

Summer 2018

# BONAVENTURE

The Magazine of St. Bonaventure University

## A Historic year for HEOP



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as Bonnies reconnect | 14

Alums travel the globe with  
purpose, concern for others | 22

Hard work and love forge  
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## Facility Monitors, Forecasts Cyberattacks

In April, the university unveiled the Western New York Cybersecurity Research Center, a collaboration between St. Bonaventure, National ICT Japan, Canadian Institute for Cybersecurity and New Zealand Cybersecurity Center.



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## Historic Year for HEOP

With an HEOP class on path to its first-ever 100 percent graduation rate, we took this opportunity to check in with HEOP alumni David Bryant, Dr. Maria del Guadalupe (Morris) Davidson, Paul Leonardo, Makeda Loney, Audrey Mooradian and Thomas Waters.



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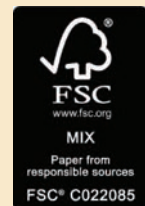
## Nourishing the Soul

Johanna (LaRosa) Burani, Class of 1969, and Anthony Mancini and Dan Maurer, both Class of 2009, may have graduated 40 years apart, but they are connected spiritually by a deep-held sense of purpose and concern for others.



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# Thank you for inspiring me

I thought I knew.

I thought I knew 42 years ago when I first visited campus with friars from Bishop Timon in Buffalo and fell in love with the place.

I thought I knew on Nov. 13, 2016, when I received the call informing me that I had been selected as the 21st president of St. Bonaventure University, soothing the sting of being unable to attend Bona's as a student.

I was wrong. I didn't know.

I knew Bonaventure was a special place, but only after serving my first year as president did I fully appreciate how special. You don't have to look any further than

the pages of this magazine to see the evidence.

The cover story (page 16) on the remarkable success of our HEOP program says all you need to know about the personalized attention we give our students, and is a credit to the program Margaret Bryner built and Bridget Kehrer took over in 2014.

That personalized attention focused on student success — inside and outside the classroom — begins for all Bonnies before they set foot in a classroom.

Summer Orientation, which just wrapped up in July for the largest freshman class in 10 years, is the

first time students begin to understand how invested faculty, staff and many upperclass schoolmates are in their success. That commitment persists for four years.

The way we walk the talk of our mission inspires me.

*As an academic and spiritual community, we endeavor to prepare our students for the challenges they will face ... (and) true to our Franciscan heritage, we encourage students to manifest our values through lives of citizenship and service.*

Those aren't my words. They're taken right from our mission statement and I see them lived every day, not only on campus but far from it, by alumni doing noble

work around the world.

Please take some time to read what Johanna (LaRosa) Burani, '69, is doing in Tanzania and what Anthony Mancini and Dan Maurer, both class of '09, are doing in Nepal. They might have graduated 40 years apart, but they're connected spiritually by a sense of purpose and a concern for others instilled in them by the Franciscan ethos that has permeated this university for 160 years.

We remain as passionate as ever about our Franciscan tradition and the opportunity it provides to offer a transformational human experience for students of all faiths.

What I've come to admire most about the members of the campus community is their willingness to take risks. So often, colleges are resistant to change, but I've seen nothing except a willingness to do whatever's necessary to advance the university. I couldn't be more grateful.

Maybe what surprised me more than anything in my first year was seeing the spirit and connectivity of our alumni. I mean, having grown up in Buffalo and wanting to go here, I had always heard of the "Bonaventure cult." But to witness firsthand how deep your pride runs, how passionate and willing you are to do whatever it takes to help us succeed, is amazing.

ESPN's Adrian Wojnarowski, '91, lived through one of the worst periods in Bonaventure basketball history. That didn't stop him from going deep into his pockets to spur a one-day \$53,000 fund drive that sent students he's never met to Dayton to see the Bonnies knock off UCLA (page 28).

That's just one of a thousand examples of Bonnies looking out for Bonnies, from internship and job opportunities to coming back to campus to share their expertise and wisdom with our students.

Mike Padlo just graduated a year ago May, and in a Facebook post three months later, he welcomed incoming freshmen "to the best place on Earth."

At the time, I was on the job for only three months, so it seemed like a little hyperbole.

Now? I think he might be right.




**PRESIDENT** Dr. Dennis R. DePerro

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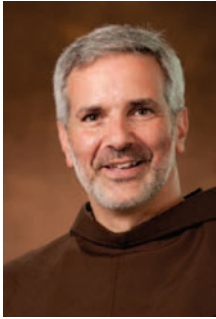
## ORDER OF FRIARS MINOR

# Six U.S. provinces to become one

By Fr. Francis Di Spigno, O.F.M.

In 1209, St. Francis received verbal permission from Pope Innocent III for his “Rule of Life” for himself and his 11 brothers. This was an important moment for the church and for the Franciscans be-

cause it was a turn from a singular charismatic mystic to a recognized community within the Catholic Church.



Over the centuries there have been many turns, twists and even outright divisions within this

community. Today, the Franciscan family has numerous religious orders and communities, of men and women, throughout the world. For the men, the main branches of the Franciscan tree would include the Order of Friars Minor Conventual, Capuchins, and what we simply call the Order of Friars Minor [OFM]. Holy Name Province, the sponsoring religious community of St. Bonaventure University, is a part of the OFM branch.

In 1855, when Fr. Pamphilo di Magliano and the 13 other founding friars of then-St. Bonaventure’s College arrived from Italy, they were actually members of a different Franciscan community. On Oct. 4, 1897, Pope Leo XIII combined four Franciscan families, the Observant, Reform, Recollects and Discalced, to become the modern-day Order of Friars Minor.

One can note that historical shift in the St. Bonaventure Cemetery. Although Fr. Pamphilo is not buried in Allegany, the friars buried before 1897 will all have OSF after their names. After 1897, the friars are marked with OFM.

Perhaps not as dramatic is what we refer to as the Leonine Union: the Order of Friars Minor in the United States have entered into another very important moment of “Revitalization and Restructuring.”

On May 30, 2018, six of the seven OFM provinces in the United States gathered and voted, at the same time, to become



one province. Where we were headquartered in Oakland, Calif., Albuquerque, N.M., St. Louis, Mo., Franklin, Wis., Cincinnati, Ohio, and New York, N.Y., we will now become one Franciscan province.

There are many reasons for this realignment, but the main cause is the continuing shifts that are taking place within our culture and within the Catholic Church. With almost 70 percent of the U.S. friars approving of this step forward, we recognize that we are much stronger, better and fraternal when we are together than when we are apart.

Fr. Kevin Mullen, O.F.M., provincial minister of Holy Name Province, said, “One new province provides us with the opportunity to have a vital fraternal experience. With regard to mission, one new province allows us to take the core values of Franciscan life and implement them in a unified way, and with regard to the church and the kingdom, to make us more responsible to the promptings of the spirit in the world and in the church.”

Similarly, Fr. Michael Perry, O.F.M., general minister of the entire order, added, “Your work is important for the future of the worldwide order as a demonstration of our ability to build bridges and cross boundaries in a world which seems too often divided.”

The new entity will have about 1,000 friars, each belonging to the existing six provinces, and will be headquartered in a yet-to-be-determined location. The name of the new entity will also be determined at a later time.

Like many other religious communities throughout the United States, the Franciscans are facing a reduction in their members. During the 1960s and 1970s, the number of Friars Minor in the United States peaked at 3,252, but today the numbers are down below 1,000 friars.<sup>1</sup>

At this point, the friars await the appointment of a friar delegate by Fr. Perry to help with the process. It is expected that the new province will be officially formed in late 2022 or early 2023.

For more information regarding the process of Revitalization and Restructuring of the OFM provinces in the United States, visit [usfranciscans.org/revitalization-restructuring/](https://usfranciscans.org/revitalization-restructuring/).

*(Fr. Francis Di Spigno is executive director of University Ministries at St. Bonaventure.)*

<sup>1</sup> [usfranciscans.org/2018/05/30/friars-vote-to-recommend-one-us-province/](https://usfranciscans.org/2018/05/30/friars-vote-to-recommend-one-us-province/)

## Fall '18 freshman class largest in a decade

In just a few weeks, the largest St. Bonaventure freshman class in a decade will arrive on campus.

More than 560 students had made their deposits to be Bonnies as of June 30. That's up more than 22 percent from a year ago, and almost 45 percent from fall 2015.

Bernie Valento, vice president for Enrollment Management, said the university has seen a dramatic spike in freshman enrollment from Buffalo and Rochester.

In response to the state's new Excelsior Scholarship, unveiled last summer to provide free SUNY and CUNY tuition to students under certain family income thresholds, the university increased scholarship levels by as much as \$4,000 for the most academically gifted students.

"The effort to increase aid was strategic and financially responsible in response to Excelsior," said Dr. Dennis DePerro, who just completed his first year as university president.

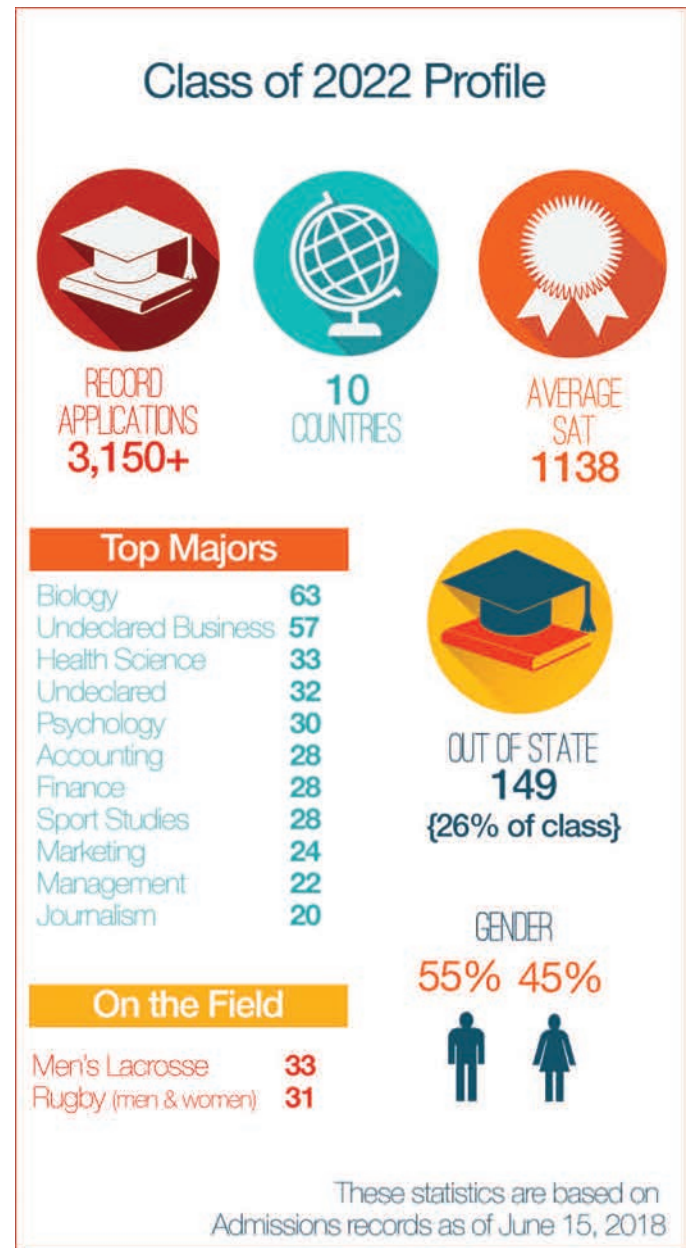
But more generous aid was only one reason for the spike in enrollment, DePerro said.

"This didn't happen by accident," said DePerro. "This was a collective and collaborative effort across all divisions of the university, from academics and athletics to enrollment, marketing, ministries, finance and student affairs."

One of the things that attracted DePerro to seek the presidency was seeing the upward trajectory the university was on thanks to the strategic plan that had just been implemented when he came on board. The plan continues to evolve as demands and needs change, he said.

"Initiatives like new majors in health science and cybersecurity, the School of Health Professions that we're developing, our veterans recruitment program, the addition of men's lacrosse – all of these things and many more have revitalized our presence in Western New York and the Northeast," he said.

The university also devoted more resources this year to digital, TV, radio and billboard advertising in Buffalo and Rochester, and reaped the benefits of the best men's basketball season in 40 years.



## JCC, Bona's sign deal to bolster academic partnership

Jamestown Community College and St. Bonaventure officials signed an agreement to strengthen academic program and transferability opportunities for students at both institutions.

Under the new partnership, students will benefit from enhanced admission and academic advisement initiatives, career and transfer paths for academic programs, and cultural opportunities at JCC and St. Bonaventure. The partnership is designed to facilitate opportunities for students to pursue higher education credentials at the associate, bachelor's, and master's degree levels.

"We've had articulation agreements with JCC for some time now," said Dr. Dennis DePerro, St. Bonaventure president, "but the decision to formalize an agreement and to work as true partners will be a great benefit to high school students in the region looking to find more affordable pathways to a college degree and a rewarding career."

The agreement will spur development of stronger linkages in several academic areas to provide distinct pathways for students into high-demand occupations.

Initial areas under consideration for special "academy" relationships are business,

education, psychology, sociology, cybersecurity, and criminology, with all programs featuring an eight-semester plan in which students earn associate and bachelor's degrees in four years. The agreement also outlines how online and hybrid delivery methods may be integrated into academic programming to minimize the impact of distance on students located at St. Bonaventure or at JCC's campuses in Jamestown and Olean. Also under consideration is a dual admission process in which students are admitted to JCC and SBU simultaneously and are able to participate in activities and services at each institution.

## Kelly's poetry collection wins prestigious Tufts Discovery Award

Dr. Donika Kelly, assistant professor of English, won the \$10,000 Kate Tufts Discovery Award for her debut collection of poetry, "Bestiary."

One of the most prestigious prizes in contemporary poetry, the award recognizes a first volume by a poet of promise.

"Bestiary," which was a finalist for a Lambda Literary Award in 2017, presents readers with a rich catalogue of legendary beasts and fantastic creatures that express familiar human struggles with identity, love, fear, and understanding even as they look back to the mythical past. The book was long-listed for the National Book Award in poetry in 2016, and was also named one of the New York Times' best poetry books of the year.

"Winning the Kate Tufts is such a tremendous and unexpected honor," said Kelly.

Kelly, who came to St. Bonaventure in the fall of 2016, teaches creative writing and 20th century American literature.



## Hellinger Award luncheon set for Oct. 2 in Manhattan

Save the date for the luncheon to honor the 2018 Mark Hellinger Award winners: Tuesday, Oct. 2, at Hearst Tower in Manhattan.

Honored will be Ethan Kibbe of Harrison Valley, Pa., Mark Hellinger Award winner, and Brenner T. Bachman of Greenville, N.Y., honorable mention. Both men are May graduates of the Jandoli School of Communication.

Additional details will be forthcoming and posted online at [www.sbu.edu/Hellinger2018](http://www.sbu.edu/Hellinger2018).



### TWO NEW MAJORS

## Public health and criminology majors established at SBU

Two new undergraduate majors have been established at the university — public health and criminology.

Public health professionals work to promote and protect the health of people and the communities where they live, learn, work and play. From conducting scientific research to educating about health, people in the public health field work to assure the conditions in which populations can be healthy.

St. Bonaventure's Bachelor of Science in public health prepares students to enter the public health environment — positions in community health, health education, health and safety administration — and/or to pursue advanced studies in public health, public policy, health administration, epidemiology and other related fields. For details, go to [www.sbu.edu/publichealth](http://www.sbu.edu/publichealth).

Courses in the criminology program will enable students to appreciate the complexity of crime, historical and contemporary trends in crime, criminological theory, and criminological research methods. The 36-credit major gives students great flexibility, letting them choose from among a broad sampling of electives in criminology and related areas, such as addictions, cybersecurity, policing, family violence, law, and terrorism.

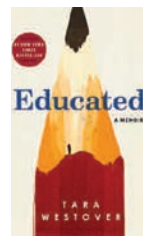
Job opportunities for criminologists, outside of traditional police work, include positions in industrial security, fraud investigations, juvenile justice, offender rehabilitation, victim services, and as military police and intelligence officers. About 20 percent of criminology majors go on to graduate studies, finding they qualify for a wide range of graduate programs, depending on their interest and undergraduate coursework. For more information, visit [www.sbu.edu/criminology](http://www.sbu.edu/criminology).

### ALL BONAVENTURE READS

## Common read author to visit campus Sept. 26

St. Bonaventure has selected "Educated: A Memoir" by Dr. Tara Westover as its All Bonaventure Reads book for 2018-19.

"Educated" is an account of the struggle for self-invention. It is a tale of fierce family loyalty, and of the grief that comes from severing one's closest ties. With the acute insight that distinguishes all great writers, Westover has crafted a universal coming-of-age story that gets to the heart of what an education is and what it offers: the perspective to see one's life through new eyes, and the will to change it.



The university will welcome Westover to campus Wednesday, Sept. 26, to deliver a keynote address to members of the Class of 2022. The talk is open to the public and will be held at 7 p.m. in the Reilly Center Arena.

For more information about Westover, visit [www.prhspeakers.com](http://www.prhspeakers.com).

# \$55,000

The amount of a research grant awarded by the American Chemical Society's Petroleum Research Fund to Dr. Scott Simpson, assistant professor of chemistry. The grant is titled "Using Density Functional Theory to Predict Heterogeneous Catalysts for the Selective Formation of cis-2-butene from 1,2-butadiene." The goal of Simpson's research is to develop heterogeneous catalysts to produce chemicals in a more inexpensive way.

## WESTERN NEW YORK CYBERSECURITY RESEARCH CENTER

# New facility based at Bona's will monitor, alert and forecast cybersecurity attacks

More than 175 business leaders, educators, scientists, students and politicians were on hand April 24 as the university unveiled the Western New York Cybersecurity Research Center.

The center is a collaboration between St. Bonaventure, National ICT Japan, Canadian Institute for Cybersecurity and New Zealand Cybersecurity Center.

"Cybersecurity is an enormous issue. It is a 1 percent drag on the Gross National Product," said Dr. Peter Bloniarz, executive director of Gov. Andrew Cuomo's Cybersecurity Advisory Board. "Our resources to deal with the problem are not enough to keep up with the challenges."

The center will engage in cybersecurity research using various state-of-the-art technologies including machine learning, data mining and opinion mining. The center will do monitoring, alerting and forecasting to help make Western New York safer from cyberattacks, said Dr. Hossein Sarrafzadeh, director of St. Bonaventure's cybersecurity program.

The center will have two functions: as a center for faculty and students to perform research, and as a Security Operations Center (SOC) to provide monitoring services to external clients. The SOC is scheduled to open in the fall.

The SOC will be operated in partnership with Buffalo-based Silo City IT, a managed security service provider and solutions architecture firm specializing in artificial intelligence-based solutions. Jeff Rathmann, SBU Class of 2007, is president and CEO of Silo City.

The SOC will provide 365/24/7 continuous monitoring and defense, managed endpoint security, managed email defense, threat hunting and intelli-



Dr. Naoto Kadowaki from NICT Japan shakes hands with St. Bonaventure President Dr. Dennis DePerro (right) after cutting the ribbon to open the university's new WNY Cybersecurity Research Center. Jeff Rathmann, '07, president of Silo City IT in Buffalo, is in the middle. Silo City is partnering with St. Bonaventure to run the center.

gence, incident response, managed security automation and customer support.

The SOC will give students the opportunity to gain real-life work experience while they study, Sarrafzadeh said. Students will be screened and trained rigorously before working in the SOC. Students will also have opportunities to travel to Japan, Canada and New Zealand and work on cutting-edge equipment, Sarrafzadeh said.

The center also plans in the future to offer short courses and seminars for the public to combat cybersecurity risks.

## Celebrating the Bona legacy

The families of 14 members of the Class of 2018 gathered Commencement Weekend to celebrate their students' accomplishments — and to share some alumni love. The May graduates are pictured with their friends and family members who are fellow SBU grads; they range in class years from 1975 to 2018.



**THE REGINA A. QUICK CENTER FOR THE ARTS**

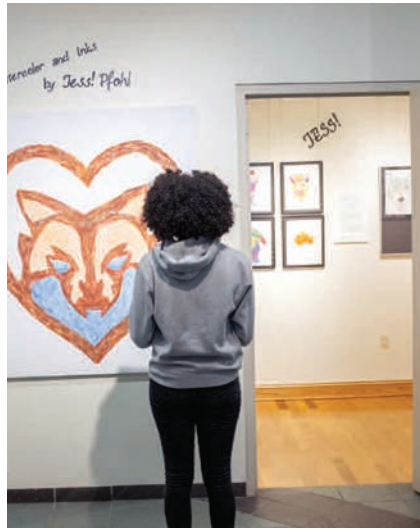
**Color and creativity are always on display at campus galleries**

Among the many exhibitions last spring at The Regina A. Quick Center for the Arts was “Watercolors and Inks” by Jess! Pfohl, Class of 2006.

The exhibition wrapped up during Alumni Reunion Weekend with the artist visiting campus and doing a live painting demonstration. She also gave a gallery talk and demonstration for students during the spring semester.

A big thank-you is extended to the many alumni and friends who voted online to help the Quick Center win a Creativity Incubator workshop. Held on campus May 1, the workshop was for museums in the western region of New York state; 16 participants from various museums in the region attended. The program was organized by the Greater Hudson Heritage Network, which brought in museum maverick Linda Norris for the daylong workshop.

Several new exhibitions will open Aug. 27, including a photography exhibition by Michael Kunzinger, son of



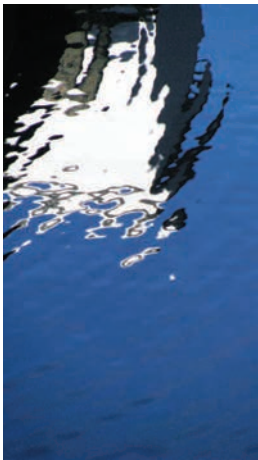
A student walks through an exhibition of watercolors and inks by Jess! Pfohl.

alumnus Bob Kunzinger, '83.

In “Adrift,” Kunzinger explores abstract photography, specifically reflections on water. The colors are from objects nearby and the abstract look is created by ripples in the water. No oils or digital manipulation are used. The show will close Nov. 29.

The exhibition “Holiness and the Feminine Spirit — the Art of Janet McKenzie” runs from Aug. 27 to Dec. 7.

Also this summer, opening by Aug. 27, is the rehang of the Asian art gallery to include more of the Col. Michael Friedsam Asian porcelain collection, including a replica of his “Chinese Room” from Friedsam’s 1900s-era Park Avenue home. In addition, the Beltz Gallery will have a new exhibition that is created entirely from the university art collection. The show is tentatively called “Figures of Speech.”



An image from the exhibition “Adrift” by Michael Kunzinger.



“The Inspiration of Saint Monica” by Janet McKenzie.



Commander Lizzy Austin, SBU Class of 2018, leads a mission for students from Allegany-Limestone Elementary School.

**CHALLENGER LEARNING CENTER**

**A hidden gem next to St. Bonaventure**

In 2002, a small committee of local organizers formed with the notion of bringing an educational experience unlike any other — the Challenger Learning Center — to the region. After six years of planning, then-Congressman Randy Kuhl Jr. helped the group obtain a grant from NASA for \$500,000 to get the project off the ground.

Among the early supporters of the center were Dresser-Rand, donating \$250,000 and acquiring naming rights to launch the Dresser-Rand Challenger Learning Center; Cutco; and St. Bonaventure, which donated the use of a building near campus.

Since the first simulated mission was launched in June 2009, more than 24,000 students from New York and Pennsylvania have participated in programs at the center.

The Challenger Learning Center (CLC) seeks to ignite the potential within every student, from pre-kindergarten through high school. The S.P.A.C.E. (Space Program and Curriculum Enrichment) Program is for younger aspiring astronauts and gives them an introduction to STEM. During simulated missions, students work together to run hands-on experiments and solve tough problems, all while in the Space Station or Mission Control.

The CLC has partnered with St. Bonaventure’s Enactus students on Scouting events and the Challenger After Dark fundraiser, where the students designed an escape room experience for attendees. Both parties benefit from the partnership as the students gain real world experience while bringing their excitement and passion to the center.

Learn more at [www.drclc.org](http://www.drclc.org).

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## NEW FACES

**Aaron Chimbel**  
*Dean of the Jandoli School of Communication*

Chimbel is winner of a national Edward R. Murrow Award and five Texas Emmy Awards. He has taught full-time at Texas Christian University's Bob Schieffer College of Communication since 2009, most recently as an associate professor of Professional Practice in Journalism. Before joining the TCU faculty full time, Chimbel worked as the Mojo (mobile journalist) at WFAA-TV in Dallas-Fort Worth, becoming one of the first reporters in any U.S. market to produce original, web-only video content.



dent Life, Campus Activities, Residence Life and Judicial Affairs at Cazenovia. Prior to her role as dean, O'Brien was associate dean for Student Leadership & Engagement from 2001 to 2013. She spearheaded the significant growth of student clubs and organizations for more than a decade, advanced student leadership development, strengthened the Student Government Association, and developed student recognition programs and certifications.



member for Kaplan Test Prep since 2015. Perkins will be developing an undergraduate program in nursing for SBU's School of Health Professions.

**Dr. Keith Young**  
*Director of PA Studies*

Most recently, Young was a clinical associate professor of physician assistant studies at Clarkson University. He also served as chair and program director of the Department of Physician Assistant Studies. Previously, Young was an adjunct instructor and acting assistant clinical coordinator in the physician assistant program at Le Moyne College and an instructor in the respiratory care programs at Upstate Medical University in Syracuse, Mohawk Valley Community College and Onondaga Community College. He has also worked as a physician assistant in family practice and in emergency medicine, and as a neonatal respiratory care specialist, respiratory therapist, home care consultant and paramedic.



Young will be developing a graduate program in physician assistant studies for SBU's School of Health Professions.

**Dr. Daniel Ellis**  
*Associate Dean of the School of Arts and Sciences*

Chair of the Department of English from 2015 to 2017, Ellis will administer and oversee the university's General Education curriculum and assist as needed with other duties within Arts and Sciences. He will work with Arts & Sciences Dean Dr. David Hilmey to schedule, staff and assess the curriculum and serve as the central point of communication for the General Education curriculum.


**Dr. Connie Perkins**  
*Director of Nursing*

Perkins, an assistant professor of nursing at the University of Pittsburgh at Bradford, has been a registered nurse at UPMC Cole in Coudersport, Pa., since 2010. She holds a Bachelor of Science in nursing from Mansfield University (2010), a Master of Science in nursing leadership and administration from Mansfield (2013), and a Ph.D. in nursing education from Capella University (2016). Perkins was also an adjunct faculty member at Alfred State (2011-2013) and has been a faculty


**Daniel Hungerford**  
*Vice President for Finance & Administration*

Since 2015, Hungerford has been vice president for Finance and Administration and chief financial officer at Millsaps College in Jackson, Miss. In that role, he directed and managed eight divisions made up of more than 60 employees in the areas of Finance/Business Office, Human Resources, Information Technology, Facilities, Conference and Dining Services, Risk Management and the Campus Store. He was controller at Marietta College from 2011 to 2015.


**Katie O'Brien**  
*Vice President for Student Affairs*

Since 2013, O'Brien has been dean for Student Life at Cazenovia College, where she's worked since 2001. She oversaw Stu-

## Plan your visit to Bona's



# Open House

# Dates:

August 11  
 October 13  
 October 20  
 November 10

[www.sbu.edu/visit](http://www.sbu.edu/visit)



**STUDY ABROAD**

**Bonnies expand their understanding of the world**

Many St. Bonaventure students utilize the university's summer study abroad opportunities.

Above, students in the China Studies program are pictured on Qianmen Street in Beijing in May.

At right, SBU's Spencer Carbone and Nicolas Feis from Baruch College are keeping company with Spanish architect Antoni Gaudi in Leon, Spain.

Below, students participating in the six-week Francis E. Kelley Oxford Program at Trinity College enjoy the High Table dinner tradition. During their first week at Ox-



ford University, Bona students brought a bit of Reilly Center magic to the Wig & Pen pub, joining with locals to cheer England on to victory in its World Cup quarter final match against Sweden and continuing the celebration as the elated crowds reveled on the streets of Oxford. Groups of Bonnies gathered again in the Wig & Pen and in the Trinity College beer cellar for



England's semifinal match against Croatia and felt the agony of England's defeat.

**ONLINE**

>> Alumni share how the 20-year-old China Studies program helped shape their careers: [sbu.edu/China](http://sbu.edu/China).  
>> Learn more about Bona's study abroad opportunities: [sbu.edu/studyabroad](http://sbu.edu/studyabroad)

**MATCHING GRANT**

**\$130,000 ARC grant to fund simulation learning lab**

The university has received a matching grant of \$130,357 from the Appalachian Regional Commission to help purchase an Allied Health Simulation Learning Lab.

Dr. Claire Watson, director of St. Bonaventure's public health program, and Dr. Monica Thomas, director of the health science program, co-authored the grant application.

In 2016, the university established a School of Health Professions, which now houses undergraduate programs in health science and public health. One of ARC's goals is to develop and support educational programs and institutions that contribute to a better educated workforce prepared for 21st century careers.

The Allied Health Simulation Learning Lab will implement brand new, technologically advanced simulation-based learning experiences — which don't currently exist in the region — for health science undergraduate and future School of Health Professions graduate students.

Two high-fidelity simulators (infant and adult manikins and associated software) will be purchased and incorporated in the health science courses and proposed graduate programs, and used for training for local health care professionals.

"This simulation lab will help our students become a readily employable workforce with an advanced skill set with job potential for the local community," said Douglas J. Pisano, Ph.D., dean and professor, School of Health Professions.

**\$1.5 million**

The amount awarded to students in endowed and annually funded scholarships during the 2017-2018 fiscal year. Thank you to the many alumni and friends who support our students with scholarship funds.



### Commencement 2018

Some 650 graduate and undergraduate students were awarded degrees during the university's 158th Commencement Exercises in May.

Three longtime supporters of the university's academic mission and Catholic-Franciscan heritage received honorary degrees, John and Kay Meisch (above) and Jim Meyer, '76, '79 (above, right). Meyer, CEO of SiriusXM, gave the Commencement address, urging the Class of 2018 to bring their energy and curiosity to the workplace. "We need your passion, and we need your desire. We need you to push us forward."

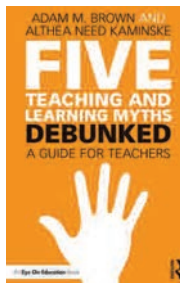
Jandoli School graduate Ethan Kibbe (center photo, below) gave the student address. For more photos and stories, visit [www.sbu.edu/Commencement](http://www.sbu.edu/Commencement).



Two faculty members have authored a new book that addresses some of the most commonly misunderstood educational and cognitive concerns in teaching and learning.

**Dr. Althea Need Kaminske** (formerly Bauernschmidt) and **Dr. Adam Brown** are the authors of “Five Teaching and Learning Myths — Debunked,” published by Routledge Press.

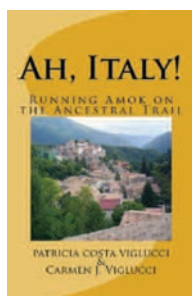
“Five Teaching and Learning Myths” draws from research in developmental and educational psychology, cognitive science, and the learning sciences. Attention, problem-solving, testing, and presentation style are all integral to student achievement but, in practice, are often muddled by pervasive myths, the authors say. In a straightforward, easily digestible format, this book unpacks the evidence for or against each myth, explains the issues concisely and with credible evidence, and provides busy K-12 teachers with actionable strategies for their classrooms and lesson plans.



Need Kaminske, assistant professor of psychology, and Brown, associate professor of elementary education, are co-directors of the university's Center for Attention, Learning & Memory (sbucalm.blog). Each has years of investigative research into the strengths and weaknesses of human memory and learning.

**Patricia Costa Viglucci, '57**, has completed her 10th published book and second memoir, “Ah, Italy! Running Amok on the Ancestral Trail.”

Forty years after her family's first visit to Bella, Italia, the author recounts their multiple trips to their ancestral land with wonder, nostalgia and humor.



From Calabria on the Ionian Sea through Naples, Salerno and Rome, to Florence and Venice, up to Switzerland and the Italian and French Rivas, Viglucci and her husband, Carmen, savored all that Italy had to offer. While delighting in the storied cities, their museums, history and landmarks, nothing was as rewarding as setting foot in the small villages in the provinces of Rome,

Naples, Salerno and Catanzaro that Carmen's father, their various grandparents and Pat's great-grandparents had relinquished beginning in 1891 for the hope and the dream that was America.

Viglucci also authored three young adult novels, four romantic comedies and a collection of mostly humorous newspaper columns. She received a B.A. in English literature from St. Bonaventure and served as the first woman editor of the Bona Venture, setting her on the path to writing fiction and nonfiction.

**Max Wickert, '58**, has published his rhymed verse translation of “Rinaldo,” (N.Y.: Italice Press, 2017), the first of two epics by the Italian Renaissance poet Torquato Tasso. Wickert previously published versions of two other works by Tasso: his second and more famous epic, “The Liberation of Jerusalem” (Oxford University Press, 2009) and Book One of his collected lyrics, “Love Poems for Lucrezia Bendidio” (Italice Press, 2011).

Wickert is also the author of scholarly articles on Edmund Spenser, Shakespeare and early opera, as well as three published collections of his own poetry. Since his retirement from the English Department of the University at Buffalo, he has continued as director and editor-in-chief of Outriders Poetry Project, a small press issuing books by writers living in or prominently associated with the Buffalo/Niagara Falls region, including Jeremiah Rush Bowen, Gail Fischer, Ann Goldsmith, Jerry McGuire, Edric Mesmer, Martin Pops, Jacob Schepers, Judith Slater, Carole Southwood and Linda Zisquit. His massive edition of “An Outriders Anthology: Poetry in Buffalo 1969-1979 and After” appeared in 2013.

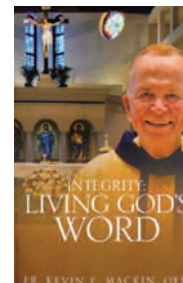


“Integrity: Living God's Word,” a new collection of homilies by **Fr. Kevin E. Mackin, O.F.M., '60**, connects scripture and service. The 55 sermons, with citations representing salvation history in a year's cycle, weave together contemporary humor, human experiences and challenges, and communion with all God's creation.

In “Integrity: Living God's Word,” Fr. Kevin wears his heroes and love of history on his sleeve, ranging from canonized fa-

vorite Mother Teresa of Calcutta to renowned Protestant theologian, Bach scholar and medical doctor Albert Schweitzer.

Fr. Kevin, a member of the Franciscan community at St. Anthony's Friary in St. Petersburg, Fla., serves at St. Raphael Catholic Church, and is a chaplain for the St. Petersburg Police Department. He's also a member of the special works board for the Society of St. Vincent DePaul and is active with Catholic Charities of South Pinellas County. The new book invites the reader to encounter the living Christ, who communicates his life to us.



From 1996 to 2007, Fr. Kevin was president of Siena College and is president emeritus. While president of Mount Saint Mary College in Newburgh, N.Y., from 2008 to 2014, he also served as professor of religious studies. He holds a bachelor's degree in philosophy from St. Bonaventure, a master's in history from Catholic University of America, including a doctorate in sacred theology cum laude.

Highlights of Fr. Kevin's reflections are at [www.afranciscanjourney.blogspot.com](http://www.afranciscanjourney.blogspot.com).

“What the Mirror Doesn't See,” a new novel by **Tim Holland, '62**, was released in February. The book is set in 1993: The banking world is in turmoil, and in New Jersey there is outright panic.

The big New York banks and emerging regionals are gobbling up everything in the state. The Fed has opened the floodgates, and traditional banking ethics are disappearing.

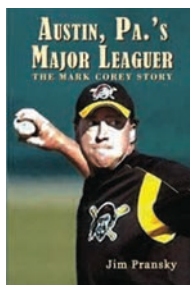
Banker Jim Fairmont thinks his coworker is doing something illegal. At a used book sale, Fairmont finds a blank, signed invoice belonging to an auto parts supplier. The document is contained in a box of books donated by Larry McBride, a new-breed, brash, 33-year-old former New York banker. McBride had been hired by First State Bank to give it credibility in its defensive entry into international banking. Alerted by McBride's strange behavior at the book sale as he searched for something, Jim begins to investigate McBride's relationships with some of First State's customers. What he uncovers is much bigger than he ever imagined, involving clearly unethical conduct and questionable international asset

movements.

With a background in international banking, Holland's financial articles have appeared in banking and financial trade magazines. Book reviews and literary criticism have appeared in publications of The Recorder Publishing Co., New Jersey; The Brontë Society, Harworth, England; and political commentary and general interest in a variety of newspapers and other publications around the country. He is also the author of the Sidney Lake Mystery Series.



**Jim Pransky, '84**, former baseball coach at St. Bonaventure (1982-1985), has had several new books published. "A Year in the Life of a Baseball Player" and "Sarah and the Scout" are novels that have a baseball theme, address several layers of family life and friendships, and examine the game behind the scenes.



His newest book, "Austin, Pa.'s Major Leaguer," tells the story of Mark Corey, one of 18 graduates of Austin High School in 1992. This book traces Mark's determined, but detoured trek to baseball's big leagues. It's a tale of one family's love, guidance and support, but it also recognizes residents living in sparsely populated villages and towns in northern Pennsylvania and the role that youth athletics plays in the morale and fabric of a small community.

Pransky retired from professional scouting last fall after 26 years. He worked for the Astros, Athletics, Reds, Rays and Rockies.

The first book in The Laurel Highlands Mysteries series, written by **Mary (Lederman) Sutton, '95**, will be released in August. Written under the name Liz Milliron, "Root of All Evil" will be published by Level Best Books. The book is a police procedural mystery set in The Laurel Highlands, just southwest of Pittsburgh, and follows the investigation of a Pennsylvania State Trooper and county assistant public defender.

**David J. Goodwin, '00**, is the author of "Left Bank of the Hudson: Jersey City and the Artists of 111 1st Street."

In the late 1980s, a handful of artists priced out of Manhattan and desperately needing affordable studio space discovered 111 1st Street, a former P. Lorillard Tobacco Company warehouse. Over the next two decades, an eclectic collection of painters, sculptors, musicians, photographers, filmmakers, and writers dreamt and toiled within the building's labyrinthine halls. The local arts scene flourished, igniting hope that Jersey City would emerge as the next grassroots center of the art world. However, a rising real estate market coupled with a provincial political establishment threatened the community. The artists found themselves entangled in a long, complicated, and vicious fight for their place in the building and for the physical survival of 111 1st Street itself.

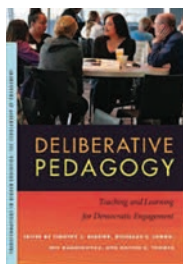


"Left Bank of the Hudson" offers a window into the demographic, political, and socio-economic changes experienced by Jersey City during the last 30 years. Documenting the narrative of 111 1st Street as an act of cultural preservation, Goodwin, a Jersey City resident, addresses the question of the role of artists in economically improving cities.

**Timothy Shaffer, '04**, edited "Deliberative Pedagogy: Teaching and Learning for Democratic Engagement," published by Michigan State University Press.

As the public purposes of higher education are being challenged by the increasing pressures of commodification and market-driven principles, "Deliberative Pedagogy" argues for colleges and universities to be critical spaces for democratic engagement.

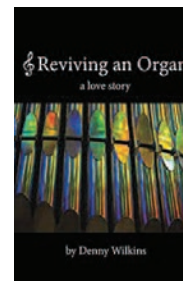
The authors build upon contemporary research on participatory approaches to teaching and learning while simultaneously offering a robust introduction to the theory and practice of deliberative pedagogy as a new educational model for civic life. This volume is written for faculty members and academic professionals in-



involved in curricular, co-curricular, and community settings, as well as administrators who seek to support faculty, staff, and students in such efforts.

The book begins with a theoretical grounding and historical underpinning of education for democracy, provides a diverse collection of practical case studies with best practices shared by an array of scholars from varying disciplines and institutional contexts worldwide, and concludes with useful methods of assessment and next steps for this work. Ultimately, this book seeks to demonstrate how higher education institutions can cultivate collaborative and engaging learning environments that better address the complex challenges in our global society.

**Dr. Denny Wilkins**, professor of journalism in the Jandoli School of Communication, has published his second novel. "Reviving an Organ" explores the formation and sustenance of human relationships through the lens of two wounded people — a hermitic writer/blogger and a piano repairwoman who abandoned a career as a composer to help a grandfather in need. Their resulting affair takes place almost entirely inside an abandoned German Lutheran church in rural New England.



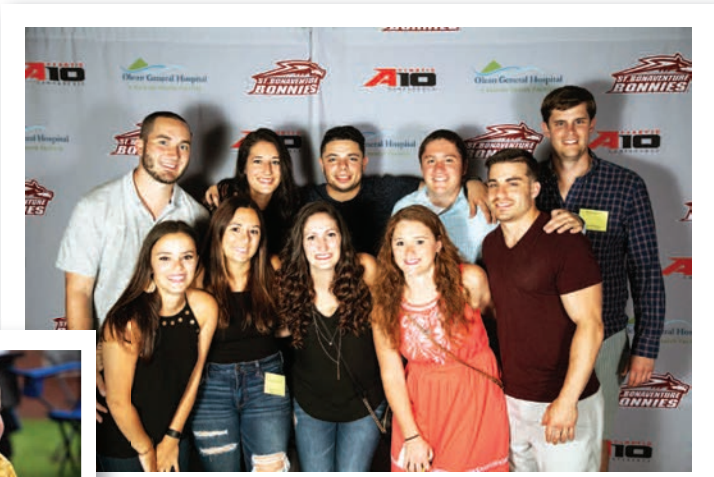
The writer — Daniel — faces the unexpected and painful intrusion of emotion into his life as the repairwoman — Sena — sets about repairing his piano, his 100-year-old Estey pipe organ, and Daniel himself. Through its protagonists "Reviving an Organ" surveys the roles of intimacy, passion, loyalty, and independence as binding forces between two lovers.

"Reviving an Organ" does not dwell entirely on an affair between two people. Daniel's blog posts explore contemporary American political and cultural issues. Sena's renaissance as a composer allows her to relearn how to form meaningful friendships outside her affair with Daniel. Both threads connect to strengthen their bond.

Wilkins' first novel, "Mapping Utah," explores the same ground as his second novel although on a much larger stage — two lovers caught in environmental conflict in the American West. Wilkins is working on a third novel.

# ALUMNI REUNION WEEKEND

## Snapshots



Class of 2013

If a picture is worth a thousand words, then, oh, what stories these images from Reunion Weekend can tell! We welcomed some folks to their first reunion — and welcomed home some who were celebrating their 60th class reunion.

Regardless of class year, the bonds of Bonaventure are born of passion and pride, growing stronger as the years go by. In that spirit, we share these thoughts from alumnus Chuck Hayes, '88, director of marketing & communications for Catholic Health Systems of Buffalo.



“Many people avoid college reunions because they long to go back — back to the way it was, to the way their friends were. They know that they’ll never recapture the magic of that time in their lives.

**Bona reunions are different.**

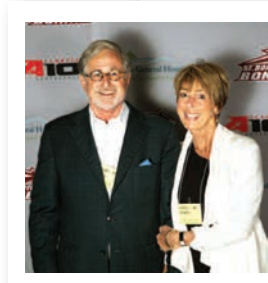
St. Bonaventure, for most of us, wasn’t a moment frozen in time, but rather a seed planted in all of us — one that lives today. And for those of us who have kept in contact in some form or another, we’ve helped each other nurture that seed and watched it grow and flourish in the lives we’ve lived.

Even for those whom we connect with less frequently, it’s far less about what we were, and more about what we’ve become — the struggles, the accomplishments, the triumphs and the tragedies — and the joy at seeing each other once again.”

Photos by DAVID ANDOH, '17  
who is pursuing his MBA at  
St. Bonaventure



Class of 1958



Class of 1973



Class of 1968



Class of 1988



University President Dr. Dennis R. DePerro (center) congratulates 2018 Alumni of the Year Colette C. Jasinski Dow, '88, and Arthur "Art" H. Roberts, '68.



Class of 1998



# Historic year for HEOP

## HEOP class on path to first-ever 100% graduation rate

By TOM DONAHUE

**F**or the first time in St. Bonaventure University's 37-year involvement in the state's Arthur O. Eve Higher Education Opportunity Program, an entire HEOP class will graduate four years after arriving on campus together as freshmen.

Twenty students in the HEOP program, which provides access to higher education to students who are economically disadvantaged and academically underprepared, are members of the Class of 2018. One graduated in December of 2017, a semester early; 18 walked across the stage at the university's 158th annual Commencement Exercises in May; another is on track to complete degree requirements in the fall.

"We're really excited, not only for our HEOP Class of 2018's expected 100 percent graduation rate, but for what it says about the university's commitment to the HEOP program," said Bridget Kehrer, HEOP director for the past seven years. \* "This is a great group of students, but our program and our students would not be as successful as we are without the support of the administration, faculty and staff."

To say that this graduating HEOP class has overachieved is an understatement. College is a steady uphill climb for most HEOP students, and while St. Bonaventure's HEOP graduation rate has been as high as 82 percent in recent years, it is not unusual for that rate to hover at or under 60 percent.

It's a disturbing national trend among students from the nation's lowest wealth group, writes New York Times Op-Ed columnist David Leonhardt in a March 2018 opinion piece. The college attendance rate for poorer students has steadily climbed in recent decades, but the graduation rate remains "abysmal," said Leonhardt, "even though many (of these students) are talented teenagers capable of graduating." He cited data from the journal *Demography* showing the college graduation rate for students in this lowest wealth group is under 12 percent.

"They often attend colleges with few resources or colleges that simply do a bad job of shepherding students through a course of study," said Leonhardt.



*Photo by Danny Bush*

Nairee Taveras (left) and Darlyne Vasquez stand outside Francis Hall. They are members of the university's first-ever class in the state's Arthur O. Eve Higher Education Opportunity Program to achieve a 100 percent graduation rate. The women are also pictured in the magazine's cover image.



The HEOP program, a partnership between New York state and participating independent colleges and universities, addresses both big roadblocks. It provides a generous financial aid package to students who desperately need it, and one that does not saddle them with a mountain of debt, as well as a rigorous academic intervention program aimed at bringing these underprepared students up to speed.

Kehrer is always careful to explain “underprepared,” mindful of the myths and misconceptions that swirl around the term.

“When we say ‘underprepared,’ typically their SAT scores and grade point averages fall below regular admission requirements at the university,” she said. “A lot of people get hung up on that. They think, here are these students who typically don’t do well in high school and then they get to go to a HEOP school and get a full-need financial aid package. What people don’t know about is everything HEOP students have to keep up with and manage in terms of program requirements in order to maintain their scholarship. It definitely isn’t easy.”

Funded by the state and participating schools, the HEOP program pays for a student’s tuition, room, meals and books. Students are responsible for a small loan each year and typically leave St. Bonaventure after four years with about \$18,500 in federal loans. “Obviously, this isn’t even close to the national average,” said Kehrer, but noted the reality is that without this level of aid, college would be out of reach for HEOP students.

There are myriad reasons for HEOP students being underprepared for college work, she said. Most of St. Bonaventure’s HEOP students are from New York City, many from environments in which academic performance, by necessity, gets pushed down a teen’s list of priorities.

“They might live in a toxic environment or a dangerous neighborhood. A lot of them take care of younger siblings and are never able to fully invest themselves in their academics. And then there are a number of students who had to work throughout high school in order to help contribute financially to the household,” said Kehrer. “We have a number of students who work while they are on campus and send money back home.”



They are familiar stories for two members of this year’s graduating class, Nairee Taveras and Darlyne Vasquez, HEOP students from New York City.

Taveras, whose struggling family was always on the move, landed in “a really bad area” when she was in high school. “I had a lot of bad influences and was hanging out with the wrong people, kids who weren’t going to school, who were selling drugs and were completely lost,” she said. “I literally did not care about anything.”

Vasquez’s family emigrated from the Dominican Republic when she was 5. Her father worked long hours to make ends meet and her mother relied on her to help with her siblings. “I’m the oldest of four, so basically it was me and my mom raising my siblings while my dad worked. It was a lot of responsibility,” she said. The first in her family to go to college, Vasquez said it would not have been an option without HEOP.

“College was something I always wanted to do, but I couldn’t put that financial burden on my family because of the struggles they were going through,” she said. “HEOP opened the door for me, it’s a blessing. Without it, I’d probably still be in the city working a job, helping Mom and Dad pay the bills.”

Taveras echoed that sentiment with conviction. “I absolutely would not have been able to go away to college without HEOP,” she said. Were it not for this opportunity, Taveras said she’d likely have gone to beauty school and still be in New York, “stuck in the same cycle I was in.”

Both students said they had an awakening of sorts in their junior year of high school, a realization that going to college was an opportunity to break their cycles of hopelessness and despair. They went from students who were just getting by to students earning grades in the 90s, making them good HEOP candidates.

HEOP is no hand-out. “It’s really competitive,” said Kehrer. “We have only 20 to 24 spots available each year and we get around 400 applications for those few spots.”

St. Bonaventure networks with CollegeBound Initiative, a nonprofit organization in New York City that works to help under-represented inner-city students from low-income families break the cycle of need and achieve the dream of a college education. “They’re well versed on HEOP, and their counselors, who are placed in the schools, know these students pretty well and can recommend them,” said Kehrer.



For HEOP students, the workload is demanding and expectations are high. As freshmen, they arrive on campus a month before classes begin for HEOP’s Pre-freshman Summer Challenge, a “bridge” program designed to prepare them for college-level work. “They take five different classes, and they’re in class from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday,” said Kehrer. They’re also required to attend a structured study hall from 6 to 9 p.m. every Sunday through Thursday, where tutors are provided for every subject they’re enrolled in.

“A lot of HEOP students were able to get through high school without putting in a ton of effort because they didn’t have the time to give that effort,” said Kehrer. “They have to relearn a lot of skills, like reading comprehension, how to

“

I think we set a good example: If you want something, don’t let anything stop you, even yourself. HEOP nurtures what you already have within you. It’s a pusher and a reminder of who you are.

Nairee Taveras  
HEOP student and  
member of Class of 2018

”

take good notes in a lecture-style class, things like that.”

The HEOP staff spends a lot of time working with students on life skills, such as classroom etiquette and developing relationships with their professors. It starts with getting to class on time.

Kehrer’s predecessor, Margaret Bryner, who retired in 2014 after directing St. Bonaventure’s HEOP program for more than 30 years, had a saying: If you show up on time, you’re late. If you show up five minutes early, you’re on time.

“We’re really big on respect and manners,” said Kehrer. “If you’re in a classroom you should be in the first row and sitting straight up, making sure the professor knows you are interested and engaged. We teach our students how to develop relationships with professors, reminding them that they are the ones recommending students for things and helping them network with other people on campus.”

Things like good manners might seem like inconsequential matters, but they have a real impact. “Faculty often tell me that HEOP students are some of their favorites in their classes, maybe because they always sit up front, they’re attentive and respectful,” Kehrer said.

HEOP students are expected to immerse themselves in campus life by joining a club or organization. Most belong to one, many are involved with several, said Kehrer. It can be a difficult balancing act, so there are weekly or biweekly meetings throughout HEOP students’ academic careers to help ensure that they are successfully managing their responsibilities.



The HEOP program at St. Bonaventure is ripe with success stories. Three times in the past seven years a HEOP student was named the Ideal Bonaventure Student, while three other HEOP students received honorable mention for the honor in that time. The annual award, one of the university’s most prestigious and coveted honors, is presented to a male and female senior who exemplify the spirit of St. Bonaventure and the ideals of St. Francis through community service and academic excellence.

Additionally, three HEOP students were selected to give the student address at May or December graduation ceremonies over the past four years.

But the biggest feather in the program’s cap may be the 100 percent graduation rate for the HEOP Class of 2018.

“Obviously, we’re really excited for these stu-

dents,” said Kehrer. “Their success speaks to the university’s commitment to HEOP, to provide resources, in partnership with New York state, and to stand behind the program. We have great collaboration with other departments on campus that help us provide resources and academic support to our students — faculty and staff who have as much buy-in with the program as I and the students do. We have a lot of support.”

Taveras and Vasquez beam when talking about their class’s accomplishment.

“I’m really proud of our class and the fact that we’re making history,” said Taveras, a strategic communication major. “I think we set a good example: If you want something, don’t let anything stop you, even yourself. HEOP nurtures what you already have within you. It’s a pusher and a reminder of who you are. Bridget always says, ‘I didn’t give you your scholarship, you earned it.’”

The classmates are typical of most HEOP students, said Kehrer. “They 100 percent understand this opportunity and they don’t take it for granted.”

Taveras was “kind of steady” her entire academic career, said Kehrer. “She’s always been kind of a free spirit who picked things up pretty naturally. She busted her butt when she got here and was solid all the way through. She studied abroad in Prague and maintained a grade point average of well over 3.0.”

Vasquez, a double-major in psychology and philosophy, was “very quiet and reserved” when she arrived on campus four years ago, said Kehrer. “In the last few years she really came out of her shell and started dominating academically. She just found her niche and went with it. In terms of growth, she’s been exceptional over the four years.”

Both women applied for and received two-year assignments with Teach for America after graduation. Each was influenced and inspired by good teachers along the way and feels a commitment to give back by inspiring a new generation, especially students of color.

“I fell in love with teaching last semester when I was an intern at Head Start and decided teaching is for me,” said Vasquez. “Growing up, I had good role models and I think it’s important for young people to have someone to look up to.” She will teach pre-K in the Bronx.

Taveras, originally assigned to teach in Memphis, asked to be reassigned to New York as well so she can be back with her family.



Tom Donahue, '76, is director of print and electronic publications at St. Bonaventure.



## HEOP Success Stories

Meet some of our recent grads

Profiles by Tom Donahue

### Paul Leonardo Class of 2014

#### Life Before SBU

Born in the Bronx, raised in Harlem and the Dominican Republic, where his parents were born, and a victim of poverty, Leonardo’s “intellectual curiosity and basic goodness” helped him escape gang life and a path that was likely to lead him to prison or an early death, said Mark Phillips, an academic skills specialist with St. Bonaventure’s HEOP program.

“College was definitely not part of my mindset,” said Leonardo, until his high school counselor who recognized his potential steered him toward HEOP and St. Bonaventure. “He went the extra mile, you know? I spent a lot of troubled years in high school and needed space, needed to be away from the city to better myself.”

#### Life at SBU

Leonardo gradually found himself in leadership roles. “It’s ironic. In high school I cut school a lot and did not want to seek any responsibility,” he said. “At Bona’s, it wasn’t so much me putting myself out there, but one of those things where the people around me would tell me, ‘I see these qualities in you,’ ‘I know you can do it,’ and that reinforced me.”

Fluent in Spanish and a member of Sigma Delta Pi, the national collegiate Hispanic honor society, he started an organization to tutor Colombian students online in English.



\*Kehrer left St. Bonaventure in July, accepting a position as coordinator of academic advisement at Alfred State College.



He served as president of St. Bonaventure's Latino American Student Organization; participated in Model United Nations and the Presidential Inauguration Academic Seminar at The Washington Center in Washington, D.C.; was a member of the Poetry and Philosophy clubs; and volunteered with The Warming House, the student-run soup kitchen; and the disaster-relief group BonaResponds.

He was also a tutor, a peer leader and advocate for HEOP, a member of the Student Government Association, and played rugby for three years. He earned bachelor's degrees in political science and Spanish, a minor in law and society, completed a concentration in international relations and was named the Ideal Bonaventure Man for the Class of 2014.

### Life After SBU

Leonardo is pursuing a master's in global affairs at Rutgers University. He's traveled to Colombia to attend and present workshops on globalization, and worked with Wall Street firms handling business loans. He presently works for a nonprofit assisting unaccompanied minors entering the U.S. and reuniting them with their families.

### Reflecting on HEOP and SBU

"Bona's has a way of making everyone mix together, and HEOP is part of that inclusive process. It was a great support system. We had weekly meetings and sometimes all I wanted to do was take a nap, and I'd get angry, but later on you get to appreciate it, because all they wanted to do was make sure you are attending class, that you are well, and that you're becoming a responsible person." ■

## Dr. Maria del Guadalupe (Morris) Davidson, Class of 1995

### Life Before SBU

Lupe, as she's known, grew up in Syracuse, N.Y., the youngest of eight children. Her parents and four older siblings immigrated to the U.S. from Costa Rica. She had a strong Afro-Costa Rican upbringing, which included a focus on education, but neither she nor her parents "knew how school worked," she said. "I had no idea how to study ... how to prepare for college. One of the things that saved me was that I was a leader, and some of my teachers saw my potential." Her guidance counselor at Bishop Grimes Catholic High in East Syracuse, a Bona graduate, drove her and another student to Olean to visit St. Bonaventure. "I fell in love on that day," she said. "My parents were so proud when I got the HEOP scholarship."

### Life at SBU

"Participating as a HEOP student at Bona's is unique and special in its own way," said Davidson. "For me, the experience was profoundly impactful. It allowed me to live in another environment away from the chaos and violence that happens in communities that suffer from lack of investment, opportunity, stigmatism, racism and classism. HEOP helped me acquire study skills, taught me how to live and work in community, and even helped me with etiquette, lessons that still serve me today."

On campus, she was a protester, a member of the Black Student Union, and held a leadership position with the College Democrats. She also worked in the Department of Philosophy, staffed by "some of the best humans to ever walk the planet," she said. "I cannot thank them enough for giving me a safe, encouraging, supportive, and intellectually engaging space."

### Life after SBU

After earning her bachelor's degree, Davidson began studies in the English master's program at St. Bonaventure, mentored by Dr. John Mulryan, retired Board of Trustees Professor of English, "a brilliant professor" who instilled in her a profound love of literature, especially John Milton. She transferred to Duquesne University in Pittsburgh, where she earned two master's degrees

and a Ph.D. It's also where she met her husband of 20 years, Scott, who also earned his master's and Ph.D. from Duquesne. They have three children.

Scott Davidson is professor and chair of the Philosophy and Rhetoric Depart-



ment at Oklahoma City University. Lupe Davidson is L.J. Semrod Presidential Professor of Arts and Sciences, associate professor and chair of the Women's and Gender Studies Department at the University of Oklahoma, where she has held various teaching positions since 2006. She is also co-director of the university's Center for Social Justice. "I'm very proud of the work we do in WGS and CSJ. Not only do we have a fantastic curriculum, we also provide social justice programming to the entire campus community," she said.

### Reflecting on HEOP and SBU

"HEOP, at Bona's, showed me a different kind of world and helped instill within me a desire to achieve but always remain committed to my community," said Davidson. "It should be of no surprise to anyone when they find a HEOP graduate working for the betterment of society and especially for the benefit of those who have the least."

Just this spring, she traveled to Gulu, Uganda, with a group of University of Oklahoma students and faculty to help with a women's peace conference. "Working in Uganda is my love labor, not my research," she said. "I think I learned the concept of love labor from HEOP specifically at Bona's. Linking HEOP to the values of a Franciscan institution of higher education ... I'm not sure if I could have learned what I learned anywhere else." ■

## Makeda Loney, Class of 2014

### Life Before SBU

The first member of her Caribbean family born in the U.S., she grew up in Brooklyn. Facing personal struggles and a misguided notion that she wanted a career in business, she underperformed at New York's High School of Economics and Finance. "You came here with a bunch of potential, where did it go?" a counselor asked her.

"When he told me there were still options for me, a program that takes students from not-well-off families and that don't have the greatest grades, and gives them a second chance, a light bulb went on," she said.

Loney went into "full turnaround mode," determined to win a seat in the HEOP program at St. Bonaventure. She still cries when talking about getting the acceptance phone call in the spring of her senior year. "I'm sorry," she says through sobs, "but it was a really great moment for me."

### Life at SBU

A shy and reserved freshman, Loney became connected, aware, involved and passionate. In a word, she became extraordinary. A budding poet and passion-

ate writer, she chose journalism and mass communication as her major. She is the first HEOP student to win the program's prestigious Dr. Mary A. Hamilton Woman of Promise Award.

She was a member of campus radio station WSBU 88.3 The Buzz; active in SBU Theater, twice being nominated for the Irene Ryan Acting Scholarship Competition; the Slam Poetry Club, serving as co-president, secretary and an enthusiastic performer; Kwerkworks, a student-run ad agency through the university's chapter of the American Advertising Federation; and studied in England through the university's Francis E. Kelley Oxford Program. She was inducted into Chi Alpha Epsilon, the HEOP national honor society.

She was chosen to deliver the student address at Commencement.



### Life After SBU

She studied copywriting at The Creative Circus in Atlanta, Ga., for two years, then moved to Chicago where she works as a junior copywriter for Burrell Communications, one of the nation's leading black advertising agencies. She's written ads for Walmart, McDonald's and Comcast.

When she's not working, she serves as a content creator for Coalesce Chicago, an organization dedicated to cultivating young, diverse talent in Chicago's advertising scene. She also runs Keda's Poetry Service, a project she created to produce poems for commission.

### Reflecting on HEOP and SBU

"I can't even think of where my life would be without HEOP. It's left a long-lasting impression on me, from the welcoming vibe to the caring attitude, not only from the HEOP family but from everybody in general. St. Bonaventure is my second family. It's home." ■

## Thomas Waters, Class of 2011

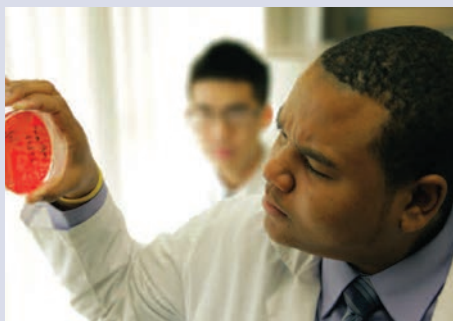
### Life Before SBU

A student in New York's High School of Economics and Finance, near Ground Zero, Waters witnessed the fall of the World Trade Centers. He transferred to Frederick Douglass Academy in Harlem and was diagnosed with leukemia his sophomore year. Still in treatment as a senior, the year was "pretty hectic, pretty stressful." He received college acceptances, "but I didn't have the \$200 for the deposit fee." Learning of HEOP, he submitted a second round of applications just a couple of months before graduation. Many HEOP programs were already full, but not that of "a little school named St. Bonaventure."

### Life at SBU

Now cancer-free and determined to earn a 3.5 GPA his first semester in order to declare as a pre-med major, he got the grades, but the cancer came back. He was forced to take the next two years off as he underwent high-dose chemotherapy. Margaret Bryner, then HEOP director at SBU, didn't forget him. "She'd visit when she came to New York on recruitment trips," said Waters. "And she told me that whenever you're ready, we will have a place for you."

He returned to campus in fall 2008, happy to be back at "the school with the friars and the intimate feel," and thankful for the



"encouragement and motivation" of the HEOP staff. Encouraged to give back, he became a peer tutor and volunteered at the Warming House soup kitchen.

Waters was a member of the Poetry Club and served as a resident assistant for three semesters. He earned a bachelor's degree in biology and was named the Ideal Bonaventure Man for his class.

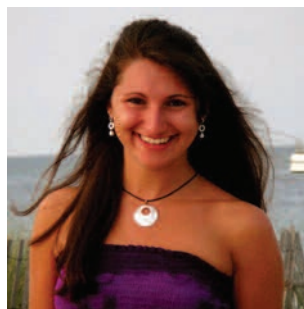
### Life After SBU

A few days after graduating, Waters went to Spain and Portugal through St. Bonaventure's study abroad program. He earned a master's in higher education and student affairs administration from Buffalo State College in 2014, and completed a competitive internship at Brock University in St. Catharines, Ontario, Canada. After working in Buffalo for a year, he moved to Baltimore, Md., where he works for the University of Maryland, Baltimore County, as a community director in a first-year student residential community. He was married in 2017. Long term, he aspires to be a motivational speaker, "sharing my story of success, survivorship, resilience, and finding your identity."

### Reflecting on HEOP and SBU

"I didn't realize it, but I was really unprepared for college," said Waters. Attending HEOP's summer bridge program was "sort of an aha moment for me. HEOP made me see that I need to humble myself and take the steps necessary to make sure I'm successful in my endeavors." In addition, "I think my heart for service was borne out of HEOP," he said, noting he volunteers yearly with the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program.

## Audrey Mooradian, Class of 2015



### Life Before SBU

Diagnosed with auditory processing delay disorder and dyslexia at an early age, school was a big challenge for Mooradian, who grew up in Canton, a small, rural village in upstate New York, near the Canadian border. She applied to St. Bonaventure with a desire to major in physical education. Reluctant to accept a HEOP scholarship for fear she was taking it from some-

one with greater need, she was encouraged to take advantage of the opportunity, and to use it as a launch pad to do good things down the road. "I then made it my priority to take full advantage of what HEOP had to offer and never take this opportunity for granted," said Mooradian.

### Life at SBU

Attending the HEOP summer bridge program at St. Bonaventure was the last thing she wanted to do the summer before her freshman year. "I wanted to stay home and have fun with my friends. I had to tell myself that this was absolutely an opportunity I could not pass up," she said. "I'm so grateful that 17-year-old me was able to recognize that this five-week summer program was a short-term commitment that would have a long-lasting impact on my academic, professional and personal journey."

Mooradian started getting involved her sophomore year. She became a peer coach leader for the First-Year Experience program. She worked for Housekeeping, doing light custodial work around campus, work she found rewarding and that helped alleviate her family's financial worries. She would become an RA. She served as president of the HEOP Honor Society, and as a HEOP summer program peer leader for the HEOP class that graduated in May. She studied abroad in Prague, in the Czech Republic, her senior year. She graduated with a bachelor's degree in psychology and was an honorable mention candidate for the Ideal Bonaventure Woman award.

### Life After SBU

Mooradian attended the University of Denver, where she served as a graduate resident director for Housing and Residential Education and earned a master's in higher education in 2017. She now works as a resident director at Boston College. She is passionate about advocating for students with underrepresented identities, promoting access to study abroad for all students, professional development, and creating inclusive environments for students living in residential communities. She hopes to one day work for HEOP so that she can give back to the program that gave so much to her.

### Reflecting on HEOP and SBU

"When I was at DU I learned just how much at Bonaventure I took for granted — the Franciscan values and mission of being a good person and serving others, how the work you do impacts the greater good and the good of your community. I didn't fully recognize that until I left," she said.

"And this is something I reference all the time in my current role in higher education: I just always felt that I was a part of something at Bonaventure, that students came from hard-working backgrounds and, for the most part, were very open-minded, loving and caring. I never felt judged while I was there and that I could be my true, genuine, and authentic self. That was something that meant a lot to me and I will always have my HEOP family to thank for that." ■

## David Bryant, Class of 2017



### Life Before SBU

Born in Staten Island, N.Y., and raised in Utica, Bryant was an under-achiever in his AP classes in high school. He was affected by the disenfranchisement of minority students in Utica, which has one of the largest refugee populations in the U.S. Fifty-two languages were spoken at his school. One of nine children, "money was always an issue" for his family.

After high school, he moved back to the city to attend St. John's University, but wasn't ready for college and withdrew, staying in Harlem. Then, "I realized I needed a proper education so I applied to St. Bonaventure's HEOP program."

### Life at SBU

"I hit the ground running," said Bryant. He joined the Gay/Straight Alliance, the Latin American Student Organization, was president of the Black Student Union, and a student liaison for #Race Matters. He was a peer coach, a tutor, a resident assistant, and junior class president. He was a coordinator for the Warming House soup kitchen and was heavily involved in activities at Mt. Irenaeus. A member of the Chapel Choir, he sang the National Anthem at basketball games. He also played trumpet in the Concert Band. He was a manager for the men's swimming and diving team for three years, performed with SBU Theater, and was a lead student ambassador for the Office of Admissions. He also worked as a soundboard technician at the Quick Center and with the Reilly Center custodial staff.

An honors student with two majors, journalism and mass communication, and English, he was inducted into the HEOP and English honor societies and graduated cum laude. He studied abroad through the Francis E. Kelley Oxford Program. He became a Catholic while a student and was baptized, made his first communion and was confirmed, all in the University Chapel. With help from University Ministries, he went on service trips to South Africa and Cuba. Bryant won the Fr. Joe Doyno, O.F.M., Student Life Award, the Brian Moretti Service Award from Athletics, and was named the Ideal Bonaventure Man.

### Life After SBU

Influenced by his travels abroad, Bryant deferred his acceptance into the master's program in African and museum studies at New York University in order to take a one-year position teaching English through English First Kids and Teens in Beijing, China. Calling it his "most rewarding experience to date," he plans to stay on for a second year before returning to the U.S.

### Reflecting on HEOP and SBU

"It truly is about the people," said Bryant. "The HEOP staff instilled in us early on the importance of responsibility, and supported us in everything we did. They taught us how to walk through life unhinged by the sometimes harsh reality of America. They always reminded us of how smart, gifted and loved we all were. Our HEOP office was a true family like no other. Bona's loved me unconditionally since the moment I arrived. I don't know where I would be without HEOP and SBU." ■



◀ Johanna (LaRosa) Burani in Benaco, Tanzania.

▼ Dan Maurer is pictured in Nepal at the site of a primary school sanitation project.

# NOURISHING THE SOUL

At St. Bonaventure, we remain as passionate as ever about our Franciscan tradition and the opportunity it provides to offer a transformational experience for our students. That transcends to so many of our alumni who nourish and share that passion throughout their lives. Johanna (LaRosa) Burani, Class of 1969, and Anthony Mancini and Dan Maurer, both Class of 2009, may have graduated 40 years apart, but they are connected spiritually by a deep-held sense of purpose and concern for others.



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## Through Village Angels, alumna Johanna Burani helps safeguard the dignity of elderly Tanzanians until death

By Beth Eberth

**A** *mani na salama.* Johanna (LaRosa) Burani is not fluent in Swahili, but “peace and all good” is one of the first phrases the 1969 alumna learned to say in the language.

For the past three years, Burani has helped run The Village Angels of Tanzania, a humanitarian program located in Benaco, which is in the northwestern part of the African country on the border with Rwanda. The Village Angels was founded in 2015 by the Franciscan Sisters of Bernadette.

Burani, who lives in Morristown, N.J., just returned in June from her annual three-week visit to The Village Angels’ headquarters and farm, where she was able to visit with the elderly in the program and evaluate their nutritional status.

The Village Angels aids two underserved populations in the Ngara region — the abandoned elderly poor and the local at-risk young people. Unemployed young people are recruited and trained to help care for the elderly by taking them food once a week, providing companionship, and aiding with household tasks.

Seventy poor elderly people and 16 young people from two nearby villages are assisted by the organization.

As is the case in African countries, families in Tanzania are multi-generational with three generations living together. But many of the elderly living in this remote and desolate region are outliers, Burani explained: They have lived beyond the median expected age of 67 (the oldest is 102), and they do not have family who live nearby.

“They have no one to help them. They are completely on their own. They have no family, or, if they do, they are so destitute they can’t help them,” Burani said.

### A Missing Generation

To understand the situation facing the elderly in this region you have to go back more than two decades. In 1994, in response to the genocide in neighboring Rwanda, the Tanzanian president opened up a small portion of the border to



Photo by Sergio Burani

▲ Johanna (LaRosa) Burani takes measurements of Tanzanian elders in June to evaluate their nutritional status. Pictured at right is The Village Angels of Tanzania founder Sr. Dativa Mukebita, F.S.S.B.

let refugees enter the country.

At the time, some 130,000 Tanzanians lived scattered across the area known as the Ngara District. There is no water, no electricity, and no animals for those who live in this barren and inhospitable region. Some 530,000 refugees crossed the border from Rwanda, fleeing the massacres in their homeland. The United Nations also came to Tanzania to help with the crisis. By the time the UN left eight years later, the already barren land and strained culture were decimated.

“Under the pressure, that middle generation, the adult children, had that horrible decision to make: to take their kids and flee or stay with their parents,” said Burani.

Many of them fled to Uganda and Kenya.

“That left these elderly people really unprepared for what was ahead for them,” she said.

There are no social services. The elderly live in mud huts in a banana tree ecosystem.

“The Village Angels can’t change that. But what it can do is feed them and make them feel better physically and emotionally,” Burani said.

The attention from the young people will enable the older residents to be

cared for and die with dignity. For the youths, it will decrease the chance they will wind up in prostitution or drug trafficking.

Without infrastructure and employment in the region, there are not many opportunities for younger generations. In addition to giving the young people a stipend to care for the elderly, The Village Angels is trying to teach them skills, including animal husbandry, sewing and beekeeping. They are already seeing success, Burani said.

“One of the girls that started with us three years ago just wanted to learn how to sew. She could not wait,” Burani said. The young woman’s brother bought her a sewing machine and she was able to find work as a seamstress.

As a registered dietitian, Burani monitors the progress of the food program for the elders. During her visits to Tanzania she takes their body measurements, then evaluates and interprets the data to assess their progress. In 2017, 31 percent of the elderly were undernourished based on World Health Organization standards. This year, that number dropped to 17 percent. Fifty-eight percent have gained weight during the past year.

“This is a direct result of an enhanced food program we put in place at the end of our 2017 visit. However, there is still major work to be done nutritionally,” she cautioned. The majority of the elders have depleted fat stores, a serious risk factor for morbidity and mortality in the elderly. So before returning home in June, there was another upgrade to the food program to add quality protein and fat to the weekly food deliveries.

“I’m encouraged that we are on the right track. Many of our elders are visibly stronger and more energetic,” she said.

### History of Angels

Although The Village Angels of Tanzania was just established in 2015, Burani’s friendship with its founder Sr. Dativa Mukebita, F.S.S.B., goes back some 15 years.

Burani met the Franciscan sister when she took a computer class near her home at Assumption College for Sisters, where Sr. Dativa was beginning her studies in the states. Sr. Dativa would go on to earn associate, bachelor’s and master’s degrees in the U.S. before entering the healthcare field, and the women would develop a fast friendship.

Burani and her husband, Sergio, were among the first people Sr. Dativa contacted when she conceived the idea for Village of Angels in her homeland. The Buranis have been in from Day 1, assisting with fundraising and publicity for the organization.

As a self-described low-maintenance person, Burani said she has no limits when it comes to begging for the poor.

“Everyone really responds as they can. It is amazing. I find all you have to do is ask. They know 100 percent goes to The Village Angels. The sum is greater than the parts. It just grows,” she said.

The same may be said of her Bonaventure roots.

“Maybe it’s because SBU is a special space. Maybe it’s because young people attracted to attend SBU are special people. Maybe it’s the front-and-center theme of selflessness that permeates the very air on campus and the formal and informal student/professor conversations. Maybe it’s all these qualities of the Bona experience



Photos by Sergio Burani

▲ Johanna (LaRosa) Burani, '69, is pictured with Sr. Justina Ekibenda, F.S.S.B., '13, at the St. Bonaventure English Medium and Primary School in Ngara, Tanzania, where Sr. Justina is the manager. ◀ School children are pictured in the inset photo.

that keep us uniquely attached as brothers and sisters,” she said.

A biology major at St. Bonaventure, Burani recalls the first class field trip she took with beloved botany professor Dr. Alfred Finocchio.

“He opened a whole new world of awe at the reflection — no, the presence — of God in nature to this city girl. And that was just the first semester of my freshman year,” she said.

“The awareness of God’s presence in all of his creation is alive and well in me today, more than 50 years later in the eyes of the Swahili-speaking Village Angels in northwestern Tanzania, whom I call my brothers and sisters.”

Further proof came last year during her visit to Tanzania. Burani was walking to the church for Mass alongside a sister named Justina and remarked how well her companion spoke English. Sr. Justina shared that she had learned the language during time in the states and as a student at a small Franciscan university in Western New York.

The religious woman was Sr. Justina Ekibenda, who earned a degree in journalism and mass communication in 2013 from Bona’s.

“We’re in this little town and she and I have a sisterhood of our own. I was so awestruck. It’s just another sign that I’m doing what I should be doing,” Burani said.



For more information about The Village Angels, visit [thevillageangels-tanzania.org](http://thevillageangels-tanzania.org) or on social media @TheVillageAngels



Beth Eberth is director of university communications at St. Bonaventure.



## Two men, one country: Classmates Anthony Mancini and Dan Maurer are helping to rebuild Nepal one village at a time

By Dr. Tracy Schrems

In 2005, freshmen Anthony Mancini and Dan Maurer walked into my English composition class, took a seat, and proceeded to drag me along on their journey to chart lives guided by the teachings of St. Francis.

They opted to study business administration and marketing and eventually both graduated with bachelor's degrees in those areas. But their story is far more than graduating, finding a job in corporate America, and working toward the traditional American dream.

Instead, this is a story of two men who were part Peter Pan, part Robin Hood, and 100 percent passionate about giving back to a cultural community that gave them so much love and friendship. That community was in the remote villages of Nepal.

To know Anthony and Dan is to understand that neither one has met an airline he didn't like. Their wanderlust first began with their move to Australia to study abroad for their junior year. I had received occasional emails and periodic phone calls keeping me abreast of what they were up to, and more than once I had to remind them to get off Bondi Beach and go to class.

However, what I didn't realize was the amount of work they were doing with the indigenous population in the outback and their total immersion in that culture. In fact, it wasn't until they returned to campus for their senior year that I realized what they had been doing: exploring



Alumni Dan Maurer (left) and Anthony Mancini formed the nonprofit Elevate Nepal to help the Nepalese in remote villages.

their passions for cultural immersion and helping those who live in poverty.

Naturally, they didn't tell me this. In fact, the only thing they did admit to when I saw them at the beginning of their senior year was that they didn't want to be on campus and instead were ready to return to Australia. I remember laughing and telling them that Peter Pan was simply a myth and it was time to embrace their inevitable entrance into adulthood.

At that time, I didn't realize how incredibly wrong I was. These were not typical college students; instead, they were two men who were on the verge of discovering how they could do their part to make the world a better place.

After graduation, neither one had any desire to enter into the workforce. Instead, they gathered their passports and headed out of the country back to Australia. Once again, I began to receive periodic phone calls from Anthony that simply kept me up to date as to what they were up to.

At one point, I discovered that Anthony had gone on "walkabout" in Australia and settled in an indigenous commune, learning how to farm as well as live according to their culture. Dan, after exploring his interests in Australia, flew to Vietnam where he spent a number of months exploring the country and learning about the Vietnamese people all from the back of a scooter. He, too, immersed himself in the Vietnamese culture, learning more about the people than what was taught in history books.

This wanderlust continued until the fall of 2011, when they both agreed to meet up in Nepal to begin their tour of Asia.

On this trip, both men found their lives irrevocably changed for the better.

**WHEN THEY WERE UNDERGRADUATES**, we spent hours talking about their passions for helping those in need as well as their interests in indigenous cultures and their work with BonaResponds.

Dan was a business management major/marketing minor and Anthony was a business administration major with an eye toward starting his own nonprofit business; however, neither one wanted to enter a job market that wasn't exactly friendly to college graduates. When we talked about it, my only advice to both of them was to embrace whatever they were passionate about and follow it to wherever it took them.

So, they started traveling the world. As a result, I received my "annual phone call" that each year allowed me to play "Where in the world are Anthony



One of Elevate Nepal's upcoming projects is to fund the rebuilding of a 700-student primary school in the village of Sarsyu.

and Dan?” much like the Carmen Sandiego game and TV show of the ‘80s and ‘90s. In 2011, they found themselves in Nepal.

During that year’s call, Anthony told me about the plan to “get lost in Nepal for three months,” which included “35 days trekking through remote villages to Everest base camp and back.”

He then described the two months that he and Dan spent working on two different farms with host families, learning and developing a better understanding of the struggles that remote villagers face. He also talked about how today “poverty can be a product of globalization and lack of knowledge” and how he had become inspired to use his skills to give back to the wonderful Nepali people.

**THE LESSONS THE TWO OF THEM** had learned about the ways of St. Francis were clearly part of their lives, and I realized that regardless of the name of the class, the content affected them more than even Anthony realized. He wanted to fight poverty on the ground level, and both he and Dan wanted to do it in Nepal.

“I became heartbroken over how tourists treated the country of Nepal,” said Anthony. “From the Mount Everest climbers, who flock to the mountain in an effort to climb it but leave trash and empty bottles of oxygen along the way, to the candy wrappers and processed foods and sodas brought into Nepal by Western tourists that are left to pile up in villages and along hiking paths throughout the country, these villages are being consumed with trash.

“When you travel to a remote village in one of the most beautiful corners of the world and see trash is everywhere, you wonder how others aren’t sad and disgusted as well. But it just doesn’t seem to be the case. The Nepali people cannot bear the full brunt of this blame as they have lived a very organic lifestyle since the later part of the 20th century. However, with the increase of tourism brought on by different companies, more specifically those companies in the business of shepherding people to the summit of Mount Everest, Nepal has become inundated with trash and disease that normally would not appear in any of the villages outside the cities.”



To learn more about Elevate Nepal and upcoming projects, visit [elevatenepalinc.org](http://elevatenepalinc.org) or [@elevatenepalinc](https://www.facebook.com/elevatenepalinc) on social media.



I could hear the sadness and devastation in Anthony’s voice when he talked about the level of poverty the Nepali people faced as well as the abject ignorance in how Westerners treated the land.

It was at this moment that I realized Anthony had found his passion. It was evident in his voice. Moreover, he was preparing to follow that passion, and knowing

him as I did, it wouldn’t be long until Dan was right there with him.

I was right. Dan was completely on board. His involvement became a way for him to continue to pursue his interests in creating a nonprofit business as well as “empower communities to grow in a responsible, sustainable manner.”

Both men felt Nepal was bullied by globalization. As Dan shared:

“All over Nepal one can see fading traditions and cultures as young people move to the cities or abroad to obtain education or employment. Young people feel there is no opportunity in the villages.



In the village of Kholegaon, Elevate Nepal is facilitating the rebuilding of six earthquake-resistant homes. In 2015, a 7.8-magnitude earthquake struck Nepal, followed closely by a 7.3-magnitude aftershock. Today, millions of Nepalese citizens remain homeless, or cramped among family members in tarp shelters or makeshift tin huts. At right is a building damaged three years ago in the quake.



We can help by giving them opportunities through agriculture programs and renewable energy projects that would allow families to stay together and allow villages to thrive and keep their traditions alive.”

Something about Nepal’s traditions and cultures impacted them in such a way that they decided to devote themselves to helping the people there. They both wanted to spend part of the year in Nepal with some of the most beautiful people in the world making sure that their culture didn’t disappear and helping them overcome crippling poverty.

Then, in 2015, things changed. Nepal was hit with a devastating earth-



quake, the worst natural disaster to hit the country in 80 years.

I knew about the earthquake, the devastation it caused, and the fact that the mass destruction left the Nepali people more impoverished than ever. Worse, its effects canceled the 2016 Mount Everest climbing season, a season that employs a large majority of the Nepali Sherpa as climbing guides. It was awful and, like most of the world, I empathized with those who survived.

And, like most of the world, I moved on to the next major event in my own life as well as in the world as a whole. The

earthquake remained on my radar for as long as the media coverage focused on it. When it became “old news,” I filed it away.

However, in the summer of 2015 when Anthony called, I could tell something was different. My phone call from Anthony started out much like the others: *Hi, how have you been? Where are you? Where is Dan? What is he doing? What are you doing? What do you mean you almost fell off a mountain hiking to Everest base camp?*

You know, the simple, everyday questions you ask of people you haven’t heard from in a year.

Though the story about nearly falling off a mountain in the Himalayas didn’t necessarily shock me since I was talking to him, Anthony’s description of the destruction many of the remote villages experienced after the earthquake and its subsequent tremors was overwhelming.

Whole villages had been decimated and Anthony and Dan saw this firsthand. The Nepali people had lost everything, from shelters to basic sanitation to farms and livestock. I could tell just from talking to him that he was shaken from the devastation he was witnessing.

**THAT’S WHEN HE TOLD ME** about the nonprofit business Dan and he were creating. Elevate Nepal Inc. was created for the sole purpose of helping the Nepali people in remote villages rebuild their communities. The list of things that needed to be done to help the Nepali people was endless.

Schools and homes needed to be rebuilt. Basic human needs, such as developing a reliable sanitation system, also needed to be met.

Elevate Nepal Inc. was born, operated out of their home in Flagstaff, Ariz. So far, they have raised funds to:

- rebuild a school in the village of Sarysu that educates 700 children from the nearby villages;
- rebuild a sanitation system that provides clean water for some of the hardest hit villages in that province;
- provide temporary housing for multiple families throughout some of the hardest hit villages.

However, they do more than raise money.

They take that money, travel to Nepal, purchase supplies and help the villagers by getting their hands dirty. Both are hands on with these projects, passionate about rebuilding Nepal. And both are following dreams that began on the Bonaventure campus.

At St. Bonaventure, we embrace the teachings of St. Francis, who looked beyond the materialistic needs of society into the soul and proceeded to nourish that. He administered to those who had nothing and chose to spread love and acceptance.

Anthony and Dan are yet another example of exactly what’s right with this university. We taught them and mentored them and they took those lessons and became true Franciscans, soaring above and beyond anything I ever hoped to teach them. We just taught them; they did the work. Now, they are changing the world.

I’m simply grateful that I had a small part in watching them grow. They are destined to make the world a better place.



*(Dr. Tracy Schrems is a lecturer in the Department of English at St. Bonaventure.)*



Photos by Craig Melvin / St. Bonaventure Athletics

# Heroes everywhere

Memories still fresh from a season no one will soon forget

By TOM MISSEL

**T** rue story: It's closer to the start of next basketball season than it is to the end of last. How is that possible? Wasn't it just yesterday that Bona Nation, still scarred from the NCAA snub two years ago, lost its ever-skeptical mind when Seton Hall appeared on CBS during the alphabetical release of tourney teams?

S-E! What happened to S-A?!

And then lost its everloving mind 1.2 seconds later when it realized CBS abbreviates Saint, too?!

Wasn't it just yesterday that Courtney Stockard was slicing and dicing UCLA like a Veg-O-Matic? That Jaylen Adams was washing away the stain of 1-for-15 with the prettiest answered prayer since Greg Sanders in the '77 NIT title game?

Those two hours on a Tuesday in Dayton were the pinnacle of the best Bonnies season in 41 years, but the season was full of indelible memories, authored by heroes we expected and heroes we never imagined.

It just took two weeks to find one.



As fresh as those intoxicating memories of beating UCLA remain, losing to Niagara in the season opener Nov. 10 at the RC seems like 100 years ago. Jaylen Adams, lost for three weeks to an ankle injury suffered vs. Alfred in an exhibition game, could only watch hopelessly from the bench with a boot on.

Four days later, the season took a darker turn: A power outage at the Reilly Center postponed the Bonnies' game with Maryland Eastern Shore. The most anticipated season in years appeared to be short circuiting.

And then the magic started. The Bonnies would never lose another close game.

Stockard, who missed two full seasons with a broken bone in his foot, drove for a layup with 3 seconds left to vanquish unbeaten Maryland on the day after Thanksgiving in the Emerald Coast Classic.

Down a point and with no time on the clock, A-10 all-star Matt Mobley scored his only 3 points of the game to rip out Vermont's heart in Rochester Dec. 16. Sophomore Amadi Ikpeze made all six of his shots in only 16 minutes.

Three days before Christmas, the Bonnies didn't make a field goal for almost 17 minutes in the Carrier Dome — and somehow managed to beat Syracuse in overtime thanks to a stifling defensive effort.

Adams and Mobley combined for 60 in a blowout A-10 opener over UMass, but the Bonnies dropped four of their next five, all on the road, leaving zero margin for error if they hoped to be considered for an NCAA at-large bid.

Challenge accepted. They'd go on to win the last 12 games of the regular season. Contributions came from every corner.

How many times did Idris Taqqee grab an offensive rebound when the Bonnies absolutely needed one? Or did Nelson Kaputo stick a three when you least expected it? Or did LaDarren Griffin take a charge or block a shot or hit a basket to keep his team in a game?

How many times did Stockard make you shake your head in awe at his sheer force of will, no doubt forged by his determination to see his career mean something, *anything*, after two years on the bench?

And seniors Adams and Mobley were exactly as they were billed: one of the best backcourts in the nation. In back-to-back games in February, Adams scored 40 and 44 points, serving as the lead plank in his campaign for A-10 player of the year. Mobley scored at least 24 points 13 times.

Six of the 12 straight wins were by less than six points, including two of the most thrilling home wins in school history.

Griffin's dunk with 21 seconds left proved to be the winning points in a 77-74 nationally televised win over 14th-ranked Rhode Island, snapping the Rams' 16-game win streak. It was the most breathtaking game in the RC since the Bonnies beat Saint Joe's six years ago in double overtime.

That distinction lasted all of 11 days — well, 12, to be accurate. The Bonnies' impossible-to-believe-unless-you-were-there, 117-113 triple-OT win over Davidson started at 9:30 p.m. on Feb. 27 and ended at 12:18 a.m. on Feb. 28.

Adams, Mobley and Stockard each scored at least 30 points — the first time that had happened in 20 years in Division I — but four of the five Bonnies starters had fouled out by the third OT. Didn't matter.

Down three, Kaputo hit three free throws to tie it, then found Tshiefu Ngalakulondi for a dunk on an inbounds play with 2 minutes left to give Bonaventure the lead for good. The only starter left standing, Mobley had 11 of his 33 in the third OT.

The game was the exemplar of the season, the signature moment of a team that almost always figured out



a way to win — no matter who was on the court.

Losing to Florida in the NCAA second round was almost irrelevant. It couldn't tarnish the memory of a season for the ages. Mark Schmidt's club left a mark on Bonnies fans that won't soon fade away.

"The only real treasure is in your head," American author Rodman Philbrick wrote. "Memories are better than diamonds and nobody can steal them from you."



*Rudy Czaja in 1951 during the Korean War. At the time, Rudy was a major serving as the executive officer (XO), 3rd Station Hospital, Korea. He served in Korea from 1950-52 and in England during WWII, assigned to the 106th General Hospital (1944-45).*



*Alice Czaja in 1943 during her service at the Naval Air Station, Hutchinson, Kan., when she was an aviation storekeeper third class, U.S. Navy Reserve WAVES (Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service). By the time she left the Navy in 1945, she attained the rank of petty officer first class. She served at NAS Hutchinson from 1943-45.*

# A family's story of hard work and love forges path to new scholarship

By Susan Anderson

**B**eing inquisitive, working hard and making the most of life — these are the ingredients that have led to a new scholarship at St. Bonaventure.

The Rudolph P. and Alice J. Czaja Endowed Scholarship is a family story, and a fitting testament to living life with curiosity and commitment.

Rudy, a colonel in the U.S. Army and decorated World War II and Korean War veteran, served 30 years in the military, earning his GED and a bachelor's degree along the way.

Alice, a U.S. Navy Reserve WAVES (Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service) member, entered active duty in 1942. She served as a petty officer first class, managing logistics as an aviation storekeeper during WWII and making use of those skills for the remainder of a long and active life.

Both are buried with military honors in Arlington National Cemetery. If they ever dreamed of one day seeing the Czaja name (pronounced Ch-ī-ah, with a long "ī" sound) on a scholarship, they never said.

Children of immigrants (his parents

hailed from what is now Poland and the Czech Republic; hers arrived in America from Ireland and via Canada from Scotland), they learned early that change is constant and hard work a remedy.

Alice's father, a mechanic, operated a horse-drawn trolley in Boston. Rudy's father, an electrician, died in a construction accident in New York City when Rudy and his two brothers were just boys. Both of their mothers worked as housekeepers.

Throughout their lives, Rudy and Alice remained reverent of the examples of hard work by those who came before and excited about what might lie ahead.

Now, through the scholarship endowed in their names, they will help bring to life the intentions and aspirations of future Bonnies, while continuing their families' reach across generations.

"My parents always had a great deal of respect for people who earned a living with their hands, who took care of their families through hard work," said the couple's only child, Michael Czaja,

## The Rudolph P. and Alice J. Czaja Endowed Scholarship

Beginning this fall, the Rudolph P. and Alice J. Czaja Endowed Scholarship will be awarded annually to a deserving Native American student majoring in a STEM field.

"We thought it was a great way to honor my parents' memory and also to reflect the importance they placed on education, especially for a student from a historically marginalized community," said Michael Czaja, Ph.D., a retired U.S. Army lieutenant colonel and 1982 graduate of St. Bonaventure.

Dr. David Hilmey, dean of the School of Arts and Sciences, noted that the scholarship brings together two important initiatives: building a cohort of indigenous people at St. Bonaventure and addressing the dropping number of minorities in STEM.

"The Czaja scholarship creates the opportunity to bring these students in and provide the programs, courses and mentoring that are going to help them be successful," Hilmey said.

Continued >>

Ph.D., a retired U.S. Army lieutenant colonel and 1982 graduate of St. Bonaventure. "I think they saw education, especially Catholic education, as a way to open doors to provide opportunities."

St. Bonaventure proved the perfect place for their scholarship. "Franciscan brown runs very deep in the family," Michael noted.

Alice's younger brother, Fr. John Ahearn, O.F.M., served as a lector and prefect at Christ the King Seminary in 1950 (then located at Bona's in Francis Hall), and by 1952 was an instructor and director of the print shop for the university.

Through him, Alice forged lifelong friendships with a number of friars. And Michael found a college home.

"Every summer, we would drive from Colorado to visit relatives in Massachusetts," Michael recalled. "Uncle John said, 'If you're coming to the East Coast, why not stop at Bona's?'"

"We stopped on one of those drop-dead gorgeous June days. Bright blue sky. A friar walked out who happened to know Uncle John and he gave us an impromptu tour. Just what I saw, I liked."

More than 35 years after graduating with a Bachelor of Arts degree in social science, Michael still appreciates the "academic spark" he found at St. Bonaventure.

Through staff members, friars and professors such as close family friend Fr. Dan Riley, O.F.M., '64, president and animator of Mt. Irenaeus; the late Conroys, Finbarr, who taught in the Department of Modern Languages, and Joanne, a Friedsam Memorial librarian; and longtime English professor Dr. Rick Simpson, he learned lessons that served him well — in the classroom and beyond, through graduate studies, which included earning a Ph.D. at Colorado State University, and several postdoctoral fellowships.

"At St. Bonaventure, you get the academic foundation and the life foundation that allows you to interpret the world around you and get a better sense of it," Michael said.

The Czajas were married on July 25, 1959, in Orleans, France.



Of his two children, daughter Kathleen

followed him to Bonaventure, graduating in 2009 with a BBA in marketing and a minor in political science.

"The Franciscan ties are strong in my family, and what Bonaventure represents as an institution of higher learning is important to us," Michael said.

In the final months of his mother's life (she was born on Veterans Day and passed away 97 years later on Valentine's Day), Michael and Alice discussed the possibility of endowing a scholarship with funds from her estate.

"She thought she didn't have enough," Michael recalled. "She said, 'There's no way I can afford it.'"

But reality showed otherwise.

"I hope members of the St. Bonaventure community realize that you don't have to have this huge amount of money in order to help students," Michael said.

He is excited for the potential of the scholarship.

"This means a lot to our family. We want to make that difference for a student who may not normally have a chance to attend Bonaventure."



Susan Anderson is director of fundraising communications at the university.

GAUDETE AWARDS

# Serving in the Franciscan Spirit

The Gaudete Medal, one of the university's highest honors, was awarded to three community members May 2 during a ceremony at the Hyatt Regency in Buffalo. Honored were Greg Bruno, '74; Senator Catharine M. Young, '82; and Fr. Richard "Duke" Zajac for their good work and selfless commitment to the community.



Fr. Richard "Duke" Zajac

St. Bonaventure has awarded the Gaudete Medal since 1996.

Bruno, retired after 40 years' work in the office equipment industry, has focused his life on community service. Young, who represents the 57th district in the New York State Senate, is a tireless leader and advocate for the people of Western New York. Zajac has served as the staff chaplain at Sisters of Charity Hospital in Buffalo since 1982. He has been the recipient of many distinguished service awards throughout his career, representative of the extensive list of organizations he has dedicated his life to serve. Read more at [www.sbu.edu/Gaudete2018](http://www.sbu.edu/Gaudete2018).



President Dr. Dennis R. DePerro is pictured with Catharine Young (above) and Greg Bruno (below).



# You make the difference!

**T**hank you, generous Bonnies, for your strong commitment to today's students.

More than \$2.7 million was raised for the FY18 Bonaventure Fund, surpassing the \$2.5 million goal — and it's all because of YOU, our loyal alumni and friends. This huge accomplishment is due to the more than 4,500 donors who partnered with us through the Bonathon, direct mail, personal asks, the Reunion Class Challenge, and #BonaGivingDay.

In June, we honored the reunion classes ending in 3 and 8, whose fundraising efforts exceeded \$500,000 for the Reunion Class Challenge. A special thank-you goes out to the Class of 1968, who celebrated their 50th Reunion, for raising more than



\$73,000. (To see the Reunion Class Challenge results for the reunion classes between 1968 and 2013, visit [www.sbu.edu/reunion2018](http://www.sbu.edu/reunion2018).)

As we look forward to the fall semester, we are anticipating more than 560 freshmen. This substantial increase in enrollment is due in part to your efforts. When you give to The Bonaventure Fund, you help provide scholarships to deserving young men and women and generate financial aid to some 96 percent of Bona students.

Listed below are ways to make or enhance your Bonaventure Fund gift. We look forward to partnering with you again this year!

Karen Heitzinger  
Director of Annual Giving



**Beginning Sunday, September 16, have a conversation with one of our Bonathon callers!** He or she would love to hear your Bona stories, share what is happening across campus, and assist you in making your gift. So please pick up the phone when you see (716) 375-2000.



**Recurring gifts are a manageable option** that allow you to increase your annual contribution by spreading it over a period of time. The gift is incurred by automatic bank account withdrawal (direct debit) or credit card. Monthly amounts are smaller and easier to budget on an ongoing basis. To make a monthly gift:

- 1) Visit [www.sbu.edu/donate](http://www.sbu.edu/donate)
- 2) Select "recurring gift"
- 3) Choose the 1st or 15th of the month
- 4) Complete the billing information
- 5) Choose credit card or direct debit and complete the corresponding information
- 6) Relax knowing that you planned ahead, saved resources and invested in the education of St. Bonaventure students!



**Making it a Match is a way to boost your Bonaventure Fund gift!** Please visit [www.matching-gifts.com/sbu](http://www.matching-gifts.com/sbu) or check with your human resources manager to learn if your company participates in the matching gift program. Some companies even match retirees' or a spouse's gift. So please check today and double the impact of your gift.

## The President in motion, meeting alumni across the country

In his first year at St. Bonaventure, President Dr. Dennis R. DePerro has met with alumni from coast to coast, sharing the good news of the university and encouraging collaboration. From alumni gatherings throughout New York state and Florida, to events in California and Arizona, our 21st president is continuing his efforts to meet as many alumni as possible. Nearly 50 alumni gathered with Dr. DePerro at The Oaks Club in Osprey, Fla., this past February at an event hosted by Kevin Maguire, '89; Jim, '73, and Eileen, '74, Buzzard; and Mike and Barbara Davis, '72.





CELEBRATION OF EXCELLENCE

## Celebrating scholarship recipients, grant awardees, benefactors

The 2018 Celebration of Excellence luncheon was held April 20 as a way for scholarship and grant recipients to meet and thank donors whose generosity helped fund their education.

Guest speaker Abigail Koetting, '18, said during her speech, "So many of my accomplishments are due to the fact that I have been put in an environment that fosters growth and success ... and for that I am so thankful."

The event also featured an academic showcase that highlighted the creative endeavors and academic research of select students as well as faculty recipients of the Keenan-Martine grant awards.

Also serving as a guest speaker was Laura Peterson, a lecturer in the Department of Visual and Performing Arts. Peterson, along with fellow faculty in the VPA department, is a co-recipient of two Martine-Keenan Awards.

During the 2017-2018 academic year, 551 deserving students were awarded scholarships at St. Bonaventure.



The 2018 Celebration of Excellence speakers were (from left) lecturer Laura J. Peterson, President Dr. Dennis R. DePerro, and student Abigail Koetting, Class of 2018.

## A Devereux family meeting, 160 years in the making



Descendants of the university's founding benefactors, Nicholas and Mary Devereux, met for the first time during the 2018 Celebration of Excellence. Pausing for a photo with Fr. Dan Riley, O.F.M., president and animator of Mt. Irenaeus, are (from left):

- Peter and Ellen Uram of Woodbury, Conn. (Ellen is the niece of Anthony Devereux of the ninth generation of the Devereuxes, and is the great-great-great granddaughter of Nicholas and Mary Devereux.);
- Landon Allison, '21, recipient of the Devereux Family Scholarship established by Anthony Devereux and F. Ramsay Devereux in 1963;
- Nicholas Margraf (who is named after the university's founder and is the great-great-great-great grandson of Nicholas and Mary Devereux) and his parents, Joe, '89, and Denise Margraf of Fairfax, Va. (Joe is the great-great-great grandson of Nicholas and Mary Devereux).

## #BonaVetsToAssisi mission a success

Nearly 100 donors took on the mission of helping to send #BonaVetsToAssisi, contributing \$11,720 and sending five student veterans to Assisi, Italy, in May. The 9-day pilgrimage allowed our student veterans to explore the rich heritage of Franciscan spirituality and service.

The transition from military to civilian life can prove particularly challenging for student veterans. Because they come to Bonaventure later in life and with different experiences than a traditional student, they are usually removed from the typical bonding activities on campus and consequently struggle to make connections. Simultaneously, they are working to redefine their identity and life purpose now that they have hung up their uniform.

The pilgrimage serves as one way to begin tackling both of these challenges. The hope is to send two new student veterans to Assisi each year. To add your support to this initiative, please visit [www.sbu.edu/BonaVetsToAssisi](http://www.sbu.edu/BonaVetsToAssisi).



Student veterans Emily Knitter, '18; Greg Kahle, '19; Larry MacDonald Jr., '18; Melinda Anick, '19; and Rob Petruccello, '19, in front of the Basilica of St. Francis.

# Meet new NAAB president Kevin Cleary, '02



Greetings, St. Bonaventure Alumni.  
I am your new National Alumni Association Board (NAAB) president. I want to start by thanking my predecessor, Kristan McMahon, '97, who did an outstanding job as NAAB president for the last three years. Kristan will continue to stay active with our alumni efforts and I thank her for her service.  
A quick introduction, if we have not met. I am a

I encourage each of you to update your contact information and share the news of your Good Journey with the university. To update your info, go to [www.sbu.edu/BonaMag](http://www.sbu.edu/BonaMag), then click on "Tell us your news."

As I begin my new role as your new NAAB president, I look forward to meeting you and hearing from you. It may be as simple as making a suggestion to your NAAB, offering to assist Admissions, serving in a chapter leadership role, or requesting prayer intentions for a loved one.

Bona's is meeting the challenges that face all of higher education today. We need you to continue this journey with us as we — in the words of Fr. Tom Plassmann, O.F.M. — "Build a Better Bonaventure."

*Pax et Bonum,*

Kevin Cleary, '02

## Message from the National Alumni Association Board President

proud member of the Class of 2002 and studied marketing. I have been very active with the university since graduation, volunteering in various capacities through the years.

Like many of you, I enjoy reading and sharing all the wonderful news coming out of the university as well as hearing updates from alumni.

## ▶▶ SHARE YOUR CAREER NEWS WITH THE BONA NATION!

To submit professional news for the next issue of Bonaventure magazine, drop us a note in the enclosed envelope, fill out an online form at [www.sbu.edu/BonaMag](http://www.sbu.edu/BonaMag), or email [bonalumnu@sbu.edu](mailto:bonalumnu@sbu.edu). *Submissions may be edited for clarity or length.*

### 1953

**Don Stedman** received the Frank Porter Graham Career Service Award, for lifelong contributions to children and families, from the University of North Carolina at the 50th Anniversary Celebration of the Frank Porter Graham Child Development Institute. Stedman is dean emeritus of Education at UNC Chapel Hill and former vice president for Research and Public Service of the UNC System. He is currently president of the Retired Faculty Association of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Stedman and his wife, Helen, celebrated their 64th wedding anniversary in December 2017. **Pete Fennell, '53**, was best man at their wedding at St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church in Leicester, N.Y., in the midst of a blizzard.



career, he earned a reputation for excellence and established a continuing commitment to the home building industry at the local, state and national levels. As a member of the Board of Trustees at St. Bonaventure and later as chair, he would serve an unprecedented 23 years from 1975 through 1998. He also served on the Board of Directors at St. Joseph Mercy Oakland Hospital in Pontiac, Mich. Jones started his company in 1979 with his wife, Carole, who was recently recognized with the Hagood Leadership in Construction Award from the National Association of Women in Construction for her years of leadership and service to the building industry. **Bryant Sandburg** celebrated his eighth anniversary as a parish consultant and servant leader with Lighthouse Catholic Media (now Augustine Institute), an apostolate that exists to help Catholics understand, live, and share their faith. "Ever grateful for the formation I received at St. Bonaventure!" he writes.

found the Pergamon Museum especially interesting because German archaeologists explored many historical sites years before the World Wars. **Gloria (Filippini) Hannan** and her husband, Michael, relocated to Pinehurst, N.C., after reconnecting with classmate **George Carr, '66**, at their 50th reunion in 2016. "After 17 full-time years on Sanibel Island, we were ready for a change and moved to this beautiful spot," Gloria writes. An added bonus is visiting with Carr and his wife, Shirley, when they come down to Pinehurst to play golf. "The door is open to any friends traveling this way."

### 1971

**John C. Johnson** was inducted into the 2016 New York State Public High School Athletic Association (NYSPHSAA) Hall of Fame. He is pictured here with former Syracuse University and Cleveland Browns great Jim Brown, a fellow 2016 inductee. A graduate of Canandaigua Academy, Johnson returned to Canandaigua as a 10th- and 11th-grade history teacher. He was the head varsity coach for the boys lacrosse and girls basketball teams as well as the defensive co-



### 1958

**Robert R. Jones** was inducted into the National Association of Home Builders Housing Hall of Fame in June 2017. The Hall of Fame was established in 1976 to recognize individuals whose spirit, ingenuity and determination have changed the face of housing for the better, making America one of the best-housed nations in the world. As president of Robert R. Jones Homes, Jones specialized in land development and the design and construction of single-family luxury homes throughout metropolitan Detroit. During his

### 1966

**Frank Higbie** and his wife, Lois, visited Berlin, Germany, for two weeks with a side trip to Dresden and Gortitz. Reminders of the Berlin Wall are all across Berlin, "in their parks where one has a re-creation of the 'death strip' between the walls, crosses along the Spree River where some were shot trying to escape, photos of people who unsuccessfully tried to climb the wall, and special stones in the middle of wide streets that show where the wall was." The wall was only 1-year-old when Higbie arrived at St. Bonaventure. He

ordinator for the varsity football team. As the lacrosse coach from 1979-2005, Johnson tallied a career record of 357-179 while winning 13 Finger Lakes championships, six Section 5 championships, and reaching the NYSPHAA state final four on four occasions. He also coached 10 All-Americans and four Academic All-Americans. Johnson was selected to coach the Empire State Games lacrosse team in 1987 and 1994, and was the North Coach in the U.S. High School All-Star games in 1990 and 1995. In 1993, Johnson took over the girls basketball program at Canandaigua, finishing with a 218-49 record over 12 seasons. During that time he won nine Finger Lakes championships, two Section 5 titles, and advanced to the NYSPHAA championships twice. He was chosen as the Finger Lakes Coach of the Year four times, the Section 5 Coach of the Year four times, and coached the Ronald McDonald All-Star game in 2002. Johnson helped the Canandaigua football team to seven Section 5 championships and two NYSPHSSA state championships in 1985 and 1999. He was inducted into the U.S. Lacrosse Hall of Fame (Upstate Chapter) and the Canandaigua Academy Athletic Hall of Fame. Johnson retired in 2017 as the head men's lacrosse coach at St. John Fisher College in Rochester after 12 years with a record of 132-69. **James E.**

**Kibble** continues as a managing and founding partner in Professional Risk Management ([www.prmusa.net](http://www.prmusa.net)), a second 20-plus-year career, after retiring from a 27-year federal law enforcement career. He spends time between Virginia and West Palm Beach and wherever a tee time is available. He also enjoys spending time with his eight grandchildren.

**1972**

**Bob Barron** and his wife, Ellen, celebrated their retirement as well as their 47th wedding anniversary with a 10-day tour of Italy. Included was a stop in Assisi and the Basilica of St. Francis. Bob retired from a career as vice president of sales for an educational technology company and he and Ellen spend time with their eight grandchildren. They recently moved into a condo community in Blue Point, Long Island, and Bob just completed his 30th year as a basketball referee.



**1973**

**David P. Resch** sends a hello to his class-

mates. He still enjoys working — now 45 years in financial services as president of an independent advisory firm, Post Resch Tallon Group, Inc.

**1976**

**Nancy Brink-O'Connor** is retired and living in sunny Port Charlotte/Englewood, Fla. She would love to connect with other SBU people down there and welcomes email via [brinkone2@aol.com](mailto:brinkone2@aol.com).

**1982**

**Anne Sweeney Holliday** won an award from the Pennsylvania Association of Broadcasters for Outstanding Local Radio Newscast. That was her second win in this category. She is also a board member and co-founder of the newly formed McKean County Arts Council. **Kevin Keenan's** name was placed on the Olean City School District



Wall of Honor June 15 in a ceremony at the Olean High School. Keenan, founding partner and president of Keenan Communications Group, is a '78 grad of OHS. He has worked as a radio and television personality, newspaper editor and

communications director. Kevin dedicated the honor to his wife, Deborah, and his late mother, Ann, who taught at Olean High for more than 20 years.

**1984 [Reunion Year 2019!]**

**Donna L. Burden, Esq.,** of Burden, Hafner & Hansen, LLC, has been re-elected to the Board of Directors of the International Association of Defense Counsel Foundation. The foundation seeks to have a significant impact on the civil justice system. It works to serve as a platform for educating the public and the legal community on litigation issues and supporting the integrity of the legal system throughout the world.

**1985**

**Ray Collins** anchors a daily two-hour TV show on the ABC affiliate in Sarasota, Fla., "Good Morning Suncoast." Collins is also a published travel writer, produces corporate and non-profit promotional videos and has co-authored a book on media and image training. His high school, St. Joseph's Collegiate Institute in Buffalo, recently



**Maureen Keenan-LeBoeuf ('76,** delivered the convocation address at the University of Georgia's College of Education 2018 Spring Convocation. Keenan-LeBoeuf received her master's ('86) and doctorate ('94) from the University of Georgia. She is pictured above with Dean Denise Spangler and faculty member Dr. Paul Schempp.



Pictured from left are Christopher Bacey, '80; Charles Hanley, '68, and Chris Carola, '81.

**Journalism grads attend AP annual dinner**

Three St. Bonaventure journalism school graduates attended The Associated Press' annual dinner honoring employees and retirees with at least 25 years of service with the international news agency, held May 10 at the company's headquarters in Manhattan.

Attending were Christopher Bacey, '80, of Union, N.J., former AP reporter in the 1980s, now working as associate director of corporate communications with KPMG; Charles Hanley, '68, of Manhattan, Pulitzer Prize winner and retired AP foreign correspondent; and Chris Carola, '81, of Saratoga Springs, N.Y., reporter for the AP in Albany who was among the staffers honored for 30 years of service with the AP.

Since April 1988, Carola has written thousands of AP stories while covering upstate New York, including sports, breaking news, features, business, government and politics. He spent the first half of 2018 as one of two AP reporters covering state government and politics at the Capitol in Albany.

## Whitney Downard, '16, wins Mississippi Newsperson of Year

**Whitney Downard, '16**, public safety reporter at The Meridian (Miss.) Star, received the Howard Lett-Bert Case Newsperson of the Year Award at the Louisiana-Mississippi Associated Press Media Editors awards ceremony April 7 in New Orleans. The award is presented to either a Mississippi radio or television newsperson or newspaper staffer.

Downard was described as "bright, inquisitive and knows how to work complex topics until she can understand them well enough to explain them to our readers."

Her work considered for the award included "No Easy RX," regarding local impact on changes to the Affordable Care Act; "Draining Meridian Funds," about Meridian's violations to the EPA's Clean Waters Act; "Decision Time for Meridian Voters," previewing the Meridian mayoral race; and "Sealed With a Kiss," a report on the impact of Mississippi's HB 1523 law on same-sex couples and others.

The Meridian Star won a total of 11 awards. **Dave Bohrer, '77**, is the newspaper's editor.



inducted him into its Liberal Arts Department's Wall of Honor. Collins has also been inducted into the WSBU-FM Hall of Fame. **Terrence Gilbride** was recognized in the 2018 edition of Chambers USA: America's Leading Lawyers for Business, an annual guide ranking law firms and attorneys based on in-depth, independent research and interviews with clients, fellow attorneys, and corporate counsel. Gilbride was among eight Hodgson Russ attorneys recognized for exemplary work and client relations in their respective practices. Gilbride focuses his practice on large, multifaceted commercial real estate development projects and heads the firm's College & University and Public-Private Partnership practice groups.



**1986**  
**George ('86, '00) and Susan (Payne) Riley, '86**, pictured above, celebrated their 30th wedding anniversary with a trip to Ireland.

**1988**  
**Vince Rolle** joined Stantec as principal in its Information Communication Technology (ICT) practice. He is responsible for client relationship leadership for key firm accounts, as well as growth and differentiation of the firm's ICT discipline. In his previous position, Rolle was one of five members of the program team that completed three major greenfield healthcare facilities in the Puget Sound region — Swedish Health's Redmond Ambulatory Care Center (ACC), Mill Creek ACC, and Swedish Issaquah Medical Center — over a nine-month period. This team was named the Project Team of the Year from Puget Sound Business Journal in 2011. Currently, Rolle is working on the SeaTac International Airport International Arrivals Facility and Swedish Medical Center Northwest Tower, as well as confidential data center proj-



ects. Rolle is a project management professional (PMP) through the Project Management Institute and holds a Project Management Certificate from the University of Washington. He earned a master's degree in counseling psychology from Antioch New England Graduate School and an MBA in international business from the U.S. International University in London, England.

**1989 [Reunion Year 2019!]**  
**Michael Sebold** was promoted to vice president of technical solutions in the Tremco Commercial Sealants and Waterproofing division, overseeing the Technical Service Department, Design Engineering, Sustainable Buildings Testing Facility and the Building Envelope Program. Tremco is a global leader in providing weatherproofing solutions for commercial construction, specializing in high performance building in the healthcare, institutional and high-rise markets.

**1992**  
**Paul Hartwick** joined Navient as vice president and head of corporate communications. Navient is a leading provider of asset management and business processing solutions for education, health care and government clients and services student loans for more than 12 million Americans.  
**Mike Osterhauadt** recently marked his one-year anniversary as an account manager for Nalco Water, an Ecolab company. Covering manufacturing and food and beverage customers across Central New York, he works with customers to reduce water and energy usage to help them be more profitable and sustainable.

**1993**  
**Alison Beach** was appointed director of Mental Health Services at SUNY Tompkins Cortland Community College. She was previously lead clinical counselor and continues to hold an associate professorship at the college, where she teaches in the Human Services program. She has been employed by the college for last nine years. Beach returned to St. Bonaventure for graduate studies, earning a master's in strategic leadership (MA) degree in May 2017. She earned a master's in social work (MSW) from Catholic University in 1995, and had always hoped to pursue advanced studies at SBU.



**Bonnies gather in Syracuse**  
Kathy Berst Donnelly, '66, Meg Donnelly Metcalf, '95, Jennifer Jankunas Surmay, '95, Wendy Zicari Devine, '95, Matt Metcalf, '94, and Mike Devine, '94, met in Syracuse to cheer the men's basketball team on to victory. Their children, possible future Bonnies, joined in on the fun, too.

### SEND US NEWS OF YOUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS ▶▶

Do you have some news to shout about? Submit career updates and address changes via the enclosed envelope or online form at [www.sbu.edu/BonaMag](http://www.sbu.edu/BonaMag). Attending an alumni chapter event? Send us a photo.



**1995**

**Andres Calderon** (above) is posing with his daughter (and future Bonnie!), Marisela, at Black Star Square in Accra, Ghana (West Africa).

**1996**

**Charles D. J. Case's** debut novel "The Unfinished Child" (Fat Dog Books, 2018) came out in May and his next book, a poetry collection titled "Nectarines, Vodka, Sundays, and Death," will be released this summer (Finishing Line Press). "The Unfinished Child" is a literary fiction novel. It is an orphan's story of identity, love, madness, corruption, betrayal, and the pain of a broken childhood that time does not heal.



The early feedback on the novel has praised the story's plot twists and complex characters. After graduating from St. Bonaventure, Case attended University at Buffalo Law School, followed by seven years in politics and lobbying and nearly a decade as a litigator. "As with most anyone, my experiences have informed my writing," Case writes. "This novel began as an exploration of what the corporate and political worlds might do to a person who lacks the close, intimate ties to help him separate the normal from the unacceptable."

**Jennifer O'Reardon Meehan** is a purchasing agent, account payable clerk, assistant treasurer and payroll clerk for the Borough of Netcong in New Jersey.

**1997**

**Bill Andrews**, president and chief executive officer of Monofrax in Falconer, N.Y., was named Person of the Year by the Chautauqua County Chamber of Commerce in September 2017. The chamber noted that Andrews opened the plant for Manufacturing Day tours last fall, hosting hundreds of students and teachers from local schools, and is committed to STEM education by serving on the WNY STEM Advisory Board and is a Junior Achievement of New York volunteer. Monofrax offers complete laboratory and materials testing.

**1999**

**[Reunion Year 2019!]**  
**Lou Dingeldey Jr.** was named a partner in the law

firm Baxter Smith & Shapiro, which has offices in Buffalo, Hicksville, Westchester and New York City. Baxter Smith & Shapiro is a litigation firm, with an emphasis on defense of personal injury, labor law, municipal, and insurance coverage matters.

**2000**

To support moms in the greater Charlotte, N.C., area, **Jessica Hornbeck**

**Kawski** has started her own business, Charlotte Super-Moms, LLC. With a highly engaged group of more than 12,000 local moms, she has created a community of support and a place for businesses to connect with local moms.

**2001**

**Charlie Riley** is director of marketing at Curbell Plastics, Inc., one of the nation's premier suppliers of plastic sheet, rod, tube, film, adhesives, sealants, and prototyping materials. Riley oversees all aspects of the company's marketing and communications activities and serves as a senior management member, partnering to set strategic direction for the company. Riley most recently served as director of marketing and communications for Lawley, a Buffalo-based Top 100 independent insurance broker, where he implemented a companywide rebrand for the company's 80 product lines. He also served as chief marketing officer at PLS 3rd Learning, where he oversaw marketing, business development, and customer engagement strategy for the international education technology startup. A Leadership Buffalo graduate and 2017 Buffalo Business First 40 Under 40 honoree, he is active in a number of community organizations, having served as president of AAF Buffalo and a judge for the 43North Business Plan competition, among others. He lives in the town of Tonawanda, N.Y.



**Kevin Stackman** was promoted from senior associate to supervisor at Dopkins & Company, LLP, a full-service certified public accounting and consulting firm. He works with closely-held business clients, providing accounting services, financial statement preparation, tax compliance and tax planning services. He has served as a member of the Board of Directors of the Western New



York Invention Convention since 2016 and is a 2014 graduate of the United Way Board Leadership Training Program. **Pamela (Say) Witter**, vice president of Development & Community Engagement at Trocaire College, is gaining national recognition and speaking opportunities as a result of her newly



We've lost touch with a number of alums and need your help! Our hope is to start finding lost alumni who will be celebrating their reunion in 2019. If you know the whereabouts of the following alumni, please let us know at [www.sbu.edu/foundalumni](http://www.sbu.edu/foundalumni).

Thomas G. Cima, '64  
Catherine (Clements) Baier, '69  
Thomas L. Butler, '69  
John D. Dugan, '69  
Valerie Shearman Gilreath, '69  
Mary (MacDonald) O'Donnell, '69  
Craig L. Schaufler, '69  
Stephen J. Surdell, '69  
Timothy Wood, '69  
Gail A. Crowe, '74  
Diane (Welsh) French, '74  
Harry C. Leichtweis, '74  
Janet (Zajac) Shartle, '74  
Leora (Ammons) Zande, '74  
Jeffrey D. Field, '79  
Christopher K. Leyden, '79  
Gary L. Whitmore, '79  
Walter James Green, '84  
Susan A. Hartnett, '84  
Dennis P. McGroder, '84  
John James Wojtowicz, '84  
Robert Patrick Chase, '89  
William Charles Fricano, '89  
Jay Francis Mangione, '89  
Cindy F. Ostuni, '89  
Patrick Sean Thornton, '89  
Anne-Marie (Cullinane) Aiello, '94  
Michael E. Byrnes, '94  
Michele L. Patello, '94  
Ryan Michael Patterson, '94  
James M. Pierce, '94  
Brian M. Boyd, '99  
Michael E. Packer, '99  
Michael James Bysiek, '04  
Nicole (Brecht) Castro, '04  
Peter G. Wong, '04  
Sean Michael Corey, '14  
Christopher Michael Mackey, '14  
Terence Arthur Petty, '14

published book, "Five Strategies to Increase Annual Fund Revenue." Witter was selected from a highly competitive pool to present two sessions at the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education District II Conference at National Harbor in February. They were titled "Achieving Your Personal Best Leadership" and "Increasing Annual Fund Revenue." Witter was also invited to an exclusive annual event at LaGrange College in Georgia in March to present to a handpicked selection of chief officers and vice presidents from higher education fundraising throughout the United States and presented on her book at the Ruffalo Noel Levitz National Conference in July in Florida. Elected by the Western New York community to lead the Association of Fundraising Professionals (AFP) WNY Chapter as its board president, Witter represented the region at the



### Fish Tales

Alumni Don Keebler, '70, left, and Paul Wieland, '59, met for the first time at a fly-in fishing lodge in Northern Manitoba in June. Fishing was OK, but the friendship was better.



### Legacy family celebration

The McNamee family celebrated another Bona's graduation in December 2017. Pictured in the front row from left are Rosemary Dowd McNamee, '86, Sean McNamee, '86, Patricia McNamee Tempesta, '67, and back row, from left, Brian McNamee, '78, and John Graham McNamee, '17.

AFP International Conference in New Orleans in April.

### 2002

**Michael Britt** has returned to Las Vegas, rejoining his former Ultimate Fighting Championship (UFC) employers, Frank and Lorenzo Fertitta, owners of the Las Vegas-based casino company Red Rock Resorts, as the new vice president of Government Relations. Britt will also be running government and corporate communications for the Fertittas' newly formed private equity firm, Fertitta Capital. Britt is responsible for promoting, maintaining and developing key relationships among public and government officials domestically and internationally for both entities. His portfolio encompasses monitoring and reviewing relevant legislation and regulations across the globe and overseeing all corporate-related contacts with foreign governments, state legislatures and members of the United States Congress. Previously, Britt served as senior adviser to Secretary Elaine Chao at the U.S. Department of Transportation. In this role, Britt was tasked with developing the strategy to implement one of the administration's top legislative priorities, the modernization of the country's air traffic control system. Before returning to government service in 2017, Britt was the senior vice president of Global Business Development, Government Relations and Corporate Communications at UFC. Under Britt's leadership in 2016, UFC successfully campaigned and lobbied to legalize professional mixed martial arts (MMA) in New York state. Britt's efforts to successfully promote and regulate the sport across North America and the globe led to the record-breaking \$4.2 billion sale of the UFC in the summer of 2016.

### 2003

**Rayna Banks** shared in two Emmy Awards won by ESPN at the 39th Annual Sports Emmy Awards ceremony, held May 8 in New York City. Banks is a senior managing producer for "E:60" and "Outside the Lines," the sports network's flagship journalism shows. "E:60" was honored for Outstanding Long Feature for "Fight On," the inspirational story of USC blind



long-snapper Jake Olson, and Outstanding Journalism for "The Dictator's Team," the story of a former Syrian national team player who traded a lucrative career as a soccer star for a life in a refugee camp. Banks was a supervising producer for "Fight On." "Outside the Lines" host Bob Ley was named Outstanding Studio Host.

### 2006

**Jenna Crabb** was promoted to senior accountant at Chiampou Travis Besaw & Kershner LLP. **Brian Guppenberger** was named partner at the Orlando office of Wicker, Smith, O'Hara, McCoy & Ford, P.A. **Brian Pilarski** was named one of Business First's 2017 40 Under 40. Pilarski is executive director of the Seneca-Babcock Community Association, one of the most respected community centers in Buffalo. As executive director, his annual budget has increased from \$137,000 to more than \$1 million. His leadership led to the merging of four Buffalo nonprofits — the Seneca-Babcock Community Association, Hennepin Community Center, George K. Arthur Community Center, and Schiller Park Community Services. Pilarski is also the force behind Seneca-Babcock's new \$6.2 million facility in Buffalo's Lovejoy District. He also serves as president of the Maryvale School District Board of Education; president of the Bishop Timon-St. Jude High School Franciscan Mentors, and chair of the Buffalo Community Center Collaborative. Before starting his career in nonprofits, he was a commissioned officer with the U.S. Army. Pilarski and his wife, Jennifer (Tieppo), have two children. **Tom Reisenweber** won several writing awards as a sports writer for the Erie Times-News. He received The Golden Quill award for best sports story, which was also a finalist for best video and best column writing. He also earned a Keystone Press award (honorable mention for best sports story) and Pennsylvania Women's Press Association (honorable mention for best sports story). His sports story that won the Golden Quill and Keystone awards was about an inner-city kid who avoided gangs and drugs to set the city scoring record as a basketball star and went on to play at Division I Tennessee State. The PWPA award was for a story on twin sisters who are at the top of



# Patrick Frank, '89, takes command of JRTC, Fort Polk

**Brig. Gen. Patrick D. Frank, '89**, has assumed command of the Joint Readiness Training Center (JRTC) and Fort Polk, La.

An installation change of command in which Frank became the commanding general was held at Fort Polk's Warrior Field Feb. 28. During the ceremony, reviewing officer Lt. Gen. Laura J. Richardson, deputy commanding general of United States Army Forces Command, passed the installation colors to Frank, representing the passing of command from one leader to the next.

The JRTC and Fort Polk is a sprawling Army installation in central Louisiana where leadership is a complex assignment with myriad duties. As the Army's premier training center, about one-third of the Army's brigade combat teams, Army National Guard and Reserve units and their associated rotational unit enablers train here each year to meet their readiness requirements.

This is the JRTC and Fort Polk's most important Army level requirement and influences all other operations on Fort Polk. The JRTC and Fort Polk has trained and deployed thousands of soldiers to defend the country since the Global War on Terrorism began.

In support of rotational soldiers — and those stationed at Fort Polk — are civilians

who work in agencies across the installation. Fort Polk contributes more than 14,000 jobs and \$760 million in payroll to the economy. With a population of 32,000, Fort Polk has an estimated annual impact to Louisiana of \$1.45 billion (as of 2016).

Frank graduated from Bona's in 1989 with a bachelor's degree in finance and was commissioned as an infantry officer. He holds a master's in public administration from the Maxwell School at Syracuse University; a master's in national security and strategic studies from the U.S. Naval War College; and a master's in strategic studies from the U.S. Army War College.

Frank has served in a variety of command and staff assignments throughout the world.

Before his assignment to Fort Polk, Frank served as the deputy commanding general and acting senior commander of 1st Infantry Division — "the Big Red One" — at Fort Riley, Kan. He has deployed in the surge of forces to Kandahar, Afghanistan, for Operation Enduring Freedom XII-XIII and to Baghdad as part of the surge during Operation Iraqi Freedom-V.

Frank was promoted to brigadier general on Dec. 4, 2015. He was inducted into the



Lt. Gen. Laura J. Richardson, deputy commanding general of United States Army Forces Command (right), passes the installation colors to Brig. Gen. Patrick Frank.

Seneca Battalion Hall of Fame at St. Bonaventure in 2016.



## A Bonnies hoops connection

Who would have thought that there would be a St. Bonaventure basketball connection at a high school in Burke, Va.? Not long after the season started, Lake Braddock Secondary School Head Coach Brian Metress, Class of 1984, learned that two of his varsity basketball players had ties to the Bonnies. Joe Margraf, '89 (dad of Nick Margraf), and Jack Mennes, '67 (grandfather of Jake Mennes), both attended St. Bonaventure. Pictured at the December 2017 Glory Days Basketball Tournament in Burke are (from left) Joe Margraf, Nick Margraf, Jake Mennes, Jack Mennes, '67, and Brian Metress, '84. Metress, who has been head coach for the past 17 years, and his Lake Braddock Bruins went on to win the Glory Days Tournament. Jack Mennes, from Amherst, N.Y., was in Burke visiting his family over Christmas.



## Hearst employees show their Bona pride

Bonaventure alumni and Hearst employees Chris Mardany, '87, MSL '17, Kevin Cromie, '87, Lisa (Denaro) Gray, '85, and John Baniewicz, '08, gathered for a Bona Pride Day photo in their uptown Charlotte, N.C., office of the Hearst Service Center (HSC). Together they total more than 67 years with Hearst. Mardany is the vice president and director of the HSC, Cromie is the controller for Hearst Magazines, Gray is a senior analyst for Hearst Health, and Baniewicz is a senior analyst for the HSC.

their respective sports nationally on the Division II and III levels.

**2007**

**Meghan Monahan** of Williamsville, N.Y., was promoted director of clinical residential services at Gateway Longview. Monahan was hired in 2015 as assistant director of clinical residential services and is a solution-focused trauma-informed mentor for the agency. Monahan is responsible for the provision of appropriate and effective therapeutic services for youth enrolled in residential treatment. She oversees a team of five social workers who assess family dynamics, strengths, and needs to ensure youth in care and their families receive therapeutic counseling and support as they work to return to a stable home environment. In addition to her bachelor's in psychology and master's in counselor education from St. Bonaventure, she holds a New York state professional certificate as a licensed mental health counselor, is a certified safeTALK (Suicide Alertness For Everyone) trainer, and is trained in the solution-focused, trauma-informed care treatment model. Gateway Longview cares for more than 3,600 children and families annually from across Western New York through behavioral health and community-based services, residential treatment and special education programs.



state professional certificate as a licensed mental health counselor, is a certified safeTALK (Suicide Alertness For Everyone) trainer, and is trained in the solution-focused, trauma-informed care treatment model. Gateway Longview cares for more than 3,600 children and families annually from across Western New York through behavioral health and community-based services, residential treatment and special education programs.

**2008**

**Alex Cole** was named the director of Admission at MCPHS University (Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences) in Worcester, Mass. After earning his bachelor's degree in journalism & mass communication at St. Bonaventure, Cole earned his Master of Science in management at Keuka College. He is now working toward a doctorate in educational leadership and professional practice at Travecca Nazarene University. He lives in a suburb of Worcester with his wife, **Laura (L'Esperance), '09**, and his daughter, Lydia.



**Scott Eddy**, director of athletics communications at St. Bonaventure, was honored with a district writing award by the College Sports Information Directors of

America (CoSIDA). Eddy was recognized for the top athlete profile from District 1 (NY, CT, ME, MA, VT, NH, RI, Nova Scotia, Quebec) for the 2017-18 academic year. It is the fourth straight year he has received a CoSIDA writing award, including the National Story of the Year in 2016.

**2012**

**Katelyn Himes** competed in the search for Miss New York, USA, in January. As she met many professional, hardworking young women from all across the state, she proudly represented her alma mater wearing a sash that said "St. Bonaventure Bonnie."

Himes writes, "For those who hadn't heard of my hometown, I was excitedly able to point out Cutco, Zippo (just over the state border) and explain about businesses such as my employer, Dresser-Rand." Although she did not place at the competition, she said her motto going into the competition and walking out of it holds true: "I'm bringing to the table a positive outlook on life, a respect for every person, and a hardworking mentality to dream big and reach goals." She said she took away many things from her time at St. Bonaventure, including confidence to follow her dreams, a more open mind and awareness for other cultures, and the importance of believing in herself despite others not understanding or appreciating her vision.



**2013**

**Kayla (O'Keefe) Dixon** has spent the past year as the 5 p.m. news producer with WPSD Local 6 in Paducah, Ky. Before that, she worked three years with Spectrum News in Rochester, N.Y., as a producer/web editor.

**2014 [Reunion Year 2019!]**

**Mike Burud** was named to the men's and women's head coach position at SUNY Delhi after four years assisting the staff at Marist. **Christopher Spiker** is a TV reporter at WBTW News 13 in Myrtle Beach, S.C.

**2015**

**Reid Okoniewski** is now with The Phoenix House as the regional development manager (Mid-Atlantic). Phoenix House is a non-profit behavioral health care organization specializing in the treatment and prevention of substance use and co-occurring mental health disorders, serving the metropolitan Washington, D.C., region. Previously, Okoniewski was the development coordinator with Catholic Charities Archdiocese of Washington, D.C., and relationship manager with the Foundation of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Buffalo.

**Matt Rochna** was named head men's and women's swimming and diving coach at Washington and Jefferson (Pa.) College after assistant stints at Ohio and Indiana (Pa.).

**2016**

**Michael J. Marracino** and **Patrick J. Hogan** have joined Dopkins & Company's Asset Based Lending group as field examiners. They perform independent reviews of borrower collateral records and financial reports in order to help financial institutions determine and assess collateral values

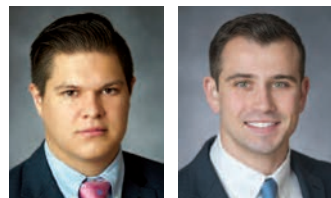


**Catching up with the Dev Bears**

A gathering of the Bears of 3rd Dev East was held June 10. Pictured are alumni representing the classes of 1973, '74 and '75.



utilized to secure loans and credit worthiness, while also facilitating the identification of potential credit risk to lenders.



While pursuing his academic career, Marracino spent several years working for a major distributor of branded apparel and merchandise. He was a camp instructor for the Western New York School of Hockey and volunteer for the Carleton Place Elementary School in Ontario, where he worked directly with students to improve their hockey techniques and engage in teamwork building exercises. While studying at St. Bonaventure, Hogan was a graduate assistant and led the Freshman Leadership Program, where he routinely mentored incoming students as they transitioned from high school to higher education. **Emily McDonough** was named head softball coach at Southern Vermont College. McDonough has been a graduate assistant coach at Frostburg State University for the last two years.

She earned a Master of Education in school counseling degree from FSU in May. While at Frostburg State, McDonough was the top assistant to Head Coach Wes Landrum and helped the Bobcats go 46-31 (.597) over the last two seasons; FSU made it to the Capital Athletic Conference postseason tournament in each of those years with a pair of wins in 2017 seeing the squad get eliminated right before the championship round. McDonough was active in recruiting for the Bobcats and, as the primary infield coach, led the team to a .973 fielding percentage in 2017 — a mark that ranked 11th in NCAA Division III. McDonough is a member of the National Fastpitch Coaches Association as well as the American School Counseling Association. She has spent time away from the diamond by volunteering with Special Olympics, the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, and the STEM Project.



**2017**

**Brooke Bensley** is a mid-market client services coordinator with Manning & Napier in Fairport, N.Y.

**2018**

**Alexandra Pochop** is interning this summer at thinkorswim TD Ameritrade in Chicago before beginning the MBA program at St. Bonaventure this fall.



Katie Peek, '09, '10, and John Kolkowski, '11



Melissa Messina and Ryan Hoffnagle, '00



Courtney Spencer, '11, '12, and Jack Gostomski, '11



Mary Best, '14 and Bradley Loliger

Additional Wedding Announcements  
Jennifer L. Jermain, '05, and Joseph C. Wagner



Kaitlyn Stooks, '12, and Brian Mahns, '10, '11



Taylor Phillips, '14, and Michael Vitron, '12, '13



Regina Penepent, '14, and Nicholas Turgeon, '14

## Bonaventure Magazine Wedding Guidelines

To submit your announcement for an upcoming edition:

- use the enclosed envelope
- email [bonalumnus@sbu.edu](mailto:bonalumnus@sbu.edu)
- use the online form at [www.sbu.edu/BonaMag](http://www.sbu.edu/BonaMag)
- mail a print to Bonaventure Magazine, P.O. Box 2509, St. Bonaventure University, St. Bonaventure, NY 14778

All photos must be of good reproductive quality. **Pictures submitted electronically must have a resolution of at least 300 dpi. Original images from a camera or cell phone work best.**

Photographs that have been shared on social media or via text have likely been compressed and will not be large enough to reproduce in the magazine. The university is prohibited from publishing copyrighted photographs, unless accompanied by written permission from the photographer.

Photos are published at the discretion of the editor. Photos that include banners or other insignia of the Brown Indian mascot will not be accepted.

Don't forget to notify us of your new name or address! Update your information at Bona's Online at [www.sbu.edu/bonasonline](http://www.sbu.edu/bonasonline) or send an email to [Bonalumnus@sbu.edu](mailto:Bonalumnus@sbu.edu).

St. Bonaventure University takes pride in its alumni and joyfully shares the news of their lives and achievements. Supportive of our Catholic Church's teachings, publication of announcements provided to us by our alumni does not necessarily imply an endorsement by St. Bonaventure University.



Michelle Nevins and Justin Fields, '06



Catherine Snopkowski, '02, and Mark Liechti



Meghan Moran, '06, and Crispin Wilson



Emily Passey and Mike Vieyra, '07, '08



Tess Hanna, '12, and John Meka, '10



Adelaide Hahn, '16, and Nick Papalia, '16



Sara Regal, '12, and Michael Humphrey



Lauren Pingelski, '12, '13, and Kevin Murphy, '12, '13



Melissa Gentile, '12, and Patrick Crowe, '13



Kacie Strong, '14, and Caitlin Smith, '11



Kayla O'Keefe, '13, and Daryl Dixon



Liz Witter, '11, and Steve Pardo



Katherine Danahy, '10, and Jeremy Durnan, '08



Marykatherine Coyne, '10, and Matthew Fahey, '08



Meghan McAllister, '08, and Ali Gillani



Sarah Neu and Lance-Eric Baker, '07, '08



Jennifer Bargmann and Tyler Bellamy, '10



Megan Brady and Ryan Shannon, '08

## Alumni Deaths

*A directory of deceased alumni is available on Bona's Online. Not a member of Bona's Online? Register at [www.sbu.edu/alumni](http://www.sbu.edu/alumni).*

John Wozer, '45, *Tonawanda, N.Y.*  
 Rev. Samuel J. Faiola, '46, *Buffalo, N.Y.*  
 Walter F. Martineau,\* '48, *Bronson, Mich.*  
 Raymond J. Breehey, '49, *Binghamton, N.Y.*  
 Thomas E. Freaney, '49, *Bakersfield, Calif.*  
 Gerald R. Abbott, '50, *Warren, Pa.*  
 James M. McDonough, '50, *Olean, N.Y.*  
 Leland K. Little, '50, *Alpharetta, Ga.*  
 Paul W. Koetter, '50, *Mesa, Ariz.*  
 Christopher J. Scaturo, '50, *Olean, N.Y.*  
 Frank P. Walsh, '50, *Scotch Plains, N.J.*  
 Rev. Arthur M. Calter,\* '51, *Boston, Mass.*  
 John J. Murphy '51, *Massapequa Park, N.Y.*  
 Msgr. Felix M. O'Neill,\* '51, *Pennsauken, N.J.*  
 John F. McGowan, '52, *Endwell, N.Y.*  
 Dr. John P. O'Connor, '52, *Butler, Pa.*  
 Conrad N. Pawlak, '52, *Dunkirk, N.Y.*  
 Eugene A. Rojek,\* '52, *Hemet, Calif.*  
 Conrad R. Stemski, '52, *Painted Post, N.Y.*  
 Daniel E. Stoddard, '52, *Staten Island, N.Y.*  
 Victor G. French, '53, *Waterloo, N.Y.*  
 Francis J. Henderson, '53, *Bowie, Md.*  
 Rev. William C. Karg, '53, *Oil City, Pa.*  
 William M. Kenville, '53, *Binghamton, N.Y.*  
 Joseph M. McShea, '53, *Rochester, N.Y.*  
 Rev. Arthur T. Anderson, '54, *Camden, N.J.*  
 Willis C. Bruton, '54, *Hilton, N.Y.*  
 August P. Kayes, '54, *Portville, N.Y.*  
 Walter R. Kuhn, '54, *Southold, N.Y.*  
 Rev. Carmine B. Raneri\*, '54, *Waterbury, Conn.*  
 Joseph T. Sadlowski, '54, *Fort Mill, S.C.*  
 Margaret G. Slawson, '54, *Bay Shore, N.Y.*  
 Jerome P. Sullivan, '54, *Lynchburg, Va.*  
 Frederick P. Maenza Sr., '55, *West End, N.C.*  
 Peter A. Abbass, '56, *Carthage, N.Y.*  
 Eugene J. McDevitt, '56, *Clearwater, Fla.*  
 Col. Stanley F. Wysocki, D.D.S., '56, *University Place, Wash.*  
 Joseph Zanche, '56, *Rochester, N.Y.*  
 Frank J. Palmer, '57, *Sacramento, Calif.*  
 William Pryle, '57, *Throop, Pa.*  
 Robert J. Waters, '57, *Aiken, S.C.*  
 Charles W. Curley, '58, *Olean, N.Y.*  
 Donald H. Holler, '58, *Tonawanda, N.Y.*  
 Arthur G. Mohan, '58, *Whitehouse Station, N.J.*  
 Rev. Donald M. Kos, O.F.M., '58, *Rome, Italy*  
 Donald J. Noreika, '58, *Midlothian, Va.*  
 James E. Odell, '58, *Tequesta, Fla.*  
 Raymond J. Kyser, '59, *Allegany, N.Y.*

Travers J. O'Connor, '59, *Jacksonville, Fla.*  
 Louis P. Augostini, '60, *Johnson City, N.Y.*  
 Walter L. Ranallo, '60, *Tallahassee, Fla.*  
 Joseph J. Simons, '60, *Inlet, N.Y.*  
 John F. Carroll, '61, *Fort Myers, Fla.*  
 William R. Mahood, '61, *Largo, Fla.*  
 James J. Banek, '62, *West Palm Beach, Fla.*  
 Allen R. Cecchi, '62, *Arleta, Calif.*  
 Charles T. Colgan, '62, *Lincoln University, Pa.*  
 Michael F. Gallagher, '62, *Lewiston, N.Y.*  
 Paul G. Robert, '62, *Chicago, Ill.*  
 Dr. Wayne M. O'Sullivan, '63, *Buffalo, N.Y.*  
 Anthony F. Scarano, '63, *Saratoga Springs, N.Y.*  
 Rev. Msgr. John W. Zeitler, '63, *Buffalo, N.Y.*  
 Rev. Raphael D. Bonanno, O.F.M., '64, *Boston, Mass.*  
 David J. Sierk, '65, *Rochester, N.Y.*  
 Judith (Baker) Cardoni, '65, *Ellington, Conn.*  
 Nicholas J. Greisler, '65, *Schenectady, N.Y.*  
 Sidney P. O'Connor, '66, *Webster, N.Y.*  
 Eileen (Gleeson) Hirce, '67, *Bernardsville, N.J.*  
 Thomas E. Morrissey, '67, *North Andover, Mass.*  
 James L. Corte, '68, *Shelby Township, Mich.*  
 Fr. Gary P. Rogers, '68, *Brooklyn, N.Y.*  
 Linda K. Jewett, '69, *Buffalo, N.Y.*  
 Bernadette E. (Cook) Taylor, '71, *Cuba, N.Y.*  
 Anthony V. Battista, '73, *Carmel, N.Y.*  
 Mary E. Cantwell, '73, *Margaretville, N.Y.*  
 David W. Karl, '73, *Belmont, N.Y.*  
 Michael A. Phillips, '74, *Salamanca, N.Y.*  
 Mark J. Carney, '76, *Plattsburgh, N.Y.*  
 Timothy J. Eppolito, '76, *Syracuse, N.Y.*  
 Thompson E. Storey, '77, *Old Hickory, Tenn.*  
 Donna (Reed) Marushak, '79, *Slatington, Pa.*  
 Michael P. Neu, '79, *Cuba, N.Y.*  
 Steven P. Ragan, '79, *Spencerport, N.Y.*  
 Dr. Nancy E. Coulmas, '81, *Bloomsburg, Pa.*  
 Jeffrey W. Sortore, '83, *Franklinville, N.Y.*  
 Mark J. Ronan, '84, *Stamford, Conn.*  
 Laura M. (Bowes) Traynor, '84, *North Salem, N.Y.*  
 Rev. Karen P. (Husted) Snyder, '86, *Oakfield, N.Y.*  
 Thomas M. Fitzpatrick, '86, *Bala Cynwyd, Pa.*  
 Marianne E. Blanke, '87, *Holly Springs, N.C.*  
 Michele L. (Voelk) Maliwauki, '87, *Victor, N.Y.*  
 Phillip C. Bernstein, '87, *Olean, N.Y.*  
 Thomas J. Hanifin, '87, *East Amherst, N.Y.*  
 Cynthia A. Lawton, '89, *Penfield, N.Y.*  
 Timothy M. Dowling, '90, *Boulder, Colo.*  
 Carol L. Halstead, '92, *Cuba, N.Y.*

David Waugh, '94, *Olean, N.Y.*  
 Patricia A. Santiago, '94, *Bradford, Pa.*  
 Jack R. Alexander, '96, *Hamburg, N.Y.*  
 Sarah E. Stebbins-Grossman, '01, *Attleboro, Mass.*

### IN MEMORIAM

**Elizabeth L. "Betty" Boardman**, who worked at the university for 42 years, passed away March 6. Mrs. Boardman retired in 2008 as executive secretary to the provost and vice president for Academic Affairs.

**Johnny R. Bilby**, who had worked in Housekeeping at the university since 2007, passed away April 21.

**William M. Kenville**, Class of '53 and a St. Bonaventure Athletics Hall of Fame member, passed away June 19. He earned All-American Honorable Mention honors and, at the time, set nine different Bonaventure records in scoring and rebounding. He was drafted 22nd overall in the 1953 NBA Draft by the Syracuse Nationals, who won the 1955 NBA title.

**Frank A. Martin**, head of the university's ROTC program from 1997 to 2001, passed away March 21. He also directed the Achievement Center for Continuous Learning on campus for a year.

**Dr. Wolfgang Natter**, who was dean of the School of Arts and Sciences from July 1, 2010, through July 15, 2014, passed away April 29.

**Matthew J. Tornambe**, who retired in 2013 as associate vice president for Advancement after 10 years of service at the university, passed away Feb. 5.

**Robert Worthington**, who worked in the Facilities department for 28 years, passed away April 9.

\* Member of the Seraphim Legacy Society

### Births / Adoptions

## Welcome, Baby Bonnies!

River Grace to Crystal Anne and **Christopher Monelt, '94**  
 Cora Jude to **Lauren Barbati, '01**, and Nick Favata  
 Isabelle Jean to **Maureen (Langton), '01**, and Charlie Henderson  
 Matthew Thomas to Katie and **Matt Welton, '01**  
 Kyra Josephine-Mae to **Brigid Mullen-Richards, '02**, and Justin Richards  
 Riley Ellen to **Liz (Demcsak), '03**, and **Andrew Keenan, '03**  
 Dominic John to **Amy (Rumschik), '03**, and Bryan McCorry  
 Connor Jeffrey to **Jessica (Hulshoff), '05**, and Kevin Mohr

Avery Quinn to **Julie (Sirianni), '06**, and Brandon Schmidt  
 Benjamin Jasper to **Danielle (Grobymer), '07**, and Brian Thomas  
 Annie Theresa to **Caroline (Keenan), '07**, and **Ferris Kelly, '07**  
 Aisling Rose to **Jessica (Taylor), '08, '13**, and **Sean Horan, '07**  
 Sebastian Quinn to Tracey Miraglia and **Michael Crawford, '08**  
 Isabelle Marie to **Alexandra (Holbrook), '09, '11**, and Victor Matos III  
 Emmett Bluford to **Kaitlin (Lindahl), '12**, and **Bryan Jackson, '12**



Aswan,  
Egypt



Sadarghat,  
Bangladesh



Pokhara,  
Nepal



Saint  
Placid's  
School in  
Bangladesh



Kathmandu,  
Nepal



Taxi in  
Kathmandu



Jaipur,  
India



Ethan and  
Lauren on an  
Annapurna  
trek out of  
Pokhara,  
Nepal.

## EXPLORE. EAT. REPEAT.

**Ethan Atwood, '05,** and **Lauren Gomes Atwood, '06, '08,** are settling down outside of Saratoga Springs, N.Y., after hitting the road in December 2015 to fulfill one of their life's goals of circumferencing the globe. They backpacked through 31 countries then drove across the southern U.S. and back up the East Coast, completing their journey, which they documented on [ExploreEatRepeat.com](http://ExploreEatRepeat.com).

They started in Iceland to view the northern lights, backpacked through Europe, also climbing the hill to Assisi; walked over the bor-

ders of Egypt, Israel and Jordan, then learned about dates in Israel. They rode buses through Nepal, and trains through India and Bangladesh, finally finishing in Southeast Asia, where they flew from Ho Chi Minh City to San Francisco.

Lauren writes, "We were lucky to be able to rediscover our roots in Wales and Bangladesh on this fabulous journey. Born and raised from different parts of the world, we are grateful to have found each other on my first day of campus 16 years ago."

Visit the Atwoods' blog at [ExploreEatRepeat.com](http://ExploreEatRepeat.com) to see more of Ethan's stunning photos.



**ST. BONAVENTURE**  
UNIVERSITY

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*If the magazine is sent to your son or daughter who no longer maintains a permanent address at your home, update their address via [www.sbu.edu/BonaMag](http://www.sbu.edu/BonaMag).*

**Members of the Class of 2022 kick off Orientation with icebreakers. Learn more about the largest freshman class in a decade >>> [Page 5](#).**

Photo by Danny Bush

