MOUNTAIN MAN
Alumnus Thrives on Adirondack Adventure

COLLABORATIVE CREATIVITY
Many Hands Make for Mural

LOG ON TO PHYSICAL EDUCATION
Fitness and Wellness Leadership Program Offered Online

ALMA-MATER MEMORIES
Grandmother, Granddaughter Have College in Common
PHOTOGRAPHY  Eve Barnofsky, working under a darkroom safelight, transfers a black-and-white photograph from the developer to the stop bath in her Photo II class. Students taking photography in the art department at SUNY Plattsburgh study traditional silver-based processes as well as digital-image-making technology.

FIRST LOOK

06 Adirondack Obsessed
Alumnus Recalls Outdoor Explorations Between Classes

08 Art in the Public Interest
Mural Unites Campus, Community

11 Plattsburgh Was About Possibility
Tom Chapin ’66 Reflects on His Journey, Success

12 Accounting for Distinguished Service
SUNY Recognizes Work of Dr. Mohamed Gaber

14 Mastering Fitness Through Flexibility
Online Degree Program Strengthens College’s Offerings

16 Research Grant Proves to Be a Big Deal
Chemistry Department Receives Funding From National Science Foundation

DEPARTMENTS

18 Cardinal Connections
Then and Now: Family Shares Plattsburgh Memories
Nursing Alumna Draws on Plattsburgh Experience

22 Cardinals Rule
Plattsburgh Hall of Fame
Women’s Lacrosse Added as 18th SUNY Plattsburgh Varsity Sport

24 Gifts In Action
To Those Who Helped Along the Way
In It to Win It

32 The Last Word
A Proud Past - A Strong Future

ON THE COVER  The rich colors of fall show themselves on Rooster Comb mountain in Keene Valley, N.Y. Many, like Erik Schlimmer ’01, take time to explore these natural wonders during their time at SUNY Plattsburgh.
A Visual Sway. Artist and pixelated the program offers a fresh perspective on how art attempts to sway us in various ways and celebrates the complex relation between art and propaganda. This exhibition is part of the permanent collection at Warren Wilson College in...
Shine On! Shines Bright with National Award

SUNY PLATTSBURGH’S SHINE ON! PROGRAM has earned the college a 2017 Higher Education Civic Engagement Award from The Washington Center for Internships and Academic Seminars.

The honor, given to just five colleges in the nation this year, recognizes institutions that address issues of public concern through “mutually transformational” partnerships within their communities, according to the center.

“We are proud of this recognition and are grateful to The Washington Center for selecting us,” said SUNY Plattsburgh President John Jitting. “Shine On! is a wonderful example of what can happen when faculty and staff connect students with ways to make a difference in the wider campus community.”

Founded by Colleen Lemza, associate professor of journalism and public relations at the college, Shine On! is an annual overnight conference aimed at building resiliency and confidence in third-through-fifth-grade girls.

In the Spirit of Strength and Unity
FOR THE SECOND YEAR IN A ROW, SUNY Plattsburgh’s Center for Community Engagement, along with the Student Association, hosted CommUNITY Night @ the Pond.

Maurice Blondell, Nima Blue and Yahli Hilah.

“Shine On! is an all-around win.”
In addition to equipping young girls with the tools needed to conquer life’s challenges, Shine On! reminds its student leaders of the importance of supporting one another, said Maura Daneshey ’14, who helped coordinate and develop curriculum for the conference during her time at SUNY Plattsburgh.

“The event was a huge success,” said Maura Daneshey ’14.

“Shine On! is an all-around win.”
In addition to equipping young girls with the tools needed to conquer life’s challenges, Shine On! reminds its student leaders of the importance of supporting one another, said Maura Daneshey ’14, who helped coordinate and develop curriculum for the conference during her time at SUNY Plattsburgh.

“I continue to carry those teachings, lessons and memories with me and share them with colleagues and friends,” she said.

Gospel Choir Takes Lincoln Center
IN AUGUST, the Plattsburgh State Gospel Choir took the stage with celebrated violinist Daisy Jopling at Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts in New York City.

The choir sang confidently alongside several world-class musicians and Broadway vocalists.”

The free event, which was first held in 2013, is led by SUNY Plattsburgh students and features workshops focused on building character and improving media and marketing literacy, as well as communication skills.

Together, nearly 500 college women and 26 faculty and staff have performed more than 66,000 hours of service through the program, which has provided mentoring and education to more than 2,000 children and their families, according to Lemza.

“I love helping to make young girls in our community stronger by giving college women real-life educational opportunities,” she said. “I’m a huge believer in experiential learning, and from college students to the elementary school girls, Shine On! is an all-around win.”

In addition to equipping young girls with the tools needed to conquer life’s challenges, Shine On! reminds its student leaders of the importance of supporting one another, said Maura Daneshey ’14, who helped coordinate and develop curriculum for the conference during her time at SUNY Plattsburgh.

“I continue to carry those teachings, lessons and memories with me and share them with colleagues and friends,” she said.

“The event was a huge success,” said Maura Daneshey ’14.

Awards from The Washington Center for Higher Education Civic Engagement include community service grants, awards, $4.4 million provided by the SUNY Construction Fund.

“In addition to allowing for ample parking and creating a main entrance to the Center for Neurobehavioral Health, the nearly $10 million project has converted Sibley’s former gymnasium into a two-story facility equipped with state-of-the-art technology.

Housed there are faculty and staff offices for both the center and psychology department, research and computer labs, rooms for observation, training and cognitive therapy; meeting and work spaces; and reception and waiting areas. This new facility will have an increased service capacity, provide better public access, improve diagnostic and treatment programs and offer a more comprehensive, efficient service-delivery system,” SUNY Plattsburgh President John Ettinger said.

Additionally, Morales noted, “locating the psychology department in conjunction with center programs and services has helped to bring undergraduate intern students and graduate students involved in center programs closer to their intern sites and the faculty directing these programs.”

Experiential learning opportunities, scholarship and research will only grow

Michael Morales, the center’s interim executive director. “Having one location will allow us to better serve the community.”

In addition to allowing for ample parking and creating a main entrance to the Center for Neurobehavioral Health, the nearly $10 million project has converted Sibley’s former gymnasium into a two-story facility equipped with state-of-the-art technology.

Housed there are faculty and staff offices for both the center and psychology department, research and computer labs, rooms for observation, training and cognitive therapy; meeting and work spaces; and reception and waiting areas. This new facility will have an increased service capacity, provide better public access, improve diagnostic and treatment programs and offer a more comprehensive, efficient service-delivery system,” SUNY Plattsburgh President John Ettinger said.

Additionally, Morales noted, “locating the psychology department in conjunction with center programs and services has helped to bring undergraduate intern students and graduate students involved in center programs closer to their intern sites and the faculty directing these programs.”

Experiential learning opportunities, scholarship and research will only grow

In the Spirit of Strength and Unity
FOR THE SECOND YEAR IN A ROW, SUNY Plattsburgh’s Center for Community Engagement, along with the Student Association, hosted CommUNITY Night @ the Pond.

Maurice Blondell, Nima Blue and Yahli Hilah.

“The event was a huge success,” said Maura Daneshey ’14.

“I continue to carry those teachings, lessons and memories with me and share them with colleagues and friends,” she said.

Gospel Choir Takes Lincoln Center
IN AUGUST, the Plattsburgh State Gospel Choir took the stage with celebrated violinist Daisy Jopling at Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts in New York City.

The choir sang confidently alongside several world-class musicians and Broadway vocalists.”

The free event, which was first held in 2013, is led by SUNY Plattsburgh students and features workshops focused on building character and improving media and marketing literacy, as well as communication skills.

Together, nearly 500 college women and 26 faculty and staff have performed more than 66,000 hours of service through the program, which has provided mentoring and education to more than 2,000 children and their families, according to Lemza.

“I love helping to make young girls in our community stronger by giving college women real-life educational opportunities,” she said. “I’m a huge believer in experiential learning, and from college students to the elementary school girls, Shine On! is an all-around win.”

In addition to equipping young girls with the tools needed to conquer life’s challenges, Shine On! reminds its student leaders of the importance of supporting one another, said Maura Daneshey ’14, who helped coordinate and develop curriculum for the conference during her time at SUNY Plattsburgh.

“I continue to carry those teachings, lessons and memories with me and share them with colleagues and friends,” she said.

Community Engagement Center (TAADC) and Traumatic Brain Caregiver Support Groups (CSG), Eastern Adirondack Health Care Network (EAHCN), Neuropsychology Clinic and Psychoeducational Services (NCPS), Northeastern New York Community Services Program, Third Age Adult Day Center (TAADC) and Traumatic Brain Injury Center (TBI).

Previously, these programs were scattered throughout Beaumont and Sibley halls, and members of the psychology department were split between two locations as well.

“This made it difficult for the community to find us,” explained Dr.
BY THE TIME ERIK SCHLIMMER GRADUATED from SUNY Plattsburgh in 2001, he had a bachelor's degree in speech communications. From the school of experience, however, he would have qualified for a degree in wilderness exploration.

Schlimmer, originally from Poughkeepsie, N.Y., was drawn to the college as much for its proximity to the Adirondack Park as for its program offerings. As an undergraduate student, the former U.S. Army paratrooper took full advantage of the school’s location to indulge his love for the outdoors.

In order to spend as much time in the wilderness as he could, Schlimmer attended classes just one semester per year and devoted the rest of his time to working seasonal jobs as a trail builder and backcountry ranger in the Adirondack Mountains.

“It was just a very good fit,” he said of his unique collegiate experience. “I was already a non-traditional student — I didn’t graduate until I was 27. By me going one semester per year, I was getting a bachelor’s degree and life experience.”

Over the course of his college years, Schlimmer took several multi-day trips into the woods, climbed all 46 Adirondack High Peaks and backpacked the 130-mile Northville-Placid Trail.

While on campus, however, he received an education that would later prove valuable in his future endeavors.

“Erik honed his public-speaking skills,” recalled associate professor of communication studies Dr. Kirsten Isgro, one of the outdoorsman’s teachers at SUNY Plattsburgh.

Schlimmer remembers her class in rhetorical criticism well, as he found it particularly challenging.

“It was my toughest class, but I enjoyed it,” he said. “The greatest lesson I got out of that class is to be very careful with the word you choose because each word has a specific meaning.”

In recent years, Schlimmer has used lessons such as these to inform his work as a motivational speaker, as well as the many public presentations he’s given about his outdoor adventures.

“For me, the bigger the crowd, the better I perform,” he said. “I really enjoy public speaking, and the courses did train me very well.”

At 43, Schlimmer is currently earning a master’s degree in social work at SUNY Albany, while working for the SUNY Research Foundation to provide services to veterans.

“He’s gone on to be an advocate for our military vets and understands the struggles with mental health that many vets have returning from service,” said Isgro, who has kept in touch with her former student through the years.

Still, Schlimmer’s outdoor pursuits haven’t ceased. In the 16 years since he graduated from SUNY Plattsburgh, he has achieved a variety of outdoor firsts in New York state.

In 2008, he broke a record for walking the Northville-Placid Trail without support — hiking the route in three days and 8 hours in mid-October, a record that has since been broken.

Schlimmer believes he was also the first to climb the state’s 131 highest peaks in winter. And of the nearly 600 tallest peaks in the Adirondacks, he has climbed more than 560.

In addition, the mountain man has hiked and biked long-distance routes throughout the country. To Schlimmer, the woods offer a respite from the developed world, a place of relaxation away from people and man-made things. He likes the natural order of the wilderness, where every leaf, every fallen twig is in its rightful place.

“I’m very relaxed in wild lands,” Schlimmer said. “It’s where I can just be myself.”

He’s authored several books based on his outdoor adventures.

Among these are “A Thru-Hiker’s Guide to America,” which looks at 25 long trails around the country; “My Adirondacks,” a collection of personal essays; and two books that tell the history of place names in the Adirondacks, “History Inside the Blue Line” and “Among the Cloud Splitters: Place Names of High Peaks Wilderness Area.”

Additionally, his “Blue Line to Blue Line,” provides a guide to a transverse route of the Adirondacks that Schlimmer established in 2010.

“It’s been a great pleasure watching him find a niche in the North Country as a historian and advocate of the Adirondacks,” Isgro said.
JULIA DEVINE BELIEVES THE EXPERTISE, talent and diversity SUNY Plattsburgh has to offer should be put to use beyond just the campus. “The richness of the college can spill out into the community, and it does in a variety of ways,” said the coordinator of the college’s Center for Community Engagement.

One such way is through Outside Art: Plattsburgh Public Art Project, an organization founded and directed by Devine and Amy Guglielmo, who is currently earning a master’s degree in childhood education from SUNY Plattsburgh.

Established as a way to build community and foster downtown revitalization, the group has transformed the exteriors of downtown buildings into works of art for the public’s enjoyment. Its latest creation, a tile mural adorning an outside wall of the Plattsburgh Public Library, was inspired by “Up in the Garden and Down in the Dirt,” a children’s book by local author and SUNY Plattsburgh alumna Kate Messner ’96.

The 18-by-10-foot mosaic titled “Read and Grow! The Dream Garden” was designed by artist Sue Burdick-Young and depicts a vibrant garden scene featuring flora and fauna native to the region. Included in the mural are whimsical critters, scattered among colorful flowers, plants and vegetables, the roots of which are visible within layers of soil.

The scene also features the opening line of Messner’s story: “Up in the garden, I stand and plan — my hands full of seeds and my head full of dreams.” SUNY Plattsburgh students and numerous other groups and individuals from the community flocked to public events at the library to paint the clay tiles that comprise the mural.

“Not only do people get to look at this,” Guglielmo said, “they get to say, ‘Oh, I made that tomato,’ or ‘That skunk tail, I painted,’ and I think that’s really cool.”

Additionally, Devine noted, “students really benefit when they get involved in the community.”

The project attracted other alumni as well, including Lisa Booth Crain ’98 and Kim Mazur ’94, who contributed their artistic talents, and Justin Collins ’16, who helped bring movement to the garden scene.

Collins, SUNY Plattsburgh associate professor of physics Dr. Michael Walters and a number of robotics groups in the community used 3-D printing to engineer a solar-powered machine that circulates blue marbles along the perimeter of the mural, representing the rain cycle.

“So it’s also promoting environmental awareness,” Devine said.

Transparent, plexiglass tubing allows passersby to watch the pingpong-ball-sized orbs as they travel up the stem of a sunflower and into a cloud, rain down upon a tree and return to the soil.

“It really shows that art has a purpose,” Guglielmo said. “It actually can teach, and it actually can unite a community.”

And unlike many works of art, the mural’s tiles, some of which are made out of clay from Lake Champlain, are meant to be touched. Guglielmo hopes the interactive nature of the mural will make children excited to go to the library and read books.

The project, estimated to cost about $20,000, was made possible by funding from the Clinton County Legislature and the Decentralization Grant Program through the New York State Council on the Arts, as well as donations from the community.

The names of those who contributed $1,000 or more are listed on tree leaves within the mural. Other leaves bear the names of local children’s authors.

“The Dream Garden” is the fourth mural in downtown Plattsburgh executed by Outside Art since its founding in 2016.
“From the beginning, there’s been SUNY Plattsburgh involvement,” said Devine, who also serves the college as an adjunct lecturer of theater. The group’s other works, all of which are flat, painted murals, include “Harvest,” which depicts a farming scene; “Battle of Plattsburgh,” a homage to local history; and “Woods and Wild Things,” a woodland scene painted by SUNY Plattsburgh associate professor Norman Taber and adjunct lecturer Tory Taber, both art teachers. “I think SUNY Plattsburgh has a long history of sort of shaping and leading the development of this area, and we should be doing our part to make it a more healthy, enlightened and livable community,” Devine said.

Now, when alumni from outside the area visit Plattsburgh, she noted, they can tour the murals, all located within a few blocks of one another. “It’s only helping to make the place more alive and vibrant,” Devine said. “And in doing so, she continued, the public art also supports Plattsburgh’s efforts to attract and retain students. “It makes it a more welcoming place because when you see murals, you say, ‘Oh, there’s a community here that cares,’” Devine said.

TO SEE PHOTOS of the completed mural, visit alumni.plattsburgh.edu/webextras.
ACCOUNTING FOR DISTINGUISHED SERVICE

BY ASHLEIGH LIVINGSTON '10

DR. MOHAMED GABER isn’t sure how distinguished his service is, but others certainly are.

The State University Board of Trustees recently promoted the longtime chair of SUNY Plattsburgh’s accounting department to SUNY distinguished service professor, the highest of academic ranks.

“It is a distinction, certainly, and I appreciate that,” Gaber said of the promotion. “I’m honored to have it from this institution that I call my home, and I wish and hope that I have enough time to do more in order to match that type of distinction.”

In the eyes of his students, however, he’s already doing plenty.

“What I admire most about Dr. Gaber is his goodwill, noble heart, passion for his job and humanity,” said Mauricio Benitez, a senior majoring in business administration.

For the past nearly 20 years, Gaber has facilitated the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program (VITA), through which accounting students prepare and file tax returns at no charge for individuals in surrounding communities who otherwise might not be able to afford the service.

“I enjoy teaching, and it feels incredible with these students and seeing them when they come in, when they graduate and how they develop professionally.”

— SUNY Distinguished Service Professor Dr. Mohamed Gaber

About 17 to 20 students participate in VITA every spring.

“My function is to motivate and certainly promote the idea of volunteerism among students,” Gaber said.

In the classroom, the distinguished professor, who began his career at SUNY Plattsburgh in 1985, creates a “fun and interactive learning experience,” according to senior Ameet Kumar, an accounting, finance and economics major.

“I enjoy teaching,” Gaber said. “And I enjoy all being with these students and seeing them when they come in, when they graduate and how they develop professionally.”

Outside of the classroom, the educator takes the time to get to know his students on a personal level, added Ellen Silverman, a senior majoring in accounting, management information systems and business administration.

“Dr. Gaber genuinely cares about us, and it shows,” she said.

By connecting her with two internships in the Plattsburgh area, Silverman continued, Dr. Gaber not only helped a SUNY Plattsburgh student gain a real-world understanding of concepts taught in the classroom, he also helped local businesses gain access to the next generation of business personnel.

“Another side to what I love the most is the graduate placement,” said Gaber, who has also served on the board of the Institute of Management Accountants. “Certainly, I know the students very well while they are here. I know exactly what they will be looking for a year before graduation, and I do my best in terms of connecting them with where they fit.”

Every year for the past 32 years, he has organized two trips — one to New York City and one to Boston — for School of Business and Economics students to network with top accounting and finance firms and alumni in the field.

Michael Feldman ’08 got to know Gaber about ten years ago when he was a student in Accounting 201.

Since then, the two have maintained a strong friendship, according to the alum, who continues to meet up with his former teacher on the annual trips to New York City.

“He’s given me career advice and keeps an open line for me to call with any technical accounting questions,” Feldman said.

“Networking with the alumni is one of the things I greatly value,” said Gaber, who still keeps in touch with people who graduated from the college nearly three decades ago.

So far, he’s attended the weddings of six individuals who once sat in his classroom.

The distinguished service professorship is just the latest of many honors bestowed upon the educator. He’s received, among other accolades, the Plattsburgh Alumni Association’s Faculty Staff Impact Award and been named Outstanding Adult Student Educator and Outstanding Academic Adviser.

Still, he said, “what I do, I do because I feel that it is part of my life, and it’s some kind of enjoyment for me.”

“Whenever I do something that benefits our students, I consider that as my ultimate reward.”

TO READ MORE about Dr. Mohamed Gaber, visit alumni.plattsburgh.edu/webextras.

ACCOUNTING FOR DISTINGUISHED SERVICE

DR. MOHAMED GABER wants all students to be successful, even those who can’t make it to class.

With that in mind, the accounting department chair and SUNY distinguished service professor helped launch SUNY Plattsburgh’s online accounting program this fall.

“The online option enables our well-regarded accounting program to reach more students and more marketplaces,” said SUNY Plattsburgh President John Ettinger.

The two-year program allows students to apply credits they’ve already earned toward a bachelor’s degree in accounting without stepping foot in a classroom. It comprises mainly advanced courses in accounting, management and finance, taught by SUNY Plattsburgh faculty.

“We are the only school that offers what they call a ‘degree-completion program’ online,” Gaber said. “And the good thing is, the program is coming from a school of business accredited by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB).”

Enrollment was originally projected at 15 students for the first year and 46 by year 10. In its first semester, however, the program is already serving 60 individuals.

“These people have professional and family obligations, and some of them — in fact, most of them — will never be able to move to a traditional on-campus degree,” Gaber said.

Along with the department chair, faculty and staff from the School of Business and Economics, the registrar’s office, Library and Information Services and admissions staff are responsible for making the program a reality.

Additionally, the nursing department, which has experience in launching an online degree-completion program, has provided support.

“It is a tremendous effort from so many colleagues,” Gaber said.

The two-year program allows students to apply credits they’ve already earned toward a bachelor’s degree in accounting without stepping foot in a classroom. It comprises mainly advanced courses in accounting, management and finance, taught by SUNY Plattsburgh faculty.

“We are the only school that offers what they call a ‘degree-completion program’ online,” Gaber said. “And the good thing is, the program is coming from a school of business accredited by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB).”

Enrollment was originally projected at 15 students for the first year and 46 by year 10. In its first semester, however, the program is already serving 60 individuals.

“These people have professional and family obligations, and some of them — in fact, most of them — will never be able to move to a traditional on-campus degree,” Gaber said.

Along with the department chair, faculty and staff from the School of Business and Economics, the registrar’s office, Library and Information Services and admissions staff are responsible for making the program a reality.

Additionally, the nursing department, which has experience in launching an online degree-completion program, has provided support.

“It is a tremendous effort from so many colleagues,” Gaber said.

The two-year program allows students to apply credits they’ve already earned toward a bachelor’s degree in accounting without stepping foot in a classroom. It comprises mainly advanced courses in accounting, management and finance, taught by SUNY Plattsburgh faculty.

“We are the only school that offers what they call a ‘degree-completion program’ online,” Gaber said. “And the good thing is, the program is coming from a school of business accredited by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB).”

Enrollment was originally projected at 15 students for the first year and 46 by year 10. In its first semester, however, the program is already serving 60 individuals.

“These people have professional and family obligations, and some of them — in fact, most of them — will never be able to move to a traditional on-campus degree,” Gaber said.

Along with the department chair, faculty and staff from the School of Business and Economics, the registrar’s office, Library and Information Services and admissions staff are responsible for making the program a reality.

Additionally, the nursing department, which has experience in launching an online degree-completion program, has provided support.

“It is a tremendous effort from so many colleagues,” Gaber said.

The two-year program allows students to apply credits they’ve already earned toward a bachelor’s degree in accounting without stepping foot in a classroom. It comprises mainly advanced courses in accounting, management and finance, taught by SUNY Plattsburgh faculty.

“We are the only school that offers what they call a ‘degree-completion program’ online,” Gaber said. “And the good thing is, the program is coming from a school of business accredited by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB).”

Enrollment was originally projected at 15 students for the first year and 46 by year 10. In its first semester, however, the program is already serving 60 individuals.

“These people have professional and family obligations, and some of them — in fact, most of them — will never be able to move to a traditional on-campus degree,” Gaber said.

Along with the department chair, faculty and staff from the School of Business and Economics, the registrar’s office, Library and Information Services and admissions staff are responsible for making the program a reality.

Additionally, the nursing department, which has experience in launching an online degree-completion program, has provided support.

“It is a tremendous effort from so many colleagues,” Gaber said.

The two-year program allows students to apply credits they’ve already earned toward a bachelor’s degree in accounting without stepping foot in a classroom. It comprises mainly advanced courses in accounting, management and finance, taught by SUNY Plattsburgh faculty.

“We are the only school that offers what they call a ‘degree-completion program’ online,” Gaber said. “And the good thing is, the program is coming from a school of business accredited by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB).”

Enrollment was originally projected at 15 students for the first year and 46 by year 10. In its first semester, however, the program is already serving 60 individuals.

“These people have professional and family obligations, and some of them — in fact, most of them — will never be able to move to a traditional on-campus degree,” Gaber said.

Along with the department chair, faculty and staff from the School of Business and Economics, the registrar’s office, Library and Information Services and admissions staff are responsible for making the program a reality.

Additionally, the nursing department, which has experience in launching an online degree-completion program, has provided support.

“It is a tremendous effort from so many colleagues,” Gaber said.
When creating Plattsburgh’s program, it was important to him that students learn not only exercise science, but also the tools necessary to market themselves and build successful businesses and client bases. Therefore, program participants learn about topics such as functional anatomy, human movement and body alignment, pre-exercise screening and nutrition, as well as communication skills, collaborative alliances and facility operations and management.

“All courses can be taken 100 percent online,” said Ken Baldwin, coordinator of the program, which launched in fall 2016. This works out well for people like Estrada, who has a full-time job and an unpredictable schedule.

“I like the fact I can complete my readings and assignments on my own time,” he said. “This allows me to be fully engaged and devote my undivided attention to the topic at hand.”

With a goal in mind of getting his master’s degree in as little as one calendar year, according to Baldwin, as classes are offered year round. “The program is structured in a way that each class builds off the prior course,” said Estrada, who hopes to use his degree to teach others about exercise science and fitness management.

“Even though the classes may be focused on different topics, they are interrelated and help me understand how I can apply these skills in a practical setting.” When it comes to mastering specific physical exercises, program participants must demonstrate their abilities via video, Baldwin explained. “It is great because each student has a chance to see their fellow students execute an exercise movement and teach it as if a client or patient was in front of them,” he said. “By the end of the semester, it is quite evident that the students’ communication and teaching skills have improved.”

In addition to the required curriculum, students can choose from classes that prepare them for certification in specific areas. “Right now, I am taking a course in which I would have the ability to become certified by the American Senior Fitness Association to work with older populations,” said Annie Drake of Colton, N.Y., who enrolled in the program in spring 2017 as a part-time student.

“By the end of the semester, it is quite evident that students’ communication and teaching skills have improved.”— Damian Estrada, student

Similarly, the program’s other specialization courses prepare students to become nationally certified strength and conditioning specialists, personal trainers and performance enhancement specialists.

Graduates may go on to work in private, public or medical settings, such as medically-based fitness facilities, gyms and health clubs, personal-training studios, physical-therapy clinics and senior centers. Though not required, program participants can opt to complete a field internship, through which they gain 120 hours of professional experience at a fitness, health or medical facility. Baldwin, who has served on national committees for such organizations as the Medical Fitness Association (MFA) and American College of Sports Medicine, has used his professional connections to establish a wide range of internship opportunities for students.

“We have some great opportunities, such as interning at the U.S. Olympic Training Facility in Lake Placid, N.Y., or Oaks Health Spa in Ojai, Calif.” Estrada said. “These field internships will help us shadow and learn from some of the best fitness professionals in the country.”

The online master’s program currently serves nearly 30 students, the majority of whom reside in New York state. There are, however, participants in other parts of the country, as well as Jamaica and South Korea.

Drake said she has been “beyond pleased” with every aspect of the program, including the application and registration processes and the quality of course content.

“I love the prospect of bringing fitness and wellness knowledge and practices to my family, friends, colleagues and community,” she said. “We have one life, and we should do what we can to help ourselves and others.”

“This program is giving me the tools to allow me to do this.”

TO LEARN MORE about SUNY Plattsburgh’s online master’s program in fitness and wellness leadership, visit alumni.plattsburgh.edu/arextras.
THANKS TO THE HARD WORK of Dr. Karina Ckless and Dr. Rajesh Sunasee, the chemistry department at SUNY Plattsburgh is entering a new era.

The National Science Foundation (NSF) recently awarded the associate professors $329,997 to conduct biomedical research at the college with the help of undergraduate students.

“The division we submitted this grant to reviewed about 4,400 competing proposals and awarded only 10 to 15 percent,” said Sunasee, who specializes in organic chemistry and nanochemistry.

The highly competitive NSF-Research Undergraduate Institution (RUI) grant will fund exploration into the potential use of cellulose nanocrystals as vaccine adjuvants. The money will also allow each associate professor to pay one student to perform full-time summer lab work for the next three years.

“They’re actually doing real research,” Sunasee said of the student participants.

In addition, the grant will pay for the supplies and state-of-the-art equipment necessary to carry out that research. “Having this equipment here, we get students to be involved more with hands-on research activities, and it will be a great experience for them,” said Sunasee, who specializes in organic chemistry and nanochemistry.

These abundant and renewable needle-like, wood-based materials could be irritants to the body, according to Ckless, who specializes in biochemistry. However, she noted, that’s not necessarily a bad thing.

In fact, commercially available vaccines contain “irritants” called adjuvants, Ckless continued, which activate the body’s immune response. “So then, we started to explore the possibility that we can use these nanomaterials as a mild irritant, but with the good side of an irritant that is actually to prompt our immune system to react against the components in the vaccine to give us better protection against the flu, for instance,” she said.

“It would make the vaccine more efficient.”

Working under her and Sunasee, about 14 students will assist with the research during the academic year as part of independent studies or honors thesis projects.

Ckless and her team have begun by synthesizing nanomaterials that are only slightly chemically different from one another. In the second phase of the project, Ckless and her students will evaluate the toxicity of the synthesized nanomaterials to see which of them might be suitable as adjuvants. “They can be irritants, but they have to have a threshold,” she explained. “You don’t want a super irritant.”

“I think it’s exciting,” SUNY Plattsburgh student and project participant Christopher Smith said of the research.

In fact, the senior, who is double majoring in biology and criminal justice, has been using his free time to learn more about vaccine adjuvants. “They’re really interesting,” added fellow senior Alex Rabideau, a biochemistry major. “So something that originally was just supposed to be for my resume and for medical school, I’m actually really enjoying, and I’m getting into the excitement of discovering something new or something that might actually prove of use to somebody.”

Still, Ckless noted, working in a federally funded lab as an undergraduate is a “huge” resume booster.

In fact, commercially available vaccines contain “irritants” called adjuvants, Ckless continued, which activate the body’s immune response. “So then, we started to explore the possibility that we can use these nanomaterials as a mild irritant, but with the good side of an irritant that is actually to prompt our immune system to react against the components in the vaccine to give us better protection against the flu, for instance,” she said.

“It would make the vaccine more efficient.”

Working under her and Sunasee, about 14 students will assist with the research during the academic year as part of independent studies or honors thesis projects.

Ckless and her team have begun by synthesizing nanomaterials that are only slightly chemically different from one another. In the second phase of the project, Ckless and her students will evaluate the toxicity of the synthesized nanomaterials to see which of them might be suitable as adjuvants. “They can be irritants, but they have to have a threshold,” she explained. “You don’t want a super irritant.”

“I think it’s exciting,” SUNY Plattsburgh student and project participant Christopher Smith said of the research.

In fact, the senior, who is double majoring in biology and criminal justice, has been using his free time to learn more about vaccine adjuvants. “They’re really interesting,” added fellow senior Alex Rabideau, a biochemistry major. “So something that originally was just supposed to be for my resume and for medical school, I’m actually really enjoying, and I’m getting into the excitement of discovering something new or something that might actually prove of use to somebody.”

Still, Ckless noted, working in a federally funded lab as an undergraduate is a “huge” resume booster.

In fact, commercially available vaccines contain “irritants” called adjuvants, Ckless continued, which activate the body’s immune response. “So then, we started to explore the possibility that we can use these nanomaterials as a mild irritant, but with the good side of an irritant that is actually to prompt our immune system to react against the components in the vaccine to give us better protection against the flu, for instance,” she said.

“It would make the vaccine more efficient.”

Working under her and Sunasee, about 14 students will assist with the research during the academic year as part of independent studies or honors thesis projects.

Ckless and her team have begun by synthesizing nanomaterials that are only slightly chemically different from one another. In the second phase of the project, Ckless and her students will evaluate the toxicity of the synthesized nanomaterials to see which of them might be suitable as adjuvants. “They can be irritants, but they have to have a threshold,” she explained. “You don’t want a super irritant.”

“I think it’s exciting,” SUNY Plattsburgh student and project participant Christopher Smith said of the research.

In fact, the senior, who is double majoring in biology and criminal justice, has been using his free time to learn more about vaccine adjuvants. “They’re really interesting,” added fellow senior Alex Rabideau, a biochemistry major. “So something that originally was just supposed to be for my resume and for medical school, I’m actually really enjoying, and I’m getting into the excitement of discovering something new or something that might actually prove of use to somebody.”

Still, Ckless noted, working in a federally funded lab as an undergraduate is a “huge” resume booster.

In fact, commercially available vaccines contain “irritants” called adjuvants, Ckless continued, which activate the body’s immune response. “So then, we started to explore the possibility that we can use these nanomaterials as a mild irritant, but with the good side of an irritant that is actually to prompt our immune system to react against the components in the vaccine to give us better protection against the flu, for instance,” she said.

“It would make the vaccine more efficient.”

Working under her and Sunasee, about 14 students will assist with the research during the academic year as part of independent studies or honors thesis projects.

Ckless and her team have begun by synthesizing nanomaterials that are only slightly chemically different from one another. In the second phase of the project, Ckless and her students will evaluate the toxicity of the synthesized nanomaterials to see which of them might be suitable as adjuvants. “They can be irritants, but they have to have a threshold,” she explained. “You don’t want a super irritant.”

“I think it’s exciting,” SUNY Plattsburgh student and project participant Christopher Smith said of the research.

In fact, the senior, who is double majoring in biology and criminal justice, has been using his free time to learn more about vaccine adjuvants. “They’re really interesting,” added fellow senior Alex Rabideau, a biochemistry major. “So something that originally was just supposed to be for my resume and for medical school, I’m actually really enjoying, and I’m getting into the excitement of discovering something new or something that might actually prove of use to somebody.”

Still, Ckless noted, working in a federally funded lab as an undergraduate is a “huge” resume booster.

In fact, commercially available vaccines contain “irritants” called adjuvants, Ckless continued, which activate the body’s immune response. “So then, we started to explore the possibility that we can use these nanomaterials as a mild irritant, but with the good side of an irritant that is actually to prompt our immune system to react against the components in the vaccine to give us better protection against the flu, for instance,” she said.

“It would make the vaccine more efficient.”

Working under her and Sunasee, about 14 students will assist with the research during the academic year as part of independent studies or honors thesis projects.

Ckless and her team have begun by synthesizing nanomaterials that are only slightly chemically different from one another. In the second phase of the project, Ckless and her students will evaluate the toxicity of the synthesized nanomaterials to see which of them might be suitable as adjuvants. “They can be irritants, but they have to have a threshold,” she explained. “You don’t want a super irritant.”

“I think it’s exciting,” SUNY Plattsburgh student and project participant Christopher Smith said of the research.

In fact, the senior, who is double majoring in biology and criminal justice, has been using his free time to learn more about vaccine adjuvants. “They’re really interesting,” added fellow senior Alex Rabideau, a biochemistry major. “So something that originally was just supposed to be for my resume and for medical school, I’m actually really enjoying, and I’m getting into the excitement of discovering something new or something that might actually prove of use to somebody.”

Still, Ckless noted, working in a federally funded lab as an undergraduate is a “huge” resume booster.

In fact, commercially available vaccines contain “irritants” called adjuvants, Ckless continued, which activate the body’s immune response. “So then, we started to explore the possibility that we can use these nanomaterials as a mild irritant, but with the good side of an irritant that is actually to prompt our immune system to react against the components in the vaccine to give us better protection against the flu, for instance,” she said.

“It would make the vaccine more efficient.”

Working under her and Sunasee, about 14 students will assist with the research during the academic year as part of independent studies or honors thesis projects.

Ckless and her team have begun by synthesizing nanomaterials that are only slightly chemically different from one another. In the second phase of the project, Ckless and her students will evaluate the toxicity of the synthesized nanomaterials to see which of them might be suitable as adjuvants. “They can be irritants, but they have to have a threshold,” she explained. “You don’t want a super irritant.”

“I think it’s exciting,” SUNY Plattsburgh student and project participant Christopher Smith said of the research.

In fact, the senior, who is double majoring in biology and criminal justice, has been using his free time to learn more about vaccine adjuvants. “They’re really interesting,” added fellow senior Alex Rabideau, a biochemistry major. “So something that originally was just supposed to be for my resume and for medical school, I’m actually really enjoying, and I’m getting into the excitement of discovering something new or something that might actually prove of use to somebody.”

Still, Ckless noted, working in a federally funded lab as an undergraduate is a “huge” resume booster.
VEDORA (MALONEY) BARCOMB, now 99 years old, returned to Hawkins Hall this past fall, after graduating from SUNY Plattsburgh nearly 80 years prior in 1939.

“Everything was different. I'm completely lost in these halls now,” she said, as she walked past E. Glenn Giltz Auditorium with her daughter Elaine O'Connor and son-in-law Bob.

For three years, Barcomb studied to be a teacher in Hawkins Hall, which at the time, was the only building that made up the Plattsburgh campus.

“The work was hard at college,” Barcomb said, reminiscing of times past. “I did my classes here and then some of my student teaching. The college arranged rides to and from the rural schools for us.

“Back then, tuition cost, like, $400. Room and board were extra.”

As a college student, Barcomb remembered, she lived on Brinkerhoff Street “in what was called the Loretta House, run by the Sisters of Mercy.” The cost was $2 a week.

To help pay for her board, she worked for Harry and Elizabeth Kehoe — namesakes of the college’s Kehoe Administration Building.

“They were very, very good to me. When he and his wife went out, they would leave me a quarter. It would be on the kitchen table with a letter which read, ‘Vedora, we are going out for dinner, and here is some money for you. Go wherever you want to go’

“So I would take the quarter, and in those days, I could buy myself probably a cup of soup, sandwich and maybe something to drink. But sometimes, I didn’t buy the whole lunch. I’d save up the quarters, so I could go get my hair done,” Barcomb laughed.

Times were tough for her family then, and she felt lucky to be able to attend college.

“My folks certainly had no money, but they got by and put me through school,” said Barcomb, who came to Plattsburgh because it was close to her home in Chateaugay, N.Y.

She went on to talk about her upbringing and how she was raised by a cousin after her mother died when she was just an infant.

“When my folks needed money, they would go to an uncle, William Barcomb. They would get $25, $50, sometimes $100 and then they would pay it back. That’s how they helped pay for my school.”

This is a much different life than what Savanna O'Connor, Barcomb's granddaughter, knows. She graduated from SUNY Plattsburgh in 2009, exactly 70 years after her grandmother.

“My parents were very generous, and I could ask for money whenever I needed to, and they would help me out. This wouldn’t have been possible without them,” O'Connor said of her college graduation and career success as a psychotherapist.

Barcomb’s eyes lit up when O'Connor joined us on campus for the afternoon. The two reminisced about their time at Plattsburgh, comparing and contrasting their experiences.

“Dr. Redcay was one of my favorite teachers. Not only a favorite of mine, but a favorite of a lot of people,” Barcomb said. “One of the girls I graduated with and I happened to come to our 50th reunion, and we went to the funeral for Dr. Redcay. That was in 1989. For some reason, he was a favorite to all.”

A beloved teacher, Dr. Edward Redcay created many programs for SUNY Plattsburgh students. He came to the campus in 1936 as a professor of education and psychology, organizer of summer sessions and basketball coach.

In 1952, he became the acting president of Plattsburgh for two years. He also set up a generous endowment fund to promote and recognize undergraduate academic excellence in the behavioral sciences and in the Honors Program.

In honor of Dr. Redcay and his wife, Lillian, an academic building was dedicated to them and named Redcay Hall in 1985.

“I had a lot of classes in Redcay Hall as an Anthropology major,” O’Connor said. “I spent a lot of time there, and every time I walked past Hawkins, I would think of Nanny being here.”

Barcomb’s time in the classroom was different with no computers and a lot of notetaking.

“You paid attention,” she said. However, once in awhile, Barcomb found time to goof off and have fun, like when she decided to take a ride with friends to the Canadian border.

“We got home very late, and the next day, I got a call from the nun who ran the place, and she wanted to know what time I came in the night before,” Barcomb recalled. “I told her, ‘Quite late, sister. There was a car load of us, and I had to ride along with them.’

“She asked if I made any disturbances when I got in, and I said, ‘Well, yes, I tipped over the plant on the stand, and it made a heck of a ruckus.’”

O’Connor remembers some late nights herself at the Monopole, a local hangout in downtown Plattsburgh.
“We loved listening to our friends’ bands play there. That’s where I spent most of my time,” she laughed.

“Not me,” Barcomb interrupted. “I had no one to take me.” That’s because, Barcomb explained, girls needed a boy to take them places like that, and she was good and “stayed out of trouble.” Still, she and her friends liked to get together with the boys from the old Army Base in Plattsburgh.

“I remember one in particular was John Vance,” Barcomb recalled. “It was all very innocent.”

Boys from the old Army Base in Plattsburgh.

Although Barcomb and her granddaughter had very different experiences, one thing is true for both Plattsburgh experiences, one thing is true for both of them — they will cherish their memories of their time on campus forever.

Additionally, her foster parents had never owned their own property, something the school teacher wished to change.

“I saved my wages for one year, and that made a good down payment for him to buy the farm,” Barcomb said of her foster father, whom she gave $1,100 toward the new family home. “It was the only way that I could think to pay them back.”

“My mother has lived an incredible life,” Elaine added. “She’s a good person. She was at graduation for Savanna and for my oldest son, Sheridan, who also graduated from Plattsburgh.”

Barcomb would go on to teach for several years in various rural schools. At one point, she was tasked with preparing a class of 37 kids in grades one through eight for the state’s Regents exams.

“That’s what you called a ‘complete’ job,” she said. “That was hard work.”

But it was hard work that paid off, not just for Barcomb, but also for her family, who lived modestly.

“The woman who raised me didn’t even have a washing machine,” Barcomb recalled. “She did the washing by hand. So, I bought her a washing machine and him a radio.”

“I feel very fortunate that I studied at Plattsburgh.” — Savanna O’Connor ’09

Nursing Alumna Draws on Plattsburgh Experience

By Felicia Kreg ’11

In June 2017, Madelyn “Maddy” Pearson ’83 began work as chief nursing officer and senior vice president of patient care services at Brigham and Women’s Hospital, a major teaching hospital for Harvard Medical School in Boston.

“I’m loving the complexity and the challenges and innovations that come with a world-renowned academic medical center,” she said.

Growing up in East Meadow on Long Island, Pearson knew she wanted to go away to college.

“I wanted to see other parts of the state and the nursing program (at Plattsburgh) had a great reputation,” she said.

As a student, Pearson enjoyed the natural beauty of the area and Plattsburgh’s close proximity to Vermont, Canada and the Adirondacks. She remembers ski trips to Whiteface Mountain.

‘FUNDATION FOR CAREER’

Her training in Plattsburgh’s nursing program went beyond the fundamental skills she would need in the field.

“I think the whole premise behind the baccalaureate degree is not just the technical and clinical aspect of nursing, but it’s really the human aspect and the focus on critical thinking skills,” Pearson said.

“Not only did I get my BSN, but the camaraderie, the other life experiences that you learn when you’re away for school, were tremendous and really have stuck with me.

“I remember my experience in Plattsburgh really fondly, and it gave me the foundation upon which I built the rest of my career.”

After graduating from SUNY Plattsburgh, Pearson worked as a charge nurse at Lennox Hill Hospital in New York City. She later moved on to jobs at Beth Israel Medical Center to focus on the care of women and children and then, to St. Barnabas Medical Center in New Jersey to gain further leadership experience.

“This is critical information and will help inform us how to better care for our patients.” — Madelyn “Maddy” Pearson ’83

 Pearson worked on her nursing administration master’s degree from New York University while working at Beth Israel, graduating in 1991. Two years later, she started at Englewood Hospital and Medical Center in New Jersey. Pearson eventually held the titles of director, vice president for nursing and chief nurse at Englewood.

Before moving to Brigham and Women’s Hospital, she served as regional senior vice president of patient care services and chief nursing officer for the Mount Sinai Health System’s downtown campus in New York City.

For more than a decade, Pearson has served as a program appraiser for the American Nurses Credentialing Center Magnet Recognition Program, which is considered the highest and most prestigious recognition for nursing excellence and patient care.

She is currently finishing a doctorate of nursing practice at Rutgers University.

‘LEARNING TO CONNECT’

Her advice to current nursing students is to attempt to look beyond the physical care of a patient and try to understand who he or she is as a person.

“Learning to connect with our patients on a human level is so very important,” Pearson said. “As nurses, we need to understand about our patients’ families and their lives outside the hospital.

“This is critical information and will help inform us how to better care for our patients.”
Plattsburgh Hall of Fame

BY BRIAN SAVARD

ON SATURDAY, NOV. 4, the Plattsburgh State Athletic Hall of Fame inducted its Class of 2017, which included Martin Beliveau ’91 (men’s ice hockey), Erin (Hutchinson) Lorah ’04 (women’s basketball), Richard Keegan ’71 (men’s soccer and baseball), Lisa (Marlow) Turner ’02 (softball) and the national champion 1991-92 men’s ice hockey team.

A key defender on several talented Cardinal men’s ice hockey teams, Beliveau helped SUNY Plattsburgh win a State University of New York Athletic Conference (SUNYAC) title and advance to the NCAA Division III national championship game his sophomore season in 1989-90. An All-America and All-SUNYAC selection in 1990-91, the native of nearby Rouses Point, Quebec, earned the respect of his peers and college officials, landing a spot on the program’s 1985-84 All-Decade Team. Throughout the storied history of the program, Beliveau remains one of the top student athletes to ever patrol the blue line. During the course of his three-year career, he took to the ice in 85 games, recording 19 goals and 67 assists for 86 points.

Earning several honors in two sports, Lorah was one of the most talented and versatile student athletes of her generation at SUNY Plattsburgh. The native of Shortsville, N.Y., earned two All-SUNYAC honors in women’s basketball and two All-SUNYAC East laurels in women’s volleyball. In women’s basketball, she netted 1,023 points during her career and is one of just a handful of student athletes in program history to reach the 1,000-point milestone. In women’s volleyball, Lorah finished her career as the all-time program record holder in total blocks, as well as single-season record holder in blocks per set. Furthermore, she earned the Plattsburgh State Senior Achievement Award in 2003-04.

An athletic pioneer at SUNY Plattsburgh, Keegan was the first All-American in the history of the Cardinal men’s soccer program and became just the third SUNY Plattsburgh student athlete in college history to earn All-America acclaim. On the soccer field, he was a two-time All-SUNYAC selection and a two-time All-Region honoree as a back. In 1968, he helped the Cardinal men’s soccer team go 11-2-1 overall and finish third in the NAIA. On the baseball diamond, Keegan excelled as a pitcher, achieving a career ERA of 2.98 that still remains one of the top marks in the program’s career record book.

Turner had a hand in putting Cardinal softball on the map, helping the team improve from a 7-8 overall record her freshman season in 1999 to a 31-15 overall record and an ECAC championship in 2002. A native of nearby Rouses Point, N.Y., she was a staple in the circle for the Cardinals, racking up 47 wins and 284 strikeouts throughout her collegiate career.

Her most impressive season came during her senior campaign in 2002, as she fashioned a 1.79 ERA while going 16-7 and striking out 107 batters. Turner set the standard of excellence that Cardinal softball would carry on after her graduation from the college.

A team of destiny from the first pack drop of the year, the 1991-92 edition of Cardinal men’s ice hockey captured the NCAA Division III national championship after going 32-2-2 overall and 13-0-1 in SUNYAC play. led by third-year head coach Bob Emery, the Cardinals started the season 16-0-1. Suffering just one loss to a Division III opponent all year, the team breezed through SUNYAC competition before winning the SUNYAC title. After capturing the ECAC title, SUNY Plattsburgh then swept Elmira College in an NCAA Tournament quarterfinal series before topping Wisconsin-Stevens Point, 7-3, in the national championship.

Women’s Lacrosse Added as 18th SUNY Plattsburgh Varsity Sport

THE PLATTSBURGH STATE Department of Intercollegiate Athletics upheld its varsity team offerings to 18 when it added women’s lacrosse as a varsity sport in April. Julia Decker, a graduate of The College at Brockport and a former NCAA Division II head coach at Fort Lewis College in Durango, Colo., was named as the program’s first head coach.

The Cardinals will begin NCAA Division III competition in 2018-19 and will compete in SUNYAC. The college’s addition of women’s lacrosse means that all 10 SUNYAC schools will now sponsor the sport.

“The addition of women’s lacrosse has been a point of discussion for many years here at Plattsburgh and was certainly high on my list of priorities when I accepted this position as the director of athletics in June,” SUNY Plattsburgh Director of Athletics Mike Howard said. “This program complements all of our existing programs extremely well and positions us well as we look to expand our recruiting footprint throughout the entire Northeast.

“The sport of lacrosse is quickly becoming one of the fastest-growing sports on the high school level, and I am hopeful that this program, similar to all of our other Cardinal teams, will play a key leadership role in the continued growth of the game at the youth and high school level in our region.

“It also provides a tremendous opportunity for young women who are looking seriously at SUNY Plattsburgh and are passionate about continuing to play the sport they love.

“This is a win-win situation for all of us.”

According to the 2015-16 NCAA Sports Sponsorship and Participation Rates Report, women’s lacrosse has seen the largest rise in sponsorship among any sport at the Division III level over the course of the past 10 years, seeing a 78 percent increase from 2005-06 to 2015-16. During that span, 120 new programs have been added.

This marked the first addition of a sport at SUNY Plattsburgh since baseball was reintroduced in 2001 and began its first spring of competition this millennium in 2002.

The team will utilize the Field House Complex as its facility for both practices and home games. It also serves as the home facility for men’s and women’s soccer, as well as men’s lacrosse.

Women’s Lacrosse Added as 18th SUNY Plattsburgh Varsity Sport

THE PLATTSBURGH STATE Department of Intercollegiate Athletics upheld its varsity team offerings to 18 when it added women’s lacrosse as a varsity sport in April. Julia Decker, a graduate of The College at Brockport and a former NCAA Division II head coach at Fort Lewis College in Durango, Colo., was named as the program’s first head coach.

The Cardinals will begin NCAA Division III competition in 2018-19 and will compete in SUNYAC. The college’s addition of women’s lacrosse means that all 10 SUNYAC schools will now sponsor the sport.

“The addition of women’s lacrosse has been a point of discussion for many years here at Plattsburgh and was certainly high on my list of priorities when I accepted this position as the director of athletics in June,” SUNY Plattsburgh Director of Athletics Mike Howard said. “This program complements all of our existing programs extremely well and positions us well as we look to expand our recruiting footprint throughout the entire Northeast.

“The sport of lacrosse is quickly becoming one of the fastest-growing sports on the high school level, and I am hopeful that this program, similar to all of our other Cardinal teams, will play a key leadership role in the continued growth of the game at the youth and high school level in our region.

“It also provides a tremendous opportunity for young women who are looking seriously at SUNY Plattsburgh and are passionate about continuing to play the sport they love.

“This is a win-win situation for all of us.”

According to the 2015-16 NCAA Sports Sponsorship and Participation Rates Report, women’s lacrosse has seen the largest rise in sponsorship among any sport at the Division III level over the course of the past 10 years, seeing a 78 percent increase from 2005-06 to 2015-16. During that span, 120 new programs have been added.

This marked the first addition of a sport at SUNY Plattsburgh since baseball was reintroduced in 2001 and began its first spring of competition this millennium in 2002.

The team will utilize the Field House Complex as its facility for both practices and home games. It also serves as the home facility for men’s and women’s soccer, as well as men’s lacrosse.

Cardinal Country Gets New Look

THIS FALL, the Plattsburgh State Department of Intercollegiate Athletics unveiled a new visual identity for Burghy.

“These updated marks create a consistent approach we can easily use across all of branding channels — from uniforms and playing surfaces to social media,” said Director of Athletics Mike Howard. “We worked to preserve the historical aspects even as we added a new set of tools that will serve us well in the years ahead.”

“It’s a win-win situation for all of us.”

According to the 2015-16 NCAA Sports Sponsorship and Participation Rates Report, women’s lacrosse has seen the largest rise in sponsorship among any sport at the Division III level over the course of the past 10 years, seeing a 78 percent increase from 2005-06 to 2015-16. During that span, 120 new programs have been added.

This marked the first addition of a sport at SUNY Plattsburgh since baseball was reintroduced in 2001 and began its first spring of competition this millennium in 2002.

The team will utilize the Field House Complex as its facility for both practices and home games. It also serves as the home facility for men’s and women’s soccer, as well as men’s lacrosse.

The new primary cardinal head provides a defined, sleek look that speaks to the competitive excellence of Plattsburgh State Athletics.

“Burghy is an integral part of campus and means a great deal to each of us,” said President John Eriksen.

“This design, and the accompanying new suite of materials, honors our tradition and spreads our wings a bit.”

The Cardinal Country Gets New Look

Cardinal Country Gets New Look

Cardinal Country Gets New Look

Cardinal Country Gets New Look
ONE DAY IN 1993, when Kurt Reiman ’92 was a newly minted SUNY Plattsburgh graduate waiting tables at Carbur’s Restaurant in downtown Plattsburgh, his former professor, Dr. Prem Gandhi, came in for lunch.

“He saw me and said, ‘What are you doing?’” Reiman recalled, adding that Gandhi said he should stop by his office for a chat.

“He was a brilliant student — one of our best,” Gandhi said of Reiman. “He had everything going for him, and I couldn’t see him working just for the sake of working.”

Their chance meeting at Carbur’s led to a job interview at the college’s School of Business and Economics (SBE), where Reiman was hired to help administrators lay the groundwork for accreditation by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB).

The then-recent graduate with a double major in international business and Canadian studies had chosen the major because he “liked the idea of traveling and understanding other cultures and just having a broader lens on the world.”

He also wanted something that was more immediately practical — “the business-end of things.”

Reiman had spent time in Montreal as a visiting student at McGill University and as an intern for the Montreal Board of Trade.

As an employee in the mid-’90s, he was encouraged by his former professor to apply to graduate school and was accepted to Johns Hopkins University’s School for Advanced International Studies. There, Reiman received a master’s in international relations in 1997.

Now, 25 years after graduating from SUNY Plattsburgh, he is chief investment strategist at BlackRock Canada, a global leader in investment, risk-management and advisory services for institutional and retail clients.

To honor Gandhi for his guidance and support over the years and to provide scholarship support for SBE students, Reiman established the Dr. Prem Gandhi Scholarship this fall.

The endowment supports annual merit scholarships for SBE students, with priority given to those with an interest in Canadian Studies.

“For a teacher, there can be no better recognition of his worth than what students achieve in life,” Gandhi said of the honor. “I measure my success by what Kurt has accomplished in his professional life.”

Antoine Fournier-Goselin was the first student recipient of the Dr. Prem Gandhi Scholarship this fall. With a double major in finance and economics, the junior came to Plattsburgh after two years of post-high-school study and playing hockey in Quebec. A Montreal native, Fournier-Goselin plans to return there for grad school or to start his career.

“Unless I have the opportunity to play professional hockey first,” he said.

Having secured a matching gift from his employer, Reiman looks forward to growing the endowment.

“Kurt exemplifies both success as a SUNY Plattsburgh graduate who has men to the top of his profession, and for the philanthropic spirit of giving back to his alma mater,” added the college’s Director for Development Faith Leah G01.

Last July, Kurt Reiman visited with Dr. Prem Gandhi and his wife, Anura, during Reunion 2017.

By Aubrey Bressett ’01

IN ITS 54TH YEAR, SeaComm Federal Credit Union opened a new branch in the Town of Plattsburgh, and the company is committed to helping the community.

“We believe in giving back to the community,” said SeaComm President and CEO Scott Wilson.

Over a five-year period, his organization has pledged $25,000 to SUNY Plattsburgh to create the SeaComm Federal Credit Union Scholarship Endowment.

“SUNY Plattsburgh educates our North Country neighbors, and those folks then graduate and come to work in institutions like ours, or they come to do business with us,” Wilson stated.

“We feel that this is a concrete way that we can support that.”

By Aubrey Bressett ’01

IT’S REALLY PRETTY SIMPLE, alumnus Peter Gerney ’83 said of the reason he gives back to his alma mater. “I want to see to it that SUNY Plattsburgh makes it.”

One of six children, Gerney talks about his experience at the college and the importance of a quality education that is affordable.

“For me, I was impressed with the number of degrees that SUNY Plattsburgh offered,” he said. “There was so much to choose from. I loved the basketball program and right away felt comfortable on campus.”

That comfort has never gone away. Although Gerney now lives in Pennsylvania, he and his family visit regularly.

“I bring my son, Greg, who has Down syndrome. He travels with me and he loves coming up there. When I’m in town, I stay in a hotel, and he stays with Tom Curle,” he laughed.

Also an alumnus, Curle is now SUNY Plattsburgh’s head men’s basketball coach.

“He was a year ahead of me, and I only played my first year because I needed to turn my attention to my studies.”

Throughout the years, Peter, now principal of Gerney Research Group LLC, has stayed connected to the college.

In 2015, he and his family set up the Albert J. and Margaret A. Gerney Endowment, which is named after his parents.

“This $100,000 endowment supports student scholarships and is intended for students with financial needs, with priority given to those majoring in arts and humanities, education or social sciences.

“Beyond that, I wanted to see how I could help attract more students,” Peter said. “Almost every other SUNY campus has a video board in their gymnasium, and speaking with coaches at SUNY Plattsburgh, that is what they needed.”

So Peter pledged $50,000 to purchase the video board, which Greg dedicated to Coach Curle this fall.

“We are fortunate as a basketball program and college that Peter has allowed us to become part of his family. I appreciate his generosity, but more importantly, I truly value our friendship,” Curle said.

“Alumni and others, like Tom, really got a great education at a price we could afford,” Peter said. “Nowadays, there is even less federal and state funding, so it’s going to become even more important for businesses to step up and help these kids and higher education make it.”

By Aubrey Bressett ’01
The retired teacher, who majored in education with a minor in math during his time at SUNY Plattsburgh, has made a second career of portraying the jolly Christmas icon. “At my hair was slowly graying, I noticed one day that I resembled my father when he portrayed Santa at Santa’s Workshop in the ’60s,” said Barcomb, who also worked at the attraction in Wilmington, N.Y., the summer following his college graduation. “Some of my students and friends thought I could be Santa and persuaded me to purchase a suit.” Since then, photographers have kept the resident of Florence, S.C., busy posing for Christmas photos at banks, schools, senior centers, churches and various other locations. “I can’t say my time at Plattsburgh directly contributed to my becoming Santa,” he said, “but many of the fellow students helped mold my personality and sense of humor.”

**THE HOLIDAYS ARE A BUSY TIME, especially for Francois Barcomb Sr. ’67, also known as Santa Claus.**
BY ASHLEIGH LIVINGSTON ’10

WHAT ALUMNI TODAY UNCOVERED

In Memoriam

FACULTY AND STAFF

Samantha Allen, VISTA volunteer — Aug. 26, 2017

William Jiguerre, maintenance and operations — June 14, 2017

William “Bill” Klock, professor emeritus of art — June 11, 2017

“Sammy” David LaMar, electrician, retired — May 13, 2017

Thomas McGuire, maintenance trades, retired — May 13, 2017

Ronald W. Pajak Jr., service trades — Aug. 29, 2017

Tara Marlow Studley, assistant dean of the School of Business and Economics — Sept. 10, 2017

Kenneth Wibecan Jr., journalism — Aug. 6, 2017

Patricia Bennett ’69 — June 10, 2017

William G. Caferro ’63 — June 30, 2017

Marie Dellaquila ’65 — Aug. 29, 2017

Mary Jean Lopez ’69 — Sept. 23, 2017

Judith A. Rasmussen ’67 G’74 — Aug. 16, 2017

Linda R. Ivanenok ’67 G’68 — July 29, 2017

Robert Yates ’74 — Aug. 25, 2017

Myrna White ’74 — Aug. 29, 2017

Janice Pusey ’75 — July 25, 2017

Richard Brucher ’90 — Sept. 25, 2017

Joseph Levaque G’94 — May 17, 2017

Patrick M. Mullen ’75 — Sept. 23, 2017

Myrna White ’74 — June 6, 2017

John William McConnell ’85 — April 5, 2017

Cheryl Ohmart ’82 — Jan. 6, 2017

Edward B. Fitzpatrick ’77 — June 20, 2017

Maria Hallesbeck-Brown ’76 — Sept. 9, 2017

Janet E. Kemp ’76 — Aug. 8, 2017

Claudia Mattisson ’77 — May 17, 2017

Peter Jock ’63 G’69 — July 24, 2017

Linda R. Ivanenok ’67 G’68 — Aug. 16, 2017

Helen O’Donnell ’52 — Aug. 16, 2017

Charlotte Parks ’53 — May 16, 2017

John Sage ’51 — May 8, 2017

Sandra A. Pursell ’53 — March 30, 2017

Gena Rosenbaum ’06 (CMC) recently became a licensed mental-health counselor.

#plattsgrad

Know an alum you think we should feature?
Nominate a plattsgrad at alumni.plattsburgh.edu/plattsgrad.

In Memoriam

Death notices must be accompanied by a copy of an obituary or memorial card. Send to Aubrey Bresett, SUNY Plattsburgh, 101 Broad Street, Plattsburgh, NY, 12901, or to aubrey.bresett@plattsburgh.edu.
“I am grateful to know each of my students by name and have the opportunity to mentor our students in research projects and experiential projects that are both educational and a lot of fun to work on.”
— DR. KEN PODOLAK
Assistant Professor of Physics

“Eighteen years ago, I arrived as an undergraduate, and those early years developed an incredible bond to this region and the people.”
— MICHAEL CASHMAN ’03 G’06
Plattsburgh Town Supervisor

“I deeply value the transformational dialogues that happen on our campus. I am thankful to walk with students and colleagues on the Plattsburgh leg of their life journeys.”
— KYLJA RIALFORD ’02 G’04
Director, Educational Opportunity Program

“As a student at SUNY Plattsburgh, I was afforded an opportunity to earn a degree and begin a professional journey as a special-education teacher. I have had the opportunity to advise and teach amazing students in pursuit of their dreams.”
— DR. DENISE SIMARD ’90
Interim Dean, School of Education, Health, & Human Services

“SUNY Plattsburgh is a huge area employer generating a large economic impact. Even more significantly, however, it introduces thousands of young people and their families to the North Country, which has a lasting impact for decades thereafter.”
— GARRY DOUGLAS
President and CEO, North Country Chamber of Commerce

“I deeply value the transformational dialogues that happen on our campus. I am thankful to walk with students and colleagues on the Plattsburgh leg of their life journeys.”
— KYLJA RIALFORD ’02 G’04
Director, Educational Opportunity Program

“I came to Plattsburgh because it has helped me find myself. I’ve been granted the opportunity to make a home in this community and take on leadership roles.”
— CARLA PIMENTEL
Multimedia Journalism Major

“SUNY Plattsburgh is determined to be part of the broader community. Students participate in thousands of hours of volunteer work and local internships each year, and faculty and staff can be found everywhere working within their professional expertise to improve our region. I applaud and appreciate the tradition of such community building. Students leave feeling they were part of something that is bigger than just the classroom. That’s what life is all about.”
— DR. COLIN READ
City of Plattsburgh Mayor

“SUNY Plattsburgh is determined to be part of the broader community. Students participate in thousands of hours of volunteer work and local internships each year, and faculty and staff can be found everywhere working within their professional expertise to improve our region. I applaud and appreciate the tradition of such community building. Students leave feeling they were part of something that is bigger than just the classroom. That’s what life is all about.”
— DR. COLIN READ
City of Plattsburgh Mayor

Past, present and future — SUNY Plattsburgh has touched the lives of many.

SOME HAVE COME TO TEACH OR LEARN — or both. Some have experienced something new, earned a degree, were given opportunity. Some have made lifelong friends, found retreat on campus grounds, engaged in culture and met diversity.

Regardless of the role college plays in their lives, they are united by something powerful — gratitude.

BY MICHAEL MORGAN

IT WAS JUST OVER 25 YEARS AGO when I made the trek from the “heartland” to the “North Country” to begin a career at SUNY Plattsburgh. I discovered faculty with a passion for teaching and students who were eager to learn. There was an ethos of the college that combined academic excellence with faculty and staff who were dedicated to caring for students and each other. The natural beauty of the Adirondacks and Lake Champlain was an added bonus.

I was interviewed by Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Tom Moran as part of my interview process. I was so impressed by him and what he said about the college that I made my final decision to come to SUNY Plattsburgh based on our conversation.

A lot has changed in 25 years. After serving in many leadership positions, I humbly find myself in the same leadership role Moran had when I first interviewed. His drive and deep, unwavering commitment to serve the campus community is something I strive to honor each day. The faculty still are focused on academic excellence and making a positive difference in the lives of students as they support each other. The beauty of the area is still inspiring.

The landscape of higher education, however, has changed significantly. Current changes in higher education include student-demographic shifts that have lowered college enrollments due to fewer high school students in the Northeast; this has resulted in financial strains for many colleges. Additional changes include reduced state funding, increased student debt, increased competitiveness to enroll students and changes in parents’ and students’ expectations about desired outcomes of a college education. In essence, the marketplace is highly competitive, and students are looking for high value at less cost that will result in a good job when they graduate.

We are meeting a changing world with our own changes at SUNY Plattsburgh. Visible transformation includes new spaces and upgrades to many buildings on campus. There are new academic programs, including an online completion degree for accounting, a bachelor’s in biomedical sciences, an online master’s in fitness and wellness leadership and other programs in the pipeline, including a bachelor’s degree in robotics and a master’s in business analytics.

Less visible transformation includes implementation of a strategic enrollment management (SEM) initiative that supports a new way of moving forward for our college. Best practices for almost every aspect of our day-to-day operation are being put in place with laser focus on enrollment health. SEM begins with individuals who are interested in our college, follows them when they become students and focuses on their success every step of the way until they are engaged alumni.

The strength of our academic programs and the hearts of everyone who works at SUNY Plattsburgh make up a supportive, engaging community for students to learn, grow and, ultimately, work in a changing world. The strength of our collaborative community embraces today’s challenges and the challenges of the future. Uncertainties are everywhere. But one thing remains clear: Our powerful present will become our proud past and secure our strong future.

When you make a gift to the Plattsburgh Fund, you support our primary mission of student success. This giving season, how would it make you feel to know that – because of you – one more SUNY Plattsburgh student was given a life-changing opportunity? Gifts from alumni and friends provide the support that ensures our tradition of excellence.

Please support SUNY Plattsburgh by using the enclosed envelope or making a gift online at plattsburgh.edu/seasonofgiving.
Making Students More Marketable

With support from alumni and friends, SUNY Plattsburgh’s School of Business and Economics has established a Finance Trading Center, complete with Bloomberg Terminals, providing students with real-time financial market data.

With your continued support, SUNY Plattsburgh can maintain the Trading Center and its offerings well into the future.

Learn how: alumni.plattsburgh.edu/bloomberg