# BONAL ENDEVICES AND A CONTROL OF CONTROL OF

# Blessed to be Here

Backed by mentors who believed in him and anchored by a family he cherishes, Dennis DePerro finally winds up at SBU

Student-athletes earn bragging rights in the classroom p 13

New scholarship honors computer science professor p 18 Honor Roll of Donors for FY2017 p 33

### **BONAVENTURE** The Magazine of St. Bonaventure University









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For the university's 21st president, Dr. Dennis DePerro, the road to St. Bonaventure was 40 years in the making.

#### 13 A Foundation for Success

While many Bonnies athletic teams are succeeding in competition, just as many are continuing that success in the classroom.

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The passion and loyalty of our community members are among St. Bonaventure's greatest strengths. For Fiscal Year 2017, alumni and friends donated more than \$2.5 million to The Bonaventure Fund.

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## McGINLEY-CARNEY CENTER FOR FRANCISCAN MINISTRY

## Bona's celebrates and dedicates new ministry center in the heart of campus



The grand opening dedication and blessing were held Sept. 16 for the new McGinley-Carney Center for Franciscan Ministry. The building is named after Trustee Emeritus Jack McGinley, '65 (left photo, at podium), whose family foundation donated \$2.5 million for the project, and President Emeritus Sr. Margaret Carney (below). The center, besides housing the offices within University Mission and Ministries, contains conference and meeting rooms, a great room for larger assemblies and an Interfaith Prayer Tower.





# BONAVENTURE

#### **FACULTY RESEARCH**

### New research center focuses on attention and learning

A new research center at the university has begun looking at the cognitive impact of students bringing cell phones into the classroom.

Dr. Adam Brown and Dr. Althea Bauernschmidt have been named founding co-directors of the university's Center for Attention, Learning & Memory.

"While these wonderful pieces of technology can connect us across the globe,

cell phones divide our attention in the classroom," said Bauernschmidt, an assistant professor of psychology at



SBU since 2013. "This divided attention is more harmful than simply being distracted for a moment. It can cause breakdowns in cognitive processing at critical times in the learning and memory process."

The center will facilitate and support faculty development for professors as well as promote re-



search in the areas of attention and learning across departments and schools, said Brown, an associ-

ate professor in SBU's School of Education since 2000.

The interdisciplinary center, a joint effort between the School of Education and the School of Arts and Sciences, aligns with the university's new strategic plan, with its focus on a culture of students first as well as faculty and staff excellence. Faculty and staff development workshops will begin soon and will be followed by workshops for local school districts.

### **Community College of Beaver County signs transfer agreements with SBU**

Community College of Beaver County (Pa.) has signed transfer agreements with three academic departments and the schools of Business and Communication at St. Bonaventure.

The agreements pave the way for students to turn their associate degrees from CCBC into bachelor's degrees from St. Bonaventure in either English, history, biology, accounting, finance, management, marketing, or journalism and mass communication.

In fact, students who graduate from Community College of Beaver County with associate degrees in either business administration, accounting or business management are guaranteed acceptance into the BBA degree program at SBU.

Students who transfer 60 or more credit hours to St. Bonaventure are guaranteed full junior standing.

In addition, former CCBC Board of Trustees Chair Del Goedeker, a

## 650

The number of science researchers St. Bonaventure will host this summer during five Federation of American Societies for Experimental **Biology conferences. SBU will** welcome prominent scientists, faculty, postdoctoral fellows and graduate students during conferences on The Molecular Biophysics of Membranes, **Retinal Neurobiology and** Visual Processing, Dynamic DNA Structures in Biology, Protein Folding in the Cell, and The Lung Epithelium in Health and Disease.



Dr. Chris Reber (left) of CCBC and Dr. Joseph Zimmer of St. Bonaventure sign the articulation agreements at CCBC's campus in Monaca, Pa.

1962 graduate of St. Bonaventure, has created an endowed scholarship at both institutions to provide lifechanging, transformational opportunities for students. Goedeker is chairman of McDanel Advanced Technical Ceramics in Beaver Falls.

Through the generosity of his Goedeker Foundation, high school students from Beaver County are now eligible for substantial need-based scholarships — up to 95 percent of the cost of attendance, in some cases — if they enroll at St. Bonaventure.

## Kassnoff named interim dean of School of Communication

David Kassnoff has been named interim dean of the Russell J. Jandoli School of Communication.

A School of Communication faculty member since 2009, Kassnoff will take over on Jan. 12, 2018, for Dr. Pauline Hoffmann, who announced in June she was stepping down after five years as dean to return to the classroom. A search committee headed by Dr. Chris Mackowski is working to identify and select the permanent dean.

Kassnoff is a 1979 alumnus of St. Bonaventure. In 2016, he earned his master's degree in integrated marketing communications from SBU.

Kassnoff has also taught in journalism, strategic communication, digital media, and public relations programs at three other institutions: SUNY College at Brockport, St. John Fisher College, and Rochester Institute of Technology. Prior to his academic career, he worked in community affairs and corporate communications for Eastman Kodak.

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## Four join Board of Trustees

St. Bonaventure has welcomed four individuals to its Board of Trustees: Michael Anderson, Esq.; Fr. Linh Hoang, O.F.M., Ph.D.; Fr. Daniel P. Horan, O.F.M., Ph.D.; and Ann Swan.

Anderson, '77, of Berwyn, Pa., retired as vice president and treasurer at West Pharmaceutical Services, Inc., a de-



signer and manufacturer of pharmaceutical packaging and delivery systems, headquartered in Exton, Pa. He had been with the company since 1992. Anderson graduated from St. Bonaventure with a bachelor's degree in accounting. He and his wife, Monica (McEvoy), '78, have four children. Their

daughter Molly received her master's degree in integrated marketing communications from SBU in 2015.

Fr. Linh, a Franciscan friar of Holy Name Province, is an associate professor and chair of the Religious

Studies Department at Siena College. Fr. Linh has published articles, books and

book chapters in the areas of Asian American Catholics, Vietnamese Catholicism, comparative religion, migration, globalization, historical theology, and inter-generational re-



ligious practices. He is the author of the books "Southeast Asian Diaspora in the United States: Memories and Visions, Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow" and "Rebuilding Religious Experience: Vietnamese Refugees in America."

Fr. Dan, a Franciscan friar of Holy Name Province, is assistant professor of systematic theology at the Catholic Theo-



of systematic theology at the Catholic Theological Union in Chicago. He is the author of several books, including the award-winning "The Franciscan Heart of Thomas Merton: A New Look at the Spiritual Influence on his Life, Thought, and Writing." His latest book, published in 2016, is titled "God Is Not Fair and other Reasons for Gratitude."

Fr. Dan is the author of more than 120 popular and scholarly articles; is a frequent lecturer and retreat director around the United States, Canada, and Europe; and has previously taught at Siena College, St. Bonaventure, and in the School of Theology and Ministry of Boston College. Two of his three brothers, Sean, '07, and Ryan, '17, are also Bonaventure graduates.

Swan is executive director of the William E. and Ann L. Swan Foundation and an active volunteer in the Buffalo area. She serves on the boards of Christ the King Seminary in East Aurora and YMCA Buffalo Niagara. She is a past board member of the United Way of Buffalo and Erie County, Shea's Perform-



ing Arts Center, Catholic Diocese of Buffalo Foundation and Gilda's Club. She also serves on the advisory board of Hillside Family of Agencies' Work-Scholarship Connection, which aids at-risk youth.

Swan, who maintains residences in Clarence and Jupiter, Fla., is a graduate of SUNY at Buffalo and was a health and physical education teacher in Buffalo Public Schools for 29 years.

#### HELLINGER LUNCHEON

## School of Communication honors Andrew Bevevino, Lian Bunny



Hellinger Award winners Andrew Bevevino and Lian Bunny (center) are pictured with Jandoli School of Communication Dean Dr. Pauline Hoffmann and University President Dr. Dennis DePerro.

Andrew Bevevino, '16, and Lian Bunny, '17, winners of the university's most prestigious communications award, were honored at the 57th annual Mark Hellinger Awards.

More than 100 people, including eight past Hellinger winners, attended the October awards luncheon, held at Hearst Tower in Manhattan. Speakers included Stephanie Mehta, a deputy editor at Vanity Fair, and Mike Spain, '74, associate editor at the Albany Times-Union.

A native of Warren, Pa., Bevevino graduated summa cum laude with an honors degree in strategic communication & digital media. He works in Buffalo at Martin Davison Public Relations, the fastestgrowing public relations firm in upstate New York. He executes media relations, strategic communications and social media campaigns for clients like M&T Bank, 7-Eleven and Independent Health.

Bunny graduated summa cum laude with an honors degree in journalism and mass communication, with minors in Spanish, history and psychology. Recently, she was a photo editor for the Buffalo Bills and an intern at The Buffalo News. She freelances for The Buffalo News and has joined the staff at the Pittsburgh Business Times as a technology reporter.



**EXHIBITIONS** 

## BONAVENTURE

### 'Arabesque' textiles by Liz Whitney Quisgard on display through June

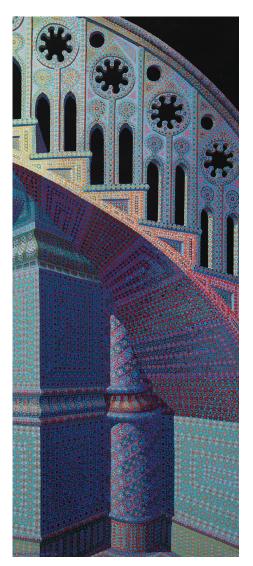
Works created by New York City artist Liz Whitney Quisgard are part of an exhibition in The Regina A. Quick Center for the Arts that is open until June 30, 2018.

The exhibition, "Arabesque," features some textile works by Quisgard, along with some of her most famous architectural pieces, paintings and sculptures depicting a quasi-imaginary world where everything is covered in an ornamental design reminiscent of Arabic or Moorish decoration.

Quisgard has generously donated eight sculptural pieces to the St. Bonaventure art collection as well as a painting titled the "Pulpit at St. Patrick's," which is part of the "Arabesque" exhibition.

In March, an exhibition featuring the work of alumna Jess Pfohl, '06, will open in the Quick Center. Pfohl has worked with many artists in a range of mediums, including film, photography, textile and music. She attributes the combination of these experiences as being the core influence of her work. Even though the style of work changes and evolves, the subject matter tends to revolve around human behavior.

Pfohl has pieces permanently installed at Brooklyn Bowl, E-Villa in Atlanta, and The Alchemy of Art in Baltimore.





## 250

The number of high school students who attended the Jandoli School of Communication's CommDay 2017. The students dove into a number of workshops presented by SBU faculty and students on photography, social media, broadcasting, writing, journalism, public relations and advertising.

#### STUDENT SUCCESS

#### Centralized academic support and advising center is one-stop shop for students

St. Bonaventure students now have a one-stop shop for academic and transitional support.

The university created the Student Success Center, a centralized center that integrates and streamlines services provided by the Learning Center, Disability Support Services, First-Year Experience, HEOP, International Student Services, and Online Student Support, among others, in one location.

The idea to bring the support services together under one umbrella emerged during the university's strategic planning process. The center is located in newly-renovated space on the first floor of Plassmann Hall.

#### Morales appointed director of Office of Veterans Services

Francisco "Frank" Morales has been named the new director of the university's Office of Veterans Services.

Morales has been chief of custo-

dial services at St. Bonaventure since April. He worked previously at St. Bonaventure (2007-2010) as a senior military science instructor in the Army ROTC program. He



was a guidance counselor in the Bolivar-Richburg Central School district from 2013 until April 2017, and was a mental health counselor for Catholic Charities from 2012 to 2013.

A retired master sergeant, Morales earned a Silver Star and Bronze Star medal for gallantry in action in Afghanistan. He's also served in peacekeeping operations in Bosnia and Rwanda, with more than 20 years of military experience encompassing leadership positions.

## ACADEMIC UPDATES Consolidation of theology and Franciscan studies to bolster academic offerings, mission at St. Bonaventure

Campus News

In a move designed to strengthen both academics and mission, the university has merged the Department of Theology and School of Franciscan Studies.

The university's Faculty Senate officially dissolved the School of Franciscan Studies to pave the way for the consolidation. The new department, to be called Theology and Franciscan Studies, is housed under the School of Arts and Sciences.

The School of Franciscan Studies had been housed under the internationally renowned Franciscan Institute, which has been based at SBU since the 1940s. The school was established in 1991 to distinguish the teaching program from the research and publication work of the Institute.

The administrative reorganization will allow the Institute to focus its attention on scholarly research and publishing, said Fr. David Couturier, O.F.M. Cap., executive director of the Institute.

The merger, he said, will strengthen theology and Franciscan studies offerings to undergraduates.

"This will put a greater number of professors with a wide range of expertise at the service of our students looking for a wider variety of courses in theology," Fr. David said.

Six Institute faculty members with wideranging expertise will bolster a distinguished theology faculty featuring three full professors, each having more than 17 years of classroom experience at SBU.

"These (Institute) professors have special skills in historical theology, Islamic theology, Jewish theology and pastoral theology," said Fr. David. "At the same time, this expertise will allow us to strengthen our Catholic Franciscan offerings." Fr. Michael Calabria, O.F.M., Fr. David, Bob Donius, Jean-François Godet-Calogeras, Fr. Kyle Haden, O.F.M., and Fr. Dominic Monti, O.F.M., will be transitioning from the Institute to the new department.

They'll also continue their scholarly work in the Institute.

The move will enable the department to offer more courses and strengthen majors and minors in theology and Franciscan studies, while making the core values of the mission more accessible academically.

"We want students to appreciate the Franciscan intellectual tradition that has so much to say to help the world heal from consumerism, terrorism and the disregard for human rights around the world," said Fr. David, who stressed that university officials remain committed to the work of the Institute.

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Backed by mentors who believed in him and anchored by a family he cherishes, Dennis DePerro finally winds up at SBU

## Blessed to be here

TEXT BY TOM MISSEL

#### Photos by Danny Bush and David Andoh

is best friend in the business drew one of the biggest laughs at Dennis DePerro's Inauguration as St. Bonaventure University's new president. "Those of you who know him recognize that few, if any, conversations with Dr. DePerro are short," said Dr. Gerry Rooney, president of St. John Fisher College and a cherished friend of DePerro's for 35 years. They met as admissions counselors, Rooney at Saint Joseph's and DePerro at Canisius.

"On the many occasions that I sought his advice," Rooney said, "Dennis always began with the same response: 'Gerry, my boy' ... adding at some point along the way ... 'to make a long story short, which you know I can't do.'"

A conversation with DePerro will often detour to a destination you never imagined, but no one really seems to mind because he is that guy — an authentic, affable, emotional, insightful, intelligent, self-deprecating, hysterical human being, admired by colleagues of 20 years and alumni who've just met him.

After 13 speakers "officially" welcomed him aboard at his Inauguration Nov. 3 — he has been president since June 1 — and Trustees Chair Robert Daugherty draped the presidential medallion around his neck, DePerro stepped to the podium after a standing ovation. He paused for a moment and gazed into the Reilly Center crowd.

"After all that, Sherry," said DePerro, looking toward his wife in the sea of 47 DePerro family members, "if I predecease you, don't worry about any large funeral. It's all been said."

Of course, not all has been said. This chapter, perhaps the final one in his professional career, is just beginning. But while mentors convinced DePerro 20 years ago that he had presidential chops, he never imagined he'd be authoring that chapter at



St. Bonaventure.

DePerro's rationale seems paranoid — except that he has evidence to suggest otherwise.

"I told the search firm that I didn't think I'd be considered at Bonaventure because I was a Canisius grad," DePerro said. "In 1992, I applied to be the dean of enrollment at St. Bonaventure and became a finalist, but I was teased the whole day of my visit here because I was a Canisius grad."

The irony was not lost on him: St. Bonaventure was the place he always wanted to be.

Two friars from Buffalo's Bishop Timon High School took the shortcut over Humphrey Hill in their Ford Maverick to bring De-Perro to St. Bonaventure when he was a junior. He was mesmerized with the beauty of the campus, of Merton's Heart, and decided right then he wanted to come to St. Bonaventure.

"But God had other plans," he said.

The youngest of Peter and Jennie DePerro's four children,

# NAVENTURE

Dennis DePerro grew up in a traditional Italian family on Tifft Street in South Buffalo. Mass every Sunday at Holy Family Church, a fiveminute walk from home. Catholic schools from K through 12. Timon was a half-mile away.

Jennie didn't just cook for the family; she invited Buffalo News carrier Michael Murphy in for a "full-course spaghetti dinner when I came to collect bills on Saturdays."

Brothers Peter and Rich went to Canisius College. Dennis DePerro was determined to go to Bonaventure.

"It wasn't anything against Canisius; I just didn't want to follow my brothers," said DePerro, whose sister, Rose, went to school

for nursing. "Bonaventure had two scholarships that



they gave to Timon students and I was hoping to get one of them."

While he was away from home for Easter break in 1977, the financial aid packages arrived in the mail from Canisius and St. Bonaventure. His mom had opened them. When he arrived home she told him, "I have some bad news for you." Canisius' aid package was impossible to ignore.

"Our parents did everything they could to help us with school, but we were a blue-collar family and I couldn't turn that offer down," DePerro said.

He conveyed his lament in the yearbook of Timon classmate John Kilcoyne, SBU '81: "Thanks for being such a great friend. Good luck at Bona's. Wish I was going with you!"

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#### The Road to Bonaventure

The route to return to Bonaventure 40 years later took a sharp turn at the outset, but progressed in a measured and purposeful way soon after, guided by three men who saw something in DePerro early on in his career.

A biology major at Canisius, DePerro had designs on becoming a doctor. His sister was a nurse at Mercy Hospital and helped get him a job as an ER orderly to help pay for college. The experience pierced his psyche in a way he didn't foresee and the train to medical school quickly derailed.

Teaching biology suddenly seemed like a more palatable career option, but after teaching biology as a substitute at Timon for six months after graduation, he took a summer job in the finance office at Canisius to replace someone on sick leave. That's where he spotted a job posting for an admissions counselor at Canisius.

Higher education became his life. DePerro reflects fondly on his days as a counselor.

"The early 1980s was still an era where you were helping first-generation students get an education, when you were really a counselor and not just a salesman or marketer," DePerro said. "I helped people get into college, helped them decide their majors, stayed in touch with them for four years.

"And in my case, I was also working with international students, so I'd



▲ Nov. 2, the day before the Inauguration, was dubbed a Day of Action. Among the initiatives was a gathering to make Warm Snuggly Blankets for area cancer patients and service at the Warming House (left). Nancy Daugherty and Sherry DePerro are pictured above.

pick them up at the airport, and when I'd travel to visit their homes, their families couldn't do enough for me because they were so grateful. I really felt I was making a difference. I really loved that regular interaction with students."

Fr. Ed Ryan, S.J., was an executive vice president at Canisius and one of three Jesuits who had a profound influence on DePerro's career arc.

"I had been there maybe five or six years and he called me into his office and told me he thought I was ready for a shop of my own," DePerro said. "We had become good friends and he told me he had seen a lot of things in me — the leadership capacity, the energy — that he had seen in himself and that I could be the director of an admissions office."

Heeding the encouragement, DePerro applied for the director of admissions job at, of all places, Le Moyne. A finalist but ultimately spurned, he landed the same job a year later at Marietta College in Ohio, where he beat enrollment goals each of his five years there.

Midway through his tenure at Marietta, he pursued the admissions job at SBU. While he lost that job, news of his Bonaventure flirtation filtered back to the Marietta president, who was so desperate to keep DePerro that he boosted his title to dean of admissions and financial aid.

Better yet, Sherry DePerro, who had a good job as an accountant in Buffalo, started work as a trust officer at Peoples Bank in Marietta the next Monday morning.

DePerro sought the Bonaventure job because almost two years of tending to their 340-mile relationship was getting tiresome. They took their turns traveling to see each other, and met halfway once a month.

"You talk about determination. In 90 weeks, do you know how many weeks we went without seeing each other?" said DePerro, who met Sherry on a blind date and insists it was love at first sight. "Once ... and it was her fault! A friend of hers was getting married and she had a bachelorette party. She hates when I tell that part of the story."

In telling the tale, DePerro is laughing so hard he's almost crying, which isn't unusual because it doesn't take much.

Mention Fathers Ed Ryan, Bob Mitchell or Charlie Beirne — the latter two presidents of Le Moyne for seven years each between 1993 and 2007 — and DePerro stops and chokes on the back end of his sentence, moved to tears by the three leaders who convinced him he had the right stuff to be a college president.

DePerro had only been at Le Moyne a year or so when Fr. Mitchell brought him into his office to meet with Fr. Ryan, who had left Canisius a year earlier to be Fr. Mitchell's assistant.

"'Someday, we're not going to be around to run these schools and we're going to need guys like you that we can trust to carry on that tradition,' Mitchell told me. 'We really want to help you get your doctorate to help you become a president,'" recalled DePerro, who earned his doctorate through a cohort program at Penn in 2006. "You talk about a boost of confidence."

Impressed with his work at Marietta, Le Moyne had hired DePerro in 1995 to be the vice president for enrollment management, a position that oversaw 11 offices. He wound up being the boss of the man who beat him out for the admissions position six years earlier.

During DePerro's 18 years as vice president for enrollment, Le Moyne's undergraduate enrollment grew from 1,680 to 2,400, while graduate enrollment rose from 390 to 650 over the same period. For the last four years at Le Moyne, he was the inaugural dean of the Kathy and John Purcell School of Professional Studies, which specializes in health professions and education offerings.

Pat Bliss was hired by DePerro in 1996 and worked alongside him as the associate dean in the Purcell School.

"I always thought he'd make an excellent president. In my humble opinion, I think he will make a better president than dean, and he was a very good dean," Bliss said. "Dennis is a big-picture thinker and not everyone in academia is. He's able to take a 360degree look at any situation, assess it, and then sit back and connect the dots to see what's working and what isn't."

But what distinguishes DePerro is his "well-rounded world view," Bliss said.

"He has a tremendous macro-level understanding of how systems should work, but at a more micro level, he has a really solid understanding of human behavior," Bliss said. "And he will surround himself with talent because his ego is so grounded. He's not one to be threatened by you having better ideas than him."

#### The Strength of Family

People tend to gravitate to DePerro because he understands the importance of a maintaining a "work-life balance," Bliss said — even if it means going to the extreme.

The day before he was introduced to the campus community as president, DePerro was in College Park, Md., watching Providence



The president's sons, Andrew (left) and Matthew

College pull off one of the more remarkable rallies in NCAA soccer history, scoring four goals in 12 minutes to beat No. 1 Maryland, 5-4, to advance to the third round of the NCAA Tournament.

DePerro's youngest son, Matt, was a Providence freshman who wasn't even playing because he had been sidelined for the season with a concussion.



▲ Dr. Linda LeMura, president of Le Moyne College, was an Inauguration guest speaker, bringing greetings from the Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities. Most Rev. Richard J. Malone, Bishop of Buffalo, was the celebrant for the Inauguration Mass.





President DePerro finds himself misting up when talking about his family.

The DePerros then drove 325 miles through a mid-autumn snowstorm — losing power steering along the way and having to sit in a gas station parking lot for 90 minutes until it came back on — and arrived at their Allegany hotel at 3:30 a.m., less than seven hours before his first press conference.

At almost every talk he gives to a new audience, DePerro mentions the boys — Ancolonel, can't get five words out before breaking down as he expresses his gratitude to his little brother. All of Dennis' siblings and their extended families attended the Inauguration.

"Wow, what that guy did for Mom and Dad ...," Peter said, pausing to gather himself. "He has meant so much to all of us."

Of all the genuine sentiments family and



President DePerro participates in the blessing of the new McGinley-Carney Center for Franciscan Ministry on campus.

drew, a 2017 Providence alum and now an engineering student at Columbia, and Matt, who just made the all-rookie Big East soccer team — and how proud he and Sherry are of the young men they've turned out to be.

Family first is not a cliché with DePerro. It's just part of his DNA, a byproduct of the loving home he grew up in. DePerro's parents lived into their 90s and were typical of their generation: They weren't ever leaving their home to go to a nursing home.

"They were bound and determined to die there," DePerro said.

But they finally relented and took Dennis up on his offer to move them to Syracuse in 2010. DePerro found a condominium for them just down the street from his home.

"My mom was funny. ... She wanted Dad to be near one of the kids when she went," DePerro said with a laugh. "I was happy to do it. With Peter being overseas so much in the service, and Rich in Boston and Rose in Virginia, I was always the closest (geographically) to my parents. I had a great relationship with them and they were very close to the boys."

His dad suffered a stroke and passed away in 2012. His mom died three years later.

DePerro's brother Peter, a retired Army

friends expressed after learning De-Perro was named SBU's president, the one his brother Rich shared meant the most: "They have no idea what they're getting."

Once the search firm convinced him that he shouldn't let his Canisius heritage stand in the way of pursuing the Bonaventure presidency. DePerro

the new McGinpus. stand in the way of pursuing the Bonaventure pres dency, DePerro looked harder at

the job and realized that the strategic planning set in motion by his predecessors Sr. Margaret Carney, O.S.F., and Dr. Andrew Roth was aligned with his strengths.

"The allied health and enrollment management pieces were the kickers, and when I saw they were about to launch a capital campaign, I was really excited about the fundraising. Plus, the renewed emphasis on mission was so important to me. It all just seemed to fit," DePerro said.

#### And the winning number is ...

One of three finalists, DePerro had an exhaustive day of interviews last Nov. 11, believing a decision would come within a week. Upon departing, he learned the Board of Trustees would almost certainly make a decision by noon on Sunday, Nov. 13.

"This is where it gets weird," DePerro said.

After attending Mass early that Sunday morning, wishing son Andrew a Happy 21st birthday on Facebook as he waited for the service to start, DePerro returned home and was "getting antsy." He ate breakfast and shortly after 11 a.m. told Sherry, "Make me a grocery list or something. I have to get out of here."

At a small store in Liverpool where he

fancies the farm-grown local eggs, De-Perro glanced at his phone to check the time; it was 12:21. The phone rang as he checked the time. It was Dennis Barden, who co-chaired the search for Witt-Kiefer.

"He was calling to tell me I had been elected the 21st president of St. Bonaventure," DePerro said. "And then he tells me that they want to introduce me fairly soon, on the following Monday ... Nov. 21. And you know what day that is? My mother's birthday. And ... and ... we were just ranked 21st in the latest U.S. News rankings. Pretty bizarre, huh?"

Of course, DePerro hopes that 21st isn't the ceiling for the U.S. News ranking.

"I don't want to use the term hidden gem because that's so corny and cliché, but I always thought that, looking at it from a distance, St. Bonaventure had huge untapped potential," DePerro admitted. "And I've learned so much more about us since I was named president that it makes me feel even stronger about the place."

DePerro fervently believes that the distinction of a Bonaventure education is rooted in its Franciscan tradition.

"I loved my years with the Jesuits. They were great educators and gave me a great foundation," DePerro said. "But the experience that students have at a Franciscan university is special. There is much more of a spiritual dynamic to the place and much more focus on the development of the whole person. We develop people who are socially aware, who care about the world, and who care about others."

DePerro is fully aware of the challenges ahead in higher education, but believes there are "tremendous opportunities here." Having an "incredible partner" to fall back on for support when times are challenging doesn't hurt.

"I certainly overachieved. I've had a remarkable journey with Sherry," said De-Perro, clearing his throat to compose himself. "It hasn't always been easy but we've each done whatever we could to support each other's career and we haven't really sacrificed the ability to spend time with our kids because we waited until they were old enough before pursuing this.

"You know the line in that Celine Dion song? 'I'm everything I am because you loved me.' That's her. I couldn't have asked for a better partner."



Tom Missel is interim vice president for University Relations.

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Photo by Danny Bush

All Division I athletes at Bona's have mandatory study hall hours on campus.

## Our student-athletes pride themselves on excelling academically and building a

# Foundation for Success

#### By Scott Eddy

t's game time at the Reilly Center and a loud crowd of Bonnies basketball fans fills the arena with the undeniable sounds of a St. Bonaventure game night. Watching the players in today's stereotypical, win-at-all-costs major college athletics scene, chances are most fans aren't thinking about how the majority of those Bonnies student-athletes will be heading off to class and study halls the following morning.

But while many Bonnies athletic teams are succeeding in competition, just as many are continuing that success in the classroom.

The commitment of being a Division I athlete is one that takes dedication, focus and effective time management. In addition to hours of practice and competition each week, NCAA Division I student-athletes spend significant time on the road while in season, traveling on a near weekly basis to compete.

13



"

Our studentathletes are picking up extra majors and minors. They are going to set themselves up for success in the careers of their choice.

Heather McDivitt Assistant athletic director for academic support and student services



A typical day might begin with a 6 a.m. practice or an early morning weightlifting session, followed by classes. The afternoon might include film study in preparation for an upcoming opponent, more classes and an evening study hall or hopping on a bus for several hours en route to the next game. Even when on the road, the focus remains on academic success as study hall hours are enforced on road trips as well to make sure that when class time is missed, the students are working toward fulfilling their course requirements.

"Being involved in Division I athletics is not an easy thing from a time management standpoint; it is very demanding," emphasizes Michael Kasperski, lecturer in accounting and faculty athletic representative.

Though finding free time during the day might seem impossible during seasons, Bonnies are finding a way to be successful on the field, court and in the classroom.

In fact, last spring marked the 24th consecutive semester that St. Bonaventure student-athletes have produced a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher across all programs — most recently a sparkling average of 3.26. As of the spring 2017 semester, 73 percent of Bonnies student-athletes had a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or better while 48 percent of the university's 273 student-athletes were honored as members of the Atlantic 10 Commissioner's Honor Roll with cumulative GPAs of 3.50 or better. With 134 student-athletes honored by the Atlantic 10, St. Bonaventure registered a total higher than that of the league average despite being the league's second-smallest member by enrollment.

"We are here to develop our students," Athletics Director Tim Kenney said. "Our students work with our academic support staff in making sure they are taking the classes they need and balancing the work in the classroom with their practice and travel schedules."

The Bonnies are also impressing on a national level. The women's basketball program was best in the Atlantic 10 and ranked 18th last year in the nation in team GPA (3.527), the 10th time since 2002-03 that program has ranked in the nation's top 25.

Women's swimming and diving led the A-10 and stood 15th in all of Division I with a 3.57 team GPA last year. In addition, six Bonnies programs women's basketball, golf (3.559), men's soccer (3.405), women's soccer (3.374), women's cross country (3.518) and women's tennis (3.108) were all honored by the NCAA last spring for being in the top 10 percent of their respective sports in Academic Progress Rate (APR) scores for the 2015-16 academic year.

"What the numbers really tell you is our studentathletes are going above and beyond," Kasperski said. "The Atlantic 10 is a great academic conference. They pride themselves on being competitive in sports, but also being outstanding academically."

The success isn't limited to a few individuals on given teams – 12 of St. Bonaventure's athletic teams boasted a cumulative team GPA of more than 3.20 during the 2016-17 academic year while Bonnies student-athletes had a 91 percent graduation success rate.

The rise in student-athlete GPA has correlated with a sizable increase in the number of Bonnies athletes in recent years. In the past five years, the number of student-athletes on campus has risen from just more than 230 to 275 this fall. It's a number that will continue to swell with the addition of Division I men's lacrosse pushing the total to more than 300 next year.

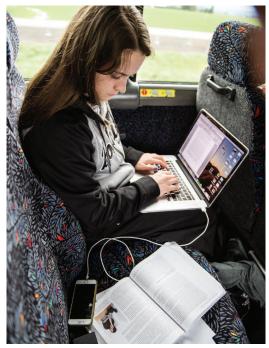


Photo by Craig Melvin

Junior Keely Fresh, a women's basketball player and journalism major, uses time on the bus for schoolwork.

#### Academic Accolades

"Our coaches recruit strong students and our resources on campus are outstanding," said Heather McDivitt, assistant athletic director for academic support and student services. "We have an administration that cares about every student and wants them to be successful. It's never about just being eligible, it's about being recognized as having the top GPAs in the Atlantic 10 and in the nation."

Nearly every Bonnies program has earned academic accolades in the past year:

• Both the men's and women's tennis programs earned recognition from the Intercollegiate Tennis Association (ITA) as All-Academic Team selections.

• Men's and women's swimming and diving were both honored by the College Swimming and Diving Coaches Association of America (CSCAA)



Sophomore women's lacrosse player Madison Lawhead completes an assignment during study hall in the Reilly Center.

as Scholar All-America Teams and women's lacrosse was cited by the Intercollegiate Women's Lacrosse Coaches Association (IWLCA) as one of the organization's Honor Squads for the last academic year.

• Bonnies softball (3.433) and baseball (3.293) each also rank among the top Atlantic 10 GPAs by sport with baseball posting the top semester cumulative GPA in head coach Larry Sudbrook's three decades at the helm.

• Men's cross country also recently earned NCAA APR recognition.

"We call them 'student-athletes,' but the reality is they are students," Kasperski said. "They have many outside commitments, but they are still willing to be engaged in the classroom just as they are on the court or field. It gives me a perspective that we really have great students here at St. Bonaventure and many of them happen to be athletes."

And while the majority of fans see the athletes in action during games, they may not consider all of the time dedicated to practice and travel. In truth, the commitment each student-athlete makes goes far beyond the two-to-three-hour window of a single game.

Though time on the road for competition during seasons can result in missed class time, the Academic Support Services staff works with studentathletes to make sure they remain on task.

"To be a student-athlete, the biggest thing is time management," McDivitt said.

Students are provided structured study halls eight-to-10 hours per week plus weekly meetings with members of the athletics academic support staff, including McDivitt and academic coordinator Joel Rosencrance.

#### **A Supportive Faculty**

Beyond that, the support of faculty has allowed St. Bonaventure students to excel. When on the road, students utilize Moodle, a learning platform built to create personalized learning environments utilized by many faculty members, to access notes and PowerPoints. It allows students to take in many of the experiences of the classroom even when traveling in-season.

"For a small school, we have amazing academic support," McDivitt emphasized. "The math lab, the writing center, one-on-one tutoring, we also have faculty who are very willing to spend extra time to help review for tests and assignments. We encourage our students to use those resources and provide that foundation and structure."

Kasperski echoed that sentiment.

"Here at St. Bonaventure, because of our size, we have the structure in place not only in the athletic department, but in all of the academic support that we have for our general student population," he said. "We have so many things in place to help our students succeed."

That includes one of the traits that has long set St. Bonaventure apart — small class sizes that lend to connected relationships between faculty and students.

"That's the beauty of St. Bonaventure being a small school where the professors so quickly know the students by name and they're involved in the students' lives," Mc-Divitt said.

"We coach our students to create that

bond with professors quickly and our professors are willing to provide that support. That's a key reason our students are so successful."

While the athletic accolades are outstanding during their collegiate careers, the odds are long that many Bonnies will ultimately go pro in their sport. In fact, according to NCAA data, more than 480,000 studentathletes compete collegiately, but less than 3 percent will play professionally.

That makes preparation for the ultimate entry into the workforce all the more important through classwork.

"The culture here is to maximize academic success that will lead them to lifelong success," McDivitt said. "Our student-athletes are picking up extra majors and minors. They're going above and beyond. They know they're probably not going to go pro in their sport, but they are going to set themselves up for success in the careers of their choice."

As for any St. Bonaventure student, the process is all about setting a foundation for success post-graduation.

"They're taking the classes that will help them once they graduate," Kenney said. "We're helping develop skills for them to use in the workplace once they graduate. And we're utilizing the network of alumni — members of the Bonaventure family who want to help our students succeed with internships and jobs once they graduate. We're proud of what our student-athletes are accomplishing and we want our alumni to know that they're representing their alma mater extremely well."



## Your gift to The Bonaventure Fund today changes lives tomorrow

t's hard to believe it's been a little more than a year since I accepted the position as director of Annual Giving. And what an impressive year it was. Because of your loyal support and commitment to St. Bonaventure University, you made my job easier and helped us achieve a historic goal of more than \$2.5 million for The Bonaventure Fund for fiscal year 2017.

We kicked off the fall semester with the inauguration of our 21st President, Dr. Dennis

R. DePerro, and are looking forward to his leadership to carry us into the future.

We are also looking forward to partnering with you to do even more great things for our students (see our feature story on Layne Dowdall, '20). Your generosity has allowed Layne to pursue her dream of becoming an environmental journalist. When you give a gift to The Bonaventure Fund, you give students like Layne a brighter future.

The Bonathon callers started their calling efforts in September. I hope you enjoyed some interesting and informative conversations with our students. If you missed their call, please add (716) 375-2000 to your caller ID and pick up the phone when they begin calling in the spring semester.

Our Reunion Class Challenge kicked off in November with 10 classes vying to reach their class goal before May 31. If your class year ends in 3 or 8, look for important messages from your class chairs about joining the class team and supporting the reunion challenge in upcoming emails this spring.

In closing, I would like to leave you with this quote from Harold J. Seymour, past president of The Giving Institute: "Leaders are the ones who keep faith with the past, keep step with the present, and keep the promise to posterity."

Be a leader. Make a difference in a student's life by donating at **www.sbu.edu/donate** before December 31.

Go Bona's,

Karen Heitzinger Director of Annual Giving

## #GenerousBonnies understand the power of giving together

Your yearly investment in **The Bonaventure Fund** supports the people, programs and places across campus that matter in the lives of our students and makes possible our unique brand of

#### Franciscan higher education. It also helps



students like Layne Dowdall, '20, find their niche at Bona's, by ensuring the robust student experience Layne and her classmates deserve.

Please give today by completing and returning the envelope enclosed in this magazine or by visiting **www.sbu.edu/donate**. And don't forget to **Make it a Match** with a matching gift! To learn if your company participates in the matching gift program, visit **www.matchinggifts.com/sbu** or check with your human resources department.

## Parents invited to join Parent Leadership Circle

This past fall marked the launch of the Parent Leadership Circle (PLC), a new volunteer network that offers families the opportunity to build a closer connection to St. Bonaventure.

Equipping parents with a deeper understanding of the university's mission, promoting resources available to students and assisting with volunteer efforts is at the core of the PLC. "The ultimate goal is continued



Danielle Grobmyer Thomas, '07

enrichment — for our students and the university," said Danielle Thomas, director of Advancement and Alumni relations, and manager of the PLC.

As a proud Bona graduate who "values the holistic education" she received here, Thomas said she looks forward to working with parents to ensure the continuation of St. Bonaventure's distinctive brand of higher education and rich student experience.

Parents are invited to learn more at

www.sbu.edu/parentleadershipcircle and to contact Thomas at (716) 375-2148 or dthomas@sbu.edu.



Photo by Danny Bush

Ellicottville, N.Y., native Layne Dowdall is a sophomore in the Jandoli School of Communication.

# Sophomore Layne Dowdall finds her niche at Bona's

ayne Dowdall, a sophomore journalism and mass communication major, came to love Bonaventure upon her second visit.

"Everyone was super nice," Dowdall, an Ellicottville, N.Y., native, said, adding that Bonaventure's small classes afford her the opportunity to forge real bonds.

"You get to know your professors really well, and you're not just one out of 100," Dowdall explained.

The strong personalities that initially drew Dowdall to Bonaventure continue to have an impact on her education.

"I have a really good adviser, so he's good at getting me involved in things and connecting me with alumni," she said.

In fact, her adviser, Dr. Denny Wilkins, professor in the Jandoli School of Communication, quickly found out Dowdall was interested in pursuing environmental journalism. While the market is niche, Wilkins himself has a background in environmental studies. Wilkins, who has been a member of the Society of Environmental Journalists (SEJ) since its founding, has served as the editorial board chair for the society's quarterly journal.

"He has a history in environmental journalism, so he's excited that I want to go down that same path," Dowdall explained.

Wilkins managed to wrangle her a membership with the SEJ, which allows her access to their publications and offers networking opportunities. He's also helped her figure out how to stay involved with environmental studies on campus.

"She came here as a freshman interested in environmental studies," Wilkins said. "So, I suggested she go see Dr. Ted Georgian, and Ted explained to her what the environmental studies minor is all about."

Dowdall hasn't been afraid to branch out on campus. She is involved with The Buzz campus radio station; the Bona Reach program, which is starting a newsletter for local high schools so students know about on-campus events; and Orion, the astronomy club.

"One thing that I've realized from being involved in Orion is how fast everything is moving," she noted. "When looking through a telescope, it needs to be adjusted every few minutes because what we are looking at shifts out of view."

What is firmly in focus for Dowdall is her future writing about environmental topics.

"I feel that there's usually miscommunications, where people aren't informed enough, or aren't informed properly," she said. "If I could help resolve those miscommunications through my writing, I'd be glad. I'm here to learn how to do that."



By Diana McElfresh, '18 McElfresh is a senior journalism and mass communication major. She is interested in pursuing advertising after graduation.

# BONAVENTURE

## Scholarship honors memory of beloved computer science professor Bob Harlan

By Susan Anderson

B efore class or after, on a Saturday morning or a weekday night — it didn't matter to Bob Harlan. If a student needed help, the longtime computer science professor at St. Bonaventure stopped what he was doing and offered guidance.

Now, a scholarship bearing his name will permanently aid students.

"I'm excited to be able to do this," said Bernadette Harlan, his wife of 27 years. "For Bob, it was all about the students. If someone wanted to learn, Bob was willing to teach."

Mike Nowak, a member of the Class of 1992, credits his 20-year career with Oracle to Dr. Harlan's influence.

Nowak remembers arriving at St. Bonaventure as a computer science major with too much experience in handheld video games and not a lot of motivation to work hard.

All that changed when he stepped into Bob Harlan's class-room.

"He possessed the one differentiating quality that all great educators have — passion," said Nowak. "I remember watching him furiously detail algorithms on the board, and I found the logical connections in his mind making their way to mine. As he got more and more excited about solving a problem, so did I. It was infectious and I realized how lucky I was to have found a subject I loved and a professor who could teach it so exceptionally."

Though Bob's death in the summer of 2015 was unexpected, his intention to fund a scholarship had been made known long before.

As a young man who loved math, he received a full academic scholarship to Wabash College in Indiana, earning an undergraduate degree in economics.

From there he headed to New York City for graduate studies, acquiring a doctorate in philosophy at The New School for Social Research and funding his higher education by working as a cabdriver.

He never forgot how important scholar-

ship money was for him years ago, or how hard it was to work and attend school at the same time. Throughout a 34-year teaching career at Bona's, he helped his students in big ways and small, even loaning money for textbooks when needed.

And he learned right along with them. Though he joined the faculty in 1979 as an associate professor in the Department of Philosophy, his interest in robotics led him to pursue a master's degree in computer As head of St. Bonaventure's Undergraduate Robotics Laboratory, Bob utilized the PeopleBot robot for undergraduate research activities and to combine two lines of his research: his work in artificial intelligence involving the design of planning systems that can understand commands in English and carry them out in a simulated world; and his work in robotics involving the development of software that would enable a robot to function in the real

world.

Much of the coding for programs controlling the robot's behavior, planning and reasoning were developed by computer science undergraduates.

"Bob was a very strong advocate for undergraduate research experiences," said Steve Andrianoff, Ph.D., chair of the Department of Computer Science and Bob's colleague for more than three decades.

"He was very much focused on students and their academic success," he said, adding that Bob worked individually with students or in

cical. When he groups of two or three, with numerous papers and presentations growing out of the research.

"Bob was a good colleague, a good leader and a true champion for the Department of Computer Science," Andrianoff said. "In fact, his legacy is the department and the program we have here."

Beginning in the 2018-2019 academic year, the Dr. Robert M. and Bernadette Harlan Endowed Scholarship will be awarded annually to a computer science or cybersecurity major from the Olean, Allegany or Franklinville area. Recipients will be selected by the Department of Computer Science and the Cybersecurity Program. Awards will be made on academic merit and financial need.

For more information about the scholarship, or to make a donation, contact Kathleen Ryan, assistant director of development for stewardship, at (716) 375-2308 or kryan@sbu.edu.



The late Bob Harlan will be remembered through a new scholarship at the university.

> science during his first sabbatical. When he returned, he established the Department of Computer Science and soon after became its chairman, a post he held for 15 years.

> Bob began experimenting with small Lego robotics, eventually receiving a prestigious National Science Foundation grant with colleague Dr. Anne Foerst to research more sophisticated robots, and later a grant from the George I. Alden Trust in Worcester, Mass., to fund the PeopleBot, a human-size robot that could react to its surroundings.

His studies in philosophy, phenomenology and artificial intelligence all came together with his work in robotics.

"He was equating how we learn in language," said Bernadette. "One of his examples was the word 'bridge.' As a human being, we can conjure up many things when we hear the word. Yet a computer would be limited by the number of definitions by whoever programmed it." www.sbu.edu/donate





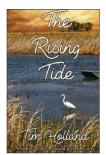
The historic Oak Hill Country Club in Rochester and The Mansion on Delaware Avenue in downtown Buffalo served as backdrops in late October for receptions welcoming St. Bonaventure's 21st president. A total of nearly 200 Bonnies gathered to hear Dr. Dennis DePerro lay out his vision for reinvigorating, reviving and restoring the campus and adding some exciting and attractive new programs.

The Rochester event was hosted by M&T Bank, courtesy of Dan Burns, '86, and Denise Wright Burns, '86, along with Andy Crossed, '93. University Trustee Bill Lawley, '85, hosted the Buffalo gathering. Graduates from the classes of 1952 and 1954, 2012 and 2013, and most classes in between, along with current and former trustees and current members of the National Alumni Association Board, attended.



**Tim Holland, '62,** is the author of the novel "The Rising Tide: A Sidney Lake Lowcountry Mystery."

The story features English professor Sidney Lake and his Gullah housekeeper,



Tillie James, who comb the lowcountry of South Carolina in an attempt to prove a woman innocent of a crime the police are not convinced happened.

Lake uses summertime as a respite for literary research and

planning his next semester, but his housekeeper has other plans for him. She needs his help in dealing with a touchy subject: the death of George Reed and the suspicions it aroused that his wife, Becky, was involved, even though the coroner and the police chief declared Reed's death an unfortunate accident.

It's up to Lake and Tillie — along with his graduate assistant, the local minister and a retired policeman — to save Becky Reed's reputation. The proof of her innocence seems to rest on the quirks of the rising and falling tide in the marsh where George died. But the search for truth turns out to be more than Lake bargained for — and suddenly, his life and those of his friends are on the line.

When most people think about investing, they picture a blur of numbers, graphs and technical jargon. Wealth advisor **Chris Gardner, '82**, is trying

to change that.

In his first book, "A Very Personal Finance Story: Reflections on Family, Love and Money," Gardner recounts how his views on investing have been shaped by his own life experiences, especially



the birth of micro-preemie twin boys in 2016.

"Spending more than five months in the NICU watching our boys fight for their lives, I had many revelations about what's important in life," Gardner said. "To my surprise, it also changed my thinking about how we communicate and make decisions about money. I realized that the financial services industry spends an inordinate amount of money and energy trying to answer questions that individual investors aren't even asking."

His family's experience in the Crouse Hospital NICU was especially revealing. He credits the unit's phenomenal nurses not only with helping him and his wife, Lori, survive their medical and emotional rollercoaster, but also with changing his perspective on how to help people find their way through important and difficult issues. "If they could convey complex medical information to us in a way we could understand when we were so scared and exhausted, I know I can better present technical investment concepts to clients," Gardner said.

Garner is president of FMF&E Wealth Management, LLC in East Syracuse. He and his family live in Skaneateles. For more information, including an excerpt of the book, visit personalfinancestory.com.

**Joe Hafner, '92,** has published "Rooster's Leap," available in paperback and Kindle editions. The novel tells the story of Rooster Michaels, a former hotshot

**JOE HAENER** 

bond trader, who battles alcohol and his past during this touching and sometimes hilarious search for redemption.

Rooster's hard-drinking ways have left him scrambling for cash and self-respect in small-town Tennessee.

When his latest money-making scheme backfires, Rooster is presented with an unexpected opportunity to turn his life around, until the sins of his past come seeking retribution.

Hafner has co-authored a pair of business books. "Rooster's Leap" is his first published novel.

Pamela (Say) Witter, '01, showcases her non-profit fundraising expertise with the publication of a new book, "Five Strategies to Increase Annual Fund Revenue: Groundbreaking Fundraising Solutions for Nonprofits."

"Five Strategies" covers several key fundraising areas: utilizing data, audience segmentation, relationship building, best practices, and, the most important of all, perfecting messaging. Witter calls these strategies "precious cargo" for nonprofits — they enable charities to provide resources to the communities they serve. They also assist fundraising professionals to



excel in a career that can be deeply fulfilling. Published by Charity Channel Press, "Five Strategies" is Witter's third book. Witter, vice president of Development & Community Engagement at Trocaire College, Buffalo, is a veteran fundraiser with

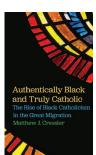
more than a decade of experience in increasing charitable revenue, donor acquisition and retention. She was deeply impacted throughout her life by what she calls "seed planters" — people who selflessly invest in others. She also writes a blog at www.beaseedplanter.com.

Matthew J. Cressler, Ph.D., '06, is the author of "Authentically Black and Truly Catholic: The Rise of Black Catholicism in the Great Migrations." The book explores the contentious debates among black Catholics about the proper relationship between religious practice

and racial identity.

Chicago has been known as the black Metropolis. But before the Great Migration,

Chicago could have been called the Catholic Metropolis, with its skyline defined by parish spires as well as by industrial smoke stacks and sky-



scrapers. This book uncovers the intersection of the two. "Authentically Black and Truly Catholic" traces the developments within the church in Chicago to show how black Catholic activists in the 1960s and 1970s made Black Catholicism as we know it today.

In the late 1960s, a growing group of black Catholic activists sparked a revolution in U.S. Catholicism. Inspired by Black Power and Vatican II, they fought for the self-determination of black parishes and the right to identify as both black and Catholic. Faced with strong opposition from fellow black Catholics, activists became missionaries of a sort as they sought to convert their coreligionists to a distinctively black Catholicism. This book brings to light the complexities of these debates.

Cressler is assistant professor of religious studies at the College of Charleston.

## SBU alumni show up in many places, many ways

Dear friends and fellow alumni,

I often reflect on the uniqueness of our alumni family — the continuing passion for the school, the donations of time and other resources, and most importantly, the willingness to help our current students, faculty, the university community, and other alumni. I see examples of alumni living the Franciscan ideals they absorbed at St.



Bonaventure nearly every day. To put it simply — you show up — in many places and in many ways.

Message from the National Alumni Association Board President

I see you. You bring someone to campus for a tour, fostering the next generation of Bonnies. You participate in Ride for Roswell and BonaResponds activities, getting Bonaventure's name out into the community and raising money to help others. You attend the Hellinger Award Ceremony, the Dick Joyce Sports Symposium, the Hall of Fame inductions, and Gaudete celebrations, supporting your fellow alumni.

You speak in classrooms and before campus organizations, teaching the current classes of Bonnies. You persuade others to support the school financially through #BonaGivingDay, The Bonaventure Fund, and Reunion Class Challenges, contributing to the university's scholarship and endowment funds. I've seen you, and I want to say thank you.

The university continues its metamorphosis into a stronger ver-

sion of itself. The university has hired the dean for the School of Health Professions, and the development of those programs is underway. This will be the first full year New York State's Excelsior Scholarship program will be in place, and the Admissions team is working hard to ensure the impact on our enrollment is minimal.

At this year's autumnal National Alumni Association Board meeting, we welcomed seven new members: Emily L. Ciraolo, '08; Patrick D. Doyle, '81; Neal J. Johnson, '73; Stephanie M. Karnas, '06; Kimberly A. Kayiwa, '96; Kevin J. Kelleher, '93; Matthew J. Minichelli, '04; Mary E. Wells, '76; Jennifer L. Westerholt, '10; Mary Ellen Wohlrab, '92. Would you be surprised to hear that each of them asked specifically how she or he could help St. Bonaventure?

How would you like to get involved? Would you be interested in joining the NAAB or one of the school-specific advisory councils? Could you refer a high school student to the university or represent St. Bonaventure at a college fair at a local high school? Could you offer internships or job opportunities at your organization? Would you be willing to help lead the alumni chapter in your area? Reach out to me or to the Office of Alumni Services to tell us where you want to be more involved.

St. Bonaventure needs you.

Pax et bonum,

Kristan McMahon, '97

#### **>>** 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, or email bonalumnus@sbu.edu. Submissions may be edited for clarity or length.

#### 1953

Joseph F. Snee Sr., and his late wife, Rosemary, were named to the Harford County Public Schools Educator Hall of Fame. Joseph worked for Harford's public school system for 28 years; Rosemary worked for the schools for 25 years. An English major at SBU, Joseph was hired as an English teacher at Bel Air High School and began his career with the Harford school system in 1955. In 1958, Joseph was appointed as a pupil personnel worker, providing direct services and case management to students who were experiencing academic, behavioral, emotional, physical and social difficulties, as well as support to their families. Ten years later, he was promoted to supervisor of pupil personnel services, and he served in this capacity until his retirement in 1983. He and his colleagues were instrumental in developing many of the first programs in Harford schools, such as the home and hospital teaching and school-embedded pupil services offices, which remain an integral part of the Student Services Department to this day. Throughout his career, he was involved in

policy and program development at the state level, serving as president of the Maryland Association of Pupil Personnel. Joseph's significant contributions include implementing a program for male students who were not successful in their home schools, as well as a special program for students who became pregnant so they could continue their education and gain access to health and community resources.

#### 1965

John Smallwood is retired and has permanently moved to Naples, Fla.

#### 1966

**Robert Tocha** (third from left), of Silver Spring, Md., was recognized with the Holy Name Province Francis Medal Aug. 3 for more than 30 years of volunteer service to the province. Tocha's



longtime friend and classmate Fr. Dominic Monti, O.F.M. (right), presided at the celebratory Mass. When the friars took on the parish of St. Camillus, Tocha transferred from his original parish and has been an active parishioner since then, helping the staff with English composition, adult faith formation, as well as serving as liturgical minister and planner. Tocha is a former high school teacher and assistant to the superintendent of schools of Prince George's County in Maryland and has served on the board of education for the Archdiocese of Washington, a volunteer position. Since Holy Name College opened in 1985, he has also of-

> fered free tutoring to friars in formation in various ways, including teaching English as a second language and GED classes.

#### 1967

John "Jack" Garner was profiled in a

### Rev. Richard Vosko, '65, receives honorary degree

Rev. Richard S. Vosko, Ph.D., '65, received an honorary doctorate of humane letters from St. Bonaventure in September for his contributions to the fields of religious art and architecture. Fr. Vosko, a priest of the Diocese of Albany, has been working since 1970 as a sacred space planner



Photo by Rudinec & Associates BOT Chair Robert Daugherty (left) congratulates Fr. Vosko.

throughout the United States and Canada.

An honorary member of the American Institute of Architects, Fr. Vosko's work is continuously recognized for excellence in liturgical design. Among his many personal awards, he is the recipient of the 2011 Berakah Award, the prestigious honor given by the North American Academy of Liturgy; the 2003 Georgetown Center for Liturgy Award for Outstanding Contributions to the Liturgical Life of the Church in America, Washington, D.C.; and the 1994 Elbert Conover Award from the Interfaith Forum on Religion Art and Architecture for contributions to the field of religious architecture.

Fr. Vosko is known internationally as an author and speaker on topics related to sacred places of worship. Among his extensive writings is the awardwinning book "God's House is Our House: Re-imagining the Environment for Worship." His current book project is "Architecture for Congregational Worship: The Search for Common Ground."

Fr. Vosko's 135-project portfolio includes 13 cathedrals and innumerable synagogue consultations. On the SBU campus, he was the design consultant for the new McGinley-Carney Center for Franciscan Ministry.

His larger projects include the 3,000-seat Roman Catholic Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels (Los Angeles) and the 3,500-seat United Methodist Church of the Resurrection in Leawood, Kan.

Fr. Vosko has a Ph.D. and M.F.A. from Syracuse University, an M.A. from the University of Notre Dame, and an M.Div. from Christ the King Seminary, which was located at St. Bonaventure when he graduated in 1965.

Rochester (N.Y.) Public Broadcasting station program that showcases people who have had an impact on their community. Garner mentions SBU in the program and he shows a picture of the late Russell Jandoli. The show can be viewed on YouTube at /tinyurl.com/ycv9kmav.

#### 1969

Nine alumnae from the Class of 1969 got together Nov. 4 at Belhurst Castle in Geneva, N.Y., to catch up and relive their SBU experiences. The classmates have stayed in touch over the years in spite of the fact that they hail from Florida to Maryland, New York and Nova Scotia. Gathering in November were Nancy Culligan, Honora Connelly Harrington, Mary Ann Holden, Diane Conrow Dwyer, Nancy Crowley Burdulis, Nancy Hendel Roberts, Mary D'Elia Hickey, Elaine Hruby Coppola, and Geri Haag Hastings. Classmate Patricia Hodgens Deverna was unable to attend — but she had champagne on ice waiting for the ladies when they arrived for their luncheon. Bob Skinner, who has retired from Johns Hopkins University, is a member of the board of the Concept Foundation. With offices in Geneva, Switzerland, and Bangkok, Thailand, the Concept Foundation collaborates with international governments, foundations, corporations and the World Health Organization to ensure that low-income women and men have equitable access to reproductive health products of assured guality at the lowest possible cost. Joe Weiss, Ph.D., has come out of retirement to provide development direction to his latest startup, an industrial drone company. He, his wife, Nancy, and two of their three children attended their eldest son Max's graduation in May at Bona's, where Max will continue one more year to complete his MBA.

#### 1972

John O'Hara of Arlington, Va., who served as an executive management officer in the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs in Washington, D.C., retired with 38 years of federal service. Upon his retirement, O'Hara was presented the Secretary of Veterans Affairs' Distinguished Career Award for his commitment and contributions that advanced the agency's mission to serve our nation's veterans.

#### 1973

Susan (Cavalline) Evans was recognized for her efforts to bring about awareness of ovarian cancer. She is an ovarian cancer survivor. The mayor of Pittsburgh, Bill Peduto, declared in an official proclamation that Sept. 12, 2017, be designated as "Susan Evans Day" throughout Pittsburgh. Evans is a native of the North Hills of Pittsburgh. On Dec. 8, 2015, she was recognized on the floor of the Pennsylvania Senate for her awareness campaign. Her proposal to designate September 2017 as "Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month" was approved in bipartisan resolutions by the Pennsylvania Senate and House. She is the author of the book "Don't Write The Obituary Yet" in which she chronicles her journey with this cancer and offers frank, unabashed advice for those challenged with this "silent killer." She has spoken to more than a hundred civic groups during the past three years telling her story and seeking donations for the Evans-Krivak Gynecological Cancer Fund under the Pittsburgh Foundation. The American Academy of Pediatrics Section on Orthopaedics honored Paul Esposito, MD, with its Distinguished Service Award Sept. 16. The award is the section's highest honor. The Section on Orthopaedics was founded in 1976 to improve musculoskeletal health of children through mentorship, education, research, advocacy and service. The Distinguished Service Award, established in 1995, recognizes an individual in the field of pediatric orthopaedics who has contributed to the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) mission of excellence in research, teaching and patient care. Esposito was cited as a giant of pediatric orthopaedics, a long-time dedicated leader and strong advocate within the AAP and beyond. Esposito is professor of orthopaedic surgery and pediatrics at the University of Nebraska Medical Center and the chief of Pediatric Orthopedic Surgery at the Children's Hospital and Medical Center Omaha, Neb., where he is also the Barbara and Ronald Shafer Endowed Chair of Orthopaedic Surgery, Esposito is a retired captain in the United States Navy and a Gulf War veteran. He and his wife of 40 years, Bernadette, have three adult children. His passions include advancing the care of children with osteogenesis imClass Notes

perfecta and musculoskeletal effects of pediatric obesity as well as the care of children with congenital and developmental bone and joint diseases and deformities.

#### 1974

**Nick Aramino** retired July 7 after 10 years as a multimedia sales consultant with the Orlando Sentinel Media Group. He previously held similar positions with the Villages (Fla.) Media Group; Florida Today in Melbourne, Fla.; and as a Central Florida advertising sales manager for Next Generation Network. **Shawn Hogan** (below, center), mayor of Hornell, received a Leadership Award for Public Service from the International Economic Development Council (IEDC) in September. The award recognizes an elected official who, for at least 10 years,



has been a committed advocate for economic development in the public sector. As the longest-tenured mayor in New York state, Hogan has overseen at least 36 major economic development projects, attracted more than \$300 million in private investments to Hornell city, and created more than 5.000 jobs. In one of the largest development projects of his tenure with Hornell, Hogan led the charge in the purchase of a manufacturing warehouse by the city's industrial development agency. In partnership with local business, labor, and elected leaders, the city won a \$2.5 billion contract to manufacture the new Amtrak Acela highspeed trains, naming the current warehouse tenant, Alstom, as a partner in the effort and providing a boost to the local economy. The result was an investment of hundreds of millions of dollars in Hornell and more than 700 new jobs in a community of fewer than 10,000 people.

#### 1976

Anthony "Tony" Capizzi was named president of the board of directors for the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges. Capizzi was elected Montgomery County (Ohio) Juvenile Court Judge in 2004. He previously served as an acting judge for Dayton Municipal Court and was a private-practice attorney for more than 25 years. Capizzi is admitted to the Ohio and Federal Bar; he received his J.D. from the University of Dayton School of Law, which recognized him in 2015 with its Distinguished Alumni Award. Capizzi has served on multiple council committees, including the Juvenile Drug Court Training and Technical Assistance Project Advisory Committee, the

Diversity Committee, and the Legislative Committee. He has also served as a faculty member for multiple NCJFCJ conferences and institutes. Capizzi has overseen the growth of Treatment Court and the implementation of a Juvenile Mental Health Court



and Family Mental Health Court. He led the initiative to create the Evening Reporting Center in partnership with Mt. Enon Baptist Church, implemented the Juvenile Detention Alternative Initiative, initiated the Pro Se Services program to help those clients that choose to file legal documents without attorney representation, and strengthened the court's Reclaiming Futures and Natural Helpers programs to better serve youth and their families. He lectures at state and national conferences focusing on judicial leadership, juvenile treatment courts, substance



**Couple pose at proposal site** With Merton's Heart in the background, alumnus John G. Aicher, '52, and his wife, Anne, pause at the site on campus where John popped the question on June 8, 1952, the night before graduation. After the Korean War and two years of law school intervened, they were married on June 16, 1956. The Aichers were on campus in November to attend Inauguration events for President Dr. Dennis De-Perro. They are pictured behind the Reilly Center, which wasn't constructed until the 1960s. abuse, the roles and responsibilities of guardians ad litem, juveniles' rights in delinquency court, abuse, neglect and dependency, racial and ethnic disparity, privacy, data and information sharing/exchange and mental health issues.

#### 1977

As part of a series about CIA employees who have made the ultimate sacrifice, the Central Intelligence Agency has shared a story about the late Barry S. Castiglione, Class of 1977, on its website at tinyurl.com/y8j6rjk4. Castiglione, a CIA employee for 10 years, died in El Salvador in July 1992 while rescuing a fellow employee from drowning. In an introduction to the article, the CIA said of Castiglione: His story is a reminder of the sheer sweep of our global mission, and his experiences exemplify the risks inherent to intelligence work, as well as the bravery and integrity of those like Barry who heed the call to serve their country. Castiglione graduated cum laude from St. Bonaventure with a bachelor's degree in economics. After serving in the Marines, he joined the CIA in 1982. Castiglione's training and logistical support experience led him on assignments around the world, including Africa, Central America, Europe and Asia. There are 125 stars carved into the marble of the CIA Memorial Wall, which stands as a simple memorial to employees who gave their lives in the service of their country. The CIA has re-

leased the names of 91 employees. **Kevin Hannon** retired at the end of June after 23 years with Wells Fargo and 40 years in the financial services and mortgage banking industries. He and his wife, **Anne (Dolan) Hannon,** 



**'78,** split their time be-

tween homes in Rhode Island and Hilton Head Island. They enjoy visiting and staying current with their five children and four grandchildren.

#### 1978

**Christopher Horgan**, who marked his 30th year as a high school tennis coach last spring, was honored this fall as the Boys Tennis Coach of the Year by the New York State Public High School Athletic Association (NYSPHSAA). As the boys varsity tennis coach for Medina Central School District since 2001, Horgan's teams have compiled a record of 160-52, including seven championships. Prior to joining the Medina district, Horgan was the boys varsity coach for Royalton-Hartland School District from 1981 to



1993, with a record of 124-46 and five championships. An English and social studies teacher for 37 years, Horgan has taught at Medina since 1994. Horgan played tennis at Bona's during his junior and senior years under coach Pat Panzarella and worked on the staff of Panzarella's St. Bonaventure Tennis Camp for 10 years after graduation. Throughout his career, Horgan has supported tennis programs on local, regional and state levels, from conducting free summer tennis programs for the Medina school district, to coaching girls and boys teams in the Empire State Games from 1991 to 2010. He presently is the state coordinator of girls tennis for the NYSPHSAA and represents the Niagara-Orleans League coaches on the association's Section VI Boys Tennis Council. Horgan and his wife, Patty (Flynn), '81, live in Medina. Their oldest child, Eileen, who graduated from SBU with her bachelor's and master's in English in 2010, played all four years on the university's women's tennis team.

#### 1981

When **Joseph Hardman** married Soonyeong Yun in June, the Catholic wedding ceremony was performed by Joe's Bonaventure roommate **Deacon Dale** 



Bonocore. Joining Joe and Soonyeong's families at the celebration were Joe's Bonaventure classmates Bill O'Mara and Herb Ego. "Joe has patiently waited for the love of his life and for this joyous day!" writes Dale.

Lynn (DiGuiseppe) Turner is senior vice president and chief human resource officer for Lehigh Valley Health Network, where she is accountable for the network's human resources, labor relations, organizational effectiveness, employee health, volunteer services, and the childcare education center at LVHN. Turner previously worked in the

Atlantic Health System, where she held the leadership position for Human Resources, Organizational Development and Employee Wellness. In that role, she was responsible for workforce planning and recruitment, talent management, executive com-



pensation and employee relations. During her time at AHS, Turner successfully led Human Resources and the cultural integration of seven geographically dispersed hospitals and multiple physician practices. Under her leadership, Atlantic achieved Fortune's 100 Best Places to Work for eight consecutive years and was recognized by the Health Care Quality Index as a leader in LGBT health care equality. In partnership with leadership and staff, she implemented a culture of high employee engagement ranked nationally as a best in class workplace.

#### 1984

Dr. Robert J. Buckla was appointed vice president for Advancement at Lake Forest Academy in Lake Forest, Ill. For more than 30 years, Buckla has worked to advance education through his work in administrative, strategic planning, alumni engagement and fund raising capacities at independent schools and in higher education. He has directed or served on the senior leadership of six capital and endowment campaigns over the last three decades, including a \$250 million effort, "Fueling Innovation: The Campaign for IIT," at Illinois Institute of Technology in Chicago where he served as Senior Director, College Programs/Major and Leadership Gifts. Most recently, Buckla served as vice president of University Advancement at Milwaukee's Cardinal Stritch University. Buckla serves on the Board of Trustees at Mt. Irenaeus and as a member of the Bonnies Athletic Fund Advisory Council at St. Bonaventure.

#### 1990

Robert M. Siracuse, a men's soccer alum-

nus, was promoted to director of Personnel and Human Resources for the Goshen (N.Y.) Central School District. He held previous positions as coordinator of elementary education, high school assistant principal,

and director of athletics and physical education at Goshen.

#### 1992

Jim "Taggs" Battaglia is CEO/Scout execu-

tive of the Stonewall Jackson Area Council Boy Scouts of America headquartered in Waynesboro, Va. Battaglia oversees all executive operations for the council that serves more than 4,000 youth in 13 counties in Cen-



tral and Western Virginia. He and his family



### Nation's eyes on Roem as she wins seat in Virginia

**Danica Roem, '06,** of Manassas, Va., won the Nov. 7 election for the 13th District of the Virginia House of Delegates, becoming the first transgender person elected to office in Virginia. She will be sworn in Jan. 10, 2018.

A month after graduating from St. Bonaventure with a degree in journalism and mass communication, Roem began working as the lead reporter at the Gainesville Times, where she covered her lifelong home community of the greater Prince William County area of Virginia for the next nine years. She also served as a staff writer for The Hotline (2009-2013), a content writer for Yoga Alliance (2013-2014) and the news editor of the Montgomery County Sentinel (2015-2016) in Maryland.

At St. Bonaventure, Roem served as the news director of The Buzz (88.3 FM WSBU) in the fall of 2005 after working her way up from being a reporter and assistant news director. She also worked as a disc jockey at The Buzz for eight semesters from 2002-2006.

Class Notes



#### 1993

The New York State Board of Regents honored **Christopher Albrecht**, a fourth-grade teacher at Fred W. Hill School in Brockport, as the 2018 New York State Teacher of the Year in September. At Fred W. Hill, Albrecht spent 20 years on English Language Arts Curriculum Development Committees, founded the Hill School Spelling Bee, mentored 11 student teachers and four first-year

teachers, and founded the Hill School Yearbook Committee, which he still advises. Albrecht also coached high school baseball for 14 years and soccer for five years. He has taught fourth grade for the past 14 years. In 2015, Albrecht began an after-school running program for fourth- and fifth-grade

students with a focus on building self-confidence in children with special needs. This team has grown from five to 19 students with all students completing a 5K road race. In the community, Albrecht sits on the Board of Trustees for the Western Monroe Historical Society and is a trustee on the Board of the Clarkson Historical Society. Albrecht served for six years on the Board of YMCA Camp Cory. As a self-taught geologist focused on paleontology, he is frequently a guest presenter on those topics. In the coming year, Albrecht will serve as an ambassador for teachers throughout the state and will be the New York state nominee for the National Teacher of the Year.

#### 1995

**Justin Bigham** was appointed director of financial planning and analysis at BlueCross BlueShield of Western New York. Bigham leads all functions of financial planning, reporting and analysis for the company, including the creation and mainte-

nance of budgets, financial models, ad hoc reporting and forecasts. He is also responsible for preparing financial reporting packages and variance analysis to facilitate decision making that will enhance company performance. Previously, Bigham served as senior



vice president, head of consumer product management for First Niagara Financial Group. A certified public accountant in the New York and Pennsylvania, Bigham has served in a variety of leadership roles for M & T Bank and as assurance business advisory services manager for PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP.

#### 1997

**Kelly (Doherty) Fernald** graduated from Salem State University in May with a CAGS (Certificate of Advanced Graduate Studies) in education. She is the assistant principal of The Saints Academy, a Beverly, Mass., Catholic school for students in pre-K to grade 8.

#### 1999

Jennifer Westerholt was named director of Alumni Relations at Nardin Academy in Buffalo.



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 2018. If you know the whereabouts of the following alumni, please let us know at www.sbu.edu/foundalumni.

Class of 1958 John J. Rooney

**Class of 1963** John A. Lucarelli John McCoy

#### Class of 1968

Vincent C. Bowers Karen Francis Hoch Arthur M. Kearney James S. Radgowski

#### Class of 1973

Sharon K. (Forness) Browder Kevin J. Downey Anne (Gravelle) Hite Marianne E. (Heaney) Joyce Vincent T. McKelvey James H. Nangle Michael W. O'Sick

#### Class of 1978

Leonard J. Casciano Teresa J. (Infante) Danielson John M. Joyce David L. McDonald Philip P. Minko Paula E. (Reed) Nancarrow Ronald L. Pighi Jon E. Vance

#### Class of 1983

Sean James Cullen William M. O'Connor James J. Sonnick John R. Worth

#### Class of 1988

Margarita (Alvaro) Romano

#### Class of 1993

Daniel P. Brown Timothy H. Cowin Timothy N. O'Connell Elizabeth R. Reiter Christopher Lee White

**Class of 1998** Erin L. (Clark) Johnston

**Class of 2003** Elliotte A. Bowerman Bridget A. Platten Laura M. Wolff

**Class of 2008** Matthew T. Gogola Benjamin R. Howe



#### Keenan family dons the Brown & White

The Keenan family's Bona grads who got together over the summer at Kill Devil Hills, N.C., show their Bona pride. Pictured are (front row, from left) Timer "Leo" Keenan, '71; Kathy Keenan Brewer, '72; Judie Keenan Miller, '73; and Kevin Keenan, '82; and (back row, from left) Joe Pechie, '12; John Brewer (a current SBU employee); Katie Ellis, '10; Connie Keenan Lowry, '77; Sharon Pelow Keenan, '72; Erin Lowry, '11; Caroline Keenan Taylor, '02; DeeDee Keenan Ellis, '77; and Maureen Keenan LeBeouf, '76.



#### Bonnies mark classmate's U.S. visit

Steve Lockwood, '81 (center), has worked and lived in Brazil for the last seven years as a freelance writer, with his wife, Helena. He visited New York in August and his Bonaventure buddies came together in Batavia in honor of his return. Pictured from left are '82 classmates Chuck Buell, Gerry Golden, Mario Russo, Fran Machina, Tim McMorrow and Jerry Brislin.



#### 1975 classmates reconnect

In August, several classmates from the Class of 1975 who lived on the back wing of 1st Rob held a mini-reunion outside Pittsburgh. Pictured from left are Carl Harvison, '75; John Quigley, '75; Jodi (Kessing) Quigley, '75; Linda Harvison; Valerie (Mottes) Reed, '77; Bill Reed, '75; Leslie Hulbert; and Dr. Bill Hulbert, '75.



Hitting the links in County Kerry Class of 1994 classmates Kevin Vesci, Mark Salman and Dan Conroy are pictured at the Ballybunion Golf Club in Ireland.



#### Alums from '52 and '82 meet up in Palm Springs Suzanne (Pelisson) Beasley, '82, shared this photo from a recent family trip to Palm Springs, Calif., when Eugene "Gene" Rojek, '52, spotted the St. Bonaventure shirt Beasley's husband, Ed, was wearing. Rojek works at the summit of the Palm Springs Aerial Tramway, helping to answer questions about hiking and other activities in San Jacinto Mountains. "We had a great time catching up about Bonaventure and all the connections it can still provide, even in remote locations like the top of a mountain," writes Suzanne.



#### '92 alumnae gather in Nashville

A group of 1992 graduates met in Nashville, Tenn., to celebrate their St. Bonaventure 25th reunion. Pictured (front row, from left) are Kathy Linhardt, Amy Streibel Harrison, Cristina Gallo Ernst, Kim Coykendall Barlette, Lisa Princiotto Burns, Jill Drake Fountaine, Meg Corcoran Richardson and Trish Moloney Stewart and (back row from left) Tamara Murphy Vero and Halle Learn Ruane.

#### SEND US NEWS OF YOUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS >>



Do you have some news to shout about? To submit career updates, use the enclosed envelope or fill out an online form at **www.sbu.edu/BonaMag.** Attending an alumni chapter event? Send us a photo for the summer edition!

#### 2000

**Brian Fees** won a first-place Keystone Press Award for sports event coverage and an honorable mention press award for a news photo. Fees is the sports editor at The Daily & Sunday Review in Towanda, Pa. In 2015, he earned second place in the Keystone Awards for a sports story along with a Pennsylvania Associated Press Managing Editors first-place award for the same story that year. **Joseph Nicosia** is chief operations officer at Service Bridges, Inc., a deaf services organization



that focuses on ensuring full communication access to the deaf in all eight counties of Western New York, Greater Rochester and Greater Syracuse.

Nicosia manages a team of more than 50 American Sign Language interpreters as well as in-house staff. He is pictured with Sebastian, the chief canine officer at Service Bridges.

#### 2001

Nicole Oliver MacBay is Dean of Students

at Siena Catholic Academy in Brighton, N.Y. After earning her Bachelor and Master of Science in education at SBU, MacBay earned a Certificate of Advanced Studies in School Counseling at Roberts Wesleyan College. She has served in many edu-



cator roles, earning tenure at Greece Central School District, and most notably as a school counselor to students in grades preschool through 12 at Holy Family School and Hillside Children's Center. She is proud to return to the Diocese of Rochester, now in an administrative role, and welcomes contact with fellow Bonnies at ntmacbay@gmail.com.

#### 2002

**Cristin (Chase) Bratt** was named deputy public information officer for the Fairfax

County Park Authority, an agency of Fairfax County government that oversees 23,000 acres of parkland in the Washington, D.C., suburb of Fairfax. In her new role, Bratt manages digital strategy and content for all social media platforms, cu-

rates content for print and digital publication, and implements local, regional and national media strategy. Bratt lives in Burke, Va., with her husband, John, and two daughters.

#### 2003

The Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History selected **Michael Curran** as the 2017 Maryland History Teacher of the Year. He serves as chair of the Social Studies Department at DeMatha Catholic High School.

#### 2004

**Rev. Stephen N. DeWitt, O.F.M.**, has assumed a new position as a team member at St. Francis Inn in Philadelphia. St. Francis Inn is a soup kitchen and social service center that serves the poor of Philadelphia's Kensington neighborhood. More information can be found at stfrancisinn.org.

#### Buffalo law firm earns Women's Business Enterprise certification

Two alumnae are partners in the Buffalo law firm of Burden, Hafner & Hansen, LLC, which has been certified

by the Women's Business Enterprise National Council as a Women's Business Enterprise.

The firm was founded 10 years ago by managing partner **Donna L. Bur**-



den, '84, who has more than 25 years of experience as a trial attorney defending catastrophic personal injury cases, primarily in the areas of trucking and transportation negligence, as well as product liability, municipal law/governmental liability, employment law, professional liability, labor law and premises liability.

Partner Sarah (Norton) Hansen, '04, is a trial attorney who primarily defends personal injury cases arising out of trucking and automobile accidents, employment law matters, labor law, municipal law/governmental liability,



premises liability cases, product liability cases and general negligence matters. She is on the Steering Committee for the Defense Research Institute's Trucking Law Committee and Employment and Labor Law Committee and is past editor of DRI's "The Whisper."



Alum bikes along canal Steve Buchanan, '66, and his daughter Chris of Seattle completed another bike tour last summer. They trekked 400 miles from Buffalo to Albany along the Erie Canal.



**'92 alumnus is teaching in Japan** Michael Vitale, '92, is the English teacher at Oozora Elementary School in Misawa City, Japan. He is pictured with his class.

#### 2007

Courtney (Bosse) Stanley works at Colorado Associates in Medical Physics, Colorado Springs, Colo. Laura Tucker, Esq., an associate at Cohen Rabin Stine Schumann LLP in Manhattan, was selected to the 2017



Super Lawyers "Rising Stars" list for the New York Metro area. Only 2.5 percent of New York Metro attorneys receive such a distinction. Cohen Rabin

Stine Schumann is a full-service family law litigation firm specializing in highnet-worth matrimonial law.

#### 2009

Molly McCarthy has finished her third year working full time for Cradle Beach. She works in the programming department and helps children come to summer camp and to use the facility all year long.

#### 2013

Robbie Chulick is assistant director of the Center for Activities, Recreation

and Leadership at SBU. He provides direct oversight to the Campus Activities Board, the clubs/organizations on campus, and supports the Freshman Leadership

Program and the Richter Center staff. Daniel J. Connor was promoted to audit senior at Dannible & McKee, LLP. a certified public accounting and consulting firm with offices in Syracuse and Binghamton. Connor joined the



firm's audit department in 2014 after earning his master's degree at SBU. He is a certified public accountant in the state of New York and is a member of the Amer-

ican Institute of Certified Public Accountants. Dannible & McKee focuses on major industry lines and specializes in multi-state taxation review, business valuation, litigation support and fraud prevention and detection. Ryan Cooke is a digital marketing assistant with INSP cable network in Charlotte, N.C.

#### 2014

Samantha Berkhead accepted a promotion as the International Journalist's Network Manager at the International Center for Journalists in Washington, D.C. She was also one of 18 journalists worldwide selected to attend the Media in Conflicts Seminar in Tel Aviv, Israel, in September.

#### 2015

Amanda Ornowski has joined Lougen, Valenti, Bookbinder & Weintraub. Ornowski supports the firm's tax group and provides business, individual, and non-profit tax consulting. Her primary focus is helping owners strategically grow their business while managing their tax compliance and reporting requirements. Ornowski's ex-



#### Domes installed as Neumann president

Dr. Chris E. Domes, '85, '89 (right), is congratulated by Fr. Dan Riley, '64, following Domes' Inauguration Ceremony as president of Neumann University, Oct. 6. In his campus address, Domes said, "It is our destiny as a Catholic university in the Franciscan tradition to respond to the needs of this generation with compassionate hearts. Then, in turn, we will ask our students and our alumni to respond with a compassionate heart to those they encounter in their lives."

perience includes assisting family-run businesses create successful strategies to achieve financial goals, as well as corresponding with taxing jurisdictions to resolve compliance issues.

#### 2016

Rachel Noone joined Chiampou Travis Besaw & Kershner LLP as a staff accountant. She received an MBA in accounting from Bona's in May 2017. Mikayla Place was named head coach of the University of Bridgeport (Conn.) women's lacrosse team.

### Plan a spring visit!

#### **OPEN HOUSE** for sophomores and juniors

Saturday, April 21, 2018

- Take a campus tour
- Meet with faculty
- Learn about admissions and financial aid
- Enjoy lunch in the dining hall

#### Learn more at www.sbu.edu/visit



#### 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.

Rev. Maurice J. Brick, O.F.M., '43, Bronx, N.Y. Grace (Paolillo) LoVuolo, '48, Binghamton, N.Y. Raymond J. Breehey, '49, Binghamton, N.Y. Rev. Thomas R. Walsh, '49, Silver Creek, N.Y. Rev. Christian F. Camadella, O.F.M., '50, Paterson, N.J. Mortimer J. Downey, '51, Riverside, Calif. Stanley Zajdel, '51, Smithtown, N.Y. Dr. John P. O'Connor, '52, Butler, Pa. Richard J. Doran, '52, New Bern, N.C. Rev. Mark Christopher, '53, Fort Pierce, Fla. Richard J. Bastien, '54, New York, N.Y. Vincent C. Aungier, '55, Springfield, Va. Theodore Buonocore, '58, Haverstraw, N.Y. John A. Byrnes, '58, Mount Morris, N.Y. Rev. Msgr. Edward Zeitler, '58, Hermitage, Pa. Edwin J. Reiter, '59, Nanticoke, Pa. Robert M. Coughlin, '61, Queensbury, N.Y. Philip J. Hollis, '61, Jupiter, Fla. Thomas B. Brennan, '62, Southold, N.Y. Charles R. Clough, '62, Orchard Park, N.Y. Robert J. Manning, '62, Massena, N.Y. Dr. Anthony R. Caputo, '63, South Orange, N.J. Dr. Wayne M. O'Sullivan, '63, Buffalo, N.Y. Dr. Gerald C. Peppy, '63, Windermere, Fla. Janice (Donnelly) Greer, '64, Marblehead, Mass. George K. Moffett, '64, Frostproof, Fla. Sr. Mary K. Dillon O.S.F., '66, Peekskill, N.Y. Sr. Mary B. MacDonald, '66, Allegany, N.Y. Thomas L. Aman, '67, Fairfax, Va. P. Jerome Foran, '67, Windermere, Fla. Stephen J. Pockalny Sr., '68, Olean, N.Y. William J. Reno, '68, Dearborn, Mich. George V. Brunner Jr., '69, Rochester, N.Y. Michael R. Hayhurst, '69, Orchard Park, N.Y. Sr. Catherine Kealey, '69, Merion Station, Pa. James J. Peppard, '69, Clearwater Beach, Fla. Rev. Chester Devlin, '70, Douglas, Mass. Dr. Eleanor B. English, '70, Gibsonia, Pa. Patrick J. McCarthy, '70, Pittsburgh, Pa. Sr. Barbara Sipple, O.S.F., '70, Allegany, N.Y. Thomas Tomaszewski, '70, Williamsville, N.Y. Cynthia M. Cottone, '75, Jamestown, N.Y. Mark J. Carney, '76, Plattsburgh, N.Y. Bradley B. Cuvelier, '77, Williamson, N.Y. Ann L. (Welsh) Palmer, '77, Lancaster, Pa. Robert G. Greene, Esq., '79, Rochester, N.Y.

#### Welcome, Baby Bonnies!

Mackenzie Geri to Carrie and Sean Mayer, '95

William Devereux to Amy (Czworka), '97, and Ryan McKenna, '96 Brady Joseph to Carri (Gregorski), '04, and Ed Prue, '99 Bronx Francis Angelo and Isabella Stephanie adopted by Sarah Ballard, '00

Elena Faith to **Elizabeth (Tascione)**, **'00**, and **Greg Licamele**, **'99** Kathryn Ann to **Jennifer Kane DeSantis**, **'03**, and AJ DeSantis Vincent Robert to Lyndsie and **Rob Panaro**, **'03**, **'04** Quinn Elizabeth-Lynne to **Kathleen (Smith)**, **'04**, and Eric Murtaugh Henry Liam to **Tara (McConkey) Sheridan**, **'04**, and Patrick Sheridan Gina Clare to **Sarah (Macchiano)**, **'05**, and **Andrew Kneller**, **'05** McKinley Marie to Kacie and **Chris Sullivan**, **'05**  Steven P. Ragan, '79, Spencerport, N.Y. Dr. Nancy E. Coulmas, '81, Bloomsburg, Pa. Peter J. Giummo, '81, Menifee, Calif. Kevin J. McCue, '81, Amherst, N.Y. Julie A. (Franz) Hairston, '84, Leesburg, Va. Rev. Thomas M. Kuehner, '84, Corning, N.Y. Mark Ronan, '84, Stamford, Conn. Larry R. Wilson, '84, Houghton, N.Y. William G. Fox, '93, Huntersville, N.C. Michael S. Sobieralski, '94, Columbus, Ind. David Waugh, '94, Olean, N.Y. Claire E. Martoche, '95, Hamburg, N.Y. Benjamin Nida, '08, '09, Seville, Ohio Tyler T. McElheny, '17, Freedom, N.Y.

#### In Memorium

**Enrique "Ricky" Barrera**, who taught in the SBU Department of Modern Languages for 42 years and who served as head coach of the men's soccer team from 1972-1988, passed away Nov. 2. Barrera was largely the impetus behind the soccer program's move from a club sport to varsity. Barrera, who remains the program's all-time wins leader and longest-tenured head coach, was inducted into the St. Bonaventure Athletics Hall of Fame in 2008.

**Dr. Harold Gelfand** passed away Oct. 4. Gelfand was a faculty member in the Department of Psychology at St. Bonaventure from 1972 to 2007.

Thomas M. Hagen, who coached the St. Bonaventure cross country team from 1999 to 2010, passed away Aug. 7 in Mesa, Ariz.

**Richard L. Murphy**, who worked as a guard in Security Services from 1988 to 2014, passed away Sept. 30, 2017.

**Dr. Eleanor "Ellie" English,** a retired professor from the School of Education, passed away Oct. 27. In addition to being remembered for her role as a faculty member, English served as the director of Graduate Education (1993-1996), was the first woman to serve as chair of the Faculty Senate (1994-98), and had been involved with the university's accreditation process for more than 10 years.

**Daniel Yankelovich,**\* an honorary degree recipient and the keynote speaker at St. Bonaventure's 1998 Commencement ceremonies, passed away Sept. 22 in San Diego. In 1997, Yankelovich founded the The Mary Yankelovich Fellowship at St. Bonaventure, given to students who demonstrate the blend of qualities and achievements that characterized his wife, **Mary (Komarnicki) Yankelovich, '80.** Mary died in a car accident in 1995.

\* Member of St. Bonaventure's Seraphim Legacy Society

#### Births / Adoptions

Shea John and Reece Richard to Molly (McCarthy), '06, '07, and Kieran Malone, '10

Madelynn Marie to Danielle (Ruffino), '06, and John Grzymala Fritz William to Gina (Sementelli), '06, and Brian Schreiber Tessa Rose to Colleen (Clark), '07, and Kyle Amidon Riley May to Katie (Mohagen), '08, and Connor Daugherty, '09 Luke Thomas to Ellen (Grimes), '09, '10, and Craig Chatfield, '12 Benjamin Louis to Kristen (Schober), '09, '13, and Andrew Gonzalez Olivia James to Reina (Nernberger), '10, and Drew Anderson Natalie Judith to Amanda (Klein) Diedrich, '12, and Tyler Diedrich, '12

Laila Grace to Meredith (Haggerty), '14, and Evan Meister, '15

Weddings



Elizabeth Demcsak, '03, and Andrew Keenan, '03



Gina Serra and Mark Alberti, '93



Janine Davis and Kevin Cleary, '02



Kelly Jackson, '08, '09, and Tyler O'Halloran



Ashley Schinzing, '10, 12, and Brendan Tydings, '10, '11



Laura Tucker, '07, and Matthew Hedge

**Bonaventure** Magazine Wedding **Guidelines** 

To submit your announcement for an upcoming edition: • use the enclosed envelope • email bonalumnus@sbu.edu

• use the online form at www.sbu.edu/BonaMag All photos must be of good reproductive quality.

Pictures submitted electronically must have a resolution of at least **300 dpi.** The university is prohibited from publishing copyrighted photographs, unless accompanied by written permission from the photographer.

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. Photos are published at the discretion 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.



Raizel Brenton and Jared Cominsky, '11



Lauren Scorse, '10, '11, and Kevin Reeves



Renee Reeves and Scott Long, '06, '07





Soonyeong Yun and Joseph Hardman, '81



Lindsay Bellman, '16, and David Burke, '16

Additional Wedding Announcements Jane Savio, '80, and Kevin Sutton, '81 Courtney Bosse, '07, and Thomas Stanley



Ashleigh Donner, '13, and Andy Trass, '11



Brooklynne Sharbaugh and Matt Rochna, '15



Mary Cooke, '10, and Michael Cormier



Nicole Petix, '07, and Christopher Richardson



Stephanie Bradbury and Bobby Gohn, '10



Katelyn Dieffenderfer, '08, and Jared Niedermier









Photos by Rudinec & Associates



The university recognized music director Fabio Luisi (left) with an honorary degree in a ceremony prior to the Mass. Also honored was Fr. Richard S. Vosko, Ph.D., '65 (see page 22).

## University celebrates premiere of **Bonaventure Mass**

n September, the university celebrated the world premiere of "Saint Bonaventure Mass," a renowned music director's gift to St. Bonaventure in honor of the 800th anniversary of the birth of its patron saint. The composition, written by Fabio Luisi, former principal conductor of New York's Metropolitan Opera, and dedicated to Sr. Margaret Carney, O.S.F., president emeritus, premiered Sept. 17 within a liturgical Mass at the University Chapel. Two days later it was presented in concert form at The Cloisters at the Metropolitan Museum in New York City.

The Mass featured a chamber ensemble of the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra joined by the Buffalo Philharmonic Chorus, with guests from St. Bonaventure. The Mass liturgy was sung in Latin, with the texts and prayers by Saint Bonaventure recited in an English translation by Fr. Dominic Monti, O.F.M., Ph.D., distinguished professor of Franciscan Studies at St. Bonaventure and former university president.



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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.



### It's time to let your hair down (and put your feet up)

Save the dates! There are two weekends in 2018 that you won't want to miss! Friday, Feb. 9, kicks off Homecoming Weekend with our 9th Annual Bona Pride Day. Wear your Bona gear for a chance to win prizes — you don't even have to be on campus!

Reunion 2018 begins Friday, June 1. We're pulling out all the stops for the honored classes with years ending in 3 and 8. Watch your mailbox in early March for the reunion brochure and registration form. Keep up to date via **www.sbu.edu/alumni**.

#### 2018 U.S. News rankings No. 5 value in North, No. 2 in NY

St. Bonaventure is ranked No. 5 on U.S. News & World Report's 2018 list of best values in the North — the second-highest ranking for any regional university in New York.

The U.S. News' "Great Schools, Great Prices" list of Best Regional Universities in the North includes colleges that offer a full range of master's degree programs. SBU also ranked 21st out of 187 institutions — up five spots from 2017 — on the magazine's all-criteria ranking of Best Regional Universities in the North.

"The great respect St. Bonaventure has received over the years was paramount in my decision to seek the presidency here," said Dr. Dennis DePerro. Prospective students can calculate their scholarship eligibility at **www.sbu.edu/calculator**.

#### 2018 ALUMNI CALENDAR

#### ▶ January 6 Men's basketball pre-game (Saint Joe's) reception, Philadelphia



• January 10 Bonnies4Bonnies Networking Reception, Rochester

• January 13 Men's basketball pre-game (Rhode Island) reception, Kingston, R.I.

#### January 19

Men's basketball pre-game (Davidson) reception, Davidson, N.C.

#### ► January 31

Men's basketball pre-game (George Mason University) reception, Fairfax, Va.

#### February 3

Men's basketball pre-game (Duquesne) reception, Pittsburgh

#### **February 9-11**

Bona Pride Day (Feb. 9), Homecoming, '80s Weekend, campus

#### **March 3**

Men's basketball pre-game (St. Louis) reception, St. Louis

#### **March 7-11**

Atlantic 10 Men's Basketball Tournament Capital One Arena, Washington, D.C.



#### Mountain on the Road

April 12 — Chicago April 13 — Austin April 14 — Houston April 15 — Dallas

▶ June 1-3 Alumni Reunion Weekend, campus

For more information about upcoming events, visit www.sbu.edu/Alumni or email alumni@sbu.edu.