If you ask Scranton alumni, many of them will tell you that their time on Linden Street was pivotal in preparing them for careers on “Main Streets” throughout America and abroad. Their successful careers have taken them to such business epicenters as Wall Street in New York, Market Street in San Francisco and Philadelphia, and State Street in Boston, to name a few, and to places as far afield as Beijing, China.

Thanks to the Online Alumni Community, it’s easier than ever to locate where that former classmate is living, where her career has taken her, or whether he’s coming to an event organized by your local Alumni Club.

In this issue of The Scranton Journal, you’ll find profiles of alumni who are working on “Main Streets” across America and abroad. You’ll also learn how you can use your Online Alumni Community to stay in touch with classmates, no matter where their lives have taken them.
Corporate Finance Banker Puts a Piece of Wall Street Back on Linden Street

Tom Lynch's journey from Linden Street to Wall Street is the stuff of which aspiring business students dream. Just a few years after graduating from Scranton, he found himself negotiating a transaction with the Wall Street investment bank Salomon Brothers (now Salomon Smith Barney), a deal that led him to a highly successful career in the epicenter of America's financial industry.

Still, if you ask him, he'll be the first to tell you that, "Life and opportunity are more about being in the right place, than the ability to engineer things." What's more, he'll tell you that it was his days on Linden Street that put him "in the right place" for a career on Wall Street.

Upon the urging of John Gavigan, then vice president for student affairs, Lynch pursued an internship with Signal Capital, a company founded by Paul Montrone '62. The internship was followed by an offer to stay on with Signal as a staff accountant following graduation. At the age of 26, Lynch was negotiating a deal with Salomon Brothers, who subsequently made him a job offer.

After seven years at Salomon, he joined Goldman Sachs as a vice president in the Investment Banking Division. In 2003, he accepted a position at Deutsche Bank Securities, Inc., where he now serves as managing director of corporate investment banking/energy and power for this global leader in financial services.

For Tom Lynch, one successful position has led to another. Yet he's quick to acknowledge that it all started somewhere, and that "somewhere," for him, is Scranton.

At Scranton, "there was tremendous investment made in students by professors. They didn't see education as product; it was more of a calling. That made you want to graduate, find an opportunity and prove yourself."

Scranton is also the place where Lynch met his wife, Sharon Corey Lynch '86. "We met the second week of our freshman year," he recalls. "Her dorm was looking for players for a co-ed intramural volleyball team." Lynch enlisted, and the rest, as they say, is history.

With a family of four boys and a job that can take him from New York to London to Houston before returning home to New Jersey – all in just two days – Lynch is adept at dealing with challenge and change. They're skills that he's calling upon in a special way during the current economic climate.

"Given the status of credit markets right now, the Obama administration faces remarkable challenges," he says. As someone who works with energy companies to finance multi-million dollar projects, Lynch is on the front lines of America's quest for new and improved sources of energy.

"We have the challenge of delivering cleaner energy, which costs more to build, while keeping down the costs to consumers," he says.

Windmills are one example. "The wind is free, but the windmills aren't," he says, noting that the cost of constructing windmills exceeds construction costs for coal or natural gas-fired power plants. "The challenge is to balance the desire to reduce carbon monoxide emissions from coal and the cost of nuclear power, while still keeping the price to the consumer where it has been, or lower."

If being an active father and a corporate finance banker isn't enough, then Lynch is the captain of his local fire company. He also serves as a DB Ambassador, a group of 20 managing directors at Deutsche Bank that, among other things, works with a local charity. The Ambassadors are currently working with a charter school in Harlem to build a library.

Getting back to where it all began, Lynch has stayed connected to his alma mater. He is currently vice chair of the President's Business Council (PBC), a group of prominent alumni and friends of the University that has raised $7.25 million for full-tuition scholarships. In 2004, he served as co-chair of the PBC's Annual Award Dinner. Tom and Sharon chaired the University's Annual Fund Campaign in 2002, and their family gatherings resemble a "Scranton reunion": six members of their extended family graduated from the University.

Through his continued support of Scranton, Lynch hopes to inspire others to give back, both financially and through mentoring, to a place that has given him – and others – so much.

It's like putting a piece of Wall Street back on Linden Street.
Salesforce.com Exec Charts Her Course with a Healthy Attitude Grounded in her Jesuit Education

Susan St. Ledger has risen in the ranks of a highly competitive career path that has taken her across the country from Linden Street to Market Street in San Francisco, where she is a senior vice president of Salesforce.com.

St. Ledger is at the helm of a company that recently reached a billion dollar run rate—the first company of its kind to do so. As is the case with many technology-based companies, the pace is fast and the future uncertain. But she has charted her course with a healthy attitude that is grounded in her Jesuit education.

“Luck is where opportunity meets preparedness,” she says. “When the opportunities have come along I have been prepared, and I have not been afraid to execute.”

As Senior Vice President of Global Services at Salesforce.com, St. Ledger is in command of many large high-tech clients, such as Cisco, Motorola, and Symantec. The company is a worldwide leader in Web-based software as a service (SaaS) to manage sales, marketing, customer service and critical business functions. St. Ledger describes it as a “pay as you go subscription service” where customers pay as they use the service instead of upfront.

“I feel blessed to be part of something so special. I think there is a lot to be said about having a job that you enjoy so much,” St. Ledger says. When she joined Salesforce.com four years ago, “Salesforce was a fascinating company, as it was creating an entirely new market [of web-based SaaS technology].”

“We really are changing the industry,” she adds. The company’s growth is a testament to that claim. At the time she started, Salesforce.com had 650 employees. Now, she estimates that number at around 3,500.

Before joining Salesforce.com, St. Ledger had a fulfilling career at Sun Microsystems, where she had a hand in technology and sales before becoming chief of staff to Ed Zander, president and COO. She describes her chief of staff position, saying, “It was probably the most unique and influential opportunity of my career.”

“Working in the presence of people like that on a regular basis is just amazing in terms of what it can do to shape your career,” she says of Zander, who was a mentor and with whom she continues to stay in touch.

With a great job and amazing support at Sun Microsystems, taking the job at Salesforce.com was a risk. She strongly believed in the company, though at that time she says it “had a lot to prove in terms of becoming a market maker.”

“I haven’t been afraid to take risks,” she adds. “That’s a matter of having confidence in your abilities.”

In the face of risk and uncertainty, St. Ledger has always been secure in her career choices, and in an economy where risk and uncertainty reign, she is able to maintain her confident stance. “We are uniquely positioned right now,” St. Ledger says of Salesforce.com’s place in this tumultuous economy. She explains, “People pay as they get value [from the service]. Implementation time is a matter of months.”

St. Ledger encourages anyone entering the field of computer engineering and sales. “It’s an amazing time to be entering this field,” she says. “The changes and innovation that you’re going to see over the next ten years are going to be groundbreaking and earthshaking.”

St. Ledger lauds her Jesuit education, noting that her liberal arts education at Scranton gave her “an incredibly competitive advantage in the marketplace,” a marketplace that has taken her across the country, uprooting her Linden Street values and implanting them on Market Street, where they have developed into an amazingly fruitful career. Even with her success, St. Ledger says, “You have to be a student of life and a student for life. There is always something to learn, and I really thrive on that.”

Setting Up Your Profile

By regularly updating your information, you’ll always stay connected to the University and your Scranton friends. You’ll receive news and information about upcoming alumni events and will have easy access to Class Notes. You can also personalize your profile by adding social networking applications such as Facebook, and can create a list of Scranton friends and send them messages.

Once you have logged in:
• On the main screen, you will be able to edit Primary Address, E-mail Address, and Professional Information. 
• On the bottom of the left navigation, profile links will appear: My Account, My Profile and my Class Notes.
The way Frank Sabatino sees it, life is like a deck of cards. “The Almighty deals the cards to you, and your job is to play your hand as best you can,” he says.

Going to the University “was a great card to get,” he says. “Scranton gave the basic educational ground upon which to build everything needed to work on ‘Main Street’.”

Most of Sabatino’s career on “Main Street” has been spent on Market Street in the heart of Philadelphia. For 27 years, he’s worked as a labor lawyer, focusing on employee benefits, multiemployer benefit plans and collective bargaining issues.

In the course of his career, he has argued cases in front of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit. Once, one of the judges on the panel was Samuel Alito, now a Justice on the U.S. Supreme Court. Since 2002, Sabatino has been a partner in the Philadelphia office of Stevens & Lee. He’s also a frequent lecturer and writer, speaking at forums such as the International Foundation of Employee Benefit Plans, and authoring and co-authoring chapters and sections of several publications on employee benefits.

While he’s lived and breathed labor law for more than a quarter century, Sabatino says he never set out to specialize in this branch of the law. “The way you wind up at things is often kind of funny,” he says. And then his thoughts circle back to Scranton.

After earning a law degree from the University of Notre Dame, Sabatino served as a law clerk to Chief Judge William Nealon of the Middle District of Pennsylvania, based in Scranton.

With a large number of prisons in the Middle District, Sabatino was quickly immersed in constitutional issues. This experience stood him well when, as a young lawyer in Philadelphia, he was assigned to litigation concerning the constitutionality of the Multiemployer Pension Plan Amendment Act. Participation in that litigation led to his current area of practice. “I would never have thought that those prisoner cases would determine my career path, but they did,” he notes.

Admittedly, he says, labor law isn’t as glamorous as the lives of lawyers on television. “However, I can truthfully say that I never had a boring day at work.”

“The law often changes radically,” says Sabatino. “The laws you study in law school might be very different than what you confront in practice, so you have to be prepared to be flexible.”

As an example, he cites pension and other employee benefit plans. “Congress is passing laws all the time in this area,” he notes. “Such new laws can completely alter what a lawyer has to do to represent his clients properly.”

In light of the current economic environment, changes are “coming down at a very rapid pace, and you can’t rest on your laurels,” he adds. “A change in the law can wipe out your specialty, or it can make you more valuable than ever.”

Sabatino speaks from the voice of experience as someone whose personal life has called him to adapt to changing situations. In 1993, he was diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis.

“MS was not such a good card to get,” he says. Still, he accepted this as the hand he was dealt. Determined to “let this disability change my life as little as possible,” Sabatino has maintained an active career, despite the physical challenges he faces.

In life and in law, Frank Sabatino has learned that there are times when you can’t control things. “A lot of the hand is going to be dealt to you,” he says. The rest, he adds, is up to you.
Attorney’s Practice Combines Her Education and Experience in Technology, Law and Business

Many people choose to attend The University of Scranton based on academic excellence, availability of majors, or the desire for a Jesuit education. But while a senior in high school, Belinda Juran saw a University of Scranton decal on a car in her neighborhood of Glen-dale, N.Y., and was intrigued.

“I had never been to Scranton, and hadn’t heard of the University, but I applied, and it was the perfect choice. The University gave me a great education.”

Since her family was about to relocate to Hawley, Pa., the decal was fortuitous in leading Juran to Linden Street. Her computer science courses while a math major at Scranton led directly to her first career as a software engineer, and then to Boston’s State Street, the center of its financial district.

A graduate of Harvard Law School, and a partner in the Boston, Mass., office of WilmerHale, a full-service law firm with more than 1,000 attorneys in offices located in 12 cities across the globe, Juran says her practice combines her education and experience in technology, law and business.

“I help high-tech and biotech companies negotiate contracts that involve the creation or transfer of intellectual property, technology and products,” states Juran. “Some of these contracts are important to the day-to-day operation of these companies, while others are ‘bet-the-company’ collaborations that set the long-term strategic direction for the company.”

There is no typical day at the office for her, which suits her just fine, as she dislikes monotony.

“My days involve communicating with clients to understand their needs; drafting, reviewing and revising contracts; discussing with clients the risks raised by particular contracts and how best to achieve my clients’ business needs; and negotiating contracts with attorneys and business people,” she says of her busy schedule. “I also organize meetings to help the lawyers in our practice area keep up with developments in the law, and best practices in drafting and negotiating technology contracts.”

Her career began with Honeywell, in software development, and she later moved into management and consulting for high-tech companies, earning an MBA from Boston University. Juran had always wanted to attend law school, however.

“Entering law school, I hadn’t expected that I’d actually practice law, because I knew I didn’t have the personality to be the stereotypical litigator,” she says. “Great experiences as a summer associate showed me that I could be a lawyer in a way that fit my personality and interests – and here I am.”

Juran remembers Scranton computer science professor John A. Beidler, Ph.D., with fondness.

“Dr. Beidler’s involvement with the National Science Foundation’s Individual Undergraduate Research Program led me to a summer position in the Boston area. Massachusetts’ high-tech industry had lots of opportunities,” says Juran, who now resides in Lowell, Mass., with her husband, Evan G. Schapiro.

She also says the University helped her make the transition to adulthood, as well as providing her with long-lasting friendships.

“The University helped me grow up, while reinforcing my values,” she explains. “Plus, I’m still very close with many of my friends from Scranton.”

Juran has maintained her ties with Scranton in another special way. In 2006, she received a Frank O’Hara Award, the highest honor bestowed jointly by the University and its Alumni Society. The awards recognize Scranton graduates and others who have achieved distinction in their professional or personal endeavors. Juran was recognized for her achievements in law.

“I was thrilled to receive the O’Hara Award on the weekend of my 25th reunion,” she says. “It was a wonderful honor and an opportunity to thank the University for all it has done for me. It has only strengthened my already strong feelings for the University.”

Juran sees herself continuing to grow in the future, like her alma mater.

“Most important to me is to be constantly learning,” she says. “My Scranton education ensured that I had a solid foundation to think and write well, and to consider issues from multiple perspectives. As a result, I’ve been open to, and had the ability to take advantage of, many opportunities that presented themselves to me over the years.”
Study Abroad Experience Leads Alumna to Career in Asia

Less than three years after graduating, Teresa DeLaurentis has settled into a new life and a new career halfway around the world from Linden Street in Beijing, China. Since 2007, she has served as research director at the Center for International Business Ethics (CIBE), a business ethics research and training organization. With the strong support of Scranton advisors and professors, DeLaurentis chose to study for one year at the Beijing Center for China Studies, where she met her Jesuit boss, international business ethics professor Dr. Stephan Rothlin, S.J. DeLaurentis’ studies in philosophy, literature and Special Jesuit Liberal Arts classes, as well as her extracurricular involvement at Scranton, prepared her well for the intellectual and personal challenges she met during her time in Beijing.

Upon returning to Scranton after studying abroad, “the Meanger Wiener truck paled in comparison to the lamb skewers I loved so much in Beijing,” she jokes. She stayed in touch with Dr. Rothlin, and he eventually offered her a job at CIBE. “Something in my gut told me to take a risk,” she says of her decision to accept the job and move to Beijing.

“At Scranton we often talked about going to work where there is the greatest need,” she says. “Business is an arena where individuals and organizations feel huge pressure to make quick profit at high cost to the environment, society and governance. At CIBE, we analyze business challenges through case studies and describe strategies for reducing corporate risk through management tools and ethical certifications. Our target audience, investors and corporations, can then consider positive alternatives to ’business as usual’ to also enhance company reputation,” she explains.

At CIBE, DeLaurentis manages the research team, is an editor and project manager for the Journal of International Business Ethics and writes and produces case studies and media features describing and analyzing corporate failings and achievements in social responsibility. She also facilitates training seminars, conferences, essay competitions and workshops, working with business practitioners, academics and students. Most recently, her article about ethical consumption has been published by CRNavigator, a bimonthly corporate social responsibility magazine.

As if reading the minds of anyone hearing that description, she adds, “Managing multiple projects simultaneously is key for this job.” DeLaurentis mastered multitasking during her time on Linden Street, where she was a member of student government, a residence assistant, a global ambassador in the international office and a member of the international service program to Mexico, not to mention an SJLA and honors student. In the process of writing her Honors thesis, entitled “Confucianism and the Feminist Ethics of Care,” DeLaurentis learned how to organize and focus interdisciplinary, intercultural research, skills serving her well in her current management and research work at CIBE.

DeLaurentis refers to the University as a “founding launching experience,” and adds that the “warm friendly people and strong sense of community” drew her in the first time she set foot on Linden Street. “One thing I loved about both places [Beijing and Scranton] was I could, and can, have a five minute walk to school and work.” She adds, “Now, when I get to work, instead of interacting with classmates and professors, I’m communicating bilingually with my Chinese coworkers…”

DeLaurentis has brought a piece of Linden Street to Beijing. “Some people in China are walking around in Scranton t-shirts,” she says. “My parents brought the Scranton ’goods’ from South Jersey to Beijing at my request.” She gave her first Chinese friends and her language tutors University of Scranton t-shirts “to give them something authentically American and meaningful as a gift.”

DeLaurentis also has succeeded in bringing the welcoming spirit that she felt on Linden Street straight to Beijing. She remarks, “Funny where life takes you, you know?”
**Critical Lessons Follow Alumnus Throughout his Career**

Two days after Thomas Every graduated from Scranton in 1998, he jumped into a van for a 10-day drive to Santa Catarina, Mexico, where he spent nearly two months working at Artesano de Nazareth as part of the University’s International Service Program.

The past four years at Scranton had stoked Every’s passion for service. Now, his experience in Mexico was about to confirm that service to others would be his life’s calling.

The Artesano – which is operated by Salesian priests – is a home for boys living on the streets.

“The goal is to offer the boys a home, a path to education and a life off the streets,” Every explains. “Our mission there was simple: Do what the boys do.”

That meant everything from playing to praying. Conditions were sparse, from a plain cement room that housed the volunteers’ steel and wire frame beds to a limited supply of hot water.

“We grew to better understand [the boys] and their lives,” Every says. “It changed the way I would forever view the world. In the end it was as hard for us to leave as it was for the boys to watch us go.”

According to Every, the farewell was very emotional as the boys gave gifts to the volunteers, hugged them and refused to let go.

“Several boys even laid their bodies on the ground in front of our car to stop us from driving away,” Every recalls. “They were amazing young men whose lot in life was lesser than most, but whose ability for love and joy was immeasurable.”

Every returned to the Artesano in 2000 as the trip’s co-director.

“It was as amazing an experience as I had remembered and ultimately led me to pursue long-term service with Jesuit Volunteers International (JVI),” he says, noting that he eventually volunteered for two years as dean of students and teacher at Xavier High School in Micronesia and later worked for JVI as a program coordinator. “It also directed me to live a life of service; that’s how I view my work in education.”

Currently, Every is the M.B.A. program manager and an adjunct professor of finance at the University of San Diego. He also is an adjunct professor of business statistics at Southern States University in San Diego, a school focused on training business-oriented professionals from around the world, including non-native English speakers.

In addition to his work with JVI, Every previously was dean of residence, co-director of financial aid and religion teacher at Georgetown Preparatory School in Maryland and assistant director of development at St. Joseph’s Preparatory School in Philadelphia.

While at Georgetown Prep, Every completed what he considers his “most notable achievement and contribution to Jesuit education” when he created the school’s Residential Curriculum and Handbook. The curriculum was based upon the 10 major sections of *Go Forth and Teach: The Characteristics of Jesuit Education*, published by the Society of Jesus.

“The curriculum changed the way the resident program operated and was a cultural shift in the sense that the lens through which the program was viewed became more formative and less conformative,” Every says of the model, which remains in use today.

Every – who earned an M.B.A. from St. Joseph’s University – has a strong connection to the University. In addition to having three of his siblings attend Scranton (a fourth was recently accepted), the psychology major credits the University with “the curriculum changed the way the resident program operated and was a cultural shift in the sense that the lens through which the program was viewed became more formative and less conformative,” Every says of the model, which remains in use today.

Every – who earned an M.B.A. from St. Joseph’s University – has a strong connection to the University. In addition to having three of his siblings attend Scranton (a fourth was recently accepted), the psychology major credits the University with “the curriculum changed the way the resident program operated and was a cultural shift in the sense that the lens through which the program was viewed became more formative and less conformative,” Every says of the model, which remains in use today.

The University of Scranton and people like Sherman Wooden, Cathy Seymour, Fr. Brendan Lally and Fr. Tom Masterson had profound impacts on different parts of my life,” he says. “They taught me how to lead with humility, live my life as a Catholic in the most applicable way, serve, love unconditionally and be a better man.”

These critical lessons have followed Every across the globe and throughout his career.

**Thomas Every** is now the M.B.A. program manager and an adjunct professor of finance at the University of San Diego.
Laura Zambuto sees a great deal of similarity between the people she met as a biology student at The University of Scranton and the people she works with at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in Atlanta, Ga.

“My co-workers are committed to making the world a better place and providing help to people who need it, whether it’s implementing safe water programs in Africa, or investigating disease outbreaks in Southeast Asia,” says the Clark, N.J., native who now resides in Atlanta. “The hands of CDC reach everywhere in the world, and everywhere they go, they serve others. This is something they have in common with the University.”

For the past two and a half years, Zambuto has been a safety and occupational health specialist at CDC. She describes her work as “always something different; a surprise every day.” As a biosafety specialist, she manages day-to-day operations in the influenza high containment labs.

Because she works in a Biosafety Level 3 Enhanced lab, safety is a top concern. Zambuto explains that Level 3 pathogens are dangerous to the public, but potentially treatable. Examples include anthrax or avian influenza. There is just one step above Level 3; Level 4.

“That would include something you can’t be cured of or treated for, such as Ebola,” she explains.

As part of her work, Zambuto trains employees on policies regarding entry and exit of the facility. “There are clothing changes that must take place, and they need to wear the appropriate personal protection equipment, such as powered air purifying respirators and double gloves,” she says. “All the air in the labs is filtered before we breathe it, and we have to change our clothes and take a shower on the way out. The facility itself has HEPA filtration for all of our exhaust air, and any waste we produce is sterilized before it’s thrown away. It’s quite involved.”

Zambuto is also responsible for equipment maintenance, compliance with federal regulations concerning biosafety and biosecurity, and emergency response training for possible laboratory evacuation.

While all this may sound very removed from “Main Street” and the public, and for understandable reasons, Zambuto’s work has a direct impact on the world population. This is the most rewarding part of her job.

“The Influenza Division is one of four World Health Organization Collaborating Centers for Influenza. Each year the Centers meet in Geneva, Switzerland, to discuss what strains will be circulating in the next flu season, and help select the seasonal strains that will be in the vaccine,” she says. “Then, the vaccines go into production. This is the flu shot that you eventually receive at your local doctor’s office.”

Zambuto traces her path to CDC directly through her experiences at Scranton.

“The sense of community and the idea of service to others that is the basis for the University are what inspired me to work for the government.”

After attending Scranton, she earned a master’s degree in molecular biology at New York University. Then she applied to the two-year Emerging Leaders Program, a paid internship sponsored by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services that teaches participants about the government and its operations, as well as providing rotation opportunities and leadership skills. Through the program, Zambuto had the opportunity to work as part of a response team following the Asian tsunami in 2004, with an emergency operations center, on a team inspecting isolation rooms at quarantine stations through the U.S., and on a communications project for Vice Admiral Richard H. Carmona, M.D., M.P.H., F.A.C.S., the 17th U.S. Surgeon General.

“That program is what brought me into the government.”

Zambuto feels “very lucky” not only to work with CDC, but to have been a part of Scranton’s biology program.

“I use my biology degree every day,” she says. “My training and my degrees were related to lab research. The University’s biology program is incredible, and I’m so proud of my university and my program.

“It’s an amazing school; I knew it was the place for me.”
Assistant U.S. Attorney Recalls the “Three C’s” of a Scranton Education

A University of Scranton education is grounded in the “three p’s” – pride, passion and promise. When Susan Poswistilo thinks about her days at Scranton, she remembers the “three c’s” – competence, compassion and commitment – that the Rev. Theodore Hesburgh, C.S.C., H’81 spoke of at her Commencement ceremony.

“I thought that Fr. Hesburgh’s message was exactly what my University of Scranton education had given me,” says Poswistilo. “It gave me academic knowledge, commitment to follow through on the things I wanted to do and compassion to see things and events from different perspectives. I try to live my life and practice my career with these three fundamental principles in mind.”

As an Assistant U.S. Attorney assigned to the Health Care Fraud Unit in the U.S. District Attorney’s Office for the District of Massachusetts, Poswistilo uses those three c’s every day. She has the responsibility of investigating and prosecuting violations of U.S. health care laws committed by individuals, medical providers or institutions.

“Depending upon what is going on in my investigations, I may be drafting search warrants, interviewing witnesses, presenting the case to the grand jury or appearing in court,” says Poswistilo, who resides in Boston with her husband and two sons.

Poswistilo credits the University for her journey from Linden Street to Boston’s Courthouse Way.

“The University of Scranton changed my life in that it gave me the confidence and the foundation to pursue my career,” Poswistilo said. “It also gave me friendships and relationships that I will value forever.”

After graduating from Scranton, Poswistilo attended law school at the Catholic University of America, in Washington, D.C. In 1989, after jobs with a small firm and the Tax Division of the U.S. Department of Justice, where she represented the IRS in civil cases, she relocated to Boston, becoming an assistant U.S. attorney in the Civil Division of the U.S. Attorney’s Office.

In 1993, Poswistilo represented the United States as a resident legal advisor in Albania.

Back home, in 1999, she transferred to the Criminal Division of the U.S. Attorney’s Office, working in the Organized Crime and Drug Enforcement Task Force, prosecuting drug organizations that imported or distributed illegal drugs in Massachusetts. This led to her move into the world of investigating white-collar crime, where she remains.

In October 2008, Poswistilo and members of her litigation team were recognized for work they performed on a case involving Bristol-Myers Squibb that resulted in a $499 million settlement. They received the 2008 Attorney General’s Award for Fraud and Fraud Prevention, which distinguishes exceptional dedication and effort to prevent, investigate and prosecute fraud, white-collar crimes and official corruption.

Poswistilo is proud to be a member of a team that upholds the justice system of the United States.

“The most rewarding aspect in my career is knowing that I am in a position to represent our country in the pursuit of justice,” she says. “At the end of a jury trial, I can walk away knowing that the principles and rights embodied in the U.S. Constitution continue to protect us all.”

In 1993, Poswistilo represented the United States as a resident legal advisor in Albania.

Back home, in 1999, she transferred to the Criminal Division of the U.S. Attorney’s Office, working in the Organized Crime and Drug Enforcement Task Force, prosecuting drug organizations that imported or distributed illegal drugs in Massachusetts. This led to her move into the world of investigating white-collar crime, where she remains.

In October 2008, Poswistilo and members of her litigation team were recognized for work they performed on a case involving Bristol-Myers Squibb that resulted in a $499 million settlement. They received the 2008 Attorney General’s Award for Fraud and Fraud Prevention, which distinguishes exceptional dedication and effort to prevent, investigate and prosecute fraud, white-collar crimes and official corruption.

Poswistilo is proud to be a member of a team that upholds the justice system of the United States.

“The most rewarding aspect in my career is knowing that I am in a position to represent our country in the pursuit of justice,” she says. “At the end of a jury trial, I can walk away knowing that the principles and rights embodied in the U.S. Constitution continue to protect us all.”

In 1993, Poswistilo represented the United States as a resident legal advisor in Albania.

Back home, in 1999, she transferred to the Criminal Division of the U.S. Attorney’s Office, working in the Organized Crime and Drug Enforcement Task Force, prosecuting drug organizations that imported or distributed illegal drugs in Massachusetts. This led to her move into the world of investigating white-collar crime, where she remains.

In October 2008, Poswistilo and members of her litigation team were recognized for work they performed on a case involving Bristol-Myers Squibb that resulted in a $499 million settlement. They received the 2008 Attorney General’s Award for Fraud and Fraud Prevention, which distinguishes exceptional dedication and effort to prevent, investigate and prosecute fraud, white-collar crimes and official corruption.

Poswistilo is proud to be a member of a team that upholds the justice system of the United States.

“The most rewarding aspect in my career is knowing that I am in a position to represent our country in the pursuit of justice,” she says. “At the end of a jury trial, I can walk away knowing that the principles and rights embodied in the U.S. Constitution continue to protect us all.”
the American red cross was just wrapping up its relief efforts in the southeastern United States, where a broad swath of ice storms had left thousands without power, when tornadoes touched down in Oklahoma, killing several and destroying dozens of homes. Immediately the Red Cross swung back into action, dispatching personnel, supplies, and equipment to assist the Sooner State’s recovery.

Such juggling is routine for the American Red Cross, which supplements the efforts of local and regional chapters in the aftermath of large-scale emergencies.

“The United States is a very disaster-prone country,” says Armond Mascelli, the organization’s vice president for disaster operations. “It’s not quite on a daily basis, but most days, somewhere in the United States, we’re gearing up to do something. We stay fairly busy.”

To say the least. Mascelli estimates that the Red Cross responds to about 70,000 incidents a year, with most of those covered by its 730 local affiliates. Around 300 disasters are of sufficient magnitude for Mascelli to engage his team and other resources. For five years, he has headed a 24/7/365 disaster operations center that monitors events in all 50 states and in five U.S. territories. Through connections with the National Weather Service, the Department of Homeland Security, the National Transportation Safety Board and other government agencies, the Red Cross’s disaster operations division keeps close tabs on conditions nationwide. When something major threatens or occurs, it activates its operations center and assembles a team, supplies, equipment and vehicles to send into the affected area.

Under Mascelli are a logistics unit that includes 33 warehouses throughout the country stocked with supplies; a human resources system capable of training and assigning the 82,000 responders who stand ready to be deployed; a fleet of nearly 350 emergency response vehicles; and a technology unit enabling communications and IT infrastructure to be set up in areas where those capabilities have been damaged.

“It’s challenging. Every day is different,” Mascelli says. “I get up in the morning early and put the news on and try to gauge how my day is going to go, depending on what’s happened or what may be happening. I’ve had an opportunity for a whole wealth of scenarios. It’s just a commitment, a belief in the ideals of the Red Cross in terms of what it was founded to do and what it tries to do on a daily basis.”

Mascelli was finishing up his studies in sociology at the University and wondering about his next steps when he had a chat with a faculty member who mentioned he had worked in the Boston chapter of the Red Cross as a graduate student. His interest piqued, Mascelli applied and got accepted. He worked for the Red Cross domestically and abroad for a few years, then took a leave to go to grad school. Afterward, he returned to the organization and has spent the last 30 years rotating through a variety of disaster-response roles.

There may be some distance between being a sociology major at Scranton and coordinating efforts for the country’s most significant disaster-response nonprofit, but Mascelli still calls on much of his experience at Scranton to help him navigate the enormous complexities of his current role. The Red Cross’s principles are directly linked to International Humanitarian law, and International Humanitarian law flows in large measure from Natural law, which he studied at the University, especially in philosophy classes.

“It was good to see something like that was not just a theoretical construct, that there were people and institutions, including the Red Cross, that took that to heart and they express and demonstrate it in different ways,” he says. “A lot of what we talk about in terms of natural law and ethics and morality involves the expectation and requirement that when things go bad, there is an obligation for people to help those that are affected. That was an affirming experience that I think about a lot.”

When, of course, he has time to think.

Armond Mascelli coordinates efforts for the country’s most significant disaster-response nonprofit.