

10th Cania Family Visiting Artist

SERAPH BRASS

September 26, 2026 | 7:30 pm

Snell Music Theater, SUNY Potsdam



SERAPH BRASS

Raquel Samayoa
Morgen Low
Layan Atieh
Lauren Casey-Clyde
Meredith Fuller

Trumpet
Trumpet
Horn
Trombone
Tuba

PROGRAM

Edvard Grieg (1843–1907)

Holberg Suite, op. 40

I. Prelude

arr. Jeff Luke

Claude Debussy (1862–1918)

Prelude from Suite

Bergamasque

arr. Egil Smedvig

Grigoraș Dinicu (1889–1949)

Hora Staccato

arr. Tim Olt

Jeff Scott (b. 1967)

Showcase

Bernice Petkere (1901–2000)

Lullaby of the Leaves

arr. Robyn Black

Franz Liszt (1811–1886)

Hungarian Rhapsody No. 2

arr. Jeff Luke

- INTERMISSION -

George Gershwin (1898–1937)

Rhapsody in Blue

arr. Joseph Foley

Kevin McKee (b. 1980)

Vuelta Del Fuego

Leonard Bernstein (1918–1990)

Selections from West Side
Story

arr. Jack Gale

Catherine McMichael (b. 1954)

Asteria

II. Virgo

Reena Esmail (b. 1983)

Khirkhiyaan (Windows): Three

Transformations for Brass

Quintet

III. Tuttarana

Seraph Brass: www.seraphbrass.com

Seraph Brass is managed by Reggie Bahl at Lyric Chamber Music Society of New York.

To learn more, please visit www.lyricny.org or call 212.496.9927



Season Underwriters

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Celebrating the 37th Season of Community Performance Series

Your presence here is an essential ingredient in the magic of live performance, creating the energy that only an in-person experience can provide. This shared experience is so profound, in fact, that research shows concert performances can synchronize audiences' heart rates.¹

This power of connection through music is woven throughout the inaugural Brass Summit weekend at Crane School of Music. Through collaborations among colleagues, alumni, students, and guest artists, meaningful artistic and educational connections are being forged in concert halls and rehearsal rooms, as well as in conversations over shared meals and reception gatherings. Being part of this is good for my heart, and hopefully yours as well.

During their residency, Seraph Brass engaged fully with our campus community through performance classes, coaching sessions, and a pre-concert question-and-answer session before taking the stage this evening. They have curated a vibrantly textured program spanning classical masterworks, American favorites, jazz-inspired works, and contemporary compositions. Featuring music by Grieg, Debussy, Gershwin, Bernstein, Joan Tower, Reena Esmail, and others, this dynamic program highlights the ensemble's extraordinary versatility through music that is lyrical, virtuosic, energetic, and deeply engaging.

Thank you for supporting Community Performance Series as a member of our audience. I hope you will join us for our final fall concert on November 7, when we welcome Perla Batalla in *A Letter to Leonard Cohen: Tribute to a Friend*.

All are welcome to join us for a post-concert reception in the lobby.

With gratitude,

Vanessa N. Vaverchak

Director, Community Performance Series and Art
Office of Public Learning, Arts and Community Engagement (PLACE)

"It is the special province of music to move the heart." - Johann Sebastian Bach

1 - Czepiel, A. M., Fink, L. K., Scharinger, M., Seibert, C., Wald-Fuhrmann, M., & Kotz, S. A. (2025). Audio-visual concert performances synchronize audience's heart rates. *Ann NY Acad Sci.*, 1543, 117-132. <https://doi.org/10.1111/nyas.15279>

Community Performance Series

37TH SEASON - FALL 2026

Community Performance Series is a not-for-profit college-community bridge, presenting distinctive and renowned public and school-based performances across a range of genres to the Northern New York region at SUNY Potsdam since 1989.

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Meghan Stever

Assistant Director, Arts & Community Performance Series

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Communications Associate

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Special thanks to:

Generous donors whose gifts make incredible performances like these possible.

The following people whose special efforts supported this event:

Dr. Andrew Mast, Dean, Crane School of Music

Dr. David Heuser, Associate Dean, Crane School of Music

Dr. Matthew Gatti '10, Director of Operations, Crane School of Music & Performing Arts Center

Joshua Barkley '21, Director of Production, Crane School of Music & Performing Arts Center

Crane School of Music Brass Studio, especially Dr. Luke Spence, Assistant Professor of Trumpet

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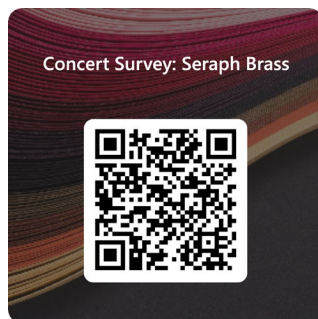


Suggest future guest artists and share your feedback about this concert with us!

Take our quick, 5-question survey at

<https://forms.cloud.microsoft/r/g8A1L1stRg>

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includes a focus on Creative Experiences.

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immediate and future creative experiences offered through our programming.

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a business sponsorship, legacy or estate gift?**

Set up a one-on-one meeting with Director, Vanessa Vaverchak, to explore
how your generosity can sustain and expand our programs.

Find her in the lobby after the show or reach out at:
315-267-2612 or vavercvn@potsdam.edu

River Modeling Demo

Monday, October 19, 2026 | Timerman 124

Times: 12:00 - 12:30 p.m. and 2:00 - 2:30 p.m.



Join SUNY Potsdam in the Earth Surface Processes Lab to experiment with how water shapes the Earth's surface. We will use EM River stream tables to construct model streams and explore how sediment is transported, how humans and infrastructure impact stream processes, and how plants prevent erosion. Led by Dr. Page Quinton, Associate Professor of Earth and Environmental Sciences. *Free and open to the public.*

This event is a part of the weeklong celebration leading up to the public launch of *Deeply Rooted, Future Focused*, SUNY Potsdam's most ambitious campaign yet.



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Proud to support the arts— and grateful to
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Fall Art Stroll

Tuesday, October 20, 2026 | 12:00pm - 1:00pm
Brainerd Hall - Meet outside the Gibson Gallery



Join a midday guided walking tour of art in and around the quad on the picturesque SUNY Potsdam campus. The tour will include highlights from the Uffer Inuit Art Collection exhibit, new John Van Alstine sculptures in the WISER Botanical Garden, Andy Warhol prints, and more. The tour will culminate at the current Gibson Gallery exhibition, *f4 and See It: An Exhibition of Photojournalism*, a retrospective of the work of Pulitzer Prize-winning photojournalist Stephan Savoia '75. Led by Vanessa N. Vaverchak - Director, Community Performance Series & Art.

Participants are encouraged to visit an on-campus eatery or bring a bagged lunch to enjoy in the quad before or after the tour.



Free and open to the public.

To help with planning, kindly RSVP to let us know you'll be part of the tour group.

This event is a part of the weeklong celebration leading up to the public launch of *Deeply Rooted, Future Focused*, SUNY Potsdam's most ambitious campaign yet.

ABOUT SERAPH BRASS

Seraph Brass, now in its 13th season, was founded by trumpet soloist Mary Elizabeth Bowden with a mission to showcase the excellence of women brass players and to highlight musicians from marginalized groups. Winners of the American Prize in Chamber Music, the group has been praised for its “beautiful sounds” (*American Record Guide*), “fine playing” (*Gramophone*), and “staggeringly high caliber of performance” (*Textura*). In addition to quintet performances and residencies, Seraph performs as a 10-piece ensemble, as soloists with large ensembles, and in collaboration with other chamber artists. Seraph released their latest album *Showcase* in March of 2025 through Tower Grove Records, featuring new works for brass quintet by Jeff Scott, Reena Esmail, Kevin Day, and Kevin McKee.

The 2026-2027 season features recitals across the United States, including their Alaska debut. Internationally, Seraph Brass will be featured guest artists at the Positively Brass and Percussion Symposium in Trossingen, Germany; the Festival de Música de Morelia (Miguel Bernal Jiménez) in Morelia, Mexico; and BLUME Haiti in Cap-Haïtien, Haiti. Along with their standard, pops, and seasonal holiday recitals, Seraph Brass will be featured as concerto soloists with the San Francisco Brass Band and the Eastern Illinois University Wind Ensemble, and will have residencies at universities including SUNY Potsdam, University of North Carolina at Pembroke and Wilmington, East Carolina University, Montclair State University, Longwood University, Baruch College, and Louisiana Tech University. Seraph Brass will be releasing their third album in the spring of 2027, featuring all new works and arrangements for brass quintet by John Mackey, Tim Higgins, Gala Flagello, Anthony DiLorenzo, Daniella Candillari, and Rose Roberts.

Seraph Brass performs a diverse body of repertoire, ranging from original transcriptions to newly commissioned works and core classics. The group has commissioned pieces by Grammy-Award winner Jeff Scott, as well as Jennifer Jolley, Anthony DiLorenzo, Joseph Hallman, Catherine McMichael, Marcus Grant, and Rene Orth. The pieces by Orth and McMichael are featured on Seraph's Silver Medal Global Music Award-winning debut album *Asteria*. The group regularly participates in commissioning consortiums, recently supporting works by Gala Flagello, Kevin Day, Mischa Zupko, Sara Jacovino, and Lillian Yee. Seraph recently commissioned and premiered Jennifer Jolley's *Dust* for brass quintet and wind ensemble, which was performed with various ensembles across the US. Last season, Seraph Brass premiered Steven Juliani's new concerto, *The Distant Band* with conductor Jerry Junkin and the Dallas Winds. Other concerto performances have included Rick DeJonge's *Prelude and Fantasy*, James Stephenson's *Dodecafecta*, Suite from *Mass* by Leonard Bernstein and Anthony DiLorenzo's *Chimera*.

The members of Seraph Brass are very passionate about music education and in 2026 the group launched their inaugural Seraph Brass Seminar, a summer chamber music intensive program for students. Individually, members hold faculty positions

at Shenandoah Conservatory, the University of Missouri-Kansas City, and the University of Wisconsin-Madison. They have worked with youth training programs such as Interlochen Arts Camp, NYO2, Domaine Forget, Norfolk Chamber Music Festival, Festival Napa Valley, Brass Institutes of America, and the Cleveland Orchestra Youth Orchestra. In each tour, the group works to provide educational outreach to local schools, and offers a variety of entrepreneurship and career development workshops in addition to traditional brass pedagogy.

The ensemble has toured around the world in South America, Asia, Europe, and in 40 United States. Notable engagements include performances at the Tafalla Brass Week in Spain, Lieksa Brass Week in Finland, the International Festival of Winds of Cusco in Peru, the Busan Maru International Music Festival and the Jeju International Wind Ensemble Festival in South Korea, University of Toronto in Canada, the Forum Cultural Guanajuato in Mexico, International Women's Brass Conference, the International Trumpet Guild Conference, the International Midwest Clinic Band and Orchestra Conference, a two-week tour across China, and a four-week tour across Japan.

Recent touring highlights have included performances and residencies at University of Texas in Austin, Yale University, Oberlin College, Brevard Music Center, Chautauqua Institution, the Lyric Chamber Music Society in NYC, Interlochen Arts Academy, University of Michigan, National Gallery of Art in D.C., Asheville Chamber Music Series, as well as concerto appearances with the Florence Symphony, the United States Army Band "Pershing's Own," Texas Tech University Wind Ensemble, University of North Texas Wind Orchestra, Shenandoah Conservatory Wind Ensemble, University of Nebraska-Omaha Wind Ensemble, and Swarthmore College Wind Ensemble. The group has also toured extensively as *Allied Concert Services* and *Live On Stage* artists, and was formerly in residency alongside the Dover Quartet at the Artosphere Festival in Fayetteville, Arkansas.

Seraph Brass is a Yamaha Performing Group.

ABOUT RAQUEL SAMAYOA

Raquel Samayoa is an accomplished trumpet soloist, chamber musician, orchestral performer, and educator with a diverse and dynamic career. She is currently Associate Professor of Trumpet and co-director of the UNT Brass Band at the University of North Texas College of Music. Dr. Samayoa was previously on faculty at Tennessee Tech University and Northern Kentucky University.

Dr. Samayoa is principal trumpet with the Richardson Symphony Orchestra (TX) and a Yamaha Performing Artist and a Denis Wick Artist and Clinician. Passionate about chamber music, Raquel is a member of the award-winning Seraph Brass and Lantana Trio, with whom she frequently tours both

domestically and internationally. Notably, as a member of Lantana Trio, she performed at the inaugural Festival Internacional de Mujeres Instrumentistas de Metal (FIMIM) in Mexico in 2023, celebrating women in brass.

An advocate for diversity in the arts, Dr. Samayoa is a sought-after clinician, giving masterclasses, recitals, and presentations at leading universities and professional conferences. Her recent engagements include the College Music Society Southern Conference, the Midwest Clinic, the Historic Brass Society Symposium, the International Women's Brass Conference (IWBC), and the International Trumpet Guild (ITG) Conference. She has also been a guest artist at the Prairie Music Residency (Canada), the Oklahoma Summer Arts Institute at Quartz Mountain, the Interlochen Trumpet Intensive, and events at the Melbourne Conservatorium of Music (Australia) and Moscow Conservatory (Russia). Dr. Samayoa serves on the ITG Board of Directors and has co-hosted the IWBC in 2014 and 2022.

Dr. Samayoa has contributed scholarly articles to *The Instrumentalist*, *Brass Band World*, *The Brass Herald*, and the *ITG Journal*. In January 2020, she published *Dueling Fundamentals for Two Trumpets* with Mountain Peak Music. In 2021, she released her second solo album, *Trumpet Songs*, with Summit Records. As a member of Lantana Trio, Raquel released *Crossing Barriers* in the Fall of 2022 through MSR Classics. This album, featuring works by women and BIPOC composers, includes five new commissions. Dr. Samayoa also contributed to an upcoming album of new compositions for brass quintet with Seraph Brass, set to be released in 2025 by Tower Grove Records.

Dr. Samayoa earned her Doctor of Musical Arts (DMA) in Trumpet Performance from the University of North Texas, where she studied with the esteemed Keith Johnson. She holds a Master of Arts and Bachelor's degree in Music Education from West Texas A&M University, where she studied trumpet with David Ritter and wind conducting with Gary Garner. For more info: <https://solotromba.com/>

ABOUT MORGAN LOW

Morgan Low is a freelance trumpet performer and teacher based in south Florida. Just prior to joining Seraph Brass, she held an appointment as acting Co-Principal Trumpet of the Sarasota orchestra during the 2024-2025 season.

Outside of the touring season, Morgan has spent summers performing as Co-Principal Trumpet of the Cabrillo Festival Orchestra, acting Principal Trumpet of the Britt Festival Orchestra, and as a fellow of the Tanglewood Music Center. She has made guest appearances with the Indianapolis

Symphony, Naples Philharmonic, Charleston Symphony, and the Louisville Orchestra among others. In 2022 she competed in and was named the first prize winner of the Next Generation Trumpet Competition.

Morgen holds a Master of Music degree from Northwestern University's Bienen School of Music and a Bachelor of Music degree from Oberlin Conservatory. Her primary professors during these studies were Roy Poper, Robert Sullivan, Channing Philbrick, David Bilger, Thomas Rolfs, and Michael Sachs. She is also an alumna of the New World Symphony orchestral fellowship program where she performed under the batons of artistic directors Michael Tilson Thomas and Stéphane Denève.

ABOUT LAYAN ATIEH

Layan Atieh is a Palestinian-Jordanian-American horn player currently residing in Chicago, Illinois. Layan is a member of Seraph Brass, a world renowned all-women brass quintet, as well the Civic Orchestra of Chicago. As an active freelancer, Layan has performed with the Cleveland Orchestra and the Chicago Symphony Orchestra. She is passionate about chamber music and has performed at festivals around the world, including the Hidden Valley Festival of Winds, Domaine Forget, and the Stellenbosch International Chamber Music Festival, as well as orchestra festivals such as the Music Academy of the West. In 2022, Layan completed her undergraduate studies at the Peabody Institute under the tutelage of Robert Rearden, as well as a Bachelor's degree in Political Science from Johns Hopkins University. She earned her Master's degree in 2024 at the Cleveland Institute of Music, where she studied with Richard King and Nathaniel Silberschlag.

Layan is passionate about community engagement and the intersection of politics and music, and is always finding ways to use music as a vehicle for connection across differences. Her work in Seraph Brass allows her to promote and highlight the artistry of marginalized identities, to bring performances and music education to underserved communities around the United States and across the world, and to open dialogue about the role of artists in society. In 2025, Layan served as the inaugural Arts Administration Fellow at the Civic Orchestra of Chicago, allowing her to connect with the Chicago community on and off the stage. During her fellowship, she helped organize and perform in youth and educational concerts, as well as collaborative concerts with community partners, such as the Chicago Refugee Coalition. She also conceptualized and produced her own program, titled 'Thread and Chord: A Dialogue Between Fashion and Music' - an

interdisciplinary performance exploring the relationship between artistic expression and cultural identity. Layan is passionate about music education, and serves on faculty at the Brass Institutes of America, as well as a Teaching Artist at the Cleveland Orchestra Youth Orchestra (COYO). In both Cleveland and Chicago, Layan has taught in public schools, deepening her commitment to music education and outreach, and regularly teaches while on tour with Seraph Brass. In 2025, she was honored as a Guest Artist at the International Women's Brass Conference, furthering her advocacy for representation and innovation in brass performance. Outside of music, Layan enjoys a variety of sports, including martial arts, rock climbing, and, most recently, pickleball.

ABOUT LAUREN CASEY-CLYDE

Lauren Casey-Clyde is an active freelancer, educator, chamber musician and soloist residing in Austin, TX. She has performed with the Boston Symphony Orchestra, Austin Symphony Orchestra, Austin Opera, Temple Symphony Orchestra, Central Texas Philharmonic, Waco Symphony Orchestra, Cambrian Symphony Orchestra and Round Top Festival Orchestra. She recently made her debut performance at SXSW performing with Density 512 as part of the Graham Reynolds Showcase, and has recorded and performed with New-Orleans style Boss Street Brass Band. She will make her Carnegie Hall debut in June of 2024, performing under the baton of Jerry Junkin with the University of Texas Wind Ensemble. Internationally, Lauren was named a finalist for the 2023 International Trombone Association Quartet Competition and the winner of the Emory Remington Trombone Choir Competition. She has performed under many esteemed conductors such as Andris Nelsons, Bernard Haitink, Robert Spano and JoAnn Falletta.

As a soloist, Lauren was selected as an artist to perform at the 2024 International Women's Brass Conference in Japan and was invited as a special guest to perform at the Texas State Capitol for the 2022 International Peace Concert. She was a finalist at the 2023 Big 12 Tenor Trombone Solo Competition, a finalist in the 2022 University of Texas Concerto Competition, and a prize winner in the Susan Slaughter Solo Competition at the 2019 International Women's Brass Conference. In 2016, she was named the winner of the Northeast Tuba and Euphonium Conference Young Artist Solo, and has since made solo appearances around the country with the University of Texas Concert Band, New England Brass Band, Saratoga High School Wind Ensemble, and Boston University Wind Ensemble.

Lauren serves as the Assistant Professor of Trombone & Euphonium at Texas Lutheran University in Seguin, TX. She also serves as a private teacher in the Austin area to 6-12th grade students and regularly gives clinics and masterclasses around the area. Her students have consistently won positions at prestigious universities, region bands, all-state ensembles, honor bands, and summer festivals.

Lauren received her Doctor of Musical Arts degree at the University of Texas at Austin in 2024, where she served as the trombone studio teaching assistant. She also holds a Master of Music degree from the University of Texas at Austin, a Bachelor of Music degree from Boston University, where she received the prestigious Brass Department Award, and studied abroad at the Royal College of Music in London for a semester. Her primary instrument was euphonium until graduate school, and she has a distinct passion for playing bass trumpet and sackbut as well. Lauren's principal teachers include Dr. Nathaniel Brickens and Boston Symphony tubist Mike Roylance. Lauren has been published in the International Tuba Euphonium Association Journal and can be heard on the BBC Symphony Orchestra CD *Vaughan Williams: A London Symphony*, performing with the Royal College of Music Brass Band.

ABOUT MEREDITH FULLER

Meredith Fuller is a tubist and low brass educator based in the Baltimore area. She received her bachelors of music education and masters in tuba performance from Penn State University and is currently finishing her D.M.A. at the Peabody Institute.

Fuller began playing the tuba in fourth grade when she volunteered to make a sound on the instrument at a Music In Our Schools Month demonstration. Her elementary band teacher picked her because she was a girl and she was small. The rest is history. She realizes that not every young student has as much support and opportunities as she did in public school and beyond. While pursuing a high level of performance, she also values educational outreach and advocacy for marginalized groups in the brass and tuba community.

Fuller served as the adjunct tuba and euphonium professor at Penn State University from 2022-2024 and teaches in Baltimore County Public Schools with the OrchKids program. She is an inaugural member of the Chrysalis Orchestra and has performed at the International Women's Brass Conference (IWBC) in Denton, TX. She travels internationally with her quintet, Looking Glass Brass, and performs and teaches with her tuba-euphonium duo, 5'Two.

ESCAPE TO CREATE

BRUCE RODGERS '71

AWARD-WINNING PLAYWRIGHT AND CO-
FOUNDER OF THE HERMITAGE ARTIST RETREAT

Oct 22 at 12 PM
Kellas Hall, Room 106

Artist communities around the world support creative people at every stage, from emerging artists to established professionals, offering something increasingly rare: dedicated time and space to create.

In this talk, Rodgers shares how to find these communities, how to apply, and how to make the most of the opportunity when you get there.



The Hermitage at Manasota Key, Florida



Free and open to all, from emerging to established artists



This LoKo Arts project is made possible by the generosity and artistic vision of Kathryn (Kofoed) '54 and Donald Loughheed (Hon.'54).



This event is a part of the weeklong celebration leading up to the public launch of ***Deeply Rooted, Future Focused***, SUNY Potsdam's most ambitious campaign yet.

NAVIGATING THE FUTURE



WITHOUT A MAP

BRUCE RODGERS '71

AWARD-WINNING PLAYWRIGHT AND CO-
FOUNDER OF THE HERMITAGE ARTIST RETREAT

Kellas Hall, Room 106 | Oct. 22 at 6 PM | Reception to Follow

On Sept. 10, 1967, Bruce Rodgers '71 arrived at Potsdam for freshman orientation in a 1962 VW Microbus. He stepped onto a campus and into a world on the verge of profound change. He was handed a beanie and a handbook, but the handbook would soon be obsolete.

In this keynote, Rodgers reflects on how his Potsdam experience shaped a life in art, entrepreneurship and leadership, and what a college education can teach us about navigating the future without a map.



This LoKo Arts project is made possible by the generosity and artistic vision of Kathryn (Koford) '54 and Donald Loughheed (Hon.'54).

SCAN TO REGISTER
FREE & OPEN TO PUBLIC

This event is a part of the weeklong celebration leading up to the public launch of ***Deeply Rooted, Future Focused***, SUNY Potsdam's most ambitious campaign yet.

Celebrate the ribbon cutting of the

WISER Botanical Garden

Friday, October 23, 2026 from 4:00 - 5:00 p.m.

*made possible through the vision and generosity of
Robert '75 and Wendy Wagner (Hon. '17)*



Tour this new outdoor learning space featuring gardens, gathering areas, and hands-on opportunities to explore biodiversity, sustainability, and the natural world.

This event is a part of the weeklong celebration leading up to the public launch of ***Deeply Rooted, Future Focused***, SUNY Potsdam's most ambitious campaign yet.

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Public is Welcome





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FESTIVAL OF *Lights*

This event is a part of the weeklong celebration leading up to the public launch of *Deeply Rooted, Future Focused*, SUNY Potsdam's most ambitious campaign yet.

www.potsdam.edu/events/festival-lights



SUNY Potsdam Alumni Association Reunion July 9-11, 2027

All are welcome back to campus for our annual Reunion celebration. Whether you graduated 50 years ago or 5 years ago, we hope to see you there! **More information:** potsdam.edu/alumni-friends/reunion



The **SUNY Potsdam Alumni Association** is proud to welcome new members into the alumni family each year as our students graduate. Shared experiences at SUNY Potsdam and during the years following graduation keep our community strong, throughout generations and no matter the distance.

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