POWER PARTNERS
With a common educational bond, five JWU couples define success in business and life.
Dear Members of the Centennial Class of 2014:

This special edition of JWU Magazine is dedicated to you — the newest alumni of Johnson & Wales University. You reached a milestone in your life as you successfully completed your course of study, while the university reached the milestone of providing an exceptional education for the past 100 years. On behalf of the more than 95,000 JWU alumni and as a fellow alumnus, welcome to our powerful network that spans the globe. The entire JWU community offers congratulations on this major personal and professional accomplishment.

Your relationship with your alma mater continues long beyond your graduation: it is a lifelong bond. In this issue, we are featuring some of your fellow alumni, celebrating the success they have experienced in their lives. We look forward to including your stories in JWU Magazine and on our website in the years to come.

Although you have earned and received your JWU degree, your work is not technically finished. Armed with your education, you are now ambassadors of the university, and with that new title comes a set of new responsibilities.

**Be informed.** I urge you to always read JWU Magazine when it arrives in your mailbox. It will keep you up-to-date on the latest university developments, campus happenings and achievements of your fellow alumni. Pass it along to others to make them more aware of our university community. Regularly visit the website, and make sure you provide our alumni office with your new contact information.

**Be involved.** We recognize that alumni interests are varied and, therefore, offer many ways for you to connect, learn, inspire and give back:

- Attend local, regional and national alumni and campus events.
- Return to campus to lecture in our classrooms and reminisce with faculty and fellow alumni.
- Meet prospective students and families at Admissions Information Meetings and JWU Previews held across the country.
- Participate in on-campus recruiting.
- Fund scholarships and student support.

**Be the example of the power of a JWU education.** Only you can carry the flag of JWU one street farther than it reaches today. Together we can strengthen Johnson & Wales, make it an even more vibrant educational institution, and maintain its position as a national leader of experiential education.

We look forward to the next chapter of your relationship with JWU. Write to us anytime at jwumagazine@jwu.edu. We’ll be waiting to hear about all the great things you do.

Chancellor John J. Bowen '77
Network with JWU and stay connected.

Why Connect?
Network with alumni leaders in your field  |  Gain access to alumni-only offerings  |  JWU Magazine delivered to your door

Find us on LinkedIn or other Social Media

A Day to Remember; a Future to Change

Morning Session
BY MIRIAM WEINSTEIN ’08 MBA

What will the 2014 Johnson & Wales University culinary and hospitality graduates recall from their morning commencement ceremony? That they were JWU’s Centennial class? That at the age of 16, Robert J. Palleschi ’86, their keynote speaker and honorary degree recipient, wagered $100 against a friend’s father and landed his first job in the hospitality industry at a “no-tell” motel?

Their memories may vary, but the graduates will forever share the achievement of earning their college degrees. Brandi Samantha Hawkins ’14 from Sterling, Conn., stood amidst the deep crowd of the student procession at the Dunkin’ Donuts Center. She seemed calm, almost aloof. She was there to obtain her associate in science degree, summa cum laude, from the College of Culinary Arts. Her boyfriend and parents were upstairs in the bleachers, somewhere. She couldn’t find any of her friends. Her future awaited. She looked back on her time at JWU: “It was amazing. I learned a lot. I’m coming back for a bachelor’s (in Culinary Arts and Food Service Management).”

High above the rafters, the dignitaries were gathering. Providence Mayor Angel Taveras reflected on those students who, upon graduation, would be leaving Rhode Island: “I hope they always remember their college hometown, the special place that it is, and the many culinary and hospitality opportunities that are here. Perhaps they’ll reconsider, and stay.”

In another section of the 31,000-square-foot venue, Christopher Fisette ’14 was with a group of fellow hospitality students. He was there to celebrate his bachelor of science degree in Restaurant, Food & Beverage Management, magna cum laude. The following Tuesday, he would be moving to Maryland to start a job at the Bethesda Country Club. “I will remember Professor Brian Warriner most,” he noted, “because he instilled in me that you can be crazy in this business and still succeed.”

Some things, you never forget.
The Class of 2014 capped off commencement with morning and afternoon gatherings at Providence’s Dunkin’ Donuts Center.

According to Glassoff, his generation is also considered naïve, lazy and unappreciative hipsters, determined to change the world. Glassoff asked, “Isn’t that a good thing?”

An honorary degree was presented to Carolyn Rafaelian, founder, creative director and CEO of Alex and Ani, LLC, a highly successful R.I.-based jewelry company. A second degree was given to Edward P. Triangolo Jr, whose father, Edward Sr., and Morris Gaebel purchased the university from Mises Johnson and Wales in 1947.

“Understand that you share a history with Mises Johnson and Wales,” Chancellor Bowen said. “You are a part of what has come before you, just as future generations of Johnson & Wales students will share this history with you.”

We look forward to the history that our recent graduates will make as they take on the charge of changing the world.
If You Can’t Fly, then Run. If You Can’t Run

BY LAUREN TKACS

Shortly after honorary degree recipient Abid H. M. Butt ’84 began his address at the Alan Shaw Feinstein Graduate School’s 28th commencement, he did the unexpected. “I was having a tough time thinking of what you might want to hear, and then it hit me,” Butt said. “Why not do what the students do these days? Multiple hours on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and YouTube.” And in that spirit, he took a selfie with Chancellor John J. Bowen ’77 on the platform. The audience cheered them on in unison.

Butt, CEO of Banyan Tree Hotels & Resorts, included pivotal moments in his life and career success in his remarks to help emphasize that being happy and enjoying every day is most important. “There are so many obstacles in life,” he said. “Stick with it. You will soon recognize that success hardly ever comes in exactly the form that you imagined it would or the way you planned. The ability to accept life’s inevitable twists and turns, losses, defeats and surprises plays a profound role in who we are.”

Mathieu Medeiros ’14 of Dedham, Mass., who received an MBA, was selected as student speaker and was one of the 363 graduates who received their degrees that evening. Echoing Butt’s advice by quoting Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Medeiros said, “If you can’t fly, then run. If you can’t run, then walk. If you can’t walk, then crawl, but whatever you do, you have to keep moving forward.”

“Success is defined by how well [leaders] live the life they are given and the global footprint their work leaves behind.”

And leaving a footprint in the world is exactly what Miss Johnson and Miss Wales did 100 years ago — establishing a business school that has since grown into a nationally recognized institution attracting students from around the globe.

“You take with you the distinction of being known as our centennial class, something that you will carry for a lifetime,” Providence Campus President Mim L. Runey, L.P.D., said with great excitement. “All of our graduates here tonight recognize the value of education. The pursuit of knowledge requires dedication, determination, commitment...
Ceremonies for the Alan Shaw Feinstein Graduate School at Providence Performing Arts Center included hooding of 18 doctoral candidates.

and patience."

President Runey then acknowledged the 18 doctoral graduates who "join the elite leaders in the field of education" and whose "degrees represent the highest level of academic achievement." Each doctoral candidate approached the stage and was presented by degree path, dissertation title and major advisor. After the doctoral hood was placed over each head by Thomas DiPaola, Ph.D., director of the university’s doctoral program, graduates were congratulated by Christine Thompson, Ph.D., assistant dean of the John Hazen White School of Arts & Sciences.

Two JWU alumni, Bennett Singer '98 MBA and wife Lissa Singer '98 MBA, also imparted words of encouragement and extended a warm welcome into JWU’s alumni association. "Since we graduated, we love to come back to campus to participate in alumni events, reconnect with the university and see old friends," Lissa Singer said. "We encourage you to do the same thing. You are graduates of this great establishment, and you should be proud of that."

Before concluding his remarks, Medeiros left his fellow graduates with a final piece of advice: "It’s not what your degree can do for you; it’s what you do with your degree to keep moving forward."

Hundreds of family members and friends flooded the theater’s lobby at the conclusion of the celebration to take photos with their graduates — many capturing this moment with their own selfies before going out into the world and achieving their own success.

Alan Shawn Feinstein Graduate School
28th Graduate Commencement
Providence Performing Arts Center

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<td>Master of Education</td>
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Honorary Degree Recipient
Doctor of Business Administration in International Hotel & Tourism Management
(Commencement Speaker)
Abid M. H. Butt ’84
CEO
Banyan Tree Hotels & Resorts Pte. Ltd.

> student awards
For a complete list of student award recipients:

Online > www.jwu.edu/commencement

Above: Abid M.H. Butt '84, '14 Hon., and Chancellor John J. Bowen '77

SUMMER 2014
Walk with Pride as You Carry a Legacy

BY JORDAN FICKESS

Wildcat pride was on display at the 2014 North Miami Campus Commencement held at the Greater Fort Lauderdale/Broward County Convention Center. From the dozens of carefully decorated mortarboards to a colorful procession of 35 international flags, the day was a memorable occasion for the 3,000 guests and more than 300 graduates in attendance.

This year’s ceremony marked the university’s centennial commencement, an event that prompted the return of President Emeritus Donald G. McGregor, J.D., ’09 Hon. McGregor joined the Providence Campus in the late 1960s as an accounting professor and opened the North Miami Campus as president in 1992 after several years as a senior administrator at JWU. His visit happened to coincide with another meaningful occasion for McGregor: the graduation of his nephew, Christopher O’Hara ’14. McGregor sat on stage as a member of the platform party just five years after retiring from JWU and receiving an honorary doctoral degree from the university.

Similar to McGregor, Travel-Tourism & Hospitality Management major Tina Williams ’14 made a return to the stage after a few years away. Recalling her time as a professional dancer with the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, Williams took to the stage early in the ceremony to deliver the student commencement address. Seeking a new career at the age of 35, she enrolled at JWU to study one of her greatest passions: travel.

Williams shared a story from a visit she made to the Caribbean island of Guadeloupe, relating an unusual moment from this trip to the journey each graduate was about to face. Williams recalled the surprise she felt when her friend pulled a machete out from under the seat of her car to clear a path to the nearby beach.

“This diploma clears a path to your own beach,” Williams said. “It creates a path of experiences and opportunities; it leads to a clearing on which to build our dreams and achieve our goals. This degree is a finely honed machete.”

Marketing major Anthony Mocceo ’14 shared Williams’ gratitude and optimism. Like her, Mocceo completed his degree in only three years.

“I have many great memories, but I will always remember the time I spent with my fraternity
brothers from Kappa Sigma and when I won the 2013 Entrepreneurship Business Challenge,” Moccio said. After working in corporate marketing, he hopes to found a company that focuses on environmental sustainability.

For JWU alumni Kevin W. Schwab ’82, ’14 Hon. and Lorena García ’00, ’14 Hon., commencement offered an opportunity to share advice with the Class of 2014 and accept honorary doctorate degrees in recognition of their accomplishments.

Schwab, now vice president of Mexico and Central America for Marriott International, launched his career with the corporation as a culinary trainee in Miami right after graduating from the Providence Campus. He soon developed an interest in the hotel management side of the business and received international assignments that gave him the opportunity to open and operate hotels in 12 countries. He attended the opening ceremony of the 2008 Beijing Olympics and interacted with political figures ranging from former U.S. President Jimmy Carter to Vicente Fox, former president of Mexico. He credits his success with the education he received from JWU.

“I assure you that none of these amazing experiences and opportunities would have been possible if Johnson & Wales had not given me a chance,” Schwab said. “And for that I am incredibly thankful.”

García, a celebrity chef who is president of Lorena García Group, had the honor of inducting students into the JWU Alumni Association before they walked across the stage.

An accomplished restaurateur, cookbook author and consultant for Taco Bell, García’s pride as a North Miami Campus alumna was evident as she spoke to the audience: “Walk with pride as you carry a legacy that is gaining momentum and growing stronger with each graduating class.”
Stand Tall, Do Your Best — Regardless

BY HOLLI KEYSER

The raucous rhythms of a drumline boomed across the Coors Family Commons on the Denver Campus as the Centennial Class of 2014 paraded toward the Robert E. Taylor Gate. The only other time these students were allowed to pass through the gates was during convocation at the beginning of their freshman year. Now, with their finals behind them and a new journey ahead, they were welcomed on the other side of the gate by a throng of JWU alumni, who marked this campus tradition with smiles, high-fives and a JWU alumni pin for every graduate.

The next day, excitement and emotions continued to electrify the air as nearly 3,500 guests eagerly awaited the start of the Centennial Commencement Ceremony inside the Belco Theatre at the Colorado Convention Center. A steady swell of cheers could be heard in the lobby as the soon-to-be-graduates lined up to take their final steps toward receiving their hard-earned JWU degrees.

A roar of applause resonated after Robin P. Krakowsky ’88, ’08 Ed.D., president of the Denver Campus, introduced the national anthem singer Jill Quedenfeld ’14, a member of the first graduating class of Denver’s Adult & Continuing Education program.

For student commencement speaker Theresa Brabec ’14, the moment provided time for reflection and gratitude. “I stand before you, sure and unsure in equal measure of where my life is about to take me,” she said. “Reflect back to some of your fondest memories and lessons learned here at Johnson & Wales. Would you do anything different? Who has made the greatest impact on you during your time here at the university? Have you thanked them lately?”

She continued with one final note of advice to her classmates: “I hope every one of us will make many mistakes. If you are making mistakes, it means you are actually doing something; mistakes lead to success. Your definition of success will change almost daily.”

A total of 340 students received an associate or a bachelor’s degree during the ceremony. The Denver Campus also honored two distinguished
gentlemen with honorary degrees. First, Richard Monfort, CEO of the Colorado Rockies Baseball Club and a prominent philanthropist, received a Doctor of Business Administration in Entrepreneurship. Next, Charlie Ayers Jr. '90, chef/owner of Calafia Café & Calafia Market A Go-Go in Palo Alto, Calif., and noted author of "Food 2.0: Secrets from the Chef Who Fed Google", received a Doctor of Culinary Arts and presented the commencement speech.

Ayers is a trailblazer when it comes to paving his own path and finding success along the way. After graduating from the Providence Campus in 1990, Ayers headed to California, where his love of food and music parlayed into a job as the chef for the Grateful Dead. He quickly established a reputation as a talented chef and businessman who emphasized empathy toward his employees and personal respect for the craft. The audience applauded with gusto after Ayers remarked, "On time is late, early is on time" and "Never sell out for money, fortune or fame."

Ayers acknowledged that much of his work ethic, passion, compassion and empathy are due to his parents, Charles and the late Naomi Jean Ayers.

"My mother would've loved to attend today's ceremony," said Ayers, becoming emotional. "My parents encouraged me to follow my dreams; to never give up, always do my best and do it the right way, regardless of whether anyone is looking."

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Denver Campus

**14th Undergraduate Commencement**

**Colorado Convention Center**

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<td>College of Culinary Arts</td>
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**Honorary Degree Recipients**

**Doctor of Culinary Arts**

*Charles Ayers Jr. '90*

Chef/Owner

Calafia Coffee/Calafia Café & Bar

**Doctor of Business Administration in Entrepreneurship**

*Richard L. Monfort*

Owner/Chairman and CEO

Colorado Rockies Baseball Club

**Student Awards**

For a complete list of student award recipients:

[Online](http://www.jwu.edu/commencement)

TOP, L-R: Richard Lee Monfort '14 Hon. and Charles David Ayers Jr. '90, '14 Hon.
The Worth of an Education is Measured

BY MELINDA LAW WESTMORELAND

Chelsea Flower ‘14, a School of Business graduate and student speaker, faced her classmates from the podium and said, “I can recognize a fellow Johnson & Wales student instantly in their ability to articulate their career goals. We made a different choice because, while the degree may get us in the door, it is our education that will keep us there.” Chelsea was one of nearly 700 students who crossed the stage to accept their diplomas.

Commencement 2014, the ninth such celebration for this campus, was held at Time Warner Cable Arena in Center City Charlotte. There were plenty of seats for as many friends and family members who wanted to come. Some of them, especially first generation students, brought an entourage. Their support was evident by the chorus of cheers and their larger-than-life beaming smiles on the arena’s state-of-the-art scoreboard.

“Commencement is not only a day of celebration for our graduates; it is also a day of celebration for your families,” President Arthur J. Gallagher said. “This is a time for them to share in your achievements and your new beginnings. Your parents, and for some of you, your spouses, can feel some ownership of your diploma and your success.”

That success came to fruition on a picture perfect day that kicked off under Carolina blue skies, low humidity and a high of only 81 degrees. Inside, the two hour ceremony included speeches from Honorary Degree Recipients Sheila Johnson, founder and CEO of Salamander Hotels & Resorts; and Sean Brock ’00, executive chef of McCrady’s in Charleston, S.C. and owner of Husk restaurants in Charleston and Nashville, Tenn. Brock got quite a few laughs from his endearing speech about what it was like for him as a budding chef.

“I would sit there every night after school in the dish tank … there were pans on fire, knives as sharp as samurai swords and lots of smoke breaks in between,” Brock told the crowd. “Let me get this straight. This is a profession that people respect and consider an art form and a craft! You mean I get to act like a pirate, stay out all night, sleep till noon and people will respect the fact that I am a ‘professional’ chef? Sign me up!”

The James Beard Award winner and Iron Chef America participant is a rock star in the culinary world.
“Chef Brock truly understands and appreciates the sense of discipline and the development of craft skills that are taught at JWU,” said Jerry Lanuzza, dean of culinary education. “He embraces that discipline and carries it with him daily and, I believe, is an excellent ambassador for Johnson & Wales University.”

Another star in her own right was Sheila Johnson, the team president, managing partner and governor of the WNBA’s Washington Mystics. She is also the first African-American woman to have a share in three professional sports teams, along with the Washington Wizards (NBA) and the Washington Capitals (NHL). The entrepreneur and philanthropist’s speech hit home with the women in the crowd when she discussed the founding of JWU by two women with one typewriter.

“Not everybody can say they attended a university founded by ‘New Women’—as Gertrude Johnson and Mary Wales were called back in 1914,” Johnson said. “These were women who wanted to use their talents for the greater good, women who were committed to empowering others and women who made personal sacrifices because they wanted to build lives of service. At a time when women didn’t have the right to vote, they used education to give women a voice. And that capacity to defy expectations, to take the impossible and make it inevitable … that is your inheritance.”

That inheritance is what class speaker Chelsea Flower conveyed to her fellow graduates: “We are ready for whatever comes next. Because at Johnson & Wales, it is understood that the worth of an education can be measured in the character of the student’s behavior outside of the classroom.”

<table>
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<th>Honor</th>
<th>Recipient</th>
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<td>Commencement Speaker</td>
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<td>Honor</td>
<td>Doctor of Culinary Arts</td>
<td>Commencement Speaker</td>
<td>H. Sean Brock ’00 Executive Chef Neighborhood Dining Group</td>
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> student awards
For a complete list of student award recipients:

Online > [www.jwu.edu/commencement](http://www.jwu.edu/commencement)
Greetings Class of 2014
BY GERRY FERNANDEZ '76, '86, '98 HON.

CONGRATULATIONS. You are now officially a Johnson & Wales University graduate. With this being the centennial year, your class has special significance as the university reaches a remarkable milestone in its history. What contributions will the class of 2014 make to society and the world? That remains to be seen. However, what starts today is the building of your network and the Johnson & Wales network will work for you only to the extent that you build it.

In preparing for this speaking opportunity, I thought back to my own graduation experience. The year was 1976 and unlike you, I decided to skip out on the commencement exercises and went straight to work in New York City. I was anxious to leave school far behind and get on with my new life as a college graduate with a full-time job. I didn’t bother to take the time to gather the names and addresses of my classmates for future reference. Frankly, I didn’t think I needed to.

That decision came back to haunt me later that year when I experienced just how lonely a person can be even in a city as large as New York. Despite my popularity in school, I found it hard to make real friends outside of work. Even though I had classmates all over the city, I had not taken the time to keep their contact information and make them part of my network. I had almost no one to call and no one to blame but myself.

The lesson learned from that mistake is that the people you meet in school, as in life, have the potential to be lifelong friends who add value, but only if you make time to build solid relationships through giving and sharing. Today the networking practice that I embrace wholeheartedly is to give first and share always. Offer to help someone before you ever ask that person to assist you. It’s like planting seeds: If you select good soil in which to plant them, you will reap a harvest that will more than meet your needs.

When I was a student at Johnson & Wales, the university was a very different place. We did not have the world-class facilities or celebrated faculty we have now, but we did have a diverse student body – one that is even more diverse today. Thanks to the university’s commitment to recruiting talented students from global, urban and multicultural communities, the university prepares students to be citizens of the world. A world of alumni that you can tap into if you commit to making your net-WORK.

As you leave here today, I encourage you to stay connected to your university because networking matters and it will make a difference in your life. I’ve heard people say that a person goes to Harvard or Stanford for the networks they offer as much as for the education they’ll receive. The power of Johnson & Wales connections is becoming every bit as powerful as the network at those other centuries-old universities with one exception: This network can get you a reservation on a Saturday night.

Welcome to the family of JWU alumni: Wear your alumni status with pride and always look for ways to make the JWU net-WORK. Congratulations!
Make Your Mark

As you head into the beginning of your career, we hope you will remember your classmates, friends and faculty and know that they are more than that: They are your first connections, your network. Be proud of your alma mater and always remember that the next decision maker or hiring manager might be a former classmate or alumni.

As you celebrated your academic accomplishments while crossing that stage, alumni from across the decades came to celebrate their pasts and walked with you. During the two commencements, alumni gathered at a luncheon to reminisce about their days at Johnson & Wales and commemorate the Centennial of their alma mater. At that luncheon we honored Beatrice Spirito '43, who studied with the venerable Miss Johnson and Miss Wales; Eileen McNulty Cabral '84, an alum whose father's name was synonymous with discipline as the dean of students and whose name is emblazoned on a dorm in Gaebe Commons; and Lissa and Ben Singer, both 1998 graduates. Lissa's father was the first faculty member hired by Edward Triangolo and Morris Gaebe.

Their roots run deep beyond their diploma and comprise the rich 100-year history of Johnson & Wales University. How will you make your mark?

—Elizabeth Scanlon '97 M.S.
reunion & homecoming

2014–15: calendar

September
30–28 First Graduating C4 Class Reunion
Friday – Sunday
North Miami Campus

October
18 6th Annual Athletics Homecoming 2014
Saturday
Providence Campus – Harborview
18 Charlotte Campus Homecoming 2014
Saturday
Charlotte Campus

November
14–16 JWU Charlotte Class of 2009 Reunion Weekend
Friday – Sunday
Charlotte Campus

January
18 5th Annual North Miami Athletes’ Reunion Weekend
Friday
North Miami Campus

April
24–26 2nd Annual All Class Reunion
Friday – Sunday
Providence Campus

Check our website for alumni events and more information.

Online > alumni.jwu.edu/events
Write to us anytime at alumni@jwu.edu

Below: Johnson & Wales University's first All-Class Reunion in celebration of its Centennial.
The history of Johnson & Wales University is a saga of partnerships. From Gertrude Johnson and Mary Wales, two 20th-century trailblazers with 21st-century minds, it’s been teamwork that has cemented the institution’s foundation. Vilma Gatta ’36, ’88 Hon.—a former student of Misses Johnson and Wales—took Edward Triagolo as a life partner and the two became caretakers of the educational endeavor. Joined by Navy buddy Morris Gaebe ’98 Hon., and his wife, Audrey Gaebe ’88 Hon., the couples co-parented an expanding JWU family.

As partners played a powerful role in Johnson & Wales University’s development, JWU offered a shared experience that became a defining element in the courtship and marriages of hundreds— if not thousands— of alumni over the decades.

The five couples featured in our 2014 Profiles of Success are all graduates of JWU. Some met at the university, others in the world beyond. All are partners in life, and three are in business as well. All agree that their successes are amplified by the strength that they draw from each other—and that Johnson & Wales played a role in building their team.

POWER PARTNERS

By Joann Mackenzie and Janet Kerlin
Jesse Sgro ’06 and Anne Sage ’96 M.S.

Jesse Sgro met Anne Sage at the Rhode Island Philharmonic Music School. Both were taking music lessons (Anne on drums and Jesse on guitar) when they discovered they both had advanced certifications in wine, were Johnson & Wales alumni and shared the same tastes in movies and humor. “The list of things we had in common kept growing and growing,” Jesse says. They married three months later.

“Johnson & Wales opened up the door to the world of wine... It’s important to stick with something you have a real passion for. When I am with customers and do a wine tasting with them, I really don’t recognize that as work. It’s a pleasure.”

— JESSE SGRO

That was five years ago, and in 2011 the couple founded Sage Cellars, a wholesale wine distributor that’s quickly uncorked a reputation as a singularly sensational source of brave new breeds and blends of American wines. From the boutique vineyards of Napa, Sonoma, Long Island and New York’s Finger Lakes, all roads lead back to Rhode Island, where their Warren-based business “cultivates relationships” with a growing customer base that includes — along with retail outlets, private clubs and bars — over 60 restaurants.

Restaurants are a familiar niche for a couple with backgrounds seasoned in the culinary arts. After graduating from JWU and contemplating study at Le Cordon Bleu, Anne was advised by Julia Child ’95 Hon. “Any time a young woman spends in Paris will be the time of her life,” Anne took the Le Cordon Bleu course, which included training by a prestigious sommelier, and followed it with work as a caterer and private chef for a decade.

When Jesse met Anne, he met his match. Among the many things Jesse and Anne have in common are advanced certifications from the London-based Wine & Spirit Education Trust. That combination, says Anne, gives their customers the advantage of two “highly educated palates.”

“We listen,” says Anne.

“We learn,” says Jesse.

The power of their partnership “is in our passion for our products,” says Anne. “American wines have come such a long way.”

And so, since their days at JWU, have Jesse and Anne.

Q: Best career advice?

A: Anne: From my father who owned Bonanza Bus for 50 years: “Keep focused and follow your passion. The rewards will come.” I take that to mean that just chasing dollars is not going to make you a success.
Bart Molin '91 and Grace (Cacucciolo) Molin '90

CO-OWNERS | GRA-BAR FRESH FISH & SEAFOOD | WESTBURY, N.Y.

Bart and Grace Marie Molin sell seafood. The kind of quality seafood that’s so consistently fresh a chef can build a business around it. The kind of seafood that, says Bart, he couldn’t get when he was a chef.

Back in 1992, the couple made it their business to fill that niche. With just one refrigerated van and a lot of drive, Gra-Bar Fresh Fish and Seafood became the first small company to deliver to a Long Island market dominated by large purveyors. In 10 years time the duo fast-forwarded their venture from a boutique retail operation into a wholesale supplier to “awesome restaurants” throughout the New York metropolitan area. From their state-of-the-art refrigerated warehouse in Westbury, N.Y., fish is hauled off boats, hand-cut to each chef’s specifications and packed for delivery.

Though they were on the same campus at the same time, it was the JWU bumper sticker on Grace’s car that alerted Bart to a kindred spirit. Grace was interviewing for the manager’s job at a Long Island restaurant that was about to open. Bart had already been hired as sous chef. When he saw the JWU sticker, he advised his boss to hire Grace. He did. And three years later, Bart married her.

“JWU is a culture,” says Bart, “a way of life.”

“Like Iron Chefs,” says Grace, “but with structure.”

“From the very beginning, we’re both culinary graduates,” she adds.

Now the duo deals in fish by the pallet, open seven days a week and are so busy that they pass each other in the night, Grace says. Bart goes to bed at 7 p.m. so he can be at the market cooperative in the Bronx at 5 a.m.

“Normal people don’t get up the time I get up; work hours I work. This is what I love,” Bart says.

“Seafood,” says Grace, “is a constantly changing product.”

“Johnson & Wales taught us in a way that helps us help others and that’s the best part. Working with our chefs... training our staff to be professionals... creating jobs, supporting families, boats, changing people’s lives. That’s a powerful thing. Those are our power points. What’s the point of success if you can’t do that?”

— BART MOLIN

Q: What characteristic do you value most in your mate?

A: Bart: The amount of patience she has. She’s the more level-headed, sensible one.

A: Grace: He can figure out a problem before it even comes. You have to have a backup plan. He does that very well.
Randy and Barbara St. John “speak the same language.” Which, when it comes to business, Barbara calls “back-of-the-house talk.”

“That’s huge,” she says, “because the back of the house — running the show — is what’s always fascinated me most about the hospitality industry.”

Randy met Barbara on the Providence Campus; both were teaching assistants in the same dorm. Since then, they’ve run everything from conventions (Barbara), to a vintage diner (joint venture), to golf carts (Randy).

For Randy, who’s made a coast-to-coast career out of managing high-end country clubs, making sure the golf carts roll goes with the territory — “like making sure a member’s favorite drink is on the bar before they even ask for it. It’s all in the details, being proactive, not reactive.”

That’s something the couple say they learned at JWU.

With the birth of son Geoffrey, now 17, the new parents followed their nesting instincts and bought The Nest, “a vintage New England diner,” says Barbara. “It was important then for us to be close to home.”

Now what’s important is to find a new home. After five years in Los Angeles, where Randy served as general manager and chief operating officer of the Wilshire Country Club, and Barbara as executive director of the Temple Shalom of the South Bay, they’re heading for Arizona.

“I said yes,” says Randy, to the proverbial offer I couldn’t refuse,” running Scottsdale’s high-end Mirabel Golf Club.

And as for Barbara? “Well,” she says, “Arizona’s hot.”

And in the hospitality job market, that’s cool.

Q: What makes you a power couple?
A: Each other.

Q: What sets you apart and makes you unique?
A: Randy: Details. A high degree of attention to everything.

Q: How do you give back?
A: Barbara: Any way we can.

“The more we’ve climbed the ladder — managing more people, projects, details — the more we’ve realized what we learned at JWU... to juggle and keep a lot of balls in the air.”

— Randy St. John
Serra (Mescumlan) Erol ’01 and Cem Erol ’01
CHIEFS AND EDUCATORS | MSA CULINARY ARTS ACADEMY | ISTANBUL, TURKEY

Their families in Turkey were dismayed when Cem Erol and Serra Mescumlan Erol announced they were going to America to earn college degrees to become chefs. At a crossroads of culinary traditions converging over centuries, cooking was not a respected trade in their homeland and women were never a part of restaurant kitchens. But today the couple is bringing respect, stature and professional training to both men and women in the cross-cultural nation.

“At Johnson & Wales, my baking and pastry chef said… ‘Everything you learned from here, put them all together, but keep to your roots.’ So I did that and I was successful.”

— SERRA (MESCUMLAN) EROL

Cem and Serra met while earning degrees in tourism and hotel management at Bilkent University in Ankara, Turkey. Despite family protest — “To earn a college degree only to become a chef?” — they entered culinary arts programs: Serra at J&WU’s Norfolk Campus in 2001 and Cem in North Miami. When they returned to Turkey in 2003, they were among Turkey’s first trained chefs. “We had a lot of doors opening to us,” says Cem, who eventually became executive chef at a stylish Istanbul hotel.

Even with a degree, Serra met resistance. “When she started in Turkey, it was hard to be a woman in the kitchen. I remember her coming home in tears,” Cem says, adding, “she never gave up.”

Serra worked her way up to executive sous chef, managing 200 chefs at The House Café, an upscale chain in Istanbul. Now, when the couple dines out, “People respect her,” says Cem. “They come out of the kitchen and say, ‘How are you? When are you coming back?’”

With the birth of a son, Serra is writing a cookbook on baby food and further expanding her domain. Cem is executive instructor chef at MSA Culinary Arts Academy in Istanbul, where he has trained more than 2,000 cooks, and works on developing new concepts and representing the school abroad. A new partnership agreement lets MSA’s graduates continue their education at J&WU and obtain a college degree, adding to both the talent pool and star quality of Turkey’s chefs.

Q: What qualities do you admire most in your partner?

A: Cem: She is ambitious and never gives up. She is also responsible, disciplined, respectful.

A: Serra: When he has something on his mind, he has to do it the best. He is always a good-natured person. He thinks twice before he talks.
Arthur Monroe '77 and Tanya (Gavin) Monroe '79

TANYA | MANAGING BROKER | PRUDENTIAL TOWNE REALTY | CHESAPEAKE, VA.
ARTHUR | MORTGAGE LOAN OFFICER | NEW TOWNE MORTGAGE | CHESAPEAKE, VA.

Arthur and Tanya Monroe start start-ups. Three so far: a mortgage company, a mortgage title and settlement company and a property and casualty insurance company. The couple met while students at JWU. "I was with two of my girlfriends," says Tanya. "Arthur called us the three blond mice because our hair was platinum at the time." They were married two years later, on Thanksgiving Day in 1978.

Their was a case of yin and yang where opposites attract at first sight: Arthur to her energy and Tanya to his calm demeanor.

Tanya says the university gave her more than a life partner. "It was a great foundation that has helped with everything we've done."

"The main thing for me was the business aspect," says Arthur. "The connections I made really influenced me."

"If he gives you advice – listen," Tanya says. Tanya listened when Arthur advised her to join him in his first business venture — a mortgage company. In a few short years, they'd grown Monroe Mortgage Inc. from three employees to 20.

Arthur's counsel led Tanya to her current success: leading 85 agents as managing broker of a real estate company that generated $173.5 million in sales in 2013 in Virginia and North Carolina.

Today, the Monroes continue to work together. They both "have each others' backs."

"We like being together," says Arthur, and "helping other people to be successful."

"The key to his success," says Tanya, "is always seeing the best in everybody."

The key to their success is seeing the best in each other.

"By the time we left Johnson & Wales, I felt I was further ahead than people I was competing against in the market. The experience also gave me a different perspective and confidence."

— TANYA (GAVIN) MONROE

"So many times in our careers things have happened that we've been able to relate back to something we learned at Johnson & Wales."

— ARTHUR MONROE

Q: What most impresses you about your spouse professionally?

A: Tanya: His demeanor is patient; he doesn't get upset or ruffled. He is wise counsel to many people and makes great decisions.

A: Arthur: Her energy. The way she interacts with people; the next thing you know they are imitating her or praising her. Her energy rejuvenates some people.
Sharing that JWU Spirit

Across the campuses, JWU students honored the past and shaped future traditions as they celebrated, raised funds and partied with friends and classmates in the days and months before Commencement 2014 and their ascension into the ranks of JWU alumni.

As part of Founders’ Week, the Battle of the Campus inspired friendly competition among student clubs and organizations. Pictured are members of the winning team, Kappa Sigma Fraternity.

Participants from all of the teams at Battle of the Campus.
Accompanied by Dr. Richard Wiscott, vice president and dean of academic affairs, students attend a student leader meet and greet with Colorado Governor John Hickenlooper.

Students gathered with Wildcat Willie at Wahon Weekend, which ended the weeklong Founders' Week Centennial Celebration.

Ice cream was the guest of honor at the 10th annual Campus Activity Board One Tori Sundae event. Staff and faculty volunteered their time to dish up the frozen treat at this traditional event.

The Student Alumni Association (SAA) held their annual all-you-can-eat Stack for Scholars event with proceeds benefitting the JWU Charlotte Emergency Scholarship Fund.

As part of Founders’ Week, more than 150 students bid happy birthday to their beloved institution. Student Government Association president Colton Goodman cuts the cake with Wildcat Willie and President Loren Chant.

Cheerleaders gathered with Wildcat Willie to build excitement for the centennial celebration.
Andrew Johnson looks to the skies during the annual Greatest Day of Fun.

At the annual Fall Club Fair Festival, students get a taste of the myriad clubs and organizations available on campus.

Students enjoy the high life during Wahoo Weekend.

The Student Alumni Association learned about the importance of fundraising and philanthropy during the Council for Advancement and Support of Education: Southeast Regional Leadership Conference in Charleston, S.C.

The Providence Student Government Association celebrated its new 2014-15 leadership.

The men's soccer team leaps to the challenge with a game against Colorado College.
V Students collected 21 pounds of trash as they cleaned the campus and surrounding area during Earth Week.

A More than 100 pies were consumed during a Providence Wahoo Weekend Pie Eating Contest.

< As part of Founders’ Week, baking and pastry students participated in the annual Cupcake Wars. To capitalize on the centennial, teams cooked up JWU-themed treats that featured earlier incarnations of the university logo and icons from each of JWU’s four regions.
Dear Class of 2014,
Congratulations!
You are now alumni. Each of our campuses has an Alumni Relations Manager who can help you stay connected to your alma mater. Your association to JWU does not stop once you graduate; it is the beginning of a lifelong professional and personal network. We hope you stay connected, return often and keep us updated on your successes. Be proud to be one of 95,000 alumni strong. Congratulations again and welcome to the network.

Terence Williams ’89
Executive Director
Alumni Relations
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