



# CAZENOVIA COLLEGE

MAGAZINE

## Mind, Heart, and Soul, Personifying Cazenovia

*The skills and presence of **Sheila Smith Marsh '71** have helped hundreds of HEOP students thrive*

**ALUMNI PROFILES:**

**SHELBY CONNELLY '91**  
**DANIEL RIORDAN '06**  
**JOSEPH HERNON '09**  
**MARK ALLEN '11**

**Putting Online Learning  
On The Fast Track**

**Pillar Society Widens  
Leadership Giving Circle**

# A Year of Navigating COVID-19

*Succeeding despite the pandemic*



Photo: Susan Kohn

*In the last College Magazine published early in 2020, I ended my comments by saying, "I see another stable year ahead..." Little did I know of the COVID-19 storm that was right around the corner.*

For all of us, the past year has been anything but stable. However, I am pleased to share that the College has been successful in weathering the pandemic on several fronts.

It began with immediate changes in how we delivered instruction to students. Within two weeks, faculty transitioned to remote instruction to complete the spring semester. Over the summer, classrooms were reconfigured to reduce student density and new technology was installed to enable hybrid teaching. A new learning management system was purchased and implemented, and faculty were trained in record time to facilitate course delivery starting in the fall. It was a remarkable effort for all involved — faculty, staff, and students.

We were also successful in securing all the Federal funds available to the College and our students, including both the Higher Education Emergency Relief Funds (HEERF), and the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) funds. We received two rounds of HEERF support totaling \$2.7 million, and two rounds of PPP funds totaling \$4.3 million. Both sets of funding were critical in helping address deficits from lower enrollment and fewer students living on campus. A portion of the HEERF support was also distributed as emergency assistance for students and their families.

Another success has been our ability to mitigate the spread of Coronavirus and be one of the few colleges in the area to remain on campus with in-person instruction throughout the fall and the spring, to date. Credit goes to our faculty and staff for their extra efforts in planning and providing a safe learning

and living environment, and to the entire campus community for following health and safety protocols.

Support for the College and our students is more important now than ever and our fundraising efforts have a renewed focus with new staff members and new initiatives. **Cary Rueppel** joined the College at the end of 2020 as Director of Annual Giving, and **Samantha Harmon** joined early in 2021 as Interim Director, Institutional Advancement. Among the new initiatives is the launch of the Pillar Society, as detailed on page 35.

For me, one of COVID's hardest hits was cancelling last year's Commencement. I am pleased to say now that we are planning two separate in-person Commencements on May 22 for both the Class of 2020 and the Class of 2021. I look forward to recognizing our graduates with well-deserved celebrations of their accomplishments.

As we all know too well, full recovery from the pandemic will take time. The College faces ongoing challenges with enrollment, cost containment, and sustained fundraising. Thanks to the efforts of our dedicated faculty and staff, we made it through the worst of the storm. Now we are focused, with the help of our supporters, on ensuring the College continues to serve and educate our students as only Cazenovia can. On behalf of the faculty, staff, and students, your support is greatly appreciated.

**Ron Chesbrough, Ph.D.**  
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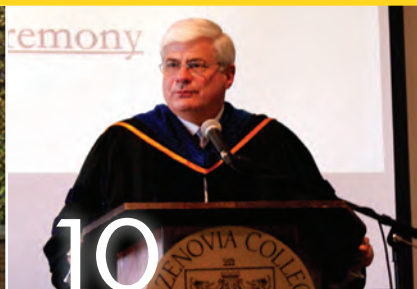


Photo: John Seiter



Photo: Courtesy of Dan Riordan

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On the cover: Sheila Smith Marsh '71  
Cover photo: Susan Kahn



# Mind, Heart, and Soul, Sheila Marsh '71 Personifies the Caz College Experience

*For 20 years, her skills and special presence have helped hundreds of HEOP students thrive.*



photo: Susan Kahn Photography

unique place in higher education. With mind, heart, and soul, she personifies the all-things-possible attitude, sincere interest, and warm embrace Cazenovia provides in addition to top-flight intellectual and professional preparation.

Those who come to Cazenovia through the Arthur O. Eve Higher Education Opportunity Program (HEOP) recognize their unique opportunity. They expect to spend a summer acclimating to the college environment before starting classes. What they might not anticipate is being greeted by someone with the grace and gravitas of Sheila Marsh.

For the past 20 years, Marsh has been showing up for students in Caz's HEOP cohort. She's a steadying guidepost for those with pressing economic issues and imperative personal needs. Whether it's a car ride to a health appointment, the loan of emergency dollars, a hearty dinner at her comforting home, or a talking-to when warranted, she's always there for them: warm, authentic, enthusiastic, non-judgmental, but also no nonsense.

It might be because she had only a sliver of a hope of getting into college herself when she was accepted to attend Cazenovia. It might be because her small-town physician father and open-hearted mother provided a nurturing home and regularly welcomed less fortunate neighbors. It might be because it's just in her nature for **Sheila Smith Marsh, '71**, to be a mentor, substitute mom, understanding presence, and still, a taskmaster.

Whatever the origins, Sheila Marsh exemplifies all that Cazenovia offers as a



**Jesse Lott**, Dean of the First Year Program at the College and Sheila's supervisor, describes what Sheila brings to her calling. "She's direct, she's honest, she's empathetic and understanding. She's an active listener. She helps students solve problems. She's a cheerleader. She's in your corner 24/7. To do the job she's doing requires a truly kind heart and an empathetic understanding of where students are coming from."

## An Unsteady Start

While Sheila didn't experience the kind of family, economic, or community trauma many HEOP students have by the time they reach Cazenovia, she understands what it's like to have a narrow pathway to higher education. "I didn't choose Cazenovia, Cazenovia chose me," Marsh says with a smile. When she was applying to colleges as a high schooler from Waterloo, New York, "Caz was the only school that accepted me. I was very social in high school. To me, cheerleading was more important than schooling. I applied to a few SUNY schools and didn't get in."

Her first semester didn't go well: a 1.8 GPA and academic probation. Things changed for the better after Marsh met **Mary Cheney ("Muffie") Wilson '71**. As a motivated student and steadying influence, Muffie moved Sheila's academic needle. "The next semester, I made Dean's List, and I stayed pretty much above board from then on," Marsh recalls. "I think what I learned was to balance."

The two became roommates and fast friends who shared a love of music and photography, a circle of pals, and a penchant for hitchhiking. From Wilson's point of view, Sheila was a blessing, too. "Meeting Sheila was really about feeling at home with somebody and feeling like I found a true friend," Wilson recalls. "That was really a lovely thing for me, being away from home, to be able to connect



Seranda Behrami '08, Sheila Marsh, Willaway Hillario '08, Anna Claritza



Alejandra Santos '17, Juanabel (Pam) Abrue '17, Sheila Marsh, Maxime Cento '17, Shannon Collado '17



PARIS: Akira Jones, Margaret Hartmann, Kyla Smoke, Sheila, Tommy Cooper '18, Nancy Young, David Bergh, Cassie Hartnett, Morgana French



NEW YORK CITY: Raju Chowdery '10, Alexis Mayi '19, Momadou Sow '19, Sheila Marsh, Josh Hazelwood '19, Cristal Diaz Mejia '19, Mo Diamon '09

with somebody in a way that made you feel super comfortable.”

Sheila’s bright outlook and magnetic persona were evident then, Wilson adds. “Sheila has a ton of joy in her. She finds the best in people and in a situation and kind of meets people where they’re at in a very authentic way. It’s what I think makes her so great at what she does now at Caz.”

**“IT WAS AN INSTANT THING THAT SHE WAS GOING TO BE AN INSPIRATION IN OUR LIVES.”**

- Polo Burgos '04

After Cazenovia, Marsh attended SUNY-Brockport, earning a degree in early childhood education and psychology. She was a second grade and sixth grade teacher at West Genesee Elementary in Camillus, New York, earning tenure. She stayed home for a time once she had children, and later was a long-term substitute teacher in a local school district. She also worked as a macrobiotic personal chef and pursued graduate work at Syracuse University to complete her certification for teaching in New York State.

## Back to Caz

Sheila ventured back to Caz around 1993 as a part-time psychology tutor, then worked as alumni director. An opening in the College’s HEOP office recalled the teacher-nurturer in Sheila. She’s been content in that space because of its welcoming environment, positive collaboration, operational support, and professional fulfillment. “Here is magical. The people I work with, we are family. I never had the desire to go anywhere else because I was so happy here,” Marsh notes.

To co-workers, it’s clear that Marsh’s contributions are broad, impactful, and long-lasting. Says Cynthia Pratt, director of the Office of Special Services: “Sheila has so much energy, love, commitment,

compassion, patience. I call her ‘She-ra, Princess of Power.’ That’s her! She’s pretty amazing.” For Shari Whitaker, director of alumni and parent relations, Sheila continues to be a mentor. “She’s smart, fair and strong. She’s just what a lot of the students need, and she’s very well respected.” Lott sums up: “I

can clearly tell you she’s made a difference in not just our HEOP program

but in terms of the Center for Teaching and Learning, in what we’ve been able to do helping students over the years.”

## Help for Hundreds

Over 20-plus years, Marsh has ushered several hundred students through the program to receive Caz degrees and to achieve career success. This year, 17 HEOP students are graduating. Sheila’s former charges say she’s been an instrumental positive influence in their lives.

Joyce Martinez ’12, who teaches troubled students in the Bronx, strives to channel the Sheila Marsh effect. “Sheila made us feel wonderful,” she says. “She told us everything, just how it is. If we had a worry, she would take care of it and she would stand up for us. She’s been Mama Sheila to me. I can honestly say she was the backbone of my finishing college successfully.”

Mouhamadou (“Mo”) Diaman ’09, initially a case manager for juvenile offenders, earned a Master’s degree in policy and law and has been teaching for nine years now. He says Sheila was the mentor he needed. “She was a great person who motivated me and helped me believe in myself. She was able to give me that nudge that said, ‘You got it.’”

Polo Burgos, ’04, says Sheila made a difference in his life the first day they met. The now-New York City police detective recalls, “It was an instant thing that she was going to be an inspiration in our lives and kind of a mother figure for all of us. We were lucky enough to find somebody like her to guide us and lead us from the start to graduation and then beyond.”

Justin Bluto ’08, says he reached out to Sheila recently to “Thank her for the opportunity to prove to myself I was able to make it through college and for the person I am today. It’s amazing to see how many kids she’s helped like myself that may not otherwise have had a chance for college.”



Sheila Marsh, Nikki Krohl, Hippolito (Polo) Burgos '04



2016 ALUMNI AWARDS, L-R: Sheila Marsh '71, The Winifred E. Coleman Award, Daniel Riordan '06, Crystal Wright Farrell '88, Dr. John Robert Greene



Sheila Marsh, Kendry Peralta Regales '21



# Transition to Online Learning Fast-Track by Faculty

*When COVID-19 rapidly grew into a pandemic, the College was anything but flat-footed in its response.*

All classes were quickly transitioned to remote learning using existing online course delivery and teleconferencing platforms. In a very difficult environment, the faculty and students worked hard to use the platforms to successfully complete the semester.

At the same time, the College was in the process of adopting Canvas, a new Learning Management System (LMS). Over the summer, the College was able to fast-track implementation of the LMS and provide training to faculty. By the start of the fall semester, faculty course work was up and running on the LMS, enabling courses to be taught in several formats: in-person, synchronous online, asynchronous online, hybrid, and hybrid.

**Sharon Dettmer**, Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean of the Faculty, says good planning and hard work enabled the College to shift to the new LMS. “Like any new technology, there was a steep learning curve,” said Dettmer. “The faculty were amazing in how quickly they trained and implemented their courses in Canvas. I am grateful and proud of the faculty and staff who spent countless hours during the summer to make sure the students’ experience under COVID-19 was as smooth as possible.”

The following accounts provide perspectives of what it was like for faculty to make the teaching transition.



photo: Tim Greene



photo: Megan Lawson Clark

## Faculty and Students Discover Learning Challenges

**Tamara Demeree, M.B.A.**  
Visiting Instructor, Sport Management



If there is anything that COVID has taught us, it’s that we are all facing the same challenges adapting to the new process of communication and everyday living. This certainly holds

true for college professors, who over the past year, have been expanding their skills beyond their specializations and disciplines to include virtual learning and instruction.

In the spring of 2020, we transitioned overnight from face-to-face classes to online ones, and at that point, the learning curve felt very steep. Professors needed to immediately communicate with textbook publishers and computer

support teams to find new ways to bring their classroom experiences and lessons into the homes of their students. (Many of those students had left campus abruptly—some without their textbooks, computers, and personal belongings.)

Each of us faced our own technology challenges during this transition, including spotty internet access, insufficient Wi-Fi, and software access. From a teacher’s perspective, our first concern is always our students, so we immediately began to get creative about how to reach out and communicate with them.

At first, we were using an older version of our Learning Management System which we knew would have challenges providing the infrastructure needed to deliver our content to our students. Many of us adapted our communication method to MS Teams, where most students could interact, even if that meant in only one direction, from professor to student. Once we worked out some of the bugs, we were able to get back some regularity and

schedule students for learning modules and weekly lesson plans.

In the summer of 2020, professors began training on the new campus-wide learning management system, CANVAS. Our ICT group did an outstanding job bringing this resource to us earlier than anticipated. We eagerly took advantage of the training resources provided by our instructional learning and ICT groups to teach us all something new—much like our students must do every day in the classroom.

With the uncertainty about the reopening of campus, professors needed to plan for a virtual delivery system and hope we could still return to face-to-face instruction. After a summer of intense preparation, we finally returned to campus for the fall semester. As faculty, we found ourselves back in the classroom, with a myriad of different delivery methods now available, including face-to-face, virtual, and online, as well as any combination of the two. Having multiple methods of student interaction with our classes meant we needed to juggle technology, in-person students, students working online via MS Teams, along with upgrades to the classroom environment, social distancing, and wearing masks.

As of Spring 2021, we continue to offer flexibility and options to our students to give them the learning experience that enables them to feel safe while they further their collegiate education. It certainly has been a challenge to provide a quality education to our students when software access is intermittent and while classroom technology is upgraded throughout campus.

Coupling this changing technology dynamic with the mental health challenges students and professors have faced, it seems miraculous that Cazenovia has been so successful in providing a modified in-person experience for our students. Despite the hiccups, frustrations, and desire to have things back to the way they were pre-COVID, we can reflect upon this ex-

perience as one of intense learning and perseverance and a time when we can be proud to say we are CAZ Strong!

*Tamara Demeree is a sport industry practitioner with over 30 years of career experience in both the for-profit and not-for-profit industries. Her professional background and education are in marketing and facility management.*

## Online Platform Flexibility Was a Need Fulfilled for Fashion Studies Students

**Megan Lawson Clark, M.A., M.B.A.**  
Associate Professor, Fashion Director  
Fashion Merchandising Program  
and Annual Fashion Show Director



Faculty members were introduced to a new academic learning management system, Canvas, last year. Combined with MS Teams, it provided the flexibility to offer classes virtually when needed. Although Canvas and Teams were new to me, I currently utilize both systems in my classes.

While it can be time-consuming and intimidating to learn a new method of online teaching, I found the ease of the Canvas platform and the flexibility our training provided made the process straightforward. And pleasantly, with this academic learning management system, materials can be saved in a more structured and user-friendly format than others I have used in the past.

Most Cazenovia students are situated on campus, but the use of Canvas and Teams allows faculty to provide simultaneous virtual and on-campus class experiences for any students that were unable to be present in the classroom.



photo: Alix Pfisterer

Due to the new LMS, our students are still able to learn about the vast opportunities for careers in the fashion industry, internship prospects, network, and ask questions. In a typical spring semester, our fashion merchandising students would be traveling to New York City for the New York Tour course, but the pandemic prevented that kind of trip this year. Normally, we would meet with fashion industry professionals, tour company showrooms, and network with alumni. However, using Canvas and Teams, I have been able to continue meeting course objectives and conduct virtual meetings with alumni and industry connections.

In the fashion programs, we have many group projects to replicate the kind of activities that occur in the industry. Canvas makes student collaboration easier with its discussion and collaboration features, and instructors can monitor students' work with ease while they communicate online with each other.

Students have provided ample positive feedback on the straightforwardness and organization of Canvas. Elements such as the integrated course calendar provide students with a quick view of all assignments due, by course. Professors can share course updates directly to the student's email address. Course creators can access past semester courses and archived materials much more easily. I'm pleased that this platform has been selected, because these systems provide long-term advantages for better and more innovative course design.

*Megan Lawson Clark holds a Master of Business Administration in management from the State University of New York at Oswego, a Master of Arts degree from Syracuse University in Fashion and Textile Design, and a Bachelor of Arts in Fashion Merchandising, and Design from Dominican University in Illinois.*



# Three Donors Help Lead the Way on Student Criminal Justice Lab

*With imaginative goals, the expertise of in-house crews and faculty professionals, and instrumental financial support from generous donors, the College has transformed an unused campus space into a state-of-the-art, multi-room classroom and laboratory area for its Criminal Justice and Homeland Securities Studies program.*

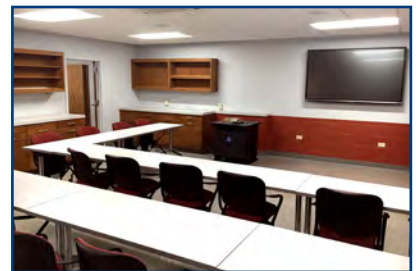
The renovated space in the basement of Eckel Hall now offers students the unique opportunity to experience the realism of an interview/interrogation room, including two-way observation capacities and professional audio/video taping facilities. Those areas connect to a large classroom/lecture facility and crime scene investigation forensic laboratory space.

A contribution from **Susan '74 and John Eastwood** outfitted the interrogation/interview room. A gift by the **J.M. McDonald Foundation** paid to build the adjacent observation room. **The Howard Charitable Foundation's** contribution was instrumental in assuring top-of-the-line renovation and equipment improvements for the lecture/classroom/laboratory space.

The space is now a top-of-the-line facility offering an unparalleled learning experience because its setting and capacities comprise "the real deal," says **Stewart Weisman, J.D.**, professor in the Criminal Justice and Homeland Security Studies program and chair of the Social and Behavioral Sciences Division. "It gives students a real experience, not only for the interview perspective... but it psyches them to want to do it because they have such a great facility."

Weisman says Cazenovia may possibly be the only small college in the United States having an interview room at all and the observation room may be the only such real-time setting that exists among small northeastern colleges in the U.S. Aside from its availability to Criminal Justice and Homeland Security Studies students, the facility hosts students in Psychology and Behavioral and Human Services programs, and also is available to students participating in the College's extended learning/continuing education Police Academy program.

Campus Services crews and interior design faculty lent expertise and hands-on labor that helped lower costs by reducing the need to hire outside services for some of the work.



**"THE SPACE IS NOW A TOP-OF-THE-LINE FACILITY OFFERING AN UNPARALLELED LEARNING EXPERIENCE..."**

**- Stewart Weisman, J.D.**



# Real-Life Learning Takes Shape in Simulated Financial Teaching and Trading Lab

*Room 103 in Eddy Hall will be bustling with digitized informational displays and outfitted with five 60-inch monitors, a 75-inch display TV, and three sections of LED tickers displaying stock prices and market indices from around the world streaming around the room's perimeter. The classroom—Cazenovia's Accounting and Finance Lab—recreates the settings and conditions many financial services professionals find in their workplaces every day.*

The repurposing of this area is a first step to creating a specialized Accounting and Finance Program Lab housing industry-utilized data technology, world-class amenities, and the atmosphere of many finance-industry professions. When fully outfitted, the Lab will feature computers, software, and workstations for an instructor and 24 students. The step is a boon for students interested in finance studies who want the private, small-school experience along with the sophisticated facilities and technology usually found at larger educational institutions.

Cazenovia's Finance Program was implemented to prepare students for a variety of business careers, says **Louis Marcoccia, Ed.D.**, Finance Program Director and Jill Hebl St. Clair '62 Endowed Chair for Accounting and Finance. These include: financial analyst, commercial or investment banker, treasurer, controller, budget director, financial consultant, financial planner, portfolio manager, investment advisor, and broker. It's also a great area of study in combination with other Cazenovia degree programs, such as accounting, hospitality, equine, or fashion for students who may want to own and operate a business, he adds. Students can pursue a Bachelor of Science or a Bachelor of Professional Studies degree either in four years of study or in an accelerated, three-year degree completion option.

The program's strength is that it exposes students to personal and business finance fundamentals plus provides opportunities to pursue specific interests, Dr. Marcoccia says. The curriculum takes a comprehensive look at the industry, including sources and the flow of funds, markets and financial institutions, investments, commercial and investment banking, credit unions, insurance, personal financial planning, cash flow and project budgeting, sources and movement of funds in markets, entrepreneurship, portfolio management, international markets and investing, derivatives, and investment and project valuations. "The Program establishes a wonderful foundation for anyone interested in a major, a dual major, or a minor in finance," says Dr. Marcoccia. "Finance is on the front burner of personal and business decisions, and it needs to be understood and properly applied by decision makers to achieve immediate and long-term aspirations and targets."

A large part of the overall \$200,000-plus estimated cost (which includes refurbishing of its temporary and permanent space) has already been covered by corporate and private donations and grants. Efforts continue to solicit funds to cover total costs.



**Artist rendering of a typical finance lab**

# Bob Greene Recognized For 40 Years

*The onset of the pandemic last spring sidetracked many plans. One of them was the recognition of Dr. John Robert (Bob) Greene for his 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of teaching at the College.*

Bob Greene began as a part-time instructor at Cazenovia in September 1979 while also serving as manager of the campus radio station, WICT. He became a full-time faculty member in 1984 and was tenured in 1987. He was named Distinguished Faculty Member in 1993, and awarded the College's first endowed chair, the Paul J. Schupf Chair in History and Humanities, in 2000.

He served several terms as chair of the Social and

Behavioral Sciences Division. Given his penchant for history, it is only natural that Bob also serves as the College Archivist.

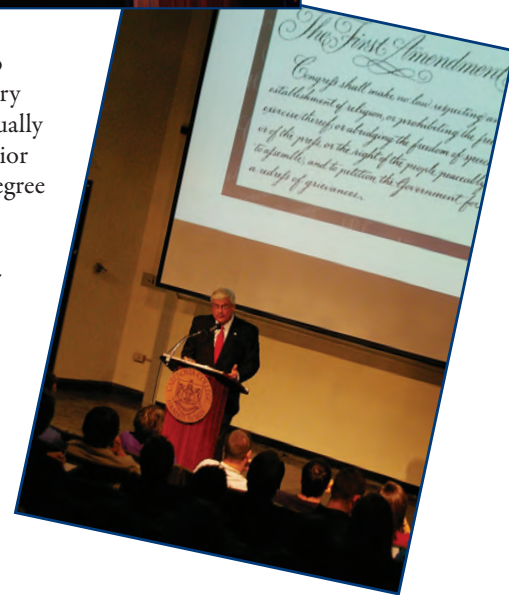
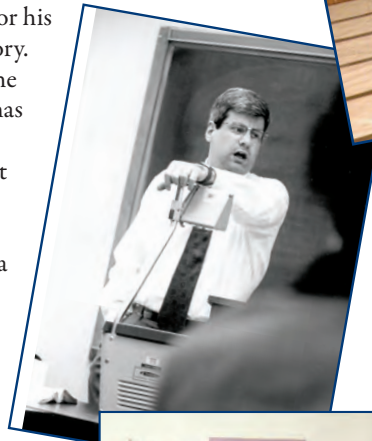
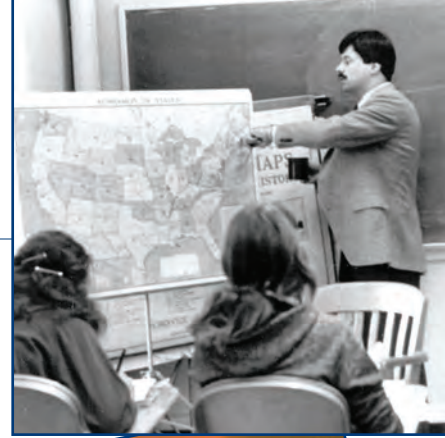
When alumni are asked about their most valued academic experience, Dr. Greene's name often comes up. He is known as a challenging but supportive professor who encourages students to push beyond their comfort zone. Many students credit Bob with providing the foundational tools that prepared them for graduate school and to go on to successful careers.

**MANY STUDENTS CREDIT BOB WITH PROVIDING THEM WITH THE FOUNDATIONAL TOOLS THAT PREPARED THEM FOR GRADUATE SCHOOL AND SUCCESSFUL CAREERS AS TEACHERS, LAWYERS, HISTORIANS AND IN GOVERNMENT.**

Dr. Greene is also known for his writings on American history. He is a leading scholar of the American presidency and has edited or written 19 books including works on Dwight D. Eisenhower, Richard Nixon, Gerald Ford, and George H. W. Bush. He is a sought-after subject matter expert for interviews with national and local print and broadcast media outlets. Many alumni recall watching him on WCNY's *The Ivory Tower* during his 17-year run as a regular on the program. Always a mindful supporter of Cazenovia, Bob often includes a mention of the College in his interviews.

In 2000, he published *Generations of Excellence: An Illustrated Biography of Cazenovia College* and donated all proceeds to scholarships for Cazenovia College students. He also endowed a scholarship in his daughter's name, the Mary Rose Greene Scholarship, annually awarded to an outstanding junior or senior student pursuing a degree in the Social Sciences.

Congratulations, Bob, on your 40 years here! Thank you for your dedication and many contributions to the College and its students. Cheers to many more years!





## New Faculty Join Social and Behavioral Sciences Division

*Three new assistant professors welcomed to the faculty in the fall.*



**Benjamin Baughman, Ph.D.**, teaches in Criminal Justice and Homeland Security Studies and directs that program. He holds a bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice from East Carolina University, a master's degree in Investigative Psychology from the University of Liverpool, England; and a doctorate in Philosophy/ Investigative Psychology from the University of Huddersfield School of Health and Humanities in the

United Kingdom. Before his academic career, he spent 15 years in law enforcement as a sergeant, detective, crime analyst, and hostage negotiator and was an instructor with the North Carolina Justice Academy.



**Rodlyn Hines, Ph.D.**, received a bachelor of science degree in Business Management from the School of Management at Wright State University; a master of science degree in Human Resources Management/Personnel Administration from Lasell College; and a doctorate in Human Development and Family Science from Syracuse University. She previously was an

adjunct faculty member at Syracuse University and

Utica College and continues serving as an adjunct professor at Northcentral University's Graduate School of Psychology.



**David Rufo, Ph.D.**, teaches in the Inclusive Education program and is program co-director. He has been a clinical assistant professor in the Graduate School of Education at Fordham University, an instructor in Art Education at Syracuse University, and an elementary education teacher at Tully Elementary School and Manlius Pebble Hill School. He earned his bachelor of fine arts degree in Studio Arts from

Syracuse University, master's degree with a concentration in K-6 Mathematics at State University of New York College at Cortland, teaching certificate from LeMoyne College in K-6 Elementary Education, and doctorate from Syracuse University in Teaching and Curriculum/Teaching and Leadership.

## Cazenovia College Pilots Virtual Activity Inclusion Program

*It's a way to help people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.*

Individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities have been able to stay updated about COVID-19 safety while maintaining social connections and enjoying educational activities through an innovative virtual program piloted by Cazenovia College.

With a New York State Developmental Disabilities Planning Council \$20,000 grant, the program reaches about 30 individuals in Madison County. The monies support administrative costs, staffing, COVID educational materials and program supplies for all of 2021.

**Mary Handley, Ph.D.**, clinical director for the Clinical Mental Health Counseling graduate program, says the program's educational, social, and technical benefits help alleviate isolation for those with intellectual and developmental disabilities. From home computers, program participants log on and interact with the program coordinator, college students, interns and volunteers several times a week. Program goals include accessing communication skills, promoting advocacy through education, and improving awareness of community services. Educational and social activities are provided, such as live cooking demonstrations, physical exercise routines, trivia questions and games, craft activities, video chats, and virtual field trips with homework assignments based on the outings. Updated information about COVID-19 safety is presented each week.

The program helps people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families access community offerings during COVID-19 even if conditions restrict their travel and access.

# Longtime Mailroom Manager Mary Hess Retires

*Her student family encompassed many thousands over a 52-year career.*



photo: John Seiter

For nearly four decades and many thousands of times over, every letter, magazine, and parcel that passed through Cazenovia College’s mailroom, whether it was officially stamped that way or not, was decidedly “handled with care.”

That’s how Mary Hess worked – first as clerk, then manager, of the College’s mailroom for the last 37 years. “Mailroom Mary” retired in September, 2020, after 52 years as a College employee, first in Housekeeping, then as mail clerk, then mailroom manager.

For so many who remember her fondly, picking up the mail or having her drop off a package was akin to a special delivery. Emeritus Professor of History **Fred Williams** describes how Mary “always had a friendly word... was willing to do anything for anybody...always, always had a smile on her face.” Mary’s last supervisor, Director of Campus Services **Jeff Slocum**, says Mary’s personality and work ethic made her a stand-out employee. “It goes without saying that she is one of the most dedicated employees the College has ever had,” he said.

**“IT GOES WITHOUT SAYING THAT SHE IS ONE OF THE MOST DEDICATED EMPLOYEES THE COLLEGE HAS EVER HAD”**

- Jeff Slocum

Mary was good friends with faculty and staff members, but it was the student population that captured her heart and became much like an extended family.

**Jeannina Clark '18**, of Liverpool, New York, one of the “Mailroom Mom’s” work-study students, says, “I loved being around her. She didn’t have to ask students’ names; she’d just go pick out your mail when you came for it because she already knew who you were. She brought so much more to the campus than just being there and completing the job she had to do. I don’t think the campus will be the same without her.”

In recognition of her long service, the College is planning to name the mail center “The Mary Hess Mailroom.”



## Federal TRIO Grant Renewed for Five More Years

*Federal funds to assist students under the REACH/TRIO Student Support Services program have been renewed for the next five years, assuring that Cazenovia has \$350,000 to dedicate to programs promoting academic achievement and scholarly development for first-generation college students, students from income eligible families, and/or students with disabilities who attend the College.*

The grant helps the College financially fulfill its mission of accessibility and affordability for students by providing programs and services designed to help students overcome adversities in their lives as they enter college, and throughout their years here on the path to graduation.



*Services the funds support include:*

- Academic coaching and advising
- Dedicated math and writing coaches
- Connections to peer/professional tutors
- Help with financial aid and graduate school application
- Assistance determining career paths
- Laptop and graphing calculator loans

REACH/TRIO programming also strives to provide students with empowering life experiences, safe spaces, and a standard of accountability. Qualifying guidelines are determined by the federal government.

**Kate Tressler**, director, REACH/TRIO Student Support Services at Cazenovia, says the program has had a valuable impact on students at Cazenovia who face significant challenges to completing their educations and who are often traditionally marginalized in the higher education system.

“We are proud to say that over 90 per cent of our students persist year to year and are in good academic standing. We also have an excellent graduation rate achieved over four years. Our staff works hard to help students develop their skills regarding time management, communication, emotional intelligence, and overall persistence. Additionally, we are seeing the impacts of remote/hybrid learning in the past year and remain a place where students can vent their concerns and frustrations while feeling less isolated in their experience during these unprecedented times.”

Cazenovia was awarded the grant in 1986 and has been renewed for the funding ever since. Typically, 160 students per year are assisted under the program's auspices. REACH (Recognizing Excellence, Achievement, Commitment, and Honor), a TRIO Student Support Services Program, receives 100 percent of its budget from the federal TRIO grant program authorized under Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 and awarded to educational institutions by the U.S. Department of Education.

## Faculty Members Earn Promotions to Associate Professor Status

*Two Cazenovia College professors, Jesse Harasta and Tracy Trachsler, have been promoted from assistant to associate professor status on the faculty.*

**Jesse Harasta, Ph.D.**,

began his career at Cazenovia College as an adjunct instructor in 2013. He served as a term instructor and Summer Experience instructor in 2014. In 2016, he was hired as an assistant professor of Social Sciences and as director of the International Studies program.



He has been instrumental in administering international programs, spearheading a new study-abroad location in Japan, establishing new courses in Japanese and Arabic, and starting the College's first international student exchange. Dr. Harasta earned his bachelor's degree in Anthropology from SUNY- Geneseo and his master's and doctoral degrees from Syracuse University in Cultural Anthropology in 2009 and 2013, respectively.

**Tracy Trachsler, Ph.D.**,

joined the College in August 2016 as assistant professor and program director for Sport Management. She has since overseen the Sport Management program's further development, created an ESport initiative connecting academics and athletics; organized and lead an advisory board of industry professionals. She has a bachelor's degree in Secondary Education and Spanish from the University of Scranton and master's and doctoral degrees from Springfield College. She previously was assistant athletic director of the Athletic Department and Senior Woman Administrator at SUNY- Cortland, a teaching fellow at Springfield College, a visiting assistant professor in Sport Management at SUNY- Cortland, and a pitching and softball coach at both Cortland and Springfield.



## Facilitating Wellness in Northern New York

*In the foothills of the Adirondacks, Shelby Connelly '91 pursues her passion for enabling healthy lifestyles.*



A desire to share her interest in healthy living prompted **Shelby Connelly '91** to build a multifaceted business focused on wellness.

Its hub is a combination boutique inn and wellness center, "Five Elements Living," located on eight acres in the foothills of the Adirondacks. The center is located about 10 miles south of Potsdam in Connelly's hometown, Colton, New York. The inn includes five guest rooms. The center provides spaces for wellness activities such as yoga, massage therapy, an organic salon, and a commercial kitchen for health-driven cooking classes.

The commercial kitchen is also where Connelly, working with a chocolatier, developed Apothecary Chocolates, a line of hand-crafted chocolates featuring all natural and organic

ingredients. The chocolates are sold in gift shops and stores throughout New York and are also available as part of the offerings at CazMade in the Cazenovia College bookstore. Connelly's business ventures also include a line of Five Elements Living branded lotions and soaps, and women's health products marketed under the Voluptuous V brand.

Connelly attended Cazenovia College as a softball player and lived in Hubbard Hall. Back then as a student, and now as the owner of multi-faceted businesses, her penchant for keeping busy was evident. She worked at the College bookstore, gave campus tours, and was a driver for the vans shuttling students to and from the Syracuse airport and train station. She majored in Fashion Merchandising and credits her studies as having contributed to

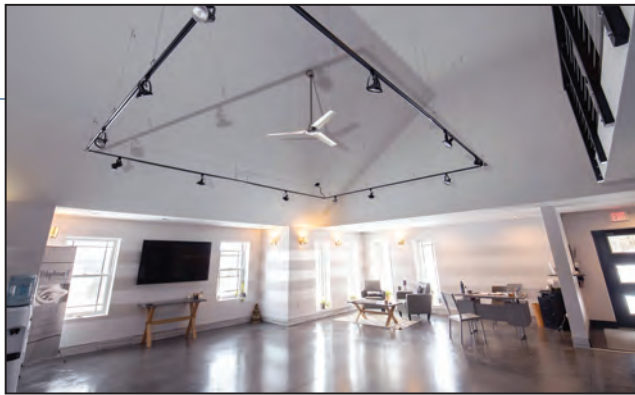
her business success, particularly with her line of chocolates.

"I was able to apply what I learned to the packaging, retail displays and marketing," says Connelly. She also credits her



Photo: Tim Greene





Photos: Forevermore Studios

communications and public speaking courses and support from Professor **Francine Varisco** as having provided the confidence to be successful in her sales presentations. It was that confidence that helped her increase the distribution of her Apothecary chocolate products when the COVID-19 pandemic forced canceling of her center's wellness classes and a three-month shutdown of the inn.

While Connelly enjoys her many business ventures, it's her practice as an acupuncturist that is her primary focus. Her interest in acupuncture began when she was a student at Cazenovia, after breaking her tail bone resulted in persistent pain. Her aunt, an acupuncturist, treated her then, and the pain subsided. That sparked Connelly's own interest in the profession.

After graduating from Cazenovia, Connelly went on to earn a degree in psychology from SUNY Potsdam while continuing her interest in healthy living. She built a wellness practice by learning about the health needs of her inn customers and reading articles and books published by nutritionists, herbalists,

and massage therapists. Eventually Connelly more formally pursued her interest in acupuncture, earning a master's degree from The Traditional Acupuncture Institute in Columbia, Maryland.

Connelly has been in private practice as an acupuncturist since 1998. She is a specialist in addiction treatment and cancer care and holds certifications from

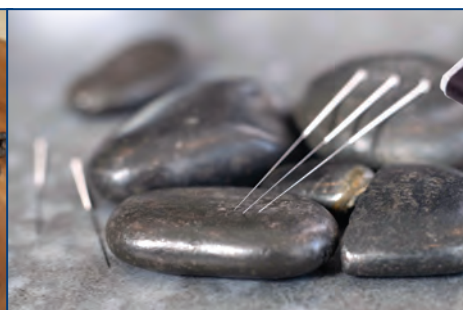
**"I STARTED FIVE ELEMENTS LIVING AS A WAY TO BRING PEOPLE TOGETHER TO LAUGH, LOVE, AND LEARN. AS AN EXTENSION OF MY PERSONAL PRACTICE, I WANTED A BEAUTIFUL SPACE THAT ENVELOPED HEALING, CREATED JOY, AND INSPIRED CREATIVITY."**

the National Certification Commission for Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine, New York State, the National Acupuncture Detoxification Association, and International Oncology Acupuncture from the University of Vermont. In addition to her private practice at Five Elements Living, she treats patients at two regional medical centers—the Center for Cancer Care at St. Lawrence Health Systems, and the Richard E. Winter Cancer Center at Claxton Hepburn Media Center.

The COVID pause allowed Connelly to devote time to pursuing a doctorate in acupuncture. She is currently studying at the Won Institute of Graduate Studies and expects to complete her degree this August. She then plans to put her doctorate, along with her business experience, to use consulting with hospitals, wellness centers, and spas to expand the acceptance and use of acupuncture in treating patients.

"We live in a high cancer area and I am seeing a lot of patients in my private practice," Connelly says. "With my doctorate, I look forward to having more of a say at the table in helping healthcare providers market wellness through acupuncture."

While the pandemic provided the opportunity to focus on her passion, Connelly recognizes that others haven't been as fortunate. As a wellness care provider, she offers some advice for those whose lives have been disrupted by the pandemic. "The universe has your back, even when you're not where you want to be or think you should be in your life. Trust in the process. The universe is in your corner."





# Facing COVID-19:

*Stories from three alumni working on and behind the frontlines.*

Everyone has had to deal with our changing world, and 12 months of new expectations, disrupted routines, and the need for different habits. For three Cazenovia alumni, COVID has upended their work world more than a normal amount: they've been working on the frontlines, behind the scenes, and keeping it all together for their companies, institutions, and governments all this time.

For some, the pandemic meant adapting to offices at home and Zoom work meetings. For others, their professions demanded much more: being frontline healthcare responders; doing analysis and background planning for health care response; creating solutions on the fly to adapt to fluctuating conditions on a large college campus. Whether as an emergency management planner, a business continuity expert, or a frontline first responder, alumni **Joseph Hernon '09**, **Daniel Riordan '06**, and **Mark Allen '11**, have had unique experiences. They describe here what those conditions were like, the challenges they faced, and how their Cazenovia years provided a sound base for their readiness to tackle some truly unusual circumstances.

Though they graduated in different years, the career and personal lives of these three alumni have intertwined over the years. Joe Hernon was best man at Dan Riordan's wedding. Joe, Dan, and Mark trade phone calls when one or the other needs an update or an interpretation of pandemic policies, procedures, federal guidelines, or field insights. Their shared college heritage and their legacy of bonds as members of the Cazenovia College family supersede their locations, roles, jobs, and life stations, and they've been pleased to be collaborators in the past, as well as during COVID-19's uncertainties and conditions.

## *On the Ground: Emergency Management/Business Continuity Administration*

### Joseph Hernon '09

**B.S., Criminal Justice and Homeland Security Studies  
Manlius, New York  
Director of Emergency Management and Business Continuity, Syracuse University**

**Q.** *What has been the most challenging aspect of the COVID-19 situation regarding your professional responsibilities?*

**A.** Constant change and dealing with the unknown, where the rules are always



changing and you don't know what will happen next. That is always problematic in any scenario. Underestimating, overestimating the virus, sitting with public health folks and our faculty members and leadership, deciding when to go online for the remainder of the semester, no one's ever done anything like this; it was just unimaginable. Once the Chancellor made the decision to go remote, then dominoes fell all over the country, then we experienced the New

York State lockdown, the New York on Pause, then after that we started all the planning and preparation of how to open the doors again.

When the students went home we became community partners, donating supplies to the county where they were needed. I spent several months in the county emergency center working as a Syracuse University liaison to the county, supporting the county's mission.

When you try to move a large organization like a university, you commit to a plan in such circumstances, then you may have to throw it out the window due to state regulations or other factors changing. I think we became a nimble organization due to the need to adapt.

We did have a mumps outbreak on campus previously and that put in place some policies, procedures, and structures for a little bit of an outbreak of something. This was a much bigger deal, but our earlier experience gave us thoughts and processes for how to engage different partners. We were able to refer to that exercise and deploy it.

**Q.** *How have you been called upon to help, specifically? What has that involved?*

**A.** I played on both sides of the fence, both administrator and front-line worker. In the fall, I was on the front lines, moving positive-testing students to isolation, checking supplies, etc. I wasn't directly treating any patients, but we definitely found that a hands-on approach was needed. On the administrative side, I was making sure everything was balanced. It did result in some long days and long nights, being out on campus supporting campus services then answering emails until late at night, but we gave it our all.

My Air Force specialty is chemical-radioactivity-nuclear weaponized response, but the same concepts you'd use to handle those kinds of emergencies are not too



different than how to handle pandemic issues—personal hygiene, shielding approaches, putting in place some kind of training and educating to respond to those kinds of emergencies.

**Q.** *Did any of your training or experiences at Cazenovia help prepare you for this?*

**A.** I think my time there provided the foundation for what I needed to do. It put me in places and gave me a framework for how to be successful. As I look back on my time there, with great professors, great friends, playing lacrosse, volunteering with the fire department in Cazenovia, and different pieces like that, it helped me understand emergency response and the needed framework of policy and procedures.

**Q.** *What do you enjoy most about what you do?*

**A.** When I started my career, I thought I wanted to be a cop or a lawyer, here I am neither of those. I most enjoy that no two days are the same, no one day is the same, and you never know what you're going to get into. Here, we're dealing with community protests, dignitary visits, sporting events; even in the COVID world we still have to staff command posts and things are happening at the Dome. Other days we're doing tabletop exercises planning for the next thing. I always kind of focused on business continuity, such as responding during power outages. The bottom line is that we're here to support 20,000 students and when they commit four years to us, that means being ready to help them in any kind of disaster that comes our way.

**Q.** *What would you like people to understand about your role, the work you do, or the circumstances others like you have most recently experienced?*

**A.** Usually when people ask what I do, I say, 'I plan for disasters.' In peacetime or normal times, I think people don't understand what those kinds of things are. But now, when people are living in

it, they are much more attuned. They assume I'm busy and I definitely am, but it's more of a jack-of-all-trades position that I find myself in, working to be ahead of the problem, whatever it is, and at the same time, to keep pushing through good support systems.

**Q.** *Do you have a message for the alumni community and students now at Cazenovia about getting through this tough time?*

**A.** Being bought into the solution is always important. Thinking about, 'How can we get our lives back to normal,' and part of that is doing the right thing. Complying with regulations means the faster we can get back to normal. We understand pandemic fatigue, but this is a long game, and this is the only way we can win it. Emergency management is a community-based approach, and in any sort of emergency, there needs to be buy-in from everyone to keep moving the line forward. There's no point in being a talking head; you've got to kind of live it and walk it.

As for the community, it's necessary to do your part and make sure you find a way to cut off the spread and social distance. I think there's still a way we can live our lives and we don't have to shut ourselves down completely, while still supporting community partners. I think the world will look very different when this is all over. I just keep thinking of how we can all get to a new and better tomorrow.

## *Out Front: Emergency First Responder/Ambulance Management*

**Daniel J. Riordan '06**

**B.S., Social Science;  
History and Government  
Fairport, New York  
EMS Manager, Penfield Ambulance**

**Q.** *What has been the most challenging aspect of the COVID-19 situation*

*regarding your professional responsibilities?*

**A.** In February of 2020, if someone had said that in January 2021 this is how your job will be, I would have said, 'You're crazy!' The role of the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) provider has changed so much. Even though this industry is about emergency medicine, it can be kind of run-of-the-mill most days. Suddenly, we had a manic shift in our work. It's been a major culture shift. This is the first time that ambulance personal have been in the "hot zone." You normally think of firefighters and cops as being the first responders who are in the hot zone, where the response situation is inherently dangerous to your health and safety. But now, we're the tip of the spear for a town of roughly 37,000 residents, as we provided exceptional service on roughly 4,100 emergency calls in 2020.

Throwing major change into the work culture also was tough. It actually felt like a military deployment even though we came home to our families every night. There was managing PPE (personal protective equipment), dealing with every hospital having different policies, ensuring our own crews were healthy, making sure we had good plans in place to emphasize safety on ambulance calls. Every day was essentially like a mission. It also was stressful because you don't see "the virus" yet you're dealing with it every day and worried about what you might be bringing home to your family.

**Q.** *How have you been called upon to help, specifically? What has that involved?*

**A.** Ninety percent of my time is spent behind a desk. This role is a mixed bag of managing, organizing, and being on the front lines. To lead by example, I do sometimes go on calls.



I was the first employee of Penfield Ambulance and now there are 43 full-time and part-time EMS responders and 47 volunteer responders to manage. I'm also a captain in the Fairport Volunteer Fire Department where I live, so I go on EMS calls there, too. I've now spent 19 years in emergency response service roles.

Everyone thinks about the workers in the emergency department or the hospital intensive care unit as being the people who are managing COVID patients. But in many ways, when an EMS worker walks in your front door, it starts that first hour with your health care in that ambulance.

**Q.** *Did any of your training or experiences at Cazenovia help prepare you for this?*

**A.** Ironically, I took a counseling class. I had to ask permission because it was closed to anyone other than Human Services majors. That class taught me to listen and gave me great skills and many things that I never forgot.

I also took courses in public speaking that were astronomical to my development while I was in school and later on (with credit to Professors **Marge Pinet** and **Maureen Louis**). I took so many classes with **Dr. (Bob) Greene** that are now so much a part of my job: dealing with government relations, coordinating with state representatives and congressmen. Dr. Greene taught me that anytime you're trying to pitch for yourself, it's like you're defending your thesis. You have to know how to make an argument for yourself. Taking that class was a challenge, but it's really helped me where I am today because we have to advocate for funds regularly.

Being a student athlete at a Division III small school also taught me that everything is a team experience, one that's imperative to where I am today. Every day, I'm managing or helping others. It's always a team effort.

**Q.** *What do you enjoy most about what you do?*

**A.** For most EMS providers this is not a lucrative career, so your love of what you do is your motivation and dedication. I come from a family of folks who are in fire service and public service. After 9/11, I joined the fire department and became part of a great community of first responders [during college in Cazenovia]. Skills I learned when I was 19 or 20 years old are ones I still use today.

**Q.** *What would you like people to understand about your role, the work you do, or the circumstances others like you have most recently experienced?*

**A.** Most people might call 911 one or two times in their lives. When they do, it's usually one of the worst days of their lives, and we go into that situation. It's an incredible amount of responsibility to handle that and to deal with whatever's going on.

This past year, a lot more has been thrown at us, even more in the last 90 days than in the first eight months of COVID. But we're getting through it. There's much additional effort involved in managing PPE, getting my providers vaccinated, coordinating multiple levels of polices from several sources such as different hospitals, the State Department of Health, the CDC, and now we've added rapid testing of first responders to be sure they're OK to go to work every day.

**Q.** *Do you have a message for the alumni community and students now at Cazenovia about getting through this tough time?*

**A.** I strongly encourage folks to get vaccinated if they have the opportunity and urge them to develop an awareness of their area health care systems, starting with their local ambulance corps. It helps us greatly if they are mindful of who we are, what we do, and how difficult our jobs are.

The EMS provider's income is mostly derived from Medicare and Medicaid and

not off the tax base. Most EMS providers are private non-profits and are understaffed, doing the best with what they have. I'm hoping that given 2020 and our response to COVID, we'll begin to come up in the world.

My ongoing contact with many alumni and several close friends from my time at Cazenovia is important to me. The school provided a lifetime of memories and has given me lifelong friendships. You'll learn from classes you take at the college, and your major will help guide your path, but it's who you meet and what you do outside of classroom that will help you find what you love to do. In my case, I joined the fire department and became part of a great community of first responders there. Also, I have a Wildcats sticker on the back window of my vehicle, so every time I'm backing up and I see that sticker, I'm reminded of my Cazenovia days.

I give a lot of credit to the Cazenovia College Community because it did a lot for us. I'm on the Alumni Board. Yes, we paid tuition and we took student loans to achieve our education. But I really encourage any other alumni to give back to the school, however they can, if they can.

## *Deep Analysis: Assessing Threats and Possibilities for Federal Response*

### **Mark Allen '11**

**B.S., Criminal Justice  
and Homeland  
Security Studies;  
Minor in Pre-Law  
Wallington, New Jersey**

**Team Lead/Threat Analysis Unit - FEMA  
Region II (New York State, New Jersey State,  
Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Territory of  
U.S. Virgin Islands)**





**Q.** *What has been the most challenging aspect of the COVID-19 situation regarding your professional responsibilities?*

**A.** One of the things that was really challenging is that, unlike other disasters, such as hurricanes and weather emergencies, we had never really done pandemics before. Our only recent experience was with Ebola and that was largely handled at the state and local levels. We had a pandemic plan with some planning assumptions and a basic framework for Federal response, but COVID-19 has required much more intensive coordination with State and Territorial governments than could have been anticipated. We had been thinking about the terrorism side of things regarding a pandemic, but nothing like having to deal with a novel Coronavirus.

We had to assess how to operate and keep our 24-hour operations center open, managing within the considerations we're now all used to—social distancing, contact tracing, the uncertainty overall. It presented a whole new set of continuity of operation issues beyond the response itself. We learned we could do a lot more virtually than we ever thought we were able to do before. We were able to adapt and overcome a lot, work around a lot of concerns, and use new platforms that we hadn't before.

**Q.** *How have you been called upon to help, specifically? What has that involved?*

**A.** In February 2020, we published a threat assessment about COVID's appearance in China, then Italy and Europe, then the tourism related outbreaks. We published three threat assessments a week through February and into mid-March, tracking case numbers, fatalities, and using cues from other countries to try to anticipate how it may affect our jurisdictions.

In mid-March, we jumped into the immediate response phase, activating our Regional Response and Coordination Center (RRCC), and established Crisis Action Planning Teams to focus

on alternative health care facilities such as the Javits Center in Manhattan and deployment of the U.S.S. Comfort, Fatality Management, Logistics, and Response Operations to include how we would respond to other disasters in a COVID-19 environment. I deployed to the RRCC to lead the Crisis Action Planning Team focusing on logistics. We began developing analytic metrics to help predict critical planning considerations such as positive cases, hospital bed capacity, ICU capacity, and PPE needs. These planning factors helped inform the spread and the need for resources and ultimately helped us anticipate requests for Federal assistance. It also helped prioritize which jurisdictions received extremely limited resources based on projected impacts. At the time, it was very challenging to forecast and fully comprehend how long response operations would continue, but we soon realized response operations would have to continue for the foreseeable future.

**Q.** *Did any of your training or experiences at Cazenovia help prepare you for this?*

**A.** My college experience helped open my eyes to different experiences, people, interests, and subjects I may not have been exposed to otherwise. College is often someone's first step outside their comfort zone. It gives you an opportunity to learn new skills and experience situations you wouldn't have had otherwise. As much as you come out of college with a degree and opportunities, you come out of it with a lot of life skills, too.

Most everyone has been living out of our comfort zones for more than a year now. Having done that before at college, it helped me manage the kinds of things I had to do this past year. The broad spectrum of experiences and well-rounded background I got from my time at Cazenovia helped me learn how to collaborate and solve complex problems.

**Q.** *What do you enjoy most about what you do?*

**A.** My position comes with a big world.

In my Region (New York, New Jersey, Puerto Rico, USVI), I have the unique opportunity to work alongside individuals from numerous federal, state, and local agencies, and respond to a variety of disasters or potential incidents. It is not exactly something new every day, but over the course of 2020 I dealt with earthquakes in Puerto Rico, COVID-19 in all of our jurisdictions, tropical weather threats in the Caribbean and the Northeast, planned for our annual National Special Security Event – the United Nations General Assembly, and am now assisting in coordinating the national COVID-19 vaccination effort.

Being a small part of a large agency or response, it is sometimes challenging to recognize progress, but over a long enough period you can see key moments that made a difference or changed the trajectory.

**Q.** *Do you have a message for the alumni community, your professors, or students now present at Cazenovia?*

**A.** Those college years are kind of surreal. You have so many friends, so much free time, you're doing so many things that you might not otherwise have time to do.

I'd urge everyone to be self-prepared, to have your family be prepared, to have contingency plans, to keep in touch with your contacts and networks, and to maintain a sense of community.

History is happening right now. We are living in such an amazing time; nothing like this has happened since 1918. People are going to look back and remember this time, so we should remember what we were doing and the context of it. Our kids and grandkids are going to be asking us about this. We should try to use this time to learn, be engaged, and make the most of it because we'll definitely remember it 10 and 20 years from now.



# Fashion Students Create Second Acts

*in 'Look Again' product development class.*



**Laura Pirkel '94 and Instructor Elise Thayer**

It's no surprise that students in Cazenovia's fashion design and fashion merchandising classes are learning about one of the fashion industry's newest trends. What is a bit unusual is that, rather than creating new clothing, they are restyling existing garments to be useful and trendy again while upholding fashion sustainability standards.

That is a component increasingly on the minds of both consumers and manu-

facturers, says **Elise Thayer, M.B.A.**, program director for the College's fashion design program.

The Look Again project was part of a sustainability class originally taught at the College from 2004 to 2007 by alumna and former adjunct professor **Laura Pirkel '94**. Now a freelance designer and design director of JES Apparel in DeWitt, New York, Pirkel has 28 years of experience in the fashion industry, including 13 as design director for American Fashion Network. She served as a consultant for this year's Product Development class.

While that first sustainability course was a bit ahead of the curve, growing social concerns about climate, the economy and consumerism have changed how many people view the manufacturing and purchase of clothing now, Thayer says. "Today, this is even more relevant with people at home due to COVID, co-crafting, and reworking their own

garments. With the world being as it is now, the question is, how do we recycle and renew pieces to take them beyond the initial shelf life."

Students are partnering with local consignment shop The Key to re-create garments that would otherwise end up in the landfill. In the fall, they studied product development principles and conducted research on styles, silhouettes, target markets, trend and color forecasting, and customer demographics. This semester they are using their knowledge to design and market fashions for The Key.

Having a sustainability focus in their portfolios is an advantage for program graduates because companies are keen to hire people with those skills now, according to Thayer. "What is important in this project is that they are learning how fashion can play out in the circular economy. The Look Again project will connect students to the global concept of sustainability and, in turn, help them in their future fashion careers."



Photos: Riley Murray '21



*Cazenovia College has received gifts 'in memory' of and 'in honor' of for the following between January 11, 2020 and January 26, 2021:*

### GIFTS IN HONOR OF

“33YO Horse Wizard”  
 “5 Generations of the Gage family who attended Cazenovia!”  
 Alyssa E. Connor '16  
 Andrew Berlucchi  
 Brendan J. Hartnett '12  
 Class of '58  
 Class of '68  
 Class of '72  
 Class of '88  
 Danna Devaul '70  
 Deborah L. Barnes '72  
 Emily O. Corley '09  
 Eric Scanlon  
 Joel and Erin Woods  
 Joni A. Koegel '06  
 Julia Raysman '08  
 Justin J. Stump  
 Karen Steen  
 Laura K. Matekovic '19  
 Mary Hess  
 Melissa A. Lavocat '16  
 Peter Way '03  
 Queer and Trans Students at Cazenovia College  
 Rachel Alecia '20  
 Ronald E. Waite  
 Roshawn J. Kershaw  
 Sharon D. Dettmer  
 Victoria Sokolowski '09

### GIFTS IN MEMORY OF

Ahmad D. Fleming  
 Andrea Cush '71  
 Barbara C. Wheler  
 Bridget L. Lawson '03  
 Candace Briggs '70  
 Carol A. Humphry '64  
 Carolyn M. Sterner '64  
 Cynthia Davis '77  
 Diane C. Carnella '55  
 Dr. Carolyn B. Ware  
 Eleanore L. Howard  
 Eric Ecker '86  
 Ernest J. Thorington '86  
 Eugene R. Lawrence '93  
 Grace Kemp '85  
 James A. Noonan  
 Jan Gibbons '72  
 Jeanne TenBroeck '67  
 Joan Will '65  
 Karen A. Ostinet '75  
 Karen Fahey '73  
 Lucinda Cooper '52  
 Margaret Taylor Dannheim  
 Richard S. Merrill  
 Mary Stiles Crouse '51  
 Melanie J. Coye '76  
 Melba Meyer '54  
 Mrs. Peg Mulligan  
 Murland and Marilyn Chesbrough  
 Paula Barmaper '49  
 Rhea Eckel  
 Robert W. Kruppner '87  
 Roberta Lifset '67  
 Ruth L. Occhiogrosso '55  
 Stephanie M. Baron  
 Theresa Dornbier '70  
 Vera and Frank LaMorte  
 Virgil Layton

## 2021 College Golf Tourney To Be An In-Person Event



The 19<sup>th</sup> annual  
**Cazenovia College  
 Golf Open**  
 is slated for  
**Monday, August 2**  
 at the  
**Cazenovia Country Club**

*Join alumni, faculty, staff and friends  
 for a fun afternoon of golf.  
 The format of the tournament is  
 a four-person captain and crew event  
 for 18 holes.*

Proceeds raised from the tournament directly benefit Cazenovia College students through campus initiatives. The event is hosted by the Alumni Association Board of Directors.

**Sponsorship opportunities  
 are available.**

For more information,  
 please contact  
 Shari Whitaker in the  
 Office of Alumni & Parent Relations  
 at  
 315.655.7332 or  
 sswhitaker@cazenovia.edu.

# SHARE YOUR NEWS FOR CLASS NOTES!

Please help keep our office and friends up-to-date by sharing recent information. **Have you moved? Changed jobs? Been promoted? Received an award? Said, "I do"? Welcomed a new baby?** If so, please send us the details and include your name, address, the year you graduated, telephone number and email address. Please identify individuals in photographs. Photographs will not be returned.

**Electronic photos must be in high resolution jpg, PDF or tif format, no smaller than 300 dpi and 3 x 3 inches or larger in size. Class Notes will be edited for length and style. Class Notes does not publish information relative to promoting your business.**

**Send the information to:** Shari Whitaker, Alumni Relations, 22 Sullivan Street, Cazenovia, NY 13035. Or email [sswhitaker@cazenovia.edu](mailto:sswhitaker@cazenovia.edu). Thank you!

## CLASS NOTES

### 1966

**Judith Sterrett Limehouse '66** writes, "I got married for the first time September 22, 2016 and am loving it. My husband and I are both retired and live in the Charleston, SC area, where we spend as much time as possible riding our sweet, gentle Mustang, "Chappy."



**Leland and Nancy Nation Paton '70**

### 1970

**Nancy Nation Paton '70** writes, "Well...2020 was very different and challenging for us, like everyone else! Sadly, because of the Pandemic, even our eagerly awaited Cazenovia College's 50th Reunion was postponed. But, fortunately, everyone in our family has remained well and we continue to count our blessings as we realize how fortunate

we have been. Thanks to Zoom and Facebook, we have been able to remain in close contact with our two sons and daughter, plus their spouses, along with our eight grandchildren, who are all growing up much too quickly. We now spend most of our time in Jupiter, FL, where it has been easy to enjoy outdoor activities. When not in Florida, we return to our home in Rye, NY. For those of you who missed our Class of '70 Zoom Reunion, you missed out on a lot of fun! I hope you will join us June 11-12 for the virtual Reunion. Plans include a Tea with the Class of 1970 and 1971. I hope many of you will plan to join us to share memories, laughter, friendships of old!"

### 1971

**Beverly Uphouse Cunningham, Janet Willingham Enders, Christine Thilman Lotierzo, Scottie O'Toole, Barbara King Smoot, Lindy Englehart Steinbrecker, Marg Lenge Weaver** write, "Class of 1971! Save the Date - June 11-12 and join us online for Reunion 2021. Although we can't celebrate our 50<sup>th</sup> honored Reunion in person, we have the opportunity to meet virtually. Plans include a Class of 1971 reception and a combined Tea with the Class of 1970. Do you remember your Big Sister?! We look forward to "seeing" you in June."

### 1978

**Susan Hornacek Daley '78** is retiring after 40 years of public service as deputy director of the Albany County Department of Mental Health.

### 1979

**Wendy-Jo Johnson '79** writes, "My nonprofit, Age of Awareness ([www.ageofawareness.org](http://www.ageofawareness.org)) supplies schools in Africa with teaching and learning materials."

### 1981

**Lorinda Young O'Brien '81** is a retired teacher who works as a literacy coach for the Reading League.

### 1984

**Lori Oostdyk Duff '84** writes, "I am celebrating a recent promotion to assistant racing secretary (Thoroughbred racing) at Fairmount Park in Collinsville, IL (just outside of St. Louis, MO). Having been a racing official for 20 years and trained racing Thoroughbreds for 16 years before that, I'm really looking forward to this exciting opportunity!"

**VIRTUAL REUNION 2021  
SAVE THE DATE!! JUNE 11-12**



## 1986

**Mary Boyle Countryman '86** writes, "I started my own Handmade Fitness Apparel line in 2012 and have been featured in several magazines. [I] went to Cazenovia for Childhood Education but ended up in healthcare and became a huge runner. It was from one of those races that I started my business. Check me out at: [www.athenafitnesscollections.com](http://www.athenafitnesscollections.com)"

of Construction and Operations on estimating, budgeting, and Landlord required construction." construction and the tenant's construction. I will also work with the director of construction and operations on estimating, budgeting, and landlord required construction."

## 2007

**Ashley Stoddard '07** and fiancé **Michael Crisafulli** purchased their first home together.

**Christopher Harrington '09** writes, "Had the amazing opportunity in February of 2019 to deejay on the Sway in the Morning Show, which is an international syndicated radio show on Shade 45 Sirius XM Radio. It was an amazing opportunity to be interviewed by Sway and talk about my deejaying travels and career. Since graduating Caz in '09, I've gone on to deejay many events and nightclubs across the USA and parts of Canada."

## 2011

**Mark Allen '11**, (Criminal Justice and Homeland Security Studies) and **Laura Dean Croucher '11**, (Fashion Design), married on June 15, 2018. The couple now lives in Wallington, NJ, and on August 12, 2020, welcomed son Holden Edward Allen.



**Raquel Aponte Hili '89**, **Matt "Fridge" Karoglanian '88** and **Crystal Wright Farrell '88**



**Ashley Stoddard '07** and fiancé **Michael Crisafulli**

## 1988

**Crystal Wright Farrell '88**, **Matt "Fridge" Karoglanian '88**, and **Raquel Aponte Hili '89** gathered for a mini reunion. Crystal writes, "We rented a beautiful VRBO right in Caz, walking distance to the college! It is always so much fun getting together with each other, it's as if time has stopped. We enjoyed good food, visiting other classmates via Facetime and a lot of laughs. Although we will all not be physically together in June, save the date for our virtual reunion June 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> for laughter and friendship."

## 2009

**Cory Schad '09** and **Ashlea Osborne Schad '12** welcomed new baby boy **Bryson Thomas Schad** in April 2020.



**Laura Dean Croucher '11** and **Mark Allen '11** (wedding), and son **Holden Edward Allen**



## 1996

**Brenda Moraczewski Sparks '96** writes, "At the end of November, I joined Spinoso Real Estate Group as their Manager, Tenant Coordination, working in their corporate office in North Syracuse. I will lead the newly created position for Spinoso nationally, facilitating the Tenant's lease language regarding construction and the Tenant's construction. I will also work with the Director



**Bryson and Easton Schad**

CLASS NOTES

- continued



Adelaide Jane Skibbee

2013

Josh Skibbee '13 and Faith Toomey Skibbee '13 write, "Through all of the craziness of this past year, we were lucky enough to have our first child, Adelaide Jane, in the early summer of 2020. Addie is very energetic and never stops moving — she brightens up each and every day for us and we love watching her grow."

2015

Anneliese Aliasso '15 recently joined the Hancock Estabrook Law Firm of Syracuse, NY. She will practice in the firm's Litigation and Startup & Emerging Business practices. Anneliese earned her J.D. degree from Albany Law School of Union University.



Anneliese Aliasso '15

2016

Lilliemae Ervin '16 has been promoted to assistant director at the Harlem Children's Zone in the Greater New York City Area.

2017

Kaedyne Wilson '17 graduated from Binghamton University in May 2020 with Master's degrees in Student Affairs Administration and Public Administration. She took a position as a residence director at Franklin Pierce University and moved to Rindge, New Hampshire.

Jaleel Campbell '17 debuted his first solo museum exhibition, Homecoming, at the Everson Museum in Syracuse, NY. The exhibit featured digital illustrations, video works, and a series of his custom Jalethal dolls. To learn more about Jaleel's work visit his website at: [www.jaleelcampbell.com](http://www.jaleelcampbell.com).



Jaleel Campbell's solo museum exhibition, Homecoming, at the Everson Museum

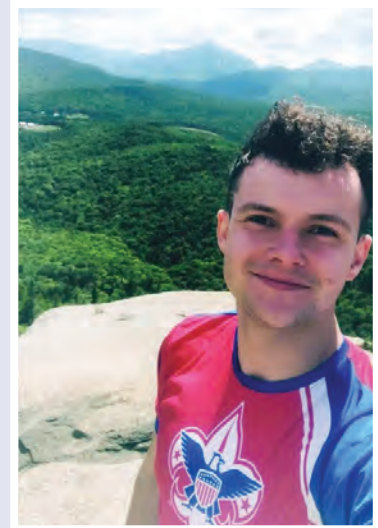
2019

Loyiso Mqalo '19 is a kindergarten teacher at Operation Breakthrough in Kansas City, MO.

2020

Amanda Dyer '20 moved to Boston, MA, and accepted a full-time position as a paralegal for Murphy & Riley, P.C.

Mikayla Miles '20 had a baby boy in August 2020 and started working for Cortland County DSS as a foster care/preventive caseworker in September 2020.



Connor Yorks '20

Connor Yorks '20 began a new position in January as marketing specialist for the Leatherstocking Council of the Boy Scouts of America. Connor, of Cazenovia, himself an Eagle Scout, graduated with a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in visual communications with concentrations in both graphic design and advertising design.

GOT NEWS?

We'd love to share it! Please send in your news (and photos) of personal and career achievements/events for the Class Notes section of the next College Magazine! Shari Whitaker, Director of Alumni and Parent Relations, collects all the Class Notes material. You can reach her at: [sswhitaker@cazenovia.edu](mailto:sswhitaker@cazenovia.edu); 316.655.7332.



## Three Alumna Present for Studio Art/Photography Talks

*Three alumna paid virtual visits to the College as part of the 2021 Studio Art/Photography Spring Speaker Series.*

**Amanda “Peach” Evans ’08**, a licensed and certified art therapist, spoke about how she uses art as therapy to help children cope with trauma in her role as an art therapist for the Adams County Children’s Advocacy Center

**Richele Musaal ’17**, executive headshot photographer at Wilmack Photography, a studio located in Clarence Center, NY, who earned her bachelor of fine arts degree with a specialization in photography

**Maria Sakran ’15**, who earned her bachelor of fine arts degree with a specialization in photography, discussed her career as an arts entrepreneur. She co-operates a shop in Skaneateles, NY, Sakran & Shaw, that offers unique handmade accessories.



Photo: Riley Murray '21

The series was sponsored by the Cazenovia College First Year Program and organized by **Anita Welych**, professor of studio art.

## IN FOND MEMORY

*Cazenovia College notes the deaths of the following alumni:*

Robert Wright '38  
C. Erwin Rice '40  
Theodore Fibison '41  
Margaret Lehman Cox '42  
Elizabeth Wedderspoon Clark '43  
Louise Lathrop Estus '45  
Elizabeth Bates Smith '45  
Martha Lokucieski Blowers '46  
Carol Clarke Fleming '46  
Jean Conridoff Whalen '46  
Joan Christman Daily '48  
Carolyn Boyd Cady '49  
Nancy Howard Howland '49  
Donna Mae Bardwell Judd '52  
Kathryn Green Arnold '53  
Shirley Evans Gibson '55  
Sally Paul Kennell '55  
Elizabeth Vincent Matterson '55  
Jeanne Yin Cheng '57

Gail Clement Hanlon '57  
Carol Krause Arman '58  
Roberta Barber Jackson '58  
Ellen Peters Koch '58  
Shari Zeh Arnold '59  
Jeanne Pouthier Shoemaker '60  
Colleen O'Shea Bentley '61  
Cynthia Dohanian Giacchetti '63  
Patricia Loveland Kohlmann '63  
Mary Lou Antell Mason '63  
Ruth Bjerre '65  
Alison Ebertz Cranson '65  
Elaine Floring Perrine '65  
Jeanne Schusler TenBroeck '67  
Dale Connell Trautman '67  
Sally Hawks Braun '68  
Theresa Pallone Dornbier '70  
Lynn Skelly '70  
Elizabeth Walsh Troy '70

Sara Morse Coughlin '72  
Patricia MacKesson McSorley '72  
Linda Crawford Moquet '73  
Arlene Hanigan Benigno '74  
Evelyn Williams Owens '77  
Deborah Gifford '78  
Andrea Soppe Pacelli '81  
Kristin Hebblethwaite Walter '84  
Ernest Thorington '86  
Daniel Wdowiak '86  
Noelle Panessa Cardello '88  
Regina Carrone '88  
Rebecca Keefe Fitzsimmons '90  
Tesa Sweet '90  
Kadip Sen '94  
Charlotte Potter '97  
Bridget Lawson '03  
Lillian Kreso '07



# *Congratulations*

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## CLASS OF 2020

*The Office of Alumni Relations and the thousands of proud Cazenovia College alumni extend a warm welcome to the newest members of the alumni family, the class of 2020!*

ALANA NICOLE ABDEAN  
 MIKAYLA A. ALEXANDER  
 RACHEL MARY ALICEA  
 ZACHARY TODD ALPERN  
 ALEXIS M. AMASH  
 ELISSA M. ARANDA  
 JILLIAN D. ARIA  
 BLAKE S. BAGOZZI  
 KYLIE JANELLE BALDRIDGE  
 GLORIA J. BANKS  
 NICOLE JULIANNE BARON  
 TESSA C. BARRY  
 DANIELLE M. BEACH  
 DANIELLE J. BEINARS  
 CALLISTA R. BENDINELLI  
 STACEY L. BENJAMIN  
 JOHN D. BIANCHI  
 ALEXANDRA MARINA BINENSTOCK  
 ABBIE ROSE BOGLIONE  
 ALANA J. BRAND  
 MARISSA L. BRODDUS

ZACHARY T. BROOKS  
 ALLISON KATELYN BROWN  
 JENNIE C. BROWN  
 KEVIN CADY  
 DANIELLE J. CAIVANA  
 TRENT M. CAPPELLETTI  
 MIKAYLA HAZE CARBONA-COLE  
 BANU U. CARLISLE  
 NIJA CARROLL  
 NICHOLAS A. CASTRELLO  
 TERI L. CHAMPAGNE  
 CYLE C. CLARKE  
 BRIANNA S. CLEMENT  
 LINZY F. CLOSS  
 JENNIFER LYNNE CORNISH  
 HUNTER D. COULTHARD  
 HANNAH L. CROTEAU  
 EMILY ROSE CROUSE  
 CASSIDY ANNE CRUMBLIN  
 KAITLYN E. CURRIER  
 HONORA P. DAVIS

PAIGE O. DAVIS  
 TAJALIK N. DAVIS  
 CLARE E. DECOTA  
 QUANDASIA S. DELILLY  
 TYLER R. DELLAVECHIA  
 TALORE R. DESANTIS  
 MITCHELL W. DEWEY  
 ANALISIA T. DIANA  
 JOSHUA P. DIPIAZZA  
 DALTON T. DOIRE  
 ERIN R. DONEGAN  
 SHANNON M. DOOLEY  
 JENNA SUSAN DORAN  
 JULIA MARILYN DUDLEY  
 KYLE E. DURKEE  
 AMANDA RAE DYER  
 DARCEY CHRYSTYNA FILSINGER  
 NATHAN J. FIORINI  
 HANNAH MARIE FRANCISCO  
 DANIEL R. FREESE  
 EMILY GAHAN



DEANNA MARIE GARCIA  
NOAH K. GESSINI  
SANDRA H. GLASTETTER  
SHEILA CHARLENE GORTON  
ERIN KATHLEEN GRABOSKY  
ERIN E. HANKINS  
MEGHAN P. HANSEN  
ISAIAH M. HARRIS  
ALEXIS M. HAWLEY  
LINDSEY R. HAYDEN  
CARRIE A. HEALY  
CASEY N. HEASLEY  
SARAH A. HERMAN  
ELIZABETH A. HIFFA  
NATALIA MARIA HINMAN  
AMY LYNN HOLLAND  
JAHNAESHA L. HOLLIMAN  
MOLLY MARGARET HOLMES  
BREANA L. HOWE  
ALEXIS MARIA IMBURGIA  
SHELBY L. JACQUIER  
PRENAJUAH L. JEFFERSON  
BREANNA R. JONES  
ANTHONY M. KANE  
KASSIDY J. KARRAM  
LIAM NICHOLAS KELLEHER  
SHELBY NICOLE KELLEY  
KALLI A. KELSEY  
AIREYANNA E. KENNEDY  
MEGAN C. KENTILE  
ROGER J. KISE, JR.  
AMANDA N. KOCH  
CLAIRE M. KRAUSE  
EVE E. KYLE  
PATRICK F. LAGROW  
SAMANTHA J. LAMPHERE  
BRITTANY LASHWAY  
DESHAUNTLY JAMERE LEE  
TAETUM MAKAYLA LEFFINGWELL  
JAMIE ELIZABETH LEONE

McKENZIE D. LIDELL  
EMILY I. LLOYD  
MOLLY M. LOBDELL  
CODY W. LUCEY  
MARGARITA MACDONALD  
VICTORIA R. MANGOLD  
SHERIDAN A. MANN  
GABRIELLE R. MCCARGAR  
LYNDSAY M. MCCORMICK  
MADISON E. MCDADE  
JACOB J. McDERMOTT  
KATHERINE A. MEEHAN  
McBATCH JACEARY MENES  
HUNTER M. MIDDLETON-TOMPKINS  
DAVID T. MIHILL III  
KHYLA A. MILES  
MIKAYLA JANE MILES  
JERRI ANN MILLER  
MELISSA L. MILLER  
BRIANNA MICHELLE MINER  
JORDAN PAIGE-DEBRA MISUIS  
HAILEY E. MORGAN  
MELANY MUNOZ GONZALEZ  
VANESSA A. MURRAY  
BROOKE E. NEWTON  
ASHLYNN E. NIKOLAUS  
TAYLOR OLMSTED  
MARY FRANCES PARKS  
CHELSEA J. PHILLIPS  
ALLISON C. PIECZONKA  
MARISSA M. PLACITO  
NICOLE M. POLLOCK  
CANDACE N. POLLYDORE  
MICHELLE DANIELLE PRIMROSE  
CASSIDY L. RATTRAY  
PHAEDRA REAVES  
JORDAN E. RECTOR  
ERIKA RIVERA  
SEVERINA A. RIVERS  
DANA G. ROBINSON

JOHN KIRBY ROCKWELL  
MICHELLE NATHALY RONDON  
ASHLEY R. RUSSO  
SARAH J. SALINAS  
SAMUEL T. SHARPE  
KAMRYN M. SIRIOS  
POLLY A. SMITH  
SYDNEY L. SMITH  
CHLOE S. SNYDER  
RIANNE N. SPRAGUE  
JENNA N. STILES  
ZACHARY THOMAS STOCKBRIDGE  
ELISE K. SUND  
ZACHARY J. SURACE  
MICHAEL A. SWEET  
DANIEL E. THAYER  
CHELSIE M. THOMAS  
PAMELA J. THOMAS  
BRITTANY A. TOWNSEND  
HEATHER S. TREUSDELL  
ALEXIS M. TUBBS  
KARLY E. WEAVER  
RACHAEL ELIZABETH WEILS  
CONNOR G. YORKS  
CAPRICE DANIELLE YOST  
NICOLE EMILY YOUNG  
ROBERT G. YOUNG  
NORA A. YOUSEF  
AMBER L. ZELLWAGER

## Four Trustees Take Seats in 2020

*Board welcomes three new trustees;  
Margie Dobin Miller '69 rejoins for a new term.*



Matthew Reilly



Elizabeth Rougeux



McEwan van der Mandele



Margie Dobin Miller

**F**our trustees were added to Cazenovia College's Board in 2020, including three community members who are new to the board, and a three-term trustee who has returned for another term of service. New to the Board are Matthew Reilly, Elizabeth Rougeux, and McEwan van der Mandele. Returning to the Board is Margie Dobin Miller, '69.

**Reilly** is superintendent of schools for the Cazenovia Central School District and has 30 years of experience in public education. He taught secondary social studies for 20 years in several Central New York school districts and has spent the last 11 years as a middle school and district-level school administrator. He chairs the Enrollment Management Committee and serves on the Student Affairs, Executive, and Faculty-to-Board Committees.

**Rougeux** has served in governmental administration for former Syracuse Mayor Miner and as the Governor's regional representative for the Department of State. She also spent 18 years in governmental and community relations roles for Syracuse University, and prior to that, was executive director of the Onondaga County Child Care Council. She is co-chair of the Institutional Advancement Committee and is a member of the Executive, Student Affairs, and Faculty-to-Board Committees.

**Dobin Miller '69** was a school administrator and religious schoolteacher for 16 years, in addition to her career in real estate. She has been an active community leader on the boards of The Jewish Theological Seminary in New York, the Ziegler School of Rabbinic Studies in Los Angeles, the American Friends of Neve Hanna, and Mercaz, and is a longtime member and office-holder in the Women's League for Conservative Judaism. She serves on the Academic Affairs and Student Affairs Committees.

**van der Mandele** is a vice president at Gannett Fleming, Inc., an engineering and architectural firm. As the business unit director of Security and Safety, he is responsible for managing a department that provides consulting services on protection and safety measures to a diverse range of governmental clients in the U.S. and in other parts of the world. He is a member of the Academic Affairs and Finance Committees.



## 22 Students Awarded Bicentennial Scholarships

*Bicentennial Scholarships were awarded to members of the incoming Class of 2020, students who are due to graduate in the College's Bicentennial year of 2024.*

Scholarships of \$2,024 annually were presented to incoming first-year students achieving academic success. Renewable all four years the students are at Cazenovia, the awards were designed as a special way to mark the College's Bicentennial year.

*Awarded the scholarships are:*

**Morganne Tighe**, Johnstown, New York (Biology)  
**Samantha Lawler**, New Woodstock, New York (Business)  
**Jenichah Brown**, Cortland, New York (Criminal Justice and Homeland Security Studies)  
**Trevor Jones**, Sauquoit, New York (Criminal Justice and Homeland Security Studies)  
**Zoe Creason**, Sodus, New York (English)  
**Savannah Cihl**, Peoria, Illinois (Fashion Design)  
**Mya Latimer**, Liverpool, New York (Fashion Design)  
**Marietta Altieri**, Herkimer, New York (Interior Design)  
**Allison O'Kane**, Jamesville, New York (Interior Design)  
**Sarah Penny**, Bay Shore, New York (Interior Design)  
**Dylan Katieb**, Viroqua, Wisconsin (Interior Design)  
**Natasha Austin**, Canastota, New York (Inclusive Early Childhood Education)  
**Beyonce Tamayo**, Syracuse, New York (Inclusive Elementary Education)  
**Morgan Marl**, Owasco, New York (Equine Business Management)  
**Renny Murphy**, of East Hampton, New York (Equine Business Management)  
**Madeleine McDermott**, Patterson, New York (Equine Business Management)  
**Hannah Behlke**, Colchester, Connecticut (Equine Business Management)  
**Cynthia Drummond**, Rome, New York (Hospitality Management)  
**Kimberly Rodriguez**, Elmont, New York (Psychology)  
**Olivia Nordyke**, Florence, Colorado (Fine Art Photography)  
**Emily Ledyard**, Manlius, New York (Social Science)  
**Fiona Hunt**, Queensbury, New York (Undeclared Major)

CAZENOVIA COLLEGE

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[www.cazenovia.edu/cazmade](http://www.cazenovia.edu/cazmade)

# Assuring a Meaningful Sports Experience During the COVID-19 Era

*Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic that has impacted collegiate athletics since March 2020, Cazenovia College Athletics has worked to ensure a safe and meaningful student athlete experience.*

Following the cancellation of fall semester NCAA championships and North Atlantic Conference competition, Cazenovia student athletes participated in a full pre-season sport practices throughout the typical fall semester season.

Director of Athletics and Recreation **Pete Way** said the student athletes completed daily health screenings, adhered to masking policies, and followed a re-socialization of

sport model that included two separate 14-day phases of carefully organized small group and low contact activities. These periods led up to their clearance for full team practices and intra-squad activities. Members of the North Atlantic Conference sponsored a virtual cross country meet and Cazenovia equestrian teams participated in virtual shows.

NCAA relief for spring 2020 student athletes and for all student athletes in the 2020-2021 academic year waived the loss of a season of athletics eligibility for student athletes.

Also different in 2021 is the lengthening of the sport season from a consecutive weekly total to a 114-day period that can span the length of the 20-21 academic year, Way said. The sport season length waiver allows for flexibility to plan potential competition during the spring semester for fall and winter sport teams outside of the typical playing season.

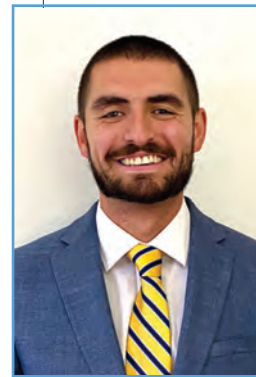
Cazenovia Athletics also has been working closely with North Atlantic Conference leadership and member institutions, including the NAC Return to Play Committee, to evaluate spring semester opportunities for all sports, including practices and in-person or virtual competition based on the latest NCAA and government guidance, Way added.



## Baseball and Soccer Coaches, Fitness Staff Join College

### PAUL LUDDEN

Paul Ludden was named head coach of the Cazenovia College Baseball Team. Ludden's collegiate coaching experience includes two seasons as the top assistant coach for Onondaga Community College, after previously being part of the coaching staff at SUNY Brockport.



During a standout college career, Ludden played

two years at Clarkson University and two years at SUNY Brockport. At Brockport, he earned All-SUNYAC honors following both his junior and senior seasons. During his playing career, he was awarded ABCA/Rawlings Second-Team All-Region, ECAC Second-Team All-Region, and d3baseball.com Third-Team All-Region honors. After his time at SUNY Brockport, Ludden signed with the Alpine Cowboys of the Independent Pecos League, where he played for three seasons (2017, 2018, and 2019). He was also signed by the Cleburne Railroaders of the Independent American Association, joining the team during 2018 season.

Ludden is the Wildcats' fourth head coach since the program joined NCAA Division III in 1999.



## CASEY MURPHY

Casey Murphy was selected as head coach of the Cazenovia College's Men's Soccer Team. Murphy's collegiate coaching experience includes four seasons as the assistant coach for the Onondaga Community College (OCC) Men's Soccer Team.

During Murphy's time at OCC, the men's soccer team had an overall record of 33-9, including two conference championships. The team was nationally ranked within the Top 10 for three consecutive years. He also provided coaching for the Utica City Football Club, updating the organization's use of technology to help improve individual and team tendencies.



During his collegiate career, Murphy played two seasons at LeMoyne College. He was named to the Northeast 10 All Freshmen team. Following his sophomore season, Murphy received All-Conference and

All-Region honors after leading the NE 10 in goals scored.

Murphy is the Wildcats' seventh head coach since the program joined NCAA Division III in 1999.

## ASHLEY PIGG

Ashley Pigg joined the Fitness & Wellness Department staff in January 2020 as the Aquatics & Fitness coordinator, where she supervises College pool operations, including

lifeguard and swimming instruction. Pigg also supervises the College Fitness Center and coordinates fitness activities and programming.

Pigg holds numerous lifeguarding, water safety, and swim instruction certifications and is a certified pool operator. Her extensive lifeguarding experience includes her tenure as a Cazenovia College pool lifeguard beginning in 2013. She served as the assistant chief lifeguard at Green Lakes State Park from 2013 to 2016 and again in 2019. She was chief lifeguard at Green Lakes State Park in 2020.

She is a volunteer emergency medical services member of the Fayetteville Fire Department and a 2016 graduate of Morrisville State College with a degree in Equine Science, specializing in equine rehabilitation.



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# Cazenovia College

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To stay current with Wildcats athletics news, go to [www.cazenoviawildcats.com](http://www.cazenoviawildcats.com)



## Cazenovia Joins North Atlantic Conference

*Cazenovia College Athletics joined the North Atlantic Conference (NAC) as full members in July 2020. The transition to the NAC ended a 15-year membership with the North Eastern Athletic Conference (NEAC). Also joining the Wildcats in the conference transition at that time were former NEAC members SUNY Cobleskill and SUNY Polytechnic.*

The addition of three schools brings the number of full institutional members in the NAC to 12 and allows for East-West divisional competition schedules in most sports.

The NAC qualifies for NCAA Tournament automatic bids in the following sports: baseball, men's and women's basketball, men's and women's lacrosse, men's and women's soccer,



softball, and women's volleyball. The NAC will sponsor conference swimming and diving championships beginning in 2022, in addition to conference championships in golf, tennis, and track and field.

Cazenovia College President **Dr. Ron Chesbrough** said the student-athlete experience was an integral factor in the decision to pursue NAC membership.

"Joining the NAC provides stability to the future of our athletics program. It also affords our student athletes quality intercollegiate competition and opportunities for post-season play in all of our varsity sports, with a scheduling model that is student centered," Chesbrough says.

The North Atlantic Conference was founded in 1997 as the North Atlantic Women's Conference (NAWC) and then rebranded as the North Atlantic Conference in 1999. The full membership includes Cazenovia College, SUNY Canton, SUNY Cobleskill, SUNY Delhi, Maine University at Farmington, Husson University, Maine Maritime Academy, University of Maine at Presque-Isle, Thomas College, Northern Vermont University-Johnson and Northern Vermont University-Lyndon.

## Fifth Annual CAZPY Award Show Held Virtually

*Cazenovia College Athletics presented the 5th Annual CAZPY Award Show in May 2020 to honor Wildcat student-athletes, coaches, teams, and supporters. The virtual show was held in place of the traditional in-person event, conducted on the Wildcats' official Instagram and Facebooks account pages.*

Cazenovia Student-Athlete Advisory Council members **John Bianchi**, **Amy Bubb**, **Kenny Beeman**, and **Angela Nuzzo** served as virtual presenters. Special recognition awards were presented by Vice President for Student Affairs **Karey Pine** (Blue & Gold Awards) and Executive Vice President and Athletics Direct Report **Dave Bergh** (Scholar-Athlete Award).

The annual CAZPY award show honors individual achievement and team success during the previous academic year. Due to the early cancellation of spring sports due to COVID, these spring sport-specific awards were added to the traditional annual lineup of honors: Spring Newcomers of the Year; Spring Performance of the Year; Spring Breakthrough Athletes; and Spring Athletes of the Year.



*A link to the archived presentation via Instagram is available at: [www.instagram.com/stories/highlights/17851160126030950/](https://www.instagram.com/stories/highlights/17851160126030950/).*





## eSports, Equestrian, and Cross Country Competitions Go Virtual

*Virtual competition took center stage for the Wildcats during the Fall 2020 semester when COVID-19 conditions necessitated the cancellation of all in-person competition. Regardless, our student athletes found a way; students in cross country, eSports and equestrian teams competed in virtual competitions during the semester.*

In a virtual cross country meet, hosted by Thomas College (Maine), Cazenovia had three runners finish in the top ten. The virtual invitational competition was open to all North Atlantic Conference schools and was conducted by having individual runners record an official time. Runner times were then combined to create full team results.

Cazenovia Freshman **Jaylah Cossin** placed first overall in the virtual race. Senior **Madeline Godfrey** placed third overall, and freshman **Christa Bailey** placed sixth.

In Equestrian, the College had Hunter Seat and Western riders competing in the Intercollegiate Horse Shows Association (IHSA) inaugural online horse show. More

than 23 colleges and universities participated in the show with riders recorded and judged virtually.

Sophomore **Sara Eveleigh** was the show's Reserve High-Point Hunter Seat Rider and Reserve High-Point Western Rider, finishing in a tie with teammate **Meghan Marsh**, a senior. Cazenovia College Dressage competed in the Intercollegiate Dressage Association Digital Show, which consisted of more than 50 riders from nine colleges.

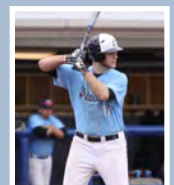
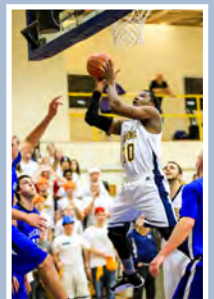
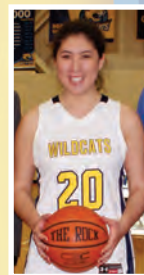
College eSports members competed in CollegiateR6 Rainbow Six: Siege play, earning a victory over Muskingum University (of Ohio). The virtual fall season included competition with colleges from around the country.

## FUN FACTS

### *This Day in Wildcats History*

Wildcats alumni, current students, families, supporters and fans of Cazenovia College Athletics have been able to learn or re-visit what happened "This Day in History" throughout the fall 2020 semester and in to 2021. Director of Athletic Operations **Chris Comino '05** has led the initiative by accessing the Athletics archives to publish a weekly "This Week in History" recap of Athletics events that took place during the week ahead in previous years. The official Wildcats web site and social media platforms feature the historic news of the day including a Wildcats victory or a listing of statistical record holders, all with pictures of former Wildcats student-athletes.

Cazenovia College Athletics @caz\_wildcats @CazWildcats



# Equity and Diversity Initiatives Elevated to President's Commission

*Last year's efforts of a campus committee gain prominence as President's Commission for Equity and Diversity.*

The action by College President **Ron Chesbrough** follows prior conversations and work on campus surrounding diversity, equity, and inclusion discussions, as well as Committee member and student organization leaders to enhance an environment supporting diversity, equity and inclusion practices on campus.

**Initial steps of the Commission include:**

- Establishing Academic Affairs and Student Affairs positions to work toward Commission goals, and naming **Rachel Dinero**, professor of psychology, and **Katiuzca Loaiza-Espinoza**, director for multicultural affairs and residential programming in Student Affairs, to carry out those functions
- Charging them with the evaluation, partnership, and evolution of campus systems and practices in these areas
- Planning an online Equity, Diversity and Inclusion training session as a first step in expanding campus awareness and education on diversity and inclusion issues
- Developing community relations focus areas to align partnerships that can impact the connections and collaborations necessary to assure that student and employee experiences as part of the Village are strong and welcoming



Rachel Dinero, Ph.D.



Katiuzca Loaiza-Espinoza

- Working with College Human Resources personnel to determine community training and reviewing forms, bias-related protocol, and hiring processes

Loaiza-Espinoza, who began her position in the fall semester, says she is working to create a range of programming. These include tapping alumni of color as mentors to help current students navigate the college and community; developing improved connections, communications, and training programs with Campus Safety; establishing better connections with the local community; conducting monthly trainings on recognizing microaggressions; and creating career service panels of local men, women, and LG-BTQI individuals to serve as role models and connections for Cazenovia students.

Meanwhile, being open to dialogue is a crucial first step for everyone regarding these issues, Loaiza-Espinoza believes.

"I would like for people to be okay to be challenged this year, whether it's in their

values or in their perspectives. I think for so many people, we're stuck on our values and how we think, and if we're going to allow us to be open to other perspectives, it's a window to be open to having conversations."

Dr. Dinero believes that President Chesbrough's appointment of a faculty co-chair on the Commission is valuable for facilitating two-way communication and assuring that faculty viewpoints are represented to teaching and the classroom environment.

"It is important to have faculty representation on the Commission to ensure that our faculty, who are very much frontline with students and in a unique position of power, are aware of best practices and are constantly updating regarding this evolving area," Dinero says. She adds that her capacity is also a benefit to faculty members in that it offers a direct faculty-to-faculty line of communication.

Loaiza-Espinoza says she hopes faculty, staff and students come to a training or a program hosted by the Commission or MOSAIC.

"I promise it will open some thinking and dialogue. That's a start to making our country and our society more open and more accepting, by being able to hear each other's experiences and perspectives. We all belong here, and we all have similar goals: to belong, to be successful, to be healthy, and to have an education."

**The Commission members are:**

- Rachel Dinero, Co-Chair
- Katiuzca Loaiza-Espinoza, Co-Chair
- David Bergh, Office of the President
- Patrick Camilien, Staff/Administration Representative
- Kathryn Dupere, Student Representative
- Jesse Harasta, Faculty Representative
- Larry King, Staff/Administration Representative
- Lily Soltani-Amadi, Faculty Representative
- Naseem Stevenson, Student Representative



# Introducing: The Pillar Society

*A new donor circle designed to be accessible, attainable, and eminently impactful as Cazenovia College nears its next century.*



To broaden and strengthen leadership-level giving initiatives that are so critical to Cazenovia College's best and brightest future, and to propel the College toward its third century of educational excellence, the College proudly announces the formation of The Pillar Society.

Based on the proud heritage and lasting legacy that *The 1824 Society* has provided Cazenovia for decades, *The Pillar Society* is an evolution of the College's philanthropic spirit. With more accessible membership levels, it is intended to create a wider circle of annual fundraising support, at a time in the College's history when giving is especially important. Yearly gifts to The Pillar Society fund the most essential needs of the College and its students. These gifts are the means the College relies on each year to fund scholarships that offer deserving students access to a transformative education, provide faculty resources to ensure they can continue their excellent brand of teaching, and sustain operations that support an unparalleled student experience.

The College's Institutional Advancement staff are in conversation with current 1824 Society Members now and are also reaching out to potential new donors. They are also undertaking additional ways to spread word of the Pillar Society's formation and the tangible outgrowths of this funding's tremendous impact. Alumni, faculty, staff, and friends of the College will be seeing these informational messages via email and traditional mailings soon.

"In an era when social and political unrest has changed so many things, and when two years of COVID-19 conditions have had significant impact on our operations, as has been the case for all colleges, having the commitment of the Cazenovia College family to the future of this institution is paramount," notes College **President Ron Chesbrough**.

Chesbrough adds that, like many small private colleges, the demographics of the time and the competitive nature of higher education—as well as the impact of COVID-19—has affected Cazenovia College financially. Those challenges have been surmounted for the time being, he notes, and the College continues to be able to offer students a small-community, highly personalized, valuable educational outcome at an affordable cost. "It's an education within an environment that promises, as the College tagline goes, that each student who attends here is assured Real Life Learning for Real Life Success," Chesbrough says.

**YEARLY GIFTS TO  
THE PILLAR SOCIETY  
FUND THE MOST  
ESSENTIAL NEEDS OF  
THE COLLEGE AND  
ITS STUDENTS.**

The President adds, "The people of this institution have always been our foremost interest, from students and alumni, to staff, to faculty, to families, and we continue to look to them as the pillars who support our College. Our supporters have sustained us through many difficult transitions and tenuous situations in the past. That's part of the history and the success story that is Cazenovia. We have always been able to pivot and persevere through our most difficult challenges. The future is very bright, and I've never felt more positive about the College's potential. However, we need our College family and our core donor circle to help us establish a secure and sustainable long-term future. *The Pillar Society* is a core effort that, to us, is accessible, attainable, and aspirational in its goals."

*Please note:*

- Current members of *The 1824 Society* are automatically being enrolled as Founder Level members of *The Pillar Society*.
- For traditional donors, membership is determined by an annual gift of \$1,000 or more.
- This new initiative is also offering Young Alumni of the college (from new graduates to those 10 years out from their class date) the opportunity to engage in helping to chart the College's future. Young Alumni can join *The Pillar Society* as members for between \$100 and \$500 annually. This makes our philanthropic leadership circle more accessible to them during their early-earnings years.

*For more information about joining The Pillar Society, go to our website at:*  
[www.cazenovia.edu/pillar](http://www.cazenovia.edu/pillar).

PILLAR SOCIETY INSTITUTIONAL  
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*Questions?*

Contact **Shari Whitaker**, director of alumni and parent relations, at 315-655-7332 or [sswhitaker@cazenovia.edu](mailto:sswhitaker@cazenovia.edu)

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*Our virtual activities will give you the opportunity to reconnect, reminisce and celebrate all that we love about Caz!*

 **JUNE 11-12**

*Highlights of the weekend:*

- A Conversation with President Ron Chesbrough
- "Virtual Teaching in the Pandemic at Cazenovia College" live webinar by Dr. John Robert Greene
- Back to School Classes with your favorite faculty members
- Panel Discussion: Equity and Diversity at Cazenovia College led by Rachel Dinero, PhD and Katuzca Loaiza-Espinoza, co-chairs, President Chesbrough's Commission for Equity and Diversity

[www.cazenovia.edu/alumni/reunion](http://www.cazenovia.edu/alumni/reunion)

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