New students welcomed to Monteagle Ridge

Niagara University kicked off its 151st year by hosting a convocation for new students and their families. The event, held in the Gallagher Center, included 730 first-year freshmen and nearly 200 transfer students.

The Rev. Joseph L. Levesque, C.M., Niagara University president, welcomed those gathered, saying, “We value you being here and we promise to always respect and honor you.” Father Levesque also urged new students to get involved in activities on the Lewiston campus.

Remarks were also given by, among others, James Delaney (pictured), chair and assistant professor of philosophy; Gregory Hudecki, DDS, ’68, president of NU’s alumni association, and senior Marisa Giambanco, president of the Niagara University Student Government Association.

Each year, university personnel from both the academic and student-life sectors organize the event, which is developing a rich and growing tradition for Niagara’s new students.

You can listen to select speeches from the convocation by logging on to www.niagara.edu/news.

Father Thomas McGourty, C.M., longtime NU faculty member, dies

The Rev. Thomas P. McGourty, C.M., an administrator and teacher who spent 46 years of his priesthood at Niagara University, died July 15 in Buffalo General Hospital of complications from heart surgery. He was 81.

Known for his broad smile, affable nature and delightful sense of humor, Father McGourty was born April 25, 1926, in Boston, the son of Thomas P. and Helen M. Kelly McGourty. He attended elementary and secondary schools in Boston before entering St. Joseph’s College in Princeton, N.J., the minor seminary of the Vincentian Community of priests and brothers. He was ordained to the priesthood in 1953 after studies at Mary Immaculate Seminary in Northampton, Pa.

Father McGourty, who held a master’s degree in guidance from St. John’s University and a master’s degree in religious education from The Catholic University of America, was an instructor and guidance counselor at St. John’s Preparatory School in Brooklyn from the time of his ordination until 1961, when he was assigned to Niagara University. He initially served at NU as a campus minister and religious studies teacher, in addition to co-directing the orientation program for new students. Two years later, he assumed the role of residence director for Clet Hall, and later Lynch Hall. During that time, he was instrumental in bringing about policy changes that encouraged more independence and responsibility among the student body.

See McGOURTY continued on page 12
Michael Beam, curator of exhibitions and collections at the Castellani Art Museum, helped unveil signs as part of an initiative for the Avery Avenue/Holling Homes Community Block Club in North Buffalo. Michael, the club's president, was interviewed for a segment on WIVB-TV (channel 4). Funding for the signs came, in part, from a grant he wrote to the New York State Senate Crime Prevention Project.

Dr. William Cliff, associate professor of biology, received a Teaching Career Enhancement Award from the American Physiological Society. This grant will fund his research on the effectiveness of case-based learning in medical education during his sabbatical leave in fall 2007.

Dr. Bob Kane, assistant professor of history, made a productive research trip to the Massachusetts Historical Society in May. The trip was made possible by a grant from the NU Research Council to examine the papers of republican Senator Henry Cabot Lodge, the biggest critic of Wilsonian attempts to export American democracy overseas. This archival research was essential evidence for a paper Dr. Kane presented at the Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations in Chantilly, Va., in June, entitled "An Imagined Axis: Visions of German-Japanese Affinities in U.S. Political Rhetoric during the First World War," which has been published in the conference proceedings. A review he wrote of a recent notable book on 20th century Japanese economic history has been accepted for publication in Business History Review, a journal published by the Harvard Business School, and appeared in the summer 2007 issue. Dr. Kane also served on the hiring committee for a special education position at Thomas Marks Elementary School in Wilson, N.Y.

The Rev. Gregory L. Klein, O. Carm., D. Min., professor of religious studies, was a member of the presentation team at the annual seminar in Carmelite spirituality, hosted by St. Mary’s College, Notre Dame, Ind., from June 17 to 23. The theme for the seminar was “Carmel: A School of Prayer.” Fr. Klein gave a lecture on Brother Lawrence of the Resurrection and the practice of the presence of God. He also facilitated two three-day reading workshops in which participants reflected on the method of prayer made famous by Brother Lawrence. This 17th century Carmelite brother from Paris developed a simple method of prayer which became popular among both Catholics and Protestants. His writings have been translated into 14 languages.

Dr. Michael Kotarski, associate biology professor, and Dr. Deborah Leonard, senior research scientist in the biology department, co-authored a presentation at the American Society of Plant Biologists Joint Congress in Chicago July 7 to 11. The conference was a joint meeting of four international research societies. The presentation, entitled “Placement of Three Problematic Genera of Gesneriaceae” contained the latest research from the plant biology group of the NU Academic Center for Integrated Sciences. The presentation was also authored by Dr. Carol Sweeney and three Niagara students: Sarah Caro, Michael Greene and Jessica Stampfle.

Dr. Kotarski and Dr. Mary McCourt, associate professor of chemistry, attended the sixth MERCURY Conference on Computational Chemistry at Hamilton College, in Clinton, N.Y., July 29 to 31. The conference was hosted by the Consortium for Undergraduate Computational Chemistry. Niagara students Mallory van Dongen, Dominick Rutherford, Megan Jeeter and Sarah Caro also attended the conference. Two of these students gave presentations: van Dongen's was entitled “Quantitative Structure-Activity-Relationship of Para-Substituted Phenol Derivatives to Relate Side Chain Variation to Antibacterial Activities” (with Dr. Ronnie Priefer as co-author); and Rutherford's was entitled “A Study of the Effects of Amino Acid Substitutions on CHS Protein Structure in Gesneriaceae.” The research was funded by an NSF grant and the Niagara University Academic Center for Integrated Sciences.

Dr. Timothy Ireland, chair of the criminal justice department, and Jay Stockslader, director of the Office of Continuing and Community Education, served as hosts for the Domestic Violence Instructor Training Program, a Department of Homeland Security-sponsored seminar, which took place in St. Vincent's Hall July 16-20. More than 80 federal, state, local, and campus criminal justice professionals took part in the program.

Dr. Joseph Little, assistant professor of English, is scheduled to give three department talks this fall at Harvard
University, Cornell University, and the University of Minnesota. The Harvard and Cornell talks will address the epistemic role of analogy and metaphor in science; the Minnesota talk will focus on ways to enlist advances in cognitive science in rhetorical scholarship involving figuration.

Dr. Walter Steiner, assistant professor of biology, was recently awarded a $199,551 three-year research grant from the National Institutes of Health to study regulatory mechanisms of homologous recombination and their conservation between organisms. This grant continues Dr. Steiner's work from a previous grant from the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society that has funded his research over the previous three years.

Dr. Zongqing Zhou, associate professor in the College of Hospitality and Tourism Management, was invited this past summer by four major universities in China to teach as well as deliver seminars and advise on curriculum development and faculty training issues. The visits ran from late May to July. The four universities Dr. Zhou visited were Xiamen University and Fujian Normal University in the Fujian province of China, South China University of Technology and Hohai University. The topics of his seminars ranged from tourism economics to research methodologies.

While he was in China, Dr. Zhou attended the sixth Wuhan International Conference in E-business and presented two papers, “Conference Centers and Internet Marketing Strategies” and “The Role of IT in Hospitality Management.” Both papers were collected in the conference proceedings. He also chaired two of the presentation sessions for the conference and has been invited again to join the editorial board for the next year's international conference.

Niagara University welcomes the following individuals who recently joined our community: Regina Cecconi, Castellani Art Museum office coordinator; Barbara Trietley, research and training coordinator in the College of Hospitality and Tourism Management; Frank Kumi, carpenter in facilities services; Janine Hellmann, assistant volleyball coach; Nicole Marzinek, media resources technician; Jamie Horn, women's assistant basketball coach; Gregory Fletcher, director of theater; Tanya Wright, sports information intern; Kathleen Cauley, legal secretary in the president's office; Patricia McIntosh, continuing and community education office secretary; and Anne D'Attilio, admissions counselor.

Several faculty promoted at recent board meeting

Congratulations to the faculty members who were promoted and/or granted tenure at the board of trustees meeting on May 3.

Dr. Brian Bennett, religious studies, promotion to associate professor and tenure; Dr. Thomas Chambers, history, promotion to associate professor and tenure; Dr. Timothy Ireland, criminal justice, promotion to professor; Sr. Judith Merkle, SNDdeN, religious studies, promotion to professor; Dr. David Reilly, political science, promotion to associate professor and tenure; Dr. Shih-Jen Kathy Ho, accounting, promotion to professor; Dr. Haoua Hamza, education, promotion to associate professor and tenure; Dr. Alice Kozen, education, promotion to associate professor and tenure; Dr. Sylvia Valentí, education, promotion to associate professor and tenure; Michael Gentile, hospitality and tourism management, promotion to associate professor and tenure.

BUCKLEY EXITS CAM — Dr. Laurene Buckley, director of the Castellani Art Museum for the past five years, left NU in June to accept a faculty position at SUNY Oswego. She will be teaching museum studies and managing the college’s Tyler Art Gallery. At a party at the Castellani on June 29, Dr. Bonnie Rose (right), assistant vice president and vice president for academic affairs, thanked Laurene for her efforts on behalf of the museum and NU.
Three students receive scholarships

Gabrielle Montemage, a student in Niagara University’s College of Business Administration; Jessica Glover, a student in the College of Hospitality and Tourism Management; and Sgt. Jonathan C. Pascoe, a criminal justice and political science major, have been awarded scholarships for the 2007-'08 academic year.

Gabrielle, a Grand Island native, was awarded the William G. McGowan Scholarship. She graduated from NU in May with a bachelor’s degree in French and a concentration in international business, and is currently enrolled in the business college’s graduate program.

Jessica, a senior from Watkins Glen, received a $5,000 Arthur J. Packard Memorial Scholarship from the American Hotel and Lodging Educational Foundation. “Jessica’s award of the Packard Scholarship illustrates her special talents,” said Dr. Gary D. Praetzel, dean of the college.

Sgt. Pascoe, a veteran of Operation Iraqi Freedom, was named awardee of the Terrence Crowe Memorial Scholarship. The scholarship is named after the late Lt. Col. Terrence Crowe, a 1982 graduate of NU’s College of Business Administration and ROTC program, who was killed in June 2005 during military operations in Tal Afar, Iraq.

TripleTrack offers assistance to NU employees

TripleTrack, a division of The Synergy Group, has been offering employee assistance programs to NU employees since April 2006.

TripleTrack helps staff members address and cope with problems which negatively affect their lives and which might intrude upon their jobs, including financial and legal problems, alcohol and substance abuse, marital/relationship issues, and childcare and eldercare needs. These stressful situations can impede an employee’s personal and work/life balance and productivity. TripleTrack addresses these problems with appropriate help and support.

TripleTrack recently partnered with the Buffalo Athletic Club to offer workforce wellness. In addition, its Web-based information portal, TripleTrack Advantage, allows clients access to information and resources 24 hours a day.

TripleTrack is a free and confidential resource, referral and information service designed to assist you and your family in balancing work and life. TripleTrack offers:
- 24/7 availability
- counseling referrals
- information about childcare/parenting and eldercare
- work/life seminars
- TripleTrack Advantage
- monthly newsletter
- workforce wellness

TripleTrack is available to all employees and their immediate family members and dependent children up to age 21. For more information, call 639-8041, e-mail info@triple-track.com, or visit www.triple-track.com.

Preferred merchant added

The Savoy Salon and Spa, a full-service salon offering color, cuts, highlights, facials, pedicures, nails, and massages, is the newest member of Niagara University’s preferred merchant program. NU faculty, staff and students will receive a 10 percent discount when they present their NU ID card.

Located at 914 Center Street, Lewiston, the Savoy Salon and Spa is open Tuesday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Wednesday and Thursday from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m., Friday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Call 754-8484 for more information or to make an appointment.

To see the entire list of NU preferred merchants, log on to: www.niagara.edu/pmp.
A variety of events in conjunction with Niagara Reads, Niagara University’s freshman summer reading program, are planned for the fall semester, including a presentation from Rosemary Stasek, an American living in Kabul, Afghanistan. Stasek will discuss current events in that country during two presentations on the Niagara University campus Sept. 25. The talks will take place at the Castellani Art Museum at 3:30 p.m. and again at 7:30 p.m. They are open to the public.

Stasek, who has traveled to Afghanistan a number of times since the fall of the Taliban, is the founder of “… a little help,” an organization to improve the lives of women and girls internationally and educate Americans on the issues they face. Currently, the organization is focusing on those impacted by the continuing instability in Afghanistan and has raised funds for schools, clinics, maternity wards, vocational classes, and women in prison.

Stasek was invited to the NU campus because of her friendship with Khaled Hosseini, author of “The Kite Runner,” the featured book in the reading program. All incoming first-year students received a copy of this book during the CARE sessions in July and will have the opportunity to discuss it in their NUS102 classes.

This summer, students in the Niagara University Opportunity Program discussed their research on issues related to “The Kite Runner” during a poster presentation sponsored by NUOP. Topics included Guantanamo Bay, Sunni and Shiite Islam, the Rise of the Taliban, and Communism in Afghanistan.

The Niagara Reads program was launched six years ago to provide freshmen with a common, intellectually stimulating experience that sets the tone for serious college work. Books are chosen for their quality, their ability to engage and relate to first-year students, their consistency with the university’s mission, and their potential to spark lively intellectual discussion. Past books include “Escape from Slavery,” by Francis Bok; “Nickel and Dimed,” by Barbara Ehrenreich; and “All But My Life,” by Gerda Weissmann Klein.

For more information on Niagara Reads events, go to www.niagara.edu/care/nractivities.htm.

Jeannine Brown Miller, director of human resources at Niagara for over 17 years, announced in June that she will not be returning to the university.

“Knowing that I have the HR department in a great position to continue to be successful, I feel this is the time to pursue my personal career aspirations,” Jeannine said, adding that she desires to resume her consulting practice, while exploring the possibility of teaching on the college level.

A graduate of Niagara, Jeannine holds a master’s degree in industrial psychology and advanced certification as a senior professional in human resources.

In her time at Niagara, Jeannine has overseen the growth of the Office of Human Resources from an initial two-person operation into a full-service department with a staff of five, offering a range of services. Just this year, the department was selected by the Buffalo Niagara Human Resource Association to receive its annual HR excellence award.

Jeannine said she is leaving her position “with a deep love for Niagara.” She added, “I will always cherish my experiences here, but especially having had the privilege to serve all of the dedicated employees at this fine institution.”

“Jeannine has done a wonderful job in developing many of the programs and policies that are now in place at the university,” said the Rev. Joseph L. Levesque, C.M., Niagara University president. Father Levesque added that Jeannine has worked with and for members of the Niagara community, always conscious of the university’s Vincentian mission.
To Stephanie Cole, there is nothing better than the sport of fencing to relax and let off steam after work. “It is almost like meditation,” she said. “After fencing for 45 minutes, you don’t even realize that much time has passed.”

Cole, Niagara’s legal counsel since 2006, became interested in the sport just by watching it. That interest turned into participation when she earned a spot on her college’s fencing team. “There is something to be said about being in combat against one other person,” she noted. “It’s thrilling.”

From 1991 to 1994, Cole was a member of the fencing team at Hampshire College in Amherst, Mass. “The original appeal was definitely to hold a weapon in your hand without it being a problem,” she joked. All kidding aside, Cole saw a sport with grace, but also one that used strength and endurance to the player’s advantage. During her junior year, she ranked first at an invitational event at the University of Massachusetts. A serious knee injury, however, ended her collegiate career earlier than she hoped. Despite this, fencing never strayed far from Cole’s mind. Over the next 10 years, she exercised to help gain the strength back in her knee.

Cole’s hard work in the gym paid off when she was presented with an opportunity to fence at Buffalo’s prestigious Les Amis Fencing Club. “I’ve been back fencing now for a few months,” she said. “I love it!”

**“Foiling” the opponent**

Fencing, in its modern form, has been around since the 15th century and, as an Olympic sport, since 1896. Fencing has three types of weapons that are used in competition. The first is a foil, which is a long, thin weapon with a small ball at the end. “This is the first weapon that fencers learn on,” Cole said. The target area in a competition is the torso.

The second type of blade is the epee, which is V-shaped and much heavier than the foil. According to Cole, the epee can cause injury because of the weight of its blade. The entire body is the target area when using the epee.

The third type of fencing weapon is the saber. With the saber, it is possible to score with the edge of the blade. When using a saber, the target is anywhere above the torso.

Fencing is conducted on a metal strip, or piste, which measures approximately 2 meters wide and 14 meters long. Each official fencing match is usually scored on a one-point scale. “You win by accumulating a certain amount of touches,” Cole said. With a saber, a point can be scored when the opponent is slashed. A “point on” is scored when the epee or foil hits a target area. An official match is usually five, but some tournaments have 10- and 15-point bouts.

**Strategy is key**

Fencing requires a great deal of strategy since it is a one-on-one sport. During a match, Cole focuses on maintaining distance and paying attention to her opponent’s movements. “Part of the game is using proper footwork,” she said. “It’s almost like dancing.”

The Les Amis Fencing Club has a wide range of members. There are people at all fitness levels, physical descriptions and ages. The oldest members are in their 60s; the youngest is 7 years old. A person’s age can be a key part of strategizing prior to, and during, a match.

“Someone who is older will probably incorporate slow moves and be patient against an opponent that is younger and quicker,” Cole said. In a recent class, she faced off against an opponent who was 16 years old. “My first guess would be that he is faster than me,” Cole said, “but then I think, ‘What do I have going for me?’” She saw that time would pass a little more quickly for herself and that could be an advantage.

“I have experience,” Cole noted. “I know I can wait him out and I know that he’s going to think I’m slow.”

Cole is so enthused about fencing that she hopes her 2½-year-old son will take up the sport. She sees it not only as a great form of exercise, but also one that provides a balance in life.

“You need to hit the reset button every once in a while, otherwise you’ll burn out,” she said. “Fencing is that reset in my life.”

For more information on fencing, log on to www.fencing.net. You can also learn more about the Les Amis Fencing Club by logging on to www.lesamisfencing.com/.
Scherer to serve as interim dean of College of Business Administration

AACSB reaccreditation on his agenda

It’s not every day that an adjunct professor is asked to fill in as dean of a college. Dr. Phil Scherer, however, is an exception, and with good reason.

Dr. Scherer retired from full-time teaching in Niagara University’s College of Business Administration in December 2006 after 26 years of service that also included administrative responsibilities. During the spring semester, he served as an adjunct professor in the college, and was subsequently asked to serve as interim dean to replace Dr. Jack Helmuth, who resigned in June to accept a new position at the University of Michigan-Flint.

This “un-retirement” was welcomed by a man who first arrived at Niagara as a professor of economics in 1980. “The idea that I’m ready to just sit back and fall asleep is not there,” said Dr. Scherer. “This will keep me busy for another year.”

Dr. Scherer’s return to full-time work, however, presented a small problem at home, where his wife, Suzanne, was planning a late-May retirement party. “I felt a bit like a liar,” he joked. “Basically, my family held a party for me not retiring.”

Dr. Scherer, who makes the 140-mile round trip from Fredonia each day, is relishing the opportunity to drive the College of Business during an important time in its history. He is quick to point out that he is squarely focused on getting the college ready for its reaccreditation by AACSB (the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business) in 2010.

“You need to have a good strategy,” he said. “As a faculty, we are defining where we want to go, and that strategy cannot be put on hold while looking for a new dean.” AACSB is the premiere accrediting association for colleges of business. Only 25 percent of universities and colleges in the United States have the accreditation. “You don’t lose (accreditation),” Dr. Scherer noted. “It took seven years for us to get it.”

During his many years at NU, Dr. Scherer served as director of the MBA program and as chair of the department of commerce. Because of his past service, NU’s board of trustees granted him the title of professor emeritus in May.

The Columbus, Ohio, native received his doctoral degree from the University of Missouri in labor economics and economic theory. His undergraduate and graduate degrees are from The Ohio State University and Wichita State University, respectively.

A national search for a permanent dean of the college continues.

VERMETTE, WROBEL HONORED FOR WORK IN EDUCATION — Dr. Paul Vermette, professor of education in the College of Education, and Patti Wrobel, assistant dean for external relations in the college, were both honored in the month of May with major awards.

Dr. Vermette (pictured at right with Dr. Laura Darrow, president of the New York State Association for Teacher Educators’ executive board) was awarded the R. Neal Appleby Outstanding Teacher Education Award by NYSATE. The award recognizes individuals who have worked to nurture the intellectual, personal, and professional growth and development of teachers at various stages of their professional lives. It is named in honor of Appleby, an educator of teachers for 20 years at Syracuse University, who passed away in 1993.

Patti (pictured at left with Dr. Frank Calzi, NU associate professor of education, left, and Carol Beebe, senior lecturer in the college, right) was honored with the 2007 Golden Apple Award by the Niagara Falls City School District at its Parent/Partner Dinner for her significant contributions to the students and the district.
Agronin resigns as women’s hoops coach

Bill Agronin, the coach with the most wins in Niagara University women’s basketball history, has announced his resignation.

“My family has encountered a number of health-related issues during the past year and this, coupled with my desire to spend more time with my grandchildren, has led to this decision,” Bill said. “I want to thank Ed McLaughlin, the administration, my assistant coaches, my players and Joe Mihalich (men’s head coach) for my long and memorable relationship with Niagara University. I leave the women’s basketball program on solid footing, and expect that this team will be very successful.”

Bill led the women’s team to 169 wins over 13 seasons. He was named Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference Coach of the Year three times and the New York State Division I Women’s Basketball Coach of the Year twice.

He first became associated with NU basketball in 1982, when he began an eight-year span as an assistant coach of the men’s team. He took over as coach of the women’s team in 1992, serving for two seasons before being named principal of Stevenson Elementary School in the Wilson School District. He returned to Niagara as women’s coach in 1996, and has guided the program since.

“I want to thank Bill for 21 years of faithful service to Niagara University, our athletics department and the basketball programs,” Ed said. “I know this has been a difficult decision for Bill and his family, but we respect his wishes and appreciate all of his contributions to the Niagara University community.”

Under Bill’s guidance, more than 50 players have been named MAAC All-Academic. Also, the Niagara women’s team has finished in the top 25 nationally in grade-point average in six of the past 10 seasons, with a best-ever fourth place finish following the 2001-’02 season.

Purple Eagles add “The River” to radio network

All NU men’s basketball and hockey games in 2007-’08 can now be heard live on The River-FM (105.1) and WJJL-AM (1440), respectively.

“As we continue to expand our external reach to fans and alumni of Niagara University, our new radio contracts represent a critical component in our overall imaging strategy,” Glenn Hofmann, associate athletics director for external affairs, said. “Moving our men’s basketball games to a strong FM signal truly distinguishes us in the Buffalo/ Niagara region and at the same time allows us to broadcast every men’s hockey game with our long-term radio partner WJGL.”

Niagara is the first Buffalo-area university and the only MAAC school to have its men’s basketball games broadcast on a commercial FM signal.

WJJL will carry all of the action for Niagara University men’s hockey games, beginning 15 minutes prior to face-off. The station will also broadcast the women’s basketball MAAC Tournament and the women’s hockey College Hockey America Tournament games.

In addition, all men’s basketball, men’s hockey, and women’s home basketball and hockey games can be heard live online at PurpleEagles.com and Yahoo Sports.
NU to host 2008 men’s, women’s CHA tourney

Hockey will be front and center on the NU campus this March as the Purple Eagles host the 2008 College Hockey America men's and women's tournaments. The CHA league office made the announcement Aug. 28. The women's tournament will be held March 7-8, 2008, at the newly-renovated Dwyer Arena. The men's tournament hits the ice March 14.

"We are extremely excited to have both the men’s and women's CHA tournaments on our campus this year,” Niagara University athletics director Ed McLaughlin said. "It gives us a tremendous opportunity to show the renovations in Dwyer Arena to hockey fans in Western New York and all across the country. We expect to provide another terrific experience and championship atmosphere for all coaches and student-athletes.”

The 2008 CHA Tournament was originally scheduled to be played in the state of Ohio, but Youngstown pulled its bid to host the tournaments earlier this month. Three conference teams (Niagara, Bemidji State and Robert Morris) placed bids to host the tournament on campus, with Niagara winning the league vote.

"The CHA is pleased and proud to bring Division I championship collegiate hockey to Niagara University,” CHA Commissioner R.H. “Bob” Peters said. "Recent renovations to Dwyer Arena make it a superb venue which will result in a positive experience for the CHA student-athletes and fans.”

This summer, the home of the Purple Eagles began a face-lift with new renovations such as seamless glass, new boards and the premium seating section, which increases the arena's capacity to 2,100.

The premium seating section is a climate-controlled area with its own eatery, bar and private restrooms. It also comes equipped with flat-screen TVs and a personalized sound system in a gathering area with a view of the entire ice surface. From the gathering area, season-ticket holders can access the best seats in the house — three rows totaling 97 seats are located directly above the east goal.

Renovations are set to be completed Oct. 1, in time for NU’s home opener against Bowling Green on Oct. 18.

Two-thirds of the nation’s top line will return to help the Niagara University Purple Eagles defend their CHA regular season title in 2007-08. Ted Cook (center) and Les Reaney (right) accounted for a total of 92 points last season. Sean Bentivoglio (left) graduated in May and signed a contract with the NHL's New York Islanders.

WOMEN’S HOOPSTERS TAB FAUSTIN AS NEW COACH — Kendra Faustin, formerly an assistant coach with Canisius College’s women’s basketball team, was named the new head coach of Niagara University women’s basketball on Aug. 29. She is the seventh head coach in the team’s history, replacing longtime head coach Bill Agronin. Kendra said, “My vision for the future of Niagara’s women’s basketball is to have each student-athlete leave here having had the best experience possible academically, graduating, athletically, winning a MAAC championship, and personally, growing as an individual.”

Faustin, a native of Hartland, Mich., will inherit a team that went 14-16 overall, with a 6-12 record in the MAAC.

Niagara University men's basketball coach Joe Mihalich was named men's basketball division I coach of the year by the Basketball Coaches Association of New York. Mihalich and eight other collegiate and high school coaches of the year will be honored at the annual BCANY Fall Clinic Oct. 5-6 in Albany.
Charbroiled baby back ribs w/chipotle BBQ

By Tim Bucko, chef manager in hospitality services

Summer’s not over yet, there is still time for grilling! One of my summertime favorites is BBQ ribs. They are easy to make and delicious. Bring some summer into your September dinners and don’t forget the napkins!

Start by making the sauce:

- Chipotle BBQ sauce
- 4 cups ketchup
- 3/4 cup tomato juice
- 3/4 cup molasses
- 1/3 cup white vinegar
- 1/2 cup brown sugar
- 2 tbsp. Worcestershire sauce
- 1 tbsp. liquid smoke
- 1/8 tsp. cayenne pepper
- 1/2 tbsp. salt
- 1/2 cup water
- 1 tsp. onion powder
- 2 tsp. granulated garlic
- 5 oz. can chipotle peppers chopped

In a heavy-bottom pot, bring all ingredients to a boil. Reduce heat and simmer for 30 minutes. Strain and cool, then set aside.

Season both sides of the back ribs with Spikes seasoning salt (available at your local grocery store). Then char broil ribs with bone side down on the grill for five minutes. Remove from the grill and cool. After the ribs have cooled, remove silver skin (membrane) on back of the rib by scraping between the bones with a knife.

Turn the heat on the grill to the lowest setting and return ribs to the grill. Baste ribs with barbeque sauce, cover grill with lid and let cook slowly. To keep from burning the ribs, open the lid only to turn and rebaste them. Cook for about 2½ hours or until done. Test the ribs by pulling slightly on the bone; the bone should come loose freely when done.

Niagara University’s marketing department has been honored with a bronze Telly Award for one of its 2006 “Education That Makes a Difference” television commercials. The commercials were supervised by Fred Heuer, NU’s assistant vice president for marketing. This is the third time NU has been given the award.

The commercial, which features Niagara University theater major Cassie Gorniewicz, was judged by advertising agencies, TV stations, and production houses from across the United States.

“Niagara University is honored once again to be the recipient of a Telly Award,” said the Rev. Joseph L. Levesque, C.M., Niagara University president. “We are grateful for such outstanding recognition for a university where education makes a difference for our students and for our world.”

The Telly Award is a premier award honoring outstanding local, regional and cable television commercials and programs. Over 13,000 entries are received each year from all 50 states and five continents.

Niagara University honored four outstanding members of the campus community at the annual end-of-the-year party, held May 17 in Clet Dining Commons. The four had a combined 127 years of service at NU. From left to right: Marty Troia, director of career development; Dr. Wayne Northcutt, professor of history; and Joan Dolce, office coordinator in the Castellani Art Museum. Dr. Prem Bharadwaj, professor of physics, who had been at NU for 45 years, was unable to attend the party.
Four outstanding members of the Niagara University community were named employees of the month during the summer.

**Marge Fura**, secretary in the department of social work in the College of Arts and Sciences, was named employee of the month for May 2007.

A native of Niagara Falls, she has been at the university since September of 1987, when she began work as a temporary secretary in the student activities office. She also worked as a part-time secretary in the department of military science. In April of 1990, she was hired as the full-time seasonal secretary for the departments of psychology and social work. The position went full time, year round in June 1993.

Marge’s personality was commented on the most in nominations. One stated, “Marge’s smile is contagious, and she is always striving to make life easier for us students, offering to lend an ear or shoulder if one is needed.” The nomination noted that she emulates the Vincentian and Catholic spirit of the university each and every day.

Marge’s performance and knowledge were also cited. “Marge has a personal commitment to excellence, which transfers over to her job daily,” a nomination noted. “She is always on top of her game at work, committing herself fully to the tasks of the day, and goes beyond that to assist students.”

Marge’s supervisor, Dr. Clementine Laverman, program director in the department of social work, said, “Wherever I go — community agencies, other departments or talks with our students — they all rave about her sunny personality, competence and getting them answers.”

**Nola Cornett**, assistant project coordinator for the Border Community SERVICE Project, has been named employee of the month for June.

A native of North Tonawanda, Nola began working with the project as a graduate assistant in December of 2004. In October of 2005, she accepted the full-time position of assistant project coordinator.

Border Community SERVICE (Special Emergency Volunteer Initiative for Community Empowerment) has operated at NU under a grant from The Corporation for National and Community Service to train a cadre of volunteers to assist communities in times of natural or manmade emergencies.

“One and I have worked together very closely for 30 months,” said Nancy Blundell, project coordinator. “I simply could not have had a better partner as the Border Community SERVICE Project developed.”

Nola’s special talent, according to Nancy, has been to make all community contacts and volunteers feel valued for their talents and contributions.

Nola received her undergraduate (2005) and graduate (2006) degrees from Niagara University.

**Karin Crumb**, facility designer/drafter in facility services, has been named employee of the month for July at Niagara University.

A native of Sherburne, N.Y., she has been employed at the university since April of 2004.

Karin’s ability to work cooperatively with all constituents on campus was mentioned in several nominations. “Karin is knowledgeable, creative and enthusiastic about her work,” a nomination stated. It noted that she created temporary office spaces in the library for the College of Business Administration with “amazing” results.

Karin’s supervisors commented that she has filled an important niche at Niagara University. “She is a joy to work with, and she is very passionate about her job, putting maximum effort into everything she does,” one supervisor said.

**Charles Dabkowski**, senior assistant librarian at Niagara University, has been named employee of the month for August 2007. Charles has been at the university since June of 1987, when he was hired as the serials librarian. He became the senior assistant librarian in June of 1992.

“Charles is always cheerfully willing to lend a hand in the reference department,” a nomination stated. It noted he is always focused on meeting student needs.

Charles’ passion for the library was also noted in nominations. “He really cares about the library, the people he supervises, and his other co-workers,” a nomination stated. “I know I can always count on him to help me and others.”
In 1969, Father McGourty added the responsibility of registrar to his list of duties, developing an updated system of recordkeeping. Six years later, he relinquished that position in favor of full-time teaching, and spent the next 21 years as a member of the faculty of the religious studies department, serving three times as department chair. During that time, he helped to develop a religious studies major and minor for lay people who wanted to minister in the church.

An avid Boston Red Sox fan, Father McGourty served over the years as moderator of the club football team, the Ski Club and the Glee Club, and served as moderator of the Class of 1970. He retired from full-time teaching in 1996, but continued teaching on a part-time basis while working in campus ministry. He was also in charge of the university’s Student Emergency Loan Fund.

Father McGourty’s interest in scholarship was evident last year, when he established a $100,000 endowment fund to support a lecture series related to “Religion in the Modern World.” The annual Henry and Grace McNulty Memorial Lecture Series, named for Father McGourty’s late aunt and uncle, offered its first lecture in March.

Father McGourty was honored by the university on two occasions. He received the university’s highest honor, the President’s Medal, in 1994, for his many contributions to academic and campus life. In 2003, he received the university’s Medal of Honor for his long and faithful dedication to NU and in recognition of the 50th anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood.

As a teacher, Father McGourty was current and knowledgeable in his field, always prepared, and always available to his students. As the President’s Medal citation noted, “This combination of professional competence and priestly concern for students has made him one of the most sought-after faculty members by alumni who return to their alma mater.”

His confrere, the Rev. Joseph L. Levesque, C.M., president of Niagara University, said Father McGourty was a simple, holy and prayerful priest. “He was devoted to Niagara University, to academics, and to his students,” Father Levesque said. “He demonstrated great consistency in all these things, and in his love of being a Vincentian priest.”

Father McGourty was predeceased by his parents and a brother, John. He is survived by a sister, Helen Murphy of Long Meadow, Mass.; a brother, Paul McGourty of South Dennis, Mass.; and 10 nieces and nephews.

In Father McGourty’s memory, contributions may be made to the Father Thomas P. McGourty, C.M., Scholarship Fund in care of the Office of Institutional Advancement, Niagara University, NY 14109.

**NU mourns**

Ron Duschnik, carpenter in facility services — Aug. 13.


Anna Laverman, mother of Dr. Clementine Laverman, program director of the department of social work — May 19.

Deborah Mathews, sister of Connie Mathews, associate director of the Niagara University Opportunity Program — Aug. 1.


Marilyn Miller, mother of Kevin Miller, head men’s golf coach — June 9.

Minnie Platt, mother of Herm Platt, director of media resources — Aug. 6.


Stephanie Jania, mother of Dr. Irene Rykaszewski, adjunct professor of psychology, and mother-in-law of Dr. Peter Butera, professor and chair of psychology — Aug. 26.

Charles Joziwak, father of Connie Joziwak Shields, adjunct professor of nursing — Aug. 5.

Maria Palermo, mother of Teresa Slipko, registration process coordinator in the records office — July 6.

Richard J. Pollard, adjunct professor in the colleges of Arts and Sciences and Education at Niagara University, and brother of Dr. Rita Pollard, adjunct professor of English — Aug. 9.


Lorraine Wojnowski, mother of Mark Wojnowski, associate director of admissions — April 29.
Welcome to the 2007-2008 academic year! Niagara University’s academic senate will have its first meeting Sept. 17 at 3:35 p.m. in Bisgrove Hall, Room 351. Future senate meetings will be held at the same time and place on the following dates: Oct. 22; Nov. 12; Dec. 10; Jan. 28, 2008; Feb. 25, 2008; March 31, 2008; and April 21, 2008.

The members for the standing committees of the academic senate for this academic year are:

**Executive Committee**  
(One-year term)  
Dr. Bonnie Rose  
Dr. Gary Praetzel, Hosp.  
Dr. Donna Thompson, A&S  
Dr. Brian Bennett, A&S  
Elizabeth Broomfield, Records  
Dr. Donna Phillips, Education  
Dr. Suzanne Wagner, A&S  
An undergraduate student and a graduate student to be named

**General Education Committee**  
(One-year appointment)  
Dr. Paula Kot, A&S (08)  
Dr. Nancy McGlen, A&S (08)  
Dr. Zongqing Zhou, Hosp. (08)  
Dr. Robin Wilber, Bus. (08)  
Dr. Barb Iannarelli, Edu. (08)  
Dr. Robert Kane, A&S (08)  
Dr. Jacqueline Murphy, Edu. (08)  
Dr. Mike Barnwell, A&S (08)  
David Schoen, Library (08)  
Dr. Jim McCutcheon, A&S (08)  
Dr. Bill Edwards, A&S (08)  
Two students to be named  
Jennifer Herman, Admin. Support

**Curriculum Committee**  
(Two-year appointment)  
Dr. Wendy Duignan, chair, A&S (08)  
Dr. Phil Scherer, Bus. (09)  
Dr. Jan van Harsel, Hosp. (07)  
Dr. Alice Kozen, Edu. (09)  
Dr. Michael Kotarski, A&S (07)  
Dr. Timothy Ireland, A&S (09)  
Father Steve Denig, Edu. (09)  
An undergraduate student and a graduate student to be named

**Outcomes Assessment**  
(Two-year appointment)  
Dr. Kathy Ho, chair, Bus. (08)  
Dr. Debra Colley, Edu. (09)  
Steven L. Siegel, A&S (09)  
Dr. Paul Vermette, Edu. (09)  
Dr. Henrick Borgstrom, A&S (08)  
Dr. Dexter Davis, Hosp. (08)  
Dr. Thomas Chambers, A&S (08)  
Dr. Ron Priefer, A&S (09)  
Two students to be named  
Jennifer Herman, Admin. Support

**Academic Standards, Planning and Support Services Committee**  
(One-year appointment)  
Antonia Knight, AEP (08)  
Bernadette Brennen, Acad. Affairs (08)  
Dr. Marlo Brown, A&S (08)  
Dr. Mary Schreiner, A&S (08)  
Mike Gentile, Hosp. (08)  
Dr. Paul Richardson, Bus. (08)  
Patricia Kinner, Acad. Support (08)  
Dr. Morgan Conway, Edu. (08)  
Jacquie Agnello, Controller (08)  
Dr. Alex Bertland, A&S (08)  
An undergraduate student and a graduate student to be named  
Mike Konopski, ex-officio, Enrollment

The New York State Department of Education awarded Niagara University’s College of Education a grant of $143,420 to offer a one-week summer institute for math and science teachers, grades pre-K through grade nine. The award is the fourth largest that will be disbursed throughout colleges and universities in the state.

The Institute of Applied Learning, the college’s professional development arm, coordinated the summer institute, which was held June 25-29.

More than 120 teachers from the 13 school districts and 16 nonpublic schools represented through the Orleans/Niagara BOCES Teacher Center, Niagara Falls School District, Diocese of Buffalo, New York Learns, Niagara Charter School, and Stella Niagara were invited to take the three-credit graduate course.

The project focused on improving teachers’ professional content knowledge and offered opportunities for them to develop lesson plans for and work with the pre-K through grade nine students who were attending NU’s Math/Science Summer Camp.
the library launched a new program that will make the research output of Niagara University faculty (and others who do research) more accessible to the campus and to the outside world. The Faculty Research Pilot Project, which started July 2, will facilitate cataloging faculty conference papers and other research materials to which they own the copyright and mounting the full text of those documents on the Web. The bibliographic reference will also be uploaded to WorldCat, the largest book database of library holdings in the world, making the conference paper accessible to a very wide audience.

The library is looking for participants in this program. Contact David Schoen, director of libraries, at schoen@niagara.edu for more information, or simply send him the documents you wish to make more accessible to researchers.

For a full description of the Faculty Research Pilot Project, log on to www.niagara.edu/library/facpapers/pilot.html.

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**Book orders**

The library is currently ordering materials and invites the NU community to make book recommendations. Please note that suggesting that the library purchase materials isn’t limited to faculty — everyone’s expertise will help to build a strong collection.

**Student service enhancements**

Now that the College of Business Administration has moved to its new home in Bisgrove Hall, additional space is available in the library. This space will be used to enhance services to students. For example, a new group study room equipped with technology that will support collaborative work among students will be created.

In addition, in response to information gathered from a survey conducted in fall 2006, a new computer lab will be established on the second floor of the library. This will greatly increase the number of computers available to students.

The additional space has also enabled the College of Education and the library to collaborate in the creation of a “Teacher’s Studio” in the south end of the basement. This space will house kindergarten through grade 12 curriculum materials as well as supplies and other materials that will support education students in their lesson and activity planning. Use of the Teacher’s Studio will be open to all students as study space as well.

**The library’s future**

The long-range goal for the library is to transform it to better support the needs of the 21st century college student. In addition to providing access to research materials, the library building will emphasize:

- **Comfort:** an aesthetically pleasing, welcoming environment, with a variety of spaces supporting different learning styles and practices.
- **Collaboration:** a place where students work together.
- **Convenience:** a place where students can come not only for research help, but for help in the production aspect of their academic work: for example, digitizing materials for projects, creating posters, etc.

You can find a draft of the library’s long-range plan at: www.niagara.edu/library/planweb.pdf.

If you have thoughts on how the library can improve, please send them to schoen@niagara.edu.

**LENDING A HELPING HAND — More than 90 Niagara University employees took part in the university’s fourth annual Day of Service on June 14. The project helps local agencies and organizations, like Community Missions and the Heart and Soul food pantry, with jobs they might not have time to complete themselves, such as painting, cleaning and gardening. From left to right: Mike Skowronski, employer relations coordinator in the Office of Career Development; Bev Junevic, accountant in the controller’s office; and Howard Morgan, director of advancement services in the Office of Institutional Advancement, were among those who volunteered their morning to assist the selected organizations.**
Niagara University’s College of Business Administration will host the Middle Atlantic Association of Colleges of Business Administration’s annual conference Oct. 3-5. It will be held in Bisgrove Hall. John Castellani, president of Business Roundtable, will be the keynote speaker.


The conference is a meeting of deans from nearly 100 colleges of business administration. MAACBA is the regional association for AACSB, the premier accrediting association for colleges of business administration.

The conference is just one of the many events the college has planned for the fall of 2007.

NU’s Accounting Society and the department of accounting will host the annual Meet the Accountants night on Sept. 18. The event invites prospective employers to meet NU students, faculty and staff. A reception will be held from 5-6 p.m. in the new academic complex. Employers will then meet with students in the Castellani Art Museum from 6-8 p.m. They will also have a table to display information about their firms.

The Family Business Center will celebrate its fifth anniversary by hosting a breakfast presentation by Larry Meitus of Murak and Associates LLC on Oct. 2 at Sonoma Grille, 5010 Main St., Snyder. “In four short years, the center’s membership has grown to 50 families,” said Vince Agnello, director of the center. “All of the presentations are centered on proven best business practices and provide attendees with strategies and tips that can be easily implemented in any firm.”

The center will also host its first international conference on family business at the Conference Center Niagara Falls, Oct. 25 and 26. The conference will provide an array of topics of interest to family-owned businesses, such as buy/sell agreements, family member compensation, increasing sales, security, fringe benefits, and marketing strategies.

International author and education specialist Charlotte Danielson was the keynote speaker at Niagara University’s International Leadership Conference July 8 to 11. Sponsored by the College of Education, the conference also included Dr. James Williams, superintendent of the Buffalo City School District, as a speaker. Educators from Germany, Italy, India, Scotland, and Canada, as well as the United States, also spoke on topics such as learning, teaching, leading, and school development.

Danielson is the author of “Enhancing Professional Practice: A Framework for Teaching” and a number of other widely acclaimed publications supporting teachers and administrators.

Niagara University’s Office of Continuing and Community Education, in cooperation with members of the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra, presented the third annual BRAVO Chamber Music Workshop at Niagara University July 23-29. During the workshop, the renowned St. Petersburg Quartet, the Gould Quartet (Canada), and BRAVO’s faculty presented concerts, lectures and master classes to high school chamber music students.

Eighth grade NYGEAR UP students from the Albany City School District took part in a special college-preparatory camp at Niagara University June 25-27. The GEAR UP (Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs) grant, administered by New York State Higher Education Services Corp., partially funds the camp, and the Commission on Independent Colleges and Universities, a sector partner in the NYGEAR UP grant, provides services to all GEAR UP sites in New York state. The camp introduced students to college life, enabling them to meet faculty and staff members, take classes, live in dormitories, and enjoy a variety of social events on campus.
On Campus

Castellani Art Museum

Now through Feb. 17, 2008 — “Beyond in Western New York,” featuring new work by Jay Carrier, A.J. Fries and Kurt Von Voetsch. Opening reception on Sept. 15 from 4-7 p.m. Admission is free.

Saturdays in October and November — ART EXPRESS family workshops begin with storytelling in the galleries at 2 p.m., followed by a tour of selected artworks and a trip to the classroom for exciting art projects. A $3/person fee ($2 for museum members) includes instruction and all materials. To register, call Marian Granfield, education coordinator, at 286-8367, or e-mail mgranfield@niagara.edu

Now through Oct. 7 — Selections from the Charles Rand Penney Collection of Historical Niagara Falls Prints at the Castellani Art Museum at the Falls, 101 Old Falls St. Admission is free. Call 286-8200 for more information.

Oct. 5, 2007–Jan. 13, 2008 — “To Market: Changing Strategies for Family Farming on the Niagara Frontier.” The heart of this exhibition will focus on the “art” of farm marketing: architecture, signage, and display techniques that encourage people to stop, look and purchase.

Oct. 5, 2007–Jan. 13, 2008 — “Rural America: Remembering the Family Farm — Prints from the Collection of Steven Schmidt” provides visitors with an historical look at the evolution of the family farm. Depicting elements of invention, architecture, and production, artists have captured the American spirit through the print medium.


Oct. 5 — First Friday includes art opening with curators’ talks, live music by Andy Bialek & Kathryn Scibilia, art activities for kids, complimentary hors d’oeuvres, cash bar, and door prizes. 5–9 p.m. Admission is free for museum members; $5 others.

Museum hours: Tues.–Sat. 11 a.m.-5 p.m., Sundays 1-5 p.m. To learn more about the Castellani Art Museum’s classes, exhibitions and special events, call 286-8200 or visit www.niagara.edu/cam/. To view a calendar of events, visit www.niagara.edu/cam/calendar/calendar.html.

NU Theater

Sept. 21-23 — “I’m Peggy Guggenheim and You’re Not” at the Church in Lewiston. A very funny play about the doyenne of 20th century art by Wendy Yondorf, the writer who several years ago gave us “A Space Between the Trees,” regional winner of the American Theatre Festival at Kennedy Center.

For NU Theater ticket information, call the box office at 286-8622.

Niagara University Athletics

Women’s Volleyball

Sept. 15 vs. Loyola 2 p.m.
Sept. 16 vs. Rider Noon
Sept. 29 vs. St. Peter’s 2 p.m.
Sept. 30 vs. Manhattan 2 p.m.

Men’s Soccer

Sept. 28 vs. St. Bonaventure 4 p.m.
Sept. 30 vs. Robert Morris 2:30 p.m.

Women’s Soccer

Sept. 30 vs. Robert Morris Noon

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

Live Music Series

Get ready to jam for another year of Niagara University’s critically-acclaimed Live Music Series! All shows are from 8-11 p.m. in the “Under the Taps” Club, lower level Gallagher Center. Admission is $5 at the door, but is free for Niagara faculty, staff, and students. Admission includes free pizza and wings. Shows are open to the general public.

Sept. 21 — Christian Music Night with Tina Marie Williams and Megan Brown

To find out more about the Live Music Series, visit www.niagara.edu/rtr.