HELLO Goodbye

AS NU SAYS GOODBYE TO DEAN GARY D. PRAETZEL AND HELLO TO DEAN KURT A. STAHURA — WE HONOR WITH GRATITUDE OUR PAST, WE EXCITEDLY LOOK TOWARD THE FUTURE.
Features
7 Hello/Goodbye
8 Sport Management Symposium Brings Students and Professionals Together
9 First Hospitality Training Institute Graduation Held
10 Students Fundraise for Orphanage in Peru

Departments
3 Dean’s Comments
4 News Briefs
11 Alumni Updates

Purple Concierge is a publication of the College of Hospitality and Tourism Management at Niagara University. Thank you to Camille Granchelli, ’10, for suggesting the name.

Dean
Dr. Kurt A. Stahura

Assistant to the Dean
Kristina A. Bradshaw

Administrative Assistant
Wendy O’Malley

Director of Experiential Opportunities
Kathryn A. DeCecco

Foodservice Director
Scott A. Beahen

Expert-in-Residence
Dr. Eddie Friel, OBE

Faculty
Dr. Youngsoo Choi
Dr. William D. Frye
Michael Gentile, J.D.
Dr. Chang Huh
Dr. Rachel Madsen
Dr. Joseph Scarcelli
Dr. Jimmy Smith
Dr. Jan H. van Harssel
Dr. Zongqing Zhou

Editor
Kathryn A. DeCecco

Design
Lisa M. McMahon
Dear alumni and friends:

To begin, I would like to say how excited I am about being named dean of the College of Hospitality and Tourism Management at Niagara University. It is an enormous honor to be appointed as dean of one of the premier hospitality colleges in the world. I also recognize that with this honor comes tremendous responsibility. My wife and I are also excited about moving to the Buffalo/Niagara region. During our time in the area, on two separate occasions, everyone we encountered was incredibly welcoming. They were also very complimentary about the reputation of the college and all that it has to offer.

It is abundantly clear that a tremendous foundation has been established by those who served as dean before my appointment. I will benefit from the fact that both Jan van Harssel and Michael Gentile are still active faculty members. They will provide some of the historical context in which decisions will be made moving forward. In addition, one cannot say enough about the work done by Gary Praetzel. In his time as dean he has brought regional, national, and international attention to the college that has paved the way and provided opportunities for those students who passed through the hallowed halls of our campus. He has also nurtured relationships with industry partners, alumni, employers, and our kind donors, each of whom are part and parcel of the proverbial mosaic that enables the college to continue to thrive.

Father Maher has been very clear about his vision for the university. Our college is an ideal vehicle for the realization of many of his goals and objectives in very tangible ways. Looking ahead, the college will continue to strive for excellence in teaching, research, and service. It is important that we continue to impart contemporary, relevant information to our students as they venture into the competitive global marketplace. It is equally important that our faculty contribute to the body of knowledge in their respective fields and continue to be revered as experts by academe and industry alike. It is also of quintessential importance that our students understand that we give back to the communities we serve. This is essential to those working within a field that has such a significant global reach, and particularly important to those being taught within the Vincentian tradition.

The college will continue to focus upon quality student experiences. We want each student to reflect fondly upon his or her time within our college, and that will not change. However, we will continue to evolve. We will be exploring graduate offerings, varied learning platforms, and additional international opportunities for our students. We want to continue to produce intelligent, inquisitive, creative, self-reliant citizens of the world. We also want our students to be the positive, compassionate, empathetic leaders that are needed as mores, cultures, and customs meld and morph around the globe. This is a product that is in demand by industries of all kinds.

In closing, inquiring parties, present students, alumni, industry professionals, and all, please introduce yourselves to me through email, in letter form, or whatever medium suits you. If you are on campus and you have a few minutes, venture over to St. Vincent’s Hall and say “hello” in person.

I look forward to meeting you,
Professor Kurt A. Stahura, Ph.D.
Dean
The Niagara University student chapter of the Club Managers Association of America has been named the best in the nation for a sixth consecutive year. The announcement was made during the 88th World Conference on Club Management, held March 9 in San Antonio.

The recognition indicates that Niagara University has maintained the most outstanding student chapter in the United States for the time period of May 2008 through December 2014.

Niagara was selected ahead of 58 other chapters in the nation based on a series of factors, including the number and variety of educational programs offered, member employment and internships in clubs, membership growth, relationship with the state chapter of CMAA, and member attendance at events.

The winner of Student Chapter of the Year competition is awarded a $1,000 conference registration grant, courtesy of The Club Foundation. Additionally, a trophy, which is displayed at CMAA National Headquarters, lists the winning chapter’s name.

Students who join Niagara’s CMAA student chapter are required to complete a rigorous schedule of educational and networking events and to work at a club each summer between academic semesters.

Dr. William D. Frye, associate professor of hospitality and tourism management and student chapter advisor, noted that these requirements, in addition to the chapter’s significant membership growth and internship placements with top-rated clubs, helped the chapter win the title.

“Our students are held to the same expectations and standards of private club managers who are currently working in the profession,” he said. “This sixth consecutive award reaffirms the industry’s viewpoint that the Niagara University student chapter meets and excels at those standards and is the hallmark of excellence in education and professional development for club management students.”

Marlen Krause, a student matriculating toward a dual degree from Niagara University and the International University of Applied Sciences in Germany, was recognized during the 2015 Korea America Hospitality and Tourism Educators Association Conference, held April 17-18 in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Krause won second place in the Undergraduate Student Research Forum for her paper, Airbnb: Is it an Innovator or a Market Disrupter in the Hotel Industry?

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.

Participating universities, in addition to Niagara, included Arkansas Tech University, Michigan State University, University of Memphis, and University of Hawaii at Manoa.
On Monday, Jan. 5, 2015, something pretty unique in the hospital industry happened at Niagara Falls Memorial Medical Center: the hospital—in partnership with Niagara University’s College of Hospitality and Tourism Management—opened its own restaurant.

Finding restaurants in hospitals is not all that unusual, but they tend to be chains or franchises. While some hospitals run their own restaurants, few actually create their menus and manage it themselves, as is the case at Memorial’s Tenth Street Café.

The goal at the restaurant is to provide food that will make patients, their visitors, and members of the Niagara Falls community forget they are dining in a hospital. It is hoping to create a “wow factor.”

That’s the idea behind transforming the cafeteria at Niagara Falls Memorial Medical Center into a gourmet bistro, says the hospital’s president and CEO, Joseph Ruffolo, a 1978 NU alum. And the whole idea—unique in the hospital industry—was his.

Niagara University will provide assistance such as mentoring and staffing, and will help Memorial develop cutting-edge customer service. And the manager/executive chef of the bistro is Lamont Singletary, a 2013 graduate of NU’s College of Hospitality and Tourism Management, where he majored in hotel and restaurant management.

“If we didn’t have the expertise of Niagara overseeing the staff, we probably would have been compelled to lease the space to a chain,” Ruffolo says. “But with their support, we can do it better than a fast food restaurant.”

Mackey Named 2015 Newman Civic Fellow

James Mackey, a junior hospitality major at Niagara University, has been named a 2015 Newman Civic Fellow by Campus Compact for demonstrating outstanding leadership and civic engagement. The Brigantine, N.J., native was among 201 students in the country to receive the award.

Campus Compact is a national coalition of almost 1,100 college and university presidents who are committed to fulfilling the civic purposes of higher education.

Mackey was nominated by the Rev. James J. Maher, C.M., president of Niagara University.

“James has not only excelled in the classroom but has emerged as an engaging and powerful student leader on and off campus,” Father Maher said. “He represents the core values and mission of Niagara University, and possesses the passion and energy to make a difference in the lives of those most in need. James will be an outstanding leader in his community.”

Possessing a longstanding passion for serving the less fortunate, Mackey has been volunteering his time to help others since seventh grade, starting at a soup kitchen in Atlantic City.

When Mackey came to Niagara University, he wanted to continue to help others, so he began volunteering at the St. Vincent de Paul Society’s soup kitchen in Niagara Falls. He eventually became the soup kitchen’s coordinator, handling everything from scheduling student teams to planning, shopping for and cooking the meals.

Mackey is also instrumental in obtaining funding for the St. Vincent de Paul Society, as he organizes concession stand sales at Niagara University men’s basketball home games, the project’s primary source of funding.

On April 24th, 13 students were inducted into Eta Sigma Delta, the hospitality national honor society. From left to right, Adam Listman, Carl Bailey, Jonathan Borek, Amanda Micale, Nick Wojcicki, Linh Chiem, Adam Zarczynski, Julie Fewer, Kelly Fitzpatrick, Marlen Krause, Mickayla Williams, Alexis LaRose, Michaela Stryker, Rebecca Walker, advisors Dr. Rachel Madsen and Dr. Chang Huh, and Rachel Zilka.
Sport Management Students Offer Recreational Programs at Niagara Charter School

Niagara University students enrolled in a class on sport-based youth mentoring continue to offer ongoing outreach programs to inner-city children.

As part of the course, NU students volunteer weekly at Niagara Charter School in Niagara Falls, N.Y., serving as sport and recreation leaders and mentors to the children in kindergarten through grade 6.

The program, overseen by Dr. Rachel Madsen, an assistant professor at NU, is jointly funded by Niagara University’s College of Hospitality and Tourism Management, the Niagara Charter School, and a poverty grant issued through the university.

SPM 320 (Sport Based Youth Mentoring) is part of NU’s sport management program, and taught by Dr. Madsen each semester. Twenty-five students are enrolled in the course each semester, with each of them providing between 30-40 hours of service to the Niagara Falls community through sport and recreation offerings to low-income children.

Sport Management Majors Study Abroad in Germany

Six Niagara University sport management majors celebrated the conclusion of the spring semester by studying abroad in Germany under the guidance of Dr. Rachel Madsen, assistant professor of hospitality and tourism management.

The 15-day experience was geared toward learning about the European approach to sport management while exploring Germany’s culture and history.

Participating students included Jamie Alberici, Erin Cronin, Mark Emery, Amanda Jacek, Michael Paglicci and Sara Wasilewski.

Among the sites visited by the students were Allianz Arena, Commerzbank Arena, Munich’s Olympic Park, and the Nazi party rally grounds in Nuremberg.

Along with learning about European sport, the group sampled German food and culture and came away with new perspectives on transportation, fitness and activity.

The group was hosted by Friedrich Schiller University of Jena, and visited Jena, Erfurt, Schmiedefeld, Nuremberg, Munich, and Frankfurt.

New York’s top governmental office has taken notice of the Niagara University student chapter of the Club Managers Association of America, which has been named the best in the nation for six years running.

In a letter dated June 1, New York Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo congratulated chapter advisor Dr. William D. Frye and his students on their achievement.

“Your chapter’s history of dedicated service and professionalism makes this award richly-deserved and continues to distinguish you as an invaluable asset to the field of education,” wrote the governor.

“I applaud your dedication and the positive impact you continue to have on the professional club management community locally and beyond.”

Niagara’s CMAA chapter was selected ahead of 58 others during the 88th World Conference on Club Management, held March 9 in San Antonio. The recognition indicates that Niagara University has maintained the most outstanding student chapter in the United States for the time period of May 2008 through December 2014.

Students who join Niagara’s CMAA student chapter are required to complete a rigorous schedule of educational and networking events and to work at a club each summer between academic semesters.
On June 1, Dr. Kurt A. Stahura took the helm of Niagara University’s College of Hospitality and Tourism Management, succeeding former dean Dr. Gary Praetzel and signaling the beginning of a new chapter in the world-renowned college’s history.

“I am honored to succeed Dr. Praetzel. He has established Niagara University’s College of Hospitality and Tourism Management as one of the very best in the world,” he said. “I hope to continue his standards of excellence in teaching, research and service, all of which support quality student experiences and preparation for entry into the global marketplace.”

A month into his new position, the Massachusetts native is focusing on expanding the college’s global and international reputation.

“Everything that we do with respect to teaching, service, and research will have a global/international focus,” he says. “We want to expose students to the extensive international opportunities available, which we wholeheartedly encourage from the minute they get on campus. We like them to think globally and have these transformative experiences, so that by the time they graduate, they will be well-prepared, creative, analytical citizens of the world.”

Dr. Stahura spent the last three and a half years in Singapore, where he most recently served as managing director for UNLV-Singapore (part of the William F. Harrah College of Hotel Administration of the University of Nevada, Las Vegas). This experience has given him unique, first-hand knowledge of the burgeoning Asian tourism market.

“Singapore is in the middle of where a lot of things are starting to happen in the world and in hospitality in particular,” he notes. “I’m very much aware of the trends and that’s where I feel I can bring something here.”

To that end, he wants to create additional international experiences for students—experiences he calls “impactful and necessary”—that will prepare them to take advantage of the opportunities available in Asia and elsewhere.

“It’s in these places that they need people with the skills that we offer,” he says. “So if you can encourage students to go out and explore, they’ll get the confidence to take the skills that we impart on them and impact these places.”

Dr. Stahura also plans to continue the college’s tradition of service to the community.

“It’s another meaningful experience that impacts somebody,” he says. “When they go through their four years and reflect on their experience, it’s those things that oftentimes make more of an impact than a lecture. It’s something that they take with them for the rest of their lives, just like the international experiences.”

Involvement with the local community is also on Dr. Stahura’s agenda. He hopes to facilitate opportunities where the faculty can share their knowledge to “contribute to the betterment of society.”

“This is a wonderful field in that regard,” he says.

Dr. Stahura is well-prepared for this role. As a scholar and tenured faculty member at UNLV, he taught courses at both the undergraduate and graduate level, and has conducted research on a variety of cultural and social trends in leisure, hospitality, tourism, and sport.

He has also been involved extensively in executive education. His scholarly pursuits and consulting expertise have brought him to India, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia, China, Greece, and Turkey, and all over the United States, where he has provided consulting assistance on issues surrounding program development, organizational structuring, and communication facilitation.

Dr. Stahura has served as a journal editor and been on a number of editorial boards. He has published more than 40 articles in regional, national, and international journals and has authored 130-plus presentations and conference keynote speeches.

Now, he is eager to shepherd the growth and continue the academic excellence for which the college is known, and is excited about the future for its students.

“I think the timing is wonderful for students in the hospitality industry today,” he says.
Sport Management Symposium: Bringing Students and Professionals Together

By Gregory Maiola, ’17

The Niagara University Sport Management program hosted its inaugural Sport Management Symposium on April 23, 2015, providing students with tremendous access to diverse industry professionals.

Available to students in round-table discussions were employees from the Buffalo Bills, the Buffalo Sabres, HarborCenter, the Boys and Girls Club, Time Warner Cable Arena, the University at Buffalo, Syracuse University and Niagara University.

With only a handful of students per table, the industry professionals rotated in fixed time-slots from table to table to make themselves available to NU students in extremely personalized fashion. Students heard first-hand accounts about the reality of working in sports and had the opportunity to ask questions and exchange contact information to expand their professional networks.

“The symposium gave me a better understanding of a number of different jobs in the industry; from ticket sales, to social media, to athletic administration,” said sophomore Taylor Bosket. “It allowed me to meet people in various positions and discover what their day-to-day duties are.”

Students were able to pick the brains of the current professionals and ask specific questions that increased their understanding of how the industry operates. NU undergrads inquired about the transition from college to the work force and the employees weren’t shy to give honest answers.

“We got to find out exactly how they got into the field, what works and what doesn’t,” explained Shawn Gillen. “In the classroom, you learn the policies and procedures of the professional world and how the business is run. This opportunity teaches us how to get our foot in the door and make personal connections that can potentially land us a job.”

Sophomore Zach Monell was appreciative of the different perspective that each employee brought. Each professional has different experiences in different aspects of the industry and their differing take of the field is extremely beneficial to the students’ overall comprehension of the sport business.

“The symposium allowed us to discuss real-life opportunities and real issues in the field,” said Monell. “The employees gave us a realistic view of working in sports while opening up our minds to new things. For example, I gained a new appreciation for the role of social media in sports and probably would not have thought about it without the symposium.”

Students were able to pick the brains of the current professionals and ask specific questions that increased their understanding of how the industry operates.

Following the two-hour networking session was an interactive guest speaker session that included NU sister school St. John’s University. On Monteagle Ridge was Ric LaCivita, an eight-time Emmy Award winner and Harvard graduate who has been involved with the production of the Olympics, Monday Night Football, NCAA March Madness, and Major League Baseball among others. LaCivita presented an inspiring speech based on his wealth of experience to NU students while his words were simultaneously live-streamed to sport management students at St. John’s.

In return, St. John’s live-streamed their keynote speaker, Dr. Keith Strudler, to NU following LaCivita’s message. Strudler currently serves as the director of sports communication at Marist College and developed a weekly sports talk radio show on ESPN Radio 1220 of the Hudson Valley, the first-ever partnership with an academic center and ESPN affiliate.

This event epitomizes the strength and success of the sport management program at Niagara University. The event provided students a refreshing alternative to classroom learning while allowing experienced sport employees to keep students informed on what’s relevant in the industry and how to succeed in the competitive field.

“Niagara always emphasizes experience as a key component to our education and it’s nice to see them provide this platform for us,” said Gillen. “You take away from this event what you put in.”

The networking opportunity with the professionals allowed students to get specific, relevant-to-them information to help each student in their respective careers. The guest speaker sessions allowed students to take a step back and contemplate the sport industry at large.

The balance of seeking out information and taking in information from experienced sport professionals was certainly appreciated by the students.

“All of the different perspectives from different professionals gave me a lot to consider,” added Bosket. “My view of the sport industry changed as a result of this symposium. I hope we have similar events going forward.”

Niagara’s sport symposium got prospective sport professionals enthusiastic about their futures. Students were excited to learn and eager to ask questions to better prepare themselves for what is ahead. The young scholars were also sure to take advantage of the special opportunity and made the most of their time with the sport professionals.

“Events like the symposium are why I chose Niagara and I look forward to this becoming an annual event,” said freshman Matt Burke.

With students longing to learn and anxious to prepare for their futures, the Niagara University Sport Management program is certainly setting itself apart.
Twelve clients of Catholic Charities of Buffalo’s Immigration and Refugee Assistance Program were conferred certificates during a ceremony in June celebrating the completion of the first Hospitality and Tourism Training Institute class.

The 10-week hospitality/tourism industry-focused training is in partnership with Niagara University’s College of Hospitality and Tourism Management.

Joseph Nzukamira, who came to Buffalo from the Democratic Republic of the Congo two years ago, was chosen by his classmates to speak on their behalf at the ceremony.

“It is for me an enormous pleasure and a great privilege to be standing here on behalf of other students to express the happiness we feel in our hearts today,” said Nzukamira. “It is a momentous event because it marks the end of a special period characterized by doubts, brainstorming and commitment to continue and succeed.

After 10 intensive weeks of hard work for both Dr. (Deborah T.) Curtis and students, we finally made it. That is why we are so grateful to everyone who contributed to this program.”

Dr. Deborah T. Curtis, CMP, director of Niagara University’s Center for Events and Management Development who has led HTTI and conducted the training, recognized the students’ hard work not only in the program, but in all they have experienced in their lives up to this point, noting, “It wasn’t positive situations that brought them here but it is a positive situation that will keep them here now.”

Dr. Curtis talked about each student and how the class became more than a group of individuals.

“You started in this program as individual refugees, but you are leaving today as family.”

The Rev. James J. Maher, C.M., Niagara University president, and Catholic Charities CEO Dennis C. Walczyk presented the certificates to the graduates whose native countries include Burma, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Iraq, Nepal and Somalia. The students, ranging in age from 19 to 55, came to the United States from just a few months to two years ago.

Addressing the graduates, Walczyk referred to a letter written recently by the Most. Rev. Richard J. Malone, bishop of Buffalo, and Rt. Rev. R. William Franklin, bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Western New York, in which Walczyk said they stated, “Let us never forget that everyone has to be included in this growth and prosperity now occurring in our region.’ So you are part of the ‘everyone,’ our new arrivals, our future, and you should be recognized. Congratulations—we look forward to working with you to continue to help you succeed.”

Father Maher praised the collaboration of the HTTI and recognized the students’ efforts.

“This is a wonderful partnership between Catholic Charities and Niagara University that already has proven successful,” said Father Maher. Speaking to the students, he said, “I congratulate you on your tremendous accomplishment today and I want you know that this is a Niagara University program, so you can now tell everyone you are a graduate of a program of Niagara University.”

The training program for clients of Catholic Charities IRAP included classroom training, visits to local hotels and internship experiences. It is the first of four sessions planned for 2015-2016. The goal is to place graduates in related jobs within 30 days of completing the program.

The HTTI is supported by grant funding from the Western New York Regional Economic Development Council and The Statler Foundation, as announced earlier this year. WNYREDC selected Catholic Charities for an Unemployed Worker Training Program award of $99,600, funded by the New York State Department of Labor.

IRAP Director Ann H. Brittain and staff members, The Statler Foundation Chairman Robert Bennett, and families of the graduates attended the ceremonies.
Students Fundraise for Orphanage in Peru

By Michael Freedman

Niagara University students are committed to making a difference in the lives of others, whenever and—the operative term here—wherever they are needed.

That explains why seniors Ryan Hanley, Denae James, James Mackey, Stephanie Soos, and Mickayla Williams launched an online fundraising campaign for the Caritas Felices orphanage while studying abroad in Peru.

Caritas Felices is a private, nongovernment-funded orphanage in Pachacamac, Peru, for girls under age 18 who have been sexually abused and/or are living in extreme poverty. There are currently 25 girls sharing three bedrooms and three bathrooms in the home, which also contains a small library, tutoring area and chapel.

The women who run the orphanage rely on donations as well as income derived from selling homemade bracelets, pillows, and cookies made by the residents.

The NU students visited the girls a few times since arriving in Peru on May 19. Each time, they brought lunch and clothing and spent time engaging in fellowship.

“Within moments of being there, we were captivated by the warm and happy spirits of all the girls. We got to spend time with them and soon they were showing us their rooms and opening up to us,” said James. “As we talked with the founder of the orphanage, we began to learn what all of these girls had been through. All of us were touched by our visit and the girls stayed in our thoughts and hearts.”

On May 30, the tech-savvy Soos established a page on the popular crowdfunding website GoFundMe.com. The students spread the word primarily via social media—they created a Facebook page explaining the campaign—and through offline contact with family, friends, churches and professors. Immanuel United Methodist Church, a Syracuse-area church attended by Williams, donated $500.

In total, the students raised $2,540, more than double their original goal of $1,000.

“The more money we raise, the more areas we will be able to cover and, of course, that is the ultimate goal—to help as much as we possibly can and make the girls feel as secure as possible,” Williams said.

The students are in Peru as part of an 11-week cultural immersion experience offered through Niagara University’s College of Hospitality and Tourism Management. So far, they’ve taken part in culinary classes at Lima’s Universidad San Ignacio de Loyola, interned at The Country Club Hotel in San Isidro, visited tourist hotspots like the Magic Water Circuit and went white water rafting and zip lining.

The group will also take Spanish and Incan civilization classes at USIL’s Cusco campus and intern at Palacio del Inka, a five-star Luxury Collection Hotel.

True to Niagara’s Catholic and Vincentian mission, the students planted grass and taught an activity at the Colegio José Granda school, gardened at the Habla Bateria NGO community home, and offered their services to Caritas Felices, which means “little happy faces” in Spanish.

“We visit this orphanage every year,” said Kathryn A. DeCecco, director of experiential opportunities in the college. “The girls have absolutely nothing and yet they always have smiles on their faces. It is a very special place that gets no assistance at all from the Peruvian government and operates solely on donations. I am so proud of our students for setting up this donation site and exceeding their goal by so much!”
Let us know what is new in your life! Send your updates to kdececco@niagara.edu.

**Mark McDerMott, ’73**, was recently appointed to the board of directors of the Grand Canyon Resort Corp., owned by the Hualapai Indian Nation which has Grand Canyon West within its reservation. The corporation operates the Grand Canyon Skywalk along with various other enterprises including Canyon white water rafting and pontoon boating, the Hualapai Ranch old west town, and the Hualapai Lodge.

**Mark Hawkins, ’77**, recently changed careers after spending 25 years in the transportation and supply chain industries. He is now executive mortgage banker for William Raveis Real Estate, Mortgage & Insurance, LLC Fairfield, Conn. William Raveis is the No. 1 family-owned real estate company in the Northeast and a top 100 mortgage lender in the USA.

**Kim Weinheimer Brice, ’80**, is the franchise owner of Juice Plus Company. She also has two grandchildren that were born this year: Michael and Morgan Elyse.

**Tracey Burkey, ’87**, was married in August 2014. She works as the vice president of sales and services for Visit Syracuse.

**Edwin Shelp, ’98**, and his wife are celebrating their eighth wedding anniversary this year. They have a five-year-old son. Edwin is the director of sales and marketing at the 486-room Adams Mark Hotel in downtown Buffalo, N.Y.

**Nicholas Reimondo, ’04**, works at W New York. He was recently promoted to director, bars and restaurants.

**Michelle Cieslak, ’05**, recently moved from Buffalo, N.Y., to Nashville, Tenn., and began working for The Hotel Group. She works in their corporate office as an operations manager.

**Mark Henning, ’06**, is currently an accountant subcontractor with the Department of the Air Force in Washington, D.C. He will be attending Johns Hopkins University’s master’s degree program in applied economics this fall.

**Jason Smith, ’09**, recently began working at The Farm at Cape Kidnappers in Hawke’s Bay in New Zealand. He is the front office manager.

**David Hoover, ’12**, and **Christie Fodera, ’11**, were married at NU’s Alumni Chapel on June 20, 2015. They are both living and working in Greensboro, N.C. Dave is an event coordinator at the Greensboro Coliseum and Christie is a guest service manager at the O Henry Hotel.

**Rebekah Rutkowski, ’12**, is currently working at The Pierre Hotel in New York City as the assistant front office manager.

**Dan Pearson, ’13**, has been the manager of guest admissions at The Speedway in Daytona, Fla., since April 2014. They are currently undergoing a $400 million renovation project that will make Daytona the first ever Motorsports Stadium. He also became engaged to his fiancée, Rachael, this year. An August 2015 wedding is planned.

**Amy Waldron, ’14**, has been working at Mario’s Italian Restaurant & Catering since last October. In April, she was promoted to banquet captain. Mario’s also operates a café and is the official caterer for the Rochester Museum & Science Center.

Save the date and join us for

**When:** Friday, Oct. 9, 2015

**Where:** Niagara University

**What:** An interactive program to encourage sharing, networking, and professional development between students and alumni.

Half day of workshops, panel discussions, and networking opportunities during which YOU do the presenting, followed by a networking luncheon.

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 to help prepare the next generation of hospitality executives!

There is no charge to attend. Breakfast and lunch on Friday are complimentary.

Please register by going to www.niagara.edu/hospitality and clicking on “events.”

Questions? Please contact Katie DeCecco at kdececco@niagara.edu

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

James Bedard III, ’77
President
Buffalo Hotel Supply Company, Inc.

Drew Cerza
President
Just Wing It Productions, Inc.

Hugh Cresser
Deputy Chief of Party
USAID/Rural Enterprise, Agriculture & Community Tourism (REACT) Project

Deborah Curtis, DBA, ’84
Director
Center for Events and Management Development

Jonathan Danides
President
Rich Baseball Operations

Theresa DeConick-Gratton
Business Development Manager
MCI Group

Jay Dellavecchia
General Manager
Hyatt Regency Buffalo

Anthony DiMonda
Brand Performance Consultant
Choice Hotels International

Daniel DiPoto
Vice President/CEO
Hockey Western New York, LLC

Art Eberhart
Executive Director
Niagara Police Athletic League

Kathy Snyder Egan
Executive Vice President of Sales
Snyder Corp.

Peter Florczak
General Manager
Buffalo Niagara Marriott

Dottie Gallagher-Cohen
President and CEO
Buffalo Niagara Partnership

Chris Holland
Assistant Director of Ticket Sales
Buffalo Bills

Daniel Homik, C.H.A.
President
INNTEL Hospitality Management

Michael Joseph, C.E.C.
National Account Culinary Manager,
Food Service Division
Rich Products Corp.

Paul M. McManus
President and CEO (Retired)
The Leading Hotels of the World, Ltd.

Dennis Murphy
President
InnVest Lodging

Russell Papa
Director of Sales & Marketing
Millennium Airport Hotel Buffalo

Denu Patel
President
Advanced Motel

John Percy
President
Niagara Tourism and Convention Corp.

Chris Schoepplin
President
USA Niagara Development Corp.

Carl Schraibman
Sports Management Consultant

Zo Ann Schwabel
Group Sales Director
Martin’s Fantasy Island

Catherine F. Schweitzer
Executive Director
Baird Foundation

Robert A. Stone Jr., CCM
General Manager
Crag Burn Golf Club

Mark W. Thomas
Director, Western District
New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Restoration

Paul P. Verciglio
General Manager (Retired)
Park Hyatt Toronto

Edward Watkins
Editor
Lodging Hospitality

Jay Witzel
Hospitality Consultant

Jerald I. Wolfgang
Director
Western New York Regional Education Center for Economic Development