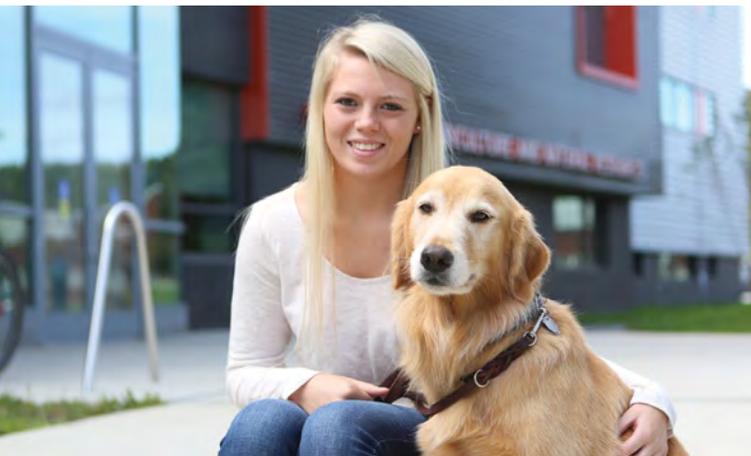


SUNY COBLESKILL MAGAZINE

November 2015 | Published for Friends, Family and Alumni



INFINITE
POSSIBILITIES
BEGIN HERE



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



I am highly honored to have been named President of SUNY Cobleskill on the eve of its Centennial. There is much to celebrate.

Over the past 100 years, the College's growth in size and reputation has been remarkable. This is directly attributable, I believe, to the spirit of innovation that has long been a hallmark of SUNY Cobleskill.

Even in my first few months on campus I've been able to feel

the heartbeat of this fine institution, the pulse of unstoppable evolution that is taking place in our capabilities and our technologies. Whether in the field of agricultural study and practice, or in the broad arena of the liberal arts, SUNY Cobleskill strives always to be at the forefront of academic innovation.

Take for instance our ahead-of-the-curve embrace of GPS guidance in the operation of heavy farm equipment. Or the many ways in which "virtual collaboration" can be put to use by those in the humanities to teach, learn from, and work with students and faculty around the globe.

The thread running through all of this dynamism is SUNY Cobleskill's long-standing commitment to applied learning, to the idea of giving students the sort of education that can only be had by experiencing life and work outside the classroom. As a result, our graduates leave here amply equipped to get things done in the wider world.

By way of illustration, the profiles found in the pages that follow are clear examples of how SUNY Cobleskill helps people grow and change as individuals, and, in many cases, graduate with interests and skills they had never envisioned for themselves before arriving here.

It is all of a piece. It is all about growth, comfort with change, commitment to innovation, and confidence in our collective ability to contribute in real ways to the real world.

I am profoundly happy to be a part of it.

Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marion Terenzio, PhD".

Marion Terenzio, PhD

President

SUNY Cobleskill

REAL LIFE.
REAL LEARNING.

SUNY Cobleskill Magazine

SUNY Cobleskill Magazine is published twice a year for alumni, parents, faculty, staff and friends of SUNY Cobleskill.

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COVER

Infinite Possibilities Begin Here

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Santino Aniek ('14), whose long journey has taken him from Sudan to New Hampshire...by way of Cobleskill.

Beginning in the 1970's, and for decades afterward, South Sudan was hell on earth. A civil war raged, resulting in more than two million people killed and two million more displaced. Santino Aniek was born into this crucible – and miraculously escaped.

"I was very young, and I was separated from my family in the confusion of an attack by government soldiers," he says. "I found myself following some other people from my village toward the Ethiopian border, travelling at night, subsisting on wild fruits and leaves, and drinking pond water. It took six months to reach Ethiopia, where we were received by the U.N. Commissioner for Refugees. They separated the unaccompanied minors from the rest of the group, and it was then I realized that I was completely alone."

Over the years that followed, Santino was shuttled briefly back through Sudan, then to Egypt. When he reached the age of 18, he was deemed competent to chart his own future, and, at the suggestion of a relocation advisor, he chose to emigrate to Utica, New York.

While knowing very little English upon his arrival, he soon enrolled at Mohawk Valley Community College. "I struggled a lot with the language," Santino says, "and I largely relied on English-to-Arabic translation material to get through my studies." Nevertheless, he completed two years at Mohawk Valley, taking courses that he thought would begin paving his way toward medical school.

But then the realization struck him that Sudan, while sitting on great mineral resources, had constant struggles trying to maintain food production, and that perhaps those problems could be best solved through

education. "Agriculture is a very big deal there," says Santino, "because it has always yielded so little. I realized that I could maybe help do something about that. So I decided to begin studying agriculture, and that made coming to SUNY Cobleskill a logical decision."

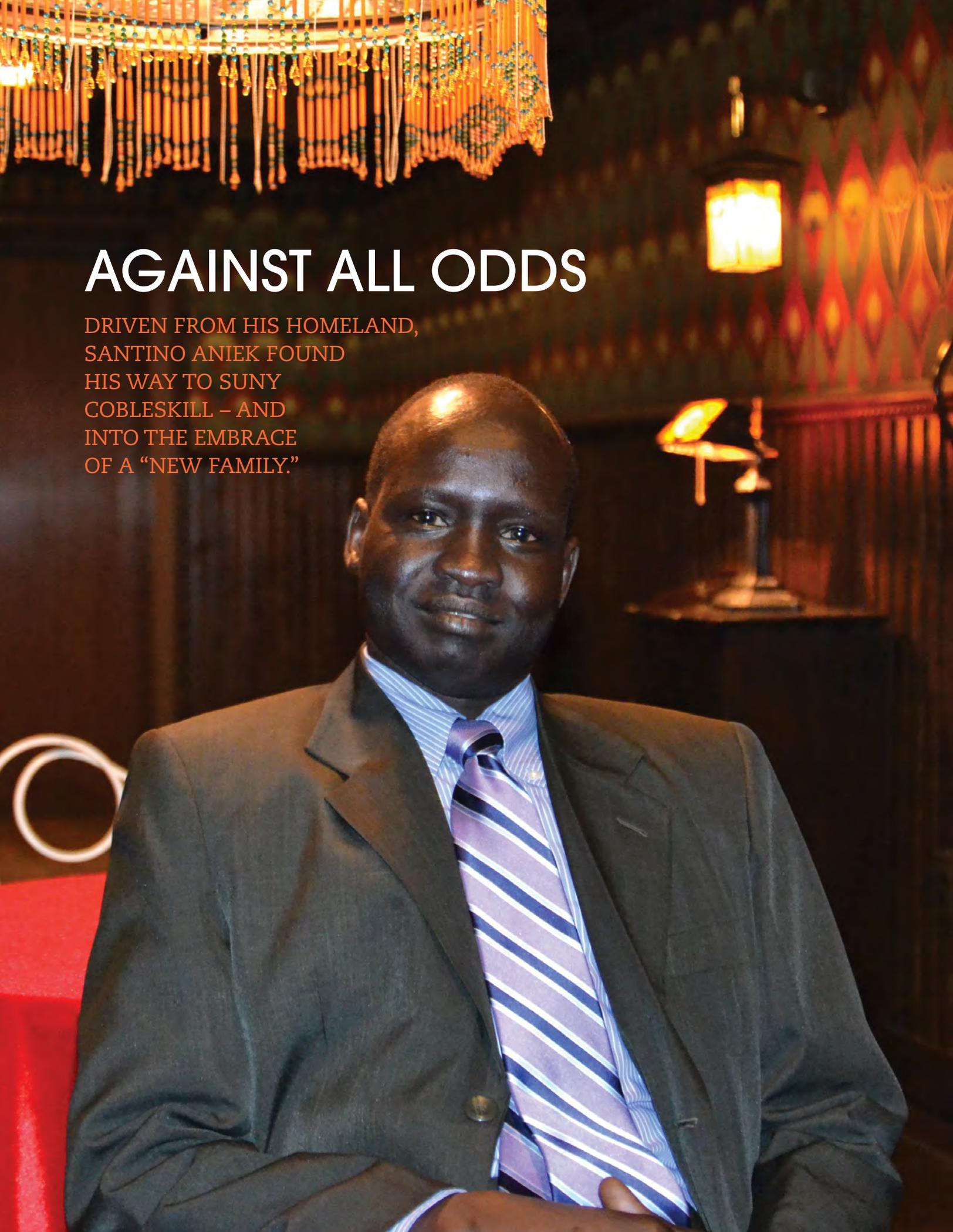
Two years later, in 2014, Santino graduated from the College with a bachelor's degree in Agricultural Business Management. "I still struggled a bit with English," he notes, "but, thankfully, by the time I graduated, I'd become much more proficient in the language." It was, in other words, yet another obstacle he had managed to overcome.

But SUNY Cobleskill gave Santino a great deal more than simply a fine education. "The students and professors became my family," he says. "The campus became my home, and I loved it. I was very sorry that SUNY Cobleskill didn't have a graduate school. I would have stayed there as long as possible."

But graduate school – and, ultimately, a career in public administration – were now firmly in his plans, and today Santino is in his second term at the University of Southern New Hampshire in Manchester.

As to his ultimate goal Santino says, "I want to refine my leadership and management skills so I can help bring change to parts of the world where public systems, from agriculture to infrastructure, are crippled by corruption and lack of vision. I know the fight for accountability and proper governance in places like Sudan will take generations to win. But it will never be won without people who can bring their education to bear on the situation. I want to be one of those people."

"The campus became my home, and I loved it."



AGAINST ALL ODDS

DRIVEN FROM HIS HOMETLAND,
SANTINO ANIEK FOUND
HIS WAY TO SUNY
COBLESKILL – AND
INTO THE EMBRACE
OF A “NEW FAMILY.”

GOING WITH THE FLOW

IF ALL THE STOPS ALONG LINDA ELLIGOTT'S CAREER PATH HAVE HAD ONE THING IN COMMON, IT'S THAT A RIVER'S RUN THROUGH THEM.



“It probably all started,” says Linda A. Elligott, “when I discovered that I really, really hated dissecting things – and also that scalpels kind of scare me.”

And so it was that Linda, who came to Cobleskill in 1973 to major in Science Lab Technology with a focus on general biology, found that a better (not to mention less perturbing) area of study for her was fish and wildlife biology – and more specifically, stream sampling.

“I had always enjoyed the outdoors, and now here I was, excited with the idea of doing fieldwork and with Cobleskill Creek running virtually right outside my dorm window,” she says. “I stepped into the water, and that was pretty much that. The die was cast.”

SUNY Cobleskill was, at that time, a two-year college, and Linda graduated in 1975 with an A.A.S. degree in Aquatic Biology. Now what to do with it? “My advisor directed me to the New York State Employment Office,” she explains, “and within a couple of months I

(L) Linda A. Elligott, Senior Environmental Manager at Adams & Nichols Consultants, Inc. in North Port, Florida.

“I stepped into the water, and that was pretty much that. The die was cast.”

received a 180-day appointment as a federal water quality specialist with the upstate New York office of the U.S. Geological Survey. Then, when my six-month appointment expired, I was lucky enough to find a permanent position with the USGS in Jackson, Mississippi.”

Despite having received two federal appointments by the age of 21, Linda soon realized that continued career advancement was going to require advanced academic credentials. She left the USGS and returned to New York, where she received both her bachelor’s degree in Wildlife Biology and a master’s in Environmental Science/Water Resources from Syracuse University.

With two more degrees now in hand, Linda planned to return to employment with the federal government, only to discover that that avenue had closed due to widespread hiring freezes. She soon found a full-time position at Cornell University working with world-renowned professors and wildlife biologists. Her time in Ithaca spanned four years, after which she became a Senior Scientist at an environmental consulting firm in Syracuse. “I handled wetlands investigations, risk assessment and toxicology studies, and worked on the preservation of endangered species,” Linda says.

“Then after a few years I decided to go back and work for governments again, including another stint with USGS and subsequently for the State of Florida.”

It is in Florida where Linda lives today and works as a Senior Environmental Manager at the Sarasota County office of a prominent ecological consulting company.

“My career has been a winding road from New York to the South...and back again...and back again,” says Linda. “But SUNY Cobleskill has always had a special place in my heart, and I still keep in touch with several people I knew there. Plus I try always to answer the call for financial support.”

Recognized as Distinguished Alumna, A.A.S. SLT Biology, at this year’s Alumni Awards Dinner, Linda says of her alma mater, “It’s a special place, with a different kind of educational philosophy. Students aren’t ‘locked in’ to some field of study that seemed like the right one at first, but that they’ve since lost interest in. Cobleskill, then and now, lets people sort of ‘roam’ academically both within and between disciplines. The results of that freedom can be something you never imagined for yourself. What can I say? It’s the place that helped me begin drawing the map of my life.”



EVER UPWARD

**JEFFREY HEISER
HAS DISCOVERED A
REMARKABLY SIMPLE
STRATEGY FOR
ATTAINING BUSINESS
SUCCESS: DO
EVERYTHING.**

When Jeffrey Heiser graduated from SUNY Cobleskill in 1976, he had his life all planned out: He'd get a job at the water sewage treatment plant in his native Canajoharie, rise through the ranks, get married, buy a house, have kids...perfect.

Except there were no jobs to be had just then; the plant was full up. This left Jeffrey with his new associate degree in Science Lab Technology and, apparently, no good place to use it.

Jeffrey Heiser ('76) is now Vice President of Manufacturing for Beech-Nut.

He was rescued (fittingly enough) by Lifesavers. Then a division of Beech-Nut, Lifesavers had an hourly job opening that consisted of catching grains of sugar in a fiberboard drum. "It wasn't much," Jeffrey recalls, "but it was something. It was what I needed – a start."

After a few months of corralling sugar, he was asked whether, given his science background, he would like to transition to a position in Quality Control. "I said 'sure,' and soon I was on the factory floor auditing processes for the manufacture of Bubble Yum Bubble Gum," he says, "which isn't quite as sophisticated as it sounds. Making gum, it turns out, isn't a real tidy process. But again, okay, I'll do it...what's next?"

Before long, Jeffrey was given a supervisory job in the manufacturing unit, working the third shift with 100 employees reporting to him, all of whom knew more about how things worked than he did. But that job soon opened a very important door.

"I began to have contact with the research-and-development people," he explains, "which really broadened my horizons. Eventually I became part of the team that launched the sugarless version of Bubble Yum. Corporately speaking, it was a big deal."

But it wasn't to last. The Lifesavers division announced that it was moving out of state, and Jeffrey was asked to stay on through the company's staged departure from its Canajoharie factory as a supervisor of sanitation operations, once again on the third shift. When, after a year, the factory doors closed for good, he was fortunate enough to find a position as housekeeping supervisor at Johnstown Hospital.

"I know it may sound like a cliché, but I was learning a lot from being in all these different jobs, in all these

different work environments. I didn't look at any of it as wasted time," he says. "It was just a matter of one opportunity leading to the next."

Before long, however, cruel fate intervened again: The hospital closed when the State of New York determined that the area's in-patient bed-count was too high. Facing unemployment once more, Jeffrey inquired about a job at Beech-Nut on the advice of a friend who worked there. Soon he was working as a supervisor in their packaging department.

In his three decades with the company that have passed since then, Jeffrey's corporate odyssey has taken him through such positions as head of operations for packaging and maintenance, manager of cereal operations and, eventually, plant manager of the entire Beech-Nut facility at Canajoharie. Today he is Vice President of Manufacturing for the Beech-Nut company as a whole.

Jeffrey is also a consistent donor to SUNY Cobleskill. And how does he look back on his school 40 years after graduating? "I got a broad and excellent education there," he says. "I learned a great deal about science and nature. The science part has helped me in business. The nature part exposed me to

things that I share now with my children.

"But maybe most important? I grew up on a farm and had never had much exposure to people from different places with different cultures. At Cobleskill I had to develop people skills, like listening and finding commonalities and having empathy. I've used those skills ever since, everywhere I've been. I really don't think I could have progressed very far without them."

“At Cobleskill I had to develop people skills. I’ve used those skills ever since.”

(R) Barbara Perry ('80), physician assistant, garlic farmer and longtime jazz trumpeter.

Barbara Perry ('80) plays the trumpet. Which probably wouldn't bear mentioning, except that it helped launch her college career – in the wrong direction.

A native of Sharon Springs, Barbara originally decided that music was where her future lay, and upon graduating from high school, she made her way to Ithaca College to pursue it. "I only lasted a couple of weeks," she says. "It just wasn't a fit, it didn't feel right at all. So I came back home and started at SUNY Cobleskill."

In the course of earning her associate degree in Social Sciences, Barbara played basketball on the women's varsity team and – naturally enough – became a member of the jazz ensemble. But when graduation approached, she faced the fact that she really didn't know what to do with her life.

"I sold ice cream," she says, "I worked in a bank. I had some other jobs off and on, but nothing really grabbed me, nothing said, 'Okay, this is it. You've found your career.' So I kept looking, without any preconceptions."

Before long, Barbara came across an opportunity to work at Cobleskill Regional Hospital as an aide in the respiratory therapy department. And there at last she felt the spark. "I found health care quite fascinating," Barbara recalls, "and I decided that this was the area where I wanted to spend my career."

If that career was going to have any longevity, however, Barbara would need more training. And so she pursued and earned her second associate degree, this time in respiratory therapy, through a long-distance correspondence course from the California College for Health Science.

"So now I was at Cobleskill Hospital, armed with my new degree, and I slowly came to realize that while respiratory therapy is interesting, it's a pretty narrow field," she says. Then it struck her that the people on the hospital staff called "physician assistants" were doing impressive things in all sorts of specialty areas.

So back to school she went once more, enrolling in a Physician Assistant Certification program offered jointly by Hudson Valley Community College and Albany Medical College. "I graduated two years later, and now," Barbara notes with a smile, "I had *three* associate degrees."

All along the way, she often drew on encouragement she'd received from a psychology professor at SUNY Cobleskill. Now retired, "Tom Bowes was always a big cheerleader for his students, and I was no exception," she recalls. "He had a way of seeing inside you, seeing what you were capable of. His spirit helped push me along."

Eventually Barbara earned a Bachelor of Science degree from Charter Oaks State College in Connecticut. She found, however, that in order to graduate she would need to take a writing course, something she couldn't do at Charter Oaks. So she proceeded to take such a course – back at SUNY Cobleskill. "It just seemed like the logical place," she says.

Today, some twenty years later, Barbara is still at Cobleskill Regional Hospital (now a part of Bassett Health Services), still happily working as a physician assistant in the department of surgery.

Yet as demanding as her work schedule is, she still finds time to tend a small farm with her husband. The farm's main crop is garlic, which she loves not only for its many uses in cooking but also for its myriad health and medicinal benefits.

And in what little spare time *that* leaves? "I'm at SUNY Cobleskill," she explains. "I still play trumpet in the jazz ensemble, and I also put in a few hours each month as a physician assistant in the athletic departments trainers' office, working with basketball players and other athletes."

Looking back, Barbara says, "The school has always been a kind of a constant for me, a thread that keeps running through my life. And I really don't see that ever changing."

ROOTS

SOMEHOW ALL THE TWISTS AND TURNS OF BARBARA PERRY'S CAREER KEEP BRINGING HER BACK TO WHERE SHE STARTED.





“IT CHANGED ME.”

HOW JEFF KING'S LONG,
SOUL-SEARCHING TREK TO
GEORGIA LED HIM STRAIGHT TO
SUNY COBLESKILL.

“I was born in Connecticut, but I wound up going to high school in Florida,” says Jeff King, “and I became a big-time party animal.”

That’s a distant memory today. Now in his second year at SUNY Cobleskill working on a bachelor degree in Agricultural Business, Jeff’s transformation from partier to serious student began when his mother was diagnosed with breast cancer.

“She had already relocated to the Hudson Valley when the cancer was spotted, and she didn’t have much support up here, so I came north to help her,” Jeff recalls. “I took a few courses at a community college, but that was just to kill time. I didn’t really have any plans for the future.”

Fortunately, Jeff’s mother was treated successfully (and remains cancer-free to this day). But that meant that his role as a caregiver was ending, and he was now free to do...what?

“I’ve always been a voracious reader, and it was right around then that I finished two books that really had an impact on me,” he says. The books – one about a tragic climb of Mt. Everest, the other an account of the author’s experiences on the Appalachian Trail – both dealt with people overcoming obstacles and fighting through challenges. “And it hit me,” says Jeff. “I wanted to do exactly that. I needed to change, to build some real faith in myself.”

And so, in early June of 2013, Jeff set off on foot from Mt. Katahdin, Maine, on his own journey down the Appalachian Trail. “It took me five months to reach the trail’s end at Springer Mountain, Georgia” he says. “I’d walked 2,182 miles, read about 40 books and met some truly incredible people. The folks who live along the trail are a very kind and generous group.”

Perhaps his most indelible experiences, though, came when helping farmers work their fields in return for their hospitality. “It had never really occurred to me where so much of our food comes from,” Jeff explains. “I’d never appreciated the art and science and incredibly hard work involved in keeping an entire country fed.” And with that, he knew what he wanted to do.

Jeff used his laptop computer to search for “agricultural colleges in upstate New York,” and up came SUNY Cobleskill. He applied while on the trail, was accepted, and arrived on campus in the spring of 2014.

And his plans now? “I want to use my education to defend the farmers in this country from the huge economic pressures they face and from the unfair treatment they often get from governments at all level,” Jeff says. “I want to help repay them for the sustenance we receive from their labor every single day.”

NAT TOMPKINS

When he arrived at SUNY Cobleskill, Nat Tompkins' plan was quite simple. "I wanted to major in Agricultural Business with a focus on agricultural education," he says. "Then I'd get a master's and become a high school agricultural teacher."

But along the way, at the suggestion of his academic advisor, Nat took a course in economics. Followed by another...and another. And today, while still an Agricultural Business major, the "education" part of his plans has fallen by the wayside.



"I've now taken classes that range from studying the micro-economics of the individual farm, to food regulation on both the national and international levels," Nat explains. Consequently, his career goal has changed: He now plans to pursue a master's in agricultural and natural resource economics, with an eye to ultimately doing economic research for the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

And research is something he's already had some experience with. "I'm currently working on a research project with one of my professors," he says. "We're studying how stress influences students' food choices and buying habits.

"It's been quite an awesome research opportunity, and the ease with which I've been able to change my career goal – and the academic path that's going to get me there – well, I'm not sure any of that would have been possible somewhere else."

REBECCA BROWER



When Rebecca Brower transferred to SUNY Cobleskill from SUNY Buffalo in 2011, she was ready for a change. "I'd been studying architecture at Buffalo," she says, "but my heart wasn't in it. I was raised a farm girl, and agriculture still had a hold on me."

Rebecca soon became interested in SUNY Cobleskill's Communication in Technology program, and before long she was producing video projects in the school's barns, interviewing agriculture professors and reporting on campus construction projects.

But it was a class in intercultural communications that suddenly expanded her horizons. "I was struck by the idea of using communications technology to advance the study of global food production," Rebecca explains. "And when I spent a semester in South Korea in 2013, all these ideas started to come together."

Upon returning to SUNY Cobleskill, she applied for and received a grant to return to South Korea through the Fulbright Program. Today she lives in a rural town called Uiseong, teaching classes in English and American culture, including – of course – the American way of farming.

"I never imagined myself being a teacher, much less a teacher half way around the world. But here I am, in a rural setting, both educating and being educated," Rebecca says. "I really like where life is taking me."

MICHAEL KAPHAN

RESTAURANTEUR MICHAEL KAPHAN NOT ONLY KNOWS HOW TO PREPARE FOOD, HE KNOWS HOW TO GROW IT.



Michael Kaphan ('15), co-owner of Purdy's Farmer & the Fish restaurant in North Salem, New York.

The "restaurant bug" bit Michael Kaphan early: At just 15 he began bussing tables and doing kitchen prep at places in his Staten Island neighborhood. And he kept working in restaurants as the years went by, including the two he spent at SUNY Albany.

"I majored in history there," Michael says, "which I know seems odd. But even during those two years, I was still cooking. And when I finished at Albany, I was off to culinary school."

He subsequently worked in several New York City restaurants – until, at the age of 32, he simply stopped. "I'd had enough," he says. "I was burning out." Without any concrete plans for the immediate future, he decided to travel, eventually visiting such far-off places as Africa, India and Australia.

Upon returning to the U.S. six months later, Michael decided to study the production and business aspects of agriculture, and he enrolled at SUNY Cobleskill. But the old yen returned, and even in the midst of his part-time college work, he and a friend founded Purdy's Farmer & the Fish, a restaurant in Westchester County, N.Y., which has received critical acclaim from the likes of the *New York Times* ever since opening in 2012.

At this year's Alumni Awards Dinner, Michael was named 2015's Outstanding Student. And looking back now he observes: "What's outstanding about SUNY Cobleskill is that you can immediately put what you've learned to work. I would walk out of class straight into a field and start applying what I'd just been taught. There's absolutely no substitute for that kind of education."

FINDING A VOICE

ANTOINETTE LAWSON NEVER WANTED TO BE A WRITER – UNTIL SOMEONE AT SUNY COBLESKILL MADE HER DO IT.

Antoinette Lawson, founder of the Women With Voices theatre company.



“It’s amazing how a complete coincidence can suddenly change your whole life,” says Antoinette Lawson (’99). In her own case, the coincidence had a backstory that began at SUNY Cobleskill.

Pursuing an associate degree in Liberal Arts and Sciences, she registered for an English Literature course that centered on poetry, something she had always enjoyed. The students were occasionally asked to write some poems, and, says Antoinette, “That was fine with me. I’d done a little poetry writing before, and I thought this could be fun.”

But her professor (since retired) was tough. “He insisted that I also write a short story. He said he’d fail me if I didn’t. I hated the idea, but I had no choice, so I wrote one.” Apparently the professor liked it enough to give her a passing grade – and that seemed to be that.

But a couple of years later, while a student at SUNY Albany working on her bachelor’s degree, Antoinette crossed paths with that same Cobleskill professor on the Albany campus. “I don’t know what he was doing there,” she says, “but he remembered me and asked what I was studying now. I told him sociology and psychology, and he shook his head and said, ‘Too bad. You should be writing.’ Then he walked away. He just walked away.”

The encounter got her thinking. In retrospect, writing her story in English Literature class hadn’t been all

that painful, and apparently she had some talent for it. “I figured, why not? So I started fooling around with some things,” she says.

“And then I wrote a book.”

The book is titled *Ten Sure Signs You Are Not Dating 101*. “It talks about how people’s dating relationships go wrong, and they always blame the other person,” explains Antoinette. “But I think at least half the time, it isn’t the other person’s fault, it’s their own, and they have to look deep inside themselves and examine that.”

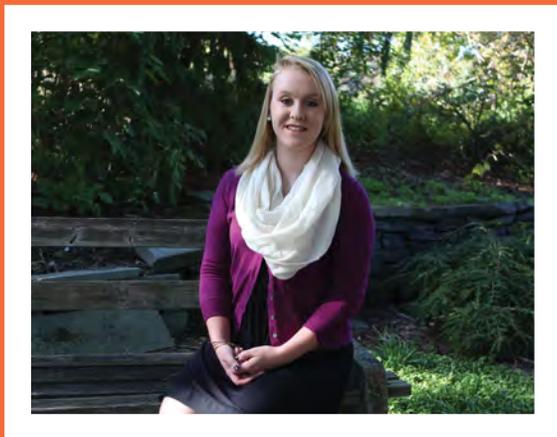
The book met with sufficient success that Antoinette turned it into a play, and the play begat a theatre company, Women With Voices.

Today, Women With Voices is an artistic center in Albany for projects theatrical and otherwise that speak primarily to women’s issues. But even when the subject matter ranges beyond those issues, the same theme often recurs: examining the accountability of *all* the parties to a particular conflict.

“This has become my consuming passion,” says Antoinette. “And it all started because some professor at SUNY Cobleskill made me do something I didn’t want to do. Then out of the blue he bumps into me years later, says a few words, and walks on.

“Maybe that was just by chance, or maybe not. But it changed everything.”

CURRENT STUDENTS ON THEIR WAY



IVY REYNOLDS

Some career choices start early in life. For Ivy Reynolds, the choice began in third grade.

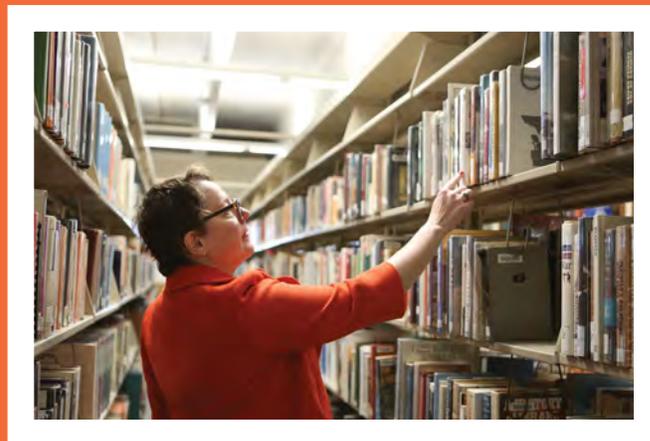
"As a kid I was a big fan of Theodore Roosevelt," she says, "and I eventually memorized all the presidents. Then as I got older, I became more and more fascinated by American government as a whole."

Ivy had long been interested in farming as well, and, as an active member of FFA, applying for admission to SUNY Cobleskill was a natural next step. Ivy will graduate this December with a bachelor's degree in Agricultural Business. And then she will head to...law school.

A disconnect? Not at all. In the summer of 2013, Ivy landed an internship position in the D.C. office of U.S. Congressman Sean Patrick Maloney. Not only did this fuel her long-standing interest in government, it helped her formulate a career plan.

"I want to use my agriculture and my law degrees to get a public policy position in Washington that will let me help shape agricultural legislation," she explains. "That would be very exciting for me."

And something that third-grade Ivy could scarcely have imagined.



PAULA MCCONNELL

When Paula McConnell entered SUNY Cobleskill in 2012, her goal was clear: She wanted to become a cattle farmer. She and her husband already owned a small chicken farm, and expanding that operation seemed only logical.

But fate intervened. "I suddenly found myself facing divorce," she says. "I was losing my home, my farm, my plans. I was devastated."

It was then that a SUNY Cobleskill professor suggested to Paula that she switch her major to Agricultural Business. She did – and discovered that she could bring to bear her earlier experience with small technology projects.

"I became interested in how information communication technology could be used in agricultural development, particularly in poorer countries like Rwanda and Ghana," Paula explains. "It's an emerging field, and I invented an agricultural communication system that has become my life's work."

Today Paula is studying computer programming, economics and math at SUNY Cobleskill. And she can now add another accomplishment to her resume: She has recently been named the College's nominee for a Fulbright Research Fellowship.

"I'm a long way from the farm now," she says. "It's been an amazing adventure."



MOLLY SPENGLER

“Of course, I was going to go to veterinary school,” says current sophomore Molly Spengler. “No doubt in my mind, it was going to be a good fit for me. So that was the plan.”

To that end, Molly enrolled at SUNY Cobleskill in the Animal Science B.S. program with the objective of moving straight into vet school four years later. Yet, sensible a plan as it may have been, it only lasted one semester.

“It didn’t take long for me to realize that, while I would enjoy working with a wide variety of animal species, my undeniable favorites were the canines,” Molly explains. “And I also realized that I didn’t so much want to practice canine medicine as I did to study and work with the animals in other settings.”

As a result, she simply changed her major to Animal Science in the B.T. program, a move that allows her to pursue a canine concentration. “My interests are primarily in the areas of service dog work and on canine reproduction, genetics and nutrition,” she says. “And ever since I made the change in my curriculum, I’ve felt at home. I think it says a lot about SUNY Cobleskill that a person can make those kinds of changes so smoothly. In all respects, I’m definitely in the right place.”



JONATHON DAVIS

How does one go from studying law enforcement to studying landscape design? Ask Jonathon Davis.

A transfer from Finger Lakes Community College with a degree in Natural Resource Conservation: Law Enforcement, Jonathon arrived at SUNY Cobleskill planning to pursue a bachelor degree in wildlife management – and then to join either the conservation police or the Forest Rangers. “But I found myself gradually steering away from law enforcement and into forestry itself,” Jonathon explains.

And the evolution continues. A stint as a park ranger in the Catskills last summer was “awesome,” Jonathon says, but resulted in him rethinking his career plans again. “The Catskill experience got me interested in how forests are shaped and how their ecosystems are managed. And that’s now being refined by a design course that’s opening my eyes to the field of landscape creation.”

Throughout this progression in his interests, Jonathon has found that SUNY Cobleskill has both the breadth of courses and the community of professors he needs to help him keep his career options open. “I’m definitely at the right school,” he says. “The resources here just go on and on.”

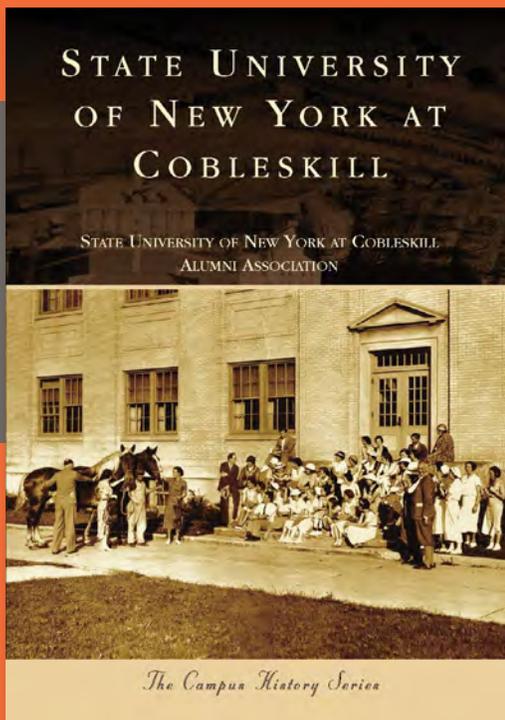


HOMECOMING: AND THE COUNTDOWN BEGINS...

THIS YEAR'S HOMECOMING WAS BOTH A ROUSING WEEKEND FOR ONE AND ALL, AND A FESTIVE RUN-UP TO NEXT YEAR'S CENTENNIAL.

Homecomings at SUNY Cobleskill are always special, and 2015's event more than lived up to that tradition. For two days, alumni, students, faculty and friends gathered to enjoy each other's company, see and hear about what's new on campus, reminisce about days gone by and – of course – to have some serious fun.

This year's honors went to the classes ending in 0's and 5's. Attendees had the chance to meet SUNY Cobleskill's esteemed new president, Dr. Marion Terenzio. Dedications were held for the Hodder Greenhouse and the Jared Van Wagenen Jr. Archive and Special Collections, and recognition was given to the campus' 9/11 Survivor Trees. Sharing the day were alumni awards, a hard-fought soccer game, a chicken BBQ and plenty of music.



A fascinating new account of SUNY Cobleskill's 100-year history, charting its growth from just 10 students in 1916 to an enrollment of nearly 2,500 today – plus a network of talented graduates that extends around the world.

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Above (left to right): Bryan L. Haynes II '07, Young Alumnus Achievement Award; Michael Kaphan '15, Outstanding Student; Linda Elligott '75, Distinguished Alumna, School of Agriculture & Natural Resources; Robert Fasce '87, Outstanding Alumnus; Scott Kelley '85, Distinguished Alumnus, School of Business and Liberal Arts and Sciences

PLAN NOW TO ATTEND OUR CENTENNIAL YEAR HOMECOMING

Of course there was also a great deal of talk about, next year's Centennial Celebration, which is scheduled for the weekend of 9/24/16. Even if you haven't been able to join us for Homecomings in the past, you will most certainly not want to miss this one.

What's more, you can help ensure the Centennial's success in two ways. First, reach out to any of your former classmates who might not otherwise be aware of the celebration. And second, please send us your nominees for the "outstanding achievement" awards that will be bestowed that weekend. We'll be honoring five alumni and installing four athletes into our Athletic Hall of Fame. Simply send the names of your alumni choice(s) to alumni@cobleskill.edu, and your athlete nominee(s) to Kevin McCarthy at mccartk@cobleskill.edu.

And mark your calendars today. Because our Centennial Celebration will most definitely be one for the ages.

AWARDS CEREMONIES OPEN AND CLOSE HOMECOMING CELEBRATION

Among the highlights of our 2015 Homecoming celebration were the induction of four athletes into SUNY Cobleskill's Athletic Hall of Fame on September 25th, and the Alumni Awards Dinner on September 26th that honored five alumni for outstanding professional achievement.

See the captions on the photographs above and below for the names of the honorees and their respective awards. Congratulations, one and all!

Below (left to right): President Terenzio; Peter Shaw '78, Soccer, Wrestling and Baseball; Kane Seamon '14, Cross Country and Track and Field; Robert Taylor, '84, Golf; Michael Schrader '99, Basketball



YOUR SCHOOL'S FUTURE IS CALLING



For this coming year, in celebration of SUNY Cobleskill's Centennial, we're proposing a way to give that is simple, unique – and has tremendous potential.

The fact is, if every SUNY Cobleskill alumnus or alumna were to give his or her graduation year in dollars and cents, we could create the *largest endowment in the school's history*. So, for example, if you graduated in 1983, your gift would be just \$19.83; for 2011, \$20.11...and so on.

THE OPTIONS ARE MANY

Of course, all of the classic means of giving remain available and well worth your consideration. Visit our website for more information and giving is just a click away.

A donation can be "unrestricted" or "restricted" to specific purposes such as scholarships, academic programs or facilities. You can add to an already existing scholarship, or initiate a new one. Endowed scholarships can be established for \$10,000, fulfilled in \$2,000 increments over five years, while annual scholarships can be created with as little as \$1,000 a year.

Giving is easy for New York State employees through automatic payroll deduction. As little as \$3.85 each pay period will donate \$100 to celebrate your alma mater's Centennial. For details on this convenient program, simply contact Lois Goblet at gobletle@cobleskill.edu or call 518-255-5524.

TALK TO THE PEOPLE YOU'RE SUPPORTING

Finally, please know that when you receive a call from SUNY Cobleskill regarding support, the callers are current students. They are not professional fundraisers or third-party canvassers. Rather, these are the young men and women who will directly benefit from your generosity.

So please, pick up the phone when they call, and learn just how much your gift can help.