Hilltop Hall

Opening Fall 2020

First SUNY-wide Zero-Net Energy-Ready Building
The Bridge is published by the State University of New York Polytechnic Institute Alumni Association to keep you informed of campus activities and news.

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Greetings from SUNY Poly,

As SUNY Polytechnic Institute’s Interim President, it is once again my honor and privilege to write to you and share just a few SUNY Poly highlights as part of the fall 2019 publication of The Bridge magazine. It is truly an exciting time at SUNY Poly. Our student body is once again one of the largest in decades, and the institution’s world-class education and research capabilities have positioned SUNY Poly as a global leader in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) fields, and we are proud to provide robust educational pathways in the critical liberal arts fields.

Most recently, SUNY Poly has significantly advanced in the rankings by the prestigious U.S. News & World Report. From 2019 to 2020 SUNY Poly moved up six spots to 12th in the overall Regional Universities–North category. SUNY Poly also advanced to 2nd from 11th for “Best Value Schools,” and from 3rd to 2nd in “Top Public Schools;” SUNY Poly also moved up two spots to 6th for “Best Colleges for Veterans” in the same category. In the meantime, SUNY Poly was ranked by EDsmart as #1 for “Accredited Online Colleges in New York” and ranked 5th nationwide in the “20 Best Affordable Healthcare Administration and Management Online Degree Programs” list compiled by Affordable Schools. In July, SUNY Poly was ranked 20th nationwide in “Best Healthcare Administration” by Study.com.

This recognition is a result of our dedicated faculty and staff and their steadfast focus on providing our students with unique, valuable, and hands-on learning experiences. Put simply, we are proud to provide the fertile ground to drive educational and research opportunities – as well as innovative partnerships with renowned agencies, businesses, and institutions, such as the Air Force Research Laboratory – Information Directorate, IBM, Applied Materials, and GlobalFoundries, in addition to SUNY Upstate Medical University, Mohawk Valley Community College, Herkimer County Community College, Schenectady County Community College, and Albany Law School.

These opportunities we are creating together are making a difference in the SUNY Poly student experience. And we remain focused on further enabling student success by continuing to expand our academic offerings and research activities, as we help to drive the economic growth of our regions – and New York State.

I look forward to seeing our SUNY Poly community continue to create a strong future as we cultivate a dynamic and inclusive environment for each and every one of us who work and study at SUNY Poly, carrying on a strong tradition of preparing students to thrive in the 21st century economy as successful alumni who become invaluable to their communities across New York State – and around the world.

Sincerely,

Dr. Grace Wang
SUNY Poly Interim President
From Balance Sheets to Bustin’ Rhymes

When he’s not using his Bachelor of Science in Accounting degree to crunch numbers for his newly established business, Eric Armitage ’17 can be found dropping beats as a local hip-hop talent whose time at SUNY Poly helped him realize his lifelong dream.

A native of Holland Patent, Eric found his niche in hip-hop after being introduced to late ’90s and early 2000s artists like Eminem, Big L and Nas.

“It's always been one of those things I was really interested in as a kid and it became my go-to hobby in high school,” Eric said. “During college, I ended up taking it more seriously.”

He built a home studio and, with the help of Adobe Audition and YouTube tutorials, began creating his own projects while learning the basics of recording, editing, and producing.

After graduating from Holland Patent High School in 2013, Eric enrolled in Mohawk Valley Community College’s Associate in Applied Science in Accounting program with a dream to turn his passion for music into something he could do for a living.

“I figured it would be a good way to set up a foundation of understanding of business and being able to grasp those types of ideas if I was ever going to take music more seriously, which I did,” he said. “It came in handy.”

Eric transferred to SUNY Poly in 2015 after graduating from MVCC where he met up with childhood friend and Computer and Information Science major Jack Redmond ’17. The pair, who had known each other since fifth grade, soon discovered their passion for hip-hop was mutual.

In 2018, Jack and Eric decided to form a business named after an apartment the pair shared on Baker Avenue in Utica dubbed, “Tha Bakery,” which offers audio recording, engineering, videography, and photography for local artists throughout the Mohawk Valley and Central New York.

They quickly brought on clients including Turning Stone Resort Casino’s Lava Nightclub and hip-hop artist Malik “LeekyXIV” Johnson ’19, another SUNY Poly alumnus and former student athlete whose name pays homage to his jersey number as captain of SUNY Poly Wildcats’ men’s basketball team.

LeekyXIV and Eric, who goes by the artist name “Generic,” performed at F.X. Matt Brewery’s Saranac Thursday showcase in September 2018.

“I was really happy they gave us the opportunity to perform hip-hop music rather than what they usually do and it really was cool to be on the big stage there,” Eric said.

The entrepreneur credits SUNY Poly with giving him the tools and knowledge he needed to work alongside his full-time accounting career to pursue his passion.

“I think the education I got at SUNY Poly was a really good tool that helped me financially understand where I was at through college and what I needed to be doing in terms of starting a business,” he said. “It was necessary to progress forward with everything.”

He encourages faculty, staff, alumni, and local artists to visit thabakerymusic.com to browse the company’s array of services, including video production work and a new clothing line with local artists’ branding.◆

Marcy native Alexandria Dodge ’17, whose well-known voice can be heard throughout the Mohawk Valley as a radio personality for Kiss FM 97.9/105.5 and Bug Country 99.7/101.1 FM, would never have guessed her time at SUNY Poly would lead her to such an exciting career in her hometown.

While a student at Whitesboro High School, Alex attended Oneida-Herkimer-Madison BOCES where she was inducted into the Career and Technical Education Center’s Honor Society in 2013. Students were required to maintain a grade point average of at least 90, earn a high academic average at their high school, and demonstrate excellent attendance.

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Outside the classroom, Alex enjoyed making YouTube videos and began interning and volunteering for KISS FM as a sophomore in high school with one goal in mind after graduation: “I was like, ‘Get me out of my parents’ house,’” she joked.

After graduating in 2013, Alex was determined to find a college and program where she could apply her combined interest in social media, graphic design, video, radio and communications.

“My mom and I had looked into SUNY Poly, but I was dead set on going away,” she said. “I only applied to two other schools.”

She was accepted to both of those other schools, and ultimately decided to attend one of them and not pursue her dreams at SUNY Poly. While SUNY Poly remained in the back of her mind, she spent her freshman year at the other school studying graphic and media design—a decision she later regretted.

She decided to transfer to SUNY Poly before the start of her sophomore year.

“I started producing their show, and I was doing that from 5:30 a.m. until 10 or 11 a.m., and then would go to lacrosse practice and class,” she said.

Shortly before graduation, Alex was also hired to produce a show for their third sister station, Talk 100.7 FM.

“I was still working part time with them until about October and they brought me on full time.”

In August 2018, she began working again for Bug Country 99.7/101.1 FM and now balances all three stations.

“ать wasn’t anticipating getting hired in radio and was just focusing on the graphic design side of things,” Alex said. “I like that I get to do a mix of things at my job – I get to do video editing and graphic design so it’s the best of both worlds.”

Her time at SUNY Poly, she said, allowed her to hone in on experiential learning relevant to her specific interests while making the connections necessary to be where she is today.◆

Kate Rolf
’07, ’08
Health Service Administration, MS, Technology Management, MBA

Working a full-time job with children can keep one busy enough, but for Kate Rolf, staying inside a hectic comfort zone rather than investing in herself to advance her career wasn’t an option.

While working as Executive Director of Home Care Services at Faxton-St. Luke’s Healthcare in Utica in the mid-2000s, Kate decided to pursue a dual program offered by SUNY Poly where one could earn a master’s degree in Health Service Administration and Master of Business Administration in Technology Management.

“SUNY Poly had the ability for me to work and get my degree part time and it was a great way for me to move forward with my career and balance work, life and my family,” she said.

Before graduating in 2007 with her master’s degree and, a year later with an MBA in Technology Management, Kate found that she was able to apply what she had been learning in the classroom to her career.

“Everything was kind of hidden, and I didn’t realize how many concentrations were available,” she said. “That major just had so much variety.”

As a new transfer student to SUNY Poly, Alex soon joined the Wildcat Women’s lacrosse team where she remained a student athlete throughout her senior year. Around this time, she found part-time employment for KISS FM where she had interned as a high school student.

Going into her senior year, Alex began training to be an on-air host during late-night weekend shifts amidst a busy schedule of lacrosse practice and classes.

“I wish I went my freshman year,” she said. “I’m still in debt because of that year.”

After researching SUNY Poly’s programs, Alex enrolled in the Computer and Information Design (CID) B.S. after learning it provides a pathway to multiple careers including graphic design, social media strategy and communication management.

“I’m really proud to be an alumnus and I think anyone else who works through a degree – even if they’re working full time with a family – having the balance and ability to do it and apply what you’re doing to work is a great thing.” ◆
Poly Pantry Helps Nearly 100 Students, Faculty and Staff Overcome Food Insecurity

SUNY Poly celebrated the first step in its fight against food insecurity among students, faculty and staff since the opening of “Poly Pantry” at the start of the spring 2019 semester.

Since January, the campus-based food pantry has provided nearly 100 students, faculty and staff with 3,775 pounds of food and 1,281 pounds of toiletries, according to Auxiliary Services’ Diana DiPrimo who assists in coordinating orders and donations.

The most popular items ordered and fulfilled this semester, DiPrimo said, were laundry detergent, toilet paper, shampoo, crackers, cereal, and granola and snack bars.

SUNY Poly Director of Community Standards and Leadership Development Megan Wyett said the grab-and-go foods provide convenience and nutrition for busy students to stave off hunger and be able to concentrate on coursework.

“It’s a topic that’s becoming a lot more talked about and we are proud to meet the needs of students,” she said. “We make a lot of assumptions like, ‘They couldn’t possibly have food insecurity.’ We just don’t know.”

Aside from focusing on what students need for themselves, Wyett says “Poly Pantry” is happy to provide items other family members may need, like diapers and childcare items.

“I just wanted to let you know how much the pantry means to me and my family,” said one student who was able to be assisted through Poly Pantry. “It literally was like Christmas yesterday coming home, opening the bags and knowing that I would have food for myself and my family.”

SUNY Poly volunteers who helped make “Poly Pantry” a reality are planning for the mission to include more educational programs for students in the future to discuss topics including food budgeting and preparation.

“We want to help students also budget their meals so that it’s not just ‘here’s food,’ but it’s a longer process for them to learn these life skills.”

Donations for “Poly Pantry” have been provided by Walmart Inc., Utica-based Compassion Coalition, Dominion Energy and faculty, staff and students.

“Poly Pantry” is part of an initiative launched by Gov. Andrew Cuomo to help provide SUNY/CUNY students with “stigma-free access” to a food pantry. Nearly 40 percent of SUNY Poly students during the fall 2018 semester were eligible for Federal Pell Grants; eligibility of Pell Grants is based on a household income of $30,000 or less.
In recognition of decades of significant support for SUNY Polytechnic Institute (SUNY Poly), the institution held a ribbon cutting last December, for the new “Hage Family Robotics Lab.” The laboratory, located at SUNY Poly’s new Center for Global Advanced Manufacturing (CGAM), is home to research, development, and educational opportunities based on robotics and automation capabilities that are available to faculty, students, and the community, and will now serve to honor the meaningful impact of the Hage family’s donations, time, and service over nearly a quarter century.

“On behalf of the SUNY Poly Foundation, I am grateful for the generous contributions of the Hage family, who have been steadfast supporters of the hands-on educational opportunities that SUNY Poly students have always received,” said SUNY Poly Foundation Executive Director Andrea LaGatta. “We are thrilled to be able to name this state-of-the-art robotics lab after a family whose impact is helping support SUNY Poly students as they gain highly relevant skills that will help them succeed while strengthening our local, regional, and New York State workforce.”

“Hage & Hage is a longtime leader in technology innovation, and this recognition is a continuation of that tradition,” said J.K. Hage III. “SUNY Poly represents the future of technology in Central New York, and we, as rural New Yorkers, are committed to full participation in the 21st century economy.”

The Hage Family Robotics Lab is located in Donovan Hall on the Utica campus and is home to a number of robotics technologies that enable unique experiential learning opportunities and collaboration. For example, Baxter, a smart, collaborative robot is housed in the lab, aiming to redefine the use of industrial automation in manufacturing environments. Baxter is also currently being used in the research of Dr. Yu Zhou, SUNY Poly Associate Professor of Mechanical Engineering.

“It is hard to summarize the impact that the Hage family has had on the SUNY Poly Foundation because their influence extends across so many areas, including providing financial support for student scholarships, bringing forth innovative ideas for promoting the college and the foundation in the community, and supporting opportunities for students through mentoring programs,” said Anita Brown, SUNY Poly Foundation Chairperson.

The Hage Family Robotics Lab is accessible to any SUNY Poly student who is inspired to pursue a robotics project of his or her own upon completion of a baseline safety test. In addition, the lab supports the institution’s Fabrication Club, as well as FIRST Robotics Team #5030, The Second Mouse, an award-winning FIRST robotics team that has earned a berth to the FIRST robotics world championship in three out of the last five years. The team is comprised of area high school students mentored by SUNY Poly Engineering and Computer Science mentors.

For more information on The Second Mouse, please visit: www.team5030.com; and for more information about CGAM, please visit www.sunypoly.edu/academics/cgam.
SUNY Poly Adjunct Lecturer Bikash Regmi, FNP-BC, was awarded Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo’s Empire Star Public Service Award for his outstanding professional work and dedication to healthcare in March.

After receiving news in February that he had been selected for the award – the highest honor that can bestowed upon a New York State employee – Bikash was completely surprised.

Originally nominated for the award in March 2018 by an anonymous individual, Bikash said once he found out he had won, “I was drowned in happiness. I couldn’t believe it myself, I was so excited.”

SUNY Poly Interim President Dr. Grace Wang said Bikash’s contribution to the college’s nursing program has made a positive difference in the lives of its students.

“I am thrilled with the news of Mr. Regmi being chosen as a recipient of the Empire Star Public Service Award. His sincere passion for nursing shines through in every student he has inspired,” said Dr. Wang. “On behalf of the students, faculty and staff at SUNY Poly, we offer our sincere congratulations.”

The 2017 SUNY Poly graduate’s path to a career as a Family Nurse Practitioner began in 1991 when, at the age of 7, his family was forced from its home country of Bhutan to a refugee camp in Nepal.

“The camp environment was not really good,” Bikash recalls. “There was poor sanitation, people were dying because of lack of proper healthcare and one of the things in

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The Foundation awarded more than $350,000 in scholarships throughout the 2018-19 academic year.

For more information on the SUNY Poly Foundation and to support student scholarships, visit: www.sunypoly.edu/foundation
SUNY Poly Professors Receive Mohawk Valley Community Action Agency’s 2019 Community Builder Award

The Mohawk Valley Community Action Agency Inc., in May, presented two SUNY Poly professors with its 2019 Community Builder Award at the organization’s 53rd Anniversary Gala. They were honored for their longstanding commitment to improving the lives of children throughout the Mohawk Valley.

Dr. Veronica Tichenor, Associate Professor of Sociology, and Psychology Professor Dr. Joanne Joseph, who are core faculty members of SUNY Poly’s Community and Behavioral Health Program (CBH), were chosen to receive the award by a unanimous vote of the selection committee. The award is presented to a business or group that has contributed unselfishly to the betterment of our community. The business or group must be involved in the local community and committed to making a difference.

“The work and guidance given by both Dr. Tichenor and Dr. Joseph to MVCAA has been an integral part of MVCAA’s ongoing goal of helping children to overcome the many obstacles they face and for our staff to have a better understanding of those obstacles and have the proper tools to assist them,” said MVCAA Executive Director Amy Turner. “SUNY Poly is a significant community partner in our mission of helping people, changing lives.”

“Drs. Tichenor and Joseph are to be commended for their dedication to guiding children as they overcome hardships, which can have a lasting, positive impact in our community,” said SUNY Poly Interim President Dr. Grace Wang. “I am thrilled that members of our faculty are so dedicated to making a tangible difference in people’s lives, and on behalf of all SUNY Poly faculty, staff and students, I am proud to offer my sincere congratulations for this well-earned recognition.”

“For a number of years, Dr. Joseph and I have been working with local organizations, including the STOP ACEs Initiative and Ready for Kindergarten (R4K), to help address pressing needs in the lives of children and their families,” Dr. Tichenor said. “Being involved in these partnerships has been a wonderful opportunity to work with a wide range of organizations, as well as to provide unique educational experiences for our Community and Behavioral Health students in the form of agency-based projects. Through these projects, our students have gained valuable skills and experience, all while contributing to the mission of a number of agencies in the greater Mohawk Valley. We are proud of them and what they have done for their community, and look forward to more of this kind of collaboration in the future.”

“Children are the most vulnerable during the first five years of their life. They need to be nurtured and protected,” Dr. Joseph said. “MVCAA’s Head Start programs are dedicated to the health and welfare of our nation’s most vulnerable youth. SUNY Poly is vested in promoting a culture of civic responsibility. As professionals from SUNY Poly, it has been our privilege to support the efforts of MVCAA’s Head Start program on behalf of the children in Oneida and Herkimer counties. We are pleased to accept this award on behalf of the institution and look forward to our continued partnership with MVCAA.”

L-R: SUNY Poly Interim President Dr. Grace Wang, MVCAA Executive Director Amy Turner, Associate Professor of Psychology Dr. Veronica Tichenor, Psychology Professor Dr. Joanne Joseph, MVCAA Deputy Director Evon Ervin.
Alumni Day at Saratoga Raceway
July 19 & 21
Alumni Night at the Utica Comets

SUNY Poly alumni gathered in March for a Utica Comets game, starting with a pre-game party at Swifty’s Restaurant & Pub. We enjoyed drinks, appetizers, door prizes and great company. Thank you to everyone who attended!

Happy Hour at F.X. Matt Brewing Co.

SUNY Poly alumni enjoyed a happy hour event in May, hosted at the F.X. Matt Brewing Company in Utica, NY. Graduation years of those who attended ranged from 1976-2019. Thank you to all who came to share stories, reminisce, and learn about all the exciting things in store for SUNY Poly’s future!
Hilltop Hall, First SUNY-wide Zero-Net Energy-Ready Building

Construction is underway on SUNY Polytechnic Institute’s Hilltop Residence Hall which Governor Andrew M. Cuomo announced in May as the State University of New York’s first zero-net, carbon-certified residence hall on any SUNY campus.

SUNY, in partnership with the Dormitory Authority of the State of New York, began construction of the $33.5 million, 257-bed, residence hall project during the summer. It is expected to be open for student residents by August 2020.

“This innovative zero-net, carbon-certified residence hall represents a new level of energy performance with rigorous requirements that ensure outstanding levels of energy savings and provide a healthy environment for students,” Governor Cuomo said. “This project is a bold step for SUNY as the college system continues down the path to reduce its carbon footprint and builds on our Green New Deal initiative to make New York’s electricity 100 percent carbon neutral by 2040 and create a more sustainable, green economy.”

“This state-of-the-art building furthers our efforts to meet our aggressive clean energy goals,” said Lieutenant Governor Kathy Hochul. “This SUNY residence hall will be the first zero-net, carbon-certified building on the SUNY Poly campus in Utica. When constructed, the building will use renewable energy resources and result in significant energy savings. The project is another step to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, combat climate change, and ensure a cleaner and greener environment for future generations.”

The residence hall will be constructed as “zero-net, carbon certified,” meaning in addition to exceeding existing energy codes, the infrastructure to add future on-site renewable energy production systems will be in place. Once these systems are installed, the building will use equal to or less than the energy annually it can produce on-site through renewable resources.

The project coincides with Chancellor Johnson’s plan to retrofit and renovate SUNY’s 64-campus system to achieve greater energy savings. This plan includes SUNY sourcing 100 percent of its electricity from zero-carbon sources, including renewables and energy storage, and requires all new SUNY buildings to be designed to achieve zero-net carbon emissions. Making the switch at SUNY’s 2,346 buildings – which represent 40 percent of the building infrastructure in New York State – is expected to reduce the State’s carbon footprint by more than 400,000 tons of carbon dioxide equivalents per year.

DASNY will work with Hueber-Breuer Construction Co. and utilize the design-build method, an alternative project delivery technique where both design and construction services are provided through a single contract to expedite project delivery and provide savings, while maintaining a high level of quality.

The building’s design will revolve around sustainability and energy efficiency to save energy and improve the mental and physical health of its residents. The residence hall will include hotel-style student rooms with adjacent lounges, kitchens, study and laundry areas, as well as a multi-purpose room, game room and a bike storage area. It will also include many outdoor green spaces such as a courtyard and trellised area with outdoor grills, and incorporate a bioretention/rain garden to detain storm water runoff and remove contaminants from the water. In addition, the residence hall will include connections to a future photovoltaic/solar power system.

The design-build team will pursue both Zero Energy Building (ZEB) Certification and Zero Carbon Certification through the International Living Future Institute (ILFI). The building will be ultra-energy efficient with infrastructure and connections so that on-site renewable energy systems can be installed in the future to achieve ILFI’s ZEB certification.

The residence hall is being financed through DASNY’s SUNY Dormitory Facilities Program, which issues low-cost, tax-exempt bonds supported by student residence hall fees.
SUNY Chancellor Kristina M. Johnson said, “The return on investment for clean energy and sustainability is highest when we repair buildings or, as in the case at SUNY Poly, there is significant demand for new infrastructure. This project is an opportunity for SUNY to continue making progress toward Governor Cuomo’s clean energy goals, and it serves as an example to our students that the leadership of New York State and SUNY are committed to our environment.”

DASNY President & CEO Dr. Gerrard P. Bushell said, “Efficiency. Sustainability. Excellence. All of these hallmarks will be on display here at SUNY Polytechnic Institute in Utica. With design-build we will be able to deliver this residence hall in an expedited timeframe and provide savings, all the while maintaining quality and supporting the State’s energy goals. This zero-net, carbon-certified residence hall will provide outstanding levels of energy savings, as well as healthy and comfortable accommodations for students to live and learn.”

SUNY Polytechnic Institute Interim President Dr. Grace Wang said, “We are thrilled to begin construction on SUNY Poly’s newest residence hall, which will help provide an even more vibrant experience for our students who are gaining a top-tier education at our Utica campus. Notably, as a result of our academic offerings and unique hands-on learning opportunities, as the groundbreaking took place, SUNY Poly boasted the largest student body this institution has seen since the early 1980s, so this new residence hall comes at the perfect time. We are not only thrilled to be working with DASNY, as they lead the process enabling construction of this new facility, but SUNY Poly is also excited to support Governor Cuomo and Chancellor Johnson’s energy savings goals by implementing robust energy stewardship plans to make this new dorm as environmentally friendly as possible, while it serves to enhance the quality of life for our students.”

New York State Energy Research and Development Authority President and CEO Alicia Barton said, “Projects like this exemplify New York’s leadership in accelerating energy efficiency achievement in state-owned facilities as called for by Governor Cuomo’s New Efficiency: New York and Green New Deal. A net-zero residence hall will offer SUNY Poly cost-effective and efficient means for cutting emissions and reducing their energy costs, while making living more comfortable and healthier for its students.”

Senator Joseph A. Griffo said, “I am pleased that construction will be starting on a $33.5 million zero-net, carbon-certified residence hall on the SUNY Polytechnic Institute campus. This project will only add to the educational opportunities and experience the campus already offers to students.”

Assemblymember Marianne Butten-schon said, “I am looking forward to the completion of this dynamic project, and am proud that our SUNY Poly campus will be the showcase for this zero-net, carbon-certified residence hall and I applaud the college’s foresight for innovation and leadership. I hope it will become the model for all future such projects on college campuses across the country.”

Construction begins on SUNY Poly’s Hilltop Residence Hall

About Zero-Net Carbon/Zero-Net Energy

Zero-Net Carbon (ZNC) means the project will eliminate use of all fossil fuels and purchase renewable energy to supply the needed electricity. Zero-Net Energy (ZNE) requires that the renewable energy production occurs on the project site.

About the International Living Future Institute (ILFI)

The International Living Future Institute (ILFI) is a not-for-profit working to build an ecologically-minded, restorative world for all people. Using principles of social and environmental justice, ILFI seeks to counter climate change by pushing for an urban environment free of fossil fuels.

Reforming the Energy Vision

This project complements the Governor’s Reforming the Energy Vision (REV) strategy to build a clean, resilient, and affordable energy system for all New Yorkers. REV is ensuring New York State reduces statewide greenhouse gas emissions 40 percent by 2030 and achieves the internationally recognized target of reducing emissions 80 percent by 2050.

Reforming the Energy Vision is Governor Andrew M. Cuomo’s strategy to lead on climate change and grow New York’s economy. REV is building a cleaner, more resilient, and affordable energy system for all New Yorkers by stimulating investment in clean technologies like solar, wind, and energy efficiency. This program is in support of the recently adopted Clean Energy Standard, which requires that 50 percent of the state’s electricity needs be generated from renewable energy sources by 2030. Already, REV has driven 600 percent growth in the statewide solar market, enabled more than 105,000 low-income households to permanently cut their energy bills with energy efficiency, and created thousands of jobs in manufacturing, engineering, and other clean tech sectors. To learn more about REV, including the Governor’s $5 billion investment in clean energy technology and innovation, please visit www.ny.gov/REV4NY.

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Walter’s First Finals Appearance in 2019 Mascot Madness
Utica Campus
Robert Shetterly’s “Americans Who Tell The Truth” includes portraits and narratives highlighting citizens who courageously address issues of social, environmental, and economic fairness.

By combining art and other media, AWTT offers resources to inspire a new generation of engaged Americans who will act for the common good, our communities, and the earth.

Opening Reception
Thursday, October 24 • 4:30 p.m.

Artist’s Talk
November 7, 2 p.m.
Kunsela Hall Auditorium
Open to the public.

Gannett Gallery • Kunsela Hall • October 21 – December 13

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  - Card # ___________________________ Exp. Date ___/___
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- Data Analysis* (post-bachelor’s certificate)
- Information Design + Technology* (MS)

College of Business Management
- Accountancy* (MS) Concentration in: Forensic Accounting + Valuation
- Forensic Accounting + Valuation* (post-bachelor’s certificate)
- Technology Management* (MBA) Concentrations in: accounting and finance, business management, health informatics, human resource management, marketing management

College of Engineering
- Computer + Information Science (MS)
- Cybersecurity: Network + Computer Security* (MS)

College of Health Sciences
- Family Nurse Practitioner** (MS and post-master’s advanced certificate)
- Nursing Education* (MS and post-master’s advanced certificate)
- Transformational Leadership in Nursing* (MS and post-master’s advanced certificate)

College of Nanoscale Science + Engineering (Albany NanoTech Complex)
- Advanced Technology (MS)
- Nanobioscience (MS and PhD)
- Nanoscale Engineering (MS and PhD)
- Nanoscale Science (MS and PhD)
- Medicine + Nanoscale Science or Nanoscale Engineering (MD/PhD)

* Fully Online  **Hybrid

The $60 application fee is waived for SUNY Poly students and alumni.
sunypoly.edu/graduate-admissions

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Contact the Graduate Admissions Office
Call: 315-792-7347 or 1-866-278-6948
E-mail: graduate@sunypoly.edu
It was yet another great year to be a member of the Wildcat Athletics family in 2018-19. Eight of the Wildcats 12 teams qualified for the North Eastern Athletic Conference post season with women’s cross country and women’s basketball hoisting a NEAC Championship Trophy. Four teams made it as far as a championship game appearance with men’s lacrosse and women’s lacrosse making their first and second appearances respectively.

Our student-athletes excelled this season both on and off-the-field. A solid 71 Wildcats were named NEAC Scholar athletes in 2019. Wildcat student-athletes had a combined GPA of 3.03, one of the best academic performances as a whole in the history of Wildcat Athletics.

On the field, Wildcat Athletes garnered 157 total awards: 45 NEAC All-Conference awards, 14 NEAC Student-Athlete of the Week awards, one NEAC Player of the Year award, and two NEAC Rookie of the Year Awards.

The Wildcat Athletic Department’s streaming service, The SUNY Poly Sports Network (SPSN) streamed to a record breaking 12,127 viewers in 2018-19 with an average viewership of 130 individual screens. The SUNY Poly Athletics gear store, polywildcatsgear.com, had its first full year of sales. The online store had great sales of official SUNY Poly merchandise with part of the proceeds directly benefiting SUNY Poly Student-Athletes.

This year’s Wildcat Athletic Banquet was held at SUNY Poly’s Wildcat Field House where a record number of guests joined the athletic staff to honor this year’s athletic achievements. The department gave out 30 awards to Wildcat student-athletes. Notable award winners were Kayla Prosiinski, named female student-athlete of the year. Daniel Rivie was named the male student athlete of the year after his outstanding senior season for the Wildcat men’s lacrosse team. Wildcat cross country runner Jonathan Miller and Wildcat soccer’s Felicia Bianca were named the male and female Scholar-Athletes of the Year. Both had cumulative GPAs over 3.9.

Fall

This season the Wildcat women’s cross country team won their first ever NEAC cross country championship. Coach Tylutki earned NEAC cross country Coach of the Year for the 6th time in his illustrious career. The Wildcats had the Runner and Rookie of the year in Lauren Phetteplace and had four all-conference runners; Lauren Phetteplace and Jalize Mejia-Perez were first-team, Kassidy Eng was second-team, and Molly Burdick was a third team runner.

This season was solid for the SUNY Poly men’s cross country team. The Wildcats won three races and finished second in two, including the NEAC Championship race. The Wildcats placed six runners on all-conference teams, Noah Valvo, Ian Kurzrock, Christopher Bouchard, Jonathan Miller, Garrett Jones, and Derek Smith all finished within 35 seconds of each other in the Championship Race to earn second-team honors. The Wildcat women’s soccer team went 3-15-1 this season with three wins in NEAC Conference Play. Senior Nakeya Stedman broke the all-time scoring record this season, setting the new bar at 114 career points. Stedman earned a spot on the NEAC all-conference second-team for her efforts this season, the third NEAC All-Conference award of her career.

This season the men’s soccer team finished with a 6-9-3 record. The Wildcats saw a season full of ups and downs. The Wildcats played four double overtime games, winning one in thrilling fashion over Wells College in NEAC play, and tying three. Four Wildcats ended their season with All-Conference selections; Benjamin Alonge was a NEAC first-team selection, Jeremiah Besse earned second-team honors. Richie Morris and Jamar Gayle were named to the NEAC Third Team.

This season the Wildcat women’s volleyball team went 14-17 with a 7-4 NEAC record. The Wildcats qualified for the postseason as the #5 seed and made it to the NEAC Quarterfinal game. Three Wildcats were voted to NEAC all-conference teams. Karlie King was named to the first-team after leading the Wildcats with 333 kills. Amanda Batten and Sydney Johnson were both NEAC second-team winners. Sydney Johnson set the all-time record for career assists. Her record stands at 3,708 assists.

Winter

The 2018-19 women’s basketball team continued its historic run this season, winning a third NEAC Championship in four seasons. The Wildcats finished 23-6 overall with a 13-1 NEAC record. They were the #2 seed in the NEAC Championship tournament and worked their way through the field to hoist the NEAC Championship Trophy, qualifying for their third NCAA DIII Tournament. This season, two Wildcats reached career milestones. Kiersten Leos reached the 1,000 point milestone in just her junior season and Rylie Smith reached 1,000 combined career points between FMCC and SUNY Poly. The Wildcats had three NEAC All-Conference award winners and the NEAC Rookie of the Year. Molly Burdick was the NEAC Rookie of the Year and a first-team selection. Kiersten Leos was a first-team selection and the NEAC Tournament MVP. Taylor Aybar was third-team recipient.

This year the men’s basketball team got off to a slow start, but that would not stop them from putting together a fantastic season. The Wildcats made huge adjustments and ended their regular season with an eight-game NEAC winning streak that gave them a #3 seed in the NEAC Championship Tournament. The Wildcats would take down Cobleskill in the quarter-final and Lancaster Bible in the semi-final to make it to their first NEAC Championship game since the 2009-10 season. Redell Freeman scored his
Two Wildcats finished their careers with an 8-10 record in the North Eastern Athletic Conference (NEAC), narrowly missing a playoff berth. The Wildcats finished the season with an 11-25 record and were eliminated from postseason contention. Scoring six runs, they would go on to win the game up in the bottom of the ninth inning and qualify for the NEAC post-season.

MEN’S LACROSSE TEAM

A strong defense led the SUNY Poly men’s lacrosse team to their first-ever NEAC postseason tournament berth, which they took advantage of. The Wildcats had a difficult situation. The 2019 season was supposed to be a rebuilding season for the SUNY Poly women’s lacrosse team. It was the first season for Head Coach Morgan DuPont who was faced with a small roster. The team responded in the best way possible to what was a difficult situation. The Wildcats were thrilled to witness; scoring a ton of goals and playing great defense. The ‘Cats earned 12 wins and made it all the way to the NEAC Championship game. Kayla Prosinski had the single greatest season in the history of SUNY Poly women’s lacrosse. She broke the all-time scoring record, the single season scoring record, was ranked in the top five nationally in goals and points, and became the only player in program history to score 100 goals in a single season. Emily Somes also had an historic season. She scored 100 points, becoming the second player to do so in the history of Wildcat lacrosse. Jenny Maxam also hit a career milestone, surpassing 100 career points this season. The Wildcats had four players named to the NEAC All-Conference team. Kayla Prosinski and Emily Somes were first-team selections. Freshman Samantha Dayter and Molly Burdick were both second-team selections. Samantha Dayter was named the NEAC Rookie of the Year after a great first-year campaign.

SPRING

The Wildcat softball team got off to a bumpy start, but caught fire towards the end of the season winning their final five NEC games to qualify for the NEAC postseason. The Wildcats did not advance as far as they would have liked, but the season was one that was full of excitement and milestones. Four Wildcats surpassed 100 career hits; Melissa Barber, Bailee Hadad, Courtney Morton, and Taylor Hines all reached the milestone. Two Wildcats earned NEAC All-Conference honors for their efforts in 2019. Brian Malsan was the NEAC Defensive Player of the Year and a first-team selection, Piotr Kasza was a first-team selection, Max Szuba and Donovan Suguitan were both second-team selections.

ALL-CONFERENCE SELECTIONS

Sebastian Pannuto was a first-team recipient after hitting .400 with 40 hits in 100 at-bats. Jeremiah Horton was a second-team selection after a solid season on the mound for SUNY Poly.

This season was an historic one for the SUNY Poly men’s lacrosse team. The Wildcats finished the season 10-6 with a 5-2 record in Conference play, their best record in program history. Their regular season performance was good enough to give them their first-ever NEAC postseason berth, which they took advantage of. The Wildcats took down Keuka in the first round of the playoffs, earning their first-ever postseason win and their first-ever appearance in the NEAC Championship game. The season came to an end in the championship game, earning the Wildcats a NEAC Runner-up distinction. This season also saw some personal milestones reached for Wildcat lacrosse. Edward Rosaschi and Daniel Rivie both reached the 100 point milestone becoming just the second and third players to hit the century mark. Edward Rosaschi broke the all-time points record with 142. Daniel Rivie became the all-time goals leader with 85. Charles Rosaschi also had a historic season in goal for the Wildcats. His .538 save percentage was the fifth best all-time. The Wildcats had a record nine players on NEAC All-Conference teams. Chase LaCava and Charles Rosaschi were NEAC first-team selections. Edward Rosaschi, Jason Crandall, Daniel Rivie, Tyler Schmitt, and Ryan Daucher were voted to the NEAC second-team. Ryan Mead and Jacob Elliott were voted to the NEAC Third Team.

This season was supposed to be a rebuilding season for the Wildcat women’s lacrosse team. It was the first season for Head Coach Morgan DuPont who was faced with a small roster. The team responded in the best way possible to what was a difficult situation. The Wildcats were thrilled to witness; scoring a ton of goals and playing great defense. The ‘Cats earned 12 wins and made it all the way to the NEAC Championship game. Kayla Prosinski had the single greatest season in the history of SUNY Poly women’s lacrosse. She broke the all-time scoring record, the single season scoring record, was ranked in the top five nationally in goals and points, and became the only player in program history to score 100 goals in a single season. Emily Somes also had an historic season. She scored 100 points, becoming the second player to do so in the history of Wildcat lacrosse. Jenny Maxam also hit a career milestone, surpassing 100 career points this season. The Wildcats had four players named to the NEAC All-Conference team. Kayla Prosinski and Emily Somes were first-team selections. Freshman Samantha Dayter and Molly Burdick were both second-team selections. Samantha Dayter was named the NEAC Rookie of the Year after a great first-year campaign.

NEW HOME FOR THE WILDCATS

The SUNY Poly Wildcat Athletics Department announced a change in conference alignment for the 2020-21 season in August of this year. SUNY Poly will make a change officially on July 1, 2020, joining the North Atlantic Conference (NAC). Eleven of the twelve Wildcat varsity sports will be sponsored by the NAC, allowing the Wildcats to compete for the NAC’s auto-qualifying bids to the NCAA Tournament in each respective sport. The Wildcats will make the change after finishing their 11th season in the North Eastern Athletic Conference (NEAC) in 2019-20. Fellow NEAC members Cobleskill State and Cazenovia College will make the change with SUNY Poly, growing the membership of the NAC to 12 teams. The current NAC membership includes SUNY Canton, SUNY Delhi, UMaine-Presque Isle, UMaine-Farmington, Husson University, Northern Vermont University-Lyndon, Northern Vermont University-Johnson, Northern Vermont University, Maine Maritime Academy, and Thomas College. With the addition, the conference will be transitioning to a divisional scheduling model in most sports.
Eric Armitage '17 is co-owner of Tha Bakery Music in Utica, NY and creates hip-hop music.

Janice Atwell Machowski '04 is retired from the Army and currently traveling the road as a VA Homecare nurse.

Michelle Balderston Simonds '92 has been a Claims Specialist for the Social Security Administration for 23 years.

Crystal Bastien '15 went on to graduate school and is now giving back to her community as a PA at Bassett in Herkimer.

Matthew Beyer '98 develops applications for industrial robots.

Nathan Bisbo '16 is working in IT at Arise in Syracuse, NY.

Brittany Bombard Proulx '03 works as a news editor, laying out the daily front page at the Adirondack Daily Enterprise.

TJ Brown '11 is an Engineer Trainee with the New York Department of Transportation.

Tom Brown '86 is the Safety and Environmental Manager for a pet vaccine manufacturer in Athens, GA.

Johnnie Buffalo '85 has been in the auto sector for 27 years as a Plant Manager.

Alicia Burke '11 just earned her MSW. She was recently promoted to Mental Health Casework Supervisor for the State of Maine.

Carrie Burling '03 works for Systems East, Inc. as a support representative. She is also trying to publish her first novel!

Rachel Burnett '12 works at Taylor Made as a Design Engineer.

Loren Rose Burnor '13 Lives in California and works for a great company in Health Information Management. She will start her M.S. in HIM this fall.

Autumn Campau '11 went on to pursue a Master's in Education with a concentration in School Counseling. She is now living on Long Island working for the Cerebral Palsy Association as a Program Review Specialist and Investigator for the agency.

Michelle Carlow '93 is currently an Information Technology Specialist 4 at NYS Office of Information Technology Services.

Ro Carrier '04 works for Centurylink in Colorado.

Adam Case '95 is teaching 5th grade in NYC.

Erika Charbonneau '16 got her Master's degree at SUNY Cortland in Childhood Education and is currently teaching 4th grade at her alma mater, Adirondack Central School District.

Danielle Chase Carr '94 is a Product Development Manager for CenturyLink.

Liane Chlus '15 is working for Hospice and Palliative Care developing a new palliative care program.

Rob Chrystie III '10 '18 is a Software Engineer IV and an Adjunct Professor at SUNY Poly.

Wendy Clarke '19 is working at Cornell Cooperative Extension and preparing for grad school.

Karen Collins Lallier '87 has been working at St. Elizabeth Medical Center for last 30 years.

Dan Currier '00 is hosting his first conference May 2-3, 2020 in Albany, NY for online video creators and marketers. The People of Video Conference will focus on Making Human Connections as the foundation for successful marketing efforts in the future.

Kevin Cushing '79 has been at National Grid for 35 years.

Theresa Denney '95 is a Configuration Analyst for United Healthcare.

Steffi DePerno '13 is pursuing her MBA with SUNY Poly and is a Director of Health Information Management.

Karen Dooley '88 was a NYS DOCCS RN and then a Nurse Administrator in OPWDD. She is now retired after 32 years.

Renee Dudajek '10 works as a Commercial Lines Insurance Underwriter.

Brad Duerr '08 has been a Practice Leader/Principal Consultant with NYSTEC for 13 years.

Karyn Dygert Russo '00 is a small business owner.

Angie Ferrannini Nielsen '99 got her M.S. in Technical Communication at RPI in 2000. She has lived all over the country, but has lived in the Pacific NW cumulatively for 14.5 years. She is currently a Training Quality Assurance Analyst for Adobe.

Jennifer Ferris Angelo '96 is a Senior Technical Writer at Eastman Kodak Company.

Bill Fletcher '97 has been at McFarland Johnson, Inc. in Binghamton for over 20 years as an Electrical Engineer (PE).

Lance Frasier '16 '18 is working for SUNY Poly in Admissions and Marketing.

Kathryn Frank Woodbury '98 is working at Community Bank Systems, Inc. in Dewitt, NY as Assistant Director of Internal Audit.

Gordon Freiligh Jr. '95 is currently a teacher assistant in Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools.

Vicki Fuess Mayne '93 is a P&C Insurance Agent/Licensed Account Executive at Tanner Insurance Agency Inc.

Ken Gaschel '77 is retired.

Barry Gates Jr. '96 is a Senior Network Engineer at UFHealth in Gainesville, FL.

John Giaccone '00 is the Senior Citrix Administrator at Atrium Healthcare in Charlotte, NC.

Allyson Gwyrdir '95 is retired from a career in IT on Wall St. She is now a stay-at-home mom volunteering in her community.

Blake Hagberg '19 is at BNY Mellon as an Operations Analyst.

Kevin Hallock '08 is President at HollackShannon, PC, certified public accountants and is CFO at Mountain Energy Services, Inc.

Mike Hammond '87 was an Electronics Technician for Precision Filters in Ithaca, NY for 14 years. Now is part owner of an Electronics Manufacturing Company in Groton, NY.

Tom Harter '97 is the Owner/Operator of JoJo’s Cool Bus.

Jean Hawley-Vizvary '76 has been working as the Director of the Disability Resource Center at SUNY New Paltz.

Kate Henderson '99 is the Executive Director at Mass Education and Government Association.

Nick Hewitt '11 has been working as a Data Developer for 8 years for 3M health.

Corey Hickok '07 is the Senior Application Developer and UI/UX architect at Northern Safety.

Jon Hochberg '97 was a College Basketball Coach and is now the Athletic Director at Queensborough Community College.

Wendy Howard Kluber '94 has been at Bassett Medical Center for almost 19 years and is currently a Project Manager.

James Anthony Hughes '82 was promoted to Director of Team Recruitment and Account Management at CMA Consulting Services in Latham, NY.

Alyssa Jo ‘15 is attending John Jay College earning an MPA. She is currently an investigator for NYS DOL.

Chris Jordan '10 has been a Nursing Home Administrator for over 9 years and has been at Livingston Hills Nursing and Rehabilitation Center for 5 and a half years.

Scott L. Kamp '12 is employed in Utica, NY for the local school bus service.

Pat Kane '12 is an Environmental Engineer with NYSDEC.
Susan Kasprzak Beaty ’85 has been working for a large healthcare organization as a regional president.

Erika Kistowski ’16 is currently a Guidance Counselor at a school in Utica, NY andstudying School Counseling at Sage Graduate School in Albany, NY.

Shelby Kostal ’17 is currently a Physician Assistant Student at Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences. She plans to pursue emergency medicine when she graduates next December, and return back to school to get her MBA.

James Kresa ’14 is working at Northern Safety in product sourcing/management.

Alex LaGatta ’19 has been working at St. Elizabeth’s Medical Center for one year as a registered nurse on a med/surg unit.

Pam Lantzy ’93 has been working at the University at Albany for 23 years.

Jason Leszczynski ’00 is the Director of Engineering at a beverage manufacturer. He also went back to school to earn his MBA in 2016.

Daniel Levet ’10 started a new career at White House Custom Colour as an Accounting Manager.

Kyle Lince ’04 is a professor of CIS and Computer Science at MVCC.

Jessica Lukach ’01 is an Estimator/Project Manager.

Michelle Manning ’99 ’04 has been working in the medical field as a Health Information Technology Manager. Previously, she worked at a local company, Capraro Technologies.

Bill Martin ’89 has retired from Verizon.

Michael McCann ’16 is working as an Information Technology Specialist for the New York State Department of Technology.

Brandon Meszko ’13 has been at Osmose Utilities for 5 years.

Holly Miller ’79 has been a nurse for 43 years. For the last 10 years she has worked as a surveyor for New York State Department of Health inspecting nursing homes in the Rochester area.

Tucker Mogren ’19 works as an Associate Software Developer at Utica National Insurance Group.

Tom Morisco ’15 graduated from Albany Law School and is now Staff Attorney at Legal Services of Central New York.

Steve Naimoli ’07 is a Lead System Engineer at Lockheed Martin.

Lance Nelson ’08 has worked as a Control Systems Engineer at a consulting firm for over 8 years and is now a Manufacturing Controls Engineer at Hollowick, a local manufacturer in Manlius, NY.

Kathleen Niles ’11 is working in insurance and raising a family.

Carrie Normandin ’15 has been at Glens Falls Hospital for over 36 years with 8 years in medical coding.

Tom Pacia ’97 has had over 20 years with MCI & Verizon Business.

Matthew Paulini ’09 ’10 is a Computer Scientist and Program Manager for the Air Force Research Laboratory.

Bryan Purtell ’00 has been working with the NYS Comptroller’s office since graduation.

Jeffrey Pyle ’98 has been working at Lockheed Martin for 12 years and is now a Ships Master.

Mary Reeves-Ives ’03 has worked as a Trauma Registrar at MVHS for 16 years.

Elizabeth Richer Forsell ’80 is retired.

Michael Rose ’76 is retired.

Fritz Scherz ’95 ’98 has been working for New York State for over 15 years. In addition, his band, Fritz’s Polka Band, is still playing over 50 gigs a year and recently celebrated their 40th anniversary of performing.

Cathy Shell Hargrave ’99 is an IT Project and SCRUM Master at RallyHealth.

Ellen Simms ’88 is a Nurse Practitioner for a health department in Austin, Texas.

Steven Sinatra ’82 retired after 28 years in finance with the New York State Department of Taxation and Finance.

Cathy Smith ’83 is working as Human Resources/Benefits in the Johnson City school district.

Darren Smith ’13 is a Direct Response Copywriter for InvestorPlace, a financial media company.

Christopher Spahn ’10 has been a Web Developer for 3.5 years at New York State Education Department.

Katharine St. Laurent ’10 earned her MLIS at Syracuse University and is now a high school librarian.

Paul Steiner ’76 has been retired for over 2 years and recently purchased his dream beach condo last December.

Sue Stucker ’05 runs her own medical practice in Brewerton, NY.

Jean Thelusme ’11 recently celebrated 9 years in the financial industry. He is currently a Relationship Manager Business Owner Specialist at Bank of America. He enjoys serving and volunteering. Committed to helping globally and recently completed his third mission at Rwanda in May 2019.

Dennis Vabishchevich ’12 is an Assistant Engineer with the New York State Department of Transportation.

Lisa L. VanAernam ’88 is currently a teaching assistant, cross country and track coach at Johnstown High School. She has a daughter starting her senior year of undergrad and a son about to graduate high school.

Anthony Zumbo ’14 recently took his exam for Real Estate Sales.

To submit your Class Notes please contact the Alumni Office at alumni@sunyit.edu or call 315-792-7273.

Joseph Vitale ’93 is the President and CEO of Seneca Savings in Baldwinsville, NY.

Alaina Wallace ’09 worked in human services, continued her education at Syracuse University, and is now a high school counselor.

Justin Warren ’08 has gone back to school for his M.S. in Clinical Nutrition.

Cassie Weed ’08 is a master control operator & television commercial producer at WWNY. She recently won a NY State Broadcasters Association award for her “This is the Place” series!

Faith Wickham Shea Neal ’85 is currently directing a department of health information, clinical documentation improvement and coding at a hospital in Ohio. Formerly was a consultant in health information for 13 years.

Mary Zarnoch-Riley ’96 went on to pursue a masters in elementary education from the College of Saint Rose in Albany. She has been teaching at Oriskany CSD since September 2002, following 3 years teaching for Syracuse Diocese of Catholic Schools.

Timothy Zotta ’12 is an Assistant Structural Engineer at 260 Structural Engineering. He is applying for a PE exam this fall.

Anthony Zumbo ’14 recently took his exam for Real Estate Sales.