



Howard Zemsky

## SIMON BUSINESS SCHOOL Alumni Honors

New York economic development officer receives Simon's Distinguished Alumnus Award.

**Howard Zemsky '86S (MBA)**, the president and CEO of Empire State Development and commissioner of the New York State Department of Economic Development, received the Distinguished Alumnus Award during the June commencement ceremony for Simon Business School.

Nominated for his post by Gov. Andrew Cuomo and confirmed by the Senate, Zemsky holds the top economic position in New York, working closely with Lt. Gov. Kathy Hochul and the co-chairs of the state's Regional Economic Development Councils. The 10 councils were created by Cuomo in 2011 and given the responsibility of devising long-term job-creation plans to tap into different attributes of each area. Zemsky has co-chaired the Western New York Regional Economic Development Council.

In 1981, Zemsky took over his family's meat processing business, based in Buffalo, New York. It later became Russer Foods, one of the largest producers of delicatessen meats. After selling the business, he established a Buffalo-based private equity and real estate investment firm, Taurus Capital Partners.

Zemsky has been a featured speaker for Simon and is a member of the George Eastman Circle, the University's leadership annual giving society.

Continued from page 53 company's efforts to establish a foothold in the American market.

**1985 John Austin** passed away unexpectedly near his home in Charlottesville, Virginia, in late May, writes his sister-in-law, Helen Gatling-Austin. Helen invites classmates to learn more about John's recent activities, find a link to an obituary, and share remembrances at a Facebook memorial site at Facebook.com/John-Curtis-Austin-Memorial.

**1986 John Simmonds** has been elected to the board of directors of the Rhode Island Council for the Humanities. John is a project manager at the Smithfield, Rhode Island, office of Fidelity Investments.

**1987 Lawrence Creatura '94S (MBA)** has published a book, *Long and Short: Confessions of a Portfolio Manager* (Mill City Press, 2015). Lawrence is co-portfolio manager of the small-cap value portfolio at Federated Clover Investment Advisors, near Rochester. He's offered commentary for CNBC, Bloomberg News, the *Wall Street Journal*, and other financial news outlets.

**1989 Warren Firschein** writes that he's published a book, *Out of Synch* (Chapter Two Press). It's "a middle grade sports book aimed at girls, and quite possibly the first novel to focus on the underappreciated sport of synchronized swimming." Warren adds that he lives near Tampa Bay, Florida, with his wife and two daughters, "both of whom are enthusiastic synchronized swimmers." . . . **Jennifer Traylor Kruschwitz '95 (MS)** writes that she earned a doctorate in color science at the Rochester Institute of Technology. The principal optical coating engineer at JK Consulting in Rochester, Jennifer starts in September as an assistant professor at the Institute of Optics.

**1990 Laura Kelley Hart** has been named director of online educational initiatives for the University of Pennsylvania's Department of Medical Ethics and Health Policy. Previously, she was senior director for digital initiatives at the Curtis Institute of Music, where she helped develop massive open online courses, or MOOCs, for lifelong learners. She has a certificate in e-learning design and development from



1991 Armstrong



2001 Dehestani



2006 Dylag

the University of Washington. . . .

**Jodi Rubtchinsky Smith** has published revised and updated editions of *From Clueless to Class Act: Manners for the Modern Man* and *From Clueless to Class Act: Manners for the Modern Woman* (Sterling Publishing). Jodi is founder and president of Mannersmith Etiquette Consulting.

**1991 Joe Armstrong '92 (MS)** and his wife, Rachel, welcomed their third child, Grace, in May. Grace joins brothers Liam, 5, and Callen, 2. They live in Fremont, California. John is an optical engineer at KLA-Tencor. . . .

**Bryan Bond '96S (MBA)** has joined Lawley Benefits Group in Rochester as an employee benefits consultant.

**1994 Vinod Srihari '98M (MD)**, associate director of the psychiatry residency training program at Yale Medical School, was honored by the Connecticut chapter of the Global Organization of People of Indian Origin, or GOPIO, for his service to the medical profession and to the Indian-American community. Vinod received his award at a June banquet

attended by members of the state legislative and U.S. congressional delegations, as well as a representative from the Indian consulate.

**1995 Stewart Bushman** writes that he's the propulsion lead engineer for NASA's New Horizons mission, which entered the Pluto system in July, flying within 7,800 miles of the dwarf planet, bringing back close-range photographs of its geography. Previously, he was the propulsion lead for NASA's Messenger spacecraft, which completed a four-year orbit of Mercury last April. His next project, again as propulsion lead, is NASA's Solar Probe Plus, which launches in July 2018, and will explore the sun's outer atmosphere. . . .

**Balaji Gandhi** has joined Press Ganey, a provider of health care analytics based in South Bend, Indiana, as senior vice president of corporate development and strategy. . . .

**Robert Kerr** has been named special assistant to the Georgia attorney general. An attorney in Augusta who represents clients with a variety of disabilities and medical conditions, Robert will represent Georgia's