

Career Highlights

Summer 2009

“Career Highlights” lists accomplishments and notes submitted by College of Visual and Performing Arts alumni.

Since many of our alumni have expressed an interest in their specific academic areas and classes, we have reorganized our highlights into the following sections: Art, Design, and Transmedia; Communication and Rhetorical Studies; Drama; Music; and Retail Management and Consumer Studies.

Send your highlights to Susan Tooley, director of alumni relations, at 204 Crouse College, Syracuse University, Syracuse, NY 13244-1010; via e-mail to vpalum@syr.edu; or via our web site at vpa.syr.edu (click on “Get Connected” in the Alumni and Career Resources section to find our form to update your profile).

ART, DESIGN, AND TRANSMEDIA

Max Ginsburg '53 has been busy giving oil painting workshops at the Academie des Beaux-Arts in Laval, Quebec, and exhibiting his anti-war paintings in an exhibition on Albert Einstein's writings on Social Justice at New York University's Bronfman Center.

Aldo Tambellini '54 celebrated his 79th birthday in April with Gerard Malanga for an evening of poetry and a video poetry projection. He is a painter, sculptor, photographer, video artist, filmmaker, and poet who was born in Syracuse. He studied art at the age of 10 at the Passaglia Art Institute. During World War II at age 13, Aldo miraculously survived the air raid that destroyed most of his neighborhood. He returned to the United States in 1946. In the 1960s, Aldo co-founded the Gate Theatre in New York City's Lower East Side, which shows avant-garde and independent films daily. With Otto Piene he co-founded the Black Gate, the first space in New York City for live multi-media (electromedia) performances and installations. He also pioneered in the video art movement in New York City in the 1960s. From 1976-1984, Aldo was a fellow at the Center for Advanced Visual Studies at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Anthony Dunn '70 is a magician, technical illustrator, and graphic designer at Magic Publications. He was featured on the cover and interior of the May 2009 issue of *The Linking Ring Magazine*, the world's largest circulation magic magazine.

Jane Steurwald '73 G'81 is a full professor in the media arts department of New Jersey City University and has been its chair for 17 years. She teaches media production, theory, and aesthetics. Jane is also the coordinator/curator of Urban Image, a collective of media artists based in her department at New Jersey City University, and the curator of the Womenswork Media Collective in Jersey City. She was chosen for inclusion in the fall 2005 edition of *Who's Who in American Colleges and Universities in the U.S.*

Sharon Thompson '82 is a commercial producer at WPGH/WPMY Sinclair Broadcast in Pittsburgh. She began her career in 1983 as an art director in Pittsburgh with several different ad agencies and began working at WPGH last year. She has produced/directed a three-hour telethon for the Children's Institute, won a regional Addy for a television commercial for Foodland, and was included in Illustrators Annual in 1986.

Jane Giamporcaro Taylor G'83 is a mural artist and adjunct professor at SUNY Institute of Technology in Utica, N.Y. She has received the Scotty Thornton Award and is a member of the Sumi-e (Asian brush art) Society of America.

Michael J. Ancillotti '85 is principal and executive vice president of account services at Latorra, Paul & McCann Advertising in Syracuse, where his expertise in a variety of industries and markets has resulted in numerous awards for local, regional, national and international campaigns. He was named an outstanding alumnus by Onondaga Community College (OCC) and was inducted with four others as 2009 Alumni Faces Honorees in award ceremonies held at the college in May. He also serves on a number of community and industry boards.

Steven Makransky '87 is the owner of the Las Vegas company worn[BUT NOT]forgotten, which creates vintage sports art. Cities, teams, and colleges are featured with an "old school" look and feel. Steve's original photographs that harken back to the glory days of sports hang nationwide in sports bars, restaurants, and galleries. To view his online gallery, visit www.wbnf.net.

Tom Fleming '88 has gained international recognition as a comic book/fantasy artist and has been nominated three times for the prestigious Chesley Award for fantasy art. He has worked on movies with Jodie Foster, Val Kilmer, Adam Goldberg, and more, along with television work for NBC's *Surface* and *Life*. In September his art book *Draw & Paint Fantasy Females* will be released by British publisher David & Charles.

Debra Lee Deas '89 is an assistant professor of computer graphics at the Fashion Institute of Technology in New York City.

Nancy Kramer '92 is a professor of art at Cayuga Community College in Auburn, N.Y., and is coordinator of its A.S. degree program in studio art and design.

Natalie Jacobs '94 is president and co-founder of Platypus Strategic Creative, Inc. in Austin, Texas, which deals with brand strategy and positioning as it relates to brand identity, packaging development, and environment brand presence. Ceradini design, desgrippes gobé and associates, and Revlon are just some of her awards received.

Peter Allen '95 is an illustrator and graphic artist for such publications as *Central New York* magazine, *Healthy CNY*, and the *Post-Standard* and also designs web graphics for www.syracuse.com. He also plays bass in Media Mayhem, the company band.

Amy Chato Conlon '95 is president/owner of Alaya Rugs, Inc. in New York City. Alaya Rugs was founded in 2005 with the vision of providing custom-designed, hand-knotted Tibetan area rugs that have been crafted using traditional techniques with a modern approach to design.

Mary Beth Monterosso '99 has been a graphic artist with the American Fashion Network since 2000. She designs screen prints, embroideries, and other embellishments for the garments. She became art director in 2006 and works closely with many fashion designers. The American Fashion Network is a global organization with production sites in the Dominican Republic, Hong Kong, and Singapore.

Faye Yavarow '02 is a graphic design teacher in Lowell, Mass., and a member of the Communications Academy teaching team. She became engaged to Sean O'Leary in May.

Brian Hughes G'04 is making international news. A segment from the rough cut of his documentary film *The Word and the Warriors* was broadcast on the international news network Al JazeeraEnglish. For more information, visit wordandwarriors.blogspot.com/.

Kristina Foley '05 is working in Florence, Italy, as an editor for an online marketing company during the day while still making art and selling hand-felted accessories. Next summer she will do an assistantship with a felting school/store in Germany, wollknoll.de. Check out her fiber work at www.flickr.com/photos/kristinafoley/.

COMMUNICATION AND RHETORICAL STUDIES

Susan Smitman '59 was a head producer of television productions of several national ad agencies early in her career. She then moved on to become director for a television commercial production company in New York City and Los Angeles, president/executive producer of a television commercial production company in Santa Monica, Calif., and a freelance producer. She is now doing commercials, documentaries, and music videos and is a recipient of Clio and Cannes Lions.

Chanel Roehner '08 is a professional softball player for the Netherlands and assistant manager at Enterprise Rent-a-Car in Simi Valley, Calif.

DRAMA

Amy Lyndon '82 had *Award Winning* win its fifth win out of eight official selections with the Outstanding Achievement Award for Best Ensemble at the Gone with the Wind Festival hosted by Iris International in Los Angeles.

Sam Lloyd '85, George Miserlis '85, and Paul F. Perry '89 starred in *Scrubs*.

Tom Everett Scott '92 portrays Detective Russell Clarke in NBC's new drama series *Southland*. Scott's television credits include roles on such series as *Law & Order*, *Cashmere Mafia*, *Philly*, *The Street*, and *Grace Under Fire*.

Doug Shapiro '92 was a backup singer for the 23rd Annual Easter Bonnet Competition benefit with Liza Minnelli; voiced several sound/image projects for the students of FOD Susan Zizza at New York University; was brought in again by the New York University Graduate Musical Theatre Writing Program to workshop Brandon James Gwinn and Dan Marshall's *The Happy Prince*, a one-act musical based on Oscar Wilde's story of the same name and other material; and is playing the Bishop of Basingstoke in a benefit for The New York Society for Ethical Culture, *Jekyll & Hyde in Concert*. Doug was also a guest performer for a mostly teen cast in *The Music of Hope* and sang the works of Hyeyoung Kim, Michael Cooper, Brett Macias, and Caroline Murphy for the fifth NEO concert, which celebrates new, emerging, and outstanding writing talent in musical theater. Find more about Doug at www.dougshapiro.com.

Jay Harrington III '93 stars in *Better Off Ted* on ABC.

Paul James '03 portrays Calvin on ABC's *Greek*. He has appeared in on television in *Without a Trace*, *Cold Case*, and *Twenty Questions*.

Eric Miller '03 was featured on ABC's *The Unusuals*.

Cait Doyle '05 recently won a MAC award for Best Female Debut for her show *Hot Mess In Manhattan*.

Nick Fondulis '05 can be seen in a recurring role on NBC's *Kings*.

Sharone Sayegh '06 is appearing on Broadway in *Mamma Mia*.

Brody Hessin '09 is appearing in *Crazy For You* directed by Alan Souza at a theater on Long Island, N.Y.

Brianna Larson '09 and **Caitlin Westfall '09** read for the lead in the film version of *Footloose* directed by Kenny Ortega. This was a direct result of working with David Capp in the Tepper Semester. He is casting the film and **Lauren Port '08** is working as an associate casting director on the project.

(Christopher) Patrick Murney '09 got a role in *White Noise*, the Broadway show written by **Matte O'Brien '04** that will be playing in New Orleans for the summer before a planned September opening in New York City.

Lauren Nolan '09 is attending the O'Niell Theatre Conference this summer.

Tinuke Oyefule '09 recently auditioned and was accepted for the Dorothy Haas Acting Apprenticeship at the Walnut Street Theater in Philadelphia.

MUSIC

Joyce DiCamillo '71 has recorded five CDs with her jazz trio and continues to perform internationally, present master classes in high schools and colleges across the country. She has performed at such venues as the Kennedy Center, Guinness Jazz Festival (Cork, Ireland), Andria (Italy) Jazz Festival, and the Syracuse Jazz Festival. She has toured in the United Kingdom and was featured on Marian McPartland's NPR program, *Piano Jazz*, and performed with such legends as James Moody, Phil Woods, and Marvin Stamm, to name but a few. She toured as pianist for recording artist Donna Summer in the early 90s, prior to the start of her recording career.

Dustin Kreidler '99 is Raiser's Edge 7 database manager for a non-profit Jesuit high school in New York City. He was cross-promoted from assistant systems administrator in the school's tech office.

Michael Hernandez '06 plays soprano sax in the Mana Quartet, which followed up its win in the 2007 National MTNA Chamber Music Competition by winning the 2009 Coleman Chamber Ensemble Competition Grand Prize. This is the first time a saxophone quartet has won the prestigious Coleman; read more at www.manaquartet.com/Welcome.html. Mike has also completed his coursework for the D.M.A. degree at Florida State and will be moving to the Phoenix area with his quartet.