

The Latest Chapter: Class of 2007

By Tony Cruz

*M*ore than a century old and still going strong, Morrison Hall has witnessed many changes over her lifespan. And, oh, what a story she could tell.

Starting out as a mansion for Webb Horton and his family, she sheltered the wealthy. Little detailed text of her formative years is available but a slow walk accompanied by a good imagination may reveal some of her stories.

After many years of what must have been incredible living laced with the extravagances of life in the early 1900s, she moved to another phase of her life, becoming the centerpiece of a local community college and maturing to represent a symbol of hope for many who would not have otherwise had an opportunity to get an education. At first, she *was* the College, but soon the demand for education expanded her surroundings. She now presides over a family of buildings, administrators, faculty and students who comprise the cast of her latest chapter.

In August 2007 I had the good fortune of joining this story as one of a rather large batch of 18 new faculty hires at SUNY Orange. Our "Class of 2007" arrived during an exciting time for the College, as there were many improvements and changes taking place, and our group hailed from a wide cross-section of disciplines and backgrounds.

For example, **Dr. Michele Iannuzzi Sucich** (featured on page 17) left a medical practice to pursue teaching while retired New York City police captain **Robert Cacciatore** is a former head of security for Mayor Michael Bloomberg.

Backgrounds like these have bred an incredible amount of respect within our group, not to mention acquaintances and friendships. All are founded in our mutual outlook, commitment and

dedication to education. There is a natural sense of "team" that permeates our meetings and conversations as part of the Center for Teaching and Learning's new faculty development program.

What is interesting is the variety of previous career experience we bring from the outside world, all of which has enhanced our teaching and brought other aspects to the classroom. For example, **Robert Ricci** comes to us with a background as a building contractor who then moved into grant writing before he returned for his degree in literature. **Kristen Katzin-Nystrom**, on the other hand, comes from a long line of teachers, while **David Wang** brings knowledge and experience from his education in China.

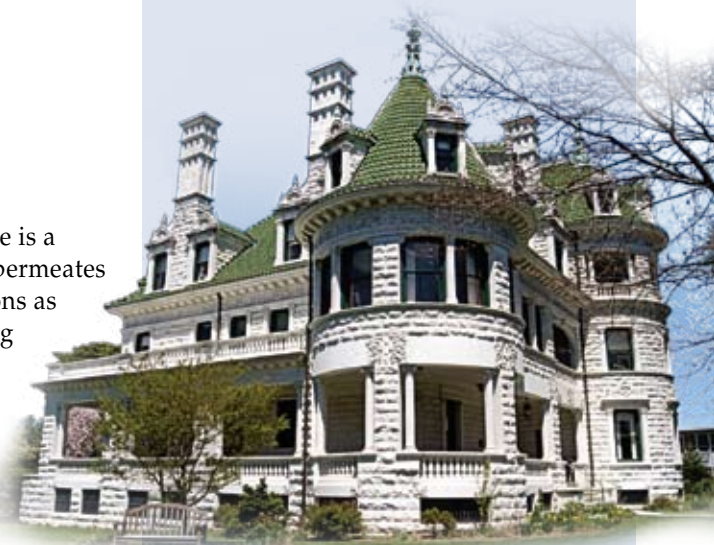
Meanwhile, **Pam Rice-Woytowick** is a "homegrown" SUNY Orange alumna who returns to join our faculty, sharing her own student experiences, as well as her architectural creativity and expertise, with current students.

"The Class of 2007 is special. I recognized in August, during the initial orientation, that our search committees had identified an incredibly talented and gifted group of new faculty," says **Dr. Catherine Chew**, vice president for Academic Affairs.

The current administration and faculty have been extremely supportive, becoming both official and unofficial mentors to many of us. This nurturing has prepared us for the responsibilities necessary to better help our students.

We know Morrison Hall will be here long after we are gone. In the scheme of things we are merely small, yet significant, parts of a continuously unfolding story. ■

Tony Cruz is an instructor in the College's English Department and a member of the "Class of 2007."



The Class of 2007

Name	Department
Robert Cacciatore	Criminal Justice
Patricia Cal	Nursing
Deborah Chedister	English
Anthony Cruz	English
Sandra Graff	English
Cory Harris	Global Studies
Michele Iannuzzi Sucich	Biology
Kristen Katzin-Nystrom	English
Stone Lamb	English
Barbara McCormack	Nursing
Michael McCoy	Global Studies
Alan McGlynn	Nursing
Stephen Meagher	English
Robert Ricci	English
Pamela Rice-Woytowick	Architecture
Shelly Sloan	English
David Wang	Applied Technologies
Heidi Weber	History