DEFINING SUCCESS
Innovation and creativity are bringing 20 JWU alumni to the global frontiers of their fields.

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CANDACE O'TOOLE, MARY STANTON, PAUL WEBER,
SHAWN WILLIAMS, BILL WITHERS
Welcome

This special edition of JWU Magazine is dedicated to you — the new alumni of Johnson & Wales University. You have reached a milestone in your life as you successfully completed your course of study. On behalf of the more than 85,000 alumni of Johnson & Wales University from 140 countries, and as a fellow alumnus, I welcome you to a powerful network of alumni that spans the globe. The entire JWU community offers congratulations on this major personal accomplishment.

Your relationship with JWU continues long beyond your graduation. It is a lifelong bond. In this issue, you'll meet some of your fellow alumni as we celebrate their success. We look forward to including your stories in the magazine and on our website in the coming years.

We recognize that alumni interests are varied and therefore offer many ways for you to connect, learn, inspire and give back. Be examples of the power of a JWU education:

- Attend local, regional and national alumni chapter and networking events.
- Return to campus to lecture in our classrooms and reconnect with faculty and fellow alumni.
- Meet prospective students and families at Admissions Information Meetings and JWU Previews across the country.
- Participate in on-campus recruitment of JWU students.
- Fund scholarships and student support so current students can join you as alumni of JWU.

More than 90 percent of JWU students demonstrate financial need. JWU is dedicated to making the dream of higher education a reality for students who are committed to achievement and the career-focused education for which JWU is renowned worldwide. We need you to continue to play a significant role in the development of your alma mater by supporting current JWU students. Only by working together can we ensure future generations have access to affordable, quality education. The university continues to provide more than $120 million in institutional aid to students, but unfortunately, it is not enough.

Together we can strengthen our university, make it an even more vibrant educational institution and maintain its position as a national leader of career education. Read your 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. Only you can carry the flag of JWU one street farther than it reaches today. You are ambassadors of the university.

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 from you.

Chancellor John J. Bowen '77

JOHNSON & WALES UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE

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Strengthen Our University by Staying Connected

FROM STACEY ANN SINCLAIR '01
ALUMNI COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Congratulations and welcome to the Johnson & Wales University Alumni Association. Graduation is the start of a new chapter in your relationship with JWU, as you’re now part of a powerful network of more than 85,000 alumni from 140 countries.

Connect
Alumni Relations keeps you connected to the university and to each other. Regional chapter events, alumni gatherings, career networks, on-campus talks to prospective students or Alumni Leaders Week — there are plenty of ways to get involved.

Inspire
As you follow your chosen path of achievement and personal growth, you can engage with alumni from all four campuses and contribute to each other’s professional success. Participation in educational, admissions and internship programs for alumni allows you to contribute to your alma mater and to current and future students.

Give
We’re grateful for the support that many alumni already provide to JWU. As we meet the challenge of improving our programs while increasing financial aid, we invite you to join your fellow alumni as donors.

This year’s gifts to the JWU Fund will directly support scholarships and programs that enhance the student experience. You can assign your gift to the university, a specific campus or a particular area of need. Every contribution, regardless of amount, will change lives by bringing a JWU degree within reach of more students.

Gifts can be made online at alumni.jwu.edu/jwufund

Keep in Touch
Register with our alumni network at alumni.jwu.edu.
Stay informed and learn about local, regional and campus events.

• Gain access to “members-only” areas of JWU’s online alumni community.
• Receive JWU Magazine.
Your relationship with the JWU community didn’t end at graduation. Explore what’s available as a member of our growing alliance of successful alumni. We look forward to seeing you back on campus soon.
A World of Wisdom, Encouragement and Motivation

BY MADELINE PARMENTER AND MIRIAM WEINSTEIN '08 MBA

Two men meet in Providence, R.I. One, in his 20s, hails from the other side of the globe: Malaysia. The other, in his 70s, a self-proclaimed street kid from Manhattan, recalls his family pulling up roots in 1948 and moving to what "seemed like the other side of the globe": California. On this day, both were at the Dunkin' Donuts Center, the center of the universe for 1,107 graduates attending the 97th Commencement of the College of Culinary Arts and The Hospitality College.

Chern Wann "Reagan" Ting '11, a restaurant, food and beverage management major, stood before a near-capacity audience of 14,500. As the student speaker, he recounted the story of his long and arduous 26-hour journey from Kuala Lumpur to JWU, recalling that he packed native foods in case he became homesick.

"Despite everything that I went through to come here, it was worth it because I know that I am stepping out of here a different person," Ting said. "As we leave this close and comforting community at JWU, let us now go out there and contribute to the larger global community," he advised his fellow graduates.

Later in the ceremony, Louis "Bob" Trinchero '11 Hon., owner of Trinchero Family Estates in St. Helena, Calif., received an honorary Doctor of Oenology degree. Like Ting, he addressed the audience. Though overwhelmed by its enormity, he had the advantage of hindsight.

"As I look back at my life, I see the turning points that at the time didn't seem important," he recalled discovering, almost by accident, White Zinfandel at his family vineyards back in 1972. It became the number-one selling varietal in the U.S. for the next 10 years.

"Always listen to your customer, whether you're dealing with a product or a service. The customer is why you succeed or fail," Trinchero said. "Find out what your customer wants and give it to them. Innovate. And most important: over-deliver. With this and hard work, you will succeed."

Success and "life after JWU" for the 662 graduates of the College of Business and School of Technology, arrived during their afternoon ceremonies. As the graduates' excited faces beamed, their parents looked on with a combination of wonder and pride.

Seated on the stage was Irving Schneider, Ph.D., '11 Hon., president of the Providence..."
Campus. The retiring leader delivered his final address to the last class he would preside over after eight years as president and a 41-year career with the university. He was awarded an honorary Doctor of Education in Educational Leadership by JWU's Chairman John Yena '06 Hon.

Also receiving recognition was former Rhode Island governor, Donald Carcieri '11 Hon., who received an honorary Doctor of Business Administration degree. He cautioned students that one of life's greatest fears is fear of failure, quoting boxing champion, Muhammad Ali. "It ain't no shame to get knocked down on the canvas. It's a shame not to get up."

Personifying that message was Heather Mead '11, an advertising and marketing communications major selected to be this ceremony's student speaker. She confessed something she had kept from her classmates. "I did not graduate high school in the traditional way. I got my GED," she said.

"I was worried people would be quick to misjudge or ridicule me, but realized that after today, none of that matters," she declared. "I'm here to say to this audience — to everyone who ever thought they weren't good enough, or does not think that they have a chance — nobody can stop you if you put your dreams forward and you're given an opportunity."

Mead told her audience that she'd endured not one, but two brain surgeries while at JWU. Still, she was able to complete her undergraduate studies in only three years.

"A wise woman once told me, to get your education, further your education because life always will throw something your way you don't expect. Life can change in an instant, but education is something they can never take away from you. This wise woman was my mother. So my best advice to the Class of 2011 is this: Always listen to your mother," she concluded.

And the audience applauded — especially the proud mothers.

The Class of 2011 capped off commencement with colorful displays of imagination, international flare and proud celebration at ceremonies at Providence’s Dunkin' Donuts Center.
... As a native Rhode Islander, I've known and admired the Johnson & Wales story — and let me tell you, it's a very unique one in the annals of higher education, and for that matter, all of business.

I've watched it grow from a small, locally oriented business school into a full-blown university with campuses around the country and a worldwide reach.

Johnson & Wales has produced thousands of leaders in business, hospitality and tourism. And along the way, has made Rhode Island home to many of the finest restaurants in the country and a thriving hospitality industry.

I've watched it rise like a phoenix from the ashes of the Outlet department store — a Rhode Island icon — building an entire campus in downtown Providence at a time when the city was in decline. The university's investment and presence has brought a new vigor and vibrancy to our capital city and been a major catalyst for the renaissance that has occurred.

I've watched the Bay campus transform an old, industrial brownfields site into a magnificent showplace of culinary history, academic excellence and beautiful, first-class student housing.

And this is an institution that has not just done a marvelous job growing internally but that understands that to be a great institution, it must reach outside of itself to enhance our entire community. Johnson & Wales University enriches our community in manifest ways. Its students, faculty, administrators and staff are all immersed in hundreds of community outreaches that improve the lives of Rhode Islanders every day."

— DONALD CARCieri '11 HON.
"... No matter who you are, you or someone you know has gone through something — whether it be the demise of a relationship, a medical complication, financial issues or just the often challenging experience in college.

Look around you. You are in the company of people who have overcome something. We come from different states, different incomes and different backgrounds but we share a common thread — we’ve all faced hard times or known someone who has.

However, we can all rise from the ashes with a story to tell — a story that one day may have a deep and profound impact on another who may need a helping hand. If those of us who face adversity are given the chance and made to believe something is possible, then anything can happen.

This is a positive day and a time for reflection upon entering a new chapter in our lives. It is a celebration of those who have maintained a strong sense of self and resolve. It is one appreciation of triumph over struggle. This day is about having overcome obstacles on the path to greatness and success. Fellow classmates, I hope you are experiencing pleasant and powerful feelings at this moment. You should be proud because you have all certainly reached some level of personal achievement and today is the recognition of that accomplishment."

— HEATHER MEAD '11
A Silver Commencement with Golden Moments

BY LISA PELOSI

The traditional 25th anniversary is symbolized by silver. For the 25th Commencement of Alan Shawn Feinstein Graduate School of Johnson & Wales University, it was the gold-glittered arches of the Providence Performing Arts Center that welcomed the Class of 2011. It was a night full of tradition and "first-evers."

A torrential rainstorm cleared in time for many family members and friends to arrive without the need for umbrellas. It was evident that, for some, it was their first visit to this magnificent theater. Their upward gazes, marveling at the beauty of the chandeliers and detailed wall moldings, quickly turned toward the stage as the ceremony began with the university’s tradition of an international parade of flags. "Singapore." "Mongolia." "Vietnam." As each country was called, cheers rang out in Providence and around the world: for the first time in the university’s history, the commencement ceremony could be viewed in a live stream on the university’s website.

Johnson & Wales’ global reach was represented by flags of 30 nations that provided a colorful backdrop to the evening’s proceedings. It also was reflected in a memory recalled by doctoral candidate and student speaker, Bethany Zemba ’11 Ed.D., of when she and her fellow classmates first began their studies. “One of the members of my cohort presented each cohort member with a small, wobbly Asian doll. The doll is said to bring good luck in reaching a goal. As part of the Asian tradition, each student in my cohort colored in one of the doll’s eyes at the start of the program. The tradition states that the second eye is colored in at the end of the venture. I invite all graduates to metaphorically color in that second eye, for we have all succeeded in reaching our educational goals.”

For the first time, the university incorporated its doctoral hooding ceremony into the graduate school commencement ceremony. One by one, candidates were called to the stage to be presented with their doctoral hoods as Jeffrey Senese, Ph.D., vice president of academic affairs, announced the individual’s degree path, dissertation title and the name of the major advisor.

“Today you join the elite leaders in the field of education. Through your
individual research, you now are experts in your field. Bethany and her colleagues are following in the footsteps of the 197 graduates of the doctoral program who are out in the world making a difference.

John Ritacco ’11 Hon. drew on the wisdom of longtime New York Yankees player and manager, Yogi Berra. “You’ve got to be careful if you don’t know where you are going, because you might not get there,” he reminded graduates. Ritacco was awarded an honorary Doctor of Business Administration degree. His long and distinguished career in banking began in Providence, R.I., at the former Fleet Bank. He is now CEO of CMS Bancorp Inc. and Community Mutual Savings Bank in White Plains, N.Y.

“You’ll find that no matter what profession or industry you choose, change will be with you throughout your career,” said Ritacco, who noted that change has been an ever-present part of his 32-year career. “Prepare for it, embrace it, as it will help you to cope and will make you better performers.”

It is tradition for commencement speakers to impart words of advice to the graduates. Ritacco offered the Class of 2011 this: “Learn to differentiate yourself in positive ways. Show your employer that you have values. Place team over self. Maintain a high level of personal accountability and integrity. Always look to win, but not at all costs.”

At the conclusion of the speaking program, degrees were conferred. The celebration for all of the 383 graduates and their friends and families grew louder as graduates crossed the stage to receive their diplomas. To just about everyone’s surprise, graduate Adam Mscichowski ’11 MBA dropped to his knees on stage in front of fellow graduate Jamie Almond ’11 MBA and proposed marriage. This was a “first-ever” at Johnson & Wales, making a memorable night even more so. She accepted.

Alan Shawn Feinstein Graduate School
25th Graduation Commencement
Providence Performing Arts Center

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Honorary Degree Recipients

Doctor of Business Administration (Commencement Speaker)
John E. Ritacco, President and CEO of CMS Bancorp Inc. and Community Mutual Savings Bank in White Plains, N.Y.

Doctor of Education in Educational Leadership
Kwan Siu Lui-Tan, Founder and Director of Sunrice GlobalChef Academy in Singapore

> student awards

For a complete list of student award recipients:

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

ABOVE, LEFT: Kwan Siu Lui-Tan ’11 Hon. and John Ritacco ’11 Hon.
"... I have little doubt that you are better prepared to tackle the challenges you'll face going forward and that you'll figure out the answer to many important questions, maybe sooner and a little better than I did, and I'm confident that you will all find success in your own individual way.

However, the real test of your success will be determined by the way you achieve it, and that will define you as an individual to your family, friends and colleagues.

When I began in my current role as CEO, my company was outdated, not very relevant in the community bank arena and, most importantly, a seemingly rudderless ship, in a very big market, filled with large financial institutions which had more branch locations, better products and higher market awareness. Obviously, we needed to make major changes and the task in front of us was scary.

So, before I could make all the necessary business changes, I needed to develop a new collaborative corporate culture which management and staff would focus on together and thereby build a trusting workplace environment. I knew the changes were going to be sweeping and our employees would most likely be frightened as we implemented the improvements in order for the company to compete.

I've always been a strong advocate of 'treating people the way I want to be treated.' It is important to me. I have incorporated that belief into my style each and every day. It's always seemed easier to get folks to take on the difficult tasks when they feel like they are part of the solution. It makes for a stronger company."

— JOHN E. RITACCO '11 HON.
“... As citizens and leaders in a pluralistic, multicultural society, we have an opportunity to promote a valuing of tolerance and the understanding of beliefs and lifestyles of others. There is a strength in diversity; and in a rapidly changing world, we then must strive to promote an attitude of awareness and acceptance of both the similarities and differences that exist among people. Acceptance of this variability will allow our global society to adapt and become more successful.

In conclusion, as graduates, we will show ourselves to be competent leaders in our respective fields. In my time at Johnson & Wales, a personal lesson I learned is that it is very important for us to know ourselves, to identify what it is we stand for and to really know what we are committed to, if we are going to lead. It is equally important for us to communicate this vision to others so they also know — it is not enough to just know it ourselves. Today’s world has become more unstable due to terrorism, wars, financial instability and environmental destruction and devastation. As such, there are and will continue to be, ample opportunities to lead. The challenges we will face validate the time and effort we devoted over the past two, three or four years, towards becoming more knowledgeable and engaged global citizens. It is through education, leadership and community that we will be able to advocate our visions of promise and confront the challenges that lie ahead.”

— BETHANY ZEMBA ’11 ED.D.
Graduates Urged to Pursue Dreams

BY TONYA EVANS

This year, Broward County Convention Center in Fort Lauderdale, Fla., was the setting for the North Miami Campus' 18th Commencement ceremonies. It was a beautiful South Florida day and many students and their families took advantage of the picturesque setting to pose in front of the huge sailfish sculpture at the convention center entrance.

Gordon Stewart '11 Hon., chairman of Sandals Resorts International and founder of Appliance Traders Ltd., told students that the most important ingredients for a successful career include a genuine love and passion for what one does as well as drive and determination. He stressed the importance of working to the very best of one's ability and keeping the customer in mind at all times.

Stewart was awarded an honorary doctorate for his many contributions to the hospitality industry and support for charities. With no hotel experience, he launched his career with the purchase of a blighted hotel in Montego Bay known today as Sandals Montego Bay, part of one of the largest private sector conglomerates in the Caribbean.

Culinary arts major Christopher Struck '11, this year's student commencement speaker, talked about the next chapter in the lives of his 305 classmates as well as some of the experiences that bond the Class of 2011.

"Though this morning marks our graduation from college, the next chapter of our education begins tomorrow," he underscored. "From now on, we will be learning on another level. Over the past few years, we have been given the tools to become lifelong learners. Our education must be an everyday occurrence, for if it is not, we cease to be."

Struck reminded students to carry the lessons that they have learned about social justice, guiding principles and the desire to
make a difference with them as they move into their careers.

"If we reflect back upon our lives four years ago, we can see how far we have come today in our journey. We think ‘now’ is hard; yet we realize that the future will be so much harder. In order to continue persevering in our quest for success, we must set goals to pursue our dreams," Struck urged, quoting visionary Walt Disney: "All [of] our dreams come true — if we have the courage to pursue them."

U.S. District Judge Donald Graham ’11 Hon. was awarded a Doctor of Business Administration in Criminal Justice. Graham has served as judge since his appointment in 1991 by President George H.W. Bush.

Following the recognition of the honorary degree recipients, students took the stage to receive their diplomas. This year’s students seemed unusually calm as they contemplated life after graduation and the relationships that they have formed on campus, in the community and within their respective industries.

"I think we all feel so prepared for this," said Iasia Jenkins ’11, a graduate of the College of Business. "We know what to expect next, and I think we are all ready to move on to the next chapter in our lives."

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**North Miami Campus**

18th Undergraduate Commencement
Greater Fort Lauderdale/Broward County Convention Center

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**Honorary Degree Recipients**

*Doctor of Business Administration in Travel-Tourism & Hospitality Management (Commencement Speaker)*

**Gordon Arthur Cyril Stewart**, Chairman Sandals Resorts International Montego Bay, Jamaica

*Doctor of Business Administration in Criminal Justice*

**Donald L. Graham**, United States District Judge Miami, Fla

**student awards**

For a complete list of student award recipients:

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

TOP, l-r: Gordon Stewart '11 Hon. and Donald Graham '11 Hon.

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**SUMMER 2011 13**
"... A lot of people talk about leaving school, leaving the university, starting life, and you have this sometimes big confusion in front of you: ‘Where do I start? Where am I going to get to? How am I going to make it in this big, competitive world?’ From my experience, you start by being focused. Take advantage of every opportunity you can get, but in taking advantage of it, take advantage in a way that the people you either work for or work with, think of you as the best — the best worker; the person that is more willing to help, to satisfy, to please, than anybody else.

I grew up before you, and I grew up in a world, that if the bathroom needed cleaning, clean it. Don’t wait on somebody else if that’s the problem for the day. I don’t think life is so difficult. You’re going to have lots of problems. Your job is to find solutions ...

... I started in the hotel business by chance — by mistake. It was an opportunity. It was at the beginning of the 80s. My country, Jamaica, had been through some very bumpy times, so we were able to get a hotel at the time’s market value, but also at a reduced price because it was in terrible shape. We started with 99 bedrooms after spending more money on this resort than it cost to buy. The people who started the resort had migrated and left it, and it just got further and further into disrepair. But for me that was an opportunity.

People said to me, ‘Butch, I think you’re biting off more than you can chew this time. If you’re going into the hotel business, you’re going to fail.’ That alone is a nice challenge. Because my history was selling air conditioners, helping the guys to put them in — working with a team; building a team — I never wanted a one-man business. I didn’t mind leading a business, but I wanted a team. I wanted to work with people so that we could develop an organization, and who knows? You talk about your first African American president? The world is your oyster. Make up your mind. You’ll find a way to get there."

— GORDON STEWART ’11 HON.
“... When we first arrived on the campus of Johnson & Wales University, we may have been worried about the challenges that newfound responsibilities would bring. For some of us, this might have been the first time we were living on our own; doing our own laundry and paying our own bills. For others, it was about the excitement of starting the college life that we had always envisioned. But regardless of where each of us began our undergraduate journey, we are all completing this part of our lives together, right now, at this very moment.

As the graduating class of 2011, we have shared some distinct experiences during our time together. Three years ago, we witnessed the historical event of electing our nation's first African American president, and in doing so, learned that what many of our predecessors had once thought impossible, can indeed be possible.

Over the past two years, students, along with all members of our campus community, have banded together to raise money, awareness and emotional support for the people of earthquake-ravaged Haiti, and most recently, Japan. Today, we continue to strive for excellence, taking the goodwill and social justice principles instilled within all of us, to go forth and succeed in making a difference in our local, national and global communities. Because of what we have seen occur during our time here, we have acquired the unique understanding that we can all truly make a difference. As graduates of Johnson & Wales University, believe that we can succeed in whatever it is that we set out to do as long as we persevere and remain true to our principles.”

— CHRISTOPHER STRUCK '11
Denver Graduates Challenged to Dream Big

BY KARA JOHNSTON

"There is no secret to success, because if there was I would tell you. The only way to find success is to commit to something," Keegan Gerhard '11 Hon. told graduates. "Whatever you want to be, do whatever it takes to get the job done and be the best."

Gerhard, host of "Food Network Challenge," executive pastry chef and owner of D Bar Desserts in Denver, Colo., noted he wanted to be the best pastry chef, but now he receives mail from pastry chefs all over the world thanking him for hosting the popular TV show and helping them become better at their craft.

Sometimes our dreams become bigger than we ever imagined, Gerhard observed. He illustrated his point by telling 295 graduates that life is like a dream catcher, a Native American amulet where good dreams are allowed to filter through the fabric web and negative things are captured and eventually dissipate. "Your personality, your character and your degree are the fabric of your dream catcher, enabling you to achieve your dreams," he told the audience.

With signature humility, Gerhard concluded his address by noting that previous JWU honorary degree recipients — Noel Cunningham '02 Hon., Thomas Keller '03 Hon. and Norman Love '03 Hon. — are his mentors and friends. "Surround yourself with good people, and good things will come your way."

Gerhard gave the address during 2011 Commencement on Coors Family Commons. The ceremony began with a soulful rendition of "The Star-Spangled Banner" performed by culinary arts major Angel Villalobos '11.

Gerhard was awarded an honorary Doctor of Culinary Arts. Theophilus "Theo" Gregory, vice president of the El Pomar Foundation in Colorado Springs, received an honorary Doctor of Business Administration in Sports/Entertainment/Event Management.

Gregory's distinguished career started in 1975 at The Ohio State University, followed by positions at University of Nevada Las Vegas and University of Colorado Boulder, where he helped
guide the men’s football team to its first NCAA national championship in 1991. He has also served on a number of community and national boards, including Junior Achievement and the Colorado Sports Hall of Fame.

On behalf of his class, Bryson Billapondo ’11, a culinary nutrition major, spoke of the collective hard work they’d endured and choices they’d all made to pursue their degrees — the same characteristics that defined them all as individuals.

“When I look out into this sea of faces, I see what the world will become when you take it and make it yours. I see chefs who are going to push limits and imaginations. I see nutritionists who will continue to improve on the standards of life and the bettering of a people through food. I see the men and women who will make the streets safer. I see future CEOs that will shape the idea of how a business should be run. I see those who will take a mere piece of fabric and turn the fashion world upside-down. I see greatness that can be achieved,” he told his classmates.

Denver Campus

11th Undergraduate Commencement
Coors Family Commons

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Honorary Degree Recipients

Doctor of Culinary Arts
(Commencement Speaker)

Keegan Holland Gerhard, Chef and Owner
OBar Desserts
Denver, Colo.

Doctor of Business Administration
in Sports/Entertainment/Event Management

Theophilus Delonia Gregory, Vice President
El Pomar Foundation
Colorado Springs, Colo.

> student awards

For a complete list of student award recipients:

Online > www.jwu.edu/commencement

TOP, L-R: Keegan Holland Gerhard ’11 Hon. and Theophilus Delonia Gregory ’11 Hon.
“... Do you remember when you first stepped onto these grounds? Remember the dreams that you had, and the dreams that you now carry? ... Has that changed, or has your dream only become greater? Are you going to influence the world by striving to do what has already been done? Or are you going to be the next person that others want to be? What do you see in yourself that the world does not?

When I look out into this sea of faces, I see what the world will become when you take it and make it yours. I see chefs who are going to push limits and imaginations. I see pastry chefs who are going to take a simple idea and create art that will be admired. I see nutritionists who will continue to improve on the standards of life and the bettering of a people through food. I see the men and women who will make the streets safer. I see future CEOs that will shape the idea of how a business should be run. I see those who will take a mere piece of fabric and turn the fashion world upside-down. I see in each one of you ideas, passion, hunger and drive that will innovate. I see greatness that can be achieved. We may be cut from the same cloth of knowledge, but that does not mean that we are going to wear it the same way. We are unique, we are strange, and we will soon be in charge.
"We will brighten our communities with our untapped amount of creativity; we are the innovators who can create a difference; and most importantly, we are hope; we are change; we are the future. Each one of us carries a spark that will in some way ignite a flame; that flame will be fueled by the strength of our voice. We can create a blinding light that will be used to shine for the entire world to see. So how bright is your spark? How big will your flame become? Only time will tell.

“So this is our time, not because it was given to us, but because we earned it; because through our struggle, we found a dream, a passion and what makes us who we are. The world does not need another cookie cutter model; it needs us. They are not expecting us out there. No one is. Out there, they are expecting change, wanting innovation, looking for a spark to ignite the world and a reminder that for every action there is an opposite and equal reaction. You gave us mental strain and physical struggle. You gave us grief and disarray. We were your tired, your poor, your weak and needy; we were, but we no longer are. So here we stand, the graduating Johnson & Wales class of 2011; and on this day, within each of us we hold a spark in our hand, passion in our hearts and limitless possibilities abound. Are you prepared for the world? Because the world is not prepared for us. Congratulations on graduating. Class of 2011; now let’s set the world on fire.”

— BRYSON BILLAPONDO ’11
Class Mosaic Includes the Give and Take

BY MELINDA LAW

The Class of 2011 represented 35 states, four countries and one mom with three very young children who had worked hard for this moment. Amber Brewer '11 captivated her classmates and the thousands of friends and family who packed Time Warner Cable Arena. As her husband and children looked on from the front row, Brewer spoke of the day she will never forget.

"I remember one particular time during my freshman year," Brewer said. "Like many of you, I left my hometown and moved to Charlotte so that I could pursue my dream. My husband had not yet obtained a full-time position and money was a little tight. Early one morning, I went to the dining center before my culinary lab and wasn't sure if I had enough money on my flex account to eat, but I was praying for a miracle."

She met Tamika Swaringer at the door, an employee known for her huge smile and making sure students were taken care of. "She swiped my card, handed it back and said, 'Now you go on and get you something to eat. Have a good morning.' At this point, there was complete silence in the arena as Brewer continued. "I guess I looked a little perplexed because she said, 'You have to eat so you can make those As in class. My babies have to do well, so they can be somebody. You'll pay me next time.' She smiled again and then squeezed my hand and said, 'Now hurry up, so you won't be late for class."

Last November, Swaringer lost her leg in a tragic accident. JWU helped raise more than $10,000 to help the single mom. "Tamika Swaringer is a big deal to the student body, and in her time of need, we banded together to provide some relief," Brewer said. "This is the Johnson & Wales experience that makes us great."
But this is only a small piece of the mosaic that defines us."

And as her husband, Jabari, and children Jalen, Jennaya and Jordan looked up at the larger-than-life image of their mother on the scoreboard — the largest video screen in use in an NBA facility — Brewer left the podium with a nod to her family and a quote from one of their favorite authors, Theodor "Dr. Seuss" Geisel. "You have brains in your head. You have feet in your shoes. You can steer yourself any direction you choose. So be sure when you step, step with care and great tact. And remember that life's a great balancing act. And will you succeed? Yes! You will, indeed! And that's 100 percent guaranteed."

Just over 500 students walked the stage that day and, armed with diplomas, ran outside under Carolina blue skies and into the arms of loved ones. It was an amazing morning. But it was Brewer's speech that truly galvanized the crowd.

**HONORED GUESTS ADVISE PASSION, RESPECT AND RISK**

Commencement 2011 stage guests were an impressive group. Charlotte was honored to welcome JWU trustees, James Hance Jr., former vice chairman and chief financial officer of Bank of America Corp.; Don Hubble, chairman emeritus of Angellia Corp.; and Thomas Skains, chairman, president and CEO of Piedmont Natural Gas.

Both honorary degree recipients, Eric Danziger '71 Hon., president and chief executive officer of the Wyndham Hotel Group and Julia Stewart '71 Hon., chairman and chief executive officer of DineEquity Inc., took the stage and offered anecdotes from their long and successful careers.

"Respect others for who they are and what they do; this matters a lot," Danziger said. "You cannot succeed in the hospitality industry if you don’t fundamentally like and respect all kinds of people. You can't fake this. You need to feel it."

Stewart told graduates that her father was disappointed she didn’t follow in his teaching footsteps. "Find and do what you love," Stewart said. "I loved the pace of my first job at IHOP and the immediate feedback I would get. Second, take calculated risks. I left a very good job at IHOP because I needed operations experience. I took a job at Taco Bell wearing a polyester uniform. My friend laughed at me. But it wasn’t long before I was running 5,000 express units," she added. "I teach every day. Her father saw it years later. I too was a teacher; my classroom was just different."
"...When a guest shows up in your lobby, they need to sense immediately that you welcome them. Isn't that what welcome means? It is 'well that you come' — and that you take pride in serving them.

To do that, you need to be sensitive and aware of whom you are dealing with. This lesson was brought home to me early in my career: When I was an assistant manager, we got a new GM [general manager] in, and I gave him a tour of the property. We walked into a ballroom where they were prepping a wedding reception. They were running late and everybody was rushing around dressed like penguins trying to get the place ready for the wedding party — everyone except for this one guy who was just leaning against the wall. He had his tux on too, but he's not lifting a finger to help anyone. So, the GM sees his chance to show that he means business. He walks up to the guy and asks, 'How much money do you make a week?' The guy shrugs and says, 'About a thousand dollars.' The GM pulls out a wad of cash, peels off a bunch of bills and screams — 'Here's a week's pay; now get out and don't come back!' Feeling pretty good about his first firing, the GM looks at the shocked faces around him and asks, 'Does anyone want to tell me what that slacker did here?'

Whereupon the banquet manager leans over and says, 'Well, I'd have to check, but I think he's the best man.' So while I'm suggesting that you bring passion to your work, I'm also saying that you need to channel that passion appropriately. And you need to do a lot of listening."

— Eric Danziger '11 Hon.
“...We all come from different walks of life, with different experiences, different passions, dreams, interests and goals. We are more than the three colleges represented here today. We are part of a generation of rebels. We are the MacGyvers of our disciplines. We can take a square piece of linen, two paper clips, a satin ribbon and a rubber band and create the next fashion trend. We don’t do regular. We like ours half-caf-double-tall-no-foam-no-whip-two-pump-extra-hot-upside-down. We know that the secret to world peace is bacon, yes bacon, because everything is better with bacon.

We are innovators. We take all the scraps that others would define as garbage, put it in gallon pickle buckets on a concrete slab in a parking lot and use it to bring forth something that can sustain life. Have you seen our garden? We will not be defined by the constraints of what others say is normal. So, why should we fit in when we were born to stand out?

I once heard a well-respected chef and scholar say that his vision for the university was that when someone looked at a graduate from Johnson & Wales and reviewed their long list of accomplishments, they would most certainly say, “There is a Johnson & Wales man or woman.”

— AMBER BREWER ’11
Welcome

“I am pleased to officially welcome you as the newest members of the Johnson & Wales University Alumni Association.

Today marks your entry into a family which — including your Class of 2011 — has grown to more than 85,000 fellow graduates from 140 countries.

The philosophy of the JWU alumni association is ‘Connect. Inspire. Give.’ This framework outlines the many ways you can stay connected to each other and to the university as you transition from school to career.

Wherever your next adventure takes you, you will continue to be an important part of the Johnson & Wales family. I hope you stay connected, return often, keep us updated on your successes and carry the JWU flag with you on your career travels.

Congratulations. We invite you to take a leadership role in JWU’s network of 85,000 alumni around the world. Welcome to the Alumni Association.”

Robed alumni gathered to walk in the commencement procession and induct the Class of 2011 into the JWU Alumni Association.
Leaders in business, technology, food service and hospitality, they are models of achievement in work and in life — underwriting multimillion-dollar loans at Bank of America Merrill Lynch; fueling Google’s energized environs; branding entertainment at Telemundo. For the fourth year, JWU Magazine is proud to highlight the accomplishments of 20 of its more than 85,000 alumni. Innovative professionals, they are at the forefront of a global arena on a fast track to the future.

DEFINING SUCCESS

BY GREGORY DISTEFANO
ANDREA FELDMAN
SHANNON ROBBINS
DAN RYAN
PIYA SARAWGI '94, '02 MBA
CATHERINE SENGEL
DEFINING SUCCESS IN BUSINESS

Hector Loyola ’93
Course Designer
Fedecavon Equestre Internationale

Hector is the youngest licensed FELA show jumping course designer in the world. Although he grew up with horses in Puerto Rico, Loyola never knew about English riding or the sport of show jumping until he enrolled in JWU’s Equine Management program. Now he spends more than half the year traveling the U.S., Canada, South and Central America and the Caribbean setting jumps and jumping difficulty in every class of competition.

Person of greatest influence at JWU
One above all: Beth Beukema. I owe her all my success and career.

Managing work and life balance
I once said as a boy that I’d love to work at the circus. It came true with the show jumping circuit. In traveling 25 weeks of the year, I work and life follows me, but it balances itself out.

Vision for your industry’s future
Show jumping will always be show jumping. What will change is the quality of the shows, the safety of our horses and horse breeding will be more competitive.

“Never stop dreaming and set your goals. Success is not necessarily achieving your goal. You’re already successful when you start pursuing your goals.”

HECTOR LOYOLA ’93

“Endurance racing has helped me imagine completing a race and has helped in my career. I imagine where I want to be and visualize the path to get there.”

—DIRK SHAW ’97

“Identify your professional interest as early as possible and remain open to exploring new experiences outside your comfort zone.”

—REGINALD HEARD ’86

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**Dirk Shaw ’97**
Senior Vice President
Ogilvy PRs 360° Digital Influence Practice
Dirk oversees strategic planning and creative deployment of social media for Ogilvy’s West Coast clients. An industry pioneer with 15 years in the digital marketing field, his previous experience includes development of digital marketing solutions for Delta Air Lines, Coca-Cola and Marriott. Dirk also co-founded Aperio, a company that develops digital business solutions and marketing strategies. His blog can be found at www.dirkshaw.com.

**Most important 21st-century workplace skill**
Creativity. Answering questions in new ways requires creative thinking — the kind of thinking that can’t be found via Google.

**Vision for your industry’s future**
It’s going from mass to social to relevant media. Brands are competing for a scarce resource — attention. People can only process so much. What sticks are things that matter and are relevant.

**Advice for new graduates**
Build your personal brand online. First step is to clean up your social profile. Having compromising photos can cost you a job. Second, establish a point of view in an area you want to pursue.

**Favorite quote**
“Do or do not; there is no ‘try.’” — Yoda, from “Star Wars”

**Reginald Heard ’86**
President, CEO and Founding Principal
Bankers One Capital
Reggie runs Bankers One Capital, a financial advisory firm that specializes in loan packaging and debt placement for new and existing small business owner-operators, single and multi-unit franchise operators and portfolio investors. In his more than 20 years of industry experience, he cultivated an extensive commercial finance career by working for such large financial institutions as the QIT Group, GE Capital, Fleet Bank and State Street Bank.

**Most lasting impression of JWU**
The quality of faculty and resources, and my successful internship with Dun & Bradstreet that allowed me to land my first permanent job with State Street Bank.

**Career gurus**
Bill Gates of Microsoft, Ben Cohen and Jerry Greenfield of Ben & Jerry’s, and Mark Zuckerberg of Facebook. They began their ventures as small business operators with relentless drive.

**Biggest challenge you’ve overcome**
Starting a small business finance company shortly before the onset of the greatest financial market meltdown since the last Great Depression.

**Advice for new grads**
Identify your professional interest as early as possible and remain open to exploring new experiences outside your comfort zone.

**Susanne (Chasanoff) Deegan ’93**
Managing Director
Burson-Marsster
As managing director at Burson-Marsster, a global public relations and communications firm with offices and affiliate partners in 81 countries, Susanne develops and executes strategic communications programs to help clients protect their brand reputation in the face of high-profile crisis. With more than 15 years experience in government and public affairs, Susanne has worked with companies and trade associations in the aerospace, consumer products, energy, hospitality, higher education, steel and transportation industries.

**Role JWU played in your career**
My internships at the Providence mayor’s office and then the State House put me ahead of the competition and allowed me to land a job out of college with the NYC mayor’s office under [Rudy] Giuliani.

**Vision for your industry’s future**
Social media engagement and strategy on the issues management side of things will be a growing area of focus.

**Most important 21st-century workplace skill**
The lost art of knowing how to write.

**Favorite quote**
“Nothing great is ever achieved without much enduring.” — St. Catherine of Siena (and Theta Phi Alpha motto)

“Make sure you can write well. Network, network, network and stay on top of the news.”
— SUSANNE (CHASANOFF)
DEEGAN ’93
DEFINING SUCCESS
IN CULINARY

“If you can make it
yourself, why buy it?”
— CHARLIE AYERS ’90

“If you decide to give your best each
day, sleep will come easy and fulfill-
ment will be readily available.”
— REGINA MEHALICK ’91

“People don’t care how much
you know, until they know
how much you care.”
— PAOLA (GAITAN) PETRELLA ’99

Charlie Ayers ’90
Chef and Owner
Calafia Café & Market a Go Go, Palo Alto, Calif.

After revolutionizing the corporate cafeteria as Google’s first executive chef — a gig he won in a cook-off — Charlie opened Calafia Café & Market a Go Go to bring his “slow foods served fast” philosophy to the public. He also caters to the backstage areas at open-air music festivals, a scene he got into by working as a private chef for the Grateful Dead. In addition, he is the author of “Food 2.0” and does consulting work for start-up companies.

JWU’s role in your career
Being a JWU graduate has opened doors at places where I otherwise would never have had the chance to work.

Most important 21st century
workplace skill
Learning how to work with your competitors and turn them into partners.

Biggest challenge you’ve overcome
Learning to ask for and accepting help: knowing that I can’t do it all on my own.

Advice for graduates
Don’t just dip your toes in the pool of life; go for the cannonball! Live your life, follow your dreams, don’t take “no” for an answer, don’t surround yourself with “yes” men — question authority.

Regina Mehallick ’91
Chef and Owner, R bistro

Regina is the internationally trained chef and owner of Indianapolis’ R bistro. Raised in Pennsylvania, she studied culinary arts in Washington, D.C.; Charleston, S.C.; County Cork, Ireland; Sicily, Italy; and Napa Valley, Calif. In addition, she has worked in Glasgow, Scotland and North Yorkshire, England. Regina has twice been a James Beard semi-finalist and has served as a delegate at Slow Food International’s Terra Madre world meeting.
Lasting impression from JWU
Realizing that it was all about my knowing when the item was correct, not anything written down in a book.

Industry prediction
A trend towards Slow Food-style eating. I am hoping this will continue with people wanting scratch-cooking items that are lovingly prepared.

Strongest asset
Dedication to the task at hand.

Advice for new grads
This is a hard business on your body and mind. Decide whether you want to go towards an independent or corporate style of restaurant. Know you will be working long hours when all your friends are enjoying the weekends and holidays.

Paola (Gaitan) Petrella ’99
Founder, President and Owner
Two Peas Inc.

Having made a name for herself as a private chef for celebrities, athletes and A-list personalities, Paola founded Two Peas Inc. in 2005. Two Peas is a boutique catering, daily meal delivery and private jet catering business that offers health-conscious meals tailored to each client’s needs and goals. Two Peas is the embodiment of Paola’s belief that chefs have a great impact on and responsibility to society; they can inspire those around them to make healthier choices.

Biggest challenge you’ve overcome
Moving to L.A. without knowing anyone. I gained great confidence by realizing that I can achieve anything I want to if I have the determination, organization and discipline to make it happen.

Strongest asset
I’m able to communicate with people and engage with anyone at any given point. I feel a very strong connection with people no matter where I am or who I is.

Advice for new grads
Stay humble. Learn from the best. Do more than is ever asked from you. Exceed expectations in your workplace and in your life overall; the return is much more rewarding than the comfort zone.

Kevin Sbraga ’03
Winner
Bravo TV’s “Top Chef”

Kevin, who specializes in French cuisine, has studied culinary arts since high school. He’s worked in many aspects of the industry, including menu development, restaurant re-conceptualization and culinary development. Kevin recently won Season 7 of “Top Chef” and was a semifinalist at the Bocuse d’Or USA culinary competition.

Most important 21st-century workplace skill
Listening. My love of cooking came from listening to my parents about the importance of quality ingredients, customer service and following my passion.

Industry prediction
I see the industry focusing less on concep-style restaurants.

Biggest challenge you’ve overcome
Winning “Top Chef.”

Strongest asset
My relentlessness. While a student at JWU North Miami, I worked at The Ritz-Carlton in Naples, a two-hour trek from school. The commute proved to be well worth my time.

Favorite culinary weapon
The spoon for its versatility. It helps you plate, baste, flip, taste and bang on the counter to get people’s attention.

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“Being able to manage and lead people is the hallmark of running a business.”
— DHARMENDRA “D.J.” RAMA ’90

“Our industry allows us to make a difference for people on a daily basis. It’s all about creating memories that guests will treasure forever.”
— JULIE COKER ’89

“Take risks when you’re starting out. Volunteer for tough assignments; take on positions that are outside your comfort zone. It’ll pay off in the long run.”
— GARY CROMPTON ’87
Dharmendra “D.J.” Rama ’90  
President  
JHM Hotels Inc.  
As president of JHM Hotels Inc., a family-owned hotel chain allied with luxury brands Hilton, Hyatt, Marriott and Starwood, D.J. is responsible for maintaining company standards of operational excellence and profitability across a growing roster of properties. He is active on industry boards that include the American Hotel Foundation, the Hyatt Owners Advisory Board and the Cornell Hotel Society of South Carolina.

Role JHW played in your career  
JHW gave me a solid operational foundation which allows me to successfully manage — and earn the respect of — over 1,600 associates.

Biggest challenge you’ve overcome  
Transitioning a family-run business into a top-tier hotel management company.

Vision for your industry’s future  
The hotel business cannot be exported and will therefore remain strong, so long as supply and demand are in balance.

Favorite guilty pleasure  
Even with my extensive travel schedule, I always take a break to tour local food spots.

Julie Colker ’89  
Senior Vice President, Convention Division  
Philadelphia Convention & Visitors Bureau  
As senior VP of the Philadelphia Convention & Visitors Bureau’s Convention Division, Julie oversees national sales of hotel packages for the city’s convention and hotel consortium. Julie spent 20 years with Hyatt, most recently as general manager of a 350-room hotel located on Philadelphia’s revitalized waterfront. She serves as chair of the American Hotel & Lodging Association’s Women in Lodging Networking Group and vice chair for the Greater Philadelphia Hospitality and Lodging Association.

Managing work and life balance  
Make time for things that are a priority to you, including family, community service projects and, for me, sports. A little pampering now and then doesn’t hurt either.

Biggest challenge you’ve overcome  
Understanding that you can’t always change people, but you can change your approach. It’s all about influence.

Career gurus  
Those leaders who continue to raise the bar and expect more of themselves each and every day.

JWU’s role in your career  
Being able to work during the school year gave me an advantage over other graduates.

Gary Crompton ’87  
President  
ARAMARK Business Dining Division  
ARAMARK’s largest division, Business Dining, provides on-site coffee, catering and executive dining operations for Fortune 1,000 companies. Gary is responsible for the financial performance of the group’s nine operating regions in North America, encompassing 1,500 locations, 400 client families and $1.2 billion in annual revenue. Now in his 20th year with the company, he remains focused on cultivating client relationships and improving productivity for this global leader in professional services.

Defining moment in your career  
When I decided to leave fine dining for the world of on-site dining. It was the first time I decided that quality of life and family was the priority.

Your strongest asset  
Perseverance. Understanding that there are peaks and valleys in every business and every career. To survive you need to know how to weather anything.

Most important 21st-century workplace skill  
The ability to influence people without having formal authority is a valuable skill in a world where employees often report to multiple stakeholders.

Advice for new grads  
Take risks when you’re starting out. Volunteer for tough assignments; take on positions that are outside of your comfort zone. It’ll pay off in the long run.

Ahmet Kilimci ’84  
General Manager,  
Izmir Palas Tourism & Trade Inc.  
Raised in Turkey, Ahmet was 12 when he began working in his family-run business, Izmir Palas Tourism & Trade Inc. Upon graduation from JWU, he returned home to oversee day-to-day operations of their key property, an elegant seaside hotel built in 1927. Today he serves as the hotel’s general manager and sits on the family company’s board of directors. One day he hopes to pass the company to his twin daughters.

Most lasting impression of JWU  
The way faculty treated the students, always available, understanding and very helpful.

Most important 21st-century workplace skill  
Understanding and using technology.

Career guru  
My uncle, who taught me everything and encouraged me to study at JWU.

Advice for new grads  
Employment is different from a student and amateur working life. You have to mix what you have learned in school with experience. You have to work hard.

“Tourism will never end. As wealth increases, tourism will also expand.”  
— AHMET KILIMCI ’84
DEFINING SUCCESS
AS RISING STARS

"Think out of the box, and be always one step ahead to bring the right solutions to the table."
CAROLINA PAVEZ '06

"Set goals that are incredibly difficult to achieve. They should seem unattainable. Then go after them."
SEAN BROCK '00

"The ability to adapt and learn is critical. There is always new technology to keep up with."
TED BENNETT '05
Ted Bennett '05
Hardware Team Manager
Marvell Semiconductor Inc.

He graduated just a few years ago, but Ted's already leading a team of engineers to new frontiers in technology. His group creates the blueprint for Marvell application processors—including one for a new tablet student can use as a textbook. Lead designer, system architect, team manager: it's a challenging job, but Ted loves it. That's important, he says. "Find a career in an industry you enjoy. I see a lot of people who, after graduating, decided the field just wasn't what they wanted."

JWU's role in your career
Because of JWU's internships programs and alumni connections, I got an internship at Intel. This really jump-started my career. I was able to prove myself, and got offered a full-time position.

Greatest JWU influence
Dean Frank Tweedle was one of my first professors at JWU. He's a great guy. He really helped decide my education and career path.

Favorite website
Between working in the handmade business and personal interest, I spend a lot of time on http://phandroid.com.

Career milestone
Becoming a manager. I was a senior engineer, but this new challenge meant responsibility and decisions for the entire team.

Favorite quote
"I'd rather be hated for who I am, than loved for who I am not."
— Kurt Cobain

Carolina Pavez '06
Marketing Producer
Telemundo

Carolina's father told her, "Doesn't matter what you do, do it right and be the best." The Venezuelan native took those words to heart. "My biggest challenge was to be part of the TV industry in the USA," she says. "With a lot of work and sacrifice, I gained my place." Carolina's life changed when she enrolled at JWU. She got an internship at Telemundo, which led to a job. Then she was promoted to marketing producer of the company's Branded Entertainment department. "Hispanics are changing our communities and economy," she says. "The industry will need more and more big ideas to reach that target." Carolina is right at the forefront, helping to provide those ideas.

Defining career moment
The first time I watched one of my creations on national TV!

JWU's role in your career
Because of JWU, I had the opportunity to make my internship site my actual workplace.

Advice for new grads
Take advantage of your internship. It's your passport to a good job.

Favorite quote
"Believe in yourself and you can achieve greatness in your life." — Judy Blume

Sean Brock '00
Executive Chef
McCray's and Husk, Charleston, S.C.

The future is all about growing local, says Sean. "More people are going to start paying attention to where their food comes from." The Food Network's "Challenge: The Next Great Chef" and James Beard Award winner should know. That's exactly what he's doing at his hit restaurants. He believes it's not sustainable for chefs to order food from all over, so he improvises daily, mostly with fresh produce he grows at a 100-acre organic farm nearby. "We start piecing the recipes together. It's like a game of jenga. Given Sean's stellar New York Times review, it's a game he'll win."

Favorite JWU memory
My first class was stocks and sacrams. I learned so much in that class; things that I still use on a daily basis. It's the backbone of cooking.

Lessons learned at JWU
Being a chef is much more than just cooking. The sooner you realize that, the better chef you'll be.

Managing work and life balance
My work is my life and my life is my work. I made that decision 10 years ago. There's no turning back now!

Marshall Freeman '06
President and CEO
Creative Music Group Inc.

Marshall's always looking forward. He's helped coordinate Super Bowls and MTV Video Music Awards, and choreographed Redman and Sisqo concerts while he was still a student. Now, he manages artists he believes will change music. "I believe the future of entertainment is getting music back to when it was true and authentic," Marshall says. He's helping Seba, City of God, Elijah King and other artists make that happen. "If you can align yourself with artists you truly believe in, the so-called work is the easy part," he says.

Career milestone
Signing my first artist to a recording label. This was a huge accomplishment.

Favorite JWU memory
Helping to plan university events and activities. Welcome Week and Homecoming were always my favorite.

Career guru
Managers like Johnny Wright, who has really paved the way with his branding, marketing and corporate structure.

Managing work and life balance
I am very fortunate to be doing my ultimate dream job, while making a living. I find excitement and joy in doing what I love the most: music.

Favorite quote
"As long as you keep your head to the sky, you can win. Be optimistic."
— "Optimistic," by Sounds of Blackness

"The most important skill is the ability to learn. No one ever knows it all. You need to be ready to learn, and very quickly!"
— MARSHALL FREEMAN '06
Defining success across the globe

Fasih Hussain '92 M.S.
COO, Summa Technology Group
(SummaTG), Dallas, Texas

As COO of SummaTG, Fasih is responsible for driving innovation and growth at every level of the organization. SummaTG provides managed energy solution services to some of the largest companies in the world, with a focus on commodity trading and risk management. Before joining SummaTG, he held management positions at Allegro Development, in Dallas, another company specializing in energy trading and risk management.

Most important 21st-century workplace skill
Understanding the dynamics of a globalized workforce and instilling a culture of financial, operational, and geopolitical risk awareness.

Defining moment in your career
Leading a company to financial success with three contiguous years of 100 percent growth.

Favorite JWU memory
The international diversity of the student body and what I was able to learn by meeting students from different countries.

JWU’s role in your career
My international business degree gave me the foundation to succeed in the globalized economy I encountered in the real world.

Biggest challenge you’ve overcome
It was challenging being a first-generation American, but I found the American dream.

Greatest challenge to your industry
The industry is going through tremendous growth, driven by the need to comply with regulatory practices and risk mitigation in supply chain. This is due to both geopolitical issues and the tremendous strain on natural resources from an agricultural perspective, energy resource volatility and growth in previously underdeveloped countries.

"I look at life as a set of bumper cars; keep hitting and eventually you are going to find an opening."
— Theodore Heyliger '90

"Persevere in what you're doing, and be fluent in at least two other languages in addition to English."
— Fasih Hussain '92 M.S.
Theodore Heyliger '90
Deputy Prime Minister
St. Maarten
First elected at age 25, Theo became the youngest commissioner in the history of the Netherlands Antilles. He created a new political party, the United Peoples party, to win in the first election for St. Maarten, recently declared a country. In his role as deputy prime minister, he is minister of public housing, spatial planning, environment, infrastructure, utilities, government companies and harbor affairs, working to better the island and its people.

JWU's role in your career
It molded a lot of the ideas and policies I have implemented in government, hospitality and business.

Biggest challenge you've overcome
Age and inexperience coming out of college, overcome with hard work, patience and grabbing opportunities to speak up.

Your strongest asset
Perseverance.

Best advice
Perseverance, patience and prior planning prevents poor performance.

Luminita Mititelu '95 MBA
Vice President and Senior Commercial Products Underwriter
Bank of America Merrill Lynch, Florida
As vice president and senior commercial products underwriter for Bank of America Merrill Lynch in West Palm Beach, Luminita is underwriting loan requests of a minimum $5 million for commercial and industrial enterprises and the health care, food service, golf and real estate business arenas. In her work, she evaluates a business's financial condition and capacity to raise and repay financing, and establishes loan structure and credit conditions and mitigates risks.

Favorite JWU memory
The years I worked in the Business Learning Center in Providence, first as a tutor, then as a graduate assistant. I was impressed with the diversity of the student body, what each individual brought to the table and their desire to constantly better themselves.

Most important 21st-century workplace skill
I believe that if we are to be successful in this century, we must embrace change and be able to adapt to it on short notice.

Advice for new grads
Don't let a tough economic environment discourage you from seeking career opportunities. Stay focused and learn from every experience; it will help you build your foundation and progress into your desired career.

Favorite quote
"Education is the most powerful weapon that you can use to change the world."
— Nelson Mandela

Kaushik Vardharajan '99, '00 MBA
Managing Director
HVS Hospitality Services, New Delhi, India
Kaushik joined HVS Hospitality Services as an analyst in its New York office in 2001 and is now managing director of its New Delhi office. He heads a team of 15 consultants with assignments in India, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Maldives, Nepal and Bhutan focused on large mixed-use projects and portfolio valuations. Kaushik is on the Valuation Working Committee of the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors responsible for establishing standards for property valuations in India.

Most important 21st-century workplace skill
The ability to stay focused and be flexible at the same time; great leadership skills where you lead with the heart and not just with your brain; and the ability to think big and small at the same time.

Greatest influence at JWU
Veera Sarawgi [Gaul] visited my college in India to conduct an information session on the university. She motivated me to apply and was there as my mentor and guide when I arrived in Providence. She helped me develop the work ethics that have stood me well.

Defining moment in your career
My decision to move back to India in 2008 after 10 years in the U.S. was a major life decision and will probably turn out to be one of the defining moments in my career.

"When you look back at your life, you will never regret what you did; you will regret what you did not do."
— KAUSHIK VARDHARAJAN '99, '00 MBA
ALUMNI COUNCIL PRESIDENT
Staceyann Sinclair '01
Campus Director
Rasmussen College, Holiday, Florida.

stacy402@yahoo.com

“We have some very dedicated, committed and passionate alumni that truly love Johnson & Wales University and are proud to give back in a big way. That giving back is what keeps the university students going and the legacy remaining. Being a part of this group is so rewarding, and I look forward to the coming year.”

ALUMNI COUNCIL VICE PRESIDENT
Bryant McCombs '87
Independent Business Partner
Rastelli Direx, Swedesboro, N.J.
bmccombs87@yahoo.com

“I am looking forward to continuing to work with all members of the council, the university and alumni past and future. Get connected, stay connected and please do not forget where you came from.”

PUERTO RICO
Alumni in Chapter Territory: 142

Dihara Quinones '01
Executive Pastry Chef
OOF! Restaurants Inc., San Juan, P.R.
dihara@oofrestaurants.com

“Getting involved with the alumni chapter is a great way to reconnect with former classmates and help support current students.”

BOSTON
Alumni in Chapter Territory: 6,630

Suzanne Markham '96, '98 MBA
Program Director of Hospitality Management
Mount Ida College, Newton, Mass.
suzi3062@att.com

“Boston is an awesome city with so many exciting things happening. We are looking for some great leaders to continue to help develop our Boston Chapter.”
HARTFORD/SPRINGFIELD
Alumni in Chapter Territory: 3,271
Marion Spaulding ’78
Construction Administrator
W.J. Mountford Co.,
South Windsor, Conn.
marionspaulding@comcast.net

ORLANDO
Alumni in Chapter Territory: 1,202
Tony Porcellini ’88
Food & Beverage Director
Walt Disney’s Swan and Dolphin
Hotel Group, Lake Buena Vista, Fla.
tporcellini@swandolphin.com
“We are looking forward to changing lives within the Orlando Chapter area to show alumni, current students and future students that Johnson & Wales University will provide the knowledge and all you have to do is to provide the commitment and the passion to make a difference in our industry.”

TAMPA BAY
Alumni in Chapter Territory: 1,032
Terrence Williams ’89
Vice President, Human Resources and Organizational Development
New York Times Regional Media Group, Tampa, Fla.
terrence.williams@nytimes.com
“The JWU Tampa Bay Alumni Chapter will create activities that best fit where our alumni are in their lives. We will strive to generate meaningful opportunities that will both strengthen the JWU academic experience and equip our alumni with handling today’s business realities.”

MIAMI
Alumni in Chapter Territory: 3,636
Eric Singleton ’99
Director of Food Service
The Village South, Miami, Fla.
esingleton@villagesouth.com

Chapter Contacts

NEW YORK
Alumni in Chapter Territory: 7,537

CHICAGO
Alumni in Chapter Territory: 773
Steve Shipley ’85, ’06 M.A.T.
steven.shipley@jwu.edu

PHILADELPHIA
Alumni in Chapter Territory: 2,986
Mike Chowansky ’99
mikechowansky@gmail.com

CHARLESTON
Alumni in Chapter Territory: 1,002
Sara Guerry
sara.guerry@jwu.edu

BAHAMAS
Alumni in Chapter Territory: 62
Jamilah Thompson ’02
Culinary Purchasing Officer
Culinary & Hospitality Management Institute
The College of the Bahamas, Nassau, Bahamas
jamy2102@yahoo.com

DENVER
Alumni in Chapter Territory: 1,588
Ryan Cross ’05
ryan@outrontcolorado.com

LAS VEGAS
Alumni in Chapter Territory: 367
Andrew Childers ’09
andrewchilders@gmail.com
PHOENIX
Alumni in Chapter Territory: 400
Karri Paice ’90
Software Training Consultant
Accenture, Denver, Colo.
karripaice03@earthlink.net
“We have had some good, lively events in the Phoenix area with new alum faces showing up to each event. Our chapter would like to see continued growth in the population of alumni that attend our events in the future.”

DALLAS
Alumni in Chapter Territory: 502
Tom Neal ’91
Foodservice Sales
European Imports LTD, Dallas Texas
thyme_savor_chef@yahoo.com
“Here in Dallas, staying connected through the alumni chapter and creating a business-to-business network is both rewarding and beneficial.”

PROVIDENCE
Alumni In Chapter Territory: 18,510
Jennifer Witt Oelbaum ’96
Information Security Specialist
Ocean Spray Cranberries Inc.
Lakeville-Middleboro, Mass.
jenwitt@gmail.com
“Alumni chapters offer the opportunity to be actively involved with JWU and provide social connections around the country. Furthermore, alumni involvement helps to deepen the value of a JWU diploma.”

NORFOLK
Alumni in Chapter Territory: 1,302
Dedra Blount ’03
Owner
Now You’re Cooking?, Norfolk, Va.
nowurcooking@yahoo.com
“Our chapter is sharing the love of Virginia with the world.”

CHARLOTTE
Alumni in Chapter Territory: 1,773
Adam Dietrich ’04
Owner and Chief Creative Officer
Charlotte Premier Butler Services
Charlotte, N.C.
cpibscharlotte@aol.com
“The Charlotte Chapter has been working tirelessly to connect and build a strong network of alumni. We are excited to see the support for JWU growing.”

ATLANTA
Alumni in Chapter Territory: 1,322
Lori Goldblatt ’95
Director of Catering
DoubleTree by Hilton Atlanta/Marietta
Atlanta, Ga.
lorigoldblatt@comcast.net
LOS ANGELES
Alumni in Chapter Territory: 796

Anita Holosapple ’96
Documentary Producer/Director
The Mary Pickford Foundation
Culver City, Calif.
anholoapp@gmail.com

WASHINGTON, D.C.
Alumni in Chapter Territory: 2,192

Shenise Foster ’05
New Media Program Manager
Department of the Army Housing Division
Arlington, Va.
sheniseleigh@hotmail.com

"The JWU D.C. Alumni Chapter is working diligently, planning events for alumni in the area. It is our goal to make your JWU alumni experience as memorable as your student experience."

PROVIDENCE
Students Enrolled: 10,974

Zachary Ranes ’12
Sport/Entertainment/Event Management
ZJR397@jwu.edu

"The SAA serves as a link in connecting students and alumni on the local and national levels through activities designed to promote institutional pride, spirit, traditions and to educate current students at all campuses about philanthropy."

NORTH MIAMI
Students Enrolled: 2,098

Rebekah Svoboda ’13
Culinary Arts and Food Service Management
RSS555@jwu.edu

"SAA provides an opportunity to talk to people who are doing what we as students are working towards. Alumni success equals student inspiration."

DENVER
Students Enrolled: 1,532

Michael DeJager ’13
Management
MLD318@jwu.edu

"In our role as a career university, the SAA is a first step to experience what comes next through connecting with other students that seek the same success as you."

CHARLOTTE
Students Enrolled: 2,587

Julie Rhoads ’11
Sport/Entertainment/Event Management
JRH464@jwu.edu

"The SAA allows students to see alumni giving back to Johnson & Wales, their degrees at work and the endless devotion alumni have to grow the name of JWU."

SUMMER 2011 39
Returning to Offer Sage Advice

BY SHANNON ROBBINS

In the five years since its creation, Alumni Leaders Week has established itself as a valued JWU tradition. "I love Alumni Leaders Week, and I always enjoy interacting with the students. We should have more of this type of activity," declares Eric Singleton '99, director of food service for The Village South, who returned to the North Miami Campus to speak to culinary students about his career.

Alumni Leaders Week is a special occasion for both participating alumni and current students. "Sharing my knowledge of the business and the various things I have done in the industry meant all the sweat, tears and back-breaking days and nights I have put in over the past 19 years have been well spent," says Steven Steltenpohl '97, chef at Discovery Diner at Epcot Center.

Meeting with successful JWU alumni inspires students to believe that they, too, can succeed in their chosen field. "Student engagement was generally high," notes Terrence Williams '89, vice president of human resources and organizational development at The New York Times Regional Media Group. "I encountered many students who were very passionate about their JWU experience, and I believe that they will ultimately succeed if they learn how to harness this passion."

Participating alumni used the occasion to offer advice, such as travel-tourism graduate Luisa Mendoza-Chavez's '03 rules to live by: "One, never forget where you came from and those who help you along the way; two, remember to always pay it forward."

Some also used the time to recruit students for employment. Canteen Catering LLC owner, Mary Fabrikant '04, made a couple of great student contacts for internships next year and for catering assistance throughout the summer while at the Denver Campus.

Now a perennial spring favorite, Alumni Leaders Week is a shining example of JWU's focus on career education, and alumni and students alike appreciate the opportunity to share real-world experiences. "Johnson & Wales is much more than a college," explains Providence Campus grad Anthony Ippolito '99. "Yes, it teaches students the fundamentals needed to pursue a chosen career path, but the life experiences learned make for a better overall person of tomorrow. Johnson & Wales does that."

Online > alumni.jwu.edu
Events and Festivities Build Connections

The last year has been a busy one for JWU alumni, with more than 50 alumni events taking place. There were BBQs and holiday celebrations, happy hours and polo matches, reunions and tailgates. Across the country and in the Bahamas, JWU alumni took advantage of every opportunity to reconnect with their old classmates, become friends with alumni from other campuses and programs and stay connected to the university.

The following pages feature snapshots of some of the great events that were hosted and attended by many of JWU’s 20-plus alumni chapters and more than 85,000 alumni. We are always looking for more alumni to get involved with local chapters and/or event planning. We’d love to hear any suggestions you may have, and we hope to see you at the next get-together.

Online > alumni.jwu.edu

Veterans

Holiday Party

Greek Reunion

Greek alumni gather for a group picture with one of the t-shirts that was given to all who attended the 3rd JWU Greek Reunion in Providence.

A LEFT TO RIGHT: Phoebe Zuromski '76, Walter Zuromski '76, Sherry Bivin '74 and Mark Bivin gather at the Providence holiday party.
Minority Alumni

LEFT TO RIGHT:
Gerry Fernandez '85, '98 Hon., Trustee and facilitator for the minority discussion; Jim Flynn of Harford Survey Group and Terrence Williams '89, president of the Tampa Chapter

TAs & Fellows

LEFT TO RIGHT:
Staceyann Sinclair '91, president of the JWU Alumni Council; Karriem Kanston '98 and his wife, Deborah Pierce Kanston '98

Athletics

LEFT TO RIGHT:
Pablo Caraballo '03, James Gilbert '02, Laura Hutchison '02, Christopher Husenica '02 and Benjamin McCorkill '02 got together at the Providence Athletics Reunion in October 2010.
LEFT TO RIGHT:
Brandon Hawthorne, Randi Grossman '05, 
Laurie Peal '01, Jonathan Montes DeOca '05

LEFT TO RIGHT:
Mary Windham '98, 
Alayna Santiago '08, 
Angela Andes '97, 
Melanie Mallory

LEFT TO RIGHT:
Matthew Lucido '11, 
Kelso Jordan '97, 
Ernest Webster '07

LEFT TO RIGHT:
Brittani Menina '09, 
Ashley Roseboro '09, 
Katherine 
Cimler-Collier '09, 
Brian Lynch '09, 
Stephen Toth '09, 
and Jennifer Diury '09

LEFT TO RIGHT:
Katy Lee '10, 
Carlos Espino '07, 
Scott Hartwick '07, 
Elaine Chen

LEFT TO RIGHT (BACK):
Linda Stark Back '00, Tom Bartus (center): Stanley Shostak '97, Marion Spaulding '78, 
Stephen Deady '85, Todd Casciano '92, 
Darryl LeCours '92, '98 M.A.T.
Managers: Your On-Campus Link

To best serve our alumni, JWU has four alumni managers who dedicate themselves to the alumni living in different parts of the country. The managers support chapter presidents, oversee the Student Alumni Association campus chapters and provide a link to each JWU campus. Feel free to contact the manager in your area with any questions or suggestions.

Meredith Brasil
401-598-2465
meredith.brasil@jwu.edu

Sara Guerry
980-598-1201
sara.guerry@jwu.edu
Delaware, Georgia, Kentucky, Maryland, Missouri, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia and West Virginia

Karen McGibbon ’00
305-892-5375
karen.mcgibbon@jwu.edu
Alabama, Arkansas, Caribbean, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi and Puerto Rico

Steve Shipley ’85, ’06 M.A.T.
401-598-2884
steven.shipley@jwu.edu
Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Washington and Wyoming

Online > Access chapter contacts at alumni.jwu.edu
THE 9TH ANNUAL
Emeril Lagasse Golf Classic
Benefiting the students of Johnson & Wales University

Save the Date
September 19–20, 2011
Newport, Rhode Island

Online registration is open at www.jwu.edu/emerilgolfclassic.

JWU Alumni

STAY IN TOUCH
Keep us abreast of your personal and professional accomplishments by updating your contact information on the alumni website: alumni.jwu.edu, fax the completed form to 401-598-2604 or mail it to Alumni Relations, Johnson & Wales University, 8 Abbott Park Place, Providence, RI 02903

Name_________________________________________Class Year________
Home Address,_________________________________________________
City________________________State______Zip_____________________
Phone (_______)_____________email______________________________
Have you ever been told you couldn't?

Not at Johnson & Wales...
People once said that JWU could never be more than a small, local business school. Four campuses across the country, 17,000 students and 85,000 alumni from 140 countries prove that it could.

For years other universities said JWU’s career education model didn’t work. While we have been teaching hands-on learning since our founding, most colleges are only now seeing the value of experiential education — proving that it does.

In the 1970s, no one thought JWU could build a successful culinary program. Today our College of Culinary Arts is internationally recognized as the leader in culinary education.

Our students and alumni have that same determination to reach success. Regardless of the industry, our alumni are known and respected as professionals who take charge, work hard and achieve.

The road to success often means working two jobs, finding an internship, gaining professional skills through volunteering, or participating in a club, sport or other activity. Students need these experiences outside the classroom to gain a competitive edge in today’s global economy.

One person can make a big difference. Share the success you’ve achieved, and our students’ desire, through a contribution to the JWU Fund. You can designate your gift to whatever is most meaningful to you — including student clubs and organizations, athletics, scholarships and more. Gifts of all sizes add up, and will help JWU reach new heights of excellence while remaining a global leader in career education for years to come.

From Student Ad Club to Arnold Worldwide

“Without a doubt, JWU’s ad club and the National Student Advertising Competition prepared me for my professional career. Participation gave me direct industry experience and an impressive portfolio that helped me earn several job offers before I even graduated.”

— Nicholas Verrochi ’09
Arnold Worldwide Advertising Agency

Give a gift online: alumni.jwu.edu/jwufund 888-JWU-ALUM

Providence : North Miami : Denver : Charlotte : Charleston : Norfolk : Vail
CONGRATULATIONS NEW GRADUATES