An American Masterpiece: Don DeLillo, FCRH '58, has revisited his 1997 novel Underworld, offering notes and reflections on nearly half of the book’s 800-plus pages. On Dec. 2, Christie’s New York plans to auction the annotated book to benefit PEN American Center, the largest branch of PEN International, the global association that protects persecuted writers around the world.

See more of DeLillo’s annotated pages at fordham.edu/magazine.
How Their Garden Grows: A batch of basil is ready for harvest at a hydroponic greenhouse run by BrightFarms, a company with an innovative business model and a plan to bring urban agriculture to the supermarket. (See page 26.)

Benefiting the Fordham Founder’s Undergraduate Scholarship Fund and Honoring Edward M. Stroz, GSB ’79, and Sally Spooner William J. Toppeta, Esq., FCRH ’70, PAR, and Debra J. Toppeta, PAR

Monday, 23 March 2015 | Black Tie
6:30 p.m. Cocktails | 7:15 p.m. Dinner
Waldorf Astoria New York

For more information, please contact Liz Manigan, Assistant Vice President for University Events and Stewardship, at manigan@fordham.edu or 212-856-7442.

Proceeds benefit the Fordham Founder’s Undergraduate Scholarship Fund.

The Fourteenth Annual Fordham Founder’s Award Dinner

Benefiting the Fordham Founder’s Undergraduate Scholarship Fund

Edward M. Stroz, GSB ’79, and Sally Spooner
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IN THE ZONE
As CEO of the Harlem Children’s Zone, Anne Williams-Isom, FCLC ’86, is focused on giving kids and their families everything they need to succeed.

MORE THAN MORTAR
A look at Lincoln Center’s latest landmark, a building animated by men and women committed to wisdom and learning in the service of others.

PROFILES IN SERVICE
Post-9/11 military veterans thrive on camaraderie and access to higher education.

FRESH AND LOCAL
Paul Lightfoot, LAW ’96, and BrightFarms are working with regional supermarket chains to fix our broken food system.

THE INIMITABLE DR. BIA
Peggy Bia, M.D., TMC ’68, is a compassionate physician determined to find and impart joy in the practice of medicine.

LETTERS

ON CAMPUS

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ALUMNI NOTES

SEVEN QUESTIONS WITH JOHN JOHNSON

On the Cover
Shining Stars: This detail from the National World War II Memorial is our tribute to all members of the Fordham family who have served our country. In “Profiles in Service,” we feature some of the many Fordham veterans of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. (See page 20.) Photo by Bill Denison
Letters

The World’s Fair does indeed bring back memories. I met my wife, Lois, there. We both worked for Greyhound. She was a Golden Girl* (still is) and gave misleading directions to lots of people. I was a supervisor at Greyhound, which allowed me to roam the entire fairgrounds.

—John C. O’Malley, FCRH ’65

*Editor’s note: Greyhound ran the fair’s information booths, which were staffed by the Greyhound Golden Girls.

During the ’64 season, I worked for Pinkerton as an usher at the GM pavilion, with occasional stints at the Churchill building, the Swiss Sky Ride (where I asked my bride-to-be to marry me), and the Illinois pavilion. The actor Pat O’Brien was once escorted to my post at the VIP entry to GM’s Futurama ride. He asked if I wanted an autograph. I declined, saying that he had played so many priests that I would settle for his blessing. We had a good chuckle. One of my fellow ushers swore that he was headed to Hollywood to become an actor. Georg Stanford Brown made good on that goal. He had a number of headlining roles, including one in Roots. It was a very special time. There were so many Fordhamites at the World’s Fair, including many from the business school. We were blessed to be in the right time and place for that event.

—Fred O’Connor, FCRH ’65

While it was terrific to read the article about the Pietà and the World’s Fair, I was disappointed, as a daughter-in-law of Frank O. McNally, FCRH ’56, the owner of McNally Brothers Moving and a former president of the Fordham alumni association, that he and his children were not also noted. The work that was contributed collectively by the McNally Brothers organization in support of that magnificent project was blessed with my father-in-law’s intellect and creativity, which was significant enough to warrant greater acknowledgement.

—Janet Soule McNally

FORDHAM magazine welcomes letters from readers. Share your thoughts, comments, and stories with us at FORDHAMmag@fordham.edu. Letters may be edited for clarity and space.

FORDHAM ON TWITTER
Follow us, retweet us, and let us know you’re talking about Fordham and Fordham University alumni by including @fordhamnotes in your tweets.

Christina Greer
@Dr_CMGreer
My students make me feel like the world is actually in great hands. @fordhamnotes

John Chandler
@JohnChandlerNBC
@fordhamnotes @PaulLev My thanks to [Fordham professor] Paul [Levinson] for his smart, sharp take on the NFL and how it has handled domestic violence.

September 18, 2014

Blue Glass Development
@BGDevelopment
@fordhamnotes Thank you Katherine Long for [your] Summer 2014 Internship! Great work, team player and future global citizen!

September 3, 2014

THANKS FOR THE MEMORIES
Thank you for your insightful tale of the key role that John Murray, FCRH ’57, played in the safe transportation of Michelangelo’s stunning Pietà to the 1964 World’s Fair (“Return to Tomorrow” by Nicole LaRosa, Spring 2014). As a 9-year-old Bronx boy, I was one of millions of visitors who gazed in awe at how this Renaissance master extracted a solid block of Italian marble the very essence of Christ’s bloody Passion.

Your author mentioned another powerful memory from that World’s Fair: the Belgium pavilion’s delicious waffles! Hot off the griddle, covered with generous mounds of fresh strawberries and whipped cream, they were well worth the then-hefty sum of 75 cents.

I have a third great memory from that day. Our boys’ choir from St. Raymond parish sang backup for the amazing Ella Fitzgerald, then I saw the great bandleader Guy Lombardo move everyone to the dance floor.

But seeing Michelangelo’s Pietà was the day’s high point. I’m very happy to learn after 50 years that a Fordham man is credited with safely bringing to us Michelangelo’s divine gift and the lifetime memory that came with it.

—John J. Robb, FCRH ’76

*Editor’s note: Greyhound ran the fair’s information booths, which were staffed by the Greyhound Golden Girls.
On Campus

A STELLAR WELCOME FOR A NEW LANDMARK

The west side of Robert Moses Plaza played host to an ebullient crowd on Sept. 18, as nearly 1,000 Fordham Law faculty, administrators, students, and alumni joined dignitaries and friends to dedicate the new Fordham Law School building.

“Sapientia aedificavit sibi domum,” said Joseph M. McShane, S.J., president of Fordham. “Wisdom has built herself a home.”

Father McShane delivered remarks, along with U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor, former New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg, and Fordham Law School Dean Michael M. Martin. Edward Cardinal Egan, archbishop emeritus of New York, offered the benediction, calling the building designed by Pei Cobb Freed & Partners “a radiant new abode.” And Loretta Preska, LAW ’73, chief judge of the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York, served as master of ceremonies.

Justice Sotomayor, a native of the Bronx who received an honorary degree from Fordham last May, praised Father McShane’s leadership. “You’ve given a special spirit to this University,” she said, “and I’m so pleased to be here. Fordham never ceases to amaze me.”

Bloomberg, who was instrumental in clearing the way for the construction of the building, called it a special day for New York City.

“Our administration worked hard to help local colleges and universities grow, and one of the most important successes came right here at Fordham,” he said, calling the University “one of the city’s shining stars.”

—Patrick Verel

Fordham welcomed 2,246 first-year students this fall, including 568 at Lincoln Center—a 15 percent increase compared to last year’s freshman class. Move-in day also marked the opening of two new residence halls. At Rose Hill, 130 students participating in the Manresa Scholars Program moved into the newly renovated Loyola Hall. And at Lincoln Center, more than 400 first-year students moved into McKeon Hall, the high-rise atop the new Fordham Law building.

The new class hails from 43 U.S. states and the District of Columbia, and includes 171 international students from as far as Ghana and Myanmar. Sanghyun Lim, a South Carolina resident who was born in Seoul, South Korea, is one of 60 international students in the class who attended high school in the United States. He raved about his new home on the 15th floor of McKeon Hall, with its views of midtown Manhattan and the Hudson River.

“I came here once in seventh grade with my brother and said, ‘This is a great place. We should come here when we grow up.’”

—Patrick Verel and Joanna K. Mercure
**On Campus**

**GREER NAMED A “RISING STAR” POLITICAL SCIENTIST**
Christina Greer, Ph.D., an assistant professor of political science at Fordham, has been named to City & State’s 2014 list of “40 Under 40 Rising Stars.”

Each year, the magazine, which covers New York government and politics, honors 40 talented individuals under the age of 40 as the city’s “leaders of tomorrow,” including elected officials, activists, communications professionals, and professors.

Here’s some of what City & State had to say about Greer:
“Author, professor, commentator—Christina Greer does it all, and few combine all of those areas of expertise better in the world of New York City politics.

“Journalists come to her when they need an insightful quote on the mayoral race. Working-class advocates come to her when they need someone to ask the tough questions in a contentious debate, like the one earlier this year between Charlie Rangel and Adriano Espaillat she moderated. And students come to her looking for a substantive, engaging Intro to Politics class.

“Wearing all of these hats, Greer has become one of the city’s premier public intellectuals.”


—Gina Vergel

**SUSTAINING A LIVING LANDMARK AT ROSE HILL**
Standing over Cunniffe House like a proud sentry is an American elm tree estimated to be more than 270 years old. With the majority of the nation’s ulmus Americana threatened by Dutch elm disease, the tree is a testament to staying power.

“This elm tree is older than the University,” said Marco A. Valera, vice president for facilities management, who is lobbying to get the elm listed on the National Register of Big Trees. “We believe it was here before the oldest buildings were constructed.”

More than 500 trees inhabit Rose Hill’s nearly 90 acres. The University’s maintenance staff, led by Rafael Rivera, grounds manager at Rose Hill, cares for all the trees year-round. But for the past eight years arborists from Emerald Tree Care have been paying periodic visits to campus, checking in on the Cunniffe House elm, in particular.

“Fordham is very dedicated to preserving these elm trees,” said Steve Farrelly, a master arborist with Emerald. “We monitor them and if we see any disease in the tree we cut it out right away.”

Emerald’s arborists remove weak and poorly structured branches, and every other year they inoculate all the trees against Dutch elm disease. Should the National Register of Big Trees list the Fordham elm, it would be another honor for the maintenance teams. In 2010, they won the Grand Green Star Award from the Professional Grounds Management Society.

—Tom Stoelker

**GRADUATE BUSINESS SCHOOL PRaised IN SURVEY**
Citing Fordham’s location in “the heart of the financial capital of the world,” a college ranking service has included the University’s graduate business school in its listing of the nation’s best business schools.

Editors of the Princeton Review’s The Best 296 Business Schools surveyed an average of 73 students at each of the schools included in the listing. Fordham was praised for its diversity, flexibility of scheduling, networking opportunities, and scholarship. A two-page summary of the school stresses Fordham’s commitment to “sensitizing students to the importance of promoting corporate ethics and social justice.”

—John Schoonejongen

Some survey results, by the numbers:
- $72,532 – average base starting salary
- 741 – enrollment of MBA program
- 27 – average age at time of enrollment
- 40 – percentage of full-time students who are international

Fordham’s Oldest Living Resident: An American elm tree in front of Cunniffe House (as seen today, left, and in 1864, above) receives year-round care and is estimated to be more than 270 years old.
Experts on global poverty and development gathered at Fordham’s Lincoln Center campus on Sept. 26 to begin talks that will inform Pope Francis’ response to the needs of the developing world.

“Poverty and Development: A Catholic Perspective,” co-sponsored by Fordham’s International Political Economy and Development program, featured a multinational delegation that included the Vatican Secretary of State, Cardinal Pietro Parolin, and other high-level church officials.

Cardinal Parolin described the Vatican’s stance on issues such as poverty and security. He reiterated Pope Francis’ message to the United Nations earlier this year, saying that entrepreneurship must be balanced by virtuousness.

“Economic activity should contribute to integral human development for everyone, so that ‘humanity is served by wealth and not ruled by it,’” Cardinal Parolin said. “There must be the firm commitment to ensure that private enterprise strives for the common good.”

Joseph M. McShane, S.J., president of Fordham, said the University was honored to host the conference, one of three worldwide co-sponsored by Centesimus Annus Pro Pontifice, the Vatican foundation created by St. John Paul II to promote Catholic social teaching.

Representatives from each of the conferences will present their findings to the pope next spring.

“The world is unstable, violent, and unjust—but it’s a world that, because of Pope Francis, is being called with greater urgency and effectiveness than ever before,” Father McShane said. “The least-known treasure of the church is Catholic social teaching. The world needs it more than ever.”

—Joanna K. Mercuri
On Campus

LIFE AFTER WAR
This season, Fordham Theatre is exploring a concept that is both timely and timeless: What happens when war ends?

“There was a brief window when we were out of Iraq and it looked like we were going to be getting out of Afghanistan by the end of 2014,” said Matthew Maguire, director of the Fordham Theatre program. “If that had happened, we might have no longer been at war. ... In talking with students last year, I asked them, ‘It seems like we’ve been in a perpetual state of war. Can we even imagine what it would be like if we weren’t?’”

Fordham’s mainstage season kicked off in October with *Ugly Lies the Bone*, a contemporary play by Lindsey Ferrentino about a veteran who returns to Florida with burns over 80 percent of her body. The season continued in November with *Phoebe In Winter* by Jen Silverman. In February Fordham Theatre will present *Skin of Our Teeth* by Thornton Wilder, and the classic Greek tragedy *Agamemnon* will close out the season in April.

Maguire said the plays aren’t antiwar in a traditional sense; rather, they show the complex struggles that even victors face when they leave the battlefield.

For more information, go to fordham.edu/theatre.
—Patrick Verel

GOING UNIVERSAL WITH KENNY LEON
Tony Award-winning director Kenny Leon is capping an extraordinarily busy year on Broadway by teaching Fordham students as the Denzel Washington Chair in Theatre.

Leon assumed his new position this fall, after winning the 2014 Tony Award for directing Denzel Washington, FCLC ’77 (the endowed chair’s benefactor and namesake), in *A Raisin in the Sun*. In June, Leon’s groundbreaking *Holler if Ya Hear Me*, a musical featuring the lyrics of the late rapper Tupac Shakur, opened on Broadway. Leon said he seeks out universal themes that transcend background or class. As an example, he pointed out the parallels between the plays of August Wilson and the lyrics of Tupac Shakur. “Pac is the same as August. They’re just writing about different life experiences in different cities,” he said. “Doesn’t everybody love their mother? Doesn’t everybody want to buy their mother a pearl necklace? ... They’re all just really about access to the American dream.” One life lesson Leon has to share is that talent can only take artists so far, he said. The rest is work. “I try to tell young folks, ‘Maybe there’s someone more talented than you are, but no one should ever outwork you.’”
—Tom Stoelker

AIDING UNACCOMPANIED IMMIGRANT CHILDREN
As a volunteer helping anxious parents understand the U.S. immigration system and fight to keep their children in the country, Fordham Law student Rodrigo Ricux Bacus found that parents sometimes needed more than just information. They needed encouragement and hope.

“When you’re looking at a maze of things, at a process where you have to do 20 different steps, it’s much easier to see an obstacle than it is to see a pathway,” he said.

This year 90,000 children are expected to be apprehended at the southern U.S. border, up from 8,000 annually just two years ago, said Olga Byrne, director of the New York Unaccompanied Immigrant Children Project at Fordham Law’s Feerick Center for Social Justice. “There are so many stories of family separation and reunification behind this,” said Byrne, who works to make it easier for these children to make a case for legal residency.

—Chris Gosier

Meaghan Adawe McLeod played a disfigured war veteran in the Fordham production of *Ugly Lies the Bone*.

Fordham Law’s Rodrigo Ricux Bacus (left) and Olga Byrne, LAW ’04, are working to help parents of immigrant children displaced by the violence plaguing Central America.
REMEMBERING THE JESUIT MARTYRS

In the predawn hours of Nov. 16, 1989, Ignacio Ellacuría, S.J., and his fellow Jesuits were jarred awake by the pounding of fists and wooden clubs on the doors and windows of their residence.

Outside, several dozen Salvadoran soldiers had surrounded the University of Central America’s Pastoral Center, where the six priests lived. Forcing their way into the quiet residence, the soldiers dragged the Jesuits outside and ordered them to lie facedown on the ground.

That morning, the world awakened to news of the most gruesome attack in El Salvador since the 1980 assassination of Archbishop Oscar Romero. The six Jesuits had been executed, while their cook, Julia Elba Ramos, and her 15-year-old daughter, Celina, had been shot to death in the bed they shared.

November marks 25 years since the killings, which have become emblematic of the civil war that ravaged El Salvador in the 1980s. An estimated 75,000 Salvadorans were killed in the decadelong war between a people’s movement and a U.S.-backed military government.

Father Ellacuría and his fellow Jesuits had responded to the violence by transforming their university into a source of information about the political, economic, and social problems plaguing El Salvador. In the 25 years since the murders, Jesuit institutions have kept social justice at the core of their mission. Fordham’s Dorothy Day Center for Service and Justice, for example, connects Fordham with the local community to promote service and solidarity.

“Our aim is to invite faculty and students into local partnerships that can place our hearts, research, and resources within the wider community,” said Jeannine Hill-Fletcher, Ph.D., professor of theology and faculty director of Fordham’s service-learning program. “We are inspired by Ignacio Ellacuría’s vision that the university is a social force and its heart must reside outside its gates.”

—Joanna K. Mercuri

DOCUMENTARY FILMS FOCUS ON POVERTY

As New Yorkers debated the merits of the “poor door,” a separate entrance to affordable units in a market-rate apartment tower, New York City Council Member Helen Rosenthal told a crowd gathered at Fordham’s Lincoln Center campus that the terminology is all wrong. “It may be a separate door, but it’s not a ‘poor door,’” she said. “These people will have an apartment. And poverty is not something that we can talk about in a flip way.”

Rosenthal spoke at an Oct. 7 screening of American Winter, an Emmy-nominated documentary that portrays the post-2008 economic struggles of eight American families in and around Portland, Oregon. Fordham’s Graduate School of Social Service co-sponsored the screening and community forum.

Another film on poverty, Our Daily Bread: Feeding the Hungry in New York City, recently was named best short documentary at the Williamsburg International Film Festival. The 45-minute film, directed by Dale Lindquist, D.Min., co-director of Fordham’s Beck Institute on Religion and Poverty, profiles three emergency food programs. “From large programs in dedicated buildings to very modest programs running out of basements in churches, synagogues, and mosques,” he said, “there are incredible stories.”

—Tom Stoelker

Celia B. Fisher, director of Fordham’s Center for Ethics Education

TALKING WITH LGBT TEENS ABOUT HIV

Celia B. Fisher, Ph.D., director of Fordham’s Center for Ethics Education, and Brian Mustanski, Ph.D., of Northwestern University, have received a $1.9 million grant to study ethical issues in HIV-prevention research for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) youth under 18.

The four-year grant is the first awarded by the National Institute on Minority Health Disparities for LGBT issues, said Fisher, the Marie Ward Doty Endowed University Chair and professor of psychology at Fordham.

Despite the fact that LGBT youth have the highest risks of HIV infection among teens, there are few studies about HIV prevention for this demographic, Fisher said. The obstacles researchers face are many—not the least of which is that kids coming to terms with their identity often do so in a hostile environment. To ensure that their methods and questions protect LGBT rights and welfare, the researchers will receive guidance from advisory boards that include LGBT advocacy groups, science and ethics experts, and parents.

“The point is to pave the way for research that helps these kids to get the HIV-prevention services they need,” Fisher said, “and to inform federal, state, and local governments as to what their policies should be.”

—Tom Stoelker

Mary Pimmel-Freeman’s paintings of the six Jesuit priests and two women who were murdered in El Salvador 25 years ago.

Celia B. Fisher, director of Fordham’s Center for Ethics Education
It's a warm autumn day in the Bronx, and the dining room at Part of the Solution (POTS), an emergency food and social service provider, is full. Since 10 a.m. scores of people have been lined up on Webster Avenue, just across the street from Fordham's Rose Hill campus, waiting for the dining room to open. The lunchtime crowd includes homeless men, young women with small children, and working Bronxites who can't afford groceries. Families and individuals sit at seven tables covered in red-and-white checkered tablecloths, as volunteers serve food from the restaurant-style kitchen to each guest.

Patrick Janeczko and Danielle Rutsky are in the dining room for the first time. The two Fordham undergraduates learned about POTS in late September at a volunteer fair on campus sponsored by Fordham's Dorothy Day Center for Service and Justice.

"You see a lot more regular, working people here than you would expect," Janeczko says, as he gathers silverware. Rutsky is struck by the contrast between the comfortable lives of many Fordham students and the poverty of POTS's guests. "This is so close to Fordham," she says. "It's very enlightening."

In a neighborhood where the median income is $26,000 a year and the unemployment rate is 12 percent, POTS operates seven days a week, offering people in crisis a place to find succor and start moving toward stability. Last year, the organization served 160,000 meals, making it the largest emergency food service provider in the Bronx.

But POTS is far more than a soup kitchen. Guests get help with immediate and long-term needs. There is the daily meal and a food pantry, a barbershop, and a no-fee doctor's office. Homeless people can get their mail, take a hot shower, and clean their clothes. POTS social workers help clients navigate the rocky shoals of welfare bureaucracy, signing families up for food stamps and helping veterans and disabled people enroll in federal benefits programs. People who have received an eviction notice or live in substandard housing, whose public benefits have been suspended, or who have immigration problems can get free advice in the legal clinic. The organization helps 20,000 people a year, 6,000 of them children.

"Poverty is a complex problem," says Christopher Bean, POTS's executive director. "To be able to work with individuals in all these angles allows us to have an impact."

Since opening in 1982, POTS has maintained a close relationship with Fordham. On any given day, Fordham graduates and students can be found throughout the airy, bright three-story building. Several alumni are on staff, and one, Francis Conroy, GSB '79, serves on the organization's board of directors. Student interns learn social work and nonprofit management skills there. Professors send classes to study and work at POTS as part of their service-learning courses. And a steady stream of volunteers serves in the dining room.

It's a relationship Jack Marth, FCRH '86, director of programs, says is deeply valuable to the organization. "We would not be able to exist without a lot of volunteers," he says. "Having a neighbor like Fordham, with students ready, willing, and able to volunteer, allows us to operate."

Marth was a Fordham freshman in 1982, when POTS was just a tiny storefront soup kitchen. He volunteered to help, working closely with Ned Murphy, S.J., GSAS '66, one of the organization's three co-founders. Marth says that experience grounded his education. He was studying Catholic social teaching in the classroom at Fordham and practicing solidarity at POTS.

"Being at POTS was an opportunity to sit down and get to know the people better," he says, "not just hand them a plate, but to get to know the reality of the people we serve. Father Ned used to say, ‘There is no us and them, it’s we. We’re somehow in this together.’ That’s a message POTS still wants to impart to the students who serve here.”
Marth joined the staff of POTS a few years after graduating from Fordham. He worked in the dining room and helped with renovations, then left to work at another nonprofit and earn a law degree. He returned to POTS in 2000 to start the legal clinic.

Today that clinic is led by Scott Wagner, a 2010 Fordham Law graduate. “My job is to try to create an environment that’s conducive to the clients getting services in an atmosphere that is dignified and warm,” he says. “Hopefully our response is one where we prioritize each human being as an individual.”

That compassionate approach to serving people in need appeals to Harrison Pidgeon, a Fordham senior who has been volunteering at POTS since his freshman year.

“I came here with Urban Plunge,” he says, referring to Fordham’s pre-orientation volunteer service program. “I knew I wanted to be part of this. Ultimately, I can never have the perspective of someone going through financial difficulty, but I can be here and eat a meal with them.”

Tucked behind the first-floor dining room at POTS is a pantry that provides groceries to 5,700 families a year. Using a voucher that accords credits based on family size, guests shop among shelves filled with pasta, dry beans, oatmeal, and brown rice, and refrigerators stocked with fresh eggs and produce.

For the past year, Pidgeon has been coming to POTS for Family Club. The 12-week program invites a total of 24 families to meet once a week, on Sundays or Wednesdays. Kids get help with their homework, while adults are paired with case managers who help them set goals and untangle impediments to economic and emotional progress. The centerpiece is a cooking class. Adults learn to make a delicious, nutritious meal, and go home with the ingredients to replicate it on their own. At the end of the evening, everyone shares a meal—together.

Pidgeon, a biology and Spanish major who hopes to become a doctor in a developing country, is as much tutor as big brother, playing easily with young kids and joking around with teenagers. He says POTS feels like home.

“Service has always been a part of my life, but the reason I’ve stayed with the Family Club is I know the kids now,” Pidgeon says. “I have a connection to the Bronx now as a place where I live.”

—Eileen Markey, FCRH ’98, a Bronx-based freelance writer, volunteered at POTS on her first day as a Fordham student. It’s where she met her husband.
Anne Williams-Isom stands before a mural painted by Harlem Children’s Zone students with street artist De La Vega.
From her perch on the raised street divider on Adam Clayton Powell Jr. Boulevard, the new CEO of the Harlem Children’s Zone (HCZ) jumps down to greet marchers with hugs, cheering them on and hurrying stragglers. It’s the organization’s 20th annual Children’s March for Peace, and it’s Williams-Isom’s job to make sure that all the marchers make it to their destination—literally and metaphorically—when so much threatens to derail them.

Though these streets are safer than they were 20 years ago, gun violence has cut short many young lives here. And poverty—which affects 65 percent of children born in central Harlem—throws up other roadblocks on the path to success. Forty-eight percent of households receive food stamps, 19 out of every 1,000 children live in foster care, and high schoolers have an average college-readiness rate of just 12 percent, according to 2011 data.

More than 12,000 children depend on Williams-Isom and HCZ’s “cradle to college pipeline,” with programs aimed at breaking the cycle of generational poverty in and around a 97-block zone in central Harlem. New parents can take workshops at the Baby College, kids get academic help in charter schools and traditional public schools, teens receive college prep, and families receive social services.

“One, two, three, four, peace is what we’re fighting for!” Thousands of young Harlemites and their families stride past Anne Williams-Isom, FCLC ’86, carrying homemade signs and chanting proudly in the August sun. “We’re the future, don’t you agree? Stop the violence on kids like me!”

In her office at Promise Academy II, one of two HCZ-run charter schools that serve 1,800 kids, Williams-Isom reflects on how she came to lead this prominent organization, which attracts two-thirds of its $114 million budget from private donors—and which President Obama has touted as a model anti-poverty program for the nation.

Five years ago, she was leaving her 13-year career at the Administration for Children’s Services (ACS), the city’s child welfare department, and she wondered what she should do next. She met with Geoffrey Canada, high-profile education activist and founder of HCZ. The two had co-chaired a subcommittee for ACS, and she admired...
his work. He invited her to join HCZ as chief operating officer in 2009, and in February 2014 announced that she’d succeed him as CEO, with responsibility for running the organization’s diverse array of programs.

“Truthfully, I had no real experience in any of that [when I came to HCZ],” she says. But she had Canada’s mentorship. And she had her own experience, both professional and personal, to draw on.

“I started to ask myself, ‘What would I do for my own children,’” she says. “I was using all of my skills—the legal skills, the skills from government, and the mommy skills,” not to mention the firsthand knowledge of Harlem that comes from raising a family there.

When she and her husband graduated from Columbia Law School, they bought a townhouse on Strivers’ Row, once a home to the city’s black elite, and raised three children there with the help of Williams-Isom’s mother, who lives with the family.

“I [had] the Baby College every day in my house!” Williams-Isom jokes. She’s very close with her mom, a Trinidadian immigrant who earned a nursing degree and rose to become one of the first black head nurses at Long Island Jewish Hospital. She raised Williams-Isom and her brothers alone in Queens after divorcing their father, also from Trinidad, who became violent toward her.

“The reason that my mom’s children and grandchildren have a different trajectory [than other struggling families] is because she had an education,” Williams-Isom says.

“The importance of education to change and end poverty has been instilled in me. But the other thing is, there was a lot of chaos in our house, and there was a lot of stress and trauma. I think I understand what that can do. You could go down one way or you could go the other.”

When it was time for her own college education, Williams-Isom chose Fordham College at Lincoln Center, partly because she wanted to stay close to her family. She majored in political science and psychology.

“I just remember loving the plaza,” she says. “I thought it was great because it attracted so many different people.” In her office at Harlem Children’s Zone, she keeps a photo of her and her best girlfriends from Fordham, including two who became godmothers to her youngest daughter.

After law school, when five years as an attorney in law firms left her unfulfilled, she began her career at ACS. Working closely with Nicholas Scoppetta, then commissioner of the department, she helped reform a child welfare system rocked in 1995 by the tragic case of Elisa Izquierdo, a 6-year-old girl who was beaten to death by her mother.

“Anne is enormously committed to the population that she’s serving now, and she always felt that way at ACS,” Scoppetta says. “She’s very strong, she’s very tough, but that doesn’t detract at all from how appealing she is. And that all comes from life experience that is very relevant to what she’s doing.”

In July, New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio appointed Williams-Isom to the advisory board for his initiative to create Community Schools, which will offer health services and family support in addition to academics. She hopes the new schools can be a step toward reform.

“When we think about income inequality, when we think about what the future looks like for our communities, [troubled schools are] no longer just an isolated problem,” she says. “It’s a problem that we as Americans have to face, and if we don’t, we’re going to have a workforce that’s poorer and less prepared.”

Williams-Isom says replicating HCZ’s success requires talented, tough-minded people with a vested interest in their community.

“Somebody met me the other day and said, ‘You seem like you don’t take a lot of mess.’ And the truth is, there’s a bunch of us here who are like that. We are loving,” she says, singing the word, “but ... loving the kids is not enough here. You’ve got to be able to move these kids.”

She says teachers also need to be data-focused.

“We want to make sure [kids are] prepared, and I don’t know how you do that without making sure you’re keeping really good data and making sure we’ve got the best and the brightest working with our children. Because that’s what I would want for my kids.

“I never thought I would have the capacity to have another 12,000 in my heart,” she says, “but I do.”

—Nicole LaRosa is an associate editor of this magazine.
Gratitude and Hope

Michael Davidson (left) and Stasha O’Callaghan are united by the conviction that financial aid funds hope.

Without it, Davidson, a 1994 Fordham graduate, would not have become the first in his family to attend college.
And O’Callaghan would be overburdened by debt.

Last spring, in her final semester at Fordham, she received the Davidson Family Scholarship—an endowed scholarship fund Davidson created at Fordham to “pay forward” the aid he’d received as a student.

O’Callaghan graduated from Fordham summa cum laude last May with a B.S. in biology, a minor in international humanitarian affairs, and a plan to become a physician who’ll change global health policy.

“At Fordham,” she says, “I learned the language of social justice.”
She’s now in her first year at Albert Einstein College of Medicine.

“It’s cool and inspiring knowing that someone would believe in me,” she says, “that my dreams are not unrealistic.”

Help us change the world, one student at a time. Make your gift to Fordham Fund Scholarships today at fordham.edu/onlinegiving.
THIS FALL, A NEW 22-STORY BUILDING ON FORDHAM’S LINCOLN CENTER CAMPUS has brought an added touch of elegance to the Manhattan skyline.

Designed by Pei Cobb Freed & Partners—and supported by the generosity of Fordham donors—the University’s new law school and undergraduate residence hall opened just prior to the start of the fall semester.

Perhaps most unique to a densely built city like New York are the uninterrupted views of the building—something afforded by only a handful of sites in Manhattan.

“From the Lincoln Center plaza you can actually walk toward this building and see it in full view alongside the arches of the Met,” said Yvonne Szeto, who collaborated with Henry Cobb on the design of the building, which faces Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts.

On 62nd Street, passersby can peer into the Gorman Moot Courtroom through a wall of windows. A student café enlivens the sidewalk. Just above the first level, the building is set back, making space for a large second-story veranda, above which the law school rises to the ninth floor behind a checkerboard façade of precast concrete panels and glass.

Above the law school, McKeon Hall, an undergraduate residence, reaches 22 stories. It’s distinguished from the law school by a glass curtain wall that curves toward the performing arts complex.

In late August, more than 400 undergraduates moved into McKeon Hall, joining hundreds of Fordham Law students, faculty, and administrators who’d already moved out of their old building and into a space that is far and away larger, more modern, and more reflective of a world-class institution.

At the building’s Sept. 18 dedication ceremony, Michael Martin, dean of Fordham Law School, recalled the words of then U.S. Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy, who spoke at the November 1961 dedication of the school’s original home at Lincoln Center.

“We do not gather here today to salute this landscaped square or the elegance of this silent edifice,” he said, quoting Kennedy. “Men [and women] mean more than mortar and masonry. These walls of glass and granite need to be moved by qualities of intellect and spirit to give them meaning and purpose. We know Fordham ideals, traditions, and teachers will provide that inspiration.”

“So it was in 1961,” Martin said. “And even more so it is today.”

—Tom Stoelker and Patrick Verel
McKeon Hall, 15th Floor: Elodie Huston (above, left) and her roommate Sithumi Narasinghe Priya Dewage are among the first residents of McKeon Hall, home to some 400 undergraduates, including 62 enrolled in the Gabelli School’s new undergraduate program at Lincoln Center, offering a B.S. in global business. “I’ve found that I’ve really come into my own in the city,” says Huston, a Fordham College at Lincoln Center freshman from Sheboygan Falls, Wisconsin. “I thrive on being surrounded by conversation, movement, and color.” She also considers herself lucky to have been assigned great roommates. “I was paired with two girls who have been a constant source of energy, hilarity, and support as I’ve transitioned into college life.”
Casting a Net: Like Fordham Law students and undergraduates, Peter the Fisherman (above, left) has a new home on the Lincoln Center campus. Since 1970, the cast-bronze statue had been located on 62nd Street (first in a reflecting pool, later in a garden), where the new building now rises. After five years in storage, Frederick C. Shrdy’s sculpture was installed on Robert Moses Plaza in late September. Recently restored, Peter weighs 2,400 pounds and stands 15 feet tall with a 28-foot reach. Shrdy once said that his statue of St. Peter symbolizes Fordham’s role in casting its influence, knowledge, and concern out over the metropolis.
A Century of Excellence: In September, four editors of the Fordham Law Review (from left: Amanda Shami, Alexandra Sadinsky, Louis Russo, and Matthew Sorensen) met in a third-floor seminar room. This year, the Law Review—one of the most-cited law journals in the country—is celebrating its 100th anniversary by republishing a series of six influential articles. The first is a student comment written in 1978 by Naomi Sheiner, LAW ’78, that formed the basis for enterprise liability in tort law. “Ms. Sheiner’s work,” the editors write, “illustrates how much a student note can accomplish.”

Advocate for Immigrants: Razeen Zaman (below, right) has an ideal mentor in Jennifer Gordon, a Fordham Law professor who teaches immigration, employment, and public interest law. More than 20 years ago, Zaman’s family fled political violence in Bangladesh and settled in Jackson Heights, Queens. When she was a teen, she learned of her undocumented status and worried that college was out of the question for her because she wouldn’t be eligible for financial aid. She earned a scholarship to attend Sarah Lawrence College, however, and since 2011 has worked for the New York State Youth Leadership Council, an advocacy group that supports undocumented youth. At Fordham Law, she’s a Stein Scholar and a recipient of the Bellet Scholarship. She wants to become a civil rights attorney and hopes to work in public policy.
The Gorman Moot Courtroom: On September 30, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit sat at Fordham Law School, hearing oral arguments for four cases. The sitting (below) was the first event held in the Gorman Moot Courtroom, the flagship venue in the new building’s Moore Advocacy Center. The three-judge panel consisted of Chief Judge Robert A. Katzmann and two Fordham Law alumni: Judge Denny Chin, LAW ’78, and Loretta A. Preska, LAW ’73, chief judge of the Southern District of New York, who sat with the Court of Appeals by designation.

Photos by Lorenzo Ciniglio, Dan Creighton, Kathryn Gamble, Rick Lozier, Chris Shinn, and Paul Warchol
Profiles in Service

Post-9/11 Military Veterans Thrive on Camaraderie and Access to Higher Education

By Annmarie Fertoli
More than 2.5 million Americans have been deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan since 2001, serving in the first protracted wars the United States has fought with an all-volunteer military. That’s less than 1 percent of the nation’s men and women who have chosen to make this sacrifice to protect the country—far less, proportionally, than the 12 percent who served during World War II.

Many of these men and women have completed multiple tours of duty during the long conflicts, and although their reasons for serving are myriad, they share some singular character traits.

“They are not about war, they are about selfless service,” Gen. Jack Keane, GSB ’66, a retired four-star general and a former vice chief of staff of the U.S. Army, once told a Fordham alumni audience. “In my judgment, they do it for a simple yet profound sense of duty, and they do it for one another. We can never take that for granted, and we at Fordham never will.”

Indeed, the University recognizes the altruism of these men and women and continues serving them by providing access to higher education when they return home.

Their paths to and from Fordham are different. Like Keane, scores of them began their military careers at the University, as part of Fordham’s ROTC program. Still more are now coming to Fordham to continue their education. We are proud to highlight some of their stories.
An Immigrant’s Journey

Kevin Flores was born in El Salvador in 1988, during the country’s brutal civil war, a decadelong conflict marked by extreme violence.

“My relatives tell stories about how the majority of Salvadorans did not willingly choose sides to support,” he says, “but were forced to do so by the guerillas or the government through fear and intimidation.”

When he was just 3 years old, he and his family fled the war-torn nation for a better life in the United States. He recalls his grandmother weeping and praying for their safety, as he and his parents got into a truck headed to Guatemala. He says they traveled in trucks, train cars, and on foot through Mexico and eventually into the United States, where they settled in Springdale, Arkansas.

They were later granted amnesty by the U.S. government. “Because of these experiences, the elders in my family made sure that from a young age, I understood the privilege of living in the U.S.,” Flores says.

When he turned 18, he enlisted in the Marines. It was his way to give back to the nation he says has given him and his family so much.

After serving in Iraq for seven months in 2007, he began 38 months of training for the Marine Embassy Guard. The special assignment took him around the world. He served at the U.S. Embassy in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, and then in Islamabad, Pakistan. In 2011, he was selected to serve a two-week stint as part of President Obama’s security detail during the president’s trip to Central and South America. The president’s last stop on the tour would be in El Salvador.

Flores says he was humbled by his luck and the circumstances of his homecoming. “In the back of my mind, I knew that in no other country would this be possible: to arrive undocumented and to come back 20 years later, not only documented but as an American citizen with a top-secret clearance working for the president of the United States.”

The woman who cleared him for entry, a complete stranger, saw from his documents that he was born in El Salvador, Flores says. She looked at him and said, “I’m proud of you.”

Another highlight came at the very end of the tour, Flores says, when President Obama thanked him and the other members of his security detail for their service to the nation.

At the end of the trip, he returned to duty in Islamabad, which is where he was on May 2, 2011, when the president announced that Osama bin Laden had been killed at a compound in Abbottabad, about a two-hour drive from the embassy.

Flores returned to Arkansas the following year and, a few months after getting home, left to attend Fordham. He says part of what drew him to Fordham’s School of Professional and Continuing Studies is the University’s reputation as a vet-friendly school—and its commitment to full participation in the Yellow Ribbon Program, covering the tuition costs that aren’t covered under the Post-9/11 GI Bill.

He expects to graduate next spring with a B.A. in international political economics. This semester, however, he’s in Washington, D.C., working as an intern with the Congressional Hispanic Caucus.

Flores applied for the position earlier this year and, since September, has been working with New York Sen. Charles Schumer on policy and legislation. Last year,
he worked for New York Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand in her constituent services office in Manhattan, where he dealt with immigration issues.

Flores says he’s drawn to helping immigrants like himself, particularly at a time when tens of thousands of vulnerable Central American children are fleeing violence in their home countries for the United States. He sees it as a way to continue serving his country.

This fall, he’s studying to take the LSAT, with the hopes of going to law school next year. He’s interested in practicing immigration law.

A COSMOPOLITAN PATRIOT

Like Flores, former U.S. Army Sgt. Erik Haass, FCLC ’98, wasn’t born in the United States, but it has become his home.

His father was a Norwegian diplomat, and the family moved often when Haass was young. He was born in Norway and lived in Indonesia and France before the family came to the United States, settling first in Washington, D.C., before moving to New York, when Haass was 18. He found the pace of the city exciting and, attracted by the prospect of getting a Jesuit education, enrolled at Fordham College at Lincoln Center.

At Fordham, Haass majored in history and economics. He joined the Army ROTC program and the Pershing Rifles, a military honor society.

While most cadets in the ROTC program hope to be commissioned as officers when they graduate from college, that wasn’t a possibility for Haass because he was not yet an American citizen. He stayed with the program nonetheless and, after graduating in 1998, went to work for fellow Fordham ROTC alumnus Vincent Cannaliato, FCRH ’63, at Commodore Capital, a small investment banking firm in midtown.

In 2002, while working for Cannaliato, a retired Army captain who served in Vietnam, Haass got his Green Card. He enlisted in the Army the very same day and was deployed to Iraq in May 2003. While serving in Iraq, he applied for U.S. citizenship, which he received in 2005, before his first deployment to Afghanistan.

During that deployment, Haass was part of a quick reaction force called in to support a special forces unit fighting the Taliban in an abandoned village. He says the battle began quickly and reminded him of the vivid, intense fighting in the opening scene of the World War II film Saving Private Ryan. Haass’ squad leader was fatally injured, and Haass himself was shot in his left hand and right leg while retrieving his fallen comrade. He later received a Bronze Star Medal for his actions.

While recuperating from his injuries in Germany, Haass
called “one of the most fierce of this entire war.” On July 13, 2008, an estimated 200 Taliban insurgents attacked American and Afghan troops at a remote outpost. Nine U.S. soldiers were killed.

“By that time, I was seasoned,” Haass says, “but it was a level of intensity I had never seen before.”

This past July, Haass was at the White House, where President Obama awarded Sgt. Ryan Pitts the Medal of Honor for his actions during that battle. Pitts had invited his fellow soldiers, including Haass, to attend the ceremony.

Haass credits the bravery and skill of his unit with getting them through the battle.

“We were very experienced, our instincts and reflexes were honed, and I’m grateful for that,” he says. “If you’ve got to live through something like that, at least it’s with people you thoroughly trust.”

During six years on active duty, Haass earned two Purple Hearts and two Bronze Star Medals, among other awards.

In 2009, after returning to the States, he enrolled at the University of Notre Dame, where he earned an M.B.A. On his first day on campus, he met his future wife, Rebecca. They now have a 16-month-old son, Robert, and live in Chicago, where Haass works for the accounting and consulting firm KPMG.

Although he was born in Norway and his work continues to take him around the world, Haass works for the accounting and consulting firm KPMG.

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While serving as a U.S. Army intelligence officer in Kandahar Province, Afghanistan, Danielle Scalione, FCRH ’07 (below, with mugs of chai tea), was struck by the Taliban’s subjugation of women. The experience reinforced her determination to pursue a law degree after she returned home.

“I appreciate all the freedoms that women before me have fought for and have provided me, and I just feel like we should try to do the same for other people.”

While serving as a U.S. Army intelligence officer in Kandahar Province, Afghanistan, Danielle Scalione, FCRH ’07 (below, with mugs of chai tea), was struck by the Taliban’s subjugation of women. The experience reinforced her determination to pursue a law degree after she returned home.

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**Human Rights Advocate**

Danielle Scalione, FCRH ’07, a former Army captain, joined the Army ROTC program during her sophomore year. She grew close with the ROTC cadre at Fordham, especially during her junior year, when cadets prepare for the Leader Development and Assessment Course, a five-week summer program that tests what cadets have learned and prepares them to enter the military. A cadet’s performance in the course is a big factor in whether or not she’ll get assigned to her chosen branch in the Army.

Scalione’s hard work paid off. She landed in the top 10 percent of the Army’s National Order of Merit List, ensuring her placement in the branch of her choosing: military intelligence.

She was deployed to Afghanistan for the first time in March 2008 and worked with an aviation brigade. During her second deployment to the country, in 2010, she served with an infantry brigade, which gave her more exposure to the lives of Afghan citizens. She was particularly struck by the Taliban’s subjugation of women in Afghanistan, and remembers that many women who traveled outside their homes were required to be chaperoned by male relatives.

“Theyir lives are completely and totally different than anything you and I have ever experienced,” she says. “I appreciate all the freedoms that women before me have fought for and have provided me, and I just feel like we should try to do the same for other people.”

Scalione’s experiences in Afghanistan reinforced her determination to pursue a law degree after completing her military service. Soon after she returned to the United States, she enrolled at George Washington University School of Law.

She’s interested in national security and international human rights law, fields where she feels her experiences as a military intelligence officer will serve her well. Before she graduates next spring, however, she’ll have another
big moment to celebrate: In February, she and her fiancé (whom she met through an Army buddy) will be getting married in Washington, D.C.

**HELPING VETS MOVE FORWARD**

More than 400 veterans currently attend Fordham University, and many of them are reaping the benefits of Fordham’s continued participation in the Yellow Ribbon Program.

Fordham’s status as a Yellow Ribbon School and its robust veteran community are part of what attracted Patrick Hackett and Chris Maloney to the University.

Hackett, a senior majoring in economics at Fordham’s School of Professional and Continuing Studies, initially attended Charleston Southern University, where he played baseball for two years before realizing he needed a change. He spoke with his family, including an uncle in the Marine Corps, and decided to enlist in the Marines. He completed two deployments to Afghanistan, in 2011 and 2012.

Maloney, who’s pursuing his M.B.A. at Fordham’s Graduate School of Business Administration, enlisted in the Marine Corps and became a pilot after earning his undergraduate degree from the U.S. Naval Academy at Annapolis. He was deployed to Iraq in 2008, then to Afghanistan three times in as many years, starting in 2010.

Both men said the military provided direction in their lives. And both contacted Fordham during their final deployments.

They met at the University last fall, during a veterans’ orientation session. Now they’re serving as co-presidents of the Fordham Veterans Association, an umbrella group comprised of student veterans on all three campuses and in each of the University’s undergraduate, graduate, and professional schools. They work closely with Fordham administrators to assist incoming student veterans.

Isabelle Frank, Ph.D., dean of Fordham’s School of Professional and Continuing Studies and co-chair of the Fordham Veterans Initiative, hopes the collaboration will provide a one-stop shop for veterans, affording them greater support and social mobility as they transition out of the military, back to civilian life, and into the workforce.

“The GI Bill was crucial after World War II in transforming society and helping to create a strong middle class,” she says. “Reaching out to the millions of men and women who have served … many of them in order to get these kinds of benefits, because they can’t afford them otherwise … is a crucial part of [our] mission.”

This year, Frank says, Michael Abrams began serving as a part-time veterans coordinator at Fordham, working with several work-study students out of an office on the Lincoln Center campus to act as a liaison between the University’s veterans administrators and the student veterans group. He also teaches a seminar on career transition leadership that’s designed to prepare student veterans for careers in the private sector.

Hackett and Maloney, meanwhile, are working hard to make sure their fellow student veterans get involved and get the resources they need to succeed, whether that’s help navigating academia or teaming up with partner organizations to find internship opportunities and help kick-start careers.

“We’re going to treat [the Fordham Veterans Association] like the same family that you had when you were in the military,” Hackett says he tells his fellow student vets. “If you need something, come through us. You have help. That’s what these veterans groups are really for, to continue serving.”

In September, Hackett and Maloney delivered a presentation for incoming students to introduce them to the services Fordham, its veterans’ community, and its alumni network have to offer. As they streamline operations and plan events for the academic year, Maloney says they’re working under an unofficial motto.

“No rank, no ribbons, no self-serving vets,” he says. “Let’s all work together and move forward.”

—Annmarie Fertoli, FCRH ’06, is an associate producer at WNYC.
Fresh and Local

Paul Lightfoot and BrightFarms are working with regional supermarket chains to fix our broken food system.

By David McKay Wilson | Photos by Bud Glick

One June morning at the sprawling BrightFarms greenhouse in Bucks County, Pennsylvania, Paul Lightfoot, LAW ’96, pulls a Styrofoam board bursting with arugula from its hydroponic home. Just three weeks after seeds for the popular salad green were germinated in the grooves of the board, the crop is ready for harvest. A day later, the arugula will be on sale in one of more than 100 A&P-brand supermarkets in Pennsylvania, New York, and New Jersey. It’s part of Lightfoot’s bold initiative to grow vegetables locally that need less water, require no pesticides, and have a carbon footprint considerably smaller than those greens raised by agribusiness giants out West.

Dressed in a striped oxford shirt and a floppy beige hat, Lightfoot beams when talking about growing 125 tons of produce a year with the latest in hydroculture technology. “We’ve shown that we can grow produce on a commercial scale year-round,” he says, noting that the greenhouse turned a profit in its first year in operation. “Americans are making the connection between what they eat and their health. And locally grown has trumped organic in the marketplace. Consumers want to know where their food comes from.”

The 1.3-acre greenhouse in Lower Makefield Township, just west of the Delaware River on the Pennsylvania-New Jersey border, was built in a corner of the municipality’s 234-acre Patterson Farm. It’s the prototype for facilities the company wants to erect in urban areas throughout the country. Some, like the one in Lower Makefield, will be built on the ground, with a 15-inch pool of nutrient-rich water set on an impermeable membrane and sided with cement walls. Others are designed for rooftops.

In June, BrightFarms signed a lease agreement with the District of Columbia, where the company plans to finance, build, and maintain a 120,000-square-foot greenhouse near the impoverished Anacostia neighborhood. The company has partnered with the supermarket chain Giant Food, which will distribute what’s grown to its 50 stores in the capital region. Lightfoot believes the site will become one of the world’s most productive urban farms.

BrightFarms is also working with the New York City Economic Development Corporation in the hopes of finding a suitable location to build, possibly in the South Bronx.

“We’ve found that every city has tons of space, once you leave the most sought-after neighborhoods,” Lightfoot says. “There are great opportunities if you are willing to go there.”

The BrightFarms concept builds on the increasing clout of the local-food movement, as consumers seek produce grown close to home and raised in an environmentally friendly manner. Locally grown food can also be tastier and more
nutritious because growers don’t have to limit themselves to producing varieties hardy enough to survive a transcontinental journey. Lightfoot notes that 90 percent of America’s lettuce comes from California and Arizona, and gets trucked thousands of miles across the country to East Coast supermarkets.

“It’s no surprise that lettuce is prone to rotting before it’s purchased or right when people bring it home,” he said in January 2012 talk at a TEDx Manhattan event called Changing the Way We Eat. “This causes huge losses for supermarkets, and it makes my wife, who loves fresh baby spinach, unhappy. Which makes me unhappy.”

Shrinking the supply chain is one of the central benefits of the BrightFarms concept, with monetary and environmental costs of cross-country trucking significantly reduced.

“We need a revolution in the produce supply chain,” Lightfoot says. “More than half the cost of lettuce today is in the supply chain.”

The current system is also “industrialized and centralized to the point that it’s an enormous consumer of land, of water, of crude oil, and of natural gas,” he adds, noting that the extended drought in the Southwest underscores the need for change. “The growers out West have structural problems, with the water table there dropping fast. Their costs are skyrocketing, which makes us more competitive.”

The Next Big Thing

By mid-2014, BrightFarms had produce purchase agreements valued at more than $100 million. These commitments have provided the financial stability to attract nearly $20 million in capital from investors betting that sustainable, locally sourced produce grown in high-tech greenhouses is the food industry’s next big thing.

Fast Company has recognized BrightFarms’ promise, naming it one of “The World’s Top 10 Most Innovative Companies in Food” for two years running. In March 2014, the magazine praised BrightFarms for “pulling gas-belching 18-wheelers off the road … cutting transportation costs and waste, lowering prices, and adding days to the shelf life of perishable foods.”

Caplow, who chairs BrightFarms’ board of directors, credits Lightfoot for his creativity, skill, and persistence in “unlocking a door for us in the supermarket industry.”

“Startups are not easy, and our business is not always simple,” he says, “but Paul has completely embraced the cause, constantly learning and correcting as we have grown, never giving up or taking ‘no’ for an answer.”
Colin Cathcart, associate professor of architecture at Fordham, has served as a consultant to BrightFarms. He says the company’s concept, with its large-scale urban greenhouses and long-term produce agreements, is attractive to consumers, retailers, and investors. “You can expect that others will copy his model,” he says. “They will have competitors.”

Better Food for Our Families

Developing urban agriculture wasn’t on Lightfoot’s radar screen when he arrived at Fordham Law School in 1993, after earning a bachelor’s degree in philosophy at Lehigh University. He was the latest in a long line of family members who’ve matriculated at Fordham, including his father, an uncle, a grandfather, and his sister. He also met his wife, Karen Milhoua Lightfoot, LAW ’95, in the Law School library. They were married in 2001 at the University Church on the Rose Hill campus and now live in Briarcliff Manor, New York, with their three children: Amelia, Charley, and Annalise.

Lightfoot says law school taught him to consider every side of a difficult issue, a crucial skill for a social entrepreneur bent on creating new ways to develop a profitable business.

After law school, he was an associate at Cadwalader, Wickersham & Taft. But two years later, as his interest waned in the practice of law and his father’s health deteriorated, he took a leave of absence to spend time with his dad in his dying days. He never returned to Cadwalader.

Instead, he began his life as an entrepreneur as CEO of Foodline, an online restaurant reservation platform that was introduced in 23 urban markets with the aid of $13 million Lightfoot raised in venture capital from such partners as American Express and Ticketmaster. When the 2001 dot-com bust dried up Foodline’s funding, Lightfoot discovered the field of supply-chain management. For the next decade, he built a business that devised strategies and software to improve the flow of merchandise from distribution centers to stores.

At the same time, he became increasingly focused on having his family eat healthier, moving “away from processed food,” he recalls, “into a more organic diet.” After connecting with Caplow, he decided to follow his passion. He began BrightFarms’ transformation into a leader in the sustainable-food movement inspired by the most local unit of all: his family.

“[My daughter] Amelia and I like to discuss how the most important ingredient in food is love,” he told attendees at the 2012 TEDx event, “and how you find love in the food someone grows or prepares for someone they care about personally.”

At the BrightFarms facility in Pennsylvania, Lightfoot takes a visitor for a tour through the climate-controlled greenhouse, which cost $2.8 million to build in 2013. The air temperature stays in the range of 68 to 72 degrees, with a Dutch computer system running the greenhouse’s fans, chillers, and heaters. On the roof a rainfall collection system conserves water for the 15-inch hydroponic pool, which is controlled for acidity and infused with fertilizers, iron, and dissolved oxygen.

Growing there are arugula, basil, kale, and seven varieties of lettuce for BrightFarms’ Spring Mix and Asian Mix. Seeds are germinated over two days in the furrows of Styrofoam boards using a system developed in northern Italy. The boards are then placed in a line on the far side of the pool, which is divided into seven ponds. Farmers move the seedling-filled boards toward the near side of the ponds over three weeks.

Boards at the front are harvested at 6 a.m. six days a week, with the produce fed into a machine that cuts the stems and packages the lettuces and herbs in containers labeled “locally grown.” The packages are stored at 34 degrees as they await a truck to bring them short distances to regional supermarkets.

“We’re producing large quantities of food, which is good quality, and at low prices. We’re improving the supply chain.

“I’ve got three young children,” Lightfoot says, “and I want to leave them a better planet.”

—David McKay Wilson, a columnist for The Journal News, is a frequent contributor to this magazine.
You know you’ve made it when a famous actress portrays you on stage. Margaret J. “Peggy” Bia, M.D. (TMC ’68), is a professor of medicine at Yale University, where she co-founded the clinical skills program and won so many teaching awards she’s lost track of the number. Six years ago, at the Long Wharf Theatre in New Haven, Connecticut, she watched herself rendered by Anna Deavere Smith in *Let Me Down Easy*, a highly acclaimed one-woman show, based on Yale doctors and others, about the American healthcare system—and the strength and fragility of the human body.

Deavere Smith, known for her roles on TV’s *The West Wing* and *Nurse Jackie*, transformed into a short, fast-talking, Brooklyn-accented, brilliant, and compassionate physician. That’s Dr. Peggy Bia, who says the actress exaggerated the Brooklyn accent.

Despite Bia’s quibbles, the question Deavere Smith said drove her show—“How do we pursue grace and kindness in a competitive and sometimes distressing world?”—mirrors Bia’s own mission as a medical educator and caregiver.

Long before she was spearheading a new way to teach Yale medical students and long before she was one of few women entering medical school, Bia was paving a path for undergraduate women at Fordham. She was a member of the first class of the all-female Thomas More College, which opened its doors at Fordham 50 years ago this fall.

Bia credits her liberal education—science courses in addition to theology and philosophy—and Fordham’s commitment to community service for molding her into the kind of doctor she has become.

“She’s a dynamo,” says Nancy Angoff, M.D., associate dean of student affairs at Yale Medical School. “She’s tough and gets things done, but it comes from a place of compassion and caring. That’s really what permeated her program in the teaching of clinical skills. This love of being a doctor was so picked up by the students.”
Bia grew up in Brooklyn, the middle child of seven siblings. Her father died when she was 11. Her mother took in foster children to make ends meet. She also took in cousins when they needed a place to stay. “There were always tons of babies in my childhood,” Bia recalls.

She went to an all-girls Catholic high school and met her future husband, Frank Bia, M.D. (FCRH ’67), during socials with the all-boys Catholic school he attended. They’ve been together ever since. She started at Thomas More College when he was a sophomore at Fordham.

Frank always knew he wanted to be a doctor, but Peggy hadn’t considered medicine as an option for women initially. Most of her many female relatives became missionaries, teachers, nurses, or nuns. (One of her sisters is a Sister: Elizabeth Johnson C.S.J., distinguished professor of theology at Fordham.) Bia knew those careers weren’t for her. She toyed with becoming a chemist, but, as she puts it, “I didn’t want to spend my days with test tubes.”

Her pre-med adviser at Thomas More, chemistry professor Frederick Dillemuth, S.J., encouraged her to go to medical school. At the time, she had little confidence in her abilities, but Father Dillemuth and Frank insisted she could handle the work. After she graduated from Fordham summa cum laude in 1968, Peggy and Frank were married at the University Church, with Father Dillemuth presiding. They went to Weill Cornell Medical School and did their residencies at the University of Pennsylvania before earning fellowships to Yale, where they joined the faculty in 1978. They now have two grown sons, each in graduate school.

Bia says she chose to specialize in nephrology because during her residency “the best and most fabulous teachers were nephrologists.” Besides mastering complex renal physiology and caring for kidney transplant patients, she has been a caregiver for her medical students.

She worried at one time that they were not getting the clinical skills to be good, caring doctors. So 15 years ago, she developed a program that emphasizes mentoring. First-year medical students are connected with a physician to help them practice taking medical histories and performing physical exams on patients. They also attend weekly sessions where these skills are practiced in a safe setting.

“There is so much unhappiness in medicine in this day and age,” Bia says. “Finding the joy in practice is a lot harder now than it was years ago. I wanted my medical students to find that joy.”

Despite the complexities of today’s healthcare system, Bia wants to ensure that her students become keen diagnosticians and expert caregivers who form bonds with their patients, listening carefully to their stories. She believes the altruism woven into the Fordham curriculum helped to shape her view of medical practice.

Around Yale, students perceive Bia as tough yet tender—and not without a healthy sense of humor. Indeed, besides being mimicked at the Long Wharf, she’s been lovingly impersonated by her students. Last spring, at a reception for her when she stepped down from leading the clinical skills program, four students donned big blond wigs and took to the podium, each one claiming to be the real “Doctah Bia.”

Although Bia no longer runs the program she founded, she’s still a full-time faculty member in the renal section, lecturing and running workshops on kidney function for medical students, nursing students, and fellows.

“I grew up with this very Catholic spirit that fostered community service,” she says. “I was teaching younger kids since I was in eighth grade, and a group of us taught math and science to underprivileged high school students when I was at Fordham, so that whole aspect of service was really, really emphasized, and I savored it. It definitely informed what I felt I wanted to do with my life.”

Bia may have grimaced at Anna Deavere Smith’s rendition of her, but perhaps the audience grasped what being Dr. Bia really means. Which is also how Deavere Smith once described the central point of her entire show: to pursue and “find grace in the face of a complex world.”

Or, as Frank Bia once put it to a graduating class of medical students, the message Peggy Bia has been transmitting for years is this: The key to a happy, fulfilling career is “listening to and with one’s heart and using one’s hands to both diagnose and touch another person’s life.”

Maybe that’s why everyone wants to imitate Peggy Bia, on and off the stage.

—Randi Hutter Epstein, M.D., is a freelance medical journalist and one of Peggy Bia’s former students at Yale.

When Women Came to Fordham

Fifty years ago, in September 1964, Fordham opened Thomas More College, the undergraduate school whose students pioneered the presence of undergraduate women on the University’s Rose Hill campus.

They were not the first women to attend Fordham. The Law School took the lead in that regard, accepting its first female students in 1918. But as Raymond Schroth, S.J., put it in his book Fordham: A History and Memoir, they “radically transformed” the University, “forcing men—faculty and students—to rethink the role of women in Catholic education and in their own lives.” In 1974, Fordham College at Rose Hill began accepting women, and the University closed Thomas More.

In November, the college’s alumnae returned to Rose Hill to celebrate their alma mater’s 50th anniversary. Read about the reunion at fordham.edu/tmc.
Books

MORE AWESOME THAN MONEY: FOUR BOYS AND THEIR HEROIC QUEST TO SAVE YOUR PRIVACY FROM FACEBOOK
by Jim Dwyer, FCRH ‘79 (Viking) / In May 2010, Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Jim Dwyer wrote a New York Times column about “four geeky college students” who wanted “to build a social network that wouldn’t force people to surrender their privacy to a big business.”

They called it Diaspora and posted a pitch video on Kickstarter in hopes of raising $10,000 to build the bones of an open-source, user-owned network. In days, they received 20 times that amount from nearly 6,500 backers who gave them, Dwyer writes, “a global commission to reboot the genie of personal privacy.” As he follows them from New York City to Silicon Valley, Dwyer offers a humane, insightful account of their ill-fated venture (one of the founders committed suicide in November 2011, at age 22) and puts their story in the context of how the author and her siblings cared for their mother when mundane acts of caregiving took on “a sacramental” quality.

Mortal Blessings: A Christmas Carol by Jeffery Deaver, LAW ’82 (Pegasus)
In 1887, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle introduced Sherlock Holmes to readers, and the brilliant, bizarre detective has become one of the most beloved and enduring of fictional characters. This book, a collection of original works inspired by Doyle’s stories, includes a story by bestselling author Jeffery Deaver. In “The Adventure of the Laughing Fisherman,” Deaver introduces Paul Winslow, an intelligent, bipolar freelance with a fondness for Holmes’ rivalry with Moriarty. Winslow meddles in a crime scene in Manhattan’s Central Park, and Detective Carrera, impressed by this nosy citizen’s powers of deduction, invites Winslow to consult on the case. Deaver’s other stories explore themes of murder, and the Wheelchair,” for example, an account of regular calls to family members and daily strolls around the hospital that “served as a kind of communion for us,” writes O’Donnell. “We moved up and down those hallways as one, two parts of a single whole.”

Inventing Scrooge: The Incredible True Story Behind Dickens’ Legendary A Christmas Carol by Carlo DeVito, FCRH ’86 (Cider Mill) / Many readers know that some of Charles Dickens’ classics were inspired by his childhood, when he was forced to labor in a boot-blacking factory after his father went to debtor’s prison. But how many know that A Christmas Carol, his beloved, ghostly tale, was conceived as a way to get people to support schools for poor children? In this charming bit of literary history, Carlo DeVito offers many researched tidbits on the details of Dickens’ timeless fable. And he suggests that Scrooge’s relenting to give money to his impoverished relative might have been the author’s “rewriting of his life into a fairy tale,” one in which someone had saved his own father from financial ruin.

In the Company of Sherlock Holmes: A Treasury of Original Works Inspired by Doyle’s Stories by Jeffery Deaver, LAW ’82 (Pegasus)

HOW COULD THIS HAPPEN: EXPLAINING THE HOLOCAUST by Dan McMillan, LAW ’05 (Basic Books) / Many volumes have been written on the Holocaust, but not one of them, Dan McMillan argues, has provided a “comprehensive analysis of its causes.” He sets out to do just that in this book, focusing not only on a combination of historical causes (Germany’s failure to become a democracy before 1918, the collapse of the Weimar Republic, the prevalence of anti-Semitism) but also on the psychological factors that led many ordinary Germans to become mass murderers. To understand is not to forgive. But, he writes, “understanding them should make us think twice before assuming that we would have done better had we stood in their shoes.”

Events Calendar

DECEMBER
4 Love Letters Starring Alan Alda, FCRH ’56 7 p.m. | Brooks Atkinson Theatre | 229 W. 47th St. | New York City (Doors at 6 p.m.) Sold Out
5 All-Access Young Alumni Happy Hour and Pajama Drive 5:30 p.m. | 145 W. 55th St. | New York City
6 Eagle Scout Alumni Reception with Judge Loretta Preska and Judge Lovette Prosko, LAW ’73 3 p.m. | Lincoln Center Campus | Fordham University Church on Sunday, Dec. 7, at 2 p.m.
The event is free and open to the public. Tickets are not required. Guests are advised to arrive early, as seating is on a first-come, first-served basis.
Questions? Contact Robert Minotti at 718-817-4504 or minotti@fordham.edu.

FORDHAM ON THE ROAD

This fall and winter, Fordham will be hosting regional events in major cities across the country for the latest on national and international alumni chapter events, visit fordham.edu/regional/

THE JOY OF THE HOLIDAYS
Join the Fordham community for one of the biggest new rituals of the Christmas season: the annual Festival of Lessons and Carols.

The Radio City Christmas Spectacular Starring Fordham Student Sierra Ring 2 p.m. | Radio City Music Hall | New York City
14 Advent Day of Prayer and Eucharist 11 a.m. | Marymount Convent | 25 Warren Ave. | Tarrytown, N.Y.
14 Men’s Basketball: Fordham vs. St. John’s at Madison Square Garden 11 a.m. | Stadium | 131 W. 55th St. | New York City (Tifftail at 1:30 p.m.)
16 Radio City Christmas Spectacular Starring Fordham Student Sierra Ring 2 p.m. | Radio City Music Hall | New York City
18 Fairfield County Regional Reception 6 p.m. | The Wooley County Club | 760 Post St. | Danbury, Conn.
20 Alumni Career Continuance Support Group 11 a.m. | Lowenstein Center | Lincoln Center Campus
22 Men’s Basketball: Fordham vs. Manhattan at the Barclays Center Pregame Reception 4 p.m. | Mackey’s Public House | 35 Fifth Ave. | Brooklyn (Tifftail at 6 p.m.)

JANUARY
11 Fordham Alumni Chapter of Long Island Annual Mass and Reception 3:30 p.m. | Cathedral Synodry | Douglaston, N.Y.
19 San Diego Regional Reception 5 p.m. | The Lodge at Torrey Pines | 7400 North Torrey Pines Road | La Jolla, Calif.

FORDHAM ON THE ROAD

The World and Times of St. Paul
with Fordham Theology Professor Patrick Hornbeck 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. Tba Register at fordham.edu/events. Questions? Contact Jake Braithwaite at fordham@fordham.edu.

Please note that event dates and times are subject to change. For a complete list and to register for upcoming events, visit fordham.edu/events.

THE RADIO CITY CHRISTMAS SPECTACULAR STARRING FORDHAM STUDENT SIERRA RING
Join Fordham on Sunday, Dec. 14, at 2 p.m. for this one-of-a-kind holiday celebration. After the show, Rockette Sierra Ring, a part-time student at Fordham University Church on Sunday, Dec. 7, at 2 p.m.

Join the Fordham community for one of the biggest new rituals of the Christmas season: the annual Festival of Lessons and Carols. Starring Fordham students, this year’s concert will be performed at the Church of St. Paul the Apostle in Manhattan on Saturday, Dec. 6, at 3 p.m., as well as at Fordham Church on Sunday, Dec. 7, at 3 p.m.

There’s “The Sacrament of the Cell Phone,” for example, a “comprehensive analysis of its causes.” He sets out to do just that in this book, focusing not only on a combination of historical causes (Germany’s failure to become a democracy before 1918, the collapse of the Weimar Republic, the prevalence of anti-Semitism) but also on the psychological factors that led many ordinary Germans to become mass murderers. To understand is not to forgive. But, he writes, “understanding them should make us think twice before assuming that we would have done better had we stood in their shoes.”

—Ryan Stellabotte

MORTAL BLESSINGS: A SACRAMENTAL FAREWELL by Angela Alaimo O’Donnell, Ph.D. (Ave Maria Press) / In December 2009, Angela Alaimo O’Donnell’s already-frail mother took a bad fall and broke her hip. Forty-eight days later, she was gone. Mortal Blessings is the story of how the author and her siblings cared for their mother in that short, sacred time span, when mundane acts of caregiving took on divine grace. O’Donnell, associate director of Fordham’s Curran Center for American Catholic Studies, divides this memoir into chapters named for newfound sacraments. There’s “The Sacrament of the Cell Phone” and the “Wheelchair,” for example, an account of regular calls to family members and daily strolls around the hospital that “served as a kind of communion for us,” writes O’Donnell. “We moved up and down those hallways as one, two parts of a single whole.”

In the Company of Sherlock Holmes: A Treasury of Original Works Inspired by Doyle’s Stories by Jeffery Deaver, LAW ’82 (Pegasus)

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Events Calendar

THE JOY OF THE HOLIDAYS

Join the Fordham community for one of the best-loved rituals of the Christmas season: the annual Festival of Lessons and Carols.

Featuring the combined Fordham University choirs, the Bronx Arts Ensemble, and Alley/Fordham dancers, this year’s concert will be performed at the Church of St. Paul the Apostle in Manhattan on Saturday, Dec. 6, at 8 p.m., and at Fordham University Church on Sunday, Dec. 7, at 3 p.m.

The event is free and open to the public. Tickets are not required. Guests are advised to arrive early, as seating is on a first-come, first-seated basis.

Questions? Contact Robert Minotti at 718-817-4504 or minotti@fordham.edu.

DECEMBER

2 Love Letters
Starring Alan Alda, FCRH ’56
7 p.m. | Brooks Atkinson Theatre | 216 W. 47th St. | New York City
(Dinner at 5 p.m.)
Sold Out

2 All-Jesuit Young Alumni Happy Hour and Pajama Drive
7 p.m. | Stout | 133 W. 33rd St. | New York City

5 Eagle Scout Alumni Reception with Father McShane and Judge Loretta Preska, LAW ’73
6 p.m. | Lincoln Center Campus

6 The Fordham University Choirs Present: Festival of Lessons and Carols
8 p.m. | St. Paul the Apostle Church | 405 W. 59th St. | New York City

7 Marymount Founder’s Day and Awards Luncheon
11 a.m. | Butler Commons | Rose Hill Campus

7 The Fordham University Choirs Present: Festival of Lessons and Carols
3 p.m. | Fordham University Church | Rose Hill Campus

9 Boston Regional Reception
6 p.m. | The Omni Parker House | 60 School St. | Boston

12 Byzantine Concert and Gallery Tour with Lisa Holsbert, Fordham Instructor and Doctoral Student
12:45 p.m. | Metropolitan Museum of Art 1000 Fifth Ave. | New York City
(Lunch at 11:30 a.m.)
Sold Out

13 Fordham University Alumni Chapter of Southeast Virginia Annual Holiday Social

14 Advent Day of Prayer and Eucharist
11 a.m. | Marymount Convent | 32 Warren Ave. | Tarrytown, N.Y.

14 Men’s Basketball: Fordham vs. St. John’s at Madison Square Garden
Pregame Reception
11 a.m. | Stout | 133 W. 33rd St. | New York City
(Tipoff at 1:30 p.m.)

14 Radio City Christmas Spectacular Starring Fordham Student Sierra Ring
2 p.m. | Radio City Music Hall | New York City

18 Fairfield County Regional Reception
6:30 p.m. | The Woodway Country Club | 540 Hoyt St. | Darien, Conn.

JANUARY

11 Fordham Alumni Chapter of Long Island Annual Mass and Reception
4:30 p.m. | Cathedral Seminary | Douglaston, N.Y.

13 Los Angeles Regional Reception
7 p.m. | The Jonathan Club | 545 S. Figueroa St. | Los Angeles

15 San Diego Regional Reception
6 p.m. | The Lodge at Torrey Pines | 11480 North Torrey Pines Road | La Jolla, Calif.

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Starring Fordham Student Sierra Ring

Join Fordham on Sunday, Dec. 14, at 2 p.m. for this one-of-a-kind holiday celebration. After the show, Rockette Sierra Ring, a part-time student at Fordham’s School of Professional and Continuing Studies, will meet all Rams in attendance and be available for photos.

Register at fordham.edu/events. Questions? Contact Jake Braithwaite at 212-636-7501 or braithwaite@fordham.edu.

The World and Times of St. Paul
with Fordham Theology Professor J. Patrick Hornbeck
June 1 to 11, 2015
Learn more at fordham.edu/alumnitravel.
### Alumni Notes

**1951**  
**GSB:** Cesar (Bud) Santos and his wife, Mary Ann, celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on Aug. 17, with a Mass in their honor at St. John Fisher Church in Rancho Palos Verdes, Calif., and a reception for relatives and friends at the Mary & Joseph Retreat Center. Bud retired as president of C-T Products Company on Feb. 28 after 48 years of managing the business. He and Mary Ann have six children and 11 grandchildren.

**1952**  
**FCRH:** Dan Fitzgerald is the author of *The Third Son: A Family Novel* (AuthorHouse, 2014) and *A Wealth of Stories* (AuthorHouse, 2014). He is working on his seventh novel.

**1955**  
**FCRH:** John E. Forrest has donated his collection of literature on Irish culture and history to the Kansas City Irish Center. He began collecting the materials in 1956, when he was a young man stationed at an Air Force base in Iceland. The John E. Forrest Library opened this year; it contains more than 2,400 books, pamphlets, and plays dating from the 17th century through the 20th century.

**1956**  
**PHR:** Richard DeBlasi, a former lieutenant colonel in the U.S. Air Force, is now a general aviation pilot. Earlier this year he flew alongside retired Air Force pilot Col. Richard Graham, former commander of the Air Force SR-71 Blackbird squadron. The two are members of the North Texas Flying Club, located in McKinney, Texas.

**1962**  
**GSAS:** Richard J. Andres, Ph.D. (also GSAS ’77), is a co-author of the high school textbook *Algebra I, Common Core* (AMSCO, 2014). He is a retired math teacher and SAT instructor at Jericho High School in New York.

**1964**  
**FCRH:** Richard Schoenig collaborated with Bryan Parsons on the book *Does God Act Unfairly? A Cordial Conversation Between Seminary Student Bryant Parsons and Atheist Richard Schoenig* (GGIS Publishing, 2014). Schoenig served as an officer for the Army Corp of Engineers for two years and is currently a professor of philosophy at San Antonio College.

**1968**  
**GSB:** John Salvaggio has joined Mesa Air Group Inc. as vice president of business development and resource planning. He has more than 35 years of experience with American Airlines, US Airways, and Delta Air Lines.

**1969**  
**FCRH:** Robert Posteraro, M.D., has been named assistant program director of the Clinical Practice Management program at Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center School of Allied Health Sciences.

**1970**  
**FCRH:** Warren Lyons was named chief operating officer of the San Francisco-based company HealthRIGHT 360, an organization that provides primary health and mental health services to the homeless and underserved population.
Four Alumni Honored for Courage, Devotion to Others

During a special ceremony in Cunniffe House on Oct. 22, Fordham inducted four alumni into the University’s Hall of Honor. The inductees were recognized posthumously for their courage in standing up for some of the world’s most vulnerable citizens: young soldiers on the battlefields of Vietnam, children as media consumers, and black civil servants in the courtrooms of New York.

Father Vincent Capodanno, FCRH ’52, earned the nickname “Grunt Padre” because the Vietnam War Navy chaplain insisted on living, eating, and sleeping in the same quarters as the enlisted men, known as “grunts.” In September 1967, while praying over the wounded and the dead on a Que Son Valley battlefield, he stepped between an injured Marine and a machine gunner. A burst of fire riddled the priest with 27 bullets. Father Capodanno was 38 years old. He was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor, and in 2006, the Archdiocese for the Military Services declared him a Servant of God, formally initiating the cause for his beatification and sainthood.

In creating his beloved Captain Kangaroo program, Bob Keeshan, UGE ’51, once said that he operated “on the conviction that [the audience] is composed of young children of potentially good taste, and that this taste should be developed.” That respect and admiration for young people informed all of Keeshan’s work, from his early days on The Howdy Doody Show to his later work as a children’s advocate. As the Captain, he earned five Emmy Awards, three Peabody Awards, and one National Education Award during the show’s nearly 30-year run.

Robert C. Murray, FCRH ’68, who grew up a stone’s throw from Fordham, was a squad leader in Vietnam when a fellow soldier tripped an enemy grenade. “Staff Sgt. Murray unhesitatingly and with complete disregard for his own safety threw himself on the grenade,” his Medal of Honor citation reads, “absorbing the full and fatal impact of the explosion.” He was 23 years old.

Long before the civil rights movement of the 1960s, Ruth Whitehead Whaley, LAW ’24, became the first black woman to enroll at Fordham Law. She graduated at the top of her class and in 1925 became the first black woman admitted to the New York bar. She was an expert in civil service law, representing black local government employees in discharge proceedings. In 1951 she was appointed secretary of the New York City Board of Estimate, a post she held until 1973.

—Nicole LaRosa
Alumni Notes

of the Jacksonville Women’s Network and the Jacksonville Beach Citizen Police Academy Alumni Association. She is also a former member of the board of directors at Hubbard House, a domestic violence emergency shelter.

GSB: Charles Schutze has joined the Tampa Bay, Fla., campus of the Thomas M. Cooley Law School, where he is teaching Accounting for Lawyers. A retired attorney, he has 15 years of experience in corporate accounting and 25 years as an attorney, practicing in the areas of bankruptcy, divorce, forensic accounting, criminal defense, and IRS representation.

LAW: Carol A. Burns was appointed chair of the 2,800-member Senior Lawyers Section of the New York State Bar Association. A retired private practitioner, she volunteers with Nassau/Suffolk Law Services.

1973
FCLC: Joseph Rau (also GBA ’75) and his wife, Carol, recently celebrated their 43rd wedding anniversary. Joseph assists law and accounting firms in the collection of their slow receivables.

1974
FCRH: The Rev. Peter Byrne, the pastor of St. Elizabeth Parish in Manhattan, was appointed by Pope Francis to serve as auxiliary bishop for the Archdiocese of New York. He previously served as a pastor of the Staten Island parishes of Immaculate Conception and St. John the Baptist. He was ordained a bishop at St. Patrick’s Cathedral on Aug. 4.

Anthony Giardina, a playwright and novelist, is the author of The City of Conversation, which ran at the Mitzi E. Newhouse Theater at Lincoln Center from April through July. The play, a family drama, spans 30 years in the life of a Washington, D.C. socialite played by Jan Maxwell. Writing in The New York Times, theater critic Charles Isherwood called the production “[s]mart, literate, and funny.”

Mark Surpremante, a partner at Adams and Reese LLP in New Orleans, received the 2014 David A. Hamilton Lifetime Achievement Award from the Louisiana State Bar Association on May 20. He also received the bar association’s Pro Bono Century Award for donating more than 100 hours of pro bono service in 2013. He has served as chair of the Pro Bono Project’s board of directors and is a member of the organization’s resource development committee. He also is the president of the New Orleans Bar Association.

GSB: Regina Angerame is the author of The Wonderful Wheels in William’s World (WestBow Press, 2012), an illustrated children’s book that follows the title character’s life journey from “his first stroll in a carriage” until he becomes a grandfather.

Gene McElwain has retired as president of the Treasurers and Ticket Sellers Union, Local 751 of the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees.

GSE: Paul Alberto, Ph.D., was appointed dean of Georgia State University’s College of Education. He had been the interim dean since 2012. He is also the Regents’ Professor in Intellectual Disabilities at the college. He was the director of the university’s Bureau for Students with Multiple and Severe Disabilities program and chaired the university senate’s executive committee for eight years.

1973
GRE: Monsignor John Jenik, the pastor of Our Lady of Refuge Parish in the Bronx, was appointed by Pope Francis to serve as auxiliary bishop for the Archdiocese of New York. He previously served as vicar for the Northwest Bronx. He was ordained a bishop at St. Patrick’s Cathedral on Aug. 4.

TMC: Mary Leslie (McClain) Pergiovanni, D.M.D., and her husband, Edward Pergiovanni, D.M.D. (FCRH ’74), who practice dentistry in Rocky Hill, Conn., have been named fellows of the International College of Dentists, which recognizes the “outstanding professional achievement, meritorious service, and dedication to the continued progress of dentistry for the benefit of humankind.” Mary, a faculty member at the University of Connecticut School of Dental Medicine, is the founding director of Little Friends International, which provides dental, medical, and educational support for the world’s poorest children. Edward has served as a clinical instructor in the Department of Prosthodontics and Restorative Dentistry at the University of Connecticut. For many years, the Pergiovannis have been volunteering with dental mission projects in such places as Honduras, Haiti, Mexico, and the Cheyenne River Lakota Reservation.

Startup Success: Lavera Wright overcame personal hardship to earn a Fordham degree and establish her own business. Photo by Tom Stoelker

Lavera Wright, GSB ’14

Sitting on her front stoop at 1900 Hennessey Place in the University Heights section of the Bronx, 8-year-old Lavera Wright told her best friend that she wanted to be an accountant when she grew up.

Some 40 years later, Wright sits at her own desk at the Fordham Foundry, Fordham’s small-business incubator, as the founding CEO of the financial advisory firm L. Wright Co. LLC. It was not an easy journey from University Heights to Fordham.

In 1979, Wright’s young son was hit by a bus and killed while riding his bike. Two years later her marriage fell apart. Wright says her ex-husband continued to be a good father to their other three children, but the increased duties of raising a family left her little time to go to school.

“To do the right thing, I had to put school to the side,” she says. “I just wanted to make sure that I raised my kids in a nurturing home.”

Eventually, Wright managed to take some online classes, and she gathered credits at Bronx Community College. When her childhood friend asked her to accompany her to Fordham while she applied to a master’s degree program, Wright had no idea that she’d also be recruited. Having recently been laid off from her job, she says she had little to lose when a Gabelli School of Business adviser encouraged her to apply for admission. She fretted about her writing skills, but was certain of her love of arithmetic and logic.

“I’ll never forget the call,” she says. “It was September 2008. The man on the phone said, ‘Congratulations, welcome to Fordham University.’ The tears just came down from my eyes and I thought, ‘Oh, my God, I made it in.’”

The first year proved the toughest, Wright says, but she eventually found her footing. She even conquered her fear of writing.

“All I could see were the grammar mistakes, but one of my professors said, ‘Lavera, you’re going to be a beautiful writer one day.’ He saw the potential in me and knew that one day I’d be in a place where I could accept my voice. I thank God for my professors, because they didn’t give up on me.”

Wright graduated last February with a B.S. in public accounting. A couple of months later, her daughter graduated from college and her son graduated from high school. Her third son continues to do well in high school.

“When I walked down that aisle at graduation, it was like a domino effect,” she says. “I made that first impact, and because of that, it opened up many doors for my children.”

—Tom Stoelker
in South Dakota. They have been designated “Hometown Heroes” by WFSB-TV in Hartford, and they each received the St. Joseph Medal from the Archdiocese of Hartford. They are fellows in the American College of Dentists and live in Cromwell, Conn.

1975
FCLC: Joseph Muriana (also LAW ’89, GSAS ’95), associate vice president for government relations at Fordham University, was presented with the Fordham Road BID (Business Improvement District) Achievement Award, in recognition of his many years of dedication and service to Fordham Road and the Bronx.

1976
FCLC: Lt. Gen. John Toolan Jr. was nominated last May by Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel to serve as the commander of Marine Corps Forces Pacific. In this position, he leads 86,000 Marines and sailors in the Pacific headquartered at Camp Smith in Halawa Heights, Hawaii.

LAW: Todd Klipp is senior vice president, senior counsel, and secretary of the board of trustees at Boston University. He stepped down from his position of general counsel at the university to spend more time with his family. He is also an adjunct professor of law at the Boston University School of Law. He joined the university in 1984.

1977
FCLC: John E. “Jack” Potter, the president and chief executive officer of the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority, was elected to serve as a member of the VSE board of directors. Potter previously served as the U.S. postmaster general and CEO of the United States Postal Service.

Mike Walczewski was honored in a video tribute during a New York Knicks basketball game at Madison Square Garden to commemorate his 25 years of service as “the voice of Madison Square Garden” for the Knicks, the New York Liberty, the NCAA 2014 Regional finals, and various college games.

GSAS: Louis Spirito is the author of the memoir Gimme Shelter: A Damaged Pit Bull, an Angry Man, and How They Each Saved Each Other (CreateSpace, 2013). The book, he writes, “marries two popular but seemingly disparate subjects—animal rescue and anger management—as it chronicles a writer’s stormy transformation from the man dubbed ‘too scary to live with’ to a mindful, almost peaceful ‘recovering angry guy.’” In this rocky journey to consciousness, it’s the damaged, timid rescue dog that winds up saving his owner.” He lives in Malibu, Calif., with his wife, Eugenie, and their rescue pit bull, Tanner.

CSAS: Glenn R. Straff has joined Peapack- Gladstone Financial Corporation as senior vice president, head of residential mortgage lending. He has 27 years of experience in the financial industry in positions with Citibank, Bank of America, and Dime Savings Bank.

1978
CSAS: Rosemary E. Jeffries, R.S.M., Ph.D. (also GSAS ’91), will be stepping down as president of Georgian Court University in May, after 14 years as head of the Catholic university. During her tenure, the former women’s college began admitting men and gained university status.

CSS: Carolyn A. Bradley, Ph.D., (also GSS ’95), associate professor of social work at Monmouth University, serves on the New Jersey Board of Social Work Examiners.

LAW: William Harwood, a partner at Verrill Dana LLP, was recently honored by Best Lawyers, which named him the energy law “Lawyer of the Year” in the Portland, Maine area.

1979
FCLC: Michael R. Virgintino participated in the August 2013 dedication of a plaque that commemorates Freedomland U.S.A., the history-themed amusement park that was open from 1960 to 1964. He grew up within walking distance of the park, which was located in the Baychester section of the Bronx, on a site now occupied in part by Co-op City. At night as a child, he writes, he “could hear the crowd noise” from the park and “watch the fireworks from his bedroom window.” He runs a Facebook page dedicated to Freedomland and has published several articles about the park for Our USA and Back in the Bronx, among other publications.

1980
FCLC: Timmian C. Massie was named senior vice president, public affairs and government relations at Health Quest, the largest integrated family of hospitals and healthcare providers in New York’s Hudson Valley.

GSAS: Jack A. Jarmon, Ph.D., is the author of The New Era in U.S. National Security: An Introduction to Emerging Threats and Challenges (Rowman & Littlefield, 2014). He has taught international relations courses at the University of Pennsylvania, Seton Hall University, and Rutgers University, where he also was associate director of the Command, Control, and Interoperability Center for Advance Data Analysis.

GSE: Richard Wisenthal, Ed.D. (also GSE ’95), the principal at New Palz Middle School, was selected as the 2014 New York State Middle School Principal of the Year by the School Administrators Association of New York State and the National Association of Elementary School Principals. The award is given to administrators who “set the pace, character, and quality of education for the children” at their school. He has been an administrator at New Palz Middle School for the past 26 years.

LAW: Robert Cleary has been named a fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers. He is a partner at Proskauer, where he is co-head of the firm’s white collar defense and investigations group. He joined the firm in 2002, after a lengthy career as a federal prosecutor.

1982
FCLC: Villa M. Dedinas has joined the Chicago-based law firm Garf Law Group, Ltd., as a partner.

William S. Gyves has joined the litigation practice at Kelley Drye as a partner in the law firm’s New York City and Parsippany, N.J., offices.

GBA: Michael G. Hankinson has been promoted to executive vice president and chief legal officer at Delta Dental of California.

Maria Elena Lagomasino was named one of the five most influential Latinas in corporate boardrooms by Vosx. She is the managing partner and CEO of WE Family Offices, a global firm serving high net worth families. She serves on the boards of the Coca-Cola Company, Avon Products Inc., and the Americas Society, and is a trustee on the board of the National Geographic Society. She is also a member of the Council on Foreign Relations and the Economic Club of New York, among others. She started her career in banking at Citibank in 1977, after majoring in French and working as a librarian at the United Nations. Born in Cuba, she immigrated to the United States with her parents when she was 11.

GSB: Joseph F. Scutellaro has joined Cohrenzick as a tax partner in the accounting, tax, and advisory firm’s Eatontown, N.J., office.

1983
FCLC: Dylan McDermott was inducted into the Silas Bronson Library’s Waterbury Hall of Fame in 2013. A native of Waterbury, Conn., McDermott earned a 1999 Golden Globe Award for his role as Bobby Donnell on The Practice and has starred in many TV shows and films.

Carol Robles-Román has been named president and CEO of Legal Momentum, a nonprofit legal organization dedicated to advancing the rights of women and girls through policy advocacy, judicial education, and litigation. She previously worked in New York City government as deputy mayor for legal affairs and counsel to the mayor during Michael R. Bloomberg’s administration. She was the first woman to serve as counsel to a New York City mayor.

FCLC: Janice L. Massaro has joined the Law Offices of Sara Sencer McAdre LLC in Randolph, N.J., as an associate. She is a former assistant prosecutor in the Essex County Prosecutor’s Office in Newark, N.J.

1985
FCLC: Pat Quinn, a partner at Cadwalader, Wickersham & Taft LLP, has been named managing partner-elect of the firm. He has practiced at Cadwalader for 25 years and is co-chair of the firm’s capital markets group and a member of the firm’s management committee.


1986
FCLC: Carlo DeVito is the author of Inventing Scrooge: The Incredible True Story Behind Dickens’ “A Christmas Carol” (Cider Mill Press, 2014). A longtime publishing executive, he has
written more than 15 books on topics such as dogs, sports, and wine. He and his wife, Dominique, own the Hudson-Chatham Winery in Ghent, N.Y.

FCRH: Nancy Masterson-Newkirk has been named the donor engagement manager at HelpMeSee Inc., an international nonprofit organization based in New York City that is working to eradicate cataract-caused blindness in the developing world. Previously she was stewardship coordinator at Montclair State University.

GSAS: Sharon (Dietz) DuBois is the business development manager at Helenic American Academy in Lowell, Mass. She is responsible for marketing and communications for the academy. She also started and manages a no-kill animal rescue group, which is now 10 years old with 60 volunteers.

LAW: Michael R. Graham, principal of Gnosis IP Law P.C., has been named one of the World’s Leading Trademark Professionals of 2014 by World Trademark Review. He was cited as “an expert across a variety of issues, including emerging challenges in the domain name space.” He also was listed as an expert in the areas of trademark prosecution and strategy. He is an adjunct professor at DePaul University College of Law, where he directs the Technology and Intellectual Property Clinic.

1987

FCRH: Christopher J. Farrell has been appointed chief development officer at West Bergen Mental Healthcare.

John Sullivan was promoted to brigadier general in April. He serves as the U.S. Army’s chief of transportation and as commandant of its transportation school. He received his commission in 1987 as a distinguished military graduate of the Army ROTC program at Fordham University.

1988

FCRH: John Burke was named president of WellCare Health Insurance of New York Inc. He joined WellCare in 2004 and previously served as chief operating officer; vice president, network management; and director, Medicare expansion for WellCare of New York.

James Oddo was elected the 15th borough president of Staten Island in November 2013. He assumed office on Jan. 1, 2014.

GSB: Michael H. Acquilano is celebrating 25 years in the fire and life safety industry. He is CEO of Alliance Fire Protection Company, which services major hotels and real estate companies in New York City, and FireServ, which manages fire protection compliance for major retailers across the country.

GSAS: Laurie Anne Spagnola has been named president of the Board of Child Care, a Baltimore-based nonprofit that serves children and families who require physical, emotional, behavioral, and social support.

1989

GSAS: Juanita Torrence-Thomson is the author of The Secret Life of Scrambled Eggs (Torderwarz, 2014), her eighth book of poetry. She is the publisher, editor-in-chief, and owner of Mibius, The Poetry Magazine. The Main Library at the University of the West Indies recently added her books New York and African Tapestries and Breath-Life to its collection.

LAW: David Leibell has joined UBS as the senior wealth strategist, dividing his time between the company’s Stamford and New York offices. Previously, he was a partner in the private client services department at Wiggin and Dana. He currently serves on the advisory board of the Central Park Conservancy and is a former member of the Estates and Gifts Committee of the New York City Bar.

1990

FCRH: Janet Torres has been named the director of government and community engagement for Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts. She most recently worked as a senior policy analyst for New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo (FCRH ’79) and managed the state’s Minority- and Women-Owned Business Enterprise Team.

GSAS: Robert E. Reiser, S.J., became the 13th president of McQuaid Jesuit High School in Rochester, N.Y., on July 1. From 2004 to 2006, he served as the assistant to the president of McQuaid Jesuit. He returned to the school as a member of the faculty in fall 2013, after serving seven years as president of Saint Peter’s Preparatory School in Jersey City, N.J.

LAW: Monsignor Edward Scharfenberger was selected by Pope Francis to serve as the 10th bishop of the Roan Catholic Diocese of Albany. Msgr. Scharfenberger had been pastor of St. Matthias Church in Ridgewood, Queens. He also has been a lawyer for more than two decades. He played a significant role in how the Diocese of Brooklyn handled the clergy sex scandal as a member of the Diocesan Review Board for Sexual Abuse of Minors.

1991

GBA: Liz Ann Sanders, the senior vice president and chief investment strategist for Charles Schwab and Co., spoke at the 2013 winter commencement ceremony at the University of Delaware, her undergraduate alma mater. She has appeared as a guest on ABC’s Good Morning America, CBS This Morning, and PBS NewsHour, among other TV shows. She was named one of SmartMoney’s “Power 30,” a list of the most influential people on Wall Street, and American Banker/USBanker has recognized her as one of the “25 Most Powerful Women in Finance.”

1992

FCRH: Mark E. Nettleton, an attorney at the law firm of Mika Meyers Beckett & Jones PLC, was elected secretary and New York office of White & Case LLP. He currently serves on the board of directors of the American Bar Association. She is the chief operating officer and manager of the Latina Leadership Network.

LAW: Brad Deutsch has joined Garvey Schubert Barer in the law firm’s Washington, D.C., office, where his practice will focus on public policy, lobbying and political law, and communications, media, and information technology.

1995

FCRH: Michele Irizarry has been named the commanding officer of the New York Police Department’s 10th Precinct, in Manhattan. She began her career in the Bronx in 1995 as a patrol officer in the 44th Precinct. For the past six years, she had served as the commanding officer of the Police Academy’s Specialized Training Section.

Jack E. Pace III (also LAW ’98) has been named executive partner of the New York office of White & Case LLP. His practice is focused on antitrust law and complex litigation.

GSE: Lori Attanasio Woodring, Ph.D. (also GSE ‘00), is the author of My Very Exciting, Sorta Scary, Big Move (Child’s View Press, 2013), a workbook to help children moving to a new home. She was inspired to write the book after moving to London—and back to Connecticut five years later—with four children under the age of seven.

GSAS: Michael D. Thompson was named a member of the Safe
Lori Majewski, FCLC ’93

To Lori Majewski, new wave isn’t just a favorite musical style; it’s a passion that’s driven her professional career and inspired her to co-write Mad World, an oral history of 36 of the genre’s most memorable songs. In June, Amazon named the book one of 2014’s best so far.

“I wanted to be a music journalist because I wanted to meet my favorite bands,” says Majewski, whose love of artists like Depeche Mode, New Order, and especially Duran Duran dates back to her childhood in Weehawken, New Jersey, where she’d go through a can of hairspray a week to achieve the look of the era. She chose to attend Fordham because its Lincoln Center campus was within walking distance of the Times Square action. “I wanted to be a music journalist because I wanted to meet my favorite artists,” she says.

While at Fordham, Majewski interviewed bands for the student newspaper, The Observer, while also running a Duran Duran fanzine with more than 5,000 subscribers. That experience led her to a professional career in magazines, and she’d go on to hold the top job at Us Weekly, while also running a Duran Duran fanzine with more than 5,000 subscribers. That experience led her to a professional career in magazines, and she’d go on to hold the top job at Teen People and serve as an executive editor at Us Weekly, Entertainment Weekly, and YM.

But in 2011, Majewski decided to get out of the magazine business and focus primarily on an idea conceived with former colleague Jonathan Bernstein. The two had read an interview with Spandau Ballet’s Gary Kemp in which he revealed that the lyrics to their hit song “True” were inspired by Vladimir Nabokov’s novel Lolita. Says Majewski: “We were like, what if we did an entire book with nuggets like this?”

The result is Mad World, a history of the big-haired, synthesizer-loving new wave artists that provided the soundtrack of the 1980s. “I got my favorite artists to talk about the songs that mean the most to them, and I get to share it with so many like-minded people,” says Majewski. Indeed, there’s an audience that still adores what Majewski calls “the new classics.” At a September event at Brooklyn’s Rough Trade record store, some 50 fans turned up to watch Majewski interview Ultravox’s Midge Ure.

“It’s the first book that gives credibility to this era.” says Majewski, who is interested in working with Bernstein on a sequel to Mad World. She also wants to tackle a book on the late ’90s teen-pop explosion. But whichever era she’s chronicling, Majewski does it all with the enthusiasm of a fan, not the dagger of a critic. “I’m kind of a fan who made it,” she says.

—Joe DeLessio, FCLC ’06

Environment-Ministerial Standards Task Force by the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis to investigate clergy sexual misconduct in the archdiocese. He is a psychologist who specializes in sex-offender assessment and treatment and serves as president of the Minnesota Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers.

1996
FCRH: Karen Vahey (also GSE ’03) has joined New York Institute of Technology, where she is the dean of admissions and financial aid.

GBA: John Lofaso has joined Healthcare Finance Group as the chief financial officer.

LAW: David Vermont is the author of the novel The Last Confession of the Vampire Judas Iscariot (Kohler Books, 2014).

1997
FCRH: Jodi (Way) Connolly and her husband, Michael Connolly, welcomed a daughter, Lena Marie, on May 5. She joined her big brother, Mick, who was born in 2011.

Michelle Fadlalla Leo has been promoted to vice president, director of education and library marketing, at Simon & Schuster. She has worked for the company for 16 years.

Militza Vargas, Ph.D. (also GSAS ’99), and Alfredo Gonzalez Jr. (FCRH ’96), were married on June 21. She also published her first book, Undeterred, (FCRH: 1996) was promoted to partner at the accounting firm Marcum LP.

Anson Augustine (also GBA ’06) was promoted to partner at the accounting firm Marcum LP.

Nelson J. Rodriguez, an insurance and financial adviser for New York Life Insurance Company, has joined three boards of directors. He now serves as a trustee for the Fund for Greater Hartford and is a member of the boards of directors for International Hartford and the Knox Foundation.

LAW: John V. D’Amico has joined Dorf & Nelson LLP in Rye, N.Y., as an associate attorney in the firm’s litigation department.

Daniel J. Healy was promoted to partner at Anderson Kill in the law firm’s Washington, D.C., office.

1998
FCLC: Cara Lynn Shultz is the author of The Dark World (Harlequin Teen, 2014), the first book in a planned trilogy of supernatural teen romance novels. She’s the author of two other novels published by Harlequin Teen, Spellbound (2011) and Spellcaster (2012).

FCRH: James A. Carenza (also LAW ’01) has been promoted at Greenberg Traurig LLP, where he is of counsel in the real estate practice group of the firm’s Miami office.

Inoki Suarez has joined Varagon Capital Partners as managing director. Previously he was a senior vice president at GE Antares Capital.

GBA: Barbara (Yingling) Lewis has joined the Summit, N.J., office of Weichert Realtors as a sales associate.

GSAS: Christopher Duca was named 2014 president of the Professional Liability Underwriting Society (PLUS) after holding the positions of president-elect and PLUS International Conference chair. Founded in 1986, PLUS is an international nonprofit organization that aims to provide essential knowledge, thought leadership, and career development opportunities for people in the professional liability insurance industry.

CSB: Karen Vahey (also GSE ’03) was named managing director in its New York regional office of the company for 16 years.

Karen Kaiser joined the SEC in 2014, the first book in a planned trilogy of supernatural teen romance novels. She’s the author of two other novels published by Harlequin Teen, Spellbound (2011) and Spellcaster (2012).

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Daniel J. Healy was promoted to partner at Anderson Kill in the law firm’s Washington, D.C., office.

1999
LAW: Karen Kaiser was promoted from associate general counsel to senior vice president, general counsel, and corporate secretary at Associated Press. At AP, she has specialized in First Amendment issues, such as reporters’ privilege, the freedom of Information Act, access, libel defense, and government investigations of AP journalists.

Douglas E. McCann, managing principal of Fish & Richardson’s Delaware office, was named Life
Alumni Notes

Michael Dansbury, GSB ’04

When Michael Dansbury, GSB ’04, came back to Rose Hill in June for Jubilee, he had to dash down to his friend’s Manhattan apartment for a suit. “I was just going to do the day thing,” he says of the annual three-day alumni reunion, but he soon found himself reveling under the tent at the evening gala, staying over in the residence halls, and having brunch with old friends the next morning.

“It was cool just to be in a room with all those guys again,” he says. “Nobody changes.”

Friends may not have changed over the past 10 years, but, as Dansbury knows well, the career landscape certainly has.

After the global financial crisis shuttered Bear Stearns, where he was a vice president overseeing compliance, Dansbury headed to the University of California, Berkeley for an M.B.A. with the hopes of breaking into the tech game. He entered AT&T’s management training program in 2011, and today he’s a senior product marketing manager for big data at the telecom giant’s Silicon Valley offices.

Initiated in February 2013, the division runs like a startup within AT&T, complete with cool tech-startup culture. “We have Ping-Pong tables, a soccer net, TV,” he says. “Everything’s on wheels so you can move things around.”

Dansbury calls the exploding industry “a new world, untraveled territory.” Large data sets have become “an asset class in their own right,” according to Fortune magazine. And in June The Wall Street Journal noted that the quantity of data on AT&T’s network has grown 50,000 percent over the past six years. “Everything emits data, your phone, your car,” Dansbury says, and “everything that emits data is now trackable.” Now, he says, we have the tools to analyze that data. “You can ask a consumer something and they can give you an answer. But if you take a look at the data, the real interesting thing may be two or three levels beneath that.”

For all his success, the South Jersey native says he’s still adjusting to life on the West Coast. “Why does it take me five minutes to get a bagel?” he wonders. But he calls the Bay Area “completely unique and special,” and a great place to foster the entrepreneurial spirit.

Dansbury’s advice to young alumni? “I say, take a risk. Join a startup.... You’ll have more control over matters yourself. You’ll work with more folks your age,” he says. “It’s amazing to be at the forefront of something.”

—Nicole LaRosa
professionals and volunteers for their “unheralded and exceptional service for young people.” Davis is the founding principal of Pathways in Technology Early College High School, a school for grades nine to 14 that allows students to complete an associate degree within six years. President Obama and New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo (FCRH ’79) have praised the school as a model for higher education.

Marissa DiPetrillo and Craig Carpanzano are the co-authors of Mr. Peppercorn’s Postcards (Bryce Cullen Publishing, 2014; mrpeppercorn.com), a children’s book about an elementary school teacher who loves to travel during his summer vacations and write to his students about his adventures. The authors met while studying at Fordham’s Graduate School of Education. Craig is currently a literacy specialist in New York, and Marissa is a first-grade teacher in New Jersey.

Roberto Padilla, Ed.D. (also GSE ’05 and ’13), was named superintendent of schools and chief executive officer of the Newburgh Enlarged City School District in New York, which educates 12,000 students throughout its 12 schools. He previously served as principal of the New York City magnet school West Prep Academy.

2004
FCLC: Stephanie DiMaggio co-wrote and starred in the play 17 Orchard Point, a dark comedy that premiered on April 25 and enjoyed a four-week off-Broadway run at the Beckett Theatre on West 42nd Street in Manhattan. She also is a co-author, with Julie Sharbutt, of a feature film, Smart Girls, that has been optioned by Beech Hill Films.

Kristen Pecci and Robyn Bevlacqua were married in a ceremony on Long Island on April 25. Their wedding was a Fordham legacy affair, with Kristen’s brother, Rob Pecci (GSE ’08), serving as a member of the wedding party, and Kristen’s father. Robert Pecci (FCLC ’72), walking the bride down the aisle. The couple currently resides in New York, where Kristen, a designer for WB Corporate Secretaries and Governance Network, was named to head of claims for the international insurance operations of Argo Group International Holdings Ltd. He is based in Bermuda with operations in Brazil, Dubai, and Malta.

LAW: Kevin Williams was promoted to head of claims for the international insurance operations of Argo Group International Holdings Ltd. He is based in Bermuda with operations in Brazil, Dubai, and Malta.

2006
FCLC: Michele Clement and Brian McClure (GSE ’06) were married on Aug. 2 at the Immaculate Conception Church in Tuckahoe, N.Y.

Ellen Houlihan won a $10,000 prize from Tequila Avion for a commercial she directed for a viral-video competition co-sponsored by the beverage company and the film department at Art Center College of Design in Pasadena, Calif., where she is a graduate student. The commercial, “Taxman,” stars the actor Phillip Chorba. Her previous work includes the short film Joan’s Day Out, starring Oscar-nominated actress Sally Kellerman, and an Emmy Award-winning public service announcement for the Gay, Lesbian & Straight Education Network.

GBA: Tor Soderquist has been appointed deputy commissioner of information technology for the City of Yonkers. He had spent the past 12 years with Nasdaq OMX, where he served as director of global IT services from 2011 to 2013.

GSAS: Mark Doherty was ordained a Catholic priest by Archbishop Salvatore Cordileone on June 7 at St. Mary’s Cathedral in San Francisco. Father Doherty is the parochial vicar at St. Peter Parish in the city’s Mission District and the chaplain at Sacred Heart Cathedral Preparatory School.

GSB: Bryan Zabala and his wife, Alaina, celebrated the birth of their daughter, Olivia Marie Zabala, on June 29.

2007
FCLC: Anthony Ross received the U.S. State Department’s Critical Language Scholarship (CLS) for a fully funded summer of intensive language training in Wonju, South Korea. Approximately 10 percent of applicants are awarded the CLS each year.
Alumni Notes

Adrienne Yurgosky, a professional Pilates instructor, opened Westside Pilates, located on 91st Street and Broadway on the Upper West Side of Manhattan, offering private and duet sessions.

FCRH: Kira Bindrim was named managing editor at Newsweek. Previously she was the homepage editor for Reuters.com.

GSE: Philip H. Nisonoff, Ed.D., named the 15th president of the University of the Marketplace in America (2011), and a former visiting faculty member at the University of Pennsylvania.

GRE: Mary Hinton, Ph.D., previously she was the vice president for academic affairs at Mount Saint Mary College in New York. She is the author of The Commercial Church: Black Churches and the New Religious Marketplace in America (Lexington Books, 2011), and a former visiting faculty member at the University of Pennsylvania.

Parcon Monsignor Patrick Daniel Y. has been appointed portfolio manager at Morgan Stanley Private Wealth Management in New York.

GRE: Mary Hinton, Ph.D., has been named the 15th president of the College of Saint Benedict. She was previously the vice president for academic affairs at Mount Saint Mary College in New York. N.Y. She is the author of The Commercial Church: Black Churches and the New Religious Marketplace in America (Lexington Books, 2011), and a former visiting faculty member at the University of Pennsylvania.

Monsignor Patrick Daniel Y. Parcon has been appointed bishop of the Diocese of Talibon in Bohol, Philippines. He had been serving as vicar general and rector of San Carlos Borromeo Cathedral.

GSE: Philip H. Nisonoff, Ed.D., received a 2014 Distinguished Service Award from the New Jersey Association of School Business Officials. He was one of only six people to receive the award statewide. The association honored him for “his long-term, continuous, exemplary service” to the Emerson Board of Education, where he has served as business administrator, board secretary, and assistant superintendent since 1994.

GSE: Richard Nightingale has been appointed president and CEO of Westhab, a not-for-profit provider of housing and social services for homeless and low-income families in the New York City metropolitan area.

FCRH '13, GSE '14, is back at his high school alma mater. He’s teaching math at Cistercian Prep, supported by a fellowship from the Knowles Science Teaching Foundation, which provides STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) teachers with stipends for professional development.

When did you become interested in teaching?

I didn’t know I wanted to be a teacher until my freshman year at Fordham. It was taking an honors course on Euclidean geometry that just floored me. I understood the basics, and my peers started looking to me for help. I loved helping them build their own understanding.

Five years after leaving Dallas to attend Fordham University, T.J. Alcalá, FCRH ’13, was appointed portfolio manager at Morgan Stanley Private Wealth Management in New York. He is the author of The Life and Career of David Beckham (R.L. Publishers, 2014). A journalist and sports historian, she has worked for Sports Illustrated magazine, as a staff writer for the National Basketball Association, and as a National Football League writer for CBS Sports.

Vanessa Salgado was featured in the May 2014 issue of Dance Teacher Magazine for her work as a pre-ballet instructor in the children’s program at the Joffrey Ballet School in New York City. She is the author and illustrator of Crafterina (Craterina, 2012), a children’s storybook that includes dance and craft lessons. Since graduating from Fordham with a B.F.A. in dance, she has performed with Continuum Contemporary/Ballet and served on the faculties of the School at Steps, the Ballet Hispanico School of Dance, and the Aliley School.

TJ. Alcalá, First-Year Teacher

Five years after leaving Dallas to attend Fordham University, T.J. Alcalá, FCRH ’13, is back at his high school alma mater. He’s teaching math at Cistercian Prep, supported by a fellowship from the Knowles Science Teaching Foundation, which provides STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) teachers with stipends for professional development.

When did you become interested in teaching?

I didn’t know I wanted to be a teacher until my freshman year at Fordham. It was taking an honors course on Euclidean geometry that just floored me. I understood the basics, and my peers started looking to me for help. I loved helping them build their own understanding.

You’ve traveled a lot, both on your own and through Fordham’s Global Outreach program. How have your travels informed your desire to teach?

A family friend of mine traveled to Gulu in Uganda and spent some time at a high school there, where they have an annex for blind kids. She invited me to come, and I tutored a student named Bazil. He had to pass a national exam, and he was doing well in every subject except math. I was probably the least qualified person in the world to teach a blind student math, but I tried to come up with different ways to teach him, and he taught me Braille. After I got home, I received an email that said Bazil had passed the exam, and he was one of the first blind students in Uganda to ever do so. It was another step in the universe telling me that I should teach.

How will the Knowles fellowship help you in your early years as a teacher?

For the next five years I’ll be getting support, like grants for materials and professional development. And I’ll be a part of a huge community of teachers very excited about what they do and constantly trying to become better.

What do you think of the Common Core standards?

My experience with the Common Core was in my student teaching, in a middle school in the Bronx, M.S. 331, and a high school, Bronx Collegiate Academy. Those standards make sense. They are good goals. They’re very well thought out. The idea that we are assessing our students on these standards as if students are all the same is the scary part.

Interview conducted, edited, and condensed by Nicole LaRosa.
Andra Tomsa (also GSAS ’10) has developed a smartphone app called Spare Change (sparency.org) that allows restaurant and bar patrons to round up their bills and donate the additional change to the Food Bank for New York City and City Harvest.

LAW: David L. Hecht has joined Virgo Inc. as part of the intellectual property counsel. Previously, he was part of the global law firm Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan, where he was involved with intellectual property disputes including that of Apple v. Samsung.

PCS: Kristen Clonan was honored as one of the 2014 Top 40 Under 40 by the Irish Echo. She is currently a manager in the public relations and communications department of the Avon Foundation for Women.

2009
FCLC: Matthew Macri has been named marketing coordinator at AlliedTPC, Brite Spokes, a leisure travel and destination management company.

FCH: Lauren Crotsett has joined Rebellion Research, a technology-based asset management firm, as head of business development.

Elizabeth De Jesus graduated with a Master of Science degree in nursing from the family nurse practitioner program at Pace University. She is a registered nurse at Mount Sinai Hospital in New York City.

GRE: Cyndi Nienhaus, C.S.A., is a co-author of The Silent Schism: Healing the Serious Split in the Catholic Church (In Extenso Press, 2014). Sister Nienhaus is an assistant professor of religious education at Marian University in Fond du Lac, Wis.

GSB: Jimmy Tickey, secretary of the board for Valley United Way in Shelton, Conn., was named to the Fairfield County Business Journal’s 40 Under 40 for 2014. He is the founder of Jimmy’s World Network, a marketing and consulting agency.

Michael Visaggio and Rebecca Balassone (FCH ’09) were married on June 14 at the Providence Biltmore in Providence, R.I. Twenty Fordham alumni were in attendance. Michael is a compliance officer at UBS Financial Services and Rebecca is pursuing a master’s degree in speech pathology at New York University.

LAW: Jennifer Sneed married Andrea Fuggetta on April 19, 2014, at the Kensington and Chelsea Register Office in London.

Melissa Stewart has joined Outten & Golden LLP as a member of the class action practice group, working primarily on wage and hour and employment discrimination class actions. Previously she worked as an associate at Woodley & McGillivray.

2010
FCLC: Stacey Weingarten is the author of the musical fairytale Rescue Rue, which made its world premiere at the New York Children’s Theater Festival last April. The story is based on Stacey’s rescue dog’s journey from shelter to adoption and finding her “furever” home in New York City.

FCH: Sean T. McLaughlin and his colleague Yashua Bhatti at the Harvard Divinity School conducted research on a 13th-century French manuscript that was part of the “Medieval Scrolls at Harvard” exhibition held at the university’s Houghton Library from May to August. McLaughlin is a Master of Theological Studies degree at Boston College, where he is focusing his studies on church history.

Mary Young and Stephen M. Hill were married at the bride’s home parish, St. Anselm Church in Philadelphia, in June. Catherine Cramer (FCH ’09), Casey McDermott (FCH ’09), and Jennifer Kwapisz (FCH ’10) were among the bridesmaids. David de la Fuente (FCLC ’10), Timothy Lynch (GSB ’10), Joseph Mancuso (GSB ’10), and Matthew Cuff (FCH ’12) were among the groomsmen.

GSAS: Alison Walsh has joined the Retail Council of New York as government relations associate. She previously served as the assistant director of the state’s Regional Economic Development Councils.

GSB: Mukund Multani has been accepted into the full-time MBA program at the University of Chicago Booth School of Business.

LAW: Amisha Sharma has joined the Department of Homeland Security as an activist immigration lawyer to oversee and manage immigration litigation. She has worked at the American Civil Liberties Union, and is also on the board of directors of her local Planned Parenthood.

Alison H. Weinstein was named an associate in the commercial litigation and construction practice group at Neubert, Pepe & Monteith P.C., in New Haven, Conn.

2011
FCH: Sean Radomski received the George Wythe Award at William & Mary Law School’s diploma ceremony on May 11, where he also delivered welcoming remarks. The award is named in honor of George Wythe, William & Mary’s and the nation’s first professor of law, and is given each year by the law school to a graduating student in recognition of selfless service. Radomski, who served as president of the Student Bar Association in his third year at William & Mary, is currently a clerk for the Hon. Michael Hogan, a state court judge in New Jersey.

GSB: Jie Shen passed the CPA exam and is a certified public accountant with ParenteBeard, where she works on the firm’s audit team.

GSS: Nenissa Jenkins is the author of the self-published book Mysterious Me, a collection of her poetry and spoken word pieces. Her website is iselfexpress.com.

LAW: Megan Elizabeth Horn and Kamal Essaheb (LAW ’06) were married on May 3 at the Islamic Cultural Center of New York. Horn is a staff lawyer and policy analyst for Farmworker Justice, a Washington, D.C.-based nonprofit that seeks to empower migrant and seasonal farmworkers to improve their living and working conditions, immigration status, health, occupational safety, and access to justice. Essaheb is a policy lawyer at the National Immigration Law Center in Washington, D.C.

2012
FCH: Katie Corrado has joined WTIC in Hartford, Conn., as a multimedia journalist. She previously served as a reporter and weekend evening anchor at WSTM-WTVH in Syracuse, N.Y.

GSAS: Allen Strouse has published his first book of poems, Retractions and Revelations (Jerkpoet, 2014). He is a doctoral candidate in English at the CUNY Graduate Center, where he studies medieval verse.

GSB: John Pedicino has joined the advertising technology startup company Beanstock Media, where he works on strategic business development and client services. He previously worked at Universal McCann, where he was a member of the advertising agency’s decision science and analytics team supporting Johnson & Johnson.

GSS: Lindsey M. Braga married Lt. j.g. Joshua T. Tine, on Aug. 31, 2013, at St. Francis Xavier Church in East Providence, R.I. Lindsey works at Sentara Obici Hospital in Suffolk, Va. Joshua is a surface warfare officer in the U.S. Navy. The couple lives in Norfolk.

2013
FCH: Karen Guzman was accepted into the Math for America Fellowship in New York City. Math for America is a five-year teaching program in which fellows receive a full-tuition scholarship for a master’s degree in secondary mathematics education. In New York, fellows receive stipends adding up to $100,000 over five years.

Louis Marchetta has joined Massey Knakal Realty Services as an associate. Previously, he interned at SHVO in New York City, where he assisted in real estate marketing and development, and performed comparative analysis for projects.

LAW: Samuel Horowitz has been named an associate in the condominium and cooperative practice group at Certilman Balin Adler & Hyman LLP, in East Meadow, N.Y. He joined the firm in 2012 as an intern in the corporate and securities group.

2014
GSS: Sama Habib has been awarded a 2014 Thomas R. Pickering Graduate Foreign Affairs Fellowship. Pickering Fellows receive financial support toward a two-year, full-time master’s degree program in a field related to international affairs and diplomacy, and they participate in a domestic and an overseas internship. Upon the completion of their master’s degree, they commit to five years of service as a Foreign Service officer. Habib also received the Pamela Harriman Fellowship, which sponsored her internship this past summer at the U.S. Embassy in London. She is currently a graduate student at Columbia University, where she is pursuing a master’s degree in international affairs.

Alumni notes received after Sept. 15 will be published in the next issue of FORDHAM magazine.
Rams Roundup

“ONE ON ONE” TURNS 40
New York’s longest-running sports call-in show has hit another milestone. On Sept. 29, WFUV (90.7 FM, wfuv.org) celebrated the 40th anniversary of One on One, the Saturday afternoon sports show that’s been a professional launching pad for generations of Fordham students. The event, held in the Bronx, drew more than 100 alumni and guests, including a who’s who of sports broadcasting talent.

Mike Breen, FCRH ’83, signature voice of the NBA and the lead play-by-play announcer for the New York Knicks, paid tribute to the show’s longtime executive producer, Bob Ahrens. “The gratitude and the appreciation that we have for you,” he said, “and the impact that you’ve had on so many young sportscasters is absolutely remarkable.”

Ahrens, who joined WFUV in 1997, has overseen the show’s growth in listenerhip, staff, and influence. He works closely with a staff of 36, training them in hosting, producing, engineering, and writing for broadcast media.

To honor Ahrens, WFUV created the Bob Ahrens Award for Excellence in Sports Media, which will be presented annually to a Fordham student who best exemplifies “the high caliber of sports journalism that Bob Ahrens has come to represent.”

WFUV also honored the show’s founder, Malcolm Moran, FCRH ’75, veteran sportswriter and director of the National Sports Journalism Center at Indiana University.

Listen to One on One Saturdays from 1 to 4 p.m. at 90.7 FM, wfuv.org.

GRIT ON THE GRIDIRON
An enthusiastic Homecoming crowd of nearly 7,000 fans filled the stands at Jack Coffey Field on Sept. 13 to watch Fordham beat Rhode Island, 54-7.

Running back Chase Edmonds set a freshman school record, carrying the ball 22 times for 231 yards and four touchdowns. Among the fans cheering on Edmonds were some former Rams who waxed nostalgic about cold games, tough games, historic games, and plain old grit.

Andy Lukac, FCRH ’51, captain of one of the best football teams Fordham ever fielded, was among the former players honored at halftime of Fordham’s 2014 Homecoming game. Prior to the kickoff, scores of alumni participated in the 3rd Annual 5K Ram Run. And nearly 7,000 fans packed the stands at Jack Coffey Field to cheer the Rams on to victory. Photos by Chris Taggart

Andy Lukac, FCRH ’51 (top), captain of one of the best football teams Fordham ever fielded, was among the former players honored at halftime of Fordham’s 2014 Homecoming game. Prior to the kickoff, scores of alumni participated in the 3rd Annual 5K Ram Run. And nearly 7,000 fans packed the stands at Jack Coffey Field to cheer the Rams on to victory. Photos by Chris Taggart

Bob Ahrens has been the executive producer of One on One for 40 years. Photo by Lynda Shenkman Curtis

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Andy Lukac, FCRH ’51, captain of the 1950 Rams, said that although they rarely get much play in the press, his team was one of the finest Fordham ever had. The team had an 8-1 record. “In all the newspaper write-ups, they mention the Blocks of Granite and last year’s squad, which is great,” he said, “but they never mention 1950.”

Lukac said that none other than Vince Lombardi, FCRH ’37, recruited him and many of his teammates before leaving Fordham in 1949 to coach for West Point. The legacy of Fordham’s 1950 season got diluted after the football program ran into the red and disappeared from campus for 10 years. But three Rams—David Langdon, FCRH ’64, Don Ross, GSB ’65, and Bill Burke, FCRH ’65, LAW ’68—took a thousand dollars out of their bank accounts to buy uniforms and equipment, transforming the former rugby team into a football team.

Tom Johnson, FCRH ’61, was a fan of the newly revived Fordham team. He said he’s been buying season tickets since they first made them available, and he’s seen the Rams through the good, the bad, and even some ugly seasons. “There were many years where you used to pray for rain so you could leave the stands early,” he said. As Johnson spoke, the skies let loose and the DJ under the Homecoming tent blasted Creedence Clearwater Revival’s “Have You Ever Seen the Rain.”

Although the Rams’ playing was anything but ugly, fans started to leave. Except, of course, senior Ian Williams’ mother. Cheryl Williams flew up from West Palm Beach, Florida, for the game, and she wasn’t about to let a little rain deter her. “Go Ian! Go Fordham!” she cheered from beneath a red umbrella.

—Tom Stoelker
GAITLEY’S BELIEVERS SET TO DEFEND TITLE

For the Fordham women’s basketball team, 2013–2014 was a magical season, one that will be hard to replicate. Led by head coach Stephanie Gaitley and senior co-captains Erin Rooney and Abigail Corning, the Rams posted a 25-8 record and beat the University of Dayton to capture the program’s first Atlantic 10 championship.

This season, the Rams will be defending their title without Corning and Rooney, and with five new players. In a preseason Atlantic 10 coaches’ poll, Dayton was selected to win the title; Fordham was picked to finish fifth. Gaitley said the team’s mental preparation will be critical. “We have a target on us [as defending champs], and we have a very challenging out-of-conference schedule,” she said, “so we’re going to have to be mentally tough.”

The Rams’ first league match is set for Sunday, Jan. 4, at 3:30 p.m., when they’ll host the University of Richmond in a game that will be shown live on the CBS Sports Network. It’s the first of four nationally televised games the Rams are set to play in 2015.

THE BIRTH OF A BILLION-DOLLAR INDUSTRY

Seventy-five years ago, on September 30, 1939, Fordham competed in the first live televised broadcast of a football game.

That afternoon, NBC sent two iconoscope cameras (recently patented by RCA), an announcer, and a crew to Randall’s Island Stadium. It would not have been strange for the 9,000 or so fans in attendance to see cameras on the sidelines. But these cameras were different. They sent a live signal to a relay station 10 miles from the stadium and then, by cable, to the top of the Empire State Building, where a large transmitter broadcast the game on W2XBS (now WNBC, Channel 4) to the lucky few New Yorkers who owned a TV in those days. It’s estimated that approximately 500 people saw the broadcast, including some visitors to the NBC pavilion at the 1939 New York World’s Fair.

Bill Stern, one of the leading radio broadcasters of the day, handled the announcing duties and soon learned the difference between radio and television. Stern, who was used to spicing up his descriptions of plays for radio audiences, found he couldn’t do the same when viewers were able to see the play he was announcing. His television broadcasting career was short-lived.

As for the action on the field, Fordham beat Waynesburg, 34-7. Later that fall, the NFL broadcast its first game on TV, when the Brooklyn Dodgers played the Philadelphia Eagles at Ebbets Field. And on Feb. 28, 1940, Fordham made TV history again, playing in the first live TV broadcast of a college basketball game. That day, however, the Rams were unlucky. They lost to Pittsburgh at Madison Square Garden.

—Joe DiBari

Prolific Scorer: Last season, Jon Severe (left) brought some offensive spark to the men’s basketball team, setting a Fordham freshman scoring record with 536 points. This year, he’s joined by seven newcomers, including last year’s New England Prep Player of the Year: Eric Paschall, a freshman guard the New York Post has called “a versatile inside-out threat capable of making an immediate impact.”

This winter, the Rams are set to play 16 of their 29 regular-season games in the friendly confines of the historic Rose Hill Gym. They’re also scheduled to face St. John’s at Madison Square Garden on Saturday, Dec. 13. And on Monday, Dec. 22, they’ll face Manhattan at the Barclays Center in Brooklyn.

For schedules, tickets, and the latest sports news, go to fordham.edu/athletics.
In Memoriam

The Fordham University community extends its deepest sympathy to the loved ones of recently deceased alumni and friends. A special Memorial Mass is celebrated every November at the Blessed Rupert Mayer, S.J., Chapel on the Lincoln Center campus, 113 West 60th Street, to remember deceased alumni and other members of the Fordham family.

1946
In Memoriam

Jean Carey Tollini, MC
Anne Jackson Hester, MC
Martin T. Muenzen, Ph.D., UGE, GSAS '44

John J. Keating Jr., FCRH, LAW '51
John J. Lundy Sr., UGE, GSAS '57, PAR
Thomas A. McNamara, GSB
Laurence J. Rice Sr., FCRH, UGE '51
Vincent R. Bain, FCRH
Leonard J. Baker, FCRH
Roy H. Brown, M.D., FCRH
Mary O’Donoghue
Cunningham, UGE
Thomas E. Durkin Jr., UGE, LAW '52, PAR
Philip S. Giunta, GSB
Eileen M. Hurley, UGE, LAW '50
Thomas Martin Lahiff, FCRH
Hugh F. Masterson, GSB
Ellen Mary McKenna, GSE
John W. McNulty, FCRH
Vincent Daniel Meenan, GSB
Paul B. Murray, LAW
Rudolph H. Schellenberger, GSB
Morris R. Sherman, LAW
Frank J. Addesso, PHA
Franc A. Anello, FCRH
James F. Connelly Sr., UGE
George M. Dickie Jr., FCRH
Thomas Golden, R.S.H.M., MC
Edward J. O’Connor, FCRH
Warren Harding Reynolds, Ph.D., GSAS, GSAS '59
Ambrose J. Ryan, FCRH
Henry T. Siudmak, PHA
Alfred Enrique Solis, GSB
Hugh J. Battersby, FCRH
David Duncan Brunski, GSB
Margaret Copeland, UGE
Edward J. Heaney, FCRH
George F. Lillquist, FCRH
Patrick James Magee, GSB, PAR
James B. Mallison, FCRH

1952
Elinor Strohm Matts, MC
Myles H. Mierswa Sr., FCRH
James F. Power, GSB
Salvatore J. Rubino, PHA
Beatrice Faux Shields, MC
Francis R. Bowers, F.S.C., GSAS
Ralph N. Capone, GSB, LAW '55
Thomas H. Healey, FCRH, LAW '58
Anne M. Markey, GSE
Thomas Gerard Morrissey, GSS
James Dolan Reid, Ph.D., FCRH, GSAS '54
Francis B. Semanski, FCRH
John Raymond Sturtz, GSS
Sebastian L. Suriani, GSB
Joseph Lawrence Tira, FCRH
Joan Whalen Brown, UGE
Charles J. Christensen, PHA
Louis Ralph Gaudio, M.D., FCRH
Ann P. Kilfoil, GSS
Charles C. McGorry, GSB
William P. Morrogh, UGE
Ronald G. Muckstadt, GSB
John A. Poggi, M.D., FCRH
George A. Stafford, GSB
Berniece B. Antal, GSAS
John Joseph Benner, GSB
Alberta Clare Buchanan, GSS
James J. Cavanagh, M.D., FCRH
Mary T. Chubb, UGE
Helene O’Toole Curran, MC
James P. Duffy, FCRH
John J. Kelly, FCRH
Burton R. Lifland, LAW
Anthony J. Malatestinic, FCRH
Ann Fitzpatrick McNierney, GSE
Philip T. Sciorrino, Ph.D., GSB
Kathleen J. Barnabo, UGE
Anne L. DeStefano, UGE
Paul Joseph Finn Sr., FCRH
Barbara Grace Lofaro, MC
Robert F. Muir, GSB
William F. Porr, PHA
Gloria R. Semente, UGE
Robert V. Spelleri, FCRH
Walter X. Stanton Jr., FCRH
James G. Tallon Sr., FCRH
Geraldine O’Connor Wilson, GSS
Loyola Barnter, O.P., UGE
Carol Tobin Blake, MC

1955
Beverly Palmer LaBelle, MC
Arthur J. Lennon Jr., M.D., FCRH
Charles Graham Nicholson, GSB
Barbara Beardall Reynolds, MC
Genevieve Reilly Bauer, GSAS
George B. Brosan, GSB
Ida F. O’Grady Clark, GSS, PAR
Ben Eng, GSAS
James A. Salmon, GSB
Donald J. Christesen, GSB
Marion E. Kissel Cowden, UGE
Donald J. Devine, S.J., JES, GSAS '60
John James Kelly, GSS, GSE '63
Arthur R. Kennedy Jr., GSB
John J. McDermott, LAW
James R. McNally, GSS
Kevin J. O’Leary, UGE
William P. Carroll, LAW
Robert P. Corcoran, GSS
John F. Healy, UGE
Ellen Hublitz, O.P., UGE
Margaret Mary McCann, UGE
Joseph S. Rooney, S.J., JES, GSAS '63
Frederic L. Sherman, GSB
John G. Gleason, GSAS
Francis Harry Arnone, GSB
Henry I. Benack, GSE, GSE '82
William Robert Boris, GSB
Thomas G. Bouffard, Ph.D., UGE, GSAS '70
Raymond P. Carew, GSB
James J. Frayne, LAW
Jeanette S. Testa, UGE
Spyros M. Vratsanos, Ph.D., GSAS
Robert J. Wilson, PHA
Ralph J. Di Viro, PHA
Earl J. Kiesel, UGE
Donald F. Lyons, GSB
Charles F. O’Donnell, Ph.D., GSAS, GSAS '70
Robert N. Mattson, LAW
Joseph P. Quinlan, FCRH, UGE, PAR
Philip J. Votto Jr., PHA
Anna Mae W. Burke, Ph.D., GSAS
William J. Flynn, S.S., GSAS
Dennis Michael Kennelly, GSB
Carole A. Pieroni, Ph.D., GSAS
Seaborn Lowrey Varnado III, Ph.D., GSAS

1956
Hugh J. Battersby, FCRH
Patrick James Magee, FCRH
Alberta Clare Buchanan, GSS
James J. Cavanagh, M.D., FCRH
Mary T. Chubb, UGE
Helene O’Toole Curran, MC
James P. Duffy, FCRH
John J. Kelly, FCRH
Burton R. Lifland, LAW
Anthony J. Malatestinic, FCRH
Ann Fitzpatrick McNierney, GSE
Philip T. Sciorrino, Ph.D., GSB
Kathleen J. Barnabo, UGE
Anne L. DeStefano, UGE
Paul Joseph Finn Sr., FCRH
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Gloria R. Semente, UGE
Robert V. Spelleri, FCRH
Walter X. Stanton Jr., FCRH
James G. Tallon Sr., FCRH
Geraldine O’Connor Wilson, GSS
Loyola Barnter, O.P., UGE
Carol Tobin Blake, MC

1957
Beverly Palmer LaBelle, MC
Arthur J. Lennon Jr., M.D., FCRH
Charles Graham Nicholson, GSB
Barbara Beardall Reynolds, MC
Genevieve Reilly Bauer, GSAS
George B. Brosan, GSB
Ida F. O’Grady Clark, GSS, PAR
Ben Eng, GSAS
James A. Salmon, GSB
Donald J. Christesen, GSB
Marion E. Kissel Cowden, UGE
Donald J. Devine, S.J., JES, GSAS ’60
John James Kelly, GSE, GSE ’63
Arthur R. Kennedy Jr., GSB
John J. McDermott, LAW
James R. McNally, GSS
Kevin J. O’Leary, UGE
William P. Carroll, LAW
Robert P. Corcoran, GSS
John F. Healy, UGE
Ellen Hublitz, O.P., UGE
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Philip J. Votto Jr., PHA
Anna Mae W. Burke, Ph.D., GSAS
William J. Flynn, S.S., GSAS
Dennis Michael Kennelly, GSB
Carole A. Pieroni, Ph.D., GSAS
Seaborn Lowrey Varnado III, Ph.D., GSAS
Sharon Lindsay, TMC ’70, a member of the Fordham University Board of Trustees from 1994 to 2000, died on May 21 in Westchester County, New York, where she served as trustee and deputy mayor for the Village of Scarsdale. She was 65 years old.

“She have lost one of Fordham’s bright lights,” said Joseph M. McShane, S.J., president of the University. “Sharon Lindsay brought many gifts to Fordham, including a lively intelligence, an astonishing capacity for hard work, and a fundamental decency.”

Lindsay graduated from Fordham in 1970 with bachelor’s and master’s degrees in political science. She went on to study law at Harvard University and worked as a litigation attorney for Milbank, Tweed, Hadley & McCloy. From there she became a vice president and assistant general counsel at J.P. Morgan & Co.

“Sharon never talked about her own accomplishments,” said George Lindsay, her husband of more than 40 years. “She talked about the accomplishments of her children.” Her studies at Fordham provided her with “very broad” interests that included urban planning and public education. Those interests drew her toward law, he said, noting that his wife was very grateful to the University for the scholarships she had received. She believed in “paying it back,” he said.

Besides serving as a Fordham trustee, Lindsay was president of the League of Women Voters of Westchester and of the Westchester Symphony Orchestra. She also chaired Carnegie Hall’s Link Up committee, which funds music instruction for public school students. Lindsay is survived by her husband; two children, William Lindsay and Kim Friedman; and a granddaughter, Cora Winnett Friedman.

—Joanna Mercuri
New York native John Johnson, FCLC ’02, was a Fordham junior when he began interning with Joey Parnes Productions, helping to coordinate the annual Tony Awards show. Thirteen years later, he’s a Broadway producer with three Tonys to his credit. As one of the executive producers of A Raisin in the Sun, he took home the 2014 award for best revival of a play. He’s also a producer of A Gentleman’s Guide to Love & Murder, which won the award for best musical. He earned his first Tony in 2013, when Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike won best play.

Have theatergoers’ interests changed since you’ve been in the business? They’ve definitely gotten smarter. The amount of content that we are producing is a lot. People have a big range of options. Normally there would be one or two A-list stars that would come to Broadway in a half-season. Now, this half-season alone, it’s Hugh Jackman, Bradley Cooper, Glenn Close, James Earl Jones. You don’t need to be an industry insider to hear about what’s happening so early on with a show anymore.

Is there a bigger risk with producing an original show versus a revival? Oh, always. Original shows like A Gentleman’s Guide or Vanya and Sonia come with higher risk, but they also come with a reward, that you get to participate in the life of this show. At the same time, we did A Raisin in the Sun with Denzel Washington (FCLC ’77), and that was a huge success. If you have a known title or a known star, it helps build the machine easier.

What qualities should a successful producer possess? A certain amount of levelheadedness and confidence. Even with an amazing director, an amazing design team, amazing writers, amazing actors, the producer has to be the one at the end of the day that says, “We’re going to do this show. I know we have to work on this, but we’ve got to do it.” So you have to be a risk taker.

Does success bring its own set of challenges? Every year you are doing a new set of shows that present challenges in terms of how to sell tickets, how to establish an audience, how to work with the artists. The challenge for A Gentleman’s Guide now is how do we keep the spotlight on us as the sort of reigning champ? There’s no getting to that place where we can kick back and have some cocktails and just rake in the money.

How do you get a show from script to Broadway? Obviously the goal for a lot of people is Broadway, but there are also many shows that don’t go to Broadway and have a great life in the regional theater circuit or in Chicago or off-Broadway. There’s no exact formula to it, and I think that’s what makes it exciting, because you can’t predict it.

What do you have in the works? We have This Is Our Youth and A Delicate Balance. We’re working on Larry David’s Fish in the Dark, a play that he wrote and he’s going to star in. Then a production of David Hare’s Skylight with Bill Nighy and Carey Mulligan, the Gentleman’s Guide tour, and hopefully some other things I wish I could tell you about.

Interview conducted, edited, and condensed by Rachel Buttner.
How Their Garden Grows: A batch of basil is ready for harvest at a hydroponic greenhouse run by BrightFarms, a company with an innovative business model and a plan to bring urban agriculture to the supermarket. (See page 26.)

Photo by Bud Glick

Benefiting the Fordham Founder’s Undergraduate Scholarship Fund and Honoring Edward M. Stroz, GSB ’79, and Sally Spooner William J. Toppeta, Esq., FCRH ’70, PAR, and Debra J. Toppeta, PAR

Monday, 23 March 2015 | Black Tie
6:30 p.m. Cocktails | 7:15 p.m. Dinner
Waldorf Astoria New York

For more information, please contact Liz Manigan, Assistant Vice President for University Events and Stewardship, at manigan@fordham.edu or 212-636-7442.

Proceeds benefit the Fordham Founder’s Undergraduate Scholarship Fund.

The Fourteenth Annual Fordham Founder’s Award Dinner

Joseph M. McShane, S.J., president of Fordham, poses for a selfie with some of the 2014 Fordham Founder’s Scholars.
Does Fordham have your correct contact information? If not, please contact the Office of Alumni Relations at 800-314-ALUM or alumnioffice@fordham.edu.

An American Masterpiece: Don DeLillo, FCRH '58, has revisited his 1997 novel *Underworld*, offering notes and reflections on nearly half of the book’s 800-plus pages. On Dec. 2, Christie’s New York plans to auction the annotated book to benefit PEN American Center, the largest branch of PEN International, the global association that protects persecuted writers around the world. See more of DeLillo’s annotated pages at fordham.edu/magazine.