.” Fortunately, an orthopedist and plastic surgeon were on the team during that trip, and they did more surgery and skin grafting and were able to save both his leg and his life, she said.

Another success story involved a 16-year-old who came to their clinic with a large dermoid ovarian cyst. “It was so large that she looked six months pregnant, and we got her on the operating schedule the same day. Now she can marry and have children,” Dianne said with a smile.

And then there are the people they cannot help, such as the woman Dianne saw in Tanzania with rheumatoid arthritis in her knees, hip, elbows and hands. “I had limited resources. It was very sad, I prayed with her, then sent her on her way. Sometimes we want to do more, but we can’t.”

The retired nurse sometimes travels without her husband. She emphasized that one needn’t have a medical background to be of service. She was part of a 60-woman construction team in South Africa that built two homes, one of which was given to one of the local women who cooked for them on that trip.

Besides his MD degree, John holds a master’s in counseling as well as in theology, a subject in which Schweitzer held a doctorate. Music was a passion for Schweitzer, something John shares with him. Schweitzer’s wife, Helene, was a nurse, like Dianne.

John described Schweitzer as deliberate in what he did, and hardworking. “He saw patients in the morning, did construction in the afternoon, and did his writing and music at night.” One of John’s favorite Schweitzer quotes goes like this: “I don’t know what your destiny will be, but this I do know; the only ones among you who will be truly happy are those who will have sought for and found a way to serve.”

They want to see Albert Schweitzer’s legacy go on. For John, reverence for life comes with his line of work. Doctors experience this at various times—whether it’s...
that moment shocking a heart back to life after coming off a triple bypass and seeing it beat again or witnessing the birth of a baby. “Our culture needs to recapture this respect and reverence for one another and the value of all life,” he said.

Dianne has had two surgeries to replace a defective heart valve. Infections acquired here or abroad could be life-threatening, but she doesn’t worry about it. “I just believe that God will protect me because I am doing his work, and if I do die, what better way than in serving other people?”

“She’s the one with the faith. I’m the one who makes the lists,” John joked.

At first, John said he was not thrilled about simply handing out pain relievers and vitamins, but then he came to a realization: “It’s one thing to give Advil that lasts 4 to 6 hours, but if you give it with love, it might last forever. And it does two other things—people feel like they haven’t been forgotten, and also it gives them hope. Some have had to wait a year to get surgery they needed because the schedule was full. They came back the next year.”

Dianne has enjoyed the people she met in Africa—“their big hearts, their openness.” Her African trips have taken her to Kenya, Gambia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Tanzania, South Africa, Zimbabwe and Guinea-Bissau.

“When we show up, they line up in the streets,” she said, noting that diabetes and high blood pressure are prevalent in Africa. “There is some health insurance, but if you cannot pay for it, there is no safety valve, no urgent care services, and you don’t get care.”

The Youngs are traveling to Guatemala in 2020 and have the chance to go to Colombia in March. They plan to continue working with Quinnipiac to ensure that students experience the joy of giving. John said he yearns to hear their stories.

More than 200 students have participated in ASI-sponsored trips over the past 20 years. “Thanks to generous gifts by caring people, like the Youngs, future generations of students will be able to explore the intersection of health and the environment and experience the meaning of reverence for life,” said Sean Duffy, executive director of the Albert Schweitzer Institute.

Duffy is leading a student trip to Guatemala in March focused on sustainable living and agriculture. “We will be partnering with a local organization that does community work around public health, food security and ecological restoration, working with coffee farmers and communities to increase local options for growing food, diversifying plantings, and building soil health and water management,” he said.

In August, he and students will head to Peru to work with the Quechua communities in the high Andean region around the Sacred Valley to restore native species of trees and bushes to combat the effects of climate change in that region. The following year, India will be among the destinations when the ASI partners with a local biodiversity organization that does Sea Turtle conservation projects and rescues/rehabilitates temple elephants.

Wherever they go, the Youngs look upon their trips as “soul safaris.” “It’s a search for hope and faith to find out why we’re here,” John said.

Dr. John Young performs a physical exam on a young Guatemalan girl.
In the mid-1980s, when Quinnipiac College still occupied one campus, the Hill residence hall was often the center of the social universe. But it was one particular set of suites, the first one on the right as you walked up Dorm Road, that seemed to generate the most fun.

And, just maybe, the most stories.

The students who lived in suites 42A and 42B shared more than a balcony. They shared laughs, pranks, all-nighters, food runs and friendships that have endured from graduations and weddings to the births of children and 50th birthday parties.

Thirty years later, these members of the Class of 1989 came to Alumni Weekend in October to reconnect and raise a glass. There were no introductions necessary. Smiles replaced name tags, and hugs did the rest.

“We all came here to learn obviously, but we also wanted to make friends—and we did,” said Rich Barry, a communications major who lives in Cranford, New Jersey. “The shared experiences, the bonds that we created, that’s what we loved about Quinnipiac.”

But make no mistake, the guys in 42A and 42B were no strangers to mischief. In fact, they were pretty well acquainted with it.

“We weren’t always choir boys,” Barry said with a boyish grin. “We used to take a giant mirror and put it on the balcony. We’d wait until the sun hit at just the right angle, and then we would blind people coming up the hill.”

After a laugh that liberated more memories, Barry continued with his story about arguably the most famous perch on campus. “Mostly, we spent a lot of time on that balcony saying hello to people. We knew a lot of people. Where we lived back then, it was close enough to the Ratt, but far enough away from the Ratt.”

Although Barry arrived at Quinnipiac as a marketing major from Long Island, he shifted to communications after finding WQAQ, the student-run radio station marking its 50th anniversary this year. Several other pals got involved with campus radio, too.

“I remember the station being very welcoming, even a little edgy if you will. It was an exciting time for me because you were allowed to be on the air.”

Barry’s signature show as a sophomore, “Rich’s Friday Afternoon Happy Hour,” quickly became a popular listen around campus. In between spinning records, Barry played sounds from a bar in the background—people opening beers, friends laughing, others sharing conversations swallowed by the din of happy hour. The best part of the show, said his friend, Greg Valerio, was the “Spin-to-Win” segment. Valerio would come into the studio and Barry would blindfold him on air, spin him around three times and guide him to the record wall to pick out some vinyl to play.
Friends from the Class of 1989 returned for this fall’s Alumni Weekend. In the back row, from left to right, are Rich Barry, Greg Valerio and Paula Coelho. In front, from left, are Kim Steir, Debbie Pacca and Lisa Barry, Rich’s wife. The bottom photo shows the gang together in the late ’80s.
“Whatever you picked, that’s what got played,” said Valerio, a towel slung over his shoulder as he heated up a tray of sausage and peppers during the tailgating party at the People’s United Center parking lot.

What kind of records did Valerio pull? The Rolling Stones, The Who, maybe Led Zeppelin? Not exactly. “I go back to the mix tapes we used to make for parties,” Barry said. “Trust me, it’s painfully ‘80s. It’s a lot of bands that didn’t make it out of the ‘80s.”

The guys in 42A and 42B were a different story. They made out just fine, leaving Quinnipiac as college graduates and lifelong friends. Barry and Valerio, along with Joe Belanger, Matt Caraluzzi, Chris Gennarelli, Rocco Labbadia, Sal Penta, Matt Titus and Desi Walker, shared more than a social balcony.

On this particular Alumni Weekend, they also shared a flag. OK, so maybe it was a sweatshirt, but it absolutely hung high over Barry’s truck on a mast and rigging skillfully crafted from PVC pipe and those black paper-clip clamps that hold term papers together.

The sweatshirt has become the stuff of legend here. For the better part of his college career, Tim Theriault, another member of this group, wore the sweatshirt several times each week—Valerio, Belanger and Barry swear to it. The sweatshirt shows a shirtless man sitting on a sofa on top of a wave with the words, “Couch Surfing.”

Theriault, who lives in Dallas now, couldn’t make it back to Hamden in October. Instead, he mailed the next best thing—the fabled “Couch Surfing” sweatshirt, a treasure that has survived more than 30 years. In a makeshift ceremony, Valerio sliced open the manila envelope with the Texas postmark and pulled out a sleeveless piece of history.

“It’s a perfect flag,” Valerio said with a good laugh, holding up the sweatshirt like one of those oversized lottery checks.

A few feet away, Belanger nodded and laughed, too. Like so many of his friends at Quinnipiac, he studied physical therapy. Belanger grew up in North Providence, Rhode Island, and earned a varsity letter on the men’s tennis team at Quinnipiac.

“When I was looking at colleges, I knew I didn’t want to go to a bigger school,” said Belanger, who now lives in Middletown, Connecticut. “I couldn’t have been any happier with my decision.”

The guys in 42A and 42B recall the house parties that shook the floor and raised the roof. “I was a Catholic kid who never missed a holy day of obligation, and then I met these guys. It was a whole new world, trust me,” Belanger said with raised eyebrows. “Let me tell you, it was an eye-opening experience for this sheltered kid from Rhode Island.”

Before Belanger could say more, Gennarelli chimed in: “He spent more time in confession....”

Gennarelli never got to finish his joke because they both started laughing. It was that kind of day filled with those kinds of stories.

“It’s really about relationships and people with big hearts and big smiles,” Belanger said. “I went for a walk down memory lane before I came up to Rocky Top to see these guys. Even though the campus has expanded and it’s even more beautiful, the memories are still there.”

Valerio, who now lives in Wolcott, Connecticut, agreed. “Without a doubt, laughter was one of the things that really bonded us as a group of friends. It was the same thing with the parties. Our senior year during Spring Weekend, we had a registered party that was larger than the parties at the Student Union. I mean, everybody came up to see us.”

Gennarelli grew up in Rye, New York, not far from the Connecticut border. After two years at Boston University, he transferred to Quinnipiac and was assigned to share a balcony—and the rights and privileges that came with it—with the guys in 42A and 42B.

Gennarelli, who now lives in Greenwich, Connecticut, recalls that they personalized their balcony with a convenient shelf. “Rocco still has that shelf. We all etched our names in it.”

For Barry, the momentum from those days helped him become the program director at WQAM as a junior and general manager as a senior. From there, he leveraged his radio experiences to land an internship with The Howard Stern Show in New York City.

“Just having the radio station on my college resume was enough to get me in the door,” Barry said. “I worked for Howard for about three months. Honestly, he was the one who got me into Nickelodeon.”

Barry spent 27 years at the Nickelodeon network. He started as a production assistant and finished as the vice president and creative director, global, for Nickelodeon until June 2018.

“I basically was on a plane about every three weeks—Australia, Argentina, China, everywhere,” Barry said. “The only two places we weren’t in were North Korea and Iraq. Everywhere else was OK with SpongeBob.”

In the fall of 2018, Barry launched his own company, Speed Social Marketing. He’s the CEO, executive creative director and the driving force for global campaigns. His wife, Lisa, and son, Luke, accompanied him to the reunion.

“Let’s be honest, it’s not as easy to walk in the door when you don’t have Nickelodeon on your shoulders,” Barry said. “But I really enjoy being my own boss, and I love what I’m working on right now with motorsports. I race cars myself, so I’m a little envious watching the guys go by.”

But as much as Barry enjoys checkered flags these days, he will always have a soft spot for that “Couch Surfing” flag when the guys from 42A and 42B get together.
America
Despite the encouraging wording on the Statue of Liberty plaque, many Americans have harbored less than welcome feelings over the years for those “huddled masses yearning to breathe free” as they immigrated to the U.S., ethnic wave by ethnic wave.

“In case you’ve missed it the last few years, immigration has been a rather hot subject around our nation and the world,” said Kevin Jennings, the former president of New York City’s Tenement Museum and a guest lecturer at Ireland’s Great Hunger Museum at Quinnipiac University this fall. His comment elicited soft chuckles from his audience.

In fact, controversy over immigration is as old as some of our founding fathers, said Jennings, who wrote an article for the New York Daily News in April titled, “Excluding Newcomers is a Tradition as Old as the Republic.” His lecture, illustrated by political cartoons and other graphics, put a face on the history of immigration to the U.S.

Although George Washington believed the “bosom of America was open to receive the oppressed and persecuted of all nations,” fellow statesman Ben Franklin apparently did not agree, and Jennings shared this 1751 Franklin quote about German immigrants to demonstrate.

“Those who come hither are generally of the most ignorant Stupid Sort of their own Nation...they come in droves, and ... they will soon so outnumber us, that all the advantages we have will not in My Opinion be able to preserve our language, and even our Government will become precarious...Why should Pennsylvania, founded by the English, become a Colony of Aliens, who will shortly be so numerous as to Germanize us instead of our Anglifying them, and will never adopt our Language or Customs, any more than they can acquire our Complexion.”

Jennings said the quote is reminiscent of some of the anti-immigrant sentiments uttered by modern-day politicians and government officials.

The Tenement Museum at 103 Orchard St. was created in 1988 from an abandoned tenement that once housed immigrant families from the mid-1800s, including families with the surnames Moore, Wong and Baldizzi. Their pictures and artifacts make their New York experience come alive for visitors. “To leave behind everyone and everything you’ve ever known and to gamble that you would be able to create a better life for yourself and your family in a country where most likely you don’t speak the language and maybe know no one—that’s pretty extraordinary!” Jennings noted.

German Protestant immigrants were the first to arrive in New York in the 1700s, followed by the Irish and German Catholics and Chinese in the mid-1800s, and eventually Italians and Jews by the 1880s. Regarding the Germans, Jennings said it turns out that Franklin’s fears were unfounded.

“The Germans did force us to eat their German food—like hotdogs, hamburgers and apple pie—and drink their beers—like Budweiser and Schlitz—but we survived,” he deadpanned.

At Quinnipiac, students curious about immigration can take a course called The Immigrant Experience, taught by Grace Yukich, associate professor of sociology.

“In this country, we have always been both welcoming and sort of xenophobic,” she said. “Because we have welcomed immigrants, we have had a lot of them, and they have shaped us in ways that we can’t easily measure or articulate because they have been such an integral part of the development of our nation.”

The class studies how immigration has affected the American economy and culture, and many students choose to research their family’s migration history for their required course project. “They are asked to place their family in the wide context of the history of migration and find out what the policies were when their ancestors came over, and whether it was easier or more difficult compared to today,” Yukich said.

Jennings noted that 44 percent of Americans have at least one immigrant grandparent, and that—except for Native Americans—all U.S. citizens are descendants of peoples who migrated to North America from other places.

He found it fascinating that the English considered people of German and Irish ethnicity to be an entirely different race.
The ale-quaffing English looked down upon the Germans for drinking lager and the Irish, who preferred whiskey. The English looked upon both types of liquor as evil substances meant to corrupt and introduce bad habits to the “clean-living English,” he said. Both groups faced hostility in the workforce as well.

The Chinese came along in the 1850s to look for gold in California and stayed to help build railroads. When the U.S. government suggested they return to China upon completion of the rails, they refused, saying they had put down roots. This led to the passage of the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 that prohibited the immigration of Chinese laborers, who presumably would “steal our jobs,” Jennings said, noting the same stereotype about immigrants persists to this day.

“And the thing that drives me craziest is when people state, ‘My great-grandparents came here legally.’ They did because there were no immigration laws … until 1882!” he said.

That Chinese Exclusion Act led to family separations when laborers already here could not bring their wives and children over. And then, the bottom fell out with the restrictive Immigration Act of 1924, which established the National Origins Formula, setting quotas on the number of Southern and Eastern Europeans, Asians and other non-Northwestern European ethnic groups who could enter the U.S. “Immigration essentially stopped,” Jennings said.

He told the story of the Baldivizi family. Adolph Baldivizi came to the U.S. from Sicily in 1923 to find a job, set up an apartment, and then send for his wife, Rosaria, and their children. However, the Immigration Act of 1924 made the reunion illegal. Rosaria ended up getting a forged passport and lived as an undocumented person for 19 years, finally getting legal status in 1944.

Jennings pointed to this as an example of chain migration—family members would emigrate one at a time because it was too costly to do otherwise. The Irish favored sending the oldest daughter in a family first. Jobs for domestics were plentiful in New York City, and they would work and send money home to fund ship passage for their younger siblings.

President Harry S. Truman was not a fan of the National Origins Formula, which severely limited the capacity of the U.S. to take in Jewish people fleeing the Holocaust during World War II. He tried to make things right with the war-displaced Jewish refugees and signed an executive order in 1945 prioritizing their resettlement in the U.S.

Twenty years later, in 1965, the Immigration and Nationality Act (also known as the Hart-Celler Act) was signed into law by President Lyndon B. Johnson. It abolished the National Origins Formula and Asian exclusion and opened America to immigration for the first time in 100 years. “The thing that is saddest for me is that there was a time, not so long ago, when immigration was not a political issue,” said Jennings, who left the museum recently to become CEO of Lambda Legal.

Jennings played a video of a speech President Ronald Reagan delivered in which he quoted a citizen as saying: “Anyone from any corner of the earth can come to live in America and become an American. Thanks to each wave of new arrivals to this land of opportunity, we are a nation forever young … and always on the cutting edge and leading the world to the next frontier. … If we ever close the door to new Americans, our leadership in the world … would soon be lost.”

The secret sauce of this nation, Jennings said, has always been its ability to attract ambitious, hard-working, determined people from around the world “who believe in the dream of America.”

Of course, the “dream of America” means different things to different people. Yukich postulates that those attached to the prevailing culture “may not be super excited about immigrants coming in with different cultural practices and those who speak different languages.” She said that while she sees exposure to different cultures and traditions as a way to learn and grow, some people see it as something negative to fear.

While the influx of immigrant groups has remained constant, what has changed over the years is the particular group that has been “othered and used as scapegoats.” Jennings said.

President Donald Trump drew on negative stereotypes of immigrants to gain support for more restrictionist immigration policies. “Talking about Mexicans as rapists and murderers is targeting the fears people may already have and making them more salient so people will be afraid and vote on that fear,” she said.

Television images of separated families and miserable children crying in border camps may tug at the heartstrings but doesn’t necessarily change whether citizens are willing to support the existence of those camps, she said.

The presidential debates have treated immigration as a campaign issue. Yukich’s sense is that it becomes more or less of an issue based on how secure people are feeling economically. “When Americans are feeling more nervous about their socioeconomic status and economic opportunities, immigrants are often one of the first scapegoats.”
"Those who come hither are generally of the most ignorant Stupid Sort of their own Nation... they come in droves, and... they will soon so out number us, that all the advantages we have will not in My Opinion be able to preserve our language, and even our Government will become precarious... Why should Pennsylvania, founded by the English, become a Colony of Aliens, who will shortly be so numerous as to Germanize us instead of our Anglifying them, and will never adopt our Language or Customs, any more than they can acquire our Complexion."

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RALLYING ‘ROUND THE BLUE & GOLD!

Yadley Turnier ’19, above, was in full pep rally mode at the Rocky Top Student Center during the pregame reception before the men’s ice hockey team took on Maine Oct. 19 during Alumni Weekend. More than 1,000 alumni and friends enjoyed a picnic on the quad, tailgating with games and music, and affinity group reunions. See other photos on page 53.

The day before, 80 alumni and friends played 18 holes at the New Haven Country Club, followed by a reception. The event was presented by Aegis Wealth Partners, and proceeds benefited the Alumni Endowed Scholarship Fund. For the past two years, alumni have contributed items to the gift bag each participant receives. This year, Michele McHugh, MBA ’91, a co-owner of Hawk Ridge Winery in Watertown, Connecticut, donated a bottle of wine for each golfer. They also received a recipe for mixing that wine into a delicious cocktail from John Ginnetti ’03, the owner of 116 Crown restaurant in New Haven. See the recipe at go.qu.edu/cocktail.

Oh, and the winning team was: Jay Rotell ’83, Jessica Rotell ’15, Jason Rotell ’13 and Steve Larkin.
and Jim Hanscom—all from the Class of 1980, helped the “QC Braves” play in the tournament finals in their senior year.

1983
Robert Bruzik of Charlotte, NC, married Valerie McRae on Sept. 6 in Las Vegas. Robert was a member of the Quinnipiac baseball team that played in the NCAA College World Series and was named the team’s Most Valuable Player. He works as a financial services specialist.

1986
Tracey Goodspeed Zinck, JD ’86, of Saco, ME, recently was elected president of the International Claim Association. The ICA is the world’s largest organization of professionals in the life and health insurance industry. She is an assistant vice president of claims at Disability-RMS.

Pamela Gralnick Martinez of Milford, CT, is president of the Connecticut Bus Association and chairman of the Bus Industry Safety Council. She is a vice president of human resources and risk management.

1987
Karen Knight Hardy of Belgrade, ME, is an alcohol and drug addiction counselor in Maine and became a licensed professional clinical counselor in 2015. She started a non-profit group called Friends and Family of those with Addictive Behaviors, which provides scholarships for people to attend wellness retreats at the wellness center she runs with her husband. Karen also published a book, “I Can’t Do This Anymore,” about her experience with a son who has struggled with opiate addiction.

1991
Elizabeth Schrot of Woburn, MA, married Patrick Perhosky on Aug. 18, 2019, in Philadelphia.

1993
Thomas Johnson of Wrentham, MA, is a partner at EMMA International Consulting Group in Michigan. He has had a career in medical device, pharmaceutical and biotechnology businesses. EMMA provides management consulting services.

1994
Brendan Hosey of Hamden and his wife, Jenn, announce the birth of a son, Declan James, on May 12, 2019. Declan is also the first grandchild of Carol (Ilsenstadt) Gutkin ’81. Brendan recently retired as a lieutenant from the New Haven Police Department after 20 years of service.

1995
Karen Daigle of Wethersfield, CT, is an adjunct professor at Quinnipiac University in the occupational therapy department.

1996
Sean Gordon of Hoboken, NJ, is a line producer who recently finished two television projects. One is “The Lost Corinthians” on the History Channel about the Peter Max Corvette collection and the restoration efforts by the Corvette Heroes. The other was “Delicious Miss Brown,” which ran on the Food Network about the well-known Southern cook and caterer, Kardea Brown.

Kristine Johnson of Waterford, CT, has been named resource coordinator for the recently opened Center for Healthy Aging at Backus Hospital in Norwich. She was formerly the eastern region director for the Alzheimer’s Association Connecticut Chapter.

Richard Madonna of New London, CT, was appointed to the Connecticut Society of Certified Public Accountants advisory council as a member-at-large. He is vice president for finance and administration at Connecticut College.

Corey Sparks ’96, MBA ’97, of Lambermontville, NJ, has started a new role as vice president of finance for Teva Pharmaceuticals.

1997
James Bucklin of Frederick, MD, is the owner of Cornerstone Physical Therapy and opened the Christian-based practice in February.

Adam Connors of Hoboken, NJ, is founder and CEO of NetWorkWise, a company that offers a certification that recognizes a person as being an expert in developing world-class relationships.

Rolande Gay of Canterbury, CT, announced the birth of her 17th grandchild, Sofia Anna Rose. She also has four great-grandchildren.

1998
Julie (Foster) Antonelis of Sterling, VA, has been nominated as one of the top veterinary technicians in the United States.

1999
Pamela (Turse) Kropf of El Dorado Hills, CA, completed a 100-mile ultramarathon point-to-point race through the Siskiyous Mountain range in southern Oregon in September.

The race involves a 22,000-foot elevation climb and descent. She completed the race in 28 hours, 30 minutes, and was the sixth female to finish the race.

2000
Joseph Martino of Southbury, CT, was appointed director of finance and operations for the Regional School District 15 in Middlebury, CT, and started his new job in August. He was previously director of finance and support services for the Danbury, CT, public school district.

Nicholas Melillo of Windsor, CT, had his Foundation Cigar Co. business highlighted in a recent issue of Connecticut Magazine. He started the company in 2015.

2001
Scott Terralavoro of Hopewell Junction, NY, was promoted to senior editor of Fox News, Fox Business and Fox Nation.

2002
Eric Yutz of Pembroke Class notes continue on p. 46
JASON MYERSON '04
MS '06
JASON MYERSON is a physical therapist and director of clinical development for Performance Physical Therapy and Wellness in New York City and Fairfield County, Connecticut. He is also a member of the adjunct faculty in the physical therapy program at Quinnipiac University.

2003
JESSICA LERAE (SANTANGELO) DARING and her husband, Ian, of Belton, TX, announce the birth of their first child, daughter Kiernan Maeve, on March 12, 2019.

FRANK DIGANGI of Statesville, NC, leads the strategic programs team at Wells Fargo Bank's digital branch and ATM department. He lives in North Carolina and has two children, Brayden, 9, and Mia, 7.

JONATHAN KROLL of Roslindale, MA, founded the Leadership Trainer Certification Program that prepares people to facilitate leadership development. Jonathan recently became a full-time lecturer in the professional leadership studies program at the University of Rhode Island.

2004
RICHARD BENGEI of New Bern, NC, has announced that he is running for lieutenant governor of North Carolina in 2020. He is the owner of a baseball team and restaurant and serves on the North Carolina Education Lottery Commission.

SUMMER BRANDA and her husband, Dror Goldberg, of Austin, TX, announce the birth of their third child, Declan, in June. Declan was welcomed home by his big sisters, Avalyn and Gracelyn.

ADAM CLEMMNS of Glastonbury, CT, is a member of the Hartford Business Journal's 40 Under 40 class for 2019. He is the owner of a baseball team and restaurant and serves on the North Carolina Education Lottery Commission.

2006
EMILY BLOOMFIELD of Farmington, CT, recently returned to working at Aetna to pursue a lead role in the development and strategy of individual Medicare materials.

MICHAEL GAUTHIER '06, MS '12, of Hamden is a licensed home inspector. He owns Bender Inspection Services and performs residential and commercial inspections as well as water and radon testing.

2007
BENJAMIN HANDELMAN was promoted to the position of weekend anchor at WITI-TV in Milwaukee, WI, where he lives. He co-anchors the 4, 6 and 9 p.m. newscasts at WITI-TV (Channel 6). He has worked for the station since 2011.

JOHN O'BRIEN of North Hollywood, CA, was promoted to staff writer for season four of the CBS sitcom "Man with a Plan" starring actor Matt LeBlanc.

2008
CHRISTOPHER PICOLI and DANA (MEISBERGER) PICOLI of Wayne, NJ, announce the birth of their first child, Joshua Robert, on May 20, 2018.

MARGARET MAGUIRE married Andrew Alfred Bartolucci on May 18, 2019, at the Church of St. Augustine in Larchmont, NY. Margaret is a pediatric intensive care nurse in Valhalla, NY. The couple lives in Ridgefield, CT.

LISA PORCELLI '08, MAT '09, MS '13, of Cheshire, CT, married Jason Zarcone on Oct. 26, 2018. She works as a mathematics teacher.

2009
PAUL AUERBACH of Los Angeles is a first assistant camera operator for television, commercials and movies. He belongs to the International Cinematographers Guild.

DONALD J. BERNAT of Minneapolis, MN, started an APA-accredited internship in pediatric psychology at Fraser, a mental health organization that offers psychiatric services.

KRISTEN GUIDA, MSN '09, DNP '14, of Southington, CT, is president-elect of the Connecticut Advanced Practice Registered Nurse Society. She has been an APRN for 10 years and is an acute care nurse practitioner at Hartford Hospital and an adjunct clinical nursing faculty member at the University of Connecticut and Capital Community College.

2010
CORINE CERRITELLI '10, MBA '11, of West Haven, CT, is manager of corporate partnerships at Save the Children Foundation.

STEPHANIE L'ARCHeveque of Dubarton, NH, and her husband, Michael, announce the birth of their second child, Cooper Xavier, on May 30, 2019. Cooper was welcomed home by his big sister, Quinn.

MARLA WATERS of Brookline, MA, and Greg Mercuri were married on May 11, 2019.

2011
ALLYSA FERRAZZA and REDMOND ZMUDZIEEN of Brighton, MA, were married in July 2019. Allysa works in medical billing.

2012
NATALIE AHO, MS '12, of Oxford, NC, has been named director of engagement and annual giving at Baptist News Global. She lives in Oxford, NC, with her husband, Chris, and their two sons.

BARBARA (THOMPSON) BELICIA '12, MOT '14, of Ansonia, CT, owns WholePerson Therapeutics in Shelton, CT. The business opened in 2018 and specializes in physical health optimization.

BRIDGET CUNNINGHAM of Jersey City, NJ, recently took a position at Professional Services Plans, a leading provider of insurance solutions for lawyers and accountants.

BRIANNA FLANAGAN of Wallingford, CT, has joined Mohawk Valley Health System as the director for patient transportation for Crothall.

BRIANNA GUERRERA of Watertown, CT, and Raymond G. Marquis Jr. were married on Sept. 14, 2018, at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church in Waterbury, CT. Brianna is an attorney for Cummings & Lockwood in West Hartford, CT.

EMILY LAGER and MICHAEL SARIN of Nanuet, NY, were married in March 2019.

CHRISTIE NELEN of New York, NY, and Daniel Joseph Mulhall were married on Aug. 9 in Orleans, MA. Christie is a nurse practitioner in the oncology department at New York-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center.

GEORGE OLMIDIXON of Westfield, MA, is associate vice president of marketing and development at Clinical & Support Options. The Northampton-based nonprofit provides behavioral health services. Geoffrey was previously director of marketing for the public television station WGBY.

BRIANNA DUNBAR '12, DPT '15, and MICHAEL PITRE of Denver, CO, were married on March 1, 2019.

PETER UMIRIANNA of Brantree, MA, was named athletic director at Scituate High School in Scituate, MA. He will work with SHS staff on the construction of new multipurpose synthetic playing fields. Peter was previously the interim athletic director at Weymouth High School.

BRIDGET ROY '13, DPT '16, and TAYLOR WILL of West Hartford, CT, were married on June 2, 2019, on Long Island. The proposal took place at the top of Sleeping Giant Mountain, where they had their first date. Bridget is a physical therapist.

2013
MATTHEW FREUND of Brighton, MA, was promoted to senior video editor at VideoLink.

GREGORY D. JOHNSON of Cincinnati, OH, was named president and CEO for the Housing Authority of the City of Atlanta. That housing authority provides affordable housing resources for 24,000 low-income households. Gregory grew up in public housing in Dayton, OH, and later was CEO for the housing authority in that city. Before moving to Atlanta, he was CEO of the Cincinnati Metropolitan Housing Authority.

JEFFREY MONACO of West Roxbury, MA, recently started a new position as an account for ANDE Corporation in Waltham, MA.

NATALIE QUAGLIANI of Milford, CT, announces the birth of a daughter, Gianna Rose, on Sept. 2, 2018.

ARIEL RELAFORD '13, MBA '14, of Costa Mesa, CA, has taken on a new role as an influencer marketing campaign manager for PopShorts, Inc., a creative marketing agency in Newport Beach, CA.

2014
LAVINIA CRISTESCU of Philadelphia, PA, and JACOB BARNETT '14 were married on Sept. 29, 2018.

MATTHEW CALVANES of New Milford, CT, was named teacher of the year for the Danbury Public School District. Matthew is a fourth-grade math teacher at the district's Academy of International Studies.

Class notes continue on p. 49.
MID-LIFE JOB
A DREAM
COME TRUE

Couple runs Commodore Inn on Cape Cod

BY JANET WALDMAN

Barbara-anne (Birtwell) Foley ’84 took a leap of faith in her mid-50s with a daring career change, and her husband, John, leapt with her. They hit the ground running as the new innkeepers of the Commodore Inn in West Harwich, Massachusetts, on Cape Cod.

Foley, former executive director of Harwich’s Council on Aging for 18 years, completed her third summer running the inn, just steps from Earle Road Beach. Although the couple’s duties vary from day to day, they say they are living the dream, job-wise.

The Foleys have lived on Cape Cod for more than 30 years. Back in 2007, when John was ordained a deacon, he was assigned to the nearby Holy Trinity Church. They’d walk the mile from the church to Earle Road Beach and back on Sundays. “We would pass this gorgeous inn just 230 steps from the beach and we would say, ‘What if the owners retired and hired us to run it for them?’ The Foleys’ son had worked there in high school, so they were familiar with it.

In 2016, while attending a barbecue at the home of neighbors Kelley and Dan McNamara, they shared about their retirement ideas as well. The McNamaras returned to their Texas home, where they spend half the year, and the Foleys forgot about the conversation until March 2017, when Dan McNamara called to say they intended to make an offer on the inn, now for sale, and said: “We can’t do that unless you both can run it for us!”

“We were shocked, but simultaneously excited beyond words,” Foley remembers, “and then Dan followed with, ‘We are all about making dreams come true!’”

John Foley, who worked in construction and sales, began at the inn that June, and Barbara-Anne officially retired from the Council on Aging to join him in July. Their first challenge occurred when the antiquated registration system they inherited crashed her third day on the job and had to be rebuilt in the heart of the busy season.

“For John, who’s in charge of maintaining the inn, it was a no-brainer,” she said, noting the job is 100% customer service driven. John also makes hard-boiled eggs and muffins for the complimentary daily breakfast and tends to the pool.

Fifteen-hour days are common, he says.

The Foleys got right to work fulfilling their vision with the installation of a gas fire pit by the pool, a new beach bar with a bar bites menu, and fishing and golf packages. They estimate they have lodged more than 35 sets of wedding guests as well as people traveling for rehearsal dinners and clambakes. A getaway weekend for women in late October closed the 2019 season.

Foley, who graduated with a bachelor’s degree in psychology and family counseling, uses the people skills amassed during her previous career to attend to the needs of her guests, who come from around the world. She also supervises the housekeeping staff. Sometimes, she misses the contact with senior citizens, but not the worries and the political issues that kept her up at night.

Before that position, she was a recreational therapist in a nursing home before moving to the Cape in the ‘80s to marry John and start a family. They have two grown sons. She recalls that the late professor Joan Bombace’s assignments made her a really good writer, and she enjoyed her days as a tour guide under the leadership of Al Carbone, the retired associate dean of admissions.

“When we walk out the front door of the Inn, we hear the beautiful bells of Holy Trinity Church in our left ears, and the magnificent sound of the crashing waves in our right ears. Life doesn’t get better than this, and life truly is better at the beach, as the saying goes,” she said.
Starting a business requires vision, commitment and a good deal of elbow grease. As it turned out for Kaliope (Komninakas) Emmanouil ‘85 and her family, it also required a lot of milk!


The Emmanouils’ other two daughters, Rhoda Emmanouil ’09, MAT ’10, and Elli Emmanouil, a current MBA student at Quinnipiac, also work at Stani—as a production assistant and director of operations, respectively. For this Quinnipiac family, it’s all about tradition.

Pronounced “stah-nee,” the name in Greek translates to “sheepfold,” and is reminiscent of the family-owned dairy farm in Lesvos, Greece, where Ignatios grew up. Their idea was to bring traditional Greek-style yogurt to the U.S.

The key difference in the “artisan-strained” yogurt is that no milk powders or other thickening agents are used. The yogurt is created with just two ingredients: local, farm-fresh milk and probiotic cultures, which are mixed and fermented, then strained for hours in curd bags to remove the whey, the water naturally found in milk. The result is protein-rich yogurt that is smoother and creamier than others on the market. The entire process—from fermentation to straining—takes about two days. The straining process alone takes 15-20 hours.

Getting their business running was a labor of love, and, with the exception of Ignatios, the company’s CEO, all of the owners also have other jobs. Kaliope—Kali for short—Stani’s CFO, is a senior manager at Bailey, Moore, Glazer, Schaefer & Proto, LLP, a CPA firm in Woodbridge, Connecticut. Stelios is an engineer at Sikorsky in Stratford, and Meni is a full-time physical therapist.

“All of the owners brought different expertise or experiences that helped make it work, and we are expanding, so I think something is working,” said Kali.

Meni’s health science background was helpful with the research and development. “She played a role in formulating the recipe and working with local labs to make sure all the nutrition facts were correct and also favorable to the consumer. “People want to see high protein, low sugar, low calories,” Kali said.

“At Quinnipiac, I learned a lot about myself and the qualities I can offer to become an integral part of a bigger team: organization, being a team player, and having high expectations,” Meni said.

In addition to doing product demos and her work at the firm, Kalie handles the financial and regulatory paperwork. “In many ways, it’s like another full-time job,” she said.

Currently, more than half of Stani’s business is food service, according to Kali. Restaurants buy the whole milk, plain yogurt in 10-pound buckets and use it as an ingredient in sauces and dips or simply serve it with added toppings. The company also produces four flavors of low-fat yogurt—strawberry, blueberry, peach and honey—in 5.3-ounce cups. The yogurt is sold at Adams Supermarkets in Connecticut and Massachusetts, as well as some smaller chain store markets, such as Highland Park Market and LaBonne’s Markets.

Of the three daughters, Elli takes the most active role in the yogurt-making process. She was able to put her undergraduate biology degree to use in the lab.

“I was initially intrigued by the more scientific aspect of the yogurt-making process, such as fermentation, chemical and environmental testing. But after starting my MBA, my interests expanded, and I started getting involved in the marketing and business aspects of the company,” she said.

The three sisters are very close and supportive. “Being busy with our own lives and jobs, we still have the time to help one another. I am very thankful that both my sisters have been such a support system. They have been an integral part, stepping in and doing whatever needs to be done,” Meni said.

“Stani Dairy seems like a natural fit for us to all continue spending time and working together toward a business we believe in!” said Rhoda.
NICOLE FANNING of Lake Carmel, NY, was promoted to program manager at News Corp.

ALEXANDRA GALANTE of Manalapan, NJ, recently graduated from the Tufts University School of Dental Medicine.

MARCUS HARUN ’14, MBA ’15, of Hamden, is working on a team at MSNBC that is launching two political news shows. Marcus has dreamed of working in news at the national level since he was in middle school.

JESSICA RUSIN of Garwood, NJ, and Lenny Palermo were married on April 13 in Basking Ridge, NJ. Among the guests were KACIE MCCREESH, JENNALISE EISWERTH, KRISTIN ENGELKE, MEGHAN MCCULLOUGH, DANIELLE ALLAN, CATE COLUCCI and CHRISTA FITZPATRICK—all members of the QU 2013 field hockey team that finished with a 14–7 overall record and was the 2013 MAAC Conference champion.

MICHAEL TURO and LAUREN CHATALIAN ’14 were married on Aug. 24, 2019. Michael is a lawyer.

MICAH VITALE ’14, JD ’17, of Wolcott, CT, is an associate at the law firm of Carlton Fields in its Hartford office. She will be part of its labor and employment practice. Previously, Micah was an associate with Boyle Shaughnessy Law in Hartford.

KERRIN WALSH ’14, MOT ’16, of Lake Grove, NY, married Nicholas Crovello on May 25, 2019. Kerrin is an occupational therapist.

2015

NICHOLAS AMADOR of New York City was promoted from freelance news producer to full-time senior news producer at WABC-TV.

ADAM COOPERSMITH ’15, MBA ’16, of Bridgeport, CT, is assistant director of undergraduate admissions at Quinnipiac University.

ANDREW FUTTER ’16, MS ’16 married ANNA ROHMAN ’16 on Sept. 28, 2019, in North Yarmouth, Maine.

ERICA KLEINBAUM of Cortlandt Manor, NY, recently graduated from the Tufts University School of Dental Medicine.

CHELSEA LADEN of Chicago, IL, is attending optometry school and traveled across the country for a new series on the Travel Channel called Destination Fear.

GREG PAYNE of New Bern, NC, is a reporter for KCTV-5 in Kansas City, MO. Before that, Greg was a reporter for television stations in North Carolina and Pennsylvania.

NICOLE BERTAUX started medical school in July and is attending the New England College of Osteopathic Medicine. She lives in Biddeford, ME.

PAIGE FERRIER ’16, MAT ’17, of Kansas City, MO, is a ninth-grade history teacher.

ERICA LARSON of Cheshire, CT, is pursuing a modeling career. She has done photo shoots for various brands and appeared in fashion shows in Miami, including Miami Swim Week in July. She also started a holistic health coaching business.

JODELL MORENCY of Valley Stream, NY, recently started a new position as a solutions engineer.

2017

RYAN KENNEDY, DNP ’17, of Manhattan Beach, CA, is a clinical associate at the Brown ADHD Clinic in Los Angeles.

MEGHAN KEAVENEY of Pequannock, NJ, was named novice nurse of the year at the Chilton Medical Center in New Jersey. Meghan works at a cardiac progressive care unit at the medical center.

2018

JENNIFER KHILIL, MBA ’18, of Medford, NJ, is senior vice president and chief medical officer at Virtua, a health care provider. She previously was Virtua’s vice president of medical affairs.

CHRISTOPHER THORKILSEN of Atlanta recently began working for the Atlanta Hawks Corporate Partnerships department.

Forever Changing Lives for the Better

Tyler Smith ’14, MBA ’19, and his mom, Denise Smith Bryan, have made important, life-changing decisions to include Quinnipiac University in their estate plans.

As Denise explains, “Quinnipiac prepares its students with the professional training and skills that today’s world demands. I feel confident that, with the university’s vision and leadership, a gift to QU is in competent hands, and that it will further the excellence of its programs, staff and graduates.”

Tyler, a vice president with Aegis Wealth Partners, says, “It feels good knowing that after we’re gone, our legacy will live on through students who benefit from our bequests. I hope they will create unique memories like I did, which will forever change their lives for the better.”

You, too, can play a role in the lives and achievements of Quinnipiac scholars. Most estate gifts can be arranged in less than an hour, but their impact lasts a lifetime.

To learn more about how you can make a lasting impact by arranging a gift through your will, life insurance or retirement assets, please contact Eve Forbes, director of gift planning, at eve.forbes@qu.edu or 203-582-3995. To request a planning guide, please visit a/umni.qu.edu/yourlegacy
1. Farah Hage-Sleiman, JD ’17, and Derek Roy, Aug. 18, 2018.
4. Cooper Xavier L’Archeveque, born May 30, 2019, son of Stephanie L’Archeveque ’10 and her husband, Michael.
15. Joshua Robert Piccoli, born May 20, 2018, son of Christopher Piccoli ’08 and Dana (Meisberger) Piccoli ’08.
17. Declan James Hosey, born May 12, 2019, son of Brendan Hosey ’94 and his wife, Jenn. Declan is the grandchild of Carol (Isenstadt) Gutkin ’81.
Students describe their medical school experiences in lots of different ways: exhausting, overwhelming, life-changing. How does Dr. John Huston, MD ‘17, recall his four years at the Frank H. Netter MD School of Medicine?

“It was like going to summer camp,” he says. “You saw the same people every day, you made great friends, and there were incredible resources. Everything was brand new, and it felt like it was all built for you.”

Huston was part of the Netter School’s inaugural graduating class. His enthusiasm not only powered him through medical school but caught the eye of the top brass at Yale New Haven Hospital, where Huston is a third-year internal medicine resident.

At Netter, he became fascinated with internal medicine. “I just love trying to figure out a diagnosis and then teasing out how we are going to treat a patient,” he says.

Huston recently was tapped to spend an extra fourth year at Yale as one of five chief residents, a highly competitive and prestigious leadership position—chiefs are nominated by both faculty and peers. “I’m so excited,” he says. “Sometimes I can’t believe I get to do this for a living.”

Not bad for a guy who admittedly “didn’t have a clue” what he was going to do after college.

Raised in Edison, New Jersey, and Deep River, Connecticut, where he went to high school, Huston said he headed to the University of Massachusetts at Amherst mainly because his twin brother decided to attend UConn. “He is my best friend, but we thought we should go to different schools. My parents didn’t go to college, and it was one of their goals for us to go,” says Huston.

He chose his major—social thought/political economy—mainly because it allowed him to get in-state tuition. “It wasn’t very practical,” he says. “I just knew I wanted to do something helpful.”

After graduating in 2009, he spent a year working as a waiter and a substitute teacher before landing a job at a company in Thailand that made wheelchairs for people in the country’s rural area. Seeing it as an opportunity for adventure and to do good, he planned to spend at least two years overseas, but the opportunity was a bit misrepresented, so he returned home within the year. One day, a rock-climbing buddy who worked at Yale Psychiatric Hospital suggested that he apply to be a “milieu counselor”—basically, someone who helps those with mental illnesses develop healthy behaviors and coping skills. He got the job. “It was my first exposure to the medical field,” he says. “I realized I really liked it.”

It was also a turning point. Huston suddenly wanted to be a physician. “I didn’t know if I could get into medical school,” he says, noting his lackluster undergraduate experience. “I was quite behind, but I was also quite determined.”

He enrolled in a postbaccalaureate program, which would give him the opportunity to take the right classes and raise his GPA. “I knew I’d have to prove myself and I did; I got straight As.”

Netter was the perfect school for him. “QU matched up with my ideals; I like the focus on the biopsychosocial model of medicine, which favors a holistic approach, viewing the patient as a person and not a disease. You are not just telling a patient to take this medicine—and that’s it … you are eliciting more and seeing the whole picture—the impact of disease on their life and their understanding of it,” he says.

Huston plans to pursue a three-year fellowship in pulmonary critical care after his stint as chief resident. He feels that Netter prepared him well for the teaching role that comes with it. “QU made me realize how much I love the teaching side of things because I had such great mentors,” he says, citing professors Dr. Robert Bona, Dr. Todd Cassese and Dr. Barbara R. Pober.

“They nurtured me and built me up. Because of them, I think my dream is to work 50 percent as a professor and 50 percent in a hospital.”

Like all residents, he has rotated throughout the hospital’s departments, maintaining a grueling schedule that leaves little down time. Still, he has recently taken up woodworking. “I’m learning from YouTube videos—and messing up a lot. I’m trying to build a table for my new apartment,” he says. He also enjoys gardening.

But Huston loves going to work. “Someone comes in with a problem and I’m learning how to fix it. I feel like I’m at Hogwarts learning magic. It’s so rewarding.”

BY OLIVIA ABEL
PHOTO AUTUMN DRISCOLL

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1. Alumni and their families came back to Quinnipiac for a fun-filled weekend Oct. 18 and 19. Patricia Stein Caplan ’55 catches up with friends at the Golden Bobcats Heritage Luncheon and 50th Reunion Celebration in the University Club, People’s United Center.

2. From left, Nicole Bersey ’14, and former roommates Angela Romano ’14, Amanda Cianciola ’14, MAT ’15, and Aidan Tatar ’14, MAT ’15, were happy to hang out at the tailgate and make new memories at their fifth-year reunion.

3. Orientation leaders from the last 30 years gathered for a special reunion within the reunion where some of the T-shirts they wore sparked memories of those days making first-year students feel welcome and comfortable.

4. Families enjoyed a picnic and a bounce house on the lawn of the Alumni House and Gardens.

5. Carolyn McKenna, JD ’92, chats with fellow alumni in the Lynne L. Pantalena Law Library during a reception for Quinnipiac Law alumni.
1991 ANDREW ROTH of Bellmore, NY, has been named a Super Lawyer in the business litigation area for the seventh consecutive year. He practices commercial, business, title, and municipal litigation for Sahn Ward Coschignano.

1992 STEPHEN GOLDNER of West Bloomfield, MI, has received a patent from the U.S. Patent and Trade Office for his proprietary process to freeze dry cannabis. His startup, Pure Green, was awarded the first marijuana processing license in Michigan in 2018. The company employs 65 people.

1983 KATHRYN SENIE of Redding, CT, has spent the last year as the chief of staff at Holyoke Community College in Massachusetts. She practiced zoning and municipal law for 10 years before pivoting to higher education.

1984 JANET (KIPPHUT) AINSWORTH, ’74, JD ’84, of Guilford, CT, works as a staff attorney in the Connecticut state agency that oversees the Connecticut State Police. She hopes to wind up a nearly 30-year career in state service in 2021 to explore nonprofit opportunities in conservation advocacy.

JILL (BRAUNSTEIN) KREMER of Merrick, NY, is a financial advisor for Merrill Lynch’s Merrick office on Long Island. She was named to the 2019 Forbes “Best-in-State Wealth Advisors” and “Top Women Wealth Advisors” lists.

1985 LINDA (FUNKE) JOHNSON of Fuyqu-Varna, NC, is practicing law in North Carolina. She received her estate planning and probate specialist designation in 2007. In 2018, she was elected a fellow of the American College of Trust and Estate Counsel. She recently was nominated as a member of the Board of Governors, North Carolina Bar Association.

1989 TRACEY (GOODSPEED) ZINCK ’86, JD ’89, of Saco, ME, is serving a one-year term as president of the International Claim Association. The ICA is the world’s largest organization of professionals in the life and health insurance industry. She is an assistant vice president of claims at Disability-RMS.

1991 LISA NELSON of San Diego, CA, has joined the Leavitt Group as vice president of compliance and regulatory affairs & HIPAA privacy officer. Her practice areas are ERISA, HIPAA and employee benefits.

2006 KEITH ANTHONY of Guilford, CT, is a partner at Halloran Sage in the firm’s litigation and dispute resolution, insurance, family law and military defense practice groups. He also serves in the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve as a major and judge advocate.

2017 MICAH VITALE, ’14, JD ’17, of Wolcott, CT, has joined the law firm of Carlson Fields in Hartford. She is an associate in the firm’s labor and employment practice.

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LAW SCHOOL CLASS NOTES

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DAVID SULLIVAN of New Fairfield, CT, announced his candidacy for the 5th Congressional District seat in Connecticut. Sullivan, a Republican and former federal prosecutor, teaches in the criminal justice program at Western Connecticut State University.

2006 DAVID HOLLANDER of New York, NY, received the 2019 NYU Distinguished Teaching Award. Only six full-time professors among 6,000 faculty members are chosen. Hollander is the NYU School of Professional Studies assistant dean/Real World program, and a clinical associate professor of sports management at the Preston Robert Tisch Institute for Global Sport.

2017 JILL RUANE of Trumbull, CT, a juvenile defense attorney, recently released her first Alexa skill, “Family Conversations.” Alexa skills are applications designed to be used with Amazon’s voice control devices. The Family Conversations app promotes discussions ranging from simple to complex among parents and children.

2011 GRACIELLE CABUNGAL of Bayonne, New Jersey, has been named the data privacy officer at Digital Remedy. She has experience practicing in a variety of areas, including corporate law, intellectual property, domestic relations, immigration and breach of contract litigation.

2012 STEVEN KOS of West Seneca, NY, has joined Magavern Magavern & Grimm LLP as an associate attorney. He works with the firm’s health law and civil litigation groups.

2013 CHRISTOPHER CLARK of Hamden has joined Goldberg Segalla as an associate with the firm’s general liability team in Hartford. He previously worked with Howd & Ludorf LLC in Hartford.

2016 MARY-CAYLIN HARDING, ’13, JD ’16, of Brookfield, CT, has joined the Connecticut Division of Criminal Justice as a deputy assistant state’s attorney. She is one of four new prosecutors at state Superior Court in Danbury.

2019 AMY CILLIE of New Haven recently joined Waller Smith & Palmer. At Quinnipiac, where he graduated magna cum laude, he served as publication editor of the Quinnipiac Law Review.

IN MEMORIAM

2017 Albert Dattilo ’55
Daniel Ehrrbar ’76
Howard Geller ’74
Joseph Healy ’49
Nancy Heg ’51
Austin Kent ’49

2018 Lynette (Donahe) Clinton ’66
Nancy Coleman ’90
Erwin Cutler ’55
Barbara (Reed) Douglas ’43
Harold Kent ’41
Christian Kohler ’66
Charles Lewis ’58
Deborah Lindstrom, JD ’81
Louis Matson ’48
Esmonde Phelan ’50
Grace Schaefer, MHS ’83
Florence (Insler) Stolper ’39

2019 Marilyn Allesandrine ’04
Shirley (Young) Avedon ’48
Mark Beliniek ’95
Samuel Boyarsky ’48
Eleanor (Webster) Bradley ’41
Michael Brissette ’92
Michael Carnvale ’72
Sharon Cotter, MSN ’04
Genard Dolan ’79
Thomas Geirrin ’57
David Giacordino ’67
Jamie Lynne (Beckman) Gorton, MS ’14
Robert Harris, MAT ’97
Dorothy (Mulligan) Holleran ’40
Hugh Hollings, JD ’86
Christopher Kinsey ’74
Carl Koch ’88
Brian Korn, MHS ’99
Kaitlyn Lovett ’12, MAT ’13
Janet Magill ’91
George Meehan ’61
Matthew Mierzwinski ’05
Warren Newberry ’70
Juris Patlyak ’86
Barbara (Fisher) Pedersen ’56
Charles Ratner ’52
Kenneth Reilly ’64
Frank Rossetti ’57
Joseph Raymond Roy Jr. ’67
Molly Ryan ’12
Edward Sexton ’52
Charles Sweet ’55
Laura Tyman ’95
Joan (Burkle) Walsh ’56
Barbara Wolfe ’49

Quinnipiac professors emeritae Mary Ferrari, left, and Toni Robinson, center, at the Celebration of the Tax Law program with Sara Spodick, JD ’03, director of the Tax Clinic at the School of Law. Both professors were honored for their remarkable contributions to the program.
THE LAW AT WORK

Advising employers gives alumna chance to shape workplace culture

BY OLIVIA ABEL  
PHOTO AUTUMN DRISCOLL

TANYA BOVÉE, JD ‘01, hadn’t planned to be a lawyer. “It just wasn’t on my radar,” she says. As an undergraduate, she studied criminal justice and fire science with the goal of becoming an arson investigator. When a friend took the LSAT, she took it, too.

Taking the test turned out to be a good move. Today, Bovée is the office managing principal at the Hartford office of Jackson Lewis P.C. With more than 950 attorneys nationwide, it is one of the country’s largest and preeminent labor and employment law firms. In her role, she manages and mentors many lawyers throughout the firm, as well as law students, and she also maintains a busy practice with clients from coast to coast.

“Basically, I advise employers on what the law is and how to comply with it,” she says. “I help them navigate complex issues that crop up in the workplace.”

There are a lot of complex—and high-profile—workplace issues these days. The #MeToo movement, medical marijuana, and Connecticut’s new paid FMLA law—all have impacted Bovée’s practice. “There are always new laws coming down, which is what makes employment law so fascinating and challenging.”

Bovée is also passionate about diversity—it’s an issue close to her heart. She came to Connecticut from South Korea when she was just 4 months old. “Growing up in the ’70s and ’80s in Connecticut, I saw very few Asians around me,” she says. That’s one of the reasons she is proud to be part of a firm that truly values diversity and inclusion.

She pays it forward in a bigger way. She is a current board member and past president of the Connecticut Asian Pacific American Bar Association. In 2009 the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association recognized her efforts by naming her one of its “Best Lawyers under 40.” And in 2016, the Women in the Law Section of the Connecticut Bar Association presented her with the Ladder Award for leaving the “ladder down” for other women. She is also a current board member of the Lawyers Collaborative for Diversity.

Bovée had considered a career in tax law, mostly thanks to an inspiring Quinnipiac University law professor. “Tax with Mary Ferrari was my favorite class,” she says, noting that QU also gave her the opportunity to have “amazing” practical experiences, including a judicial and a corporate externship. She observed excellent litigators in action from the perspective of the bench, and also learned what it’s like to work in an in-house legal department.

Shortly after graduating, Bovée landed a job advising on international law at accounting giant Arthur Andersen. When the firm closed, Bovée changed direction and took a job representing employees in employment litigation. Tax and employment law seemed similar to her, as both rely on interpretations of the law. She describes employment law as “captivating because every issue is different.”

While Bovée found the plaintiff side interesting, one thought kept running through her head: “I’d really like to be on the other side, to represent employers, where I’d be able to effectuate some change.” She eventually networked her way to a job as an associate at Jackson Lewis in 2004; she made partner in 2010 and started managing the Hartford office in 2016.

“Working with clients is just a phenomenal experience. You get the opportunity to shape culture and really help,” she says. “I think sometimes people think of companies as big, faceless corporations, but in reality, corporations are made up of people trying to make the best decisions they can.”

Jackson Lewis clients come from numerous fields including life sciences, health care, higher education, insurance, retail, and government contractors and range from companies with instant brand name recognition to small mom and pop operations.

Bovée helps companies try to avoid litigation, but she realizes not all litigation is avoidable. These days, she says approximately 50 percent of her job involves advising and training employers; 30 percent is dedicated to affirmative action; and the remainder is spent litigating—most often discrimination, retaliation or whistleblower claims.

And then there is her other job: mother of two boys ages 6 and 3. Commuting to Hartford each day from Guilford leaves her little down time. Family is her priority on the weekends. She and her husband also care for her mother and grandmother, who both live independently nearby. “My grandmother is 97. She’s sharp as a tack; she’s my hero,” Bovée says.
Booming a Happy New Year!

As 2019 comes to a close, Boomer reflects on a banner year at Quinnipiac that saw the reopening of his beloved Sleeping Giant State Park following the devastating tornado in 2018, as well as the inauguration of President Judy Olian that ushered in the University of the Future. There was also the third consecutive NCAA tournament appearance by the women’s basketball team, and the first-ever NCAA tournament win for men’s baseball. With so much going right in #BobcatNation, what more could a mascot ask for in 2020? Come to think of it, Boomer has a few ideas…

LOUD AND PROUD!
Boomer wants to see every seat at the People’s United Center filled with fellow Bobcats cheering Quinnipiac’s basketball and ice hockey teams during home games. This is nonnegotiable!

BEAT YALE!
Boomer would be thrilled with strong showings in the ECAC hockey tournament by both the men’s and women’s ice hockey teams. Frozen Four appearances would be amazing, too—and at the very least, sound trouncings of our rivals, the Yale Bulldogs.

MORE WINS!
Boomer is pulling for a fourth straight appearance by women’s basketball in the NCAA tournament. Another MAAC Championship for men’s baseball would be nice, and he’d love to cheer on the men’s soccer, lacrosse and tennis teams in the MAAC finals again. That’s not greedy, is it?

NEW KICKS
Boomer doesn’t like to be selfish, but a new pair of hockey skates to dazzle the crowds as he skates with the QU flag really would be nice...
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