Special Olympics’ Shriver, Canadian broadcasting icon Peter Mansbridge to speak at May commencement ceremonies

Mansbridge will speak at the graduate school’s commencement Saturday, May 16, in the upper level of the Gallagher Center on the NU campus. The ceremony begins at 11 a.m.

In addition to speaking, Mansbridge will receive an honorary degree at the undergraduate commencement; Shriver will have an honorary degree at the graduate ceremonies.

Shriver is the son of Eunice Kennedy Shriver, founder of the Special Olympics. He has led the organization for the past 11 years. Last year, Special Olympics celebrated its 40th anniversary with almost 3 million athletes in more than 180 countries around the world. Before joining Special Olympics, Shriver created the New Haven (Conn.) Public Schools’ Social Development Project, now considered the leading school-based prevention effort in the United States.

Mansbridge, a native of London, England, has covered events such as the fall of the Berlin Wall, the deaths of Princess Diana and Pope John Paul II, and the war in Afghanistan. He has held the title of chief correspondent and evening news anchor of CBC television news for 20 years.

Get ready to STOMP!
NU hosts third annual run, fun walk

Niagara University will host a five-kilometer run and fun walk called “Stomp Out Stigma” on Sunday, April 26. All proceeds will benefit the Mental Health Association in Niagara County Inc. The event is co-sponsored by the university’s Campus Programming Board, Student Government Association and the student chapter of Active Minds.

The first 200 preregistered participants will receive a t-shirt and commemorative drawstring backpack. The cost of the event is $18 for the general public. NU employees and alumni, however, can register for the special price of $15. Niagara students can enter the “Stomp” for $10. Entries must be postmarked by April 17. Individuals may also sign up on the day of the race for $22.

See Stomp, page 7
Dr. Henrik Borgstrom, associate professor of French, directed the April 4 performance of “Lettres de Femmes” at the University at Buffalo Center for the Arts in Amherst. The play, which Borgstrom conceived and adapted for the stage, consists of a series of letters written by French women over nine centuries. The UB performance launches a one-year academic tour to universities across the United States.

Mary Ellen Bardsley, assistant professor of education, presented at the Association for Childhood Education International Annual International Conference March 18 in Chicago. The presentation was, “But This Is Math Class: Integrating Literacy Strategies into Mathematics.”

Dr. Morgan Brooks, NCC, drug and alcohol counselor; and Monica Romeo, LMHC, mental health counselor, presented their recently conducted research at the American Counseling Association’s national conference in Charlotte, N.C., on March 21. Brooks and Romeo discussed their investigation of the prevalence of personality disorders within the college student population, the safety issues associated with these students, and the treatment options that can maximize personal, academic and social outcomes.

Dr. Thomas Chambers, associate professor of history, presented a talk entitled “The Emergence of Heritage Tourism: Revolutionary War Battlefields and Memory in the Early Republic” on March 31 at Harvard University. The session was hosted by Harvard’s freshman seminar program and the Committee on Degrees in History and Literature.

Chambers was also awarded a Mellon Research Fellowship at the Virginia Historical Society. It provides a stipend for one week of residence and research at the VHS in Richmond. His project, “Lafayette, Yorktown and Memory in Early Republic Virginia,” investigates the contrast between Virginians’ enthusiastic reception of the Marquis de Lafayette during his 1824 tour and the relative lack of interest in remembering or commemorating the Yorktown battlefield, where Lafayette earned much of his glory, during the early republic.

Mikhail Melnik, assistant professor of economics, was a participant in the Bloomberg News team of surveyed economists on the economic conditions and forecasting. The news organization conducts monthly surveys of economists and then cites the average values in their articles. He has been part of the monthly survey since January. Melnik was also invited to join the Federal Reserve Bank of New York and the Cornell University Industrial and Labor Relations School monthly local economic roundtable beginning in March. The purpose of the roundtable is to gather a small group of research-oriented analysts actively thinking about emerging economic and policy issues relevant to the Buffalo area and upstate New York.

Maureen Salfi, Jennifer Garey, Barbara Corcoran and Susan Barber of the Office of Financial Aid volunteered an afternoon on Feb. 17 at Niagara Falls High School to assist more than 40 families in completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid as part of the high school’s first annual “College Goal Sunday” program. “College Goal Sunday” is a national program that has assisted countless families in their pursuit of higher learning. Financial aid professionals volunteer their services to help students and their parents complete the FAFSA, which is the first step in accessing financial aid to help pay for a college education.

NU mourns

Douglas Towey, brother of Brother Augustine Towey, C.M., director emeritus of Niagara University Theatre — March 11.

MISA welcomes new grad assistant

Nasreen Akhtar is the new graduate assistant in the Office of Multicultural and International Student Affairs. Akhtar is a Niagara Falls native and a graduate of Niagara University’s College of Business Administration. She is currently taking graduate classes in elementary education.

Akhtar’s new post will require her to assist the university in reaching some of the many diversity initiatives noted in the recent strategic plan. One current project is the development of a comprehensive diversity Web site. The site will list cultural activities in and around campus; resource materials for faculty, students and staff; faculty research projects; and courses with the cultural diversity designation.
Lenovo, two NU students to be honored at College of Business Administration annual dinner

Tom Looney, vice president and general manager of Lenovo North America, will give the keynote address at the 19th annual Niagara University Business Appreciation Dinner on April 21 at 7 p.m. at the Conference Center Niagara Falls. Looney will also accept the Corporate Leadership Award.

Two Niagara students, Christopher Sargent and Brenna Zerfas, will also be recognized at the dinner. Sargent, of Kent, N.Y., will receive the college’s Outstanding MBA Student Award; Zerfas, of West Valley, N.Y., will be named the college’s Outstanding Undergraduate Student.

Handling Specialty, located in Grimsby, Ontario, and Niagara Falls, N.Y., is exclusively dedicated to the custom design and manufacture of material handling systems for demanding applications. The company is considered the premier source for engineered-to-order lifting, tilting and traversing equipment.

Founded in 1930, Rodale is the world’s leading health and wellness content company, with print, digital, and video properties that resonate with millions of customers around the world. It is home to some of the most successful and well-regarded health and wellness brands, including “Men’s Health,” “Prevention,” “Runner’s World,” “Women’s Health,” “Best Life,” “Bicycling,” “Mountain Bike,” “Organic Gardening” and “Running Times.”

The Bonadio Group comprises a set of different companies, alliances and strategic partnerships that deliver over 50 different services. Complementing this structure is the diverse spectrum of law firms, banks, government officials and programs, regulators, insurers, and venture capitalists.

For more information and reservations, contact the college at 716-286-8050.

College of Education honors several at dinner

The College of Education will hold its annual recognition awards dinner on April 30 at the Niagara Falls Country Club. This year’s award recipients are:

- U.S. Administrator: Paul J. Casseri, high school principal, Lewiston Porter Central School District
- Canadian Administrator: Michael W. Pautler, director of education, Halton Catholic District School Board
- Canadian Teacher: Debbie Kandilas, St. Joachim Catholic Elementary School, Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic District School Board
- U.S. Counselor: Dr. Maryanna Magdalina Fezer, Tonawanda City School District
- Canadian Mentor/Counselor: Pat Mete, secondary program consultant, Niagara Catholic District School Board
- Community Leader: Carol G. Houwaart-Diez, president, United Way of Niagara

If you would like ticket information, please call Marian Fisher at 286-8560 or e-mail mlf@niagara.edu.

NU kicks off “Philanthropy Week” — The Office of Annual Giving and graduate assistant Jaclyn Rossi (at left, seated at table) put together a new tradition that kicked off on March 17. “Philanthropy Week” took place in the Gallagher Center and aimed to educate undergraduate students about the importance of giving back to the university as young alumni. The senior class challenge, called SLAM (Students Leaving A Mark), was also promoted throughout the week. This challenge allows seniors from the Class of 2009 the opportunity to give back to Niagara before they graduate. The event, which wrapped up on March 19, will take place once a semester for what is hoped is years to come.
But what can I do?
By Bob Pfiel, director of human resources

At the risk of being mistaken for a cheerleader, I think we are all very fortunate to work here at Niagara University. I especially appreciate the sense of community and caring at Niagara. One could easily believe that this is commonly found with our employers. Having worked elsewhere, I can assure you that is not the case. Not to state the obvious, but these are very difficult economic times. Investments have declined precipitously, employment opportunities have declined, and unemployment has markedly increased. Many of us now avoid checking our 403(b) statements.

What can each of us do to help the university continue to be one of the best employers in Western New York? What each of us does every day not only reflects upon the university, but can send a positive message to our “customers.” We all have customers, whether they are internal or external to the university. They may be students, applicants, parents, visitors or co-workers. When we transfer a telephone call, make sure it goes through to another person and not voicemail. Make that extra effort to answer a question or give directions. What is obvious to you may be totally new and confusing to someone else. Take ownership of a problem and see that it receives the attention it truly deserves. You will be better for it and it will be appreciated by others. If you see someone on campus and they appear lost or in need of directions, take a moment; helpful directions delivered with a friendly smile send a welcoming message. I recall in industry the term “throw it over the fence.” This meant get it out of my area, I don’t want to be bothered, it’s not my problem. We can ill afford such an attitude here at Niagara University.

Niagara University has a remarkable history of making contributions locally, nationally and internationally. The strength of Niagara University is our positive and caring attitude. It is a perfect example of the whole being greater than the sum of its parts.

Employee of the month: Michele Gansworth

Michele Gansworth, administrative assistant in the Office of the Executive Vice President/Vice President for Academic Affairs, has been named employee of the month for March 2009. A native of Lewiston, Gansworth has been in the office since 2005. She was hired at Niagara in August 2003 as an assistant in the Office of Human Resources.

In a nomination, Gansworth was cited for her ability to take on multiple tasks. “Michele is masterful with managing a wide array of demands and responsibilities in our office,” it said. “She always exudes a very friendly and helpful demeanor.”

Another nominator lauded Gansworth as an employee who makes working at the university a positive experience. “Michele is extremely professional and quite competent in her position yet is consistently seeking opportunities to enhance her knowledge and contribution,” it said.

Gansworth resides in Niagara Falls with her husband, Gus. She has two children.
2009 Summer Research Stipend recipients

Dr. Mary Ellen Bardsley, assistant professor of education: “Pre-school Teacher’s Perceptions of Early Mathematics”

Dr. Michael Barg, assistant professor of mathematics: “Inclusion of Flexural Energy in a Model of an Inflated Wrinkled Membrane”

Dr. Michael Barnwell, assistant professor of philosophy: “Freedom on Earth, Freedom in Heaven, and St. Thomas Aquinas”

Dr. Thomas Chambers, associate professor of history: “Memory without Tourism—Guilford Courthouse and Southern Memory”

Dr. Philip Collington, associate professor of English: “There is Example for It: Social Scripts, Literary Precedents, and Narrative Subjectivity in “Twelfth Night””

Dr. Kenneth Culton, assistant professor of sociology: “Using Subculture to Teach Core Concepts in Sociology”

Dr. James Delaney, assistant professor of philosophy: “The Ethical and Metaphysical Implications of Human Genetic Enhancement”

Dr. Diana Falco, assistant professor of criminal justice: “Measuring Public Opinion: The Development of a More Comprehensive Scale to Assess Variation in Death Penalty Views”

Dr. Mark Gallo, associate professor of biology: “Molecular Analysis of Staphylococci from White Tail Deer and Cattle”

Dr. Mustafa Gokcek, assistant professor of history: “Trans-Imperial Networks: Nationalist Muslim Intellectuals of Russia in the Ottoman Empire”

Edna Leticia Hernandez de Hahn, assistant professor of education: “The Effects of Hypertext/Hypermedia-Supported Knowledge Organizers on the Construction of Conceptual and Procedural Meaning in an Educational Research Classroom” (Scholarship of Teaching Grant)

Tenpao Lee awarded third Fulbright Scholarship

Dr. Tenpao Lee, professor of commerce in the College of Business Administration, has been awarded a Fulbright Senior Specialists Grant for study this summer at Blantyre International University in Malawi, Africa. A Fulbright senior specialist since 2002, this is Lee’s third Fulbright scholarship.

Lee will be assisting Blantyre in building its supply-chain program, especially in the area of entrepreneurship development. He will present lectures at the graduate and undergraduate levels, consult with administrators and instructors of post-secondary institutions on faculty development, and develop and/or assess academic curricula or educational materials.

Lee, a Grand Island resident who has taught at Niagara since 1987, was awarded his first Fulbright scholarship in 2000 to lecture and conduct research in Taiwan on its railroad system. He spent five months teaching at the National Chaio-Tung University, his alma mater.

In 2003, he returned to Taiwan and the National Chaio-Tung University to lead a faculty workshop about measuring and improving the quality of business education.

The Fulbright Scholar Program, the U.S. government’s flagship exchange program, was proposed to the U.S. Congress in 1945 by then-freshman Sen. J. William Fulbright of Arkansas. He viewed the program as a much-needed vehicle for mutual understanding that would provide the opportunity for leaders and future leaders to observe and better comprehend the institutions, cultures and societies of other countries and peoples. The Fulbright legislation was approved by Congress and signed into law by President Harry Truman in 1946. Since then, more than 83,000 American Fulbrighters have studied, taught or done research in more than 100 countries around the world.
What you and your family need to know about MRSA

By Lori A. Soos, RN, BSN, director of health services

Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus is a bacterium responsible for difficult-to-treat infections in humans. Some staph infections are antibiotic resistant, meaning that only certain antibiotics will treat the infection. MRSA is one of these. According to the Journal of Infectious Disease, 2006, approximately 32 percent (89.4 million persons) and 0.8 percent (2.3 million persons) of the U.S. population is colonized with staph aureus and MRSA respectively. It is believed that approximately 60 percent of all staph infections are MRSA. First diagnosed in 1961 in the United Kingdom, it was not until 1981 that it first appeared in the United States. Through the years this bacterium has mutated several times, making it resistant against antibiotics used previously to treat it. Thus, it has been named the “superbug.”

There are two forms of MRSA — hospital or community acquired. Community-acquired MRSA, also known as community-associated MRSA, is referred to as infections that individuals pick up in their community while going about their daily routine. Staph bacterium is found everywhere and can infect everyone. Symptoms depend on where you are infected. Most common is a mild infection of the skin causing a pimple or boil. This area may become reddened, inflamed, warm, and tender. It is possible to have a more serious infection in an open wound or sore that may spread to the bloodstream, lungs and urinary tract system. If left untreated, death may occur.

Remember the five C’s, MRSA’s modes of transmission:

- Skin-to-skin contact with someone who is infected
- Crowded living conditions
- Compromised skin
- Exposure to contaminated items and surfaces
- Lack of cleanliness

Individuals with a decreased immune system, the young and the elderly populations, students of all ages, health care professionals, family members of those diagnosed with MRSA, and athletes, particularly those in contact sports and weight training, are at increased risk for contracting MRSA. Diagnosis and treatment of MRSA can be provided by your primary care provider. A wound culture of the infected site is necessary so susceptibility to an antibiotic may be obtained. These results may take up to three days; however, your doctor will prescribe an antibiotic to treat the infection based on his clinical findings.

If necessary, he/she may change the antibiotic once your culture report comes back.

Prevention and limiting your exposure to MRSA is simple:

- Wash your hands thoroughly and frequently with soap and water or an antimicrobial alcohol hand sanitizer. Remember to sing the alphabet song or “Yankee Doodle” to ensure adequate scrubbing.
- Cover your cuts with a Band-Aid.
- Do not share personal items such as razors or towels.
- Wipe down the gym equipment before and after use.
- Dry your clothes and towels in the dryer.
- Clean home and work surfaces with disinfectants thoroughly and frequently.
- Open up your home and office windows daily to allow fresh air in.

Remember that staph bacteria, including MRSA, has been and remains a common cause of skin infections. Knowing how to decrease your exposure and prevent infection is essential in preventing the transmission of this bacterium to you, your family and your co-workers.

What do you want to know? E-mail your ideas to lsoos@niagara.edu.

Honoring purple seniors — Niagara University athletics took some time before recent games to honor its seniors. On March 1, the men’s basketball team feted Benson Egemonye, and on March 7, the men’s hockey team honored six seniors that have all been integral parts of the program: forwards Vince Rocco and Ted Cook, forward/defenseman Armando Scarlato, defensemen Travis Anderson and Dan Sullivan, and goaltender Juliano Pagliero. Each senior presented his parents with a bouquet of flowers (Rocco is pictured at right). Niagara’s women’s icers honored four seniors on Feb. 28, including forwards Ashley Riggs, Emilie Castonguay and Melanie Mills, and goaltender Nikki Rudy; and the women’s hoopsters thanked guards Erika Harris and Kayleigh Scannell, and forward Kristina Walton on Feb. 21.
On the Menu

Easy Bisquick Quiche
1 cup Bisquick
2 cups milk
2 cups of your favorite cooked meat (chicken, ground beef, chopped steak)
2 cups shredded cheese (your favorite kind)
2 cups par-cooked vegetables (broccoli, peppers, mushrooms, onions/whatever you like. If you use the "Steamers" veggies in the frozen section of the grocery store, be sure to cook first)
Put mixed filling into sprayed 9 x13 dish. Stir Bisquick into milk, then pour over filling. Bake at 350° for 30 minutes. Serve quiche with salsa on the side.

BBQ Pork Tenderloin
2 pork tenderloins
2 t olive oil
Your favorite BBQ sauce
4 slices bacon, uncooked
In frying pan, sear pork on all sides in hot olive oil. Wrap two pieces of bacon around each loin and brush with BBQ sauce. Bake at 350° until internal temperature is 150°. Let rest on cutting board for 10 minutes, then slice thinly and serve.

Baked Lemon Rosemary Chicken
Prep time: 10 minutes
Cook time: 1.5 hours
2 packages skin-on, bone-in chicken thighs (you could mix in drumsticks, too)
4 medium sprigs fresh rosemary
1 lemon
2 T olive oil
Dried sage (just a few dashes)
Dried poultry seasoning (a few dashes)
Salt and pepper to taste
Place the chicken in a roasting pan in a single layer, skin side up. Tuck the sprigs of rosemary under a few pieces of chicken. Roll your lemon on the countertop back and forth with your hands to get its juices flowing. Cut lemon in half and squeeze over chicken and rosemary (cut side up to prevent any seeds from dropping into the pan). Cut halved lemons into chunks and place in the roasting pan. Add a few dashes of ground sage and a sprinkling of poultry seasoning. Add salt and pepper, then drizzle chicken with olive oil. Bake for about an hour and a half at 350°, uncovered.

Stomp, continued
A one-mile fun walk will start from the Kiernan Center on Niagara's campus at 9 a.m. The 5-K run begins at 9:15 a.m. A post-race party and awards ceremony will take place in the Kiernan Center.

“Whether you are a competitive runner or just want to complete the fun walk, the ‘Stomp’ is a fun event for everyone,” said Bill Newton, assistant director of campus activities at NU. “The real winner is the Mental Health Association in Niagara County.” The event has raised $4,000 for the organization over the last two years.

For more information, contact Newton at 286-8510, or log on to www.niagara.edu/icao/sos.htm to download a registration form.

You can also listen to the latest edition of the “Purple Podcast” with Newton and Dr. Timothy Osberg, professor of psychology, during which they discuss the “Stomp,” by logging on to www.niagara.edu/pr/media/audio/StompOutStigmaPodcast2009.mp3.

Facility and Staff Campaign Update

Have you given your gift today?

For more information on the Faculty and Staff Campaign, contact Loretta Madia, senior development associate for annual giving, at ext. 8789.
General Education Committee recognizes excellence in assessment

By Bill Edwards, assistant professor of biology

Assessment of the general education goals of Niagara University and improvement in reaching these goals is a cornerstone of the university educational mission. The General Education Committee would like to recognize the following departments as exemplar, not only in assessment, but in using their assessment to make improvements in their general education curriculum.

The history department, under the guidance of assistant professor Bob Kane, revamped its HIS199: America and the Contemporary World curriculum. The primary focus was improving student learning outcomes in critical thinking (Goal II, General Education Student Learning Outcomes). Using a critical-thinking rubric, the department assessed student essays across sections. They found that Niagara's students were better at critical thinking in general, but that a revamped curriculum, substituting interpretive themes for the previous simple topics, would improve the students' critical thinking skills, an essential part of the techniques of history scholars. They have also added a second formal writing essay to better assess the development of individual student thinking.

The philosophy department also focused on critical thinking in its assessment program by evaluating the addition of logic into the freshman PHI105: Introduction to Philosophy classes. The department's Michael Barnwell and James Delany found that students who had participated in the new logic curriculum performed better than their peers in all aspects of philosophy-based critical thinking. The GenEd Committee commends not only the original data which recognized this gap in our students' learning, but an excellent assessment of their improvements and a true success story in the cycle of assessment and improvement that the university supports.

The WRI100: Thinking and Writing program, with the assistance of Erin Karper, has continued to assess and improve writing at the university. Moreover, the program identified that use of sources was a weakness in our incoming students and have made curricular changes address this problem (Goal II, General Education Student Learning Outcomes). Assessment data indicate great success in improving freshmen writing in general and use of sources in particular. Bill Martin and the English department also assessed students' abilities to communicate effectively in ENG100: Introduction to Literature (Goal III, General Education Student Learning Outcomes). Using a critical-thinking rubric, the department assessed student essays more than 100 student essays and found significant improvements in the writing skills associated with their curricular improvements (Goal II).

The GenEd Committee congratulates these programs for using assessment data to improve student learning outcomes. Please contact Bill Edwards, wje@niagara.edu, or the GenEd Committee for assistance in incorporating the GenEd writing rubrics into your course, or for assistance in modification of the rubrics to suit your needs.

Election results

Congratulations to the newly elected members of the Academic Senate and the following committees:

**Academic Senate:** Michael Barnwell, assistant professor of philosophy; Maritza Branker, assistant professor of mathematics; the Rev. Steve Denig, C.M., associate professor of education; Barbara Iannarelli, associate professor of education; Tim Ireland, professor of criminology and criminal justice; Patricia Kinner, director of the Office of Academic Support; Antonia Knight, director of the Academic Exploration Program; Ronny Priefer, assistant professor of chemistry; Walter Steiner, assistant professor of biology; Donna Thompson, professor of psychology; and Suzanne Wagner, chair, computer and information sciences.

**Promotion and Tenure:** Henrik Borgstrom, chair of the department of modern and classical languages; Morgan Brooks, associate professor of education; Tom Chambers, associate professor of history; Tim Ireland; and William Frye, associate professor of hospitality and tourism management.

**Sabbatical Leave:** Tim Ireland and Vince Agnello, professor of law/director of NU's Family Business Center

**Hearing Committee:** The Rev. Joseph Hubert, C.M., associate professor of religious studies; William Martin, associate professor of English; and Al Oddo, professor of accounting. Committee alternates: Vince Agnello; Haoua Hamza, associate professor of teacher education; Vince Rinaldo, associate professor of education; and Donna Thompson, professor of psychology.

**Investigation and Advice:** Chandra Foote, chairperson and professor of education; Kathy Ho, chair and professor of accounting; and Sharon Watkinson, chair of the department of theater and fine arts. Committee alternates: Susan Sze, associate professor of education; and Burt Thompson, professor of psychology.

NU hoops it up for NIT — $1.

Patrick’s Day was the backdrop for a celebration, as Niagara University’s Gallagher Center hosted its first-ever post-season game. The Purple Eagles took on the Rhode Island Rams in the first round of the National Invitational Tournament. Despite a sold-out crowd, including the green t-shirt clad NZone, the Purps dropped a 68-62 decision to the Rams. Niagara finished the season with 26 wins, the second most in school history and the most since the 1921-22 season (27 wins).
Niagara University Theatre Gala to feature musical “The Threepenny Opera,” dinner and auctions

The 24th Annual Friends of Niagara University Theatre Gala will be held on the Niagara University campus on Saturday, April 25, 2009. Gala co-chairs Patricia Orzetti of Lewiston, N.Y., and Art and Barbara Traver of Tonawanda, N.Y., have planned a fun-filled evening along with auction co-chairs Pamela LeCuyer of Getzville, N.Y., Lori Presti of Youngstown, N.Y., and Adair Saviola of Buffalo, N.Y.

Gala guests will see a 3 p.m. matinee of Kurt Weill’s and Bertolt Brecht’s musical, “The Threepenny Opera” at the Leary Theatre on the NU campus. “Mack the Knife,” a jazzy musical chart hit recorded by Bobby Darin in 1959, is just one of the songs from “The Threepenny Opera.” Directed by Doug Zschiegner, associate director of NU Theatre, this 1928 musical satire of a satire of a satire tells the story of a crime lord of London who marries the daughter of an outfitting shop for beggars. Their adventures examine the attitudes toward crime and poverty and love and marriage of underground types who want it all.

After the show, guests will head to the Castellani Art Museum to enjoy a cocktail hour, silent and live auction, dinner and a visit from NU Theatre’s “The Threepenny Opera” cast and crew.

An exciting array of theme baskets, framed art, sports and entertainment collectibles, a travel package from The Millenium Hotel of New York City, dining and spa certificates and much more are among the highlights of the auction. Also auctioned will be a number of one-of-a-kind gifts such as a guest appearance in next year’s NU Theatre gala musical.

The Friends of Niagara University Theatre Gala annually raises tens of thousands of dollars to support the activities of Niagara University Theatre.

Young Entrepreneurs Academy winding up first year

By Christine Schwartz, associate director of continuing education and concurrent programs programming manager

The Young Entrepreneurs Academy will begin to wind up this year’s class with an investors panel on April 29, followed by a trade show and graduation. The young entrepreneurs worked with mentors who guided them through researching and developing their business plans, which they will pitch to a panel of investors in order to obtain funding for their ideas. These young people have transformed their ideas into actual working businesses, creating value and a sense of ownership and pride.

Throughout this year, seven middle and high school students came to campus once a week to experience entrepreneurship at its best. Through the YE! program, students participated in field trips to a manufacturing facility, a franchise business and even a trip to the Niagara County Clerk’s Office. It was at the office where students obtained their “Doing Business As” certificates. A DBA allows someone to legally register their name within the county. Guest speakers included attorneys, accountants, insurance agents, award-winning business people, and a personal etiquette consultant. Weekly instruction was provided by Craig Avery, a local entrepreneur.

Next fall, Niagara University will launch the second year of the Young Entrepreneurs Academy. YE! runs during the academic year from October to May. Classes meet every Wednesday from 4 to 7 p.m. There are no classes during regular school holidays and recesses.

Students interested in applying should do so promptly, as space is limited. Applications are available in the continuing education office, or may be downloaded from the Web site: www.niagara.edu/cee. The deadline for applications is May 1. For more information, contact Christine Schwartz at 286-8411 or cds@niagara.edu.

GIS training to be held at NU

The Office of Continuing Education at Niagara University will offer a professional development training program in Geographical Information Systems beginning May 11.

GIS, or digital mapping, takes information from databases and spreadsheets and charts it on an interactive map. The U.S. Department of Labor has identified GIS technology as “one of the three most important emerging and evolving fields.”

The core course, ArcGIS Desktop I: Getting Started with GIS, will be offered May 11 and 12 from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. in the university's dedicated GIS lab in Dunleavy Hall. On June 16-18, ArcGIS Desktop II: Tools and Functionality will be offered. The cost for the first course is $795; the second is $995.

To register, contact the NU Office of Continuing Education at 716-286-8181 or online at www.niagara.edu/cee.
Castellani Art Museum

Through May 31 — Kara Walker: “The Emancipation Approximation.” Kara Walker is one of the most compelling artists working today. “The Emancipation Approximation” provides opportunities to raise awareness, provoke discussion and educate students of all ages on the legacy of slavery and its ramifications today in the racial inequality that still pervades our communities. Visit our Web site for updates on educational programming related to this exhibition.

Through July 19 — “Artistic and Functional: Aprons from the Karen Anderson Collection” features a diverse selection of 47 aprons collected by Karen Anderson of Lynn Center, Ill. These beautiful pieces of domestic art demonstrate the ingenuity of a century of American women who fashioned aprons from recycled feedsacks, dresses, curtains, handkerchiefs and blue jeans. Visitors will be captivated by the array of styles and awed by the sewing skills of appliqué, embroidery, smocking and tatting.

“Freedom Crossing: The Underground Railroad in Greater Niagara,” a regional interpretive center featuring artwork, historical photos and artifacts, part of the NYS Heritage Trail. Tues. – Sat. 11 a.m.–5 p.m.; Sun. 1-5 p.m. Free – donations welcome. www.freedomcrossingniagara.com

To learn more about the Castellani Art Museum’s classes, exhibitions and special events, visit www.niagara.edu/cam/ or call 286-8200.

To view the calendar of events, visit www.niagara.edu/cam/calendar/calendar.html.

Live Music Series

Thanks for being part of another great year of music! Stay tuned for the 2009-2010 schedule of eclectic and rockin’ groups.

For more information on the Live Music Series, log onto www.niagara.edu/rtr.

Niagara University Theatre

April 23–26, 30; May 1–3 — “Threepenny Opera.” This 1928 musical satire of a satire of a satire displays the unique and distinctive musical score that originated “Mack the Knife.” (Contains adult situations.)

For NU theater ticket information, call the new box office number at 286-8685 or go to www.niagara.edu/theatre.

Niagara University athletics

Baseball
April 14 (DH) 2/5 p.m. St. Bonaventure

Softball
April 25 Noon Marist

Women’s Tennis
April 16-19 MAAC Championships

For information about the exciting athletic events held on and off campus, visit www.purpleeagles.com.

JED returns for Castellani exhibit, Music Is Art event

Music and art came together for a weekend of great events in March. On Friday, March 13, the Kiernan Center was the location of “MiA @ NU,” a concert that saw 15 great local bands perform for a packed house.

On March 15, the Castellani Art Museum held a gala exhibition featuring the paintings by an art professor whose influence was instrumental in the formation of the Goo Goo Dolls. As an art professor at Medaille College in the 80s, Jed Jackson mentored Goo Goo Dolls bassist and Buffalo native Robby Takac and George Turska, who used his painting “Arkansas Sunset” as the cover art for their album, “JED.” Jackson gave a talk and answered questions about his work at the opening.

You can visit “JED: 30 Years of Paintings by Jed Jackson” now through Sept. 20 at the Castellani. “Arkansas Sunset” is featured, as well as works from collections in Buffalo, N.Y.; the artist’s studio in Memphis, Tenn.; and a private collection in Lonoke, Ark.

The events were a collaboration between Niagara and Music Is Art, the not-for-profit organization founded in 2004 by Takac.

Fred Heuer, assistant vice president for marketing at Niagara; Jed Jackson; Michael Beam, curator of collections and exhibitions at the Castellani Art Museum; and Robby Takac.

Medaille College in the 80s, Jed Jackson mentored Goo Goo Dolls bassist and Buffalo native Robby Takac and George Tutaska, who used his painting “Arkansas Sunset” as the cover art for their album, “JED.” Jackson gave a talk and answered questions about his work at the opening.

You can visit “JED: 30 Years of Paintings by Jed Jackson” now through Sept. 20 at the Castellani. "Arkansas Sunset" is featured, as well as works from collections in Buffalo, N.Y.; the artist’s studio in Memphis, Tenn.; and a private collection in Lonoke, Ark.

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Kiernan Center offers aerobic programs for employees

The following programs will be offered at the Kiernan Center for faculty and employees:

Mondays, 1-1:45 p.m. — Body Blast. This class incorporates the best of cardio exercise and sculpting moves, and is guaranteed to increase your cardio endurance as well as muscle definition.

Wednesdays, 1-1:45 p.m. — Flat Abs. This 45-minute class of high-intensity abdominal work is sure to tone up the midsection.

Fridays, 1-1:45 p.m. — Spinning. A group exercise workout performed on stationary bikes. The class offers the latest cardio workout combined with great music and plenty of motivation.

Contact James A. Polito, personal trainer/front desk coordinator, at ext. 8055 with any questions.