Leadership Council Board Members

Nancy E. Carey Cassidy ’89
Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer, Picotte Companies

Nancy is responsible for strategic planning and operational oversight of The Picotte Companies. She has been with the company for nearly 30 years and was formerly director of development, responsible for all aspects of real estate development, land acquisition, site and building design, municipal approvals, construction, and leasing.

Nancy holds a bachelor's degree from the College of New Rochelle and an MBA from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. Nancy is a vice chair of the board of directors of Albany Medical Center.

William J. Cromie, M.D. ’90
Former president and CEO of CDPHP

William J. Cromie, M.D., MBA, one of the founders of CDPHP, served as president and CEO of CDPHP for seven years where his leadership reflected a steadfast commitment to excellence, compassion, and to improving the health of individuals. Prior to serving at CDPHP, Cromie held the post of vice chair of the department of surgery at the University of Chicago, in addition to serving as professor of surgery and pediatrics.

Cromie is an internationally-recognized pediatric urologist whose career centered on clinical, research, and education. He was the first and only pediatric urologist practicing in the Capital Region for 15 years, serving as professor of surgery and pediatrics at Albany Medical Center and chief of reconstructive urology. He previously served as staff surgeon at Children’s Hospital in Philadelphia, and as assistant chief of urology at the Naval Medical Research Institute in Bethesda, Maryland, following completion of his military service.

Cromie was the senior scholar for the MacLean Center for Medical Ethics in Chicago, and was a founding member of the Lumen Christi Institute at the University of Chicago. He served as governor of the American College of Surgeons, president of the Society for Pediatric Urology, and board member of National Ronald McDonald Children’s Charity. Cromie received his B.A. from Fordham University, his M.D. from St. Louis University Medical School, and an MBA from the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute Lally School of Management.

Mark E. Donovan, CFA ’80
Co-Chief Executive Officer and Portfolio Manager, Boston Partners

Mr. Donovan is co-chief executive officer of Boston Partners and lead portfolio manager for Boston Partners Large Cap Value portfolios. He is responsible for strategic and tactical operating decisions affecting the firm. He was one of the founding partners of Boston Partners Asset Management in 1995. He joined the firm from The Boston Company where he was senior vice president and equity portfolio manager.

He also spent five years as a consulting associate with Kaplan, Smith & Associates, and two years as a securities analyst for Value Line Inc. Mr. Donovan holds a B.S. degree in management from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. He also holds the Chartered Financial Analyst designation. He has thirty-five years of investment experience.
**Bill Hart ’62**
Founder and Managing Partner (retired), Technology Partners

Bill Hart is an advisor to early-stage technology and financial services companies. As the founder and managing partner of Technology Partners, Mr. Hart led this Silicon Valley venture capital firm for 21 years. Since retiring from Technology Partners in 2001, he has continued to work with several early-stage companies and to serve on the board of Trimble Navigation.

Mr. Hart also serves on the boards of the Napa Valley Opera House and various university advisory groups. He is a former member of the Tuck Board of Overseers. Mr. Hart owns and manages a small vineyard in the Napa Valley and was affiliated for many years with Duckhorn Vineyards. He obtained his BME from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and received his MBA from the Tuck School of Business.

**Audrey H. Kaplan ’89**
Head of International Equity Team and Senior Portfolio Manager at Federated Investors, Inc.

Ms. Audrey Kaplan is head of the international equity team and senior portfolio manager at Federated Investors, Inc. She joined Federated Investors, Inc. in 2007 and is responsible for portfolio management and research in global equity products. Previously, she served as senior vice president of quantitative research and fund portfolio manager at Rochdale Investment Management LLC. She joined Rochdale Investment Management LLC in 2004. Ms. Kaplan served as hedge fund strategy consultant at BlueCrest Capital Management in London from December 2002 to December 2003. She served as vice president of european quantitative strategist at Merrill Lynch International in London from August 2000 to December 2002.

Ms. Kaplan served as the project manager of global emerging markets research at Robert Fleming & Co. in London from February 1998 to December 1999, and as a vice president of equity analysis at Salomon Brothers. She is a member of the Stamford Society of Investment Analysts and professionally affiliated to the Society of Quantitative Analysts and Quantitative Work Alliance for Applied Finance. She obtained a Masters in Finance from the London Business School and a B.S. degree in computer and systems engineering from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in New York.

**Brendan L. McKernan ’00**
President and Co-Founder, Courtagen Life Sciences, Inc.

Brendan is president and co-founder of Courtagen Life Sciences Inc. Previously, Brendan was a co-founder of Agencourt Bioscience Corporation and Agencourt Personal Genomics. Until both firms were acquired, he was a board member and the vice president of operations. In this capacity, he oversaw the implementation and execution of the company's operational strategy.

Massachusetts-based Agencourt Biosciences Corporation was a leading provider of nucleic acid purification products and genomic services for life science research. Agencourt Bioscience was acquired by Beckman Coulter in 2005. Massachusetts-based Agencourt Personal Genomics developed the SOLiD sequencing platform that was acquired by Life Technology in 2006.

Brendan holds a B.S. in management science from Muhlenberg College and an MBA from the Rensselaer Lally School of Management. While at Rensselaer, McKernan received the Delmar W. Karger Award in Management for outstanding academic and leadership achievements. In 2006, Brendan was named the William F. Glaser ’53 Rensselaer Entrepreneur of the Year.

Brendan is also the co-vice chairman of the board and treasurer at the Avon Old Farms School where he serves as chairman of the finance, audit, and benefits committees. He is also a member of the advisory council for the Rensselaer Lally School of Management and a judge for the Lemelson Program, which celebrates and supports inventors and entrepreneurs in order to strengthen social and economic life. In addition, Brendan is a member of Boston Harbor Angels where he serves on the life science screening committee.
Mr. Tom McLaughlin, ’86, ’87
Managing Director (Retired), Goldman Sachs

Tom McLaughlin retired as a managing director at Goldman Sachs after 20 years working on the equity trading floor. Tom started at Goldman in Equity Derivatives Sales and for the last 10 years ran a team of 10 people that covered Canada for all equity and equity derivative products. He also ran the firm’s Latin American equity business from 2004 to 2007.

Before joining Goldman Sachs, Tom sold engineering software for Auto-Trol Technology. He graduated from Rensselaer in 1986 with a B.S. in industrial engineering and also received his MBA from the Rensselaer Lally School in 1987.

Roger B. Orloff ’60
President, The Acquisition Search Corporation

Roger B. Orloff is a veteran of more than 30 years of merger and acquisition experience. In the course of negotiating with numerous owner-managed middle market companies, he recognized their difficulty in securing knowledgeable investment banking advice and developed a commitment to help fill this gap. Before founding The Acquisition Search Corporation, Mr. Orloff managed the Corporate Finance Group of one of the nation’s largest banks. His responsibilities included advising and assisting middle market corporations in mergers and acquisitions, business and securities valuation, fairness opinions and expert witness testimony. Prior to that, he led the acquisition services department of the largest investment banking firm in Canada.

Before entering investment banking, Mr. Orloff managed corporate acquisition programs, strategic planning, and marketing research. On behalf of a major European corporation, he developed the strategic plan and then implemented the acquisition program that created a $500 million United States and Canadian forest products and home furnishings subsidiary. Mr. Orloff later served as its vice president of administration, supervising much of the corporate staff. Previously, he organized and directed the successful acquisition program of a leading New York City based Fortune 500 conglomerate. He has lectured and written extensively on corporate acquisitions and strategic planning. Mr. Orloff received a Master in Business Administration with Distinction from the Harvard Business School and a Bachelor of Engineering from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute.

William G. “Bill” Pomeroy ’66
Founder and CEO of CXtec® and TERACAI

William G. “Bill” Pomeroy is founder and CEO of CXtec® and TERACAI®, two multi-million dollar technology companies based in Syracuse, NY. CXtec is a global provider of new and certified pre-owned networking and voice equipment. For more than 30 years, CXtec has helped customers reduce the cost of their networking and technology infrastructure. In April 2009, Bill launched sister company TERACAI. TERACAI is a Cisco® Silver Partner that helps commercial, health care, and education customers design, install, and manage their core networking, communications, and data center solutions.

Bill has received several entrepreneurial awards, including the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute Entrepreneur of the Year, the Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of the Year, and the Syracuse University Distinguished Entrepreneur of the Year. Bill is also a past recipient of the Central New York Sales and Marketing Executives Crystal Ball Award, bestowed annually to a local businessperson for contributions to the sales and marketing profession.

Bill earned his bachelor’s degree in management engineering from the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and his MBA in Marketing from the Wharton School of Finance at the University of Pennsylvania. He is an active member of several local and national non-profit boards, including the National Marrow Donor Program, the Be The Match Foundation, Centerstate CEO, and the Erie Canal Museum. He is also on the advisory board of The Salvation Army of the Syracuse Area, a member of the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute Lally School Advisory Council, and a Leukemia & Lymphoma Society First Connection Volunteer. In 2006, Bill was honored to receive the annual Courage Award from the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society of Central New York.
Thomas Selfridge ’01  
Founder and Former President, Albany Valve & Fitting Company

Tom retired as president of the Albany Valve & Fitting Company in 2012. The company is involved with process control and instrumentation and manufacturing components designed for fluid applications.

Tom is actively involved in a number of other charities and organizations including serving as a director of the U.S. Rugby Foundation. In 2014, Tom was elected to the USA Rugby Hall of Fame.

Tom earned his undergraduate degree from the University of Cincinnati and his MBA from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute.

Steven Silberstein ’76  
Chief Technology Officer, SunGard

As chief technology officer, Steven Silberstein is responsible for the development and execution of SunGard’s technology strategy.

Mr. Silberstein has a successful record of building and operating high performance software-based technology businesses, as well as architecting solutions to meet challenging technical problems in financial services. Most recently, he was chief information officer and head of operations for Chi-X Global, operating in Tokyo, Singapore, and Toronto. Previously, he was a managing director at Lehman Brothers, where he served as the global head of its prime brokerage product, responsible for the quantitative prime brokerage, product management, clearing, custody, and servicing aspects of the business.

Prior to that, he was chief information officer of the firm’s global equities division, where he co-led Lehman Brothers’ move into electronic and quantitative execution, as well as the deployment of its LX ATS platform and other internalization products. Before Lehman Brothers, Mr. Silberstein ran FAME Information Services, a leading provider of decision support solutions, which was acquired by SunGard in 2004.

Mr. Silberstein is an adjunct professor at Fordham University Graduate School of Business and a member of the Leadership Council of Rensselaer Lally School of Management. In addition, he is a development partner of Acumen, a non-profit organization that raises charitable donations to invest in companies, leaders, and ideas that are changing the way the world tackles poverty. He holds a B.S. in mathematics from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute.

Jack Wilson  
President-Emeritus and Distinguished Professor at University of Massachusetts

Jack M. Wilson is a former university president (University of Massachusetts) as well as serving in most major administrative and academic capacities as provost, vice-president, dean, department chair, research center director, and distinguished professor. He is also a private sector entrepreneur best known for founding the ILINC corporation in the 90's and building it (as president, CEO, and chairman) into a $500 million market capitalization company in 2000 through internal growth and a series of mergers and acquisitions. He was the founding CEO of UMassOnline, which grew to serve over 70,000 students and earn over $70 million in annual revenues by 2012.

He co-founded the Massachusetts Green High Performance Computing Center, and worked with the Governor to create the Mass Life Science Center and the Mass Clean Energy Center. He was a founding board member in both organizations. He worked with the late Senator Edward M. Kennedy to create the EMK Center for the Study of the Senate, acquire the
land, and see the project through the ground-breaking. He served as a board member for many years and as president in 2011-2012. He chairs the FIPSE (Fund for the Improvement of Post-Secondary Education) Board for the U.S. Department of Education. He served on the National Security Higher Education Advisory Board to the FBI, CIA, and Homeland Security. He chaired the New England Defense Technology Initiative from 2009-2012 and presently serves on the board of the Advanced Cyber Security Center (ACSC).

He is presently serving as the president emeritus of the University of Massachusetts and distinguished professor of higher education, emerging technologies, and innovation at UMass Lowell.