



Niagara University Theatre

A newsletter for alumni and friends of the department of theater and fine arts



New at NU

By Gregory Fletcher,
editor-in-chief

What's new at
NU? Let my photos
speak louder than my words:



The framework for the atrium lobby is complete with the framing of the windows and rooftop.



New signage on campus in front of the Clet dining hall.



The foundation is poured and prepared for the new atrium lobby.



The walls and insulation go up for the atrium lobby.



The view of the new atrium lobby from Lewiston Road. The open corner will be a glassed-in staircase. The amazing view of the Niagara River gorge will no doubt create a traffic jam in the stairwell!



The framework and elevator tower go up for the atrium lobby.



The rooftop is shingled for the atrium lobby; the view is from Freshman Drive.



The new backstage tech room for storage, supplies, and a secure cage — formerly the women's bathroom and men's make-up room.

Friends of Niagara University Theatre Plan Exciting Gala



The 25th annual Friends of Niagara University Theatre Gala will be held on Saturday, May 1, 2010. This formal "black tie" event begins with a 4 p.m. matinee of the delightful toe-tapping classic, "Anything Goes." The Gala will also mark the grand reopening of the newly renovated Leary Theatre within the new

Elizabeth Ann Clune Centre for Theatre.

After the production, guests will proceed to the Niagara Falls Country Club for a cocktail hour, silent auction, dinner, and a live auction. Auction items include travel packages, paintings, entertainment and sports memorabilia, gift baskets, gift certificates and much more.

This year's gala chairs are Robert J. Clune, Esq., '58, and his wife JoAnn G. Clune (pictured above), who previously served as Gala co-chairs in 2006. Auction co-chairs are: Maria Arena (mcmg621@aol.com), Pamela LeCuyer (pmlcuyer@aol.com), Lori Presti (loripresti@gmail.com) and Adair Saviola (adair614@verizon.net). Board member Patricia Orzetti will be the liaison to the Niagara Falls Country Club and Friends member Trish Decker will also assist with the Gala dinner planning. Funds raised benefit the theater program and its students, from needed theater equipment and supplies to workshops provided by guest artists.

Tickets for the Gala are \$150 per person. Corporate tables are available. For tickets and information, or to donate gift baskets, certificates, paintings, antiques or collectibles valued at \$100 or more, please contact any of the four auction co-chairs.



'12 (Alma Jean Jordan). (Photo at left, l-r) Steven Foote, '13 (Harvey Weems); Annise Celano, '12 (Helen Crews); and Nick Gnacinski, '11 (Ralph Johnston). Photo by Carl Modica.

"The Midnight Caller," directed by alumna Maureen Anne Porter, '86, featured (photo at right, l-r) Jamie Lynn Nablo, '12 (Cutie Spencer); Devan Corcoran, '11 (Mrs. Crawford); and Meghan Smith,



In October, NU Theatre hosted the annual LaFalce Scholarship luncheon so that Congressman John LaFalce could meet the five Niagara and Erie County theater studies students who are the current recipients of the Congressman LaFalce Scholarship. Front row from left, Renee Landrigan, '13; Congressman LaFalce; and Brittany Ziarnowski, '13. Back row from left, William Leonard III, '12; Nick Gnacinski, '11; and Leanne Troutman, '12.



In October, Niagara University Theatre presented "The Dearest of Friends" and other Texas plays by Horton Foote. In this scene from "The Dearest of Friends," directed by adjunct professor Amanda Lytle Sharpe, Victoria Wolcott, '10, (Mabel Votaugh), right, tries to awaken her snoring husband (Jack Votaugh), played by Leo DiBello, '11. At the left, Rachel Baron, '10 (Vonnice Hayhurst), worries aloud about her husband Eddie's infidelity. Photo by Carl Modica.



"Spring Dance," also directed by adjunct professor Amanda Lytle Sharpe, featured from left, Peter Dowling, '12 (Cecil Henry); Andrew J. Adolf, '13 (Dave Dushon); and Kelsey Wright, '11 (Annie Gayle Long). Photo by Carl Modica.



The first production of Niagara University's 2009-2010 season was a readers' theater production of Wendy Wasserstein's "Uncommon Women and Others" directed by Kate LoConti. Here, the cast rehearses Under the Taps in the Gallagher Center. From left, Grace Turner, '13; Maura Nolan, '12; Cait Holland, '10; Sarah Jessie, '10; Kerisa Bonville, '13; Maria Nicole Held, '11; Kayla Kreis, '11; Keirsten Greifenstein, '13; and Emily Pedersen, '11. Photo by Rachel Phillippi.



Proceeds of Poetry CD Sale Donated to Renovation Fund

by John DeDeyn, Board Member, Friends of NU Theatre

The proceeds from the Friends of Niagara University Theatre's recent poetry CD sale have been donated to the theater renovation fund. The Friends and Brother Augustine Towey, C.M., director emeritus, extend their warmest thanks to all the artists, readers, producers, workers, and donors who generously donated their talent, time and contributions in making the two-volume CD recording of selections from "The Poem You Asked For and Other Poems" an artistic and financial success. The book, Brother Towey's seventh published volume of poetry, was published by Arthur McAllister Publishers of Harpswell, Maine. Selections from the book were recorded before a live audience at the Leary Theatre in February of this year. The CD set was later sent by mail with a request for a contribution to many patrons of Niagara University Theatre. Brother Towey, C.M., noted, "Their generous investment in Niagara University Theatre is heartwarming and deeply appreciated."

"A More Perfect Union:" My Summer in NYC

By Jayson D. Clark, '12

In May, I had the amazing opportunity to travel to the center of the theatrical world, New York City, and work on an off-Broadway production as a lighting/sound intern.

The show, "A More Perfect Union," was produced by Epic Theatre Ensemble, a company dedicated to producing thought-provoking theater. The play followed the stories of two Supreme Court law clerks and the difficulties they face working together since they came from radically different backgrounds. Their relationship becomes further complicated when their competitive friendship starts to become romantic. In addition to such a good plot line, the play also questions practices of the Supreme Court and brings to light some little known facts about one of America's oldest institutions.

The production was produced in the East 13th Street Theatre, the home of Classic Stage Company, and ran from May to June. My function as an intern was to ensure that lighting and sound aspects ran smoothly, to run both the lighting and sound boards in performances, and to do basic maintenance on the equipment when necessary.

During my time with "A More Perfect Union," I learned so much about the way theater is run in New York City and worked with an amazing group of people, including the designers, directors, stage managers, and the various crews. The friendships I made are still continuing and the experience I gained is truly invaluable, both to my future career in lighting/sound design and as a person.

Also, the things I did outside the production were just as valuable. Being surrounded by the culture of New York City was equally a learning experience. I was able to reaffirm to myself that this is where I truly belonged.

I have to extend a thank you to Niagara University's department of theater and fine arts, especially to Troy Hourie, faculty of design/tech at NU and the set designer for "A More Perfect Union," who worked so hard to give me this opportunity. With the knowledge I have gained from this experience, I feel as though I am on my way to being a better student, a better person, and a better designer.



In December, a group of NU Theatre students, faculty and staff members traveled to Syracuse, N.Y., to see a production of "Little Women" at the Syracuse Stage. Troy Hourie, second row, right, assistant professor of design/technology in Niagara's department of theater and fine arts, provided the scenic design for the production.

NU Senior Lives and Breathes Theater as Apprentice at Vassar College

By Eric M. Walsh, '10

"Our doubts are traitors and make us lose the good we oft might win, by fearing to attempt." This line from William Shakespeare's "Measure for Measure" capped off our warm-up for a text class. More importantly, however, the words seemed to personify a summer of growth, challenge, and self discovery.

Roughly seven weeks of my summer were spent in Poughkeepsie, N.Y., at Vassar College with New York Stage & Film's Powerhouse Theater Apprentice Program. In the midst of a wide array of productions that were being developed by the professional company, a group of 48 young actors, writers, and directors were studying, working, and performing in a conservatory-style acting program. Classes covered everything from text analysis to viewpoint training, and performances ranged from Shakespeare and Greek tragedies to new plays that have yet to be published.

I am not a theater major. I act because it is something I enjoy. During my time with the apprentice program, however, I had to live and breathe theater from eight in the morning until well after midnight. With that said, it was truly an amazing summer because it was so challenging. There was simply no time for doubt, hesitation, or fear — just acting. When each of us reached a breaking point, we became open to the wide range of styles and personalities that all aimed us toward the same goal. Michael Early, my voice and acting professor, had us do wind sprints to illustrate the athleticism necessary to speak and act. Drew Cortese, in text class, showed us the intricacy of language and challenged us to find true humor in our work and our lives. Anthony Luciaono, as a director, always reminded us that success comes when we love what we do.

My experiences with acting this summer had a great impact on my life because each of the pieces fit together perfectly. I was not given one answer, but rather found connection on a variety of levels, and I am eternally grateful to Greg Fletcher, director of NU Theatre, and Niagara alumnus Ed Cheetham for making this opportunity possible. As a good friend once told me, "to be free to act, to explore, to do what we do, is a gift; make sure you always remember that."



NU senior Eric Walsh, left, poses with fellow acting apprentice, Vassar College student Matt Bourne, during their internship at Vassar last summer. The two shared the stage in a production of "Twelfth Night."

Niagara University Theatre Newsletter

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**Deadline for submissions for
the spring/summer issue is
April 1, 2010.**

Niagara University Theatre Names Second Recipient of The Julie Burdick Memorial Scholarship


Theater studies student Jessica Bill of Arkport, N.Y., has been selected as the second recipient of the Julie Burdick Memorial Scholarship, named after alumna Julie Burdick, '03.

Burdick passed away unexpectedly on Jan. 27, 2007, and her parents, Dr. James Burdick and Sharon Burdick of East Amherst, N.Y., established the scholarship as a result of thousands of dollars of contributions made to Niagara University Theatre in honor of their daughter. The Burdick family has requested that one sophomore, junior or senior who is an outstanding theater performance major be chosen by the administrators and faculty of the theater program to receive the scholarship, which will last for the duration of the student's undergraduate years at Niagara University. Once the student has graduated from NU, new recipients for the scholarship will be selected and announced.

Any student selected for this honor must not only excel on stage and in the classroom, but also they must model a Vincentian-like interest in caring for and helping others.

"We are delighted to select Jessica Bill as our second recipient of the Julie Burdick Memorial Scholarship," noted Dr. Sharon Watkinson, chair of the department of theater and fine arts. "When we thought about how extraordinary Julie Burdick was as a 'triple threat' performer, as a student who loved to learn, and as an extraordinarily generous and caring human being, we thought of Jessica Bill. Very simply, Jessica excels not only in theater but also in all of her academic studies. And, like Julie, Jessica is humble, genuine, sincere — hallmarks of an authentic human being."

Bill said "I am very grateful to the Burdick family for this scholarship. The true value in this award is inspiration from Julie's life because of the great young woman she was. I am extremely thankful for this honor and can only hope to live up to Julie's legacy."

A senior theater performance major at Niagara University, Bill is a member of the NU Players board. Roles at NU have included "She Stoops to Conquer" (Kate Hardcastle), "Romeo and Juliet" (Juliet), "Night Train to Foggy Bottom" (the sculpture), "Top Girls" (Lady Nijo), and performances in the 2007 and 2008 24-Hour Projects. This summer, she was a cast member of Shakespeare in the Park's "The Tempest" in Buffalo. In the past, she has performed at Walt Disney World Theme Park. 



In late May, during her annual trip to London to escort NU's theater studies students to their study-abroad experience at Schiller International University, Dr. Sharon Watkinson, chair, department of theater and fine arts, left, had the thrill of a lifetime. Valerie Doulton of Schiller, right, invited Watkinson to see a production of "Madame de Sade" by Yukio Mishima at the Donmar Warehouse. Doulton happens to know Dame Judi Dench, center, who played the role of Madame de Montreuil, mother of Madame de Sade. Watkinson noted that Dame Judi is not only

an outstanding actress, but also an extraordinarily kind and delightful individual. She gladly shared a glass of champagne and this "Kodak moment" after the show with Watkinson, Doulton and a few other visitors.

More Kudos for Miss Bev!

Editor's Note: Nationally recognized dance teacher and choreographer Beverly Fletcher Bellegia, a longtime professor in Niagara's department of theater and fine arts, died on Jan. 10, 2009, at the age of 81. In our last newsletter, we featured over a dozen tributes written by alumni, friends and family. Here is another that we recently received.

"Miss Bev helped me beyond measure, as I weaved my way through my college years studying education, theater and dance. I am who I am today for her presence in my life. Miss Bev shared her process with me, allowing me to "help her" with choreography, when I was rather young and inexperienced. She seemed to believe in me, more than I believed in myself; she gave me responsibilities and chances that were most generous gifts, encouraging me to grow as a dancer, choreographer and teacher. She was generous of time, talent, spirit, and most definitely humor. Miss Bev was wonderfully frank — saying exactly what worked, what didn't, or quite simply, "Too bad, go back!" She helped me get my first job as a professional choreographer and mentored me in researching several of my first shows. In my years with the Rockettes, many of us had studied with or been choreographed by Miss Bev; she was well-known in New York dance. As I choreograph and teach young students today in Southern California, much of what I do and much of my approach is an echo of Miss Bev (but not nearly as brilliant!). Her work and influence lives on, as others still learn from her and go on to teach what she most generously gave. In that way, she will never be gone. Thank you, Miss Bev!"

Lori (Pulvino) Torok, '90

Associate professor of theatre arts and dance; chair, theatre arts
Mt. San Jacinto College



Pursuing the Dream: Experiences of NU Theater Majors and Alumni

By Ann Heuer, '78

A Broadway role in "Young Frankenstein." Producing and writing the TV comedy, "My Name is Earl." Recording voice-overs for commercials for Domino's, McDonald's, AT & T and more. Working as a Disney princess on an island-bound Disney cruise ship. Landing a role in the film, "Spider-Man 2." Serving as second assistant director on the film, "No Country for Old Men." Designing the lighting for shows in Las Vegas or stage-managing theme shows at Busch Gardens in Williamsburg, Va. Teaching theater classes in schools and at summer theater camps around the country. This is just a brief sampling of jobs that NU alumni have landed.

For high school students and transfer students who have decided upon a similar career in the spotlight or behind the scenes in the entertainment industry, it's vital to do the usual research to find a theater program that offers the right fit.

Surfing the Web, reading brochures and participating en masse in campus tours are obvious musts. But a fourth element in the college search is perhaps the most important for prospective theater students:

It's one-on-one "face time" with theater students and alumni.

At Niagara University's department of theater and fine arts, high school seniors and transfer students can request a day of shadowing so they can attend theater classes and enjoy lunch with theater students. The high school seniors can also participate in our springtime auditions in order to be eligible for scholarships — a great opportunity to interact with current students, meet other prospective students and see an NU Theatre production. Or on a casual visit at another time, students and parents can meet with our faculty

and have informal chats with a number of our theater majors — all of whom are eager to talk about the theater program and job opportunities.

And why not?

Theater performance, design/tech and generalist majors at Niagara University are a generous, talented and tenacious group of students with a variety of career goals and an impressive array of double majors and minors. Some want to make it to Broadway as a number of our alumni have done — Armand Schultz, '81, Michele Ragusa, '87, Thom Gates, '95, and Carmen Ruby Floyd, '00, to name a few — yet many have other dreams that play out on a myriad of different venues.

To provide some insight into their preparation for careers in the entertainment industry, a number of NU's current theater studies students graciously shared their thoughts about their education at NU. Alumni also shared highlights of their training at Niagara and touched upon some of the successes they've enjoyed in their chosen field. More news about students and alumni can be found in the "Updates" article in this issue of the Niagara University Theatre Newsletter.

What Current Students Had to Say:



theater in addition to the core voice, dance and acting classes. On top of that, we can take directing, play-writing, stage management, and other electives. In the end, we're all going to have a broad set of skills to apply

to our careers. Since attending NU, I've noticed how respected and reputable our work is in the community. It makes a world of difference knowing that the culmination of our department's hard work is so well received by the public. I frequently read articles about former NU theater graduates who are making a name for themselves in professional theater. In such a tough industry, I know I'm going to be more than happy to list this university on my resume.

Jessica Bill, '10

Recipient of The Julie Burdick Memorial Scholarship 2009 – 2010; junior and senior class representative for the NU Players, 2008-2010



I've learned a great deal already just within my first year. You get the training you might expect from a conservatory, but you still get

the liberal arts studies that are a requirement from the university. Even if you're a performance major, you still get some design/tech experience. In the future, to make a living off of anything related to theater would be absolute bliss, but my alternative plan is to be a drama and English teacher.

Micheal Van Dyke, '12

Sophomore class representative for the NU Players, 2009-2010; member of the Niagara Falsettos; performed in children's theater troupe for Binghamton daycare center, summer 2009



The theater program is well-rounded and incorporates voice, dance, acting and other important courses. That is why

I transferred to NU during my sophomore year. The professors are extremely knowledgeable and know their craft very well. This makes the training very appropriate for someone who wishes to pursue a performing arts career at a professional level. I would have to say that the most exciting aspect of studying theater at NU is the opportunity to be cast and perform in productions. It is the perfect way to practice what you've been taught. Also, all of the professors have their own individual style of teaching and methods, so it's great to experience new professors each year.

Joe Liolos, '11

Concessions supervisor for the NU Players, 2009-2010; new student orientation assistant, summer 2009



Every theater performance major dreams of ending up on Broadway, but we also know that is an unrealistic goal to

start off with. Personally, I am interested in acting, choreography, physical theater, and theater education at the primary or secondary school level. No matter what your focus is, you can always count on having amazing professors at Niagara. Every single one is very knowledgeable in their field. The professors quickly become as friendly as your fellow classmates. The casting opportunities are also great. With eight shows a year, plus the short play festival and 24-hour project, everyone can usually have an acting opportunity within their first year. And as far as the future, NU's theater department is teaching me a lot of skills I have not had the opportunity to study at other institutions — like learning how to

speak in different accents and dialects, stage combat, and many styles of dance including ballroom. I will be graduating with a long list of skills that will put me one step ahead when it comes to getting cast.

Mary Boatman, '12

Member of Niagara Falsettos and NU's improv theater group, Spontaneous Combustion; NU orientation assistant

On the Road with Alumni:



Patrick Moyer, '07, in the Old Creamery Theatre's production of "The Wizard of Oz" during the summer of 2009.

My education at NU and experience in the Niagara University Repertory Theatre helped me tremendously. The theater classes are like no others at NU. Who knew that juggling and playing with

swords could be considered a class? And the faculty members are so knowledgeable about the business, not to mention all the talented people they have met and the stories they have to share. Since graduating, I have performed mostly in the Midwest in children's theater and I have done a national tour. Last year, I was a performer and technical assistant for one of Iowa's premier professional theater companies, The Old Creamery Theatre. I have taken the skills I learned backstage at NU and have joined the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees and with this opportunity, I have the chance to work anywhere in the country.

Patrick Moyer, '07

Corresponding secretary for the NU Players, 2005-2006; brother of Delta Chi Epsilon Social Fraternity, 2005-2007; member of "Live Music" and WNIA-Radio staff, 2005-2007



My theater major taught me many skills that will be both necessary and will set me above my competition. Working

on the videography for "The Three-penny Opera" at NU Theatre was the largest project I've ever been involved with and pulling it off was one of the most rewarding things I've ever done in my life. My study-abroad experience in London gave me life lessons and skills that are unmatched by anything that can be learned in the classroom. And at NU, I took stage combat above and beyond what was expected and plan to continue doing so in New York City where I am currently pursuing a career in theater performance, computer science and technical theater. Right now, I am working two day jobs to pay the bills; the Disney Store on Fifth Avenue and the Apple Store in Soho. I have also worked as an assistant stage manager and ensemble member in an off-off-Broadway production of a new musical, "Topsy Turvy Loves." Also, I'm interning as an assistant editor for a film that is currently in post-production. In January, I will be moving to Lancaster, Pa., to perform with the Sight and Sound Theatre's production of "Joseph." I will be working with fellow NU alumnus Jared Hoyt, '09, who is also working there as a lighting technician.

Preston Cuer, '09

Recipient of the Tim Ward Players' Award for Excellence in Theater, 2009; an Outstanding Theater Student Award, 2009; and the Julie Burdick Memorial Scholarship, 2008-2009



NU's design/tech professors were very helpful in creating and supporting opportunities for me to design and build

Continued on next page

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puppets. Also, I have a lot of carpentry/ sewing experience that will help land a job in props or costume crafts. Since August, I have been a props apprentice at the Walnut Street Theatre in Philadelphia. I hope to someday run my own ecologically friendly puppet and mask company, but in the meantime I want to continue to work in props/crafts and puppets.

Kelly Konecko, '09

Recipient of an Outstanding Theater Student Award, 2009; participant in an internship with the Jim Henson Workshop in NYC in 2008; studied "almost abroad" at the University of Hawaii at Manoa in 2007 to learn about puppetry and Asian theater



I came to NU as a very shy freshman and I think the theater program helped me to open up. I took performance classes the first two years and then focused more heavily on the technical aspects of theater and stage management. The exciting part was being able to work so hands-on at NU Theatre, at Artpark, and in Buffalo on many of the productions while I was a student. I worked with some really wonderful people including Christine Cooper, '88, who showed me the ropes. Since graduating with a BFA in general theater I have done off-Broadway, Broadway, national tours and industrials. On Broadway, I stage-managed "Noises Off," "High Fidelity," "Brooklyn – The Musical," and "Hairspray." I have toured with productions of "Grease," "Chicago," "Brooklyn – The Musical," "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat" and "White Christmas." And some of my off-Broadway work includes the revival of Larry Kramer's "The Normal Heart," "Guardians," "The Exonerated" and "The Irish and How They Got That Way!" This summer, I stage-managed a reading

of "Clueless, The Musical" and currently I am assistant stage manager on the Broadway revival of "Finian's Rainbow." Beyond this, I hope to keep stage managing and working with actors.

Thom Gates, '95

Treasurer and vice president for the NU Players; member of Alumni Chapel choir; recipient of Outstanding Theatre Student Award, 1995



Bill Patti, '05, and fiancée Brieanna Bailey, '07.

I can say with almost certain assurance that NU gives students one of the most well-rounded theater educations in the country. I've never heard of another school that allows students to take acting every semester! And hands down the best part of Niagara is the faculty. I also love that NU gave me so many stage opportunities in such a variety of roles. I couldn't sing a lick when I got to Niagara, but since graduating, I have performed in musicals at major professional theaters in New York, Ohio and Florida. I had two left feet as a freshman, and still have them, but Terri Filips (choreographer) taught me how to use them. Dr. Watkinson taught me 90 percent of what I learned in my master's level theater history courses – I was light years ahead of my classmates because of that. I came out of Niagara with a solid collegiate resume and prepared for the professional world. After graduating from NU with a double major in theater studies and English, I went on to pursue my MFA in acting from Kent State University, where I taught introduction level acting and theater classes as a graduate assistant. I am now the full-time theater teacher at Rabun Gap Nacoochee School, a private boarding school outside of Atlanta. I will direct two plays per year and run the nation's only high school Cirque

program. Future plans include marrying NU Theatre alumna Brieanna Bailey, '07, who recently got a job working at The Hartford Stage in Connecticut. The wedding will take place at Shea's Performing Arts Center in Buffalo in June 2010.

Bill Patti, '05

Recipient of Congressman John LaFalce Scholarship for Theatre Studies Students at NU; served on NU's executive board for new student orientation



Since graduating from NU two years ago, I've worked for the Lexington Children's Theatre and its tour company in Lexington, Ky., and with the Apple Tree Theatre's Summer on Stage Camp in Chicago. One of the wonderful things I've gained from my years at NU is an amazing network in the industry across the country. Also, I think the amount of time we had to "work" in our performance classes at NU was a great help. While there were times we had to patiently observe others working, I feel we had class sizes that allowed us to be on our feet the majority of the time, and, in a field like this, that is invaluable. My most fulfilling experiences since graduation have been those in which I can bring theater to children either in the classroom or through performance. I hope to continue to share that magic with kids here in Chicago!

Kristen Smiley, '07

President, 2006-2007; second vice president, 2005-2006, and recording secretary for NU Players, 2004-2005; recipient of the Players' Award and an Outstanding Theater Student Award, 2007



Having classes at NU with such a strong faculty provided a well-rounded knowledge of theater and all of its varying

concentrations, from physical theater to theater history, stage combat to costume design and make-up. I certainly felt more prepared in the professional world having experience in all of these areas, compared to friends and fellow professionals who only studied acting for four years. I felt ahead of the game in that regard. Another exciting aspect of studying theater at Niagara University was the fact that we were offered the rare opportunity to work with and make connections with guest artists, especially John Kander and Armand Schultz, with whom I am still in contact. The opportunity to encounter working professionals, such as Mr. Schultz, who came from this program, served as a sort of proof that we can do it, we can make a living pursuing this crazy dream we call a career. Upon graduation in 2006, I toured with the National Players based outside Washington, D.C., and once that wrapped, I was awarded an acting fellowship with the Shakespeare Theatre Company under the direction of Michael Kahn. Here, I performed in a number of classic plays, working with directors such as Ethan McSweeney, Gale Edwards, David Muse, and other well-known artists as Rick Sordelet, Avery Brooks, Suzanne Bertish, Edward Gero and Helen Carey. Shortly after, I worked for the Folger Shakespeare Library and Round House Theatre. I have also participated in a number of workshop/readings at the Shakespeare Theatre Company, The Walnut Street Theatre in Philadelphia, the Source Theatre, plus others. Since graduating, I have also been a theater teaching artist, creating and instructing workshops in Shakespeare, stage combat and acting throughout the country for different universities, high schools, theaters, and other organizations, such as Memphis Theatre Teachers Conference, University at Minnesota, and the Maryland Thespian Conference. Currently, I am pursuing my M.S. in Arts Administration through

Drexel University online. My goal is to one day create, develop and successfully run my own theater company or performing arts facility, serving as a home to a number of performing arts based companies. The appeal of an online program will allow me to continue performing and traveling as a professional regional actor, while still earning my degree.

Adriano Gatto, '06

Held various positions with the NU Players; received Outstanding Theater Student Award, 2006; member of the Orientation Executive Board



After graduating from NU with my BFA in 2005, I stayed in the area and worked for the Niagara Falls State Park's Festival

Theatre, Coop's Spotlight Productions and Buffalo's Studio Arena Theatre. In 2006, my girlfriend, Tanya, and I packed our bags and moved to Las Vegas. Within a few months, I was working for Desert Entertainment, a workforce company contracted by MGM and other corporations to set up and and run events — from big rock shows with Aerosmith and Ozzy Osbourne to business conventions and ridiculously expensive weddings and bar mitzvahs. My experience in NU's department of theater and fine arts prepared me to be able to handle all aspects of the company. I've been a master electrician, audio rigger, moving light programmer, spotlight operator and carpenter — all skills I learned while at NU. I firmly believe that it was because I had so much experience that I was able to quickly get a job in Las Vegas. However, being away most nights and weekends became too much, so I went back to school and am now pursuing my master's degree in technical direction at the University of Nevada at Las Vegas. As I prepare for my second of three years, I will probably build three or four shows and hopefully assistant-teach

an undergraduate class. Tanya and I married last year and are expecting our first child at the end of this year.

Dan Schmidt, '05

Founding member of IDL Minds Productions, an NU student-run community theater project



My training at NU taught me discipline, to always work hard, to accept not getting what I want and to humbly accept when

things go my way. Getting to work at NU Theatre with such esteemed greats as the late Maurice Daniels of The Royal Shakespeare Company for three years was a highlight. Also vivid are the friendships I made, some still very strong after 20 years. I still hold dear the memories of the NU Theatre faculty, staff, crew and students. Right out of college, I got my equity card in a production of "A Flea in Her Ear" at Buffalo's Studio Arena Theater. I also played a producer on "All My Children," and did other soap work on "As the World Turns" and "Guiding Light." I was a member of the Mint Theatre Company, performed off-off-Broadway at the Miranda Theatre and The Turnip, and was cast in independent films including award-winning "Blowfish" and "The Con," to name a few. I plan to continue acting and would like to teach acting on the college level someday. I'm proud to add that I created a rigorous drama elective for seniors at Niagara Wheatfield High School where I teach English.

Diane Di Bernardo, '89

Honors graduate; student volunteer with Niagara University's Community Action Program

Several colleagues (Mike Thompson, Katie Stubbe) and I worked with Chris Santucci, a local film maker, to produce a film called "Bonfire Falls" that is in post production and will be finished by 2010. Film number two is

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Aaron Doolittle with one of his English as a Second Language classes in Korea.

called “Brevity” and we shot it in the summer of 2008. We recently entered this in a Toronto independent film festival. Since graduating from NU, I spent a year teaching English as a Second Language in Seoul and got to travel to Taipei, Beijing and Tokyo. I interviewed at a second school and agreed to work for them provided I have six months off between contracts to free up my summer to produce other features. I expect to keep making films, driving myself into debt and then escaping back to Korea where I can teach, work, travel and save — that is until we get someone to fund the next project.

Aaron Doolittle, '05
Honors graduate



After graduating with a double major in theater and English, I decided to take the long, hard road of academia. I spent 10 months in Ireland earning an M.A. (M. Phil) in Irish Theatre and Film at the Samuel Beckett Center, Trinity College, Dublin. Then, after taking some time off, I entered the doctoral program in the department of drama and dance at Tufts University, where I was given a full tuition scholarship. While there, I did a little acting, dramaturging, teaching and publishing. During the past two years, much of my time was spent working on my dissertation on contemporary Mormon drama (yes, there is such a thing). I defended in March 2009 with my goal of being barefoot and pregnant with a Ph.D. — I had the baby in June! I continue to research and write on contemporary Mormon drama in my home state of Utah and hope to teach at one of the universities in the Salt Lake Valley as soon as the hiring

freezes melt. Looking back to my days at NU, performing was a thrill as was the self-discovery in class. Also, Dr. Sharon Watkinson taught me what it was to be a scholar. She showed me how much more meaningful performance is when the social/historical/political context is revealed. Every play was more engaging after her commentary. I try to bring a similar passion to my work and into my theater history classroom. My acting classes also influenced my performance training at NU. I can't count the number of times the words of the faculty have drifted through my mind while standing in front of my students. And the other training in the program (design, voice, physical theater) provided me with a base from which to work and understand.

Dr. Callie Sadler Oppedisano, '03
Co-president of NU Players, 2002-2003; recipient of the Blessed Frederic Ozanam Community Service Award, 2003; recipient of NU Senior Medal for Academic Achievement, 2003

Doing What They Love

Without a doubt, these students and alumni will continue to pursue their passion for entertainment to the delight of society and the pride of their alma mater. Their need to share their unique vision through acting, writing, directing, designing, producing or teaching holds great promise for us all. Whether they are on stage, working a light or sound board, designing costumes or puppets, making a film, or engaging a classroom of students, they're performing. And they're perpetuating humanity's love for theater. As award-winning Broadway composer Stephen Sondheim observed, “All the best performers bring to their role something more, something different than what the author put on paper. That's what makes theater live. That's why it persists.”



Marilyn Deighton, assistant professor of costume technology, says “hats off” to her stagecraft class. Last spring, students in her class sewed soft hats for adult patients at Buffalo's Roswell Park Cancer Institute. Thirty-five soft hats were created by the students as their final project for the costume section of the course. She said the students loved the idea of creating apparel that would benefit individuals who are battling cancer. Elaine Bower, manager of Roswell's Community Cancer Resource Center, gratefully accepted the donated hats in May and immediately put them on display in the center's boutique where cancer patients are invited to “shop” for free. Deighton plans to have students in her THR 104 stagecraft course make hats each spring for Roswell Park Cancer Institute. Here, the students model the hats they proudly donated to RPCI last spring.

Updates!

Editorial Note: In each issue of the Niagara University Theatre newsletter, we will feature current news from alumni, faculty, staff and students in this column.

David Autovino, '03, played a brother in Buffalo's Irish Classical Theatre Co. production of "Blood Brothers" this fall. He was joined by NU alumni **Cassie Gorniewicz, '08**, and **Adrienne Lewis, '09**. Gorniewicz starred in Arthur Miller's "The Man Who Had All the Luck" at Buffalo's Road Less Traveled Theater this past spring. During the past summer, she stage managed the off-off-Broadway production "Bigger Than i" with the Counting Squares Theatre production group, and she played "Calphurnia" in Buffalo's Shakespeare in Delaware Park production of "Julius Caesar" this past summer.



(Above) This fall, David Autovino, '03, left, in a scene from Buffalo's Irish Classical Theatre production of the musical "Blood Brothers" by Willy Russell. Here he interacts with Steve Copps, who played his twin. Photo by Susan Drozd, '02.

(Right) Cassie Gorniewicz, '08, right, and Adrienne Lewis, '09, left, in Buffalo's Irish Classical Theatre production of "Blood Brothers." Photo by Steven Nassiff.

Theater studies seniors **Sara Ball, Jessica Bill, Kimberly Jarmusz, Matt Kindley, Nick Lama, Hannah Sharp, Steven E. Sitzman**, and **Courtney Weather** will attend the United Professional Theatre Auditions in February to audition for a number of post-graduation positions with theater companies, theme parks and cruise lines.

Emily Clare Boudreau, '09, who is pursuing her master's degree in educational theater at New York University's Steinhardt School of Culture, Education and Human Development, has been cast in a 60-minute touring presentation of William Shakespeare's "A Midsummer Night's Dream." The production tours to schools throughout New York City from November 2009 through April 2010.

Virginia Brannon, '04, directed the docudrama "Twilight" for Buffalo's Subversive Theatre Collective in September. Brannon also directed "Closer" as part of the Buffalo Infringement Festival in July and August. The cast included NU alumnus **Nicholas Cocchetto, '09**.

Joey Bucheker, '09, directed and choreographed "Nonsense 2: The Second Coming" for Lewiston, N.Y.'s Theatre in the Mist, Inc., where he serves as chair of the board of trustees. Among the cast members were NU alumni **Sara Kovacs, '06**, and **Susan Laxton, '08**. Last summer, Bucheker performed in "Biloxi Blues" for a Buffalo's Desiderio's Dinner Theatre and he made a cameo



appearance in the film, "Slime City Massacre." In October, he was in "Sweet Street" at Buffalo's Alleyway Theatre with NU alumna **Greta Bowers, '09**. In the spring, Bucheker will play "Catherine" in the all-male musical, "Silence!" — a parody of "The Silence of the Lambs."

Derek Campbell, adjunct lecturer, directed "The Tempest" at Buffalo's Shakespeare in Delaware Park in June and July. Alumna **Mary Beth Lacki, '09**, was a singer/dancer, along with **Jessica Bill, '10**, and **Devan Corcoran, '11**. **Elexa Kopty, '11**, played "Miranda" and **Nick Lama, '10**, played "Master" and a member of the ensemble. **Terri Filips**, associate professor/choreographer, provided the choreography for the production; **Christopher Ballard, '09**, provided live sound reinforcement and **Will Vaughan, '10**, worked on the stage construction/build crew. Lacki was also a drama instructor for the Niagara Fine Arts Program, Inc. this summer. She was in "Electra" at Buffalo's ALT Theater this fall and will play "Hoyden" in Buffalo's Irish Classical Theatre production of "The Repast" in January.



From left, alumna Mary Beth Lacki, left, and current theater studies students Elexa Kopty, Jessica Bill, Nick Lama and Devan Corcoran enjoyed working with NU associate professor Terri Filips (choreographer) and lecturer Derek Campbell (director) for this summer's production of "The Tempest" at Buffalo's Shakespeare in Delaware Park.

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Updates, continued

This year, several NU theater studies students volunteered to read Halloween stories to children at the Ransomville Library. The readers included: **Annis Celano, '12; Peter Dowling, '12; Steven Foote, '13; Celine Keefe, '13; and Megan Kemple, '13.**

Nicholas Cocchetto, '09, Ralph Donatelli, '09, Will Hicks, '11, Jared Hoyt, '09, Kelly Konecko, '09, and Maura Nolan, '12, all worked as historical reenactors at Fort Niagara in Youngstown, N.Y., this summer.

In Artpark's production of "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat" this past summer in Lewiston, N.Y., **Lou Colaiacovo, '99,** played the role of "Levi," **Paschal Frisina III, '00,** portrayed "Reuben," and **Carolyn Wendel Lansom, '09,** played "Issachar's wife." Wendel Lansom has relocated to Japan, where she hopes to teach English as a second language and "enjoy Kabuki theater." Colaiacovo starred this fall in Buffalo's Irish Classical Theatre production of "Someone Who'll Watch Over Me." From March 3 – April 3, he and alumnus **Mark Sacco, '00,** will star in "Falsettos" for Buffalo's MusicalFare Theatre. Sacco appeared in "Marc with a C," a cabaret performance at Buffalo's BUA Theatre in October. Frisina appeared in "Buddy: The Buddy Holly Story" for Buffalo's MusicalFare Theatre, along with fellow alumni **Adrienne Lewis, '09, Lia Sumerano, '08, and Joe Wiens, '04,** and he was in "Man of LaMancha" at MusicalFare Theatre in Buffalo with alumna **Sheila Connors, '97,** in October and November. Frisina, Wiens and alumni **Kevin Craig, '08, Nicholas Cocchetto, '09, Kurt Erb, '09,** and former NU student **Tom Zindle** all starred in Buffalo's Kavinoky Theatre production of "A Few Good Men" in October. Erb was also in Buffalo's BUA Theater production of

the comedy, "Texas Homos," in November and December. In October, Wiens participated in a new play workshop reading of "Pound for Pound" at Buffalo's Road Less Traveled Productions.

Marilyn Deighton, assistant professor of costume technology, was awarded the "Lary Award" at the Suncoast Theatre Awards Banquet held in St. Petersburg, Fla., in October. She won the award for "Favorite Costume Design" for the City Player's production of "Once Upon a Mattress" which was produced this past July. During her summer break, Deighton traveled to Florida to design the show's array of colorful medieval costumes. The nominations for the award were sent in from over 30 community theaters in the Tampa Bay area and the winners were voted on by the Suncoast Theatre Grapevine Newsletter subscribers. Deighton, a former resident of Florida, has won this award three other times and has been nominated for the award numerous times in the past. The award is named after Lary Cruz, founder of the Grapevine Newsletter.

Terri Filips, assistant professor, dance, is now the Assessment Committee chair for Niagara University. She has served on the university's Senate in the past.

Carmen Ruby Floyd, '00, starred in "Blind Lemon Blues" this fall for

the York Theatre Co. at the Theatre at St. Peter's in New York City. The production was a tribute to Blind Lemon Jefferson, America's best-selling country blues singer of the 1920s.

M. Joseph Fratello, '07, recently won the trip of a lifetime. He entered an online contest and was one of 25 people to enjoy a cruise this fall to the Galapagos Islands with Alex Trebek, host of the television game show, "Jeopardy." Fratello's was one of 2.2 million entries for the cruise which celebrated the show's 25th anniversary. He is currently a team leader for Dial America and is pursuing a master's degree in history.

Tarrah Hirsch, '04, an associate producer with RWS and Associates Entertainment, Inc. of New York, reports that she and the "amazing team of people" she has been fortunate to work with have recently received a 2009 EMMY® Award for one of their theatrical events, "Macy's Stars on Broadway," a live television production designed to transport viewers to the heart of Times Square through song, dance and fashion. The event was produced in conjunction with CBS Television and showcased the excitement of the Broadway stage and the glamour of Macy's fashion. Hirsch was lead producer on the event and received a plaque for her contributions to the event.



The 2009-2010 Niagara University Repertory Theatre enjoyed a busy summer appearing at area daycares, YMCAs, parks and the Castellani Art Museum's kids 'n arts camp. Front row from left, Joe Liolos, '11, and Devan Corcoran, '11. Middle row from left, Jessica Bill, '10; Sara Ball, '10; Brittany Gabryel, '11; and Peter Dowling, '12. Back row from left, Primo Thomas, '12, and Nick Lama, '10, stage manager. JennaBeth Stockman, '09, served as director for N.U.R.T. this summer.

Amber Dawn Hohman, '09, worked in Pennsylvania this summer as the assistant stage manager for "The Belle of Amherst" for The Next Stage, and she also worked on a movie called "Second Chances" for Spence TF Productions as gaffer and make-up assistant. She was production stage manager for Lewiston, N.Y.'s Theatre in the Mist, Inc., production of "Nunsense 2" this fall and she is pursuing her master's degree in elementary education at Niagara University.

Candice Kogut, '08, played "Electra" in an all-female version of the Greek tragedy at Buffalo's ALT Theatre in the fall. In July she was in "The Hairy Ape" presented by the Subversive Theatre for Buffalo's Infringement Festival. This fall, she was cast in "The Rocky Horror Show" for Buffalo's ALT Theatre.

Lisa LeCuyer, '08, starred in "Seven Brides for Seven Brothers" in Colorado during the past spring. In the summer, she was "Ado Annie" in "OKLAHOMA!" in Cincinnati for the KNOW Theatre. Following this production, she worked as "Ruth" and the understudy for "Millie" and "Miss Dorothy" for the musical "Thoroughly Modern Millie" in Wytheville, Va. until the end of October. From November through January, she is understudying "Esther" in Prather Entertainment's production of "Meet Me in St. Louis" and from January through March, she will play "Molly Brown" in the company's production of "The Unsinkable Molly Brown" at the Broadway Palm West Theatre in Mesa, Ariz. From March through May, LeCuyer will be performing in "Meet Me in St. Louis" in Lancaster, Pa. She reports, "It's been a very exciting time since graduation, and I can't wait for the next adventure."

Shannon Keating Lindsay, '97, reports that her company, "Shannonigans Theatre Workshop," is doing very well. Registrations are going well and the interest is "incredible." She has also accepted the position of

artistic director for Curtain Call Youth Players of Marietta, Ga. She directed "Aladdin" for Curtain Call last spring and was impressed by this organization's professionalism, commitment to education, and the quality of its productions. She is responsible for selecting the shows for the season, hiring all production staff and implementing new programs.

David Lundy and Tom Zindle, former NU theater studies students, and alumnus **Joseph Wiens, '04**, starred in Aaron Sorkin's "The Farnsworth Invention" at Buffalo's Kavinoky Theatre this past spring.

In October, **Sarielys Matos, '04**, participated in Buffalo's BUA Theater's staged reading of the 2003 Pulitzer Prize winning play, "Anna in the Tropics," by Nilo Cruz. The production was presented in celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month.

Christopher Montpetit, '87, is the new assistant professor of theater management with the University of Alabama. He is teaching and heading up the university's MFA program in theater management.

Ryan Murphy, '04, is the assistant production manager for Troika Entertainment, which produces multimillion dollar national and international tours of a variety of musicals, including current equity tours of "Fiddler on the Roof" and "101 Dalmations" as well as an array of nonequity national tours. Murphy is working on several productions, including Twyla Tharp's new production, "Come Fly with Me," which premiered at Atlanta's Alliance Theatre this fall. Murphy has also had success as a performer and fight choreographer. He was a principle understudy on Michael John LaChuisa's new show, "Giant" for the Signature Theatre of Arlington, Va. He did the fight choreography for "Broadway: Three Generations" at the Kennedy Center and last year he sang in a benefit for the "Living Room Fund for New Music" which received a glowing review on NPR.

Earlier this year, **Brendan Powers, '96**, directed the American premiere of the Canadian comedy, "Real Estate" at Flat Rock Playhouse in North Carolina and performed there in "Around the World in 80 Days." This fall, he returned to Florida Repertory Theatre in Fort Myers, Fla., to perform in "Boeing-Boeing," "Dial M for Murder," and "Opus."

Gregory Prugel, '04, reports that he has been consistently performing since graduation, with only a two-month break in early 2009. He just finished a season that included "HAIR" at the Tibbits Opera House.

Michele Ragusa, '87, just finished playing the witch in "Into the Woods" at the Kansas City Repertory Theatre. She is home for the holidays this December, performing in Christmas concerts with the Buffalo Philharmonic.

Michele Marie Roberts (Benzin) '99, participated in a staged reading of "The Women" by Clare Booth Luce for Buffalo United Artists in July.

Following his graduation from NU two years ago, **David Ryan, '07**, directed N.U.R.T. for his fourth year as part of the troupe. He then worked in Greenville, S.C., as an actor for the Warehouse Theatre. He also served as assistant director of their production of "Cloud 9." Next was a stint in Colorado understudying "Curly" in "OKLAHOMA!" and performing the role of "Slim." Currently he works at Playhouse on the Square in Memphis, Tenn., as an associate company member. This year he appeared in "A Year with Frog and Toad" (Frog), "Altar Boyz" (Matthew), "Into the Woods" (Rapunzel's Prince), "Rent" (Mark Cohen), "The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee" (Leaf), "Musical Comedy Murders of the 1940s" (Patrick O'Reilly), "Narnia" (Tumnus), "The Miracle Worker" (James) and "The Light in the Piazza" (ensemble).

Continued on next page

Lauren Sale, '06, toured Illinois with The Little Theatre on the Square earlier this year and served as a teacher and as an actor, performing in "The Earth Protectors." During the summer she was a director at Camp Echo Lake in the Adirondack Mountains. She is now back in Chicago, auditioning and teaching with Character Kids, a firm that provides theater and drama classes through enrichment programs to schools whose arts funding has been cut or reduced.

JennaBeth Stockman, '09, played the role of Sharpay Evans in the cast of the Niagara Fine Arts Program, Inc., production of "Disney High School Musical!" in July at Niagara Falls High School. She was joined by **Casey Moyer, '11**, who played Ms. Darbus. The production was directed by **Maureen Pusateri, '00**, and costumes were designed by **Melissa Seifert, '01**.

Katie Swimm, '06, is an education coordinator at a nonprofit in Chicago that accredits medical education groups to conduct continuing medical education courses. She notes, "It's interesting work, and pays the bills while I am still actively pursuing acting and theater." She was recently in a production of "The Robber Bridegroom" that was nominated for a Jeff Award. She has also done several readings and workshops and plans to apply to graduate school this winter for an MFA.

Brother Augustine Towey, C.M., Ph.D., director emeritus of Niagara University Theatre, was the keynote speaker at the June 24 – 27, 2009, Western Regional Conference of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul in Everett, Wash. His address was entitled "St. Vincent de Paul Looks at Bernini's 'Saint Theresa in Ecstasy.'" He also conducted a workshop on "Poetry and the Spirituality of the Incarnation."

Steve Vaughan, artist-in-residence and stage combat teacher, directed



"Julius Caesar" for Buffalo's Shakespeare in Delaware Park from July 23 – Aug. 16. **Doug Zschiegner**, associate director of Niagara University Theatre, played the role of "Brutus," while former NU Theatre adjunct acting professor **Lawrence Gregory Smith** played "Casca." The following alumni were also involved in the production: **Kevin Craig, '08** (Lucius), **Diane Di Bernardo, '89** (Portia), **Kurt Erb, '09** (Octavius), **Adriano Gatto, '06** (Antony), **Cassie Gorniewicz, '08** (Calphurnia) and **Christopher Ballard, '09** (crew). NU students **Annise N. Celano, '12** (female ensemble), **Justin Mitchell Krall, '11** (Strato) and **Will Vaughan, '10** (crew) also played roles in the production. Steve Vaughan reports that theater studies students **Devan Corcoran, '11**, **Maria Nicole Held, '11**, and **Cory McCants, '11**, are volunteering to work with him in April when he provides stage combat direction for Buffalo's School for the Deaf production of "Beauty and the Beast." The three NU students are all trained in American Sign Language and look forward to this community service activity. Zschiegner will direct the medical drama "Secret Order" by Bob Clyman for Buffalo's Kavinoky Theatre in the spring. The production will be on stage from March 5–April 3.

NU Theatre was well represented at the production of "Julius Caesar" at Buffalo's Shakespeare in Delaware Park this summer. The classic drama, directed by NU artist-in-residence Steve Vaughan, showcased a number of Niagara University faculty, alumni and students. Back row from left, former adjunct professor Lawrence Gregory Smith, Justin Mitchell Krall, Annise Celano, Kurt Erb, and Christopher Ballard. Front row from left Kevin Craig, Diane DeBernardo, Cassie Gorniewicz, Doug Zschiegner, and Adriano Gatto.

Nicole Wood, '04, reports that over the past five years, she has stage managed 22 productions across Long Island. For the past three years, Wood has been stage managing for Hofstra Entertainment at Hofstra University and recently worked on a production of "42nd Street" at Hofstra with Broadway veteran actress turned director/choreographer Amy Dolan. Wood's acting credits include ensemble for "Reefer Madness," "Anything Goes" and "Beauty and the Beast." She also appeared as Magenta in "The Rocky Horror Show."


Congratulations are in order!

Alumnus **Jim DeVivo, '99**, and his wife, Bridget, are delighted to announce the birth of their son, Maxwell James DeVivo, on Sept. 11, 2009.

Sarah Neffke, '05, wed Robert Hull II on June 13, 2009, at the Zion Lutheran Church of Niagara Falls.

Maureen Pusateri, '00, and her husband, Patrick Kuciewski, celebrated the birth of their daughter, Isabella Clare Kuciewski, on July 18, 2009.

Callie Sadler Oppedisano, '03, and her husband, Joseph Patrick, celebrated the birth of their son, Joseph Patrick Jr., on June 9, 2009.

Laura Zachary, '04, and **Justin Dimieri, '03**, are engaged to be married in 2010. 

In the Spotlight: “tick...tick...BOOM!”



This fall, Gregory Fletcher, director of Niagara University Theatre, directed Jonathan Larson's musical, "tick...tick...BOOM!" at the Church in Lewiston.

Top photo:

From left, nine of the production's 12 cast members: Leanne Troutman, '12, Hannah Sharp, '10, Chelsey M. Zimmerman, '12, Andrea Gollhardt, '12, Nick Lama, '10, Sean D. Fleming, '13, Alan A. Trinca, '13, David Sychalski, '13, and Ross Donatelli, '11.

Center photo:

This scene from "tick...tick...BOOM!" features, from left: Nick Lama, '10, Steven E. Sitzman, '10, Alan Trinca, '13, Sean D. Fleming, '13, Andrea Gollhardt, '12, Courtney Weather, '10, Hannah Sharp, '10, and Chelsey Zimmerman, '12.

Bottom photo:

This scene from "tick...tick...BOOM!" features, from left, Steven E. Sitzman, '10, Nick Lama, '10 and Courtney Weather, '10.



“She Stoops to Conquer”

NU Theatre presented President George Washington's favorite comedy, “She Stoops to Conquer” by Oliver Goldsmith, in December. The rollicking period comedy was directed by Doug Zschiegner, associate director of Niagara University Theatre.

Photo below: In this scene, several of the cast members share a hearty laugh. From left, Joe Liolos, '11, Matt Kindley, '10, Will Hicks, '11, Sara Ball, '10, Meagan Kurilovitch, '12, Michael Wachowiak, '13, and Eric M. Walsh, '10.



Photo above: Seated at the table, from left, Joe Liolos, '11 and Will Hicks, '11. Back row from left: Erica Miranda Diederich, '12, Matt Kindley, '10, Sara Ball, '10, Meagan Kurilovitch, '12, Primo Thomas, '12, Michael Wachowiak, '13, Jessica Bill, '10, Justin Mitchell Krall, '11, Eric M. Walsh, '10, and Fabio Del Carlo, '13.