On his way to deliver a speech on the work of Charles Darwin in Old Main this spring, James T. “Jim” Costa ’85 paused in front of a Scholars’ Day project on social caterpillars with his former mentor, Distinguished Professor Terrence D. Fitzgerald. The moment was reminiscent of Jim’s SUNY Cortland experience, which nurtured an interest in biological science and helped him evolve into a respected entomologist, science textbook author and expert on the revolutionary work of Darwin.

“Looking back in retrospect, I think it really set me on the right trajectory,” Jim said of the College and the caterpillar research he did with Fitzgerald while he was here. “I took to it pretty readily. In a hard-to-define kind of way, I had the sense that I wanted to become a scientist of some kind. And actually I wasn’t quite sure which field because my interests were pretty broad.”

Jim is now a professor of biology at Western Carolina University and executive director of the Highlands Biological Station, the University of North Carolina’s mountain research station focused on the biodiversity of the southern Appalachian Mountains. He is also a prolific researcher and author of two books and dozens of articles on insect societies, population genetics, evolutionary biology and Charles Darwin.

His 2009 textbook, The Annotated Origin: A Facsimile of the First Edition of ‘On the Origin of Species’ (Harvard University Press), seeks to help readers better understand the historical context, structure and content of Darwin’s masterpiece. The text provided inspiration for his SUNY Cortland Scholars’ Day keynote address on April 15.

Jim’s lecture packed Old Main’s Brown Auditorium. He kept the audience engaged by sharing information one doesn’t usually hear about Darwin: the family pressure placed on the noted scientist to join the clergy, his uncertainty about his theories and his reluctance to release them to a very conservative and religious public.

“The Origin of Species ushered in a new way of looking at the world, and at ourselves. Yet Darwin didn’t set out to be a revolutionary...” — James T. Costa ’85

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“The Origin of Species ushered in a new way of looking at the world, and at ourselves,” observed Jim. “Yet Darwin didn’t set out to be a revolutionary — certainly

when, in his early 20s, he embarked upon his voyage around the world on HMS Beagle he accepted the worldview in which he was raised. Reflecting later on his success, Darwin ventured that he had ‘patience ... industry ... and a fair share of invention.’

Similarly, Jim’s wanderings among the fields, forests and shorelines of Long Island as a youth set the stage for his future scientific profession. As a boy, he spent time gazing at the stars and exploring rocks and living things along the North Shore’s coastal beaches and in the former farm fields and meadows surrounding his suburban home in Plainview, N.Y.

At SUNY Cortland, his window on the natural world opened wider.

“Cortland was enthralling to me because the environment was so different,” Jim recalled. “The species, experiencing bedrock. Long Island is mostly glacial till; big piles of rock and gravel. Upstate, you’re standing on the continent itself.”

He routinely made overnight camping trips to Hoxie Gorge Nature Preserve, a College-owned biological research station near campus, and spent a memorable summer at Antlers and the Huntington Memorial Camp at the Outdoor Education Center at Raquette Lake in the Adirondacks.

And, perhaps most importantly, he enrolled in a biology class with Fitzgerald, who presented him with his first opportunity to do research. Fitzgerald also got him interested in social caterpillar communication, which would influence much of Jim’s future work.

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Last fall, I shared with you some of the questions surrounding the future of the Antlers property on Raquette Lake. I also shared my decision to ask the Auxiliary Services Corporation (ASC) to place a hold on any potential sale of this historic hotel complex, as well as my intent to create a special task force to thoroughly review the role of Antlers in SUNY Cortland’s educational mission.

Today, I can report that the ad hoc committee assembled to review the College’s outdoor education programs and assets has determined that Antlers is an integral part of SUNY Cortland’s Raquette Lake Center for Environmental and Outdoor Education. The panel unanimously recommended that Antlers should be upgraded, kept under College control and used more extensively by students, staff, alumni and other groups. In light of that assessment, I am actively seeking the transfer of Antlers’ ownership from ASC to the Cortland College Foundation. That transfer would be tied to the creation of a substantial and permanent endowment to support a single, environmental and outdoor education complex composed of both Antlers and Camp Huntington.

We envision a long-term lease agreement between the College and the foundation in which the College would take full responsibility for improving and maintaining Antlers. The foundation would be responsible for raising and providing matching funds as we make capital improvements and build a program endowment to increase outdoor education opportunities for SUNY Cortland students.

The foundation board endorsed this concept at its June 10 meeting, conditional on the creation of an endowment large enough to realize SUNY Cortland’s vision. The executive committee for ASC, which would continue to provide dining and other services at Antlers, will consider the transfer in the near future. We fully anticipate ASC’s support and agreement.

Meanwhile, the task force’s programming recommendations, aimed at weaving outdoor experiences deeper into campus and alumni life, are now in inter-review. I also have asked for updated cost estimates of the physical improvements needed at Antlers and Camp Huntington.

We’ve set a course, but this is just a journey the College can make alone. The capital investments that must be made so Antlers can continue hosting unique academic activities, offering alumni retreats and supporting the College’s environmental and outdoor education program will need strong support from SUNY Cortland’s alumni. It will require a committed partnership between the foundation, ASC, the College and the thousands of former Cortland students who understand what an important asset Antlers is and share our vision for what it can become.

Since I first shared news of a potential private buyer for the Antlers property last year, I have received dozens of messages from alumni who wanted to share their thoughts about the value of their SUNY Cortland outdoor experience. Many said it was transformational. Janet Richards, Whitaker ’65, an international canoe-racing champion who was awarded an honorary doctorate degree at this year’s SUNY Cortland Commencement for developing paddling opportunities for people with disabilities, had her very first canoeing experience while a student at Raquette Lake. James Costa ’85, the noted entomologist, author and Scholar’s Day keynote speaker profiled in this issue of Columns, cites his time at Antlers’ field biology course as one of the formative experiences that guided him into the biological sciences.

Rest assured that SUNY Cortland remains strongly committed to outdoor education at both of our unique facilities on Raquette Lake. With a healthy program endowment, we would increase and diversify programming and offer more students opportunities to have potentially transformative outdoor experiences as part of their SUNY Cortland education.

Reaching those goals, however, will be a challenge. Extensive repairs and upgrades are sorely needed at Antlers, a 19th-century hotel and casino complex. Cabins must be demolished and re-built, foundations repaired, the septic system replaced and the water system upgraded. Antlers was purchased in 1965 by ASC, an independent corporation created by the College to provide dining, vending and other services for the SUNY Cortland community. The property provides mainland access and a staging area for water and ice access to Camp Huntington, which the College acquired in 1968. Over the years, the Antlers compound has come to provide convenient parking and storage for Huntington, as well as wireless network services. It also accommodates up to 45 overnight guests, serves meals and offers unique classroom and meeting space. Since 1965, the College’s field biology course has been held exclusively at Antlers, providing hands-on experience for more than 1,000 students. The facility also regularly hosts physical education, teacher education and recreation programs as well as alumni events.

As I have stated earlier, the College is committed to the success of both Antlers and Camp Huntington as a single, truly unique entity and will contribute resources to the renovations. The state funding cuts made to the SUNY system over the last few years, however, present a challenge. This summer and fall, the College is already scheduled to renovate the waterfront bulkhead at Camp Huntington for an estimated $50,000 and replace the roof on one of its cabins, which could cost as much as $55,000.

That is why a larger partnership involving SUNY Cortland alumni, many of whom still use the Antlers facility, is critical. Programmatic recommendations made by the task force are currently under review. The ideas include increasing the amount of time Antlers is used during the year, increasing the number and type of courses held there, and the creation of a freshman orientation program and weekend outings featuring kayaking, climbing, hiking and other outdoor activities. A permanent endowment supporting programming would be essential for the successful implementation of these ideas.

In addition to encouraging more use by students, it is imperative that additional use of the facility by non-students be encouraged. That would bring in additional revenue to help stabilize the outdoor education center’s finances, according to the report. The Antlers property has several unique advantages that could attract a variety of different groups than Camp Huntington. It offers the ambiance of a rustic mountain hotel or resort, a beach for recreational swimming and boating, and room for scheduling growth.

Increasing use of the facility, however, is unlikely to succeed without significant upgrades to the property. Those improvements, in turn, begin with commitment: by the College, by the foundation and by you, our creative and energetic alumni.

Please feel free to contact Robert Rubendall, director of the Center for Environmental and Outdoor Education, at robert.rubendall@cortland.edu to share your perspective on Antlers’ future or discuss what needs to be done. An advisory board is being formed. Any alumni with skills and experience in building renovation and design, business planning, contract negotiation or fundraising who would like to serve should discuss their interest with Rob.

I will continue to move SUNY Cortland forward as outlined and look forward to hearing your thoughts and ideas as we work together to bring the shine back to what is truly an educational jewel in the SUNY system.
Chapter Events

CORTLAND CHAPTER
A murder mystery performance by ACME Mystery Company entertained 34 alumni, family and friends on Halloween at the Lynne Parks ’68 SUNY Cortland Alumni House.
President Erik J. Bitterbaum and his wife, Ellen Howard Burton, greeted alumni at the event and introduced Thomas Hischak, professor of performing arts, as the actors performed an interactive comedy called “Deadly Inheritance” in the Jean M. Dunlavey ’64 Pub and each guest had an opportunity to guess who did it.
Local Cortland alumni hosted a wrapping party for SUNY Cortland students and staff at the Alumni House on Dec. 2.
The students and staff raised money through various programs and fundraisers to purchase gifts for local families. Alumni greeted them with hot cocoa, cookies, cupcakes and other goodies. As they wrapped gifts, students and alumni shared stories about the holidays and their experiences at SUNY Cortland. The gifts were distributed to local parents in need to give their children holiday presents.
On April 2, prior to a campus production of “The Drowsy Chaperone” in Dowd Fine Arts Center Theatre, 43 alumni and their guests dined at the Alumni House.
President Bitterbaum gave a brief college update and introduced Thomas Hischak, professor of performing arts, as guest speaker. Hischak discussed the history of the musical on Broadway and answered questions.

LONG ISLAND CHAPTER
A large number of alumni, students, family and fans attended the SUNY Cortland men’s lacrosse game versus Gettysburg College on March 12 at Burns Park in Massapequa, N.Y.
This annual event included a tailgate event organized by Joseph Lawless ’87, the Alumni Affairs Office and parents of the lacrosse team players, and a pre-game youth lacrosse clinic provided by members of both teams. The Red Dragons defeated Gettysburg 9-3. Red Dragon athletes were greeted by fans at the post-game tailgate for a well deserved celebration.
A special thanks to Liberty Mutual for sponsoring the tailgate for alumni and to Town of Oyster Bay Supervisor John Venditto, Assistant Deputy Commissioner of Oyster Bay, Bobby McGreer, Massapequa High School Athletic Director John Propato, ’87, John Kirby of the Massapequa Lacrosse Club and all of the Oyster Bay Town staff for all their efforts to make this event a huge success.

SYRACUSE CHAPTER
On March 12, 45 alumni gathered at Mulrooney’s Pub in Armory Square to celebrate St. Patrick’s Day with their fellow Red Dragons. Alumni were able to walk one block to the parade and had the opportunity to win SUNY Cortland-related prizes.

Cortaca Jug 2010
More than 550 alumni and guests returned to Cortland to participate in various activities arranged through the Alumni Affairs Office.
Many obtained tickets through the annual alumni ticket lottery and enjoyed watching the action live. Others enjoyed watching the game on television in the casual atmosphere of the Dark Horse, while still more alumni cheered on the Red Dragons in the beautiful setting of the Lynne Parks ’68 SUNY Cortland Alumni House.

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Syndicate Facebook page.

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Eleven alumni enjoyed sitting at a “sleigh” table during the Veterans Reunion Nov. 3 to 7 in Branson, Mo. The party included, in the front row from the left, Carmela Oliveri, Rose Marie Lupino-Klepinski ’49 and Edward Oliveri ’49. In the back row are Nancy Oliveri Glassman ’79, Frank Kearing, Beverly Stowell Kearing ’51, Carole Wilsey Phillips ’48, Marilyn Kellam Tannenhaus ’48 and Joseph Tannenhaus.

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Interviewing Etiquette

More than 65 alumni gathered in Brookway Hall Jacobus Lounge on Oct. 26 for an opportunity to meet with alumni, local professionals and College faculty and staff members to discuss the interviewing process. They enjoyed a four-course meal while interacting with professionals seated at their table. Louis Larson, then associate director of career services, served as master of ceremonies and provided etiquette tips between courses.

Students enjoyed the meal at a discounted rate in part because of alumni donations.

Florida

EAST COAST

Gloria Quadrini ’59 hosted 28 alumni and guests in her Jupiter, Fla., home on March 4.

Everyone enjoyed cocktails and hors d’oeuvres provided by Gloria Raymond Franco ’72, vice president for institutional advancement, and his wife, Donna Still Franco ’73, greeted alumni.

WEST COAST

On March 5, James Cranfield ’61 and his wife, Susan, hosted 36 golfers at the Calusa Lakes Golf Club in Nokomis, Fla., for the 2011 West Coast Florida Reunion.

Golfers competed in a captain-and-crew tournament for a variety of SUNY Cortland prizes. Following the tournament, 98 alumni and friends attended dinner at the golf club and were given a SUNY Cortland update by Raymond Franco ’72, vice president for institutional advancement.

Las Vegas

Lynn Karlin Perlman ’68 and her husband, Robert, hosted 38 alumni, family and friends with drinks and hors d’oeuvres at their Turnberry Tower home from March 8 to 10 in Las Vegas, Nev. President Erik J. Bitterbaum greeted alumni and gave attendees an update on SUNY Cortland.

Terry Allen ’78 and Patricia Ignagni Allen ’78 also welcomed alumni with a complimentary drink during the Las Vegas alumni banquet at the Bahama Breeze Island Grille. Paul Terry ’75 of “Beatlebowl” helped alumni relive the days of Beatlemania by performing in and providing discounted tickets to an electrifying performance that portrayed how one of the greatest bands of all time revolutionized the face of music forever.

Veterans

Twelve alumni and guests reunited from Nov. 3 to 7 for holiday shows and events in Branson, Mo., during the Veterans Reunion 2010.

Participants saw musical acts from Andy Williams and Sheji Tabuchi. Attendees also experienced the Sight and Sound Theatre. Showboat Branson Belle and enjoyed a picturesque lunch at the Chateau on the Lake.

Alumni took time to reminisce throughout their reunion about their memories of Cortland and the experiences they had as veterans.

Western New York

The Western New York Chapter will hold its annual Scholarship Golf Tournament on Sunday, Aug. 21, at the Glen Oak Golf Course in East Amherst, N.Y. A dinner and award ceremony will precede the competition. All proceeds from the event will benefit the Western New York Chapter Scholarship Fund, which is awarded annually to a deserving Western New York student attending Cortland. This year’s scholarship will be awarded to senior Stacey Ulrich of Elma, N.Y.

Southern Tier

The SUNY Cortland Southern Tier Alumni Chapter will host alumni and their guests at the 13th annual Binghamton Mets baseball game and picnic on Saturday, Aug. 13.

A pre-game picnic will feature a raffle of SUNY Cortland alumni apparel and other prizes. President Erik J. Bitterbaum plans to attend and give a SUNY Cortland update. He will greet alumni in the Maines Skybox. Look for updates in our e-newsletter and on our website at www.cortland.edu/alumni.

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Eight alumni marched at SUNY Cortland Commencement

The last time Carole Wilsey Phillips wore a cap and gown for SUNY Cortland’s Commencement, the Marshall Plan was just getting under way, Israel and North Korea had just become countries and gasoline cost 16 cents a gallon.

It was a different world. But Phillips, who graduated in 1948, remained involved with her alma mater as the decades ticked by. And on May 21 — 63 years after Phillips graduated at SUNY Cortland’s Commencement, the last time Carole Wilsey Phillips wore a cap and gown for SUNY Cortland’s Commencement.

Eight alumni marched at SUNY Cortland Commencement this year. They have defended Hall of Fame members, nearly 3,000 donors and are some of the Half Century Club, which consists of alumni who graduated 50 years or more ago, by asking them to join in the College’s most important ceremony, dressed in full regalia.

It was the first time the College had honored members of the Half Century Club, which consists of alumni who graduated 50 years or more ago, by asking them to join in Commencement.

Club members include 14 distinguished alumni, 77 C-Club Hall of Fame members, nearly 3,000 donors and are some of the institution’s best alumni volunteers. They have defended our nation, educated our country’s children and become leaders in our towns, states and nation. They represent Cortland’s long tradition of excellence and exemplify many of the principles espoused by our College today.

Half Century Club alumni returning from World War II in 1945-47, along with SUNY Cortland’s dedicated alumnae, built up the College’s physical education and athletic programs. These alumni helped the College become one of the leading physical education schools in the nation as well as an athletic powerhouse. Alumni from the ’50s and ’60s ushered in a fresh wave of community outreach and Cortland spirit that created strong bonds to one another and to Cortland. To this day, these alumni are loyal, dedicated and passionate supporters of their alma mater.

The eight who processed at Commencement are:

GEORGE BREEN ’56
An Olympic swimmer who earned one silver and two bronze medals, he is a member of the C-Club Hall of Fame.

A physical education major, coached championship swimming teams for the University of Pennsylvania as well as a variety of swim clubs. He lives in Sewall, N.J.

DOROTHEA KREIG FOWLER ’52
Fowler taught in the Cortland and Homer public schools for 31 years. She also is the former owner and retired CEO of R.H. Fowler, Inc., a petroleum refining company. She is a member of the Cortland College Foundation Board. Fowler received the College-Community Appreciation Award last year for her philanthropy and the entrance hall of Old Main was dedicated to her in October.

ROSEMARIE LUPPINO KLEINSPEHN ’49
She is a former elementary school teacher who retired after 31 years in the Addison and Fillmore central school districts in New York. Kleinspehn is also a partner in Seneca Trails and Travel Service. She was named a SUNY Cortland Distinguished Alumna in 1992.

CAROLE WILSEY PHILLIPS ’48
She is a retired teacher from the Chenango Valley School system and lives in Binghamton, N.Y. Phillips was among the first recipients of the President’s Philanthropy Medal in 2003.

ARNOLD RIST ’47
Rist — a former teacher, coach and school administrator — is founder, owner and president of Rockland Educational Services in Nanuet, N.Y., which offers reading, learning and test-preparation courses to students in grades 8 through 12. A physical education major, he is a member of the C-Club Hall of Fame. Rist earned a doctorate in education and developed programs for both under-achieving and gifted students in several school districts.

KATHRYN FENTON SAUNDERS ’61
An elementary education major, Saunders is a retired third-grade teacher from the Caledonia-Mumford (N.Y.) School District. She currently resides in West Henrietta, N.Y.

ED SLIVA ’59
A retired New York City teacher and coach, Sliva, an elementary education major, is currently an advocate for the United Federation of Teachers. He is also an actor, playwright and member of the Dramatists Guild of America.

HENRY VEIX ’60
Veix, who earned a doctorate in education, retired as physical education instructor for the United States Military Academy at West Point after a 30-year career. The Portsmouth, R.I., resident was named to the National Association of Underwater Instructors Hall of Fame in 2009.

For updates, check the alumni online calendar at www2.cortland.edu/alumni/events

June
13 Southern Tier Chapter, Binghamton Mets Game and Picnic, NYSEG Stadium
19-21 Women’s Rugby Alumnae Reunion, Lansing, N.Y.
21 Western New York Chapter, Scholarship Golf Tournament, East Amherst, N.Y.

July
15-17 Alumni Reunion 2011, SUNY Cortland
26 Hamilton Area Picnic, Hamilton, N.Y.
30 Adirondack Chapter, Alumnae Picnic, Raquette Lake, N.Y.
31 Capital District Chapter, A Day at the Races, Saratoga Springs, N.Y.

August
13 Southern Tier Chapter, Binghamton Mets Game and Picnic, NYSEG Stadium
19-21 Women’s Rugby Alumnae Reunion, Lansing, N.Y.
21 Western New York Chapter, Scholarship Golf Tournament, East Amherst, N.Y.

September
23-24 Multicultural Alumni Reunion, Corey Union, SUNY Cortland

O happening for alumni of SUNY Cortland

COLUMNS • SUMMER 2011
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two Alumni, Arnold Rist ’47 and Ronnie Sternin Silver ’67, will receive the Outstanding Alumni Volunteer Award at a luncheon during SUNY Cortland Alumni Reunion 2011. The Alumni Luncheon, set for Saturday, July 16, will be held in the Corey Union Function Room.

The SUNY Cortland Alumni Association established the award in 1999 to honor Cortland graduates who have been exceptional in their engagement with the College, giving countless hours of their time to improving alumni relations with the school. With these awards, to date, nine graduates have been recognized.

ARNOLD RIST ’47

Arnold Rist’s life boils down to one word service. A humanitarian by every account, this graduate’s service involves his country, his students and his alma mater.

“My mother and father were always helping people,” Rist said. “It just came naturally.”

He came to Cortland from his small Adirondack Mountain hometown of Newcomb, N.Y. before World War II interrupted his education. As a 20-year-old Army sergeant, Rist served in the 20th Armored Division that liberated the Nazi concentration camp at Dachau, Germany.

He obtained a bachelor’s degree in physical education in 1947 and spent the next 60 years dedicated to the development of young people. But Rist did not find his passion in teaching the most capable students. Rather, his focus was on the ones who needed and sought improvement.

His infectious smile aside, Rist is best recognized for his work with minorities and underscoring students. He led Rockland Educational Services, Inc. for 10 years, from 1995–2006. The firm, which he founded, offers speed learning programs, PSAT preparation programs and scholarships to deserving students in grades 9-12.

Rist maintained close ties with SUNY Cortland while he championed the educational rights of underprivileged students. In 1965, he worked directly with the local alumni chapter of the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity to establish a scholarship incentive program for minority students in Rockland County. He earned a Certificate of Commendation for the Advancement of Minority Students from the trustees of the Rockland County Negro Scholarship Fund for his efforts.

“Arnie Rist has spent a lifetime quietly helping numerous young people from all walks of life and ethnic backgrounds realize their potential,” said Douglas DeFlancy, ’75, assistant to the College’s vice president of institutional advancement.

“He has done it without fanfare. He is driven to create educational opportunity for those who are less fortunate.”

A former soccer and baseball player at Cortland, Rist was inducted into the C-Club Hall of Fame in 1987. His efforts, though, could not be measured in statistics.

Rist drove the endowment fundraising efforts of the T. Fred “Prof” Holloway Award in the late 1980s. This honor recognizes leadership, diligence and Fairness in one male and one female physical education senior. Holloway, a former physical education professor and men’s soccer coach at the College, left a permanent impression on Rist.

In 2002, Rist established the Stefan Mascoll ’99 Brian Lange Senior Athlete Award in Track and Field. The accolade, like Rist’s lifelong pursuit, recognizes the track and field athlete who shows the most progression, not necessarily the greatest ability.

Rist received the Distinguished Alumni Award, SUNY Cortland’s highest honor, in 1993. He has served on the Alumni Association Board of Directors for the past 24 years, and he has offered guest lectures relating to the Holocaust for the SUNY Cortland History Department for the past five years.

Rist, who resides in Nanuet, N.Y., earned two master’s degrees from Syracuse University and a doctorate from New York University. He and his late wife, Roberta, have two children, Kevin and Randy.

RONNIE STERNIN SILVER ’67

In the years following her graduation from SUNY Cortland, Ronnie Sternin Silver felt like she owed something to the College.

“Cortland was willing to do everything for us as students,” Silver said. “‘Why not give back?’

More than four decades later, Silver has repaid her alma mater with her post-graduate efforts.

She presided over the Alumni Association Board of Directors during 2008-10 and has served as a board member for the past 15 years.

As president, she oversaw the Strategic Planning Committee’s efforts to implement the recommendations of the Hotel Report, an evaluation strategy prepared for the College. Her tenure as a board member has coincided with a period of unprecedented growth at the Lyme Parks ’68 SUNY Cortland Alumni House.

“Ronne Sternin Silver understands better than most the critically important role a public university like SUNY offers to the citizens and families of New York state and beyond,” said DeFlancy. “She has been, and will continue to be, one of our most committed alumni advocates and ambassadors for SUNY and Cortland.”

A physical education major at SUNY Cortland, Silver exudes passion for education, specifically the notion that every student deserves a quality learning experience.

Her educational resume runs long. In her career, she taught physical education in Iowa and served in a variety of roles for two school districts in California. She assumed the duties of volunteer coordinator, Parent Teachers Association (PTA) president and chairman of the Superintendent’s Advisory Committee — among other jobs — during a 17-year stint in California education. She received a Santa Clarita (Calif.) Valley PTA Council Service Award and was recognized by the Los Angeles County supervisor for her outstanding service.

Silver relocated to Corning, N.Y. in 1996. It sparked memories of her time at SUNY Cortland.

“I needed a connection to the College when I moved back,” she said. “The anchor was truly my work at Cortland.”

Silver, who was a major contributor to the John L. Sciara Scholarship during her time out of state, joined the Alumni Association Board of Directors in 1994. She was introduced to an alumni network that she now considers a family.

“Everybody can do things their own way and accomplish something,” she said. “But at Cortland, it was never a one-person deal.”

Such was the case in 2002, when Silver attended her 35th Reunion at the College. The Class of 1967 banded together at a breakfast and decided to establish a scholarship on the spot.

“That’s what Cortland is all about,” she said. “It brings people together.

Even though she spent several years away from New York, Silver never truly left Cortland. When she spoke at the Commencement ceremonies in 2009 and 2010, she welcomed graduates to the College’s alumni family.

It is a group that boasts Silver as one its finest contributors. Silver, who lives and substitute teaches in Saratoga Springs, N.Y., earned her lifetime teaching certification at University of Iowa and completed courses in journalism at College of the Canyons in Valencia, Calif. She has four children: Army, Leslie, Greg and Danny.

SUMMER 2011 • COLUMNS

ALUMNI REUNION 2011

REGISTRATIONS NOW ACCEPTED

The SUNY Cortland Alumni Association is excited to host alumni from July 15-17 for their annual Alumni Reunion. Many events are planned, including the annual golf tournament, class reunion dinners, cruises on the local Finger Lakes, receptions and banquets with President Erik J. Bitterbaum, class reunion dinners, cruises on the local Finger Lakes, events are planned, including the annual golf tournament, and so much more. Be sure to register today by visiting www.cortland.edu/reunion. As always, all alumni are invited, and so much more. Be sure to register today by visiting www.cortland.edu/reunion. As always, all alumni are invited, and so much more. Be sure to register today by visiting www.cortland.edu/reunion. As always, all alumni are invited, and so much more. Be sure to register today by visiting www.cortland.edu/reunion. As always, all alumni are invited, and so much more. Be sure to register today by visiting www.cortland.edu/reunion. As always, all alumni are invited. REGISTRATIONS NOW ACCEPTED

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insect behavior through studying the ways caterpillars have of finding one another. They leave chemical trails. It opened the window for me on a whole range of interesting behavior that more traditionally was attributed to ants and bees and wasps and such. To begin to think about these caterpillars in the theoretical framework was a new thing. I think virtually nobody (else) was looking at social caterpillar population genetics, which eventually became the focus of my graduate work."

"At Raquette Lake, I remember walking at night with (Dr. Baroni) and some other students and coming across a leaning tree that was just covered with bioluminescent fungi. It was just magical."

― James T. Costa ’85

Costa continued from page 1

exploring the natural world, from the natural history aspect to questions about Darwin and evolution and ecology.” Jim said of his wife, Leslie, and two sons, Addison, age 13, and Eli. "Leslie, a north Georgia native, has a background in landscape architecture as well as science and is working with him as artist and production designer on what will be his third book with Harvard.

Returning to the campus on April 15 to deliver the Scholars’ Day keynote lecture, Costa, right, makes a point about a poster to his former professor, Distinguished Professor Terrence D. Fitzgerald.

That book will draw on Darwin’s experimental work as a novel way of teaching about the man, evolution, and the nature of scientific investigation.

It is being written for any reader who is enthusiastic about, or intrigued by, Darwin's social bombshell of a publication.


“I think this is a way to make the Origin and Darwin as experimentalist, with his clever and quirky experiments that helped provide evidence for evolution in the Origin, more accessible, especially to non-scientists.”

Since his first book on Darwin was released, he’s given public lectures and opened the floor to questions. Despite the potential for controversy, the audience response so far has been thoughtful, not adversarial, he noted.

“There are no doubt individuals in audiences I’ve spoken to who haven’t agreed with Darwin and in varying degrees there probably are creationists of sorts,” he said. “I’ve had some conversations in talks, but no unreasonable, outright challenges or confrontations. That’s because it’s a self-selected audience. Most of the people, they’ve come because they want to know. But I must say there are several groups you would not think would necessarily be interested in the book, but have invited me to speak. I’ve spoken to church groups, and I think that’s cool.”

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Today, living and working in Cullowhee, N.C., Jim is still fascinated by the social behavior of the less-studied social insects; not the bees and wasps and ants but the caterpillars and sawflies. To research his 2006 book, The Other Insect Societies (Harvard University Press), he traveled from the southern Appalachian Mountains to Europe and Latin America.

He teaches genetics, biogeography, entomology, the Origin of Species, and field courses in Hawaii, the desert southwest, and the Highlands Biological Station.

His passion for Darwin and the history of evolutionary biology led him to the Galápagos Islands several times, where he lectured on Darwin and evolution, and to England each summer, where he teaches in Harvard’s Darwin program at University of Oxford.

“I am fortunate to have a family that shares my passion and my interest in
At 22, she conquered cancer and college

BY MICHAEL BERSANI  Staff Winter

Early in the summer of 2007, Colleen Cappon’s spirits were soaring. She had just returned home from a prestigious internship at FOX News Corporation in New York. She ran and exercised almost every day. And she was counting the days until the start of her senior year at SUNY Cortland.

Then, in July, Cappon felt a lump on her breast. She followed up with her doctor. They thought it was a benign growth or a calcium deposit. Cappon, after all, had a clean bill of health.

“So many people, including myself at one point in time, didn’t even know that it was possible to have cancer at such a young age,” she said.

At 21, as she was preparing for her senior year, Cappon was diagnosed with breast cancer.

“I tell people all the time, if you could choose when in your life you were going to get cancer if you had to get it, it should be in college. I was never alone,” — Colleen Cappon ’08

“I didn’t know how other people were going to react to [my cancer],” she said. “For a long time, in the beginning of fall semester, I didn’t care if people found out about it, but I didn’t necessarily advertise it.”

Eventually, all of her hair, including her eyebrows, fell out. The color washed out of her face and she looked swollen from her treatments.

Still, she stayed at the College to grind out the semester.

“I was very preoccupied with trying to do everything that I would normally do, just because I was so freaked out about the entire situation,” she said.

Chris Hanson ’09, her boyfriend at the time, was vital.

“I looked so, so terrible and I didn’t even know it because he just made me feel like I looked normal,” she said.

The couple, high-school sweethearts since their days at South Jefferson High School, will marry in Cortland in the fall.

“Cancer doesn’t just happen to your mom. Cancer doesn’t just happen to your grandma,” she tells people. “Here I am, at 21, and I don’t know how I’m going to feel about going back to school,” Cappon said.

From Watertown, N.Y. stayed optimistic.

“When Cappon visited the doctor for the first time after the diagnosis, the doctor apologized for entering the wrong room. The physician couldn’t believe she was a cancer patient because she appeared so healthy.

“You look like you’re from a Vitamin Water commercial,” the doctor told her.

That soon changed. Cappon needed four months of chemotherapy treatment. Plans for a mastectomy were in the works. And there was a cloud of uncertainty hanging over her to return to Cortland in the fall.

“Here I am, at 21, and I don’t know how I’m going to feel about going back to school,” Cappon said.

Her father, Daniel, is an emergency room doctor. His medical background, combined with experience from her mother’s cancer bouts, gave the family all of the scientific knowledge it needed.

“My family was huge, not only in supporting me, but in the learning process and the understanding process,” she said.

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“Cancer doesn’t care how old you are or what you have going on in your life. ‘Know that cancer can happen and don’t think that you’re invincible to anything,’” — Colleen Cappon ’08

After all, her mother, Mary, had successfully battled breast cancer twice.

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Above: Colleen Cappon ’08 beat breast cancer during her senior year at SUNY Cortland. She now works in New York City as a health editor for the FOX News website.

Left: High school sweethearts Colleen Cappon ’08 and Christopher Hanson ’09 stayed together through their battle with breast cancer. The couple will wed in Cortland in the fall.

For Cappon, the spring brought recon-
Association names Distinguished Alumni

BY MICHAEL BERSANI Staff Writer

The SUNY Cortland Alumni Association will present its highest honor, the Distinguished Alumni Award, to two graduates and an honorary recipient, on Saturday, July 14, during the Alumni Reunion Weekend luncheon in Corey Union.

The 2012 Distinguished Alumni Award recipients are Gilbert Brown ‘51, who served as president of the Association for the Advancement of International Education (AAIE) and the Association of American Schools in South America (AASSA); and Robert Wallace ‘53, the former baseball coach at SUNY Cortland after whom the College’s baseball field is named.

The Honorary Alumni Award will recognize Peter Koryzno, public relations director emeritus and 29-year employee of the College.

Since 1968, 18 SUNY Cortland graduates, including this year’s honorees, have received the Distinguished Alumni Award for their career accomplishments and outstanding service to their community and alma mater. In addition, 19 alumni have been recognized with Distinguished Young Alumni awards and seven, including Koryzno, have been named Honorary Alumni.

GILBERT BROWN ‘51

To say Gilbert Brown left his mark on students and educators around the world would be an understatement.

The Long Island native spent a majority of his career in Brazil, where he served as headmaster of the American School of Rio de Janeiro from 1961 to 1987. He also led the Lincoln School in San José, Costa Rica as director general from 1989 to 1993. All told, he spent 48 years in overseas education.

“Gilbert Brown is the consummate educator,” wrote John Ketterer, associate professor in the College of Education at Jacksonville State University. “In his unique career, he has integrated the qualities of a productive scholar with those of a highly skilled school administrator.”

Brown, who received a bachelor’s degree in education, earned his master’s degree and doctorate in educational administration from Columbia University. He taught in New York and served as an assistant principal in Connecticut before his service in South America.

“The schools in Rio and Costa Rica served as showplaces for educators in local schools of all that was admirable and achievable in the values and philosophy of American public education,” Brown wrote.

After his retirement, Brown consulted with more than 50 developing international school boards in Africa, Asia, Europe and South America. He worked with the U.S. Department of State as a consultant from 2005 to 2008.

“I dedicated myself to help international school boards and those of international organizations to become more effective and focused on their obligations to exemplify democratic values in their schools and organizational programs,” Brown wrote.

In addition to dozens of journal articles, Brown has authored seven books related to professional education, most recently the 2006 book, Crucibles of Democracy: The American International Schools and the Globalization of Democratic Values (Bloomington, Ind.: Phi Delta Kappa International).

From 2003 to 2010, he was editor of InterEd, the journal of the AAIE. He currently serves as the journal’s editor emeritus and frequently contributes articles related to international education.

Brown taught in higher education at the Foreign Service Institute in Brazil, Western Michigan University, the University of Florida and Memphis State University.

“My community has been the world,” Brown wrote.


Geni de Souza, a high school English teacher who worked under Brown at the American School of Rio de Janeiro, called Brown’s leadership “life-changing.”

“He was highly respected by his staff and knew each and every one of us not only by name but by background as well,” Souza wrote. “He fostered this closeness to staff so that our school was a close-knit family.”

Brown’s wife, Shirley Haft Brown ‘53, nominated him for the award. The couple, married for 62 years, will celebrate the class’ 60th reunion at SUNY Cortland this summer.

“We, all of us, always and students, owe the College more than can be repaid,” Gilbert Brown wrote. “What it has done for me, and for Shirley, is far beyond our reach to compensate in either word or deed.”

ROBERT WALLACE ‘53

Robert Wallace has more than a baseball field in his honor. The former SUNY Cortland faculty member and coach has hundreds of former students scattered across the country that he reaches regularly through email.

“I feel like I am one of Bob’s children, even though he and his wife, Sally, didn’t have any of their own,” wrote James Sellars ’59. “I am sure if you were to poll his ex-players, they would agree with me. He, to this day, is in contact with us all.”

Wallace initiated the Baseball Alumni Weekend during his tenure as the College’s baseball coach. It is a highly anticipated tradition that returns for its 36th edition this year. Former players come from as far away as California to attend the annual get-together.

Prior to attending SUNY Cortland, Wallace resided in Syracuse. He served in the U.S. Navy in 1945 and 1946 and played baseball at College while in the Navy. Following his retirement, Wallace and his late wife, Sally, “sailed together,” he said, traveling across the country as alumni ambassadors for the College.

“Bob Wallace brought so much more to the table than the athlete or coaching ability,” wrote Spadinger. “He seemed to be the essence of the family spirit that made Cortland so special.”

PETER KORYZNO

The Awards Committee unanimously selected Peter Koryzno to receive an Honorary Alumni Award, recognizing him for the volume and quality of the articles his department produced and for “always highlighting SUNY Cortland alumni in the best light.”

Highly regarded as the College’s institutional voice during his tenure, Koryzno oversaw a transformative era of communication at SUNY Cortland.

The former director of public relations retired Dec. 31.

Since 1988, Koryzno edited College’s annual report, which is available to the more than 62,000 alumni and friends of the College. As public relations director, he guided four other publications: the Annual Report...
T
o individuals — a champion athlete who pioneered the use of outrigger canoes among people with disabilities and an avant-garde musician who plays internationally acclaimed concerts on the toy piano — received honorary doctoral degrees from the State University of New York during SUNY Cortland’s 14th Undergraduate Commencement ceremonies on May 21.

Janet Richards Whitaker, a marathon canoe racer whose innovative programs have helped thousands of disabled people — including many wounded soldiers — gain confidence and improved health through adaptive paddling, received a Doctor of Humane Letters. Whitaker is a 1965 SUNY Cortland graduate.

Margaret Leng Tan, a classically trained pianist who explores alternative forms of music and unconventional instruments, received a Doctor of Fine Arts. She has performed at prestigious venues such as Carnegie Hall and Lincoln Center, but also shared her music with students at SUNY Cortland.

“Both of these women are true champions in their respective fields,” SUNY Cortland President Erik J. Bitterbaum said. “Jan Whitaker, one of the nation’s top competitive canoeists, created innovative ways to share her passion with people challenged by physical disabilities. Her efforts, and the non-profit organization she created, opened a new world of activity for thousands of people. Margaret Tan has been on the cutting edge of avant-garde piano for decades. Her unique compositions have expanded the definition of modern music and created new worlds of sound.”

Janet Richards Whitaker ’65

Whitaker graduated from SUNY Cortland with a degree in physical education. She taught health and physical education in the Union Springs Central District for years.

At the same time, she became one of the nation’s top marathon canoeists, winning more than 30 United States Canoe Association national championships. She earned numerous other honors, including an Empire State Games gold medal, induction into the Canoeing Hall of Fame and selection as USCA Canoeist of the Year for 1994 and 1993.

Whitaker is best known, however, for her devotion to adaptive canoeing. It began after she became involved with racing in outrigger canoes; modern versions of the traditional watacraft used by generations of Pacific Islanders. She realized that the stability of the canoes, created by their pontoon-like outriggers, made them perfect for people with disabilities.

In 2005, Whitaker founded Cape Ability Outrigger Canoea Inc., a chapter of Disabled Outrigger Sports USA, a national group with more than 60,000 members. Whitaker’s non-profit organization is dedicated to increasing access to, and awareness of, outrigger canoeing as an adaptive activity among people who are physically challenged. She partnered with a canoe manufacturer in Maine to design the first modified seat system and a special, stabilized float for outrigger canoes, widening the accessibility of the sport to disabled paddlers.

She created the Rochester River Challenge, which is now the largest outrigger canoe race on the East Coast. Because of Whitaker, the City of Rochester is recognized as the birthplace of team outrigger canoe racing for people with disabilities.

In 2001, she established the first adaptive paddling event in the USCA National Championships. Cape Ability has since established scores of adaptive outrigger programs across the United States and in Canada, England, New Zealand and the Cook Islands.

Most recently, Whitaker extended her efforts to help soldiers wounded in Iraq or Afghanistan, establishing outrigger canoe rehabilitation programs at Walter Reed Army Hospital. In 2008, the Non-Commissioned Officers’ Association’s National Defense Fund honored her with an American Patriot Award for her work.

Margaret Leng Tan

Tan, a native of Singapore, was the first woman to earn a doctorate from the prestigious Julliard School of Music in New York City. Her artistic drive soon led her to stray from classical piano into the avant-garde world of experimental music.

By fusing American alternative piano with the New Orleans influences of her heritage, and by experimenting with unusual instruments, Tan created a truly unique sound. By composing, performing and recording music for the toy piano, she elevated an ordinary child’s playing into an instrument of high art and inspired others to compose music for non-traditional instruments.

Over the years, she made numerous audio and video recordings, earning international acclaim. Tan is the foremost interpreter of the groundbreaking composer and aesthetic philosopher John Cage, whose ideas have strongly influenced modern avant-garde art.

The quintessential performer, Tan excels at interpreting difficult music for wide and diverse audiences. She has made the often-arcane tradition of avant-garde music accessible to people around the world, including students at SUNY Cortland.

Through her professional friendship with Donna Anderson, professor emerita of music at SUNY Cortland, and their shared interest in the legacy of impressionist pianist Charles T. Griffis, Tan developed a strong connection with the College. She performed at the College on two separate occasions, inspiring music theatre majors as well as the SUNY Cortland community at large.

Distamped continued from page 10

of the President and the Annual Report of the College Foundation since the mid-1990s; Moments, the SUNY Cortland alumni electronic newsletter launched in 2009; and the Bulletin, the College’s print news vehicle, which switched to an online format in 2009.

Koryzno arrived at SUNY Cortland in 1981 as sports information director in charge of publicizing its 28 men’s and women’s intercollegiate teams. The 29-year member of the College Sports Information Directors of America (CoSIDA) proved vital to the development of the C-Club Hall of Fame, producing all 30 banquet programs and writing nearly 200 biographies since 1981.

He became the news services director at SUNY Cortland in 1992 before taking over as public relations director in 1998, while continuing to oversee the Sports Information Office.

He concurrently handled the duties of the College’s records access officer and government relations liaison while serving on the College’s crisis management, marketing and Web advisory teams.

Over the years, Koryzno was on more than 30 College and community committees and various boards, including the Cortland County Chamber of Commerce.

Koryzno contributed to all of the significant campus events during his tenure, including the SUNY Cortland 125th Anniversary in 1993-94, the Outdoor Education Center 50th Anniversary in 1997-98 and every faculty groundbreaking and dedication. He was part of the SUNY Cortland Stadium Complex Organizing Committee and assisted in the press box design planning.

As a member of the O’Heron Newman Foundation, Koryzno created and coordinated the annual O’Heron Invitational Basketball Tournament, which brought local high school teams and their fans into Corey Gymnasium every Thanksgiving weekend from 2000 to 2008. The popular event raised nearly $20,000 for a scholarship in memory of Edward J. O’Herion’s name.

Koryzno served on the State University of New York Council for University Advancement (SUNYCUAD) Board of Directors and presided over its two largest-attended annual educational conferences. In 2002, he created and organized the SUNYCUAD Hall of Fame to celebrate the group’s 50th anniversary.

A recipient of the 2003 SUNY Chancellor’s Award for Excellence in Professional Service, Koryzno was inducted into the Hall of Fame for both the SUNY Cortland C-Club in 1996 and SUNYCUAD in 2007.

He received the Irving T. Marsh Award for excellence in the field of sports information from the Eastern Collegiate Athletic Conference Sports Information Directors Association (ECAC-SIDA) in 1996. Koryzno was the first recipient of the Fraser Stokes Award presented by SUNY Cortland athletics in 1988.
New Professional Studies Building unveiled

Faculty, staff, students and community members gathered on April 8 for the grand opening ceremony of the expanded and upgraded SUNY Cortland Professional Studies Building. President Erik J. Bitterbaum presided over the ceremonies, which took place in Room 1176 due to the brisk, spring day.

State Sen. James Seward was among the speakers, and a letter was read on behalf of Assemblywoman Barbara Lifton, who was unable to attend. Remarks also were presented by John Cottone, dean of the School of Professional Studies; Regina Grantham, chair of the Communication Disorders and Sciences Department; and Philip Buckenmeyer, Kinesiology Department chair.

A reception and tours followed the event. Department representatives explained to visitors how the highly customized academic areas are used.

The Professional Studies Building project, completed for $11 million, includes a new, 20,000-square-foot, two-story structure attached to the completely renovated, 43,000-square-foot former Studio West Building. It features a brick-and-metal, contemporary-looking façade.

The new building occupies the former Studio West parking area and part of the lawn on the east side of the existing structure. The building features a new wing as well as the older, Studio West wing, located across from the Park Center. The facility opened in time for the spring semester.

The project’s completion has allowed for the consolidation of four School of Professional Studies academic departments into one complex. The Health Department moved to remain in Moffett Center and the Physical Education Department has stayed in Park Center.

In March, the President’s Cabinet officially renamed the two structures comprising the facility as the Professional Studies Building.

“The College’s commitment for the addition and renovation of Studio West reinforces the transformation and identity of the building as the home of the School of Professional Studies,” Cottone said.

The new building’s first floor features an 8,000-square-foot clinic for the Communication Disorders and Sciences Department, which had been housed in the McDonald Building on Tompkins Street. The clinic includes an audiology chamber, observation and therapy rooms, a library and a resource area. A dedicated parking area offers access to clients from the community.

The Recreation, Parks and Leisure Studies Department moved into the new facility from the Park Center. The department has an outdoor education laboratory, a play teaching area and academic equipment staging and storage areas on the first floor.

The second floor, which occupies 7,000 square feet, houses 23 offices and department offices for both Communication Disorders and Sciences as well as Recreation, Parks and Leisure Studies. The renovated building contains the School of Professional Studies dean’s suite, the Sport Management Department, 21 offices and a special events room. The pre-existing biomechanics lab, which underwent minor alterations.

The Kinesiology Department, with 18 offices, is located near the west end of the renovated building. “Our vision and priority to focus on academic excellence has been realized through the improvement in functional space that is complemented by state-of-the-art instructional resources,” Cottone noted. “This new environment will present the faculty and staff with opportunities to advance student learning and success.”

The new construction began in mid-November 2009. Renovation of the former Studio West facility began in March 2010. Constructed in 1948, Studio West was home to the Overhead Door Co. for many years. In 1994, SUNY Cortland wanted to relocate its maintenance operation from Old Main, so the College purchased the facility. Four years later, the maintenance operation moved to its present location near Route 281, but the building continued to be used by the grounds crew as storage space.

1994, the Construction Fund allocated $3.2 million for the rehabilitation of Studio West. Construction, started in 1996, was completed ahead of schedule in March 1998 so it could be used as flexible office and classroom space. In the most recent upgrade, the facility retained its original footprint while undergoing significant interior changes.

KSS Architects, LLP, of Philadelphia, Pa., provided design services while M/E Engineering, P.C., of Syracuse, N.Y., was the project engineer. R.J. Taylor General Contractors of Penfield, N.Y., managed the construction and renovation projects.

The building has met Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) silver certification standards, and is partially heated and cooled by 40 geothermal wells that were dug 400 feet underground on the building’s west side.

Christopher Popovici, an exercise science major from Pittsford, N.Y., explained to a crowd touring the building the purpose and function of the Kinesiology Department’s newly created Center for Obesity Education and Research (C.O.R.E.)/Exercise Physiology Laboratory. Popovici and other student volunteers served as tour guides immediately following the opening celebration for the College’s Professional Studies Building on April 8.

“Our vision and priority to focus on academic excellence has been realized through the improvement in functional space that is complemented by state-of-the-art instructional resources.”

— John Cottone, School of Professional Studies dean
CYNTHIA BENTON

Benton, who joined the College in 1998, is the 53rd SUNY Cortland recipient of the Chancellor’s Award for Excellence in Teaching. She received high praise in classroom observations, student-written course evaluations and letters from former students and colleagues.

“Cynthia Benton exemplifies teaching excellence,” noted the Nominating Committee. “She sets high standards, utilizes theoretically based teaching practices, pursues a rigorous scholarly agenda and establishes connections with students that motivate them to be master teachers in early childhood and childhood classrooms throughout New York state.”

As a professor in the Childhood/Early Childhood Education Department, she teaches graduate research methods, undergraduate arts and instructional methods. She also coaches master’s projects in the department.

Her research interests include the study of male elementary teachers’ career paths, teachers as researchers, and faculty community and career development. She is the author of several book chapters and a course text on cross-cultural humanities.

Benton shared the Education Department during her first four years at the College. From 2003-07, she served as chair of the Childhood/Early Childhood Education Department. She was promoted to professor in 2005.

Benton received a doctoral degree in higher education from the University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA). She earned a master’s degree in educational administration from SUNY Cortland and an undergraduate degree in music education from Geneva College in Pennsylvania.

DEBORAH DINTINO

Dintino, a secretary in the Political Science and Africana Studies departments and a SUNY Cortland employee for almost 29 years, was honored with the Chancellor’s Award for Excellence in Classified Service.

She became the third SUNY Cortland recipient of the classified service honor, created by SUNY in 2009 and presented in recognition of outstanding job performance, flexibility and creativity on campus and administrative service of exemplary customer service.

“Deborah Dintino’s demeanor is always friendly, approachable and helpful,” said College President Erik J. Bitterbaum. “In short, she is a consummate professional and a role model for the campus.”

Dintino came to SUNY Cortland in 1982 as a word processing operator. She served in a full-time position as the word processing operator in the College’s Administrative Office for six years. In 1998, she was promoted to secretary I in the Admissions Office, where she served until 2006, when she assumed her current role.

Dintino’s work ethic and superior organizational skills caught the attention of the Nominating Committee.

“She discharges wide-ranging and burdensome responsibilities with professionalism, efficiency and a very high level of performance in terms of office management, supervision of student workers, dealing with faculty and productivity,” the committee stated. “Her work is marked by integrity, discretion and excellent service for students and visitors.”

She has an associate’s degree with honors from Tompkins Cortland Community College in secretarial science and word processing.

RICHARD KENDRICK

Kendrick is the eighth SUNY Cortland recipient of the Chancellor’s Award for Excellence in Faculty Service. The award recognizes his extensive College service and leadership, as well as his specific contributions in the area of civic engagement since his appointment to the Sociology/Anthropology Department faculty in 1991.

He joined the College as a lecturer and was promoted to assistant professor in 1992. He became an associate professor in 1998 and a professor in 2005. Kendrick served as chair of his department while teaching and directing the Institute for Civic Engagement. He also has coordinated the All-College Honors Program.

A longtime proponent of community-based research, he has worked tirelessly with the City of Cortland on projects that include VISTA, AmeriCorps and the Cortland Community Assessment Team.

In 2003, he was appointed coordinator of the American Democracy Project. His dedication to the area of civic engagement resulted in his appointment as director of the Institute for Civic Engagement. In that role, he led the College’s successful effort to become the first SUNY school to achieve the prestigious Carnegie Community Engagement Classification. He orchestrated having the College named to the President’s Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll for five consecutive years. His campus-wide initiatives promote student voting.

Kendrick’s external grants bring in significant funding for town-gown collaborative projects. Most recent is a Bringing Theory to Practice grant for $500,000 over two years. This project, done in partnership with the American Association of Colleges and Universities, will serve as a national model, establishing the critical connection between civic engagement and student learning. Kendrick is the eighth SUNY Cortland recipient of the Chancellor’s Award for Excellence in Faculty Service.

The honor recognizes her consistently superior professional service within and beyond her position description. During her 23 years in the campus community, she has grown in respect among the students, alumni, colleagues and community partners for her passion, professionalism and “can do” attitude.

In 1998, the College named her associate dean of the School of Arts and Sciences. Levine has also filled the role of associate dean of teacher certification and accreditation. In her current role, which she has held since 2004, she continues to be an effective...
Retirements

HEATHER BRIDGE

She was an original member of the College’s Teacher Education Council and participated as a member of Title IX Self Study Group and the Cultural and Intellectual Climate Committee. Every summer from 1995 through 2004, she was assistant director of the Messiah field hockey/lacrosse camp in Pennsylvania.

Howarth’s scholarly work has appeared in professional publications that have contributed research to the U.S. Lacrosse Physical Education Curriculum and presented at state, national and international conferences. Howarth now lives in Philadelphia, Pa., with her partner, B.J. Phillips.

PETER D. KORYNZO

Peter D. Koryzno, director of public relations, retired from SUNY Cortland on Dec. 31, after 29 years of service to the College. He was designated public relations director emeritus.

The Muskegon, Mich., native received a bachelor’s degree in journalism from Marquette University, studied at the Loyola (Ill.) Rome Center in Italy, and continued his work in journalism at Louisiana State University as the recipient of the Walter Hitesman Scholarship and the John F. Kierzkowski Scholarship.

Koryzno joined SUNY Cortland in 1981 as sports information director. He helped to organize a number of NCAA Division III Championships, including the first offered for women’s soccer in 1986.

In 1983, he created and coordinated the Upstate New York Weekly Div. III Football Poll and Statistical Report, which continued for two decades. In 1990, he helped to design a comprehensive NCAA Div. III Football All-America Team selection format. He was designated as the East Region chair on the national selection committee for many years.

Koryzno was the State University of New York Athletic Conference (SUNYAC) publicist from 1989 to 1997 and served on key committees of the College Sports Information Directors of America (Codisa) and the College Public Relations Directors Association for multiple EOP initiatives. He and his wife, Myra, have three children and two grandchildren.

WILLIAM SHARP

William Sharp, a senior administrator and teacher at SUNY Cortland for 16 years, retired on Dec. 31. He was designated professor emeritus of history.

Sharp joined the College in 1994 as a professor of history and as provost and vice president for academic affairs. He served for seven years before returning to the classroom in the College’s History Department.

As provost, he oversaw all academic programs and faculty personnel matters. He chaired a key role of SUNY Cortland’s 10-year review by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education. He was instrumental in securing a $175 million, five-year grant from the U.S. Department of Education to strengthen the School of Arts and Sciences programs, overseeing many new and revised degree programs.

Sharp was dean of Temple University’s Japan Campus in Tokyo from 1988 to 1994. He served as the campus’ first director from 1982 to 1985. Between those two appointments, he directed Temple’s Institute for Languages and International Studies in Philadelphia and served as associate dean in the College of Arts and Science.

A native of Minneapolis, Minn., Sharp earned a bachelor’s degree in American history from Stanford University and served two years in Colombia with the Peace Corps. He received master’s and doctoral degrees in Latin American history from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Sharp chaired the American Association of Colleges and Universities in Japan for many years, and was president of the Temple University Chapter of the American Association of University Professors. He and his wife, Elizabeth Sharp, live in Cortland. They have three grown children and four grandchildren.

KEITH SMITH

Keith Smith of Ithaca, N.Y., who directed SUNY Cortland’s Educational Opportunity Program (EOP) for 18 years, retired on Dec. 31. He was designated associate professor emeritus.

Smith joined the College in 1992, and also served as an adjunct instructor in Africana studies. During his tenure, an estimated 540 academically disadvantaged students admitted to SUNY Cortland successfully graduated Similarly, at SUNY Plattsburgh, where Smith was EOP program director from 1981 to 1992, 330 students graduated through his program.

When he first joined SUNY Cortland, 40 students in the program were on academic probation. Since then, his staff has reduced the failure rate to well below 10 percent. Some semesters, no EOP students fail.

Since 1997, New York State’s Office of Opportunity Programs has awarded 230 special Chancellor’s Awards to SUNY Cortland EOP students, some of who were also honored with the Chancellor’s Award for Student Excellence. Under Smith, SUNY Cortland has consistently ranked among the top SUNY comprehensive colleges for its graduation rate of EOP students.

Between 1993 and 2000, Smith wrote successful grant applications totaling more than $185,000 for SUNY Cortland’s EOP Summer Institute. In 2001, he obtained a grant for almost $50,000 from SUNY Systems Administration for multiple EOP initiatives. Smith served as human rights chair of the College Student Personnel Association of New York, and served on numerous SUNY Cortland committees.

He collaborated on the creation of the SUNY Cortland Vice President for Student Affairs Mentor Award in 2001 and co-authored the 1999-2000 report, “SUNY Cortland President’s Task Group on Ethnic Minority Recruitment and Retention.” For many years, he served on the Africana Studies Faculty Committee and, during 1997-98, chaired the College’s Affirmative Action Committee. He earned a bachelor’s degree in interdisciplinary natural science from SUNY Potsdam.

He received a master’s degree in counseling from Syracuse University. His retirement plans include travel to Southeast Asia and the Philippines.
SUMMER 2011 • COLUMNS

College advances in national rankings for civic service

S

UNY Cortland recently won special recognition for its community engagement from the President’s Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll by being named to the Honor Roll with Distinction for the first time.

The 2010 Honor Roll marked the fifth consecutive year the College won national recognition for its civic engagement, but it was the first time Cortland received the elite “with Distinction” designation.

Since 2006, the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS), a federal agency that fosters civic engagement through service and volunteering, has presented the annual honor to colleges and universities to recognize exemplary community service. The corporation administers programs that include Senior Corps, AmeriCorps and Learn and Serve America.

Of the 641 schools recognized as honor roll members, 114 received distinction honors, including three other SUNY institutions.

“The SUNY Cortland campus community and our many community partners should feel very proud of being listed with distinction on this year’s President’s Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll,” said Richard Kendrick, director of the College’s Institute for Civic Engagement and a professor of sociology/anthropology. “This is an institutional achievement, and every school and division of the College contributed to this year’s award.”

Honorees were chosen based on a series of selection factors, including scope and innovativeness of service projects, percentage of student participation in service activities, incentives for service and offerings of academic service-learning courses.

In total, more than 3,000 students from the College contributed 142,292 community service hours during the 2009-10 academic year. About 1,000 of those students contributed at least 20 hours of volunteer work, according to Kendrick.

“This award validates our College’s position as a national leader in the area of civic engagement and it demonstrates the many ways that we practice the stewardship of place that President (Erik) Bitterbaum champions,” Kendrick said.

The College’s 2010 application highlighted six particular service programs:

• “Every member of our SUNY Cortland campus community and our many community partners should feel very proud of being listed with distinction on this year’s President’s Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll.” — Richard Kendrick, director, Institute for Civic Engagement; professor of sociology/anthropology

• The SUNY Cortland AmeriCorps program, which completed its second year in 2009-10, served 15 community agencies through an assessment process called “Cortland Counts.” As part of the AmeriCorps program, AmeriCorps members recruited more than 400 students who offered 7,528 hours of time to agencies including the YWCA, the Cortland and Homer Central School Districts and food banks.

• Future teachers tutored and mentored 500 students from the Syracuse (NY) City School District through Cortland’s Urban Recruitment of Education (CURE) program. The group seeks to improve urban education by developing teachers who are proficient at dealing with conditions in high-needs schools. In 2009-10, pairs of college students helped teachers individualize instruction through tutoring sessions in a variety of subjects.

• SUNY Cortland students and faculty from the Recreation, Parks and Leisure Studies Department helped Cortland Junior/Senior High School in creating the “League 56 Academy,” an after school program that combats the effects of bullying. College students and faculty led two cooperative activities using a benefits-based programming model to promote resiliency and academic performance. The survey responses of program participants showed a decrease in aggressive behavior and a heightened perception of resiliency.

• Three youth assist programs of Family Counseling Services — in one-on-one mentoring, group mentoring and homework help — received more than 2,000 volunteer hours from SUNY Cortland students. The programs were designed to build confidence and develop appropriate social, communication and decision-making skills through interaction with positive role models. Nearly 100 middle and high school students participated. Students raised their grades from an average of 73 to an average of 83, according to survey results.

• During the 2009-10 academic year, SUNY Cortland obtained a $500,000 grant from Bringing Theory to Practice in order to initiate a major research project investigating the link between service learning practices and student growth. The College also initiated the President’s Leadership Council for Student Engagement to coordinate student service engagement activities.

“This work is not possible without the extensive collaborations the College has formed with its community partners, and this award recognizes the best that our faculty, staff, student and community members have to offer,” Kendrick said. “I know we don’t do this work for recognition. “We do it because it is important work to do.”

The honor roll is jointly sponsored by the CNCS, through its Learn and Serve America program, and the Department of Education, the Department of Housing and Urban Development and the President’s Council on Service and Civic Participation. For more information, visit the CNCS website.
HOW TO SEND CLASS NOTES
We enjoy hearing from you and encourage you to continue sending us your news. Please use our online Alumni Update Form, available at www.cortland.edu/alumnipulse. Those without internet access should send information to the Alumni Affairs Office, SUNY Cortland, P.O. Box 2000, Cortland, NY 13045. The copy deadline for the fall Columns edition is Aug 1.

ANNOUNCEMENTS
Please withhold written submissions announcing your important life accomplishments until after the fact, when we will gladly report your promotion, marriage, new baby, etc. For weddings, please include the date, city and state, spouse’s full name and pre-marital 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. We may choose not to include blurry, ‘pixelated’ or grainy submissions; PDFs; images embedded in text files and 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 (megabytes) for group photos. We reserve the right to select wedding images for publication based on available space, photo quality, timeliness and the number of Cortland graduates shown in the photo. Please send your photos when announcing your wedding, as we will not publish a photo for nuptials previously announced in Columns.

ALUMNI REUNION WEEKEND 2011
Classes will gather together July 15-17, 2011 on the SUNY Cortland campus. Special reunion celebrations for this year include the Classes of 1941, 1944, 1951, 1954, 1961, 1965, 1971, 1976, 1981 and 1986. We are excited to welcome sisters of Alpha Kappa Phi/Akogian, Sigma Sigma Sigma, Sigma Rho Sigma sorority, Lambda Phi Delta fraternity and members of the Half Century Club (Class of 1961 and earlier). 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 a 2011 reunion class may request a registration packet by calling the Alumni Affairs Office at (607) 753-2316 or emailing alumni@cortland.edu.

1946
REUNION 2011
Reggie Jones ’50 M ’54 retired recently from nearly 60 years as a wrestling referee at the high school and college levels. A wrestler himself while attending SUNY Cortland, Reggie capped his stellar athletic career with an induction into the National Wrestling Hall of Fame. He holds a distinguished place in history, noted in the Guinness Book of World Records, as the planet’s longest-working legislator. Always a third-seeker, Reggie is also a member of the Polar Bear Club and takes a dip in the frigid Atlantic waters each winter.

What does one do upon retiring from a successful 39-year career with New York State? If you’re Vincent J. Spataro ’53, you go into acting. After serving as interim director of the Small Business Development Center at SUNY Albany and co-authoring The New York State Directory of Permits and Licenses, Vincent decided it was time to launch a completely different career, as an actor. He’s been doing so successfully for the past 19 years, having worked with such notable acting talents as Kevin Klein, Rob Morrow, Drew Barrymore, “The Rock” Johnson and the Academy Award-winning director, Ang Lee.

1948
REUNION 2011
After 26 years of retirement, Paul Fazio has begun life anew as a restaurateur. When his wife of 62 years passed, Paul wanted nothing more than to honor her memory. Now he, his son Tom and grandson Thomas, have created a lasting memorial to Annette in the form of Fazio’s Kitchen on Route 25A in Greene, N.Y., recently.

1950
REUNION 2011

Barbara “Bobbie” Kilian Bernstein, who now resides in Boca Raton, Fla., earned her wings as an “Angel of the Outfield.” A local paper bestowed the heavenly title upon Barbara when she helped out a high school athlete by donating $1,000 to the Red House Arts Center in Syracuse. After graduating SUNY Cortland, David moved out to California, where he began a successful, lifelong career as a folk singer.

1956
REUNION 2011
Gold medalist Maribeth “Beth” Burr Carey has once again seized the title of World Masters Champion in synchronized swimming. She and partner Carol Motyka-Miller took the gold in the 70-79 duet event at the XIII FINA World Masters Championship. Maribeth also earned a bronze in the 70-79 solo event.

1959
REUNION 2011

A group of new Sigma Delta Phi sisters reunited on Long Island recently to share old memories and make new ones. Posing with their fuzzy mascot are, in the front row, from left: Virginia “Ginny” Allen Lammer ’62, Marilyn Mishkin Silbergeld ’61, Evelyn “Eve” Gottschalk Nowak ’64 and Fran Berks Hynd ’63 and, back row, from left: Annie Garlick Freeman ’63, Bette Salmonowitz ’61, Judith “Judy” Caselli Szea Ochler ’63, Margaret “Maggie” Moon O’Connell ’62 and Judy Stuart Zach ’62.

1959
REUNION 2011

Six Sigma Rho Sigma sisters gathered to take in a bit of history this past summer. Virginia “Ginny” Shanahan Shippy, Betsy Sandwich Lomasonic Susan “Sue” Brandt Lerner Susan “Sue” McGauley Morris Rita Storti Campanella and Nancy Hainsworth Oldham reunited at the Shaker Village in Stockbridge, Mass.

1960
REUNION 2011

Class of ’60 sorority sisters from Alpha Delta Delta and Sigma Delta Phi flocked to Florida at the start of this year for a much-anticipated reunion. Enjoying a bit of lunch together are, front row, from left: Regina “Reggie” Davis Hankin, Rhona Schecter Burd and Gail Klein Spearr; and, back row, Vicki Levine Michaels, Marsa Sidewomen Sherschee Leslie Natov Krasnow, Barbara Weiss Manheim and Bette Salmowitz.

1962
REUNION 2011

Joseph “Joe” Mayer and his wife Judy celebrated 50 years of wedded bliss last year. The momentous event was made even more joyous by the presence of their six children and 20 grandchildren. Half a century ago, the Mayer nuptials were witnessed by Joe’s SUNY Cortland classmates. Gary Rogers acted as best man and George Tucci struck up the band to provide the entertainment.

1963
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REUNION 2011

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1966
REUNION 2011
Ralph M. Shortell retired last summer from his position as director of student activities for the Student Center at Tompkins Cortland Community College.

1967
REUNION 2011

Jeff Plotkin recently conducted after a successful 40-year career in the banking industry. While Jeff looks forward to his leisure time, he also looks forward to a promising future for his son, Alexander, who graduated from SUNY Cortland in 2008 with a bachelor’s degree in communication studies.

All class notes, including all photos for publication in Columns, are due by Aug 1. All notes will be published online at www.cortland.edu/alumniupdate. Those without Internet access should send information to the Alumni Affairs Office, SUNY Cortland, P.O. Box 2000, Cortland, NY 13045.
Members of the Class of 1980 had a dinner reunion recently in White Plains, N.Y. Present were, from left: Karen Chiarello Perry, Kerry Hagan Mannell, Karen Horowitz-Gollop, Marjorie “Marja” Klein Sera, Sue Witolff Journa and Meg Bazakoniecki Lewis.

“Two Lincoln Ladies” have been getting together ever since graduation. Most recently, they gathered to celebrate Kathleen Goss Dykstra’s birthday. Kathleen, and her former classmates — Shari Smith Mullen, Susan Baldwin Little ’84, Marianne Vetere Zink, Michele Leblanc Gunther, Elizabeth “Liz” Lee Norton and Colleen Doherty Kreis ’82 — all “partied like it was 1983.”
1992  
Alumna from 42 Owego St. converged on Cortland in July 2010 to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of Woodman's Tavern. Raising a glass to their beloved old haunt were Brette Genzel-Derman, Diana Zehr Buckingham, Renee Ranieri, Carpenter Cindy Podorosz Stravis, Linda Bowie and Heather Williams.

1996  
Debra Gierer Enrico has risen through the educational ranks of the New York City school system to become an elementary school principal in Queens. Debra said that her education at SUNY Cortland served as the foundation for her success.

2001  
Artist Jacob Mezrahi '01, M '03 had his work featured in a collection at the Philadelphia Museum of Jewish Art this spring. His piece, “Moses and the Burning Bush,” was part of thebiblically themed “Dura Europos” exhibit, inspired by artwork discovered in a synagogue in Syria during the 1950s. Jacob was awarded in the Long Island Herald for his visionary artwork: “Everyone looking at the art of resident Jacob Mezrahi will be bombarded with not only an image, but a striking message that might just touch their soul.”

2002  
Phoebe Adams Stapleton has begun a post-doctoral fellowship at West Virginia University (WVU) studying the cardiovascular effects inhaled particulates. Phoebe earned her doctorate in exercise physiology from WVU in August.

2006  
Sgt. Peter Moran of the U.S. Marine Corps was awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal for professional achievement in the superior performance of his duties while serving as an intelligence analyst. First Marine Division in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Peter served one combat tour in Iraq and will serve a second tour in Afghanistan.

2007  
Daniel Edelstein is training as a combat engineer with the U.S. Army.

2009  
Seth Muselman has joined the Dorchester County School district as a seventh-grade social studies teacher.

In Memoriam

Barbara Russell Pettit '55
Polly Patrick Namack '57
Harold Everett VanEarden '57
Catherine Cadwell Wilcox '57
Frederick Hall '60
John Greene '61
Richard Fiorentini '63
Judith Jordan Blume '65
Roger Klein '65
Susana Williams Maioli '65
Donna Corseal '69
Marilynn Barlow '72
Jack McGlucitt '72
Catherine Ann Beckwith
Hughes '73
Karen Joyce Paul '77
Jeffrey Dallas '79
Daniel Gorman '81
Maurice Barry '97
Richard Jackson '03
Calvin Louis-Juste '99

EVP Architecture & Engineering has appointed Philip Quindara '96 as marketing manager of its subsidiary EYP Energy Group. He served as the company’s senior marketing coordinator and has earned national and regional marketing awards from architecture and engineering consultant Zweig White. From the Society for Marketing Professional Services and from the American Marketing Associations Capital Region chapter.

A team of six Cortland grads took to the ice at The Flyers Skate Zone in Atlantic City, N.J. in Spring 2010 and won the ’X’ Division Championship. These alumni champs are, front row, from left: Anthony Kenney ’98, Thomas “Tom” Girard ’06 and Scott Endevvord ’91; and back row, from left: Brian Herity ’97, Mathew “Hate” Gagnon ’95 and Ryan Lathomb ’07.

Economics and management science may not seem like the foundation for an author of fantasy novels, but that’s exactly the case for John Conroe ’94. John rocketed out of the starting gate with back-to-back e-books: God Touched and Demon Driven. The titles are the inaugual books of Conroe’s new Demon Accords series. He recently released his third book in the series, Brutal Asset. The books are urban fantasy novels, rife with vampires and were-creatures. You can find John’s books, electronically or in paperback, on Amazon’s Kindle site and slu.com. Award-winning author Barbara Linsey M ’91 has a second book, I Can Help On The Farm. This latest work is an “I read, you read” book; for children, depicting youngsters’ lives on family-run dairy farms. Barbara’s first book, Dreamers on the Oregon Trail, won the 2009 Willa Literary Award, a national award honoring women’s literature with western themes.

Richard Schiller ’69 has released a new workbook to help math students improve their skills in algebra and trigonometry. Mathematica That Works: For Algebra II/Trigonometry is available through Education Time Courseware, Inc.

Christina Nippert Eng ’82 brings her remarkable expertise to bear in her new book, Islands of Privacy, available through The University of Chicago Press. An associate professor in sociology and associate chair of the Department of Social Sciences at the Illinois Institute of Technology, Christina draws on her vast knowledge of the social sciences to analyze how we maintain our privacy. In the Facebook age, everyone is concerned about the use and abuse of personal information. Through anecdotes and observation, Christina spotlights the balancing act we all perform by sharing online while protecting our most intimate selves. She takes a hard look at the ways in which people “ preserve the border between themselves and the rest of the world.”

1996

Suzanne “Sue” Egan Behm ‘93 has been named head women’s lacrosse coach for the University of Rochester. Sue returns to Central New York after two years of building a Division I program at California State University at Fresno. Sue founded the woman’s lacrosse program at SUNY Geneseo and, within three years, led them to a SUNY Athletic Conference (SUNYAC) Championship. She coached nine years at Nazareth College in Rochester and led the Golden Flyers to the NCAA Division III tournament during six of them. A five-time winner of the Empire 8 Coach of the Year Award, Sue earned the Empire Region Coach of the Year Award from the Intercollegiate Women’s Lacrosse Coaches Association. She also has been named New York State Coach of the Year and SUNYAC Coach of the Year.

1992

Kellie Wilson Greepore '95 became a gold medalist in snowshoeing last winter, when she took the top spot in the 5K race during the 2010 Empire 8 Winter Games. Kellie went on to compete in the first World Snowshoe State Winter Games. Kellie went on to snowshoe race during the 2010 Empire 8 Winter Games. Kellie went on to snowshoe race during the 2010 Empire 8 Winter Games. Kellie went on to snowshoe race during the 2010 Empire 8 Winter Games. Kellie went on to snowshoe race during the 2010 Empire 8 Winter Games. Kellie went on to snowshoe race during the 2010 Empire 8 Winter Games.
Below: Marisa Annese '06 and Matthew Perlongo were wed on Sept. 5 in Centerport, N.Y. Attending, shown behind Marisa, from the left, were: Aliza Leo '05, Jaclyn Calderon Tannazzo '03, Michael Rivera '07, Alyssa Norton '07, Christina Gugel, Lindsay Turk '08, Elizabeth Rakita Manly '05, Robert Weidenburner '05 and Frank Sokolowski '05.

Jennifer Hill '03 and Jonathan A. Woody '06 were married July 10 in Ocho Rios, Jamaica. Present, from the left, were: Kathy Clark Berstell '77, Randall “Randy” Berstell '75, Danielle Tuttle '01, Drew Marnott '03, Anna Marie Dennis '05, Jennifer, Jonathan, Kyle McGowan '04, William “Bill” Plottner ‘06, Ann Olson Woody ‘79, Jasper Woody ‘76, Loraine Jones Ridall '77 and Donald Ridall '75.

Below: Marisa Annese ’06 and Matthew Perlongo were wed on Sept. 5 in Centerport, N.Y. Attending, shown behind Marisa, from the left, were: Aliza Leo ’05, Jaclyn Calderon Tannazzo ’03, Michael Rivera ’07, Alyssa Norton ’07, Christina Gugel, Lindsay Turk ’08, Elizabeth Rakita Manly ’05, Robert Weidenburner ’05 and Frank Sokolowski ’05.

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HELEN GOULD MEYER ’40
Helen Gould Meyer of Cortland, N.Y., and Bradenton, Fla., a 1940 SUNY Cortland graduate and a recipient of the College’s Distinguished Alumni Award, passed away Feb. 21. An active alumnus with SUNY Cortland for more than half a century, she served for many years on the Alumni Association Board of Directors, and was its president from 1956 to 1960. Meyer was active in the College and was the person whom college alumni associations cannot do without,” her Distinguished Alumni Award reads. Meyer received the award the SUNY Cortland Alumni Association’s highest honor, in 1972. She participated as a member of the Task Force Committee on Alumni Reorganization, which developed long-range plans for the Alumni Association in 1967. She also served on the association’s Development Council, the Budget Committee, Awards Committee, Investment Committee and Nominations Committee. A proud member of the Alpha Sigma Alpha sorority, Meyer received a bachelor’s degree in education from the College. She taught for more than 25 years in the Cortland public schools.

CHARLES N. POSKANZER
Charles N. Poskanzer of Cortland, N.Y., whose influence on national public health issues led President Lyndon B. Johnson to invite him to attend the original signing of the Medicare legislation in 1965, died Oct. 13. Poskanzer was promoted in 1989 by SUNY Albany to assistant professor in 2003 and to professor in 2006. He earned his bachelor’s degree from the University of Michigan, master’s degrees from both State University Center at Albany and Yale University, and a Ph.D. from the University of Michigan. Nationally, Poskanzer is credited with making significant contributions to the creation of the present system of medical healthcare for the aged. Working closely with health scholars in the 1950s, he conducted research projects that proved critical for the establishment of present-day Medicare and Medicaid programs. A frequent lecturer on health issues, he also served as a consultant to the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare.

CHRISTOPHER MCROBERTS
Because of his international reputation in the field, McRoberts has been appointed to several prestigious positions in his discipline. He has written seven publications in the field of Palaeogeography, Palaeoclimatology, and the Journal of Paleontology. McRoberts joined SUNY Cortland in 1997 as an assistant professor in the Geology Department. He was promoted to associate professor in 2003 and to professor in 2006. He has conducted fieldwork in China, Italy, Canada, Austria and Hungary. A prolific researcher, his findings have been published in many scientific journals, including Science, Journal of Paleontology, Geology and Palaeogeography, Palaeoecology, Palaeoecology. He has written seven published book chapters, four monographs and governmental scientific reports.

WALLACE WILLIAM “BILL” TAYLOR, JR.
Wallace William “Bill” Taylor of Dover, Del., vice president emeritus of student affairs and a 16-year administrator at SUNY Cortland, passed away Oct. 30. Taylor served as vice president of student affairs from 1972 to 1977 and as assistant to the president from 1977 to 1983. He returned to his vice president of student affairs post in 1984 before his retirement.

DAVID ZODIKOFF
David Zodikoff of Binghamton, N.Y., a professor emeritus of education who served SUNY Cortland for 22 years and retired in 1990, died on Nov. 2. A native of Binghamton, N.Y., he served in the U.S. Navy during the Korean War. A 1957 graduate of SUNY Cortland, he had an M.S. from Columbia University and an Ed.D. from Syracuse University. A faculty member in the Education Department, he taught undergraduate and graduate level courses in curriculum, social studies and the historical foundations of education. For 10 years, he also taught graduate courses at SUNY Cortland’s Mohawk Valley Graduate Center in Utica, N.Y. He supervised an estimated 4,000 student teachers.

A published author of numerous education articles and books, his biography is listed in two editions of Who’s Who in the East under “Leaders in Education” and “Contemporary Authors,” and a regional edition of Who’s Who in America. He served as an officer of Phi Delta Kappa, a national organization for teachers, served as a member of the New York State Teachers’ Association, National Council of Social Studies, American Association of Colleges of Teacher Education, and the American Association of University Professors. He was a past president of BNAI Bricht International

McRoberts joined SUNY Cortland in 1997 as an assistant professor in the Geology Department. He was promoted to associate professor in 2003 and to professor in 2006. He has conducted fieldwork in China, Italy, Canada, Austria and Hungary. A prolific researcher, his findings have been published in many scientific journals, including Science, Journal of Paleontology, Geology and Palaeogeography, Palaeoecology, Palaeoecology. He has written seven published book chapters, four monographs and governmental scientific reports.

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Faculty and staff advance fundraising goal

One-hundred-ninety-five faculty, staff and emeriti opened their hearts and their checkbooks by the end of last fall, pledging or donating a record $214,525 to the Faculty and Staff Campaign for The Cortland Fund.

By Dec. 31, 20 percent of the campus community had participated in the special fund drive, aimed at helping the College fulfill educational goals in an era of dwindling state resources, said Jennifer Janes, who directs The Cortland Fund.

“The investment our faculty and staff have made in the College is a vote of confidence in the mission and vision of SUNY Cortland. Their gifts will make a difference in our future.”

— Jennifer Janes, The Cortland Fund

“…and the entire President’s Council in an effort to give as much as possible for the contributors to be philanthropic, he said.

“They surpassed our expectations in terms of the number of faculty and staff participants who charitably committed to make gifts as well as the total dollar amount,” Murphy said. “It was far and away a success.”

Additionally, in an effort spearheaded by Foundation Senate Chair David Miller and Career Services Director John Shirley, the campaign was undertaken with a personal touch. This past fall, volunteers fanned out across campus and hand-delivered donor brochures and solicitation letters to their colleagues. They took the opportunity, whenever possible, to explain several of the new giving opportunities compared to past faculty-staff annual fund drives.

Professor Anderson Young called upon colleagues in his own department — recreation, parks and leisure studies — as well as the departments of kinesiology, sport management, and physical education and the athletic training office.

“As a faculty and Staff Campaign volunteer, I’ve made similar calls in the past, but it never was as much fun as this year with all the added features of doing that,” Young said. “I knew red and white, so I’m happy to contribute. But this year the changes in the parameters made me more than happy to participate.

“It was great to be able to say to somebody, ‘I know there is something to love on this campus. Why don’t you give to that? ’ And your gift will be doubled, not just this year, but each of the next five years you choose to give.”

Some people Young approached had put their pledge materials aside, thinking it was the usual annual campaign.

“I really had to call attention to those features, and then they got really excited,” he said. “Some people even recalled their initial pledges and increased their gifts so they would be able to get the match.”

College fundraisers ultimately hope the generosity of the campus community will have a ripple effect as they make a case for new or greater commitment from alumni, friends of the College and the business community in the Cortland region.

Susan Wilson, an associate professor of recreation, parks and leisure studies, has donated through payroll deduction for years. This year she decided to increase the size of her gift and make a five-year commitment.

“The matching gift program was a big incentive for donors to increase their gift money, thanks to the generosity of the President’s Council and the Cortland College Foundation,” Wilson said.

“I designated my money to the Cortland varsity softball team,” she continued. “I have been their academic advisor for a number of years, and when I went on their spring trip for softball, I learned the women raised a great deal of money to make that trip. It’s money out of my paycheck through payroll deduction, which I don’t miss, and it will allow for the athletes to have an easier time as far as raising their own money.

“As faculty and staff, we all have programs that are near and dear to us, things that we’ve done on this campus in which we see the benefit,” Wilson said. “Things that add to the college experience are good. If you think something is important, then contributing to it makes sense.”

Thirty-one of these donors made their first gift ever this fall, said Raymond Franco, vice president for institutional advancement. In the last two-and-a-half years, faculty, staff and retired employees have given a total of $800,000.

In honor of their generosity, and on behalf of the Cortland College Foundation, SUNY Cortland President Erik J. Bitterbaum and his wife, Ellen Howard Burton, hosted a Faculty and Staff Donor Appreciation Reception on Feb. 17 in Brodway Hall Jacobus Lounge.

“How proud we are as a College of our community’s philanthropic spirit,” said President Bitterbaum. “We are most grateful for the generosity of our own campus community in supporting the goals of our students and enlivening the programs and services that will help them to succeed in their academic careers.”

Support was given both in the form of unrestricted gifts and donations directed to help a particular scholarship, equipment purchase, organization, program or department. Previously, employees had been encouraged to make their gifts unrestricted.

Another new aspect of this fund drive was that the President’s Council and two Cortland College Foundation Board members pledged to match new and increased employee gifts made by Dec. 31 with up to $200,000 over five years. Foundation board chair Brian Murphy ’83 and immediate past chair Victor Rumore ’84 made their pledge with the entire President’s Council in an effort to increase the percentage of faculty and staff participation in annual giving from 13.2 percent to 20 percent.

“We’ve always felt it was critically important for us to continue to have faculty and staff support for the campaign and the campaign initiatives,” Murphy observed. With its matching gift component, the foundation board made a thoughtful effort to try to create as much motivation and support as possible for the contributors to be philanthropic, he said.

“They surpassed our expectations in terms of the number of faculty and staff participants who charitably committed to make gifts as well as the total dollar amount,” Murphy said. “It was far and away a success.”

With a 20-percent participation rate, SUNY Cortland moves to second highest among SUNY four-year liberal arts colleges, Janes said. Additionally, the size of the total gifts is more than 51 percent greater than last year’s campaign.
Red Dragons reclaim Cortaca Jug

The Cortland football team, under 14th-year head coach Dan MacNeill ’79, finished the season with a 10-2 record. The team shared the New Jersey Athletic Conference (NJAC) title and advanced to the second round of the NCAA Division III playoffs. The Red Dragons showed a flair for the dramatic when it mattered most. Facing a nine-point fourth-quarter deficit and elimination from the NJAC playoff race at home versus Montclair State, the Red Dragons scored the final 15 points and swept out a last-second missed field goal by the guests for a 10-9 victory.

Two weeks later, Cortland again had fans on the edge of their seats. Trailig 17-3 to rival Ithaca College in the annual Cortaca Jug game in front of more than 10,000 fans at the SUNY Cortland Stadium Complex, the Red Dragons dug deep and rallied for a 20-17 victory behind sophomore tailback Justin Autera’s (Mahopac, N.Y.) 232 rushing yards — a new Cortaca record — and two touchdowns. Cortland earned its second NCAA berth in three seasons and opened the postseason by defeating Endicott College, 49-35, at home in the opening round. In the second round against visiting Montclair State, the Red Dragons scored the final 10 points and sweated out a last-second missed field goal by the guests for a 10-9 victory.

SUNY Cortland’s athletic teams enjoyed very successful Fall and winter campaigns in 2010-11. Here’s a look at some of the highlights.

Autera finished the season with 1,380 rushing yards and 31 total touchdowns. Both accomplishments are ranked second in school history. Autera, a senior defensive lineman Lou Caspo (Eastchester, N.Y.), junior offensive lineman Billy Castro (Washingtonville, N.Y.) and senior cornerback Joe Lopes (Port Jefferson Station, N.Y.) each earned All-America honors. Lopes tied the school’s single-season record with eight interceptions and set the school mark with interceptions in six consecutive games.

Women gymnasts win ECAC Title

The Cortland women’s gymnastics team captured its first Eastern College Athletic Conference (ECAC) Division III title since 2003 and finished fourth at the National Collegiate Gymnastics Association (NCGA) Championships during the 2010-11 season.

Head coach Gary Babjack, in his 13th season, was selected as the NCGA National Coach of the Year for his efforts. Cortland set a school record with a score of 190.00 at the ECAC Championships in Cortland and was undefeated in dual meets against Division III competition. The team accomplished this despite the fact that nine of the 15 athletes on the squad were either freshmen or sophomores.

The Red Dragons earned eight All-America honors at the national meet, including four by sophomore Sarah Nadrowski (Buffalo, N.Y.) and three by freshman Courtney Mangini (Dix Hill, N.Y.). Nadrowski tied for fourth on Floor exercise, placed fifth in the all-around, tied for eighth on vault and tied for ninth on balance beam. Mangini tied for second on floor exercise, tied for sixth on balance beam and placed ninth in the all-around. In addition, freshman Stephanie Sladky (East Islip, N.Y.) tied for ninth on floor exercise.

Women’s cross country and volleyball capture SUNYAC crowns

Cortland’s women’s cross country and women’s volleyball teams have won more State University of New York Athletic Conference (SUNYAC) titles in their respective sports than the rest of the league’s schools combined. Both programs added to their collection of championship trophies last fall.

The cross-country squad captured its first league title since 1998 at the league championship race, raising the team’s historic total to 16 league championships. The Red Dragons posted a score of 32 points, just two ahead of Geneseo, to snap the Knights’ 10-year conference winning streak.

Cortland’s runners, under third-year head coach and SUNYAC Coach of the Year Steve Patrick ’97, finished fifth at the NCAA Atlantic Regional and earned an at-large berth in the NCAA Division III Championships in Waverly, Iowa. The Red Dragons finished 15th nationally, earning the 20th top-20 NCAA placement in program history.

In 1992, Dunwoody became the first woman to command a battalion in the 82nd Airborne Division. She was the first female general at Fort Bragg, N.C., and the first woman to lead the Combined Arms Support Command at Fort Lee, Va.

Dunwoody was deployed to Saudi Arabia for Operation Desert Storm as a division parachute officer for the 407th Supply and Transportation Battalion, 82nd Airborne Division. She served as the Ist Corps Support Command Commander in the deployment of the Logistics Task Force in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Dunwoody was promoted to the rank of four-star general in a ceremony at the Pentagon in 2005. Marking the occasion, U.S. Secretary of Defense Robert Gates said, “History will no doubt take note of her achievement in breaking through this final brass ceiling to pin on a fourth star, but she would rather be known and remembered, first and foremost, as a U.S. Army Soldier.”

In a briefing to the press after the ceremony Dunwoody remarked, “I never grew up in an environment where I even heard of the words ‘glass ceiling.’ You could always be anything you wanted to be if you worked hard, and so I never felt constrained. I never felt like there were limitations on what I could do.”

Dunwoody remains a proponent of an active lifestyle. Former SUNY Cortland student-athlete and 1975 alumna Gen. Ann E. Dunwoody received the 2011 Theodore Roosevelt award, the NCAA’s highest honor. The award, also known as the “Teddy Award,” is given annually to a student-athlete for the conduct of intercollegiate athletics led to the formation of the NCAA in 1910. The award was established in 1967 and is given annually to an individual “for whom competitive athletics in college are as important to the physical well-being of the individual as they are to the total development of the person.”

Dunwoody is one of the “Teddy Award” winners that includes former U.S. Presidents Dwight Eisenhower, Gerald Ford, George H.W. Bush and Ronald Reagan. Other past winners include John Glenn, Bob Dole, Arnold Palmer, Bill Cosby, Sally Ride and Madeleine Albright.

Dunwoody is the first woman in U.S. military history to be promoted to the rank of four-star general and is the current Commanding General, U.S. Army Materiel Command. She graduated from SUNY Cortland with a degree in physical education and was directly commissioned into the Women’s Army Corps. She received a Master of Science in Logistics Management from the Florida Institute of Technology in 1988 and a Master of Science in National Resource Strategy from the Industrial College of the Armed Forces in 1995.

Nominated by recently retired SUNY Cortland Director of Athletics Joan Sitterly, Dunwoody was a starter and four-year participant on the College’s women’s gymnastics team under Coach Antonette “Toot” Burz’s and women’s tennis team under Coach Sylvia Stokes.

“They were just great role models, great people,” Dunwoody recalled about T.Burz and Stokes. “They’re people people. They just made sports fun. I will always fondly remember Cortland because it was a positive experience for me. I have been blessed to have lots of positive experiences. The encouragement I got from the faculty there, the friends that I made there, made my whole college experience a positive one.”

When Dunwoody began her military career, women had yet to be admitted to West Point. Her brother, father, grandfather and great-grandfather all attended the U.S. Military Academy, a family history that stretches to 1866. Dunwoody’s father, a career Army officer, was a veteran of World War II, Korea and Vietnam.

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For more information please contact the head coach of your camp of interest.

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**Sports**

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Junior Alyson Dalton (Sherrill, N.Y.) earned All-America honors with a 31st-place finish at nationals. Dalton was one of three Cortland all-region runners with top-35 finishes at the Atlantic Regional Championships. She finished fourth in that race, while senior Kristin Vespa (Ossining, N.Y.) placed 30th and freshman Dayna Ekieseth (Staten Island, N.Y.) was 34th.

On the volleyball court, the Cortland women won their 17th league title overall and their fourth in head coach Pam Hoerup’s ’90 six seasons. The Red Dragons finished the season 34-8 for their highest win total since 2004, and Hoerup was named the SUNYAC Coach of the Year.

At the SUNYAC tournament in Fredonia, Cortland swept Geneseo, 3-0, in the semifinals and ousted defending league champion New Paltz, 3-1, in a rematch of the 2009 finals. The Red Dragons opened their 22nd NCAA tournament appearance with a thrilling five-set victory over Case Western Reserve. The next evening, Cortland found itself on the wrong side of a five-set decision against host Frostburg State and finished tied for 12th nationally.

Junior outside hitter Ashley Coyle (Mt. Hope, N.Y.) and sophomore setter Kristen Guercio (Smithtown, N.Y.) were chosen as Division III All-Americans at season’s end. Coyle set a school single-season record with 644 kills and Guercio established a school single-season record with 1645 assists.

**Field hockey continues NCAA run**

Cortland’s field hockey team has been one of the nation’s top Division III programs for more than three decades, and the 2010 season was no different. The Red Dragons, under the guidance of 19th-year head coach Cynthia Wemore, qualified for the NCAA playoffs for the 12th consecutive season and the 26th overall time.

Despite not winning the SUNYAC title for the first time since the league re-started the sport in 2000, Cortland still earned an NCAA at-large bid. The Red Dragons blanked UMass-Dartmouth, 3-0, in the opening round before losing a wild 5-4 decision to Lebanon Valley College in the second round. Cortland finished the season 16-5 and tied for ninth place nationally.

Senior defenders Brenda Semit (Holland Patent, N.Y.) and Brittany Wilson (Farmingville, N.Y.) were each selected as All-Americans. Semit earned first-team honors for the second straight year after recording nine goals and 11 assists. She finished her career ranked fifth in school history with 30 assists and eighth with 108 points (39 goals, 30 assists). Wilson totaled two assists and three defensive saves. She helped lead a defensive unit that allowed no more than one goal in 17 of 21 games.

A sellout crowd of more than 10,000 fans and a regional television audience watched as Cortland rallied from a 14-point deficit to defeat Ithaca College, 20-17, in the 2010 Cortaca Jug rivalry football game at the SUNY-Cortland Stadium Complex. Cortland finished the season with a 10-2 record and advanced to the second round of the NCAA Division III playoffs.

**Wrestlers finish 14th nationally**

The Cortland wrestling team finished among the nation’s top 15 for the fifth time in the last 10 years with a 14th-place showing at the NCAA Division III Championships in La Crosse, Wis., in March.

Ninth-year head coach Brad Bruhn’s squad finished second at the Empire Collegiate Wrestling Conference (ECWC) Championships and qualified five wrestlers for the national tournament. Senior 133-pounder Dane Colagiovanni (Mahopac, N.Y.), sophomore 197-pounder Jared Myhrberg (Queensbury, N.Y.) and sophomores heavyweight Cory James (Kingston, N.Y.) each won conference titles. Senior 149-pounder Aljamain Sterling (Ursulonda, N.Y.) and his brother, sophomore 177-pounder Troy Sterling (Ursulonda, N.Y.) each finished second and earned “wild card” national berths.

Colagiovanni and Aljamain Sterling each garnered All-America honors with top-eight finishes at nationals. Colagiovanni, who missed a good portion of the regular season due to injury, finished fifth with a 4-3 record in his weight class at nationals. His only two losses were to the tournament’s top two seeds. A three-time national qualifier, he concluded his career with a 90-39 record.

Aljamain Sterling placed sixth in his weight class with a 4-3 record and earned All-America honors for the second straight season. He finished fourth at 133 pounds in 2010. Sterling completed the season with a 28-8 record and finished 87-27 in three years at Cortland.

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**CORTACA JUG 2011**

**Alumni Ticket Lottery**

Lottery form to be sent via email only this year

The 2011 Cortland-Ithaca football game will be played on Saturday, Nov. 12, at Ithaca College’s Butterfield Stadium. Thousands of spectators will gather to watch the rivals compete on the gridiron for the coveted Jug, and the game is expected to be a sellout. The Alumni Affairs Office is excited to be able to offer alumni access to this game through our annual alumni ticket lottery.

New this year, notification about the lottery and registration forms will be sent by email only. Alumni can expect to receive information in September. To ensure that you receive these communications, please update your alumni record by visiting [www.cortland.edu/alumnipad](http://www.cortland.edu/alumnipad). Alumni who do not have Internet access may request that information be mailed to them by calling the Alumni Affairs Office at (607) 753-2396.

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**SUMMER 2011 • COLUMNS**
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DISTINGUISHED ALUMNUS
Former SUNY Cortland baseball coach Robert Wallace ’53 is among five people recognized by the SUNY Cortland Alumni Association this year. Read about them on pages 10-11.

ALUMNI DIRECTORY PROJECT 2012 UNDER WAY

Every five years, the SUNY Cortland Alumni Association prints an alumni directory, and the 2012 directory project is under way!

Over the coming months, Publishing Concepts, Inc. (PCI) will contact SUNY Cortland alumni via mail, phone and email on behalf of the Alumni Association to request that they update their information.

We understand that you might not want to provide your information to just anyone, so we want you to know that PCI’s request is legitimate. Any alumni who do not update their information during the May-August update period will be listed in the SUNY Cortland Alumni Directory 2012 with their names (and pre-marital names) year of graduation and major only.

For more information about the project and PCI, please visit cortland.edu/alumni. Feel free to call the Alumni Affairs Office at (607) 753-2516 or write us at alumni@cortland.edu with questions.