An entrepreneur to the bone

Patrick Mullaney ’89 is a serial entrepreneur who has successfully built and grown three medical device companies. ExtraOrtho, Inc., a firm he founded and ultimately sold, marketed a unique external fixation device, pictured above, used to hold severely broken bones in place while they heal. medical devices used to treat neurological and cardiovascular diseases. Mullaney came on board to turn those scientific concepts into marketable business products with profitable sales networks.

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

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

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

Mullaney grew up in the Albany, N.Y., area, one of four children in a middle-class family. A competitive swimmer and baseball player in high school, he was attracted to Cortland by the sports culture on campus and his desire to understand the fundamentals of how the economy works. "I always knew I wanted to be an entrepreneur," he said. "I'm a salesman. I just didn't know what I would sell."

In high school, while his peers were getting summer jobs at fast food restaurants, Mullaney, then 17, rented a refrigerated panel truck and started his own "Mr. Ding-a-Ling" ice cream franchise. He was behind the wheel seven days a week, selling pre-packaged ice cream out of the brightly colored vehicle. Truck rental and ice cream cost him about $700 a month, but by the end of the summer he could clear $3,000 or $4,000, he said.

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

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

"It also taught me about distribution, which is what I do today. I taught me what you buy product for, what your goods sell for, what your margins should be." Mullaney's work ethic was instilled in him by his parents at a very young age. He and his siblings were always up early on weekends and always had odd jobs. When he borrowed money from his parents to start his endeavors, he always paid it back on time.

As a SUNY Cortland freshman, Mullaney worked as a dishwasher in the cafeteria at Hwelch Hall, then as a bartender at the Dark Horse Tavern downtown. "I was there every Friday and Saturday and at least one or two days during the week," Mullaney said of the Dark Horse. "I made a lot of money. I wanted to buy the place and I had enough. It was never able to put it together."

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

"I had my eyes on Mullaney. His most hateful business contact came along because of Mr. Ding-a-Ling. One of the parents Mullaney became friendly with along his ice cream route was a sales representative for Smith & Nephew, a giant medical technology firm based in Memphis that does business in more than 90 countries.

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

Mullaney spent nearly two years barely scraping by as an apprentice, learning the medical device business from the inside out, before becoming a full-fledged sales representative sometimes 20–hour days. The company sent him to Memphis for six weeks of intensive training that included crash courses in anatomy, kinesiology, physiology and metallurgy.

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

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

Mullaney’s six weeks of training in Memphis did more than make him an asset in the operating room. It enabled him to meet his wife, Randi Jo, a Memphis native. The couple struck up a conversation in a nightclub over the resemblance the shirt she was wearing had to the "buffy shirt" on a then-popular "Seinfeld" episode.
Charles Darwin, the father of evolutionary biology, once said: “It is not the strongest of the species that survives, nor the most intelligent that survives. It is the one that is the most adaptable to change.” Darwin’s observation applies to more than island birds and tortoises. It helps inform College educators about what they must do to prepare students for success in the modern world.

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

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

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

That is why the College is taking steps to make sure our campus culture nurtures the spirit of entrepreneurship, one of the primary strategic goals of the 64-campus State University of New York system. By tapping into the expertise of our faculty and the experiences of our alumni, by opening our students’ eyes to possibilities they may have never considered, SUNY Cortland can both groom future success stories and help revitalize the nation’s economy.

J.J. Walsh ’78, overseeing Margaritas at the Ravine Waterpark in Paso Robles, Calif., a popular summer destination that Walsh and his partners built by hand and operate themselves.

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

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

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

We agree. And we are building on that foundation. Business economics is now one of our most popular and fastest-growing majors. The Economics Department has run an annual business idea competition for several years, and the College has an active Entrepreneurship Club.

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

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

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

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

BY PETER KANAKARIS ‘70 Alumni Association President

Since becoming president of the SUNY Cortland Alumni Association this past summer, I’ve thought a lot about the membership of our association: past, present and future. The demographics of SUNY Cortland’s student population, like those of New York state and the nation as a whole, have changed significantly since I earned my bachelor’s degree in 1970 and my master’s in 1976.

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

It is事儿 of minds of everyone as African, Latino, Asian or Native American (ALANA), meanwhile, rose by more than 55 percent, from 5.6 million people to 5.6 million. As a result, the diversity of the student body today.

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

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

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

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

The communications world is changing rapidly. With more than 64,000 alumni ranging in age from the early 20s to their early 100s, the College understands that multiple media must be used to stay in touch. That’s why the communications survey that will be mailed to you in the coming months will be the only method used to gather your opinions and preferences.

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

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

CAPITAL DISTRICT CHAPTER
Fifty alumni, family and friends met in Saratoga Springs, N.Y., for a day at the races on July 29. This year, alumni and their guests enjoyed a free upgrade to the At the Rail Pavilion and were shuttled to the game. The Alumni Association also provided a buffet lunch with access to the betting windows and closed-circuit television circuits. Alumni also were able to stand trackside and enjoy the races.

C-CLUB HALL OF FAME
More than 200 alumni returned to campus Oct. 19-20 to honor the newest members of the SUNY Cortland C-Club Hall of Fame. This past year, Murphy played 18 holes at the Glen Oak Golf Course with her father in mind.

CORTACA JUG 2012
On Nov. 10, more than 550 alumni watched as the Red Dragons defeated the Ithaca Bombers and captured a Cortaca Jug “threepeat” at the SUNY Cortland Stadium Complex.

The 14th Cortaca Jug gave alumni and friends an opportunity to watch the much-anticipated game at the stadium or attend one of three Cortaca Jug events. Alumni winners in the annual Alumni Cortaca Jug ticket lottery picked their prizes up at the Lynne Park’s 68 SUNY Cortland Alumni House before heading to the Stadium Complex. Variaty athletes from 1990-2012 gathered for breakfast in the Corey Union Exhibition Lounge before being shuttled to the game. The Alumni Association also provided two opportunities for alumni to watch the game indoors in case of inclement weather. A social at The Stone Lounge on Main Street gave guests an opportunity to mingle with friends, while alumni enjoyed the televised game. The second event was held at the Parks Alumni House, where alumni and friends enjoyed lunch and cheered the Red Dragons on to victory while watching the game on an 80-inch projection screen.

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

CORTLAND CHAPTER
Cortland alumni hosted a wrapping party for more than 100 students and staff members at the Lynne Parks ’68 SUNY Cortland Alumni House on Dec. 5. The staff of each residence hall adopted a disadvantaged Cortland family for the holidays. They raised money to purchase gifts for the parents to give to their children over the holidays. The alumni greeted them with hot cocoa, cookies, cupcakes and candles. Students and alumni wrapped gifts, shared stories and related stories of their experiences at SUNY Cortland. Each student also was presented with a holiday-themed gift.

DALLAS-AREA SOCIAL
Dallas alumni joined former classmates attending the NCAA convention on Jan. 16 for a social at the Gaylord Texan hotel in Grapevine, Texas. Twenty alumni and friends enjoyed a College update from President Erik J. Bitterbaum and refreshments compliments of the Alumni Association. Alumni also discussed the upcoming athletic season with Athletic Director Mike Untz ’94 and Associate Director Dan Kelly ’11.

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

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

FRIENDS OF LACROSSE
Former Red Dragon men’s lacrosse players enjoyed a weekend of activities Oct. 13-15 at the Friends of Lacrosse: Celebration of Champions gathering on the SUNY Cortland campus.

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

Golf tournament goodies father-daughter bond

BY MICHAEL BERSANI Staff Writer

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

So when Gerald “Gerry” Gentner ’66 passed away after a long battle with cancer in 2012, Murphy considered ways to keep her father’s memory alive.

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

“My dad loved everything about Cortland when we went back to visit,” said Murphy, a former sports management major who started in softball and field hockey at the College and now chairs the golf event that will bear her father’s name. “Gerry was a legend and the best in his field. He always gave back to Cortland in any way he could.”

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

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

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COLUMNS • SUMMER 2013

SUMMER 2013
HAMILTON PICNIC
The annual Hamilton Alumni Picnic, hosted by Hank 49 and Sallie Von Mechow, was held on July 19. Twenty alumni and friends were greeted by College President Erik J. Bitterbaum and his wife, Ellen Howard Burton. Fred ’77 and Patricia Vecchio Von Mechow ’78 assisted in the event planning and setup. President Bitterbaum met with alumni and their families and gave an update on the College.

NEW YORK CITY CHAPTER
On Oct. 30, 10 SUNY Cortland alumni and friends attended a football pregame tailgate event at the Rock ‘n’ Joe Coffeehouse and Bistro. Following the tailgate, which featured SUNY Cortland giveaways, the alumni handed out promos and fans cheered on the Red Dragons as they defeated Kean University 39-17. Other chapter events included:
- A crowd of 90 alumni and Red Dragon fans gathered on Nov. 10 at Mammy’s on Second for the New York City Chapter’s Cortaca Party. President Bitterbaum hosted the event. A raffle of SUNY Cortland items took place and the crowd cheered when it was announced that the SUNY Cortland Alumni blankets that were sent had been donated to a local relief organization for Hurricane Sandy victims. The Cortland Red Dragons defeated Ithaca 16-10 by holding off the Bombers inside the 1-yard line with only 40 seconds remaining and secured their third consecutive Cortaca Jug victory.
- New York City area alumni gathered at The Malt House in Manhattan on Dec. 20 to celebrate the holidays with their fellow Cortland graduates. Peter Kanakaris ’70, president of the SUNY Cortland Alumni Association, addressed the event and greeted guests. The party was coordinated by New York City chapter chair Robert Vinal ’71 and offered opportunities for alumni to reconnect with their fellow graduates and alma mater. Guests also enjoyed free SUNY Cortland giveaways.

NEW YORK JETS TRAINING CAMP
The SUNY Cortland Alumni Association hosted a variety of events in conjunction with the New York Jets. Summer training camp held July 28 to Aug. 15. Alumni volunteers greeted camp attendees at the Alumni Welcome tent and handed out autograph markers and Cortland decals.
- Graduates were able to watch practice in style in the hospitality tent on Aug. 2 and Aug. 14. More than 200 alumni and friends gained sideline access while enjoying a breakfast. Finally, 47 people met head coach Rex Ryan, former general manager Mike Tennenbaum, and the New York Jets coaching staff on Aug. 11 at the Meet the Coaches reception at the Parks Alumni House. Coach Ryan and staff graciously answered alumni questions and signed autographs. Alumni enjoyed a lavish hors d’oeuvres party in the elegant house while gaining access to the popular NFL team. Event proceeds supported the Alumni Association.

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

PARKS ALUMNI HOUSE 100 YEAR ANNIVERSARY
On Aug. 1, 8 donors who named a room at the Lynne Parks ’68 SUNY Cortland Alumni House enjoyed a special gathering during Jets camp. This was followed by a cocktail party at the Parks Alumni House. The series continued as follows:
- On Sept. 15, the Parks Alumni House Charter Patron donors were treated to a brunch at the house prior to the Homecoming football game vs. Western Connecticut. Attendees watched the game in the Stephens’ Hunt ’72 VIP Lounge as the Red Dragons defeated the Colonials 72-14.
- On Dec. 9, the Parks Alumni House welcomed more than 150 visitors and provided live entertainment, along with period appropriate food as the house was decked in a Victorian theme for its eighth annual Holiday Open House.

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

A Year in Review

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

Calendar of Events

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

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

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

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

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

October
18-19  Multicultural Alumni Reunion, SUNY Cortland
November
16  Cortaca Jug, Ithaca Stadium
**Register Today to Attend July 12-14!**

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

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

**QUESTIONS? DIETARY RESTRICTIONS?**
Please call the Alumni Affairs Office at 607-753-2516 for additional information.

**SEE WHO’S ATTENDING**
Visit cortland.edu/reunion weekly for an updated list of attendees. Encourage your friends and former faculty to attend. See who’s attending to register and watch their names appear!

**SPONSORSHIPS NOW ACCEPTED**
The Alumni Association is excited to announce sponsorship opportunities for Alumni Reunion 2013. Alumni, businesses and friends have the chance to make our reunion program an even greater experience and advertise their organization through an Alumni Reunion 2013 sponsorship. Become a Friend of Reunion Sponsor. This sponsor will be listed on the Reunion Luncheon Program given to approximately 350 attendees and on the Reunion Golf Program, shared with approximately 60 attendees.

The association will continue its popular captain-and-crew golf tournament where alumni are invited to sponsor the Full Event, a Beverage Cart, a Meal, a Side Game, or a Hole. (Prize donations are welcome, too.)

The cost of this sponsorship is $100.

**Additional information and a complete list of sponsorships can be found by visiting cortland.edu/reunion.**

The Alumni Association thanks you in advance for your support. All funds raised will support Alumni Reunion 2013 and future alumni events.

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**Schedule of Events**

**FRIDAY, JULY 12**
- Alumni Association Fundraiser Golf Tournament
- Class of 1958 Seneca Lake Day Trip
- Class of 1953 Cayuga Lake Luncheon Boat Cruise
- Class of 1963 Cayuga Lake Luncheon Boat Cruise
- Nu Sigma Chi Sorority Skaneateles Luncheon Boat Cruise
- General Registration and Information
- Reunion Committee Members Recognition Reception
- Reunion Welcome Reception hosted by the Cortland College Foundation
- Class of 1963 50th Reunion Dinner
- Class of 1958 50th Reunion Dinner
- Nu Sigma Chi Sorority Welcome Party
- Beta Phi Epsilon (1927-1995) Fraternity Welcome Party
- Dinner On Your Own at Local Restaurants

**SATURDAY, JULY 13**
- General Registration and Information
- Partners in Leadership Breakfast
- Hot Breakfast Buffet
- Beta Phi Epsilon (1927-1995) Fraternity Breakfast Business Meeting
- Exploring the Natural History of Hoxie Gorge
- Academic Building Open Houses
- The Lynne Parks ’58 SUNY Cortland Alumni House Tours
- Class of 1948 Social
- Classes Without Quizzes
- Nu Sigma Chi Sorority Alumni Tea
- Guided Campus Tours
- Class of 1949 Reunion 2014 Meeting
- Alumni Luncheon and Awards Ceremony
- Cortland Downtown Partnership’s Taste of Downtown and Sidewalk Festival
- Class of 1948 Social
- Agy/Tri Sig/Sig Phi Sorority Annual Meeting
- All-Greek Reception (underwritten by the Nu Sigma Chi Legacy Fund)
- Half Century Club and Classes of 1948 and 1953 Dinner and a Musical
- Nu Sigma Chi Sorority Dinner
- Beta Phi Epsilon (1927-1995) Fraternity Dinner
- Class of 1958 Celebration
- Class of 1963 Celebration
- Class of 1968 Celebration
- Classes of 1973 and 1978 Celebration
- Classes of 1983 and 1988 Celebration

**SUNDAY, JULY 14**
- All Class Farewell Breakfast
- Nu Sigma Chi Sorority Farewell Breakfast
- Beta Phi Epsilon (1927-1995) Fraternity Farewell Breakfast
- Social Media for Business
- Beta Phi Epsilon (1927-1995) Fraternity House Tour

Reservations are required to attend reunion events. Visit cortland.edu/reunion to register by June 30, 2013.
Power outage can’t darken Super Bowl trip

BY MICHAEL BERSANI  Staff Writer

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

“Just when you think you’ve seen it all, something else happens,” said Murray, who resides in Cincinnati. “The game was icing on the cake, with the cake being the city of New Orleans itself.”

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

Murray and his wife were the latest beneficiaries of the College’s unique partnership, winning a grand prize that went entirely to undergraduate scholarships, graduate assistantships and student programs.

The student-focused purpose was the real reason for Murray’s participation, although the ability to cross off the nation’s biggest sporting event and a popular travel destination from his bucket list certainly sweetened the pot.

Murray joked that the most valuable prizes he had won prior to the Super Bowl raffle were a $7 payout from a Powerball drawing and a goldfish at a birthday party from his childhood.

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

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

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

They soaked up a weekend of southern hospitality without overdining it — wandering through the French Quarter at their own pace, marveling at historic mansions and tasting all of the delicacies that New Orleans has to offer.

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

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

On game day, the couple arrived early to again take in the sights and sounds. The face value of each corner end zone ticket was $2,550 and they were surrounded by a sea of Ravens fans, “which made it feel like we were sitting with the home team,” said Murray, who wasn’t pulling hard for a specific outcome.

“I simply chuckled to himself. “You wouldn’t have been able to move,” Murray said. “It was like: ‘I’m at the Super Bowl, how could I not be having the time of my life?’”

The Feb. 3 sports spectacle proved far from ordinary in more ways than one.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Cortland businessman honored by College

By FREDERIC PERCE  Editor

Yaman taught 7th and 8th grade students in a one-room schoolhouse near Groton for several years before enlisting in the Army during World War II. During the conflict, he rose to the rank of captain.

After the war, Yaman returned to his hometown, but did not return to teaching. An entrepreneur at heart, he opened a real estate business, and he excelled, eventually founding Yaman Real Estate, Cortland County’s dominant home and commercial real estate broker.

As his success grew, Yaman did not forget the community that nurtured him as a child, or the College, which he said gave him the only opportunity for higher education available to the son of a poor family.

Yaman has served on alumni committees and task forces, including the body that recommended a reconstruction and reorganization of the College’s alumni office in 1967. Those far-reaching recommendations included the creation of regional alumni chapters and the hiring of the College’s first full-time director of alumni affairs, and the creation of an annual fund. The plan laid the foundation for the current Alumni Affairs Office. He also was a member of SUNY Cortland’s very first Alumni Fund Campaign Committee.

The College-Community Appreciation Award is sponsored by the College Council. It was created in 1985 as a means of thanking persons who have assisted SUNY Cortland in a significant manner.
Mary Joy’s legacy of hope

BY FREDERICA PIERCE

During last year’s Cortaca Jug weekend, Bill Sherlach ’80 gathered his family for a Mary Joy Greene Sherlach ’78 ‘Tea and talked about the changes he and his family have made since the Sandy Hook Elementary School shootings one year ago.

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

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

On Dec. 14, 2012, Mary Joy Sherlach was one of the first people killed in a shooting massacre at Sandy Hook Elementary School that left 26 adults and 20 children dead.

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

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

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

— J. B. BITTERMBAUM
President

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

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

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

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

“In this wake of the shootings, SUNY Cortland began accepting donations to fund a scholarship in Mary Joy Sherlach’s memory. It will be given to a deserving psychology major in the fall semester.”

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The SUNY Cortland campus currently is experiencing a level of earthmoving, concrete pouring, leveling and building not seen since the original construction of the current campus during the 1950s. The projects include construction of a new Student Life Center on the former Carl “Chugger” Davis Field; erection of a new residence hall near the base of College Hill; renovation and expansion of Bowers Hall and complete makeover of the Dowd Fine Arts Center. And all of it is being done with an eye toward energy savings and environmental sustainability. Here’s a rundown:

STUDENT LIFE CENTER
The 55,000 square foot Student Life Center is under construction on the former student union site that is being transformed into the home of the Bowers Hall Planetarium. The building includes a new addition rising out of the ground where the former main entrance and museum wing were demolished and a new pedestrian bridge extending across the Student Life Center courtyard. The $56 million Student Life Center is under construction and will provide a state-of-the-art facility for student recreation, social interactions and experiential learning—a one-stop shop for a variety of healthy activities aimed at students with a wide range of abilities, backgrounds and interests.

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

DOWD FINE ARTS CENTER
The College is completing the final phase of renovations that began in 2000. Windows for art studios are being added on the west wing of the building to give students more natural light by which to work. The upgrade also encompasses roof work and mechanicals such as air conditioners. SUNY Cortland is renovating the entire lower two floors, including the theater and gallery, and adding a sprinkler system throughout the building. The complete renovation will be done by December 2013.

BOWERS HALL
A new addition is rising out of the ground where the former main entrance and museum wing were demolished last summer, as the College’s primary science facility undergoes expansion and renovation. The expanded science building will feature state-of-the-art laboratories and a new planetarium. It will open fully for the Spring 2014 semester. Planners anticipate that all of the new work will meet stringent environmental standards and help reduce the campus’ carbon footprint. The College is aiming to certify the Student Life Center and Dragon Hall with LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Gold and Silver ratings, respectively. Those ratings indicate projects meet high national standards for environmental conservation in building construction. The Student Life Center would be the first building in Cortland County to be certified LEED Gold.

Michael Sgro named executive director of alumni affairs

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

In his new role, Sgro provides leadership and direction for the College’s Alumni Affairs Office and the Cortland College Alumni Association, Inc. He also assists with major gift development on behalf of the Cortland College Foundation, Inc. He has 15 years of professional experience in higher education and community engagement.

Michael D. Sgro

Erin Boylan, associate director of alumni affairs, had directed the department on an interim basis since June 2012. For more than 15 years Sgro, a Syracuse, N.Y., native, has ascended the ranks of higher education at several institutions in New York state, earning a reputation for work related to student and alumni programming, career networking and social media. He oversees the events, staff and services related to 40 clubs during his tenure as associate director of M.B.A. student activities from 2001 to 2005, managing relationships with student leaders, university administration and corporate clients while overseeing many other student-focused daily duties.

As the university’s senior associate director of alumni affairs, Sgro developed regional and corporate events built on relationships with active alumni volunteers. In that role, with the help of university faculty members, he developed the Life Long Learning workshop series. Between his stints at Le Moyne and Oswego, Sgro worked for CampusGroups, an online community management company based in New York City, where he served as its marketing and communications manager. He oversaw all of the company’s public relations duties while creating web content and managing several projects to grow the brand’s reach.

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

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

Sgro resides in Cortland.
Hilltop happenings

Jets camp a success

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

The New York Jets 2012 Summer Training Camp drew more than 35,630 fans to campus, generating more than $5.5 million in economic activity for Cortland County, according to an economic impact study by three SUNY Cortland faculty members.

The survey by SUNY Cortland Professor of Economics Kathleen Burke, Assistant Professor of Geography Wendy Miller and Associate Professor of Economics Timothy Phillips, used more than a dozen College interns to collect and analyze data. The New York Jets provided SUNY Cortland students even more hands-on internship opportunities, providing more than 50 internships helping with aspects of training camp ranging from communications and marketing to athletic training and event management.

The New York Jets will be back again for weeks of training this fall, camp dates have not yet been released. Check newyorkjets.com for updates.

College featured at State Fair

The New York State Fair, the largest annual event in New York State, featured a new attraction just past SUNY Cortland.

The College exhibited there for five days of the Fair’s 12-day run, greeting alumni, answering questions for prospective students and giving away red SUNY Cortland sunglasses that were won by thousands of Fairgoers.

The exhibit, the most elaborate of any campus participating in the highly visible SUNY system tent, became a popular stop for visiting students, faculty, staff and alumni.

The location of the booth gave the College’s visiting friends a great location from which to enjoy musical acts like the Galls Band and Eddie Money on the Fair’s main free concert stage.

The SUNY system exhibit was so successful that the tent will be operated in the same location during the 2013 Fair. SUNY Cortland plans to have an even greater presence. Look for details later this summer in Moments, the monthly electronic newsletter for alumni.

Students stream to voting booths

SUNY Cortland does more than produce new graduates. It’s also really good at creating new voters.

Cortland students visited their local polling places in impressive numbers on Election Day, after a campus groups' remarkable effort to register more than 1,500 students.

The College’s New York Public Interest Research Group (NYPIRG) chapter, a non-profit and non-partisan organization devoted to activating the charge that resulted in the largest November voter registrations this fall.

That number was the third highest among 20 campuses statewide where NYPIRG is active. It trumps only Borough of Manhattan Community College, a CUNY institution of more than 24,000 students, and Binghamton University, which claims a student population nearly twice as large as SUNY Cortland.

A new partnership between the College and district involves two weeks of early hands-on classroom experience in which aspiring educators forego their regular, on-campus classes and follow the course of the entire Groton school day. The education students — at a point in their careers where they are not yet eligible for traditional student teaching — are there from the time the children arrive until they depart and are involved in every other aspect of an elementary school pupils busy school day.

The 15 SUNY Cortland students involved in the November pilot program didn’t lead classes, but they helped the Groton teachers with classroom activities while they observed the rhythms of a real classroom.

Teacher education innovation

Two new, innovative SUNY Cortland teacher education programs are giving prospective teachers more intensive hands-on classroom experience while helping area schools in Binghamton, N.Y., and Groton, N.Y., meet ever-increasing challenges.

Last fall, the New York State Education Department awarded SUNY Cortland a $49,979 grant to engage future high school science and mathematics teachers in a full-year teacher residency program at Binghamton High School, a high-needs, urban school district.

The proposed program, offered in collaboration with Binghamton High School, enabled approximately 12 SUNY Cortland students to spend one full academic year, starting in the fall of 2013, immersed in richly rigorous classroom life at Groton as part of a new teacher education program.

Comparison highlights Cortland’s value

SUNY Cortland spends more per student on actual instruction than a national sampling of similar public colleges. It also produces significantly better graduation and retention rates, according to a U.S. Department of Education report.

And it accomplishes all that while charging tuition that is lower than most of its comparable institutions, where tuition costs are growing at a much faster rate.

The 2012 Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System Data Feedback Report found that SUNY Cortland stacks up very favorably against 34 public colleges with similar degree programs and student enrollment. The annual survey collects information from roughly 7,500 U.S. colleges and universities and compares institutions across a variety of categories.

“When I look at the report, I’m impressed by many of the figures,” College President Erk J. Bitterbaum said. “But what stands out the most to me is how much SUNY Cortland invests per student on instruction and academic support.”

In 2011, SUNY Cortland spent 22 percent more per full-time student on instruction and academic support than the median amount spent by members of its comparison group, according to the survey. The College that fiscal year invested $1,380 per student on faculty, instructional materials and other items directly related to academic learning. That is $2,068 more than the median $9,312 spent per student on those items by its counterparts.

SUNY Cortland dedicated nearly 70 percent of the $16,823 it spent per student in 2011 to instruction and academic support. The other comparable institutions in the report spent a median of 66 percent of their budgets directly on education. Non-instructional costs included research, student services, institutional support and other core programs.

“This clearly demonstrates our commitment to academic excellence and to ensuring that all of our students learn to the best of their ability and are challenged by rigorous courses taught by top-notch faculty,” Bitterbaum said. “Our students have worked their way here, and they’re in a incredible range of recreational activities, but our No. 1 priority is the quality and effectiveness of the education we provide.”

Child Care Center marks anniversary

The SUNY Cortland Child Care Center’s first clients are now promoting young adults — living testaments to the center's early, and positive influence in their lives.

In January, the not-for-profit child care center marked nearly two decades of helping infants, toddlers and preschoolers develop and learn at Cortland County’s only nationally accredited facility.

The center, which opened on Jan. 11, 1995, has enrolled hundreds of babies and youngsters between the ages of six weeks and five years from Cortland and neighboring counties while providing a living laboratory for generations of the College’s future educators and professionals.

The childcare facility has left an indelible mark on many area children as well as on parents who place their babies and toddlers at the facility while striving to earn a college degree.
The sweetest win comes off the field

BY MICHAEL BERSANI • Staff Writer

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

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

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

He spoke to two in particular. “This is our football program’s biggest victory,” MacNeill said. “I can’t imagine any other girl smiling on her mother’s lap and a muscular lineman seated next to them. “Today, we have a face for our victory.” Camera shutters clicked and tears trickled down a few faces.

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

Flash back to the spring of 2009, which seems like a lifetime ago. That’s when Stephens, a high school senior at the time, toured the SUNY Cortland campus with his parents, Paul and Pat, as part of a recruiting visit.

The College’s reputation in the physical education profession and the quality of the school’s athletic facilities stood out to them. So did the football team’s participation in the “Get in the Game, Save a Life” National Marrow Donor Program (NMDP), a potentially life-saving effort involving a mouth swab to obtain cheek cells. On average only one in every 540 members of the NMDP registry will go on to donate bone marrow or blood stem cells to a patient. Still, those odds didn’t deter Stephens or his parents.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Doing well because of doing good

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

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

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

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

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

“Your choice and your self-sacrifice and your prayers saved our daughter’s life,” he said.

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

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

The note praised Stephens for his decision to donate.

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

Boyle wrote: “She loves football.”

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

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A swashbuckler speaks

BY JENNIFER WILSON • Associate Editor

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

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

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

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

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

“I think I had the most performances clocked of any actor on these tours,” he said of his combined work with several “Disney’s Beauty and the Beast.” “I almost literally grew up on the stage.”

Brooks primarily performed as an understudy for the role of Gaston, but also study for the role of the Beast.

“In high school in the Marathon [N.Y.] Central District, Brooks was juggled between his interests in theatrical performance and athletics. His mother, Dolores, pulled on one arm and his father, Richard M. Brooks ’72, grabbed the other.

“My father wanted a basketball player and he got one in high school,” said Brooks, noting his low-pitched, baritone vocals also are better suited for the bad-guy roles.

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

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

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

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

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

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

“However, I didn’t have any muscials before and I hadn’t done any dancing up to that point,” he noted. “Basketball was a whole different way of moving than dancing.”

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

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

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

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

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

Cynthia Halpin started all her dance ensemble proteges out as beginners, Brooks recalled. She assured them that if they trained they might move up in their roles.

From his freshman year, Brooks danced seven days a week.

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

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

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

“Three days after graduation I was cast as Gaston in the New Bedford (Mass.) Festival Theatre production of ‘Disney’s Beauty and the Beast,’” Brooks said. “Reflecting his strong school spirit, Brooks has offered help to recent graduates in New York.

“Jeffrey was always positive about the work,” Halpin said of his former protege. “He tried really hard to get everyone to focus.

“Jeffrey was always positive about the work,” Halpin said of his former protege. “He tried really hard to get everyone to focus.

He was a really gregarious guy and was part of establishing from the very beginning that feeling that we are all in this together. That spirit exists to this day.”
Taking a seat

BY FREDERIC PIERCE, Editor

Distinguished Service Professor Robert Spitzer is chairman of the SUNY Cortland Political Science Department and an internationally respected authority on gun legislation. He is also a lifelong fan of the theater. That’s why he and his wife were the first members of SUNY Cortland’s extended family to participate in the College’s “Take a Seat” campaign to support performing arts programming and the Dowd Fine Arts Center. “I have always been a fan of my wife Teresa and me,” Spitzer said. “We have both seen many wonderful productions in the Dowd Fine Arts Center Theatre over the years, and have also even performed in a few. “In addition, we wanted to acknowledge my late mother in this way, because she had a lifelong love of the theater that was imparted to me. She was a performer herself in her younger days, and she attended some productions in Dowd. Finally, we wished to honor our colleagues and friends in the Performing Arts Department, for whom we share an abiding respect and admiration.” For decades, the SUNY Cortland Performing Arts Department and Dowd Fine Arts Center Theatre have served as both a training ground for eager young talents and as a popular cultural venue in Central New York. Every year, thousands of people pass through Dowd’s doors to enjoy musical theatre productions, dramatic works, original plays and concerts presented by the department’s musical ensembles. More than 40 recitals, concerts, plays and other events take place there annually, making it the most highly visible and prestigious — performing arts venue for the campus community. It is also incredibly diverse, offering performances that range from Shakespearean productions and classical music to family-friendly Broadway standards and edgy, modern dramas. “Our program offers something for everyone,” said David Neal, chairman of the Performing Arts Department. “Whether you love modern Broadway musicals like ‘Rent’ or ‘Sweeney Todd’, or enjoy classic dramatic productions such as ‘A Doll’s House’ or ‘The Importance of Being Earnest’, you’ll find something on our schedule that you can enjoy and appreciate.” "Generations of Cortland students have fond memories of the performing arts, either as a participant or a member of the audience,” Neal said. “We plan to continue making those special moments possible for a long time to come.” To do that, SUNY Cortland needs your help. By making a tax-deductible gift of $5,000 through the “Take a Seat” campaign, payable in three installments, an attractive nameplate bearing the supporter’s inscription will mark whatever seat he or she selects in the completely renovated main theater of the Ruth E. Dowd Fine Arts Center. It’s an opportunity for donors to honor a student, a family member, a production — whatever is meaningful to them. The theater is currently undergoing renovations as part of a larger building upgrade that is scheduled for completion in December. Like other aspects of “Educating Champions, the Campaign for Cortland,” the “Take a Seat” campaign is not intended to support construction, but to enrich programming and create new and exciting opportunities that help SUNY Cortland students discover themselves, their talent and the larger world. Gifts through the program will help build a fund to bring nationally respected instructors to campus. During the current academic year, for example, the department was able to bring Broadway performer and internationally respected choreographer Terrie Robinson to campus as a dance lecturer. The fund will be used to enhance already impressive campus productions. It will offset the cost of set materials and modern lighting and sound equipment, allowing the College to raise the bar for student standards to the professional level they will experience in the working world. The campaign will support long-established performance ensembles and allow the department to create new, high-profile concerts that will encourage even more members of the community to experience SUNY Cortland’s talent. Perhaps most importantly, the fund will provide scholarships for talented and deserving students. “We would like to be able to establish a scholarship fund that would attract new students as well as support the education of students who are already here,” said Kevin Halpin, associate professor of performing arts. “These scholarships could be used as a recruitment tool. They will be used to help raise the level of student we’re bringing in.” Performing arts faculty really has no limit about how far SUNY Cortland’s program can go. And all members of the College Community have to do to help move it along is to stand up, and take a seat.

To learn more about the Take-a-Seat program, its installment payment option or to make arrangements to permanently inscribe the theater seat of your choice, call the Cortland College Foundation at 607-753-3744, or send an email message to ccf@cornell.edu.
Starting their first semester at college has always been exciting for SUNY Cortland freshmen. But this fall, several dozen incoming students will begin their college careers with a real adventure. Up to 40 students will have an opportunity to experience a weeklong orientation in the pristine Adirondack wilderness surrounding SUNY Cortland’s Center for Outdoor and Environmental Education at Raquette Lake.

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

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

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

The fundraising initiative is part of “Educoating Champions: The Campaign for Cortland,” the campaign to support the College’s major priorities launched in Fall 2011 and has made steady and significant progress in raising a total of $25 million by the end of June.

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

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

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

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

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

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

“They have become more and more popular over the years as children become more and more dependent upon their parents,” Rubendall said. “There is a better success rate for the students, a better student retention rate by the colleges. They immediately have a peer group. They have friends; they know more of what’s expected of them on a college campus. We hope to involve them more quickly in the resources and networks that are available to them on campus.”

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

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

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

The professors, Kevin Sheets and Randi Storch, will help innumerable educators in the sights, sounds and smells of the Adirondack wilderness at Raquette Lake.

“With this immersion experience to a more independent lifestyle and the challenges of attending college, it involves a fee, but the College will find resources to send young scholars on the trip, even if they cannot afford the cost.” Rubendall said.

For more information about that mission and to see a video about the Campaign for Raquette Lake or visit the website cortland.edu/raquette or contact the Cortland College Foundation, Inc. at SUNY Cortland, Brockway Hall, Room 307, P.O. Box 2000, Cortland, NY 13045; or call 607-753-2518; or email crf@cortland.edu.
Summer 2013 • Columns

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

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

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

The campaign, which ends June 30, had raised more than 18 percent — $24,635,000 — of its targeted goal as of early May.

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

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

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

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

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

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

“If you see people that undergraduate research affects, you see the bigger impact,” Neal said. Undergraduate research offers just one of the many transformational moments SUNY Cortland students may discover during their college careers. Others include wilderness experiences at Raquette Lake, service-learning opportunities through the College’s Institute for Civic Engagement and internship paths paved by Career Services. Each of those moments could create a profound impact on SUNY Cortland students. And all are supported by a campaign-related fund.

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

Along the same lines, another campaign priority is to create a campus culture of sustainability, both environmentally and economically. The campaign can help do this, in part, by strengthening the Cortland Green Initiative Program and establishing a business incubator that bridges campus and community. The green initiative seeks 100 percent energy savings in energy costs over the next decade through increased consumption tracking and awareness efforts; the incubator example involves using students’ talents to solve local business needs, which in turn will supply a level of experience only the real world can provide.

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

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

Finish line in sight for ‘Educating Champions’

Make the final campaign push

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

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

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

Summer alumni camp 2013

July 14 to August 25

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

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

Rent the Kirby Camp

June 16 to Sept. 7, 2013

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

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

Winter alumni retreat 2014

Dates to be announced

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

Registration and important information

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

To register and for more information, visit the Outdoor Education Center website at cortland.edu/outdoor and select the Raquette Lake page, then select the Upcoming Events button to complete and download a registration form. Or call the OEC at 607-753-5488 to arrange for a form to be mailed to you. Please read all registration instructions carefully before completing and mailing it with your deposit check.
Cindy Mardenfeld '91 tells people that if you think she's into networking now, you should have seen her in college.

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

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

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

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

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

Mardenfeld learned the importance of networking now, you should have "seen her in college."

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

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

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

"When properly executed, event planning services are a time-consuming and difficult task," Mardenfeld recalled. "It’s about being well organized and having the right teams of people working with you. If you really love what you do, it comes naturally.

Mardenfeld is proud of her Cortland roots. "I believe in the mantra of ‘pay it forward,’” she said. “I want to help alumni so years ago I decided the best way to stay connected was to become the Long Island chapter chair.
New course encourages entrepreneurial spirit

BY MICHAEL BERSANSI • Staff Writer

istor senior year’s most rewarding courses were anything but easy, Walsh says. Business economics major Maya Gelernter.

She and several other classmates found themselves getting down to business during the 2012-13 academic year. They were framing innovative products and new business ideas as part of two new courses devoted to entrepreneurship. There were, however, no RV parks.

Gelernter said Ward, the president of Cortland Line Company, a leading manufacturer in fishing equipment that traces its roots back to 1991. “It’s about learning how to build a business plan around it.”

“In a larger sense, it’s about the real world.”

“For the first four or five years it was a full-time, non-stop thing,” said Walsh, who was responsible for 50 employees. “It was pure, organized chaos and it was a great learning experience.”

The partners soon opened another A.J. Spurs, this one in nearby Buelton. They bought the right land, installed the infrastructure and started the business. It took off, because people’s lives were at stake. Safety considerations and vigilance, well-trained life guards are critical to the operation of the park.

“Just having a good idea isn’t enough,” Gelernter said. “Being an entrepreneur” takes so much more than that.”

SUNY Cortland’s young entrepreneurs

Interested in helping SUNY Cortland’s young entrepreneurs turn their new business dreams into realities? Contact Kathleen Burke, professor of business economics, at Kathleen.Burke@Cortland.edu or 607-753-3443 to learn how you can assist their entrepreneurship efforts.

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

Paso Robles area were filled with recreational vehicles driven by tourists visiting the wineries. There were, however, no RV parks. Walsh and some partners changed that. They bought the right land, installed the infrastructure and started the business. It took off, and they sold it. That success led to a partnership for a truck stop that was similarly sold. And that, eventually, led to the waterpark.

“On the academic side, we have our students trying to develop their own business ideas using the know-how of successful local businesses and people in the community,” Burke said. “Then, within the community, we use the talents of our students to assist small, growing businesses.”

“Learning what not to do can be just as important,” Gelernter said. “You can often pull more from failure than you can from success and they taught me that.”

Student interest in creating business ideas outside of the new course work — among them an Entrepreneurship Club formed in 2012 and a Cortland County Local Business Idea Competition swept by SUNY Cortland students last spring — tells Burke that there’s a market for other projects tied to entrepreneurship at the College.

“The Cortland Business Innovation Center (CBIC), for instance, opened on Main Street in the fall and uses SUNY Cortland students to drive new programming efforts for local businesses. During the spring semester, the center utilized two College interns to pilot a website development program for three local organizations. Future plans include relying on professional writing majors for CBIC writing content and students in SUNY’s Cortland’s Geographic Information Systems computer lab for mapping needs.

“It’s an example of how the entire community can work together to get start-ups going,” Burke said.

Ward has taught both entrepreneurship courses with the expectation that every student can evolve into an entrepreneur. So far, he has yet to be proven wrong. His SUNY Cortland students all agree that they’re more business savvy for having taken the courses. But they’re also quick to point out that the process of developing products and ideas isn’t easy as they once thought.

“Just having a good idea isn’t enough,” Gelernter said. “Being an entrepreneur” takes so much more than that.”
Biography Honors Emilio DaBramo ’48

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

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

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

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

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

Hennessy said. “In a very short time, the picture of why so many people in the community had expressed their love and respect for Dee was becoming clearer to me,” said Hennessy, a SUNY Cortland Alumni Association board member. “It was his sense of community, his kind of heroes, the people and organizations he unserved.”

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

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

“Dee was becoming clearer to me,” said Hennessy, a SUNY Cortland education/emergit board member, raised funds for the Dr. Ralph A. Brown Scholarship Fund, named in honor of the College’s late, revered distinguished teaching professor of history.

In 1989 Hennessy served as president of the New York State Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance, and was named one of 10 honorees lauded as 1992 Healthy American Fitness Leaders (HARL), which promotes physical fitness and health awareness in the U.S.

“Those involved in a higher cause look to be blessings.”

“Dee’s philosophy of ‘never give up on a kid’ and the heretofore untold story of his life is available at the SUNY Cortland bookstore. For Clara, Stephens’ bone marrow donation quite literally saved her life. And for Stephens, the toddler’s triumph turned him from a somewhat shy, soft-spoken observer into an emotional leader.

“Not every day that you meet someone so young who has been through so much,” he said.

For Clara, the toughest part of the process for Stephens wasn’t making the decision to donate his bone marrow or the extraction process that left him with temporary back pain. It was the most emotional moment, he said, noting that the visit wasn’t one-time thing and that the families will see each other again when the Stephens visit California this summer. “They had traveled thousands of miles just to see me, so I know I needed to take in every moment.”

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

“I often think back to their first phone conversation and the first time he heard her voice.”

“Clara said: ‘Thank you for my bone marrow,’” Stephens remembered. “It was incredible to hear that from a 2-year-old, not even close to anything sports- or football-related. “It’s something a lot higher than sports,” he said. “It’s life.”
HOW TO SEND CLASS NOTES
We enjoy hearing from you and encourage you to continue sending us your news. Please use our online form, available at cortland.edu/alumnireunion.

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

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

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

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

The Alumni Affairs Office reminds everyone that reunion is open to all SUNY Cortland alumni regardless of graduation year. Alumni who are not members of the above listed groups may request a registration packet by emailing the request to alumni@cortland.edu or by calling the Alumni Affairs Office at 607-753-2556 or completing the form found at cortland.edu/reunion.

1940
Jane McIntyre Jennings is the resident pianist and choral director at the Heart Hall School, she has lived at Heart Hallary-level children at Groton Central since 1983 and held the rare distinction of being the only New York state high school athletic director to be honored nationally by both the interscholastic coaches and athletic administrators organizations. Among many accomplishments, she is credited with successfully developing girls athletics to be accepted into varsity and junior varsity programs. The National Athletic Administrators Association honored her with its Distinguished Service Award for her role in establishing the organization in New York state in 1983. He also presented two New York State Coach’s Service Honor Awards, in 1989 and 1992. As an educator, for 17 years he continued his involvement as Section III executive director, with duties that encompassed 106 high school and college administrations.

1949
The National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association inducted Otis Sennett ’49, M ’59 of Baldwinville, N.Y., into its 202 Hall of Fame in December in San Antonio, Texas. Otis, who was inducted in 1966 into the SUNY Cortland C-Club Hall of Fame, is retired as Baldwinville High School’s athletic director. After he joined the district in 1949, Otis began as an elementary teacher and coach of four sports. He guided the school’s athletics from 1954 to 1983 and held the rare distinction of being the head men’s and women’s tennis coach at Wesley College in Delaware last January. A retired science teacher, Gail coached both tennis and field hockey at Lake Forest (Del.) High School for 20 years and brought home a pair of Southern Division and National Conference titles. A five-sport athlete at SUNY Cortland, she excelled at tennis, lacrosse, gymnastics, field hockey and track and field.

1955
U.S. Navy Cmdr. George McCabe was inducted in August into the Cincinnati Tennis Hall of Fame for winning several national titles in singles and doubles competitions and three world titles in doubles matches. George traveled to Costa Rica in September as captain of the Cardinal Mulkey Cup Team for 80-year-old players that was among the 10 U.S. teams competing in the Super Senior World Championships.

1957
Four former classmates from 1957 who also were Nu Sigma Chi sisters met at the Saratoga Race track in July. Present, from the left, were Margaret Murray Cashen. Patricia O’Sullivan Stark, Valerie “Peg” Knowles Dixon and Dorothy Kupfer. The friends are shown, from the left in the photo above. The women are friends from childhood, former Alpha Delta sorority sisters, Cortland classmates and now elementary education majors. In July, Miriam and Susan also discovered Cortland connections with William Hopkins, professor emeritus of psychology, and Dorothy Hanson Hopkins M ’73 at the annual Shaker Seminar in the Witherbee Museum, Garden and Library in Delaware, Ohio.

1960
For almost two years, spouses Barbara “Bobbie” Kilian Bernstein ’60, shown on the left, and Rebecca Gordon Pullman ’73, shown on the right, were members of the 125-year-old club of Cortland athletic directors. The couple met in their first year of college and married on July 7, 1962. They have two sons, grown and married, and two grandchildren. Jeff was an athletic director for large schools in New York state and retired in 1995. Margaret “Peggy” Plaumann Larva was inducted into the SUNY Cortland C-Club Hall of Fame in June 2012, she was named the Section III executive director, with duties that encompassed 106 high school and college administrations.

1973
Susan Lewis Levine ’65, Evelyn Meyerson Adler ’65, Miriam Piik Miller ’65 and Ruth Klein Gach ’65 and their husbands got together last August in Poughkeepsie, N.Y. The friends are shown, from the left in the photo above. The women are friends from childhood, former Alpha Delta sorority sisters, Cortland classmates and now elementary education majors. In July, Miriam also discovered Cortland connections with William Hopkins, professor emeritus of psychology, and Dorothy Hanson Hopkins M ’73 at the annual Shaker Seminar in the Witherbee Museum, Garden and Library in Delaware, Ohio.

1983
Four former classmates from 1957 who also were Nu Sigma Chi sisters met at the Saratoga Race track in July. Present, from the left, were Margaret Murray Cashen. Patricia O’Sullivan Stark, Valerie “Peg” Knowles Dixon and Dorothy Kupfer. The friends are shown, from the left in the photo above. The women are friends from childhood, former Alpha Delta sorority sisters, Cortland classmates and now elementary education majors. In July, Miriam and Susan also discovered Cortland connections with William Hopkins, professor emeritus of psychology, and Dorothy Hanson Hopkins M ’73 at the annual Shaker Seminar in the Witherbee Museum, Garden and Library in Delaware, Ohio.

1999
The head men’s and women’s tennis coach at Wesley College in Delaware last January. A retired science teacher, Gail coached both tennis and field hockey at Lake Forest (Del.) High School for 20 years and brought home a pair of Southern Division and National Conference titles. A five-sport athlete at SUNY Cortland, she excelled at tennis, lacrosse, gymnastics, field hockey and track and field.

1961
Jeffrey Smythe and Linda Hasley Smythe of Freeburn, N.C., celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in July with a family cruise to the Virgin Islands. The couple met in their first year of college and married on July 7, 1962. They have two sons, grown and married, and two grandchildren. Jeff was an athletic director for large schools in New York state and retired in 1995.

1968
REUNION 2013
Fern Yasser Kupfer retired in 2011 from Iowa State University, where she had taught creative writing.
1972

Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education (NAPA) has named Raymond Franco ’72, M ’75 to receive its prestigious Gold Medal Award for Outstanding Performance as a Dean Award. He retired in August from SUNY Cortland and was designated vice president emeritus for student affairs and institutional advancement. He was honored in March at the association’s annual conference awards ceremony in Orlando, Fla. Franco was selected as an exemplary senior student affairs officer for his tenacity, vision and commitment in creating a dynamic and thriving environment for SUNY Cortland students, administrators and faculty members, in addition to serving as a role model for student affairs practitioners in general.

“Throughout his career, Dr. Franco learned and lived every aspect of student affairs — and he generously shared his knowledge and skills with others,” wrote SUNY Cortland President Erik J. Bittner in his letter of support. Raymond focused on raising funds to create a vibrant student life, health and wellness center, secured more than $20 million in funds for the institution’s foundation despite the recent recession, mentored student and graduate students and administered to excel in the student affairs profession, frequently presented at regional and national student affairs conferences, and taught courses on leadership over the course of 25 years. He also served as project director for a $250,000 federal alcohol awareness grant, was a member of the National Center for Higher Education Gender Studies Council, chaired the Fall 2012 NCAA Men’s Division I lacrosse attackman in the early 1970s, but Raymond Franco ’72 demonstrated sustained professional service in student affairs work, high-level commitment in administrative skills, innovative response in meeting students’ varied and emerging needs, effectiveness in developing junior staff members and leadership in community and university affairs.

1974

Virginia Canev Corbett retired in June 2010 as a physical education/adaptive physical education teacher from Katonah-Lewisboro School in Katonah, N.Y., after serving 10 years.

1975

In late October, Nancy White Denicolostani took a new job in support administration at General Motors International Operations in Shanghai, China.

1977

Scott Israel was an exceptionally successful Democratic candidate for Broward County (Fla.) sheriff in November. Broward, home to Ft. Lauderdale and more than 1.7 million people, is the second most populous county in Florida. Scott retired as police chief of Hollywood, Raynham 1977, and Fay James of Fort Lauderdale Police Department and retiring with the rank of captain/sh. I.A. commander.

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The National Park Service (NPS) has selected Berenato-Bernardone Dunn as the new superintendent of Lowell National Historical Park (NHP) in Massachusetts. Created in 1976, Lowell NHP is an interpretive park woven from a variety of historic sites, 19th-century textile mills, preserved canals, museums and landmarks to tell the story of the American Industrial Revolution. Celeste, a 25-year service veteran, began her new duties in June 2012. She worked at the park from 1992 to 1999 as a supervisory ranger and has called Massachusetts home in a host of other NPS assignments. Most recently, Celeste served as deputy superintendent at Boston National Historical Park and Boston African American National Historic Site. Prior to that, she served as superintendent at New River National Park.

1981

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

1982

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

Several graduates from the 1970s and three of their children who later also graduated from Cortland gathered in May 2012 at the NCAA lacrosse championship. Present, in the front row from the left, were: Michael Millstein ’79, a 1974 graduate; and Alyssa Fritze 1974; back row, Fritze Favorito ’76. Miami McDonald ’73, Stuart Millstein ’79. Christopher Fritze 1974 and George Weissman 1976.

1986

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

1973

Classmates may recall Bruce Casagrande ’73, M ’78 as an outstanding footballattacker in the early 1970s, but since leaving SUNY, Bruce has lived in Spenard, Alaska. Gathered were, from the left, Ed. Debbie. Vincent Daniele ’69, Jm. Schewe, Kathleen Daniele, Sharon, Rich and Steven Heinz ’72.

1976

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

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

1978

Marie Richardson Green, a financial advisor with Edward Jones Investments, received the company’s “Spirit of Caring Award” in August. A 1978 alumna, Marie received an award recognizing financial advisors who exemplify the values, culture and spirit of giving back. Only 178 of the firm’s 80,000-plus financial advisors received that honor. Marie is married to Lawrence “Larry” Green ’77. They live in Cortland Manor, N.Y., and have four children.

1981

Sheila Dugan Snyder was one of six recent Golden Apple recipients chosen from among 1,000 educators at the Collier County School District in Naples, Fla. Teachers are nominated, observed and interviewed throughout the school year, and scored on effectiveness of classroom management, curriculum, instruction quality, student-teacher relationships and other areas. Sheila teaches special education. Sheila writes: “I am grateful to be able to do something I love, teach. I started at Cortland”.

1982

The Rochester, N.Y.-based firm of Harte Secret & Emerand recently promoted Anne Majewski Wells ’81 to assistant director of marketing and client services. She joined the company in 2005 with extensive experience in financial, legal and not-for-profit marketing. She lives in Brightwood, N.Y., with her husband and two daughters.

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2007

Andrew Chevalier earned a Doctor of Naturopathic Medicine in June from the National College of Natural Medicine in Portland, Ore. Andrew now practices natural medicine in southern New Hampshire.

Kathleen Steenburgh Ritchie is a marketing manager at Diion Schwabl Inc., the Democrat & Chronicle in Rochester reported recently. Before joining Diion Schwabl, she oversaw staffing and forecasting for a regional office of Geico Insurance. Kathleen later worked as a project manager at the University of Rochester’s Warner School of Education.

2010

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

2005

Twelve classmates attended the 30th birthday party of Kevin Demassio ’05. “Kevin married my college roommate, Rebekah Locke Demassio ’04,” said Lauren Atwood ’04, about the recent gathering.

2004

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

2001

Since May, Michelle Singleton ’95, M’02 has directed Syracuse University’s SummerStart and its Syracuse Success Initiative. Previously, for more than five years, Michelle was an assistant director in the university’s Residence Life Office.

2002

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

1999

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

Hoooeck Falls (N.Y.) Central School football coach Ronald Jones has something in common with Glen Falls (N.Y.) coach Matthew Shell ’92. All three coaches had football teams that competed in last fall’s state championship games. All three attended and played football at SUNY Cortland. Ron and Pat even roomed together at the school. “We also were at Norwich,” said Ron of Pat.

1991

Sarah Iselin, an associate and director of business development and marketing with King + King Architects in Rochester, reported recently. Before joining Dixon Schwabl, she oversaw staffing and forecasting for a regional office of Geico Insurance. Kathleen later worked as a project manager at the University of Rochester’s Warner School of Education.

1993

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

Michael Pero recently became superintendent of the Pittsford (N.Y.) Central School District. Michael served as principal of Barker Road Middle School from 2005 to 2011, and has been an assistant superintendent in the district since 2001. He joined the district in 1994 as a health educator.

1995

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

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ALUMNII IN PRINT

David Hamnessy '53, bike rider for scholarships, extraordinary, is once again raising money to endow future SUNY Cortland scholarships. This time he hopes many other alumni will feel as much admiration and fondness for Emilio "Dee" DelBramo '48 as he does, and will be inspired to honor Dee with the purchase of Dave's biography of the retired Mamaroneck, N.Y., Union Free School District teacher, administrator and 1969 SUNY Cortland Distinguished Alumnus. Available through AuthorHouse, Never Give Up on a Kid is a 358-page book released in October, chronicles how Dee solved his high school's dropout problem during his 45-year career. Children were falling, an endemic problem in the community's socially, culturally and economically deprived neighborhoods. His alternative school APPLE Program — A Place where People Learn Excellence — and his Summer Co-Op Program designed for the targeted neighborhoods were a huge success. The APPLE Program achieved a 90 percent graduation rate and a resulting college graduation rate of better than 70 percent. Dee's deeply humanitarian philosophy of "never give up on a kid," and the organizational structure of these programs are well documented in the book and translate to almost any school system. Dave met Dee almost by chance, long after graduation, while staying at his home in the Catskills during the course of a 1,000-mile fundraising bike ride. The pair is pictured together above, with Dee on the left. The two have a military background in common as well as a pioneering approach to the field of education: from 1958 to 1962, Dave modeled science teaching on the navy, using their training in the Activity Promotion Laboratory.

Alessia Kunz '96 recently released a speculative self-published work of fiction, The Power of Indigo. In a future world where free-bombings, same sex relations and programmable SexDolls are the norm, Leila, a martial artist and resistor, battles the State's violence and mind control with astonishing creativity while trying to control her own warring compulsions. Alessia describes her novel as "a strikingly sensual, dazzling exploration of our relationship to gender, to the environment, to power and technology and an inspiring call to evolve before it is too late." Since graduating from Cortland, Alessia has earned her M.A. and Ph.D. She has taught at the University of New Mexico, San Francisco State University and has been practicing and teaching Aikido for 30 years. She has a daughter and lives and works in the San Francisco Bay Area.

Fern Vasser Kupfer '68 has a new book, Leaving Long Island. "I graduated in 1968 and had three roommates named Barbara," she wrote. "Their photos are in the book and I'm sure there are alumni who would be interested!" Born in the Bronx, Fern moved with her family to suburban Long Island in the mid-1950s. "Leaving Long Island" is the story of a woman whose life experience includes the loss of a child, the explosive end of a long marriage and the discovery of a genetic inheritance endemic to the Ashkenazi Jewish population. This second-half-of-life memoir strives to offer a compelling narrative of both pain and happy second chances.

Fern's work has appeared in Newsweek, Redbook, Family Circle, Woman's Day, The Women's Review of Books, the Chronicle of Higher Education, Parents and Cosmopolitan magazines. For more than a decade, her popular columns "Mothering" and "A Certain Age" appeared regularly in the Long Island newspaper, Newsday. Fern was a recipient of the Myrtle Wreath Award by the Nassau County Hadassah, the largest women's philanthropy in the nation.

Matthew T. Mahar '81 is a co-author of the 2013 book, Fitness for Life: A comprehensive yet easily accessible text, designed for the general course in physical activity, fitness and health at colleges and universities. Published by Blue Door Publishing, the volume’s overall goal is to provide students with the skills and knowledge necessary for behavior change. Chapters cover all of the traditional components of physical fitness, including aerobic fitness, body composition, muscular strength, endurance and flexibility. In addition, chapters focusing on physical activity and health, exercise prescription, physical activity adherence, stress management and nutrition are written with the goal of behavior change in mind. Each chapter has associated laboratory activities that can be detached and turned in as class assignments. Matthew is a professor in the Department of Kinesiology at East Carolina University in Greenville, N.C. He also directs the university’s graduate program and the Activity Promotion Laboratory.

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


David Gardner '97, M '02 played on the varsity lacrosse team all four years at SUNY Cortland, so it might not come as a surprise that he is the recent author of a book on tips for aficionados of the sport. The Commandments of Lacrosse offers 50 rules and strategies to follow to become a better teammate and player of the game. The commandments are good for both boys and girls lacrosse, new players and old, parents, coaches, officials and fans of the sport. "After giving my players the commandments on a single sheet of paper at the end of the year to help them improve in the off season, I developed them into an email and audio series around 2010 and turned them into a book in both physical and digital format," David writes. Released this past July, the book is self-published through CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform.
Marriages
Lauren Fiten '13 to Gregory Verderosa on July 21 in Garden City, N.Y.
Jodi Percricco '04 to Alexander Antunes on Aug. 4 in Secaucus, N.J.
James Peeler '04, M '06 to Elizabeth Buscema '06 on July 31, 2010, in Hemingford Harbour, Md.
Jaclyn Ferrantino '15 to James Kenia on Aug. 11 in Orchard Park, N.Y.
Rosemary Gregory '07 to Brandon Fisher '11 on Aug. 8 in Sidney, N.Y.
Michele Davis '09 to Jonathan Miller on June 9, 2012 in Thacka, N.Y.
Emily Weddle M '08 to Mark Colvin on Aug. 6, 2011, in Homer, N.Y.

Little Dragons
Joseph M. Morse '01 and Laura Prostunov Morse '02, a son, Leo Emerson, on Jan. 27, 2012.
Meaghan Wagner McDermott '03 and Thomas McDermott '03, a son, Kellen Thomas, on May 13, 2012.
Julie Smokey '04, M '04 and Elizabeth Buscema '06, a son, Camden James, on May 9, 2012.
Erin Gondeck Hodges '06 and Josh Hodges, a daughter, Elizabeth, on April 24, 2008, and a son, Edward Louis, on June 23, 2012.
Kevin Slade '06 and Jenna DeMayo Slade '07, a daughter, Kaylee Ann, on April 5, 2012.

In Memoriam
Edythe Dowding Knopp '32
Josephine Walworth Lord '32
Eleanor Badger VanLoon '32
Eleanor Smith Elliott '37
Margaret Walker Docter '39
Dorothy Harvey Fleischman '39
Gerdaide Furey Kenny '39
Virginia Sanders Mcgoldrick '39
Charles Witty '39
Myrtle Hurlbut Miller '40
Marie Battermann Whittell-Mainhuber '40
Ruth Giugniard Werder '42
Elinor Hunter Abrams '43
Frances Fellows '44
Phyllis Smith Pidlypschak '44
Barbara Minnis Haskell '46
Norman Richard Corbin '47
Thelma Downing Pangburn '47
Charles Schwartz '47
Marion Lucile Piper '48
Francis Redmond '48
Edith Stroggla Tunkerley '48
Donald Hall '48
Jean Townsend Dayton '49
Ida Frimet Greenwald '49
Gwendolyn Tinker McCabe '49
Dorothy Cristaldi Will '49
Charles Murphy '50
Joseph Carra '51
Ramona Estelle Dubick Mirabile '51
Elizabeth Connolly Raulli '51

Joseph Fink '52
Josephine Walworth Lord '52
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Eleanor Badger VanLoon '56
Eleanor Smith Elliott '57
Margaret Walker Docter '59
Dorothy Harvey Fleischman '59
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Charles Witty '59
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Dorothy Cristaldi Will '69
Charles Murphy '70
Joseph Carra '71
Ramona Estelle Dubick Mirabile '71
Elizabeth Connolly Raulli '71

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

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

Our facility accommodates:
✦ 175 guests for an indoor mingling reception
✦ 75 guests for an indoor sit-down meal
✦ 250 guests for an outdoor mingling or seated reception

The Parks Alumni House offers:
Beautiful, fragrant gardens for outdoor ceremonies A large lawn area for outdoor receptions Magnificent common rooms for indoor events
✦ A patio for dancing
✦ Tent rentals
✦ Table and chair rentals
✦ Linen rentals
✦ Catering options
✦ Bed and breakfast accommodations
✦ Seasoned and attentive staff

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

PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR MORE INFORMATION
cortland.edu/alumnihouse • Facebook: ParksAlumniHouse • Twitter: SUNYAlumniHouse
Arbor Day project takes root

BY FREDERIC PIECE

The lyrics of SUNY Cortland’s alma mater begin with the phrase “By lofty elm trees shaded round.” So it was fitting that College President Erik J. Bitterbaum, other college administrators and faculty members gathered April 26 beneath the limbs of a majestic elm near the Miller Building — a Scott’s Elm (Ulmus gibbiana) to be exact — to launch both the college’s annual Arbor Day celebration and a new tree-planting program and an annual Arbor Day celebration. A target species that the college would like to have in abundance on campus is the American Elm (Ulmus americana). Another tree-planting event is planned for next year, Bitterbaum said.

A nameplate identifying the species of the tree and providing a bit of historical information was the first of dozens of identifying labels that the College hopes to position around campus during the 2013-2014 academic year.

Together, the labeled trees will make up a “Campus Tree Walk” that inquisitive strollers can explore with a smartphone and take photos of trees they want to identify. SUNY Cortland’s “Tree Walk” – like similar tree walks at other colleges and universities – will have students, faculty and staff turn into amateur botanists, learning to identify trees and then reporting back on their findings.

Bitterbaum said that during Arbor Day, students, staff and faculty cooperated on the campus-wide initiative, which will have students, staff and faculty cooperate on the campus-wide initiative.

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

One of the elements of SUNY Cortland’s application for the designation is an annual campus recognition of Arbor Day. Bitterbaum began that new tradition that day, pledging to continue it as a campus-wide project for many years to come.

Bitterbaum said that the college would like to have a “Tree Campus” program in place by the 2013-2014 academic year.

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The Cortland Standard
Winter season spotlight

It was a hot winter for SUNY Cortland athletes, who earned national recognition in gymnastics, wrestling and swimming.

The men’s basketball team, meanwhile, won its first SUNYAC title in 13 years.

Here’s a look at some of the best moments from the 2012-13 winter campaign.

Gymnast wins all-around and vault national titles

Senior women’s gymnast Sarah Nadrowski of Buffalo, N.Y., won two individual national titles during an exciting winter season for the SUNY Cortland athletic teams.

Nadrowski concluded her stellar career in storybook fashion when she won both the all-around and vault titles at the 2013 National Collegiate Gymnastics Association (NCGA) Division III Championships in Whitewater, Wis.

Nadrowski earned four All-America honors at the meet and 12 All-America awards overall as a Red Dragon. She also was named Eastern College Athletic Conference (ECAC) Division III Women’s Gymnast of the Year for the second straight year after winning league all-around, vault and uneven bars crowns.

Junior Courtney Manginy of Coram, N.Y., finished second nationally on floor exercise. She is a seven-time All-American in three seasons; Junior Stephanie Slady also picked up an All-America award on floor exercise.

Head coach Gary Babjack, in his 15th season at Cortland, was named the NCGA Division III Coach of the Year after guiding the Red Dragons to a third-place national finish — the program’s best since 2008.

Men’s hoops wins 1st SUNYAC title since 2000

Behind the strength of a senior-laden roster, the Cortland men’s basketball team finished with a 24-5 record, won its first SUNYAC title in 13 years and advanced to the second round of the NCAA Division III tournament.

Under the direction of 18-year head coach Tom Spanbauer ’83, the Red Dragons tied a school record for victories in a season. They captured the SUNYAC regular-season title, then hosted and won the league postseason tournament with double-digit wins over Oswego and Plattsburgh.

Cortland won its NCAA opener versus Elms College in convincing fashion, 85-59, before losing to Middlebury in a convincing fashion, 85-59, before losing to Middlebury in a second-round heartbreaker in the second round.

Junior Jared Myhrberg of Queensbury, N.Y., freshman Andrew Cremer of Blue Point, N.Y., N.Y., freshman Mathew Hasbrouck of New Paltz, N.Y., and sophomore Michaela Auer of Oswego, N.Y., were named All-America in three seasons. Junior Stephanie Slady also picked up an All-America award on floor exercise.

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Sarah Culmo earns swimming accolades

Junior Sarah Culmo of West Islip, N.Y., capped a diving season by earning honorable mention All-America recognition in both an individual event and a relay at the 2013 NCAA Division III Women’s Swimming and Diving Championships in Shenandoah, Texas.

Culmo finished 15th nationally in the 50-yard freestyle with a time of 23.69 seconds after posting a school-record time of 23.65 seconds in the events preliminaries. She also teamed with senior Jessica Evans of Hamburg, N.Y., junior M.K. Dugue of Binghamton, N.Y., and sophomore Michaela Auer of Oswego, N.Y., to finish 12th in the 200-yard freestyle relay.

The Red Dragons, under 11th-year head coach Brian Tobin ’94, finished 37th in the final national team standings and placed second at the SUNYAC Championships — their best league finish since 2007. Culmo won league titles in the 50-yard freestyle and 100-yard freestyle, as did the aforementioned 200-yard freestyle relay quartet.

Other winter highlights...

• Brian Tobin’s men’s swimming and diving team won its first SUNYAC title since 1998, ending Geneseo’s 14-year reign as league champion. Tobin was named SUNYAC Coach of the Year. Senior Justin Nelson of Jamestown, N.Y., was named SUNYAC Swimmer of the Year. Senior Amanda Clarke of Oneonta, N.Y., was named SUNYAC Diver of the Year.

• The women’s indoor track and field team won its second straight SUNYAC title and its 16th overall. Seventh-year head coach Steve Patrick ’97 earned SUNYAC Coach of the Year honors. Junior Sarah Bonnell of Norfolk, Va., was named SUNYAC Indoor Track Athlete of the Year. Junior Amanda Clarke of Oneonta, N.Y., was named SUNYAC Diver of the Year.

• The Cortland men’s basketball team won its first league title since 2000. He was named first-team All-East and All-SUNYAC, and he finished as Cortland’s career scoring leader with 1,362 points.

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

PHOTO BY DARL ZEHR PHOTOGRAPHY

Senior guard Jesse Winter helped lead the Cortland men’s basketball team to a 34-5 record and its first league title since 2000. He was named first-team All-East and All-SUNYAC, and he finished as Cortland’s career scoring leader with 1,362 points.

PHOTO BY DARL ZEHR PHOTOGRAPHY

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

PHOTO BY DARL ZEHR PHOTOGRAPHY

Sarah Culmo of West Islip, N.Y., capped a diving season by earning honorable mention All-America recognition in both an individual event and a relay at the 2013 NCAA Division III Women’s Swimming and Diving Championships in Shenandoah, Texas.
Eight 2012 teams compete in NCAA postseason

By FRAN ELIA Sports Information Director

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

Here are some highlights from that successful year.

Dramatic goal-line stand wins Cortaca Jug

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

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

Football coach Dan MacNeill, ’78, in his 16th season at the Red Dragon helm, led the team to a 7-0 record in the New Jersey Athletic Conference (NJAC) for the program’s sixth league first-place finish. He was named the NJAC Coach of the Year as he guided the program to its eighth NCAA showing.

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

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

Volleyball team wins third straight SUNYAC crown

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

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

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

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

Women’s soccer team earns league title

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

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

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

Spring highlights from 2012 include...

• The Cortland men’s lacrosse team set a school record with 21 victories in 2012 and almost recorded a perfect season before losing a hard-fought battle with unbeaten Salisbury University, 14-10, in the NCAA Division III Championship Game. The contest was held in front of more than 17,000 fans at Gillette Stadium in Foxborough, Mass.

• The men’s lacrosse team played in the national championship game for the fifth time in the last seven years. Along the way, the team won its fifth straight State University of New York Athletic Conference (SUNYAC) crown and qualified for the NCAA playoffs for the 28th time in school history. Sixth-year head coach Steve Beville was named the SUNYAC Coach of the Year.

• Senior attacker Mike Tota of Webster, N.Y., led the Cortland men’s lacrosse team with 46 goals and 77 total points. A three-time All-American and two-time Academic All-American, Tota graduated as the school’s career leader with 174 goals scored and he finished second with 247 points.

Men’s cross country earns NCAA bid

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

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

Emily Cotey wins SUNYAC cross country title

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

Cotey and senior Jordan Naylor of Fairport, N.Y., each finished in the top 12 at the NCAA Atlantic Regionals and qualified individually for the NCAA Championships.
The Cortland women’s lacrosse team posted a 20-2 record, won its 14th straight SUNYAC title and again advanced to the NCAA Division III “final four” before losing 7-5, to eventual national champion Trinity College (Conn.). The 2012 season followed a similar script to the 2011 campaign, in which the Red Dragons went 21-2 and lost by two goals to national champion Gettysburg in the NCAA semifinals.

Summer 2013
COLUMNS

Senior women’s lacrosse midfielder Lindsay Abbott of South Onondaga, N.Y., earned All-America honors for the fourth straight season. She finished with 71 goals and 59 assists for 130 points, and ranks third in NCAA Division III women’s lacrosse history with 441 points (256 goals, 185 assists).

Cortland capped another stellar baseball season with a national fourth-place finish at the NCAA Division III World Series in Wisconsin. The Red Dragons finished 41-9-1 for their sixth 40-win season. The program also captured its 30th SUNYAC title and advanced to the World Series for the 11th time during the spring.

During one stretch in 2012 the baseball team won 23 straight games, including three victories in the SUNYAC tournament, four at the NCAA Division III New York Regionals and its World Series opener. The team eventually finished 2-2 at the eight-team series.

Junior pitcher Ray Angelucci of Connack, N.Y., and senior pitcher Aaron Schuldt of Liverpool, N.Y., were America Baseball Coaches Association All-America selections. Angelucci and junior shortstop John Adornetto of Connack, N.Y., earned spots on the D3baseball.com All-America squad. Angelucci finished with a 12-1 record and 1.50 earned run average and set a school record for wins in a season. Schuldt was 8-1 with a 1.80 ERA and 94 strikeouts and Adornetto batted .374 with 44 runs scored and 13 stolen bases.

Sophomore softball outfielder Meaghan Kohler of Franklin, N.J., enjoyed one of the most prolific offensive seasons in school history in 2012. A first-team All-American last year, Kohler batted .359 and set school single-season records with 77 home runs and 88 runs batted in. Her efforts helped lead the Red Dragons to a 41-10 campaign. Kohler led all Division III players nationally in runs batted in and tied for second in home runs.

Junior All-America shortstop and top-10th pick in the 2012 MLB draft Alex Lumbert of Delray Beach, Fla., was named All-America this year for the fourth straight year in 2012 and qualified for the NCAA playoffs for the ninth time in 10 years. The Red Dragons tied for 17th place nationally, and 18th-year head coach Julie Lenhart became only the seventh coach in NCAA Division III history to reach 700 career wins. Her current overall record of 722-300-2 in 23 seasons includes a 602-223-2 mark at Cortland.

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OCT. 18-20

The Alumni Association and the Multicultural Office will host a weekend full of activities to reconnect with friends, share personal experiences, and expertise with current students. For more information, visit cortland.edu/alumni.

THE SWEETEST WIN

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

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