

125 YEARS

Many Syracuse University students develop special mentoring relationships with faculty members, administrators, coaches, staff members, and fellow students. These associations often have profound and lasting effects, influencing professional and personal development and producing

THE BOND OF A LIFETIME

Elliott Portnoy, Rhodes Scholar, attorney, and North Bethesda, Maryland, resident, graduated from the College of Arts and Sciences in 1986.

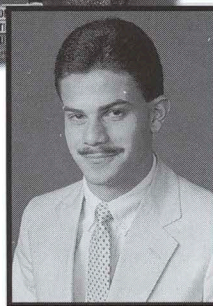
“Three very strong mentors influenced me, and my relationship with each of them has lasted beyond my time at Syracuse. That’s the mark of a true mentor.

“In political science, Professor **Linda Fowler** was my undergraduate honors thesis adviser. She supervised my internship in Washington, D.C., with a Senate committee. She guided my writing and taught me about Congress, which in turn led to a great deal of what I do today. She was a strong academic mentor. Recently she gave me feedback on my dissertation for Oxford, so she still plays a role in my academic development.

“Dean **David Smith** of the admissions and financial aid office was directly respon-



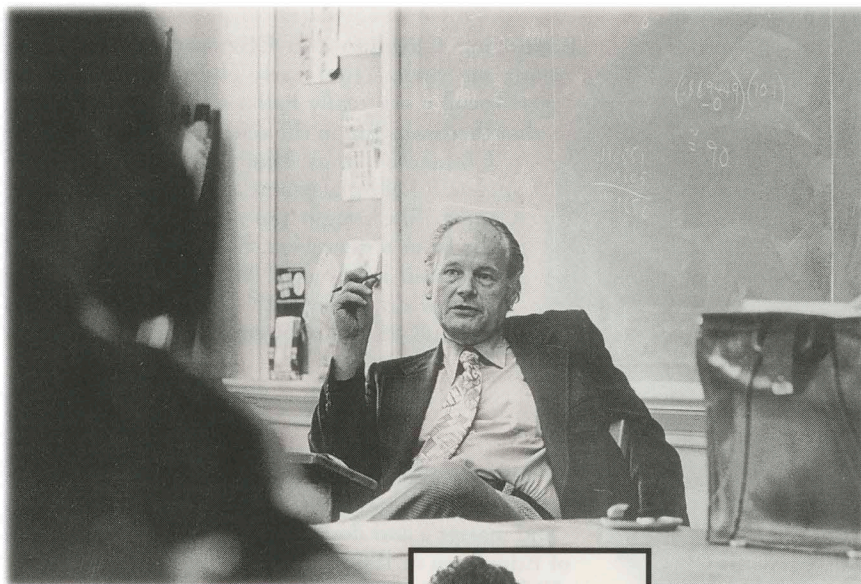
Elliott Portnoy’s mentors at SU included Linda Fowler, a professor of political science in the Maxwell School.



sible for my decision to apply for the Rhodes Scholarship and for my making it through the process. He developed my thinking about what I wanted to do with my professional career. He became an excellent sounding board.

“Professor **Alex Rosenberg** of the philosophy department would grill me for the Rhodes process as we ran 10 miles through the streets of Syracuse. Alex is an intellectual whirlwind and prepared me well for what I would encounter at Oxford. We did a tutorial my senior year in the one-to-one tutorial system used at Oxford. I’d never had an academic experience where I spent an hour or two defending my positions to a professor. Alex knew this was important in order for me to thrive at Oxford, and he provided me with that experience.”

Compiled by Carol North Schmuckler



Former Maxwell School Dean Alan "Scotty" Campbell and Cabinet Secretary Donna Shalala.

Donna Shalala, secretary of the United States Department of Health and Human Services, former college president, and Washington, D.C., resident, received a doctoral degree from the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs in 1970.



"My mentor was **Alan 'Scotty' Campbell**. I was his research assistant, then his assistant when he became dean of the Maxwell School. He shaped my career. He gave me opportunities to publish, he included me in professional meetings, and he guided my academic career. After I graduated, he continued to be my mentor by throwing opportunities my way, whether it was a chance to write a paper or a chapter in a book, be on a panel, or take a consulting job."

Bob Brihn, advertising design executive and Seattle resident, received a master's degree from the College of Visual and Performing Arts in 1984.

"When I graduated from Bowling Green State University, all I had was a book full of watercolors and I went to work for a very small design group in Minnesota. I saw a small advertisement for Syracuse's Independent Study Degree Programs in the back of a *Communication Arts* magazine and decided to take the program. I wanted to find out why people were doing what they were doing.

"As I went through the ISDP for advertising design, I found a mentor in **John Sellers**. He put the program together from an academic standpoint, rather than a trade school view. It was as fine an advertising curriculum as you can imagine, blending the University with the real world. Too often art is focused strictly on the realities of the pro-

fession rather than teaching the theory of advertising. John brought in amazing visiting lecturers who had built agencies from dust into outstanding businesses.

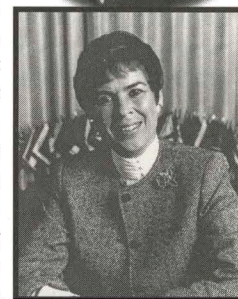
"It was one-on-one with John. He was my counselor, my tutor, my mentor. The people who led those intense sessions were people in the industry, but John was the focus, the touchstone you always came back to."

Bill Brodsky, president and CEO of the Chicago Mercantile Exchange and Chicago resident, graduated from the College of Arts and Sciences in 1965 and the College of Law in 1968.

"Unquestionably, my mentor was **Michael Sawyer**. While our relationship began as the usual student-professor one, we became much closer over the years. I went to him for advice on courses, on activities, on jobs. He helped form my decision to attend law school, and during that time he continued the mentoring role. I've never made a career change without talking to Mike Sawyer. Mike has respect for people, combined with warmth and intelligence. He always listens to the other side of an argument. One thing I'm proudest of is spearheading a funding drive for the Michael O. Sawyer Chair in Constitutional Law and Politics at Maxwell. It was my way of thanking him for all the wonderful things he did for us all."

Nancy Harvey Steorts, business executive, former chair of the United States Consumer Product Safety Commission, and resident of both Dallas and Washington, D.C., graduated from the College for Human Development in 1959.

"I was very close to Dean **Eunice Hilton** in what was then the College of Home Economics. She changed my career. I had been a piano major, but I decided to get into the business world. I was going against the tide, because at that time the focus was for women not to have careers, or if they did, to teach. Dean Hilton talked me out of going into education and into retail. She encouraged me to focus in that area. I combined my studies with my strong extracurricular activities, which gave me the leadership capability to do what I wanted to do. Dean Hilton was the catalyst for my success in life."



Eunice Hilton (top) and Nancy Harvey Steorts.

Ken Auletta, media columnist for *The New Yorker* magazine, author, and New York City resident, received a master's degree from the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs in 1965.

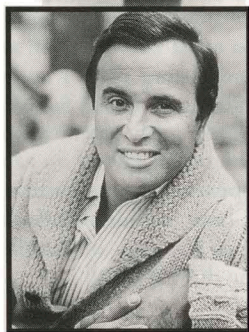
"In my second year of graduate school, **Fred G. Burke** of the East African Studies Center became my mentor and threw me a lifeline. The University was very *in loco parentis* in the mid-sixties, a time of civil rights unrest and the beginning of the protest against the Vietnam war. I had angered the administration because I wrote for the *Daily Orange* and helped start the underground newspaper and underground literary magazine.

"I was a resident adviser my first year and the administration wanted me to fill out forms about students on my floor. Although there were some legitimate questions, I viewed many as spying and refused to fill the forms out. Then I published the form in the alternative paper.

"I didn't get a graduate fellowship for my second year, so Fred Burke gave me one. He was a wise counselor and a friend, and I became very close to him. There was no wall separating Fred from his graduate students. I learned a lot from him, including how a good teacher operates. I was disillusioned in the sixties. There were certain basic choices one had to make and Fred was a guy who transcended those choices and who made the right choices himself. I don't mean he was politicized—quite the opposite. He never lost his humanity at a time when a lot of people were afraid to be human beings. He renewed a lot of my faith."

Roberta Chamberlain Schofield, Salvation Army executive director and Cazenovia, New York, resident, graduated from the College for Human Development in 1957 and received a master's degree from the School of Social Work in 1977.

"Two teachers in the College for Human Development,



Fred G. Burke (top), formerly of SU's East African Studies Center, and Ken Auletta.

Katherine Chilman and **Elizabeth Mandeville**, made me realize that early childhood education and social work really had a science to them, and that there was fun in the science of social work.

"I remember that Mandeville went with me once to a field placement at Huntington Family Center. She taught me how to draw conclusions from observation. She sat behind me and whispered in my ear, 'What do you see now and how do you see it?' Our relationship was more one-on-one than you'd ever expect."

Margaret Doe Sovie, hospital executive and Philadelphia resident, received a bachelor's degree from the College of Nursing in 1964, and master's and doctoral degrees from the School of Education in 1968 and 1972, respectively.

"When I was studying in the School of Education, **Alex Charters** was my adviser and the head of the program in adult education. He was a leader in the field, both nationally and internationally. He made certain his students had the opportunity to interact with the most important people in the field. When he invited visiting professors to the school, he always had students to his home so we could talk with them. I felt very privileged to know personally all the people we were studying."

Douglas Danforth, managing partner of the Pittsburgh Pirates baseball team, retired CEO of Westinghouse, and Pittsburgh resident, graduated from the College of Engineering and Computer Science in 1947.

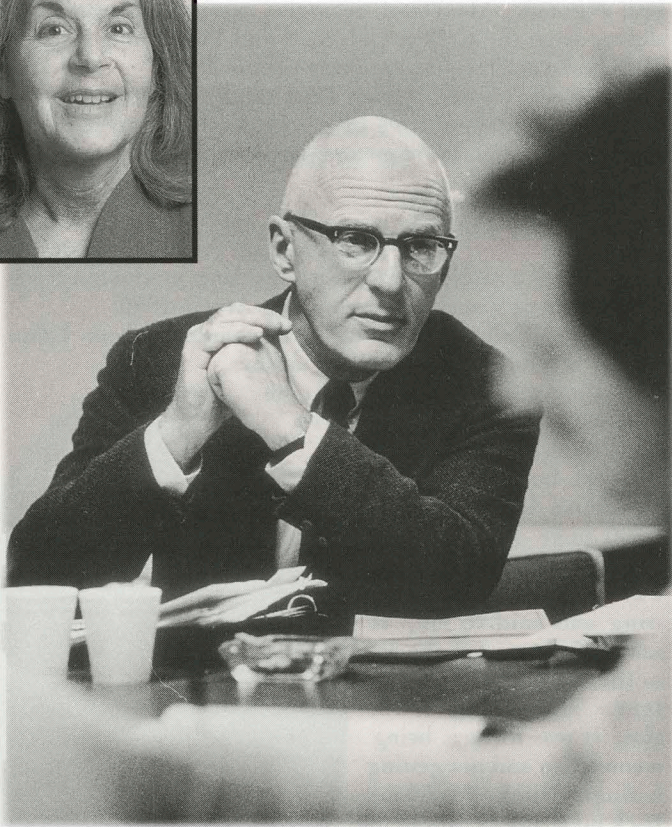
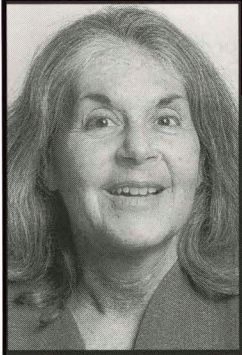
"Chancellor **William Tolley** was close to the students. He'd walk around the campus and drop in on classes just to chat. He was a folksy kind of guy and everybody knew him. He obviously enjoyed the give and take of being with students. He was very present, very visible, and very involved. Many veterans, including me, stayed in touch with him over the years."

Richard Hayden, architect and New York City resident, graduated from the School of Architecture in 1960.

"Professor **Louis Skoler** played an important role in my development. He brought a fresh wind of design and a great deal of energy to the School of Architecture. We spent many hours talking about the whole direction of architecture and my own development. Dean **Kenneth Sargent** was also influential. He brought visiting critics to the school, which was the first move in broadening the school's base of thinking. When I finished school, I went to work for Sargent's firm."

Karen Lipschultz DeCrow, attorney, former president of the National Organization for Women, and Jamesville, New York, resident, graduated from the College of Law in 1972.

"I took every course that **Robert Koretz** taught. That was the beginning of the feminist movement and I was the only female in my class. He taught a seminar in discrimination law and brought the then-national president of NOW, Eileen Hernandez, to speak. It was very dramatic because she was the first female and the first black person ever invited to address the whole law school."



Karen Lipschultz DeCrow and former College of Law professor Robert Koretz.

Betsey Johnson, fashion designer, and New York City resident, graduated from the College of Visual and Performing Arts in 1964.

"**John Vargo** was just the most sweetest, wonderfulest teacher I ever had. He taught illustration and always laughed and enjoyed my work, especially when I made practically everything out of popcorn.

"He had the best sense of humor. He'd always say something like, 'Betsey thinks she's going down the toilet but always comes up smelling like a rose.' He made college fun for me."

Herbert S. White, professor, former dean of Indiana University's School of Library and Information Science, and Bloomington, Indiana, resident, received a master's degree from the School of Information Studies in 1950.

"Different faculty members influenced me. **Florence Van Hoesen** was a legendary terror in what she demanded of her students. We tend to think of people like that more fondly in retrospect than we do at the time. She was a social scientist, but knew I had a background in science and technology, which still tends to be unusual for people entering this field. She allowed me to do some special projects on the literature of the physical sciences. That's an innovative way to teach.

"Dean **Wharton Miller** took a direct interest in my advancement. He advised me to get some library experience since I didn't have any. Without asking me, he submitted my name for the Library of Congress Special Recruit Intern Program, a very prestigious program that selects only 8 to 15 people from a nationwide pool. I was selected and spent a year in Washington, D.C. It was a great way to get started in my profession."

Marvin Lender, investment executive, former president and owner of Lender's Bagel Bakery, and Woodbridge, Connecticut, resident, graduated from the College of Arts and Sciences in 1963.

"The greatest role model I had at Syracuse was **Ernie Davis**. The football players had a pick-up basketball league, and I played in it. All the characteristics you've heard about him as a person were important for me. He really was a role model in terms of his ability to do so many different things at one time, both on and off the football field. He drew no lines; there were no walls between him and others. He greatly influenced my social values."

Robert Best, design director for *New York* magazine, and New York City resident, graduated from the College of Visual and Performing Arts in 1978.

"**Don Trousdell** taught me graphic design, and I found a sensibility about myself through the kind of work he did and the humor he brought to it. He was a little less commercial than I was originally heading for, and that brought me onto the editorial side of graphic arts.

"His presentation was much less slick, very hand done, very illustrative, sort of do-everything-yourself kind of studio work. His background was in a low-budget studio that pulled a lot of things out of the bag and did a little bit of everything. It had a real sense of personality and it drove me toward editorial design in many ways. He gave me an aesthetic drive."

William Safire, *New York Times* columnist, author, and Kenwood, Maryland, resident, is a member of the class of 1951 and the recipient of an honorary doctoral degree in 1978.

“Dean **Kenneth Bartlett** of University College allowed me to freeload. He even referred to me as his freeloader. I was a scholarship student and couldn’t afford any more education than I was getting. I used to sneak into his classes on the psychology of advertising in radio to learn about the future of communications. He knew I was sneaking in but said nothing about it.

“He made a basic lesson clear to me early on. He called on me once, and although I knew the answer, when I got up I began to stammer. He said, ‘When you have the answer clear in your mind, don’t just stand there stammering, spit it out.’ I’ve been spitting it out ever since.”



Kenneth G. Bartlett (above) and *New York Times* columnist William Safire.

John Sykes, president of VH1, and New York City resident, graduated from the S.I. Newhouse School of Public Communications in 1977.

“The person who inspired me to come to Syracuse is someone I never met: **Fred Silverman**, a 1958 graduate who at that time had taken ABC from the bottom to the top and changed television programming as we knew it in the seventies. I was just a 17-year-old kid in Schenectady, but I followed his career closely and when I found out he’d gone to Syracuse, I decided that was the school I had to attend.

“Two professors at the Newhouse School were my mentors, **Peter Moller** and **Richard Barnhill**. Both went beyond the call of duty to give me advice and teach me the television business.

“During my senior year I worked closely with Dick Barnhill. One day I skipped his class—the first I ever missed in four years—to cover a concert in Ithaca for Columbia Records, because I was their college rep. Barnhill put me through hell. Despite the fact that we were such good friends, he called me on the carpet and made it clear that I had to make my choice. That really taught me to set my priorities straight. I never missed another class with him.”

Phyllis Bryn-Julson, singer, coordinator of the voice department at the Peabody Conservatory of Music, and Potomac, Maryland, resident, received a bachelor’s degree from the College of Visual and Performing Arts in 1967 and a master’s degree from VPA in 1969.

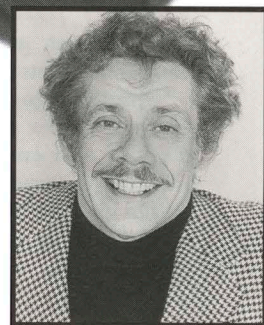
“My voice teacher, **Helen Boatwright**, was my mentor. She was very supportive of my professional career. She helped me find places to go and people to sing for.”

Jerry Stiller, actor and comedian (currently featured on *Seinfeld*), and New York City resident, graduated from the College of Visual and Performing Arts in 1950.

“**Sawyer Falk**, the head of the drama department, influenced a whole generation of actors, including me. My senior year he cast me in Moliere’s *A Bourgeois Gentleman*. It was one of the biggest bombs ever to hit Syracuse University. The front page of the *DO* said “Stiller Disappointing.” Falk kept that show running and said to me, ‘It takes 30 years to make an actor. You’re going to learn something from this.’ It was torture, being a comedian and not getting a single laugh. As I look back on it now, I cannot tell you what it meant to learn you could suffer in this business and still have the heart to do something else.

“He’d come to New York and we’d see plays together and he’d whisper, ‘You’re better than that.’ Whatever came out of his mouth was always meaningful. Without being mean or autocratic, he was an educator. I knew his criticism was fair, honest, total. Every time I go on stage, he’s there. He’s standing next to me.”

Jerry Stiller (right) and former professor Sawyer Falk (top).





Conrad Lynn (front row, second from left) came to Syracuse University on a debate scholarship. He earned a bachelor's degree in 1930 and a law degree in 1932.

Conrad Lynn, attorney, author, former pioneer in the civil rights movement, and Pomona, New York, resident, graduated from the College of Arts and Sciences in 1930 and the College of Law in 1932.

"I had a great professor, **Ralph Himstead**, who taught debate to undergraduates and constitutional law in the law school. I was very attached to him. I was poor and he arranged for me to work at professors' homes for free meals. We also discussed very profound matters.

"In the law school, one of my favorite teachers was **Candace Stone**, whose uncle was Harlan Fiske Stone, justice of the Supreme Court. At a debate just before a national election, the Communist speaker didn't show up. In my junior year, I had been influenced by a graduate student from Russia to examine the Marxist thesis of society, which swept me off my feet. I was known as the only Communist on campus. Professor Stone impulsively asked me to take the speaker's place, and the next day I was suspended from the law school. She got her uncle to write to Chancellor Flint, who reinstated me."

Jim Ridlon, former SU football and lacrosse player, former professional football player, SU professor, and Cazenovia, New York, resident, received a bachelor's degree from the College of Visual and Performing Arts in 1957 and a master's degree from VPA in 1961.

"I had two mentors. Dean **Laurence Schmeckebier** of the art school put me to work. I was a poor art student, always grubbing for materials and looking for work. He found jobs for me. I did a lot of matting and used to babysit the gallery in the evenings. When he put in a wood

shop, he put me in charge. Those paying jobs made it possible to get the art supplies I needed.

"He also remained interested in me and was very supportive when I came back here to interview for a job, and at a time I considered leaving, he convinced me to stay in Syracuse. He was a mentor long after I was a student.

"On the athletic field, coach **Roy Simmons Sr.** was like a second father to me all through college. Besides coaching lacrosse, he was defensive backfield coach for football and got coach Ben Schwartzwalder to release me from playing defensive end, so I became one of Simmons' guys and played a lot more my sophomore year than I would have otherwise."

Mack Rice, business executive and New York City resident, graduated from the School of Management in 1982.

"I had two mentors. The first was **Mike Atkins**, who worked in Placement Services. I met Mike when he helped me put together a resumé my freshman year. I told him I didn't have anything to put on a resumé and he said, 'No, you graduated from high school, you've held jobs.' He taught me the kinds of things an employer looks for. I met with him every year I was at Syracuse and we'd change my resumé to show what I'd accomplished the previous year. I still use the format he helped me develop.

"My other mentor was **Bob Boney** in the College of Arts and Sciences. I was comptroller and then president of the Student African American Society. He taught me to understand what the real issues were and what goals I wanted to reach. From him I learned to be organized about getting something done." ■