



Stumptown Orange
THE SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY ALUMNI CLUB
OF GREATER PORTLAND, OREGON

GETTING A LEG UP ON YOUR CAREER

January 7, 2016



The conference room 40 floors above downtown Portland was packed on Jan. 7 for the first-ever **Stumptown Orange** Career-building Night. In all, 27 alumni, students and friends of Syracuse gathered to hear some tips, insights and professional “war stories” from four alumni who have established themselves in their professions. Then everyone “worked the room” over drinks and hors d’oeuvres. The evening was a collaboration between the alumni club and SU’s Office of Alumni Engagement.



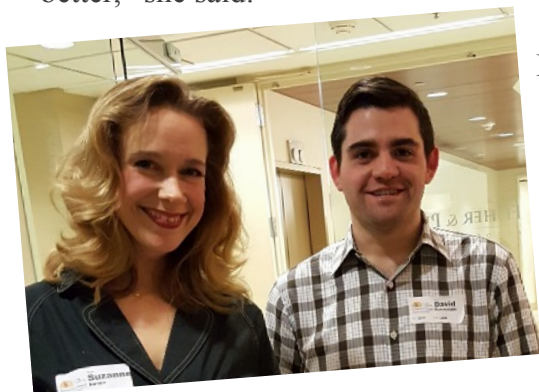
Attorney **Rich Meneghello ('93)** (far left, with **David Lu ('13)**) began the session. “Carpet-bombing resumes doesn’t work,” he told the group, made up largely of Generation Orange – SU graduates of the past 10 years – and current students. He also extolled the virtues of informational interviews during the search to find oneself professionally.

Training and development specialist **Jenny Chaney ('05)** (far right) followed, regaling the room with her memories of being placed in a management position at AAA at the age of 21. Overseeing a staff, all of whom were working for the auto club before she was born, was a challenge, to say the least.



Architect **Paul Soper ('00)** (near right) reflected on his Syracuse education: “What it does exceedingly well is give you a thought process” – a unique way of looking at things, often in innovative ways, that is essential not only for architects but for a variety of professions.

Radio host and operatic soprano **Suzanne Nance ('00)** preached stick-to-it-tiveness to the group, saying the key to landing the job you want is to keep going back, despite the turn-downs, and to keep saying “yes” regardless of the question. “Each time you do this, you’ll get a little bit better,” she said.



During the informal conversations which bubbled continuously after the formal presentation, networking and contact-swapping were in full force. And not always in the direction you’d expect. One of the more interesting interactions occurred when Suzanne Nance (left, with **David Hutchinson ('14)**) mentioned a project she had in mind for KQAC All Classical FM which would require contacting NASA. That’s when **Redford New ('17)** mentioned that he and fellow aeronautical engineering students at Syracuse are in contact with NASA regularly. Guess who gave who the business card!

Thanks to all who came out, to our presenters, our phone tree callers, texters and tweeters who put the word out about the event, and especially to Rich Meneghello for providing the meeting space. Based on the evening’s turnout and success, Career-building Night is likely to become an annual **Stumptown Orange** event.

