Dear alumni and friends:

The 2011-12 academic year was another successful one for the College of Hospitality and Tourism Management. Given an economy that is still struggling to add jobs in the aftermath of the Great Recession, the placement of our students has been nothing short of remarkable. The latest placement statistics have been compiled and the college continues to maintain a 100 percent placement rate, with 95 percent of its graduates working in the major. This is remarkable performance — no other program in the country can match our placement rate and, most importantly, the quality of our placements! We honestly do not have sufficient numbers of hotel and restaurant management majors, given the hiring demands placed upon us by our industry partners.

Your help in actively recommending students to attend our college is both appreciated and needed. Some of the fallout from the Great Recession has included a sizeable enrollment shift from private schools to public schools, and to two-year schools in particular, plus an aversion to assume almost any kind of debt. This has made it very difficult for Niagara University and the College of Hospitality and Tourism Management to maintain enrollment levels. Your personal touch in telling our story of providing students with superior industry experiences and superior employment would be most appreciated. This would truly help us!

Our sport management program continues to expand. We have received all Niagara University approvals to start a master’s degree in sport management. Professor Mike Gentile was responsible for preparing this detailed submission and for shepherding this proposal through the approval process. Once we receive approval from the New York State Education Department, we can begin this program. I will also be visiting the German Sport University this summer in Cologne, Germany, to examine the possibility of arranging an international program with this premier European sport program.

Our international offerings continue to expand, and they must, as we are educating students for the world’s largest industry. Our work-abroad program in Lake Como, Italy, and our cultural immersion program in Peru are well established in the college. Our dual-degree program with our Leading Hotel Schools of the World partner school in Bad Honnef, Germany, has been a real joy to us. This dual-degree program allows an NU student to earn a degree from both Niagara and our German partner with one year of study abroad, and for a student from our German partner school to obtain the same two degrees in four years. I can honestly say that the six German students who studied at NU this academic year were six of the best students that I have ever had in my 33-year career on Monteagle Ridge. Dr. Zongqing Zhou has worked hard to expand student recruitment to China, and we will be welcoming our first students from China in September.

Our Club Management Program did it once again! Dr. William Frye and the NU student chapter of the Club Managers Association of America was, for the third consecutive year, ranked the No. 1 student chapter in the country out of approximately 55 active student chapters.

Dr. Jan van Harssel has assumed a major community leadership role as a commissioner for the Niagara Falls National Heritage Area. Dr. van Harssel has been a master at involving students in activities associated with this organization, but also each year has his students working on numerous community-based projects through his courses.

Dr. Joe Scarcelli supervised NU students in a consulting class that made various food and beverage cost-saving recommendations to a local country club. To say that the board of the club was pleased with the students’ report is a great understatement.

Thank you for your support of our students, and thank you for recommending Niagara University’s nationally ranked College of Hospitality and Tourism Management to potential students.

In appreciation.

Gary D. Praetzel, Ph.D.
Dean

College of Hospitality professor Dr. Jan van Harssel (center) with German dual degree students (l-r) Felicitas Reich, Anika Loeffler, Lisa Hey, Martin Krausebeck, David Poprawka, and Edmond Platz.
Students Gain Valuable Skills at Marriott Leadership Summit

By Andrew Gala, ’12

On Jan. 2, Marriott International flew me down to the JW Marriott San Antonio Hill Country resort for the Marriott Student Leadership Summit. For three days, 84 other students and I attended conferences, seminars and committee meetings that were aimed at developing our knowledge of teamwork and the company, and obtaining personal growth skills that we can utilize for our careers. We also broke off into small groups that were led by individuals who held vice president- and director-level positions.

These students, who were hand-selected by Marriott’s university recruiters based on their internship experience, came from all 50 states and some of the top programs in the nation. Emily Heiler and I represented Niagara University. The conference hosted students from Michigan State, Cornell, Boston University, Penn State, and UCF, among other acclaimed programs. It was a great experience to see how the other students represented themselves and how their education impacted their decisions!

We had Peak Performance (a critically acclaimed speaker/development series by Harvard) sessions every single day that focused on the term “Adversity Quotient,” among other leadership development traits. We learned how adversity can impact our decision-making process, and that, while you cannot control the stimulus that influences you, you can control HOW the stimulus influences you as well as how to react to negative stimuli. Peak Performance seminars also discussed the “camping versus climbing” mentality and developed skills within our group as to how to be “climbers.”

In the afternoon, we all broke off into teams and performed various competitions, including: real hotel case studies, marketing plans, skits for university recruitment advertisements, team-building competitions, and the “Marriott Olympics.” My team didn’t win, but we had awesome synergy and really clicked well together as a group!

At the end of the conference, during the final ceremony, team coaches, university recruiters, and the student-conference attendees voted for who they thought was the conference’s “outstanding leader.” I was humbled to have been nominated as the “outstanding leader” by my peers when my name was announced. A week later, Lisl Ewing, Marriott’s university relations manager, called to congratulate me. She told me that not only did my specific coach nominate me as No. 1 in my team, but that all of the coaches and recruiters ranked me the No. 1 management development program candidate coming out of the summit. This experience of networking and building relationships was a once-in-a-lifetime one for me, and I’m more than thankful for everything Niagara University has given me in order to have this type of opportunity.

At the career fair in February, Marriott presented me with an offer for a sales MDP position in either New York City or Boston. I’m thrilled to begin this new and exciting chapter in my life.

Andrew Gala, fourth from left, and other Marriott candidates collaborate on a team project at the Marriott Leadership Summit in San Antonio, Texas.
Kevin Kelly flashed his Stanley Cup championship ring at the students of Niagara University to prove to them that the hospitality and tourism business can be very exciting.

Kelly, president of Delaware North Company’s Parks and Resorts Division, was given the ring because his company provides hospitality services to the Boston Bruins arena, TD Garden — and his boss, Jeremy Jacobs, owns the team.

The 11th annual College of Hospitality and Tourism Management convocation on Oct. 27, 2011, honored the Jacobs family for their company’s leadership in the industry, and Michael Gehrisch, president of Destination Marketing Association International, who received a Lifetime Achievement Award.

“The convocation helps the students network with industry professionals,” said Dr. Gary Praetzel, dean of the college. “This helps them to be more prepared for their careers beyond graduation.”

Gehrisch has spent 29 years in the hospitality industry, including the past decade as president and CEO of DMAI. He previously held management positions with Marriott and Hilton hotels, and spent 13 years as executive vice president of the American Hotel & Lodging Association in Washington, D.C. In his current position, he leads a global organization comprising 3,000 destination marketing groups around the globe.

A graduate of Ohio State University, Gehrisch has been named one of Meeting News magazine’s “Top 25 Most Influential People,” one of the “100 Most Influential People in the Tradeshow Business” by Tradeshow Week, and among Business Travel News’ “25 Most Influential Travel Executives.”

Delaware North Companies Inc. started in 1915 as a modest popcorn and peanuts vending business. Today, it is one of the world’s premier hospitality management companies, with more than $2 billion in annual revenue. Just as it was nearly a century ago, the company is still owned and operated by the Jacobs family. In addition to Boston’s TD Garden, its operations are found at landmarks like Yosemite National Park, Kennedy Space Center and Wembley Stadium.

The student chapter of the American Hotel and Lodging Association at Niagara University was established in fall 2011. Its members look forward to working with the AH&LA to learn about the industry and develop hands-on opportunities to experience it. This past year, members have been very active; they have attended events such as the International Hotel, Motel + Restaurant Show in New York City, and the Legislative Action Summit held in Washington, D.C. In addition, the chair of AH&LA, Nancy Johnson, visited the university and gave an exclusive talk and great industry advice to the club. Club members were also given the opportunity to become certified guest service professionals, the highest acknowledgment of awarding-winning guest service for employees in the lodging industry.

There are many opportunities for students in the AH&LA student chapter, and their network grows tremendously because of the number of members AH&LA has in hotels throughout the country. This upcoming year, the club hopes to expand by inviting new members to join and engage in these and even more events.
Students Consult on Food and Beverage Issues for Local Club

During the spring 2012 semester, a select group of students in Dr. Joe Scarcelli’s MHR 441 special topics class had a unique opportunity to peer behind the doors of industry. Dr. Scarcelli created the class in response to a request from a local country club that was concerned with its food and beverage operation.

Students in the class were given all of the club’s financial information, and spent months accumulating and analyzing the information for ways in which the club could become more profitable. Students considered information such as food, beverage, and labor costs; membership levels; special event usage; and club layout, design and decor.

The class provided an opportunity for the students to put into practice skills they had learned in previous college courses.

The semester ended for the students with a presentation to the club’s board of directors. The students gave a two-hour presentation that included their findings on problem areas, as well as their recommendations for changes the club could make. The board members were very impressed with both the quality of the work the students did and with the insightful recommendations they made. Feedback from the board has indicated that several of the recommended changes are in the process of being implemented, and that they plan to address most of the others.

This course was an excellent experiential learning experience for the students, who were given the opportunity to get “behind the scenes” and essentially act as consultants to the industry they will soon be entering.

Loeffler Receives Best Paper Award

Anika Loeffler, a student who was among six German students matriculating toward a dual degree from Niagara University and the International University of Applied Sciences in Germany, received the Best Paper Award at the 2012 Korea America Hospitality and Tourism Educators Association (KAHTEA) Conference in Las Vegas, Nev. Loeffler’s paper took the top prize in the undergraduate student forum category, earning the Glashuette (Sachsen), Germany, native a plaque and $500.

Entries for the Best Paper Award were judged based on the topic relevance and contribution of research to existing knowledge, sound methodology and statistical analysis, structure and clarity of writing, and conclusions and implications.

Loeffler’s paper, A Study of Adopters of Hotel Mobile Applications: A Diffusion of Innovation Theory, investigated the effectiveness of mobile applications as a viable communication tool for hotel business. According to the abstract, “Little research has been conducted on the behavior of customers’ adoption of hotel mobile applications to date. The purpose of the study is to investigate hotel mobile applications’ characteristics that influence hotel guest acceptance of new technology products and distinguish early-adopters from non-adopters of the new technology innovation. In this study, the socio-demographic characteristics and perceived innovation attributes of adopters and non-adopters of hotel mobile applications are compared. The findings of this study could help hotel marketers to develop their marketing promotion and communication strategy to the adopters of hotel mobile applications.”

The conference, which was held April 7-9 at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, included participants from North America, South Korea, China and the Philippines.

“Anika and her five fellow dual-degree candidates are among the best students that I have seen in my 33 years at Niagara University,” said Dr. Gary Praetzel, dean of Niagara’s College of Hospitality and Tourism Management. “They have had a great impact on our campus and have strengthened our relationships with leading national employers. Much like our dual-degree program, these young people are very unique.”

Loeffler received a degree in hotel management this May from NU as well as from her highly regarded home institution in Bad Honnef, Germany. The partnership is one of the many unique programs offered through NU’s accredited College of Hospitality and Tourism Management.
Experiential Learning Goes South

David Hoover, a senior sport management student, was given the opportunity of a lifetime when he was able to travel to Greensboro, N.C., to fulfill an internship with Niagara alumnus Matt Brown, ’74. Brown is the managing director of the Greensboro Coliseum Complex in North Carolina, which is a multivenu facility which features a broad range of activities from athletic events and concerts to conventions and exhibits.

Hoover had the opportunity to work hand in hand with Brown and his team in Greensboro for several large and prestigious events throughout the month of March. These events included the NCAA Men’s Basketball Tournament, the Women’s Atlantic Coast Conference Basketball Tournament and several national swim meets in the new state-of-the-art Greensboro Aquatic Center. Other notable events were the Bruce Springsteen and the E-Street Band concert, the largest RV show in the state of North Carolina, the Home and Garden Show, and the North Carolina State High School basketball championships.

His time was divided among organizational departments ranging from event management and marketing to maintenance and the business office. He spent most of his time with the event planners, where he had to go out of his comfort zone. “I was given tasks and duties that I thought I would never be given,” said Hoover. “I was handed a blueprint of 215 YMCA swim teams and I was told to fit them in the Special Events Center by size and give them adequate space to lounge. At the end of the day, all the work paid off and we put on a successful national event.”

Hoover enjoyed this experience and said he definitely sees a bright future for the Coliseum. “They have expanded the Coliseum so much over the past year by adding a state-of-the-art Aquatic Center, an ACC Hall of Champions and a 7,500-seat amphitheatre,” he said.

Hoover noted that by talking with Niagara alumni at their annual Alumni Advantage Day, his chances at receiving this opportunity, which was worth college credit, were enhanced. “The alumni at Niagara are here to help,” he said. “Without the help of Mark Gatley, ’75, general manager of the Greater Ft. Lauderdale/ Broward County Convention Center, and other faculty and staff at Niagara, I would not have been able to receive this honor.”

Hoover hopes that this experience will enhance his knowledge of the hospitality industry and what it takes to become an event manager. When asked what advice he would give to prospective students, he said, “I’ve learned from Mr. Gatley to pay it forward. You must get experience to obtain a job and you must not stop there. You have to return the favor to your fellow Niagara University students by attending Alumni Advantage and just being a helping hand to anyone who needs your assistance.”

Dr. Rachel Madsen, assistant professor of sport management, began a sport-based youth mentoring class at NU in the fall of 2011. Students enrolled in this class spent several days each week helping to organize and implement recreation and sport activities for low-resource elementary students in Niagara Falls. Aside from broadening the children’s recreational offerings, NU students encouraged healthy lifestyles and discussed the importance of education. In addition, NU students learned about the broader social issues that often contribute to poverty and poor health. Students greatly enjoyed the time they spent with the children and Dr. Madsen hopes that they discovered sport and recreation as important tools to bring about positive change in society.
Alumni Spotlight: Anne Marie Moebes, ’78

A 30-year veteran of the travel industry, Anne Marie Moebes, ’78, has been named one of the “200 Most Powerful Women in Travel” by Travel Agent Magazine.

What has your career progression been since graduating from NU?
I started my career at ASTA (American Society of Travel Agents) and during my 11 years there became a training manager and then executive vice president/general manager. Then I served Alamo Rent a Car as director of travel agency marketing. Next, I spent two years at InteleTravel, a home-based travel agent company. Then I signed on with TRAVELSAVERS as chief marketing officer for nine years. I then ventured out and started my own business as founder and owner of Curves Travel. And I’ve now returned to American Marketing Group, Inc. (the parent company of TRAVELSAVERS and 18 other international travel brands) to direct special projects in emerging markets.

What is your current position and what does it entail?
I’m executive vice president and I develop new business companies in emerging markets such as medical and wellness travel, meetings and incentives, and online digital media.

Up until this point, what has your greatest challenge in the workforce been?
I’ve been blessed with having strong mentors who have ushered me through the challenges — especially at the beginning of my career. And some of the mentors that I’m most grateful to are travel agents. But to answer your question in another way, I would say that every day brings new challenges. The most important thing is to stay current on how consumers are buying travel products. This has changed a great deal as the Internet has become a driving force in marketing, and it continues to evolve at a fast pace.

What has been your greatest reward?
My greatest reward has been becoming a mentor and passing the baton to the next generation of young leaders in the travel industry. And I continue to learn as I help guide those who are just starting out. I love the travel business and it’s so fulfilling to keep learning and developing. As I’ve become more focused and tested new ideas and strategies, I now have a bigger picture and a greater understanding of the industry that I can happily pass along to others.

How has the hospitality industry changed since you graduated from college?
The product has changed and there are now many grades from mass market to top-of-the-line luxury. And the distribution points have changed as the Internet has become more important in the marketing mix. But it’s interesting to see that lately hotels are returning to travel agents because they’re still the most profitable distribution channel and they provide a special kind of customer service that just can’t be matched anywhere else.

What is your favorite part of your job?
Moving into new markets and helping to create innovative solutions as the marketplace evolves.

What do your future plans entail?
I tend to live my career on a short-term basis rather than setting long-term, 10-year goals. This has served me well because it allows me to react and respond to market changes. My biggest goal is to continue to do work that I love and collaborate with people I enjoy and respect.

What is your advice to new alumni entering the hospitality industry?
Be a sponge! Be honest and open. I’m a big believer that hard work, honesty and integrity are important ingredients to success that will be rewarded. And seek out mentors. Do all of this and there’s a good chance that you, too, will become a leader in travel.

Do you know of anyone who is interested in attending Niagara University and studying hospitality, tourism or sport management?
If so, we’d love to talk to them!

Please have prospective students contact Kristina Bradshaw, assistant to the dean, at 716.286.8279 or Bradshaw@niagara.edu.

She will gladly give them information about our college and answer any questions they may have.
Summer Conferencing Is a Win-Win for Students, Niagara

Each summer in Niagara Falls, occupancy rates soar. On campus at Niagara University, summers for most (except the Facility Services Department: its staff clean, paint, fix and renovate during these weeks) used to be a very quiet time — faculty recharging off campus, administration and staff gearing up for the fall, and residence halls virtually empty. Dr. Deborah T. Curtis, director of Niagara University’s Hospitality Training & Research Center and a former hotelier who has also set up conference opportunities at another college, saw the empty residence halls and under-utilized meeting space as a business opportunity. She approached Dr. Gary Praetzel, dean of the College of Hospitality and Tourism Management; Dr. Bonnie Rose, NU’s executive vice president; Mary Borgognoni, associate vice president for operations and outreach; and others to change the way Niagara utilized its campus in the summer.

Conferences and events on campus provide an additional source of revenue for the university, provide students with great experiential learning opportunities, and bring people to campus. In addition, bringing a group to your property for a site inspection dramatically increases your “close rate.” Bringing groups to Niagara, particularly youth groups, gives the university an opportunity to show off its beautiful campus and increases the likelihood that the participants will consider attending NU.

Niagara’s summer accommodations include: a 192-unit apartment complex, a series of six campus houses, and one residence hall that accommodates up to 469 people.

Niagara’s students benefit from holding on-campus conferences and events. They rotate responsibilities/positions in areas including housekeeping, front desk, conference services, accounting, food and beverage and athletic events, with one student taking the “lead role” in each area. Students gain the knowledge and ability to satisfy both internal and external customers and build long-term loyalty.

Through research, discussions and direct guest interaction, students gain insight into each group’s wants, needs and schedules, and they utilize this information to provide guests more than expected. Through hands-on work in each operating department, students experience the role of a line employee as well as that of a supervisor. Great customer service is achievable throughout a hospitality organization. Students are provided the tools to help them work with employees and volunteers to reduce the frequency and/or the severity of problems encountered. They analyze the level of success of each group and determine where to make improvements.

Shelby Bixler, a student minoring in tourism and event management, is returning for her second summer working in conferences and events. “Summer conferencing gave me the opportunity to gain experience in the hospitality industry, while finding my true passion in event planning,” she said. “The hands-on internship helped me better understand the various roles in the industry while earning class credit. The summer was fun, fast paced and exciting; it allowed me to meet new people and make connections.”

Anthony Pettinelli, a senior sport and recreation major, summed up his experience this way: “This experience allowed me to see two sides of an event: hosting and the planning that goes into it. This confirmed my passion for the sports world. Working with NU’s conference and events team allows any hospitality major to find exactly what they are looking for as well as maybe finding something you didn’t even know existed before this amazing experience.”

With a combined 60 years of hospitality experience, Dr. Debbie Curtis and Mike Jeswald, training manager for the Hospitality Training and Research Center, provide the leadership and mentoring needed to make this summer experience one to remember. Students receive supervisory and line level experience; CPR/AED certification; bloodborne pathogen training; and safety and security training. This summer, the team will set up meeting space for the educational conferences, check in 100 hockey players, keep tabs on standings in a baseball tournament, join a LaSallian group in community service, maintain a retail stand, conduct surveys in Niagara Falls during the Nik Wallenda tightrope walk, prepare guest rooms, make arrangements for a last-minute dinner for 80 people, give directions, book more groups for this year and future years, work with basketball alumni, help a family reunion with AV needs for their family skits, answer lock-out calls at 3 a.m., and of course, scrub some toilets. They will work as a team, helping each other and depending on each other, they’ll improve their communication and computer skills, they will be challenged, frustrated, exhausted, and hopefully, proud.

Take your next event to college!
Diagnosis Inspires Dan Tracy, ’03, to Make a Difference for Others

In 2010, when College of Hospitality alum Dan Tracy, ’03, was diagnosed with Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis, (ALS or Lou Gehrig’s disease, as it’s commonly known), he was shocked. Once he came to grips with his life-changing illness, he drew upon the “I can get it done” resourcefulness he developed after years of working in the always challenging restaurant industry, and began prioritizing what he wanted to accomplish. One of those things was to make a difference in the lives of people who were also afflicted with the disease.

It is estimated that people with ALS will require $250,000-$350,000 each year beyond the second year of diagnosis to prolong their survival time. Because many individuals cannot afford such large medical expenses, organizations like the Muscular Dystrophy Association will help to offset the costs. Dan decided that one of the ways he could help others with ALS was to raise money for MDA through an event he calls “The Iron Event.”

Inspired by Bravo TV’s Top Chef, and named for Lou Gehrig, who was known as “The Iron Horse,” the first “Iron Event” was held in January 2011. It was a resounding success, with 800 attendees. The second event was held in February 2012, and a third is scheduled to take place in the summer of 2013.

When he wasn’t planning Iron Events, Dan was working, first as the sous chef at Black and Blue Restaurant in Williamsville, N.Y., and then at Bank of America after earning his MBA from Canisius College.

During his restaurant career, Dan held quite a few impressive positions. He worked at the Western Door Steakhouse in the Seneca Niagara Casino and participated in the opening of the restaurant. He also served as the sous chef at Tempo, an acclaimed Buffalo restaurant, and helped to open Bravo in the Galleria Mall in Cheektowaga before going to Black and Blue.

According to Dan, “I didn’t really care about making money. I wanted to serve people and make them happy and there’s no better way than feeding people. It’s really humbling, especially when you make someone’s night — like if it’s a special occasion. When you make them happy with your food, there’s no greater feeling of satisfaction.”

Dan’s restaurant background has given him an appreciation of fine cuisine, and he and his fiancée, Julie Knapp, enjoy sampling some of the best the local restaurants have to offer. Because of his extensive work experience in the local restaurant industry, Dan has earned the respect of the industry and counts some of Buffalo’s more renowned chefs as his friends. These friendships sometimes lead to exceptional experiences, like the time Dan and Julie, accompanied by professor Steve Siegel, visited SEABAR in downtown Buffalo. Owner/chef Mike Andrzejewski, an old friend of Dan’s, personally delivered plate after plate of specially prepared food to their table. “When the check arrived,” said Siegel, “Mike had comped ALL the food. That was a wonderful gesture by Mike, but it was based upon the great respect Mike has for Dan.” Dan and Julie also recently traveled through Europe, with Italy winning Dan’s culinary heart.

Although the disease is progressing and his abilities have decreased as a result, Dan’s zest for life, and his commitment to helping others with ALS, are inspiring. As Dan puts it, “You really find out who your real friends are … and what you’re made of.”

ALS is a degenerative neurological disease that causes muscle weakness and disability, and quickly affects the ability to control the muscles needed to move, speak, eat, and breathe. Nerve cells that control the movement of muscles gradually die, causing the muscles to progressively weaken and begin to deteriorate. It is a frightening and consuming disease and doctors are not entirely sure what causes it. ALS is often called Lou Gehrig’s disease after Lou Gehrig, a Hall of Fame baseball player for the New York Yankees who was diagnosed with ALS in the 1930s.

Editor’s note: Contributions in Dan’s name can be made to the MDA of WNY by visiting www.mdausa.org.
MarkTamlini, ’85, is embarking on a new chapter in his life with a move from Long Island to Lewiston, N.Y. The move took place over the summer. Mark is hoping to find employment in the Western New York hospitality industry and is looking forward to getting settled in his new home.

Sarah (Pempell) Hummell, ’04, owner of Cafe Roche Espresso Bar in Winston-Salem, N.C., also writes a specialty coffee blog that has received international recognition. The column she wrote about owning a coffee shop was published in Fresh Cup Magazine, an international trade publication. She also gave birth to her second child, Jocelyn Hummell, on April 4, 2012. Sarah’s blog can be found at http://caferoche.blogspot.com/.

Shelly (McLaughlin) Cieslak, ’05, was honored with the “Lodging General Manager of the Year” award at the Visit Buffalo Niagara 2012 Beacon Awards, held on May 10, 2012. Shelly is currently the general manager at the Fairfield Inn and Suites Buffalo Airport.

Cali Gilbert, ’07, released her second book, It’s Simply...GOLDEN: 75 Years of Inspiration, in January 2012 to commemorate this momentous occasion. Her first book was titled It’s Simply...Sausalito: An Inspirational Journey. Both of her books are available on Amazon.com in paperback and Kindle formats. She is currently working on two more books for release this year. It’s Simply ...SF: Our City By The Bay is due out in July and It’s Simply ...SAILING: Oracle’s Voyage to the 2013 America’s Cup is due out in October. To learn more about her book projects, please visit www.CaliGilbertAuthor.com.

Michelle Keim, ’08, is currently living in Greenville, S.C., where she is employed with the Peace Center for the Performing Arts. As the assistant events coordinator to their nonprofit venue, she is the key contact between clients and their vendors. The Peace Center is currently campaigning to renovate this historical landmark and Michelle is excited to be part of such a supportive arts community and is looking forward to seeing The Peace Center become the hub for downtown Greenville.

Lauren Kenney, ’10, was recently hired at The Saturn Club in Buffalo, N.Y., as part of the business office. Her position entails assisting with billing, member marketing, member and guest functions, and special projects for the controller and general manager.

At right: Shelly Cieslak, ’05, with (l-r) Dr. William Frye, Dr. Gary Praetzel, and professor Steven Siegel.

Save the date and join us for
Alumni Advantage!

When: Thursday evening, Oct. 4 and Friday, Oct. 5
Where: Niagara University
What: An interactive program to encourage sharing, networking and professional development between students and alumni

Schedule at a Glance:
Thursday evening: Welcome wine tasting*
Friday: Workshops, round-table discussions and networking opportunities during which YOU do the presenting. Lunch will be provided.*

Remember, no preparation on your part is required in order to participate. We will create an atmosphere in which you can share your experiences and advice with students in order to help prepare the next generation of hospitality executives!

For more information and to register:
Please visit www.niagara.edu/hospitality and click on “events.”

*There is no charge to attend. Wine tasting and lunch are complimentary.

Questions? Please contact Katie Finamore at kfinamore@niagara.edu.

Thank you for your support. See you in October!
College of Hospitality and Tourism Management

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