

Saint Francis

UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE

**BOILERHOUSE
MUSIC**

**THE ART
GARAGE**

and...

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF FINE ARTS AND 10 YEARS IN FRANCE

a letter from the President

Dear Alumni and Friends,

Peace and good! At the beginning of the 2017-2018 academic year, the University unveiled its new logo and tagline, *Become That Someone*. The phrase springs from the story of our most famous alumnus, Maurice Stokes. After Stokes graduated from then-Saint Francis College in 1955, he would go on to play professional basketball.

Jack Twyman and Maurice Stokes were friends and teammates on the Rochester/Cincinnati Royals from 1955 to 1958. In the last game of the 1957-58 regular season, Stokes suffered an on-court injury that led to him falling into a coma days later, leaving him permanently paralyzed. Diagnosed with posttraumatic encephalopathy, a brain injury that damaged his motor-control center, Stokes was supported for the rest of his life by Jack Twyman, who became his legal guardian and advocate. Maurice Stokes died in 1970. He is one of only a few laypeople buried in the Franciscan Friars' Cemetery on campus.

The *Become That Someone* tagline is part of the story of Maurice Stokes and Jack Twyman and came from a 2008 interview that Twyman did with the *New York Post*. "Maurice was on his own," said Twyman. "Something had to be done and someone had to do it. I was the only one there, so I became that someone."

Become That Someone pertains not merely to a couple of athletes, but stems from the reality of a young man who was first a student of Saint Francis. *Become That Someone* speaks to and about our university community and Franciscan mission. It is fitting that the phrase has become the university tagline, as I believe it truly sums up the university's mission, to help students become the person that God calls them to be. It is a relatable expression of



ongoing conversion, and the Franciscan values that permeate the University.

Become That Someone encapsulates the transformational experiences of our students. On that note, we are celebrating ten years of presence in France. In 2008, the campus of Saint Francis in Ambialet, France welcomed a small pioneering group of students. In July 2018 we celebrated this anniversary of our study abroad program with an alumni trip to Spain and France, culminating with Mass and festivities in Ambialet on July 1. To date, hundreds of students have experienced a life-changing semester in the south of France.

Saint Francis of Assisi, before he departed for eternal life said, "I have done what was mine to do. May Christ now teach you what is yours to do." Thank you for your support of the mission of Saint Francis University, as we help our students become the person God is calling them to be.

May the Lord bless you and give you His peace.

Sincerely,

(Rev.) Malachi Van Tassell, T.O.R., Ph.D.
President

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For further information, visit:
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Revised June 2017

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New Logo, *Same Values*

Branding refresh honors past and looks forward

WRITTEN BY | *Marie Young,*
SFU Office of Marketing Communications

In August, the University welcomed a new class and, with it, a new branding theme: “Become That Someone.” The phrase “Reach Higher/Go Far” and the current logo have served the University well for more than 15 years. “We have cherished every photo of our students and alumni striking the famous ‘Reach Higher’ pose all over the globe, yet the time has come to say goodbye to the slogan,” shared Erin McCloskey, Vice President for Enrollment Management. “The new ‘Become That Someone’ messaging, featuring student transformation stories, will add some freshness to the branding while maintaining a healthy dose of tradition.”

SFU graduates go on to become accountants, biologists, chemists, computer programmers, doctors, environmentalists, entrepreneurs, lawyers, teachers, nurses, policy-makers, and social workers, to name a few. They enjoy successful careers and carry their Franciscan values with them. The “Become” theme celebrates these successes and has the added benefit of introducing new students to one of our most meaningful institutional stories, the legendary life of Maurice Stokes.

The idea of using “Become That Someone” as a rallying call began with SFU Athletics. Soon the story began to transcend athletics. Given the theme’s grassroots popularity with students, and its perfect fit with the Franciscan mission of service to others, the University decided to adopt it as the official branding statement in the fall of 2017.

This branding theme celebrates the transformational SFU experience that cultivates future leaders, preparing students

to become that someone who makes a difference in the lives of others. According to our President Fr. Malachi Van Tassell, T.O.R., Ph.D. “When a student comes to Saint Francis University they come with gifts and talents that are unique to them. It is our role to help those students become the person that they are meant to be.”


A new logo

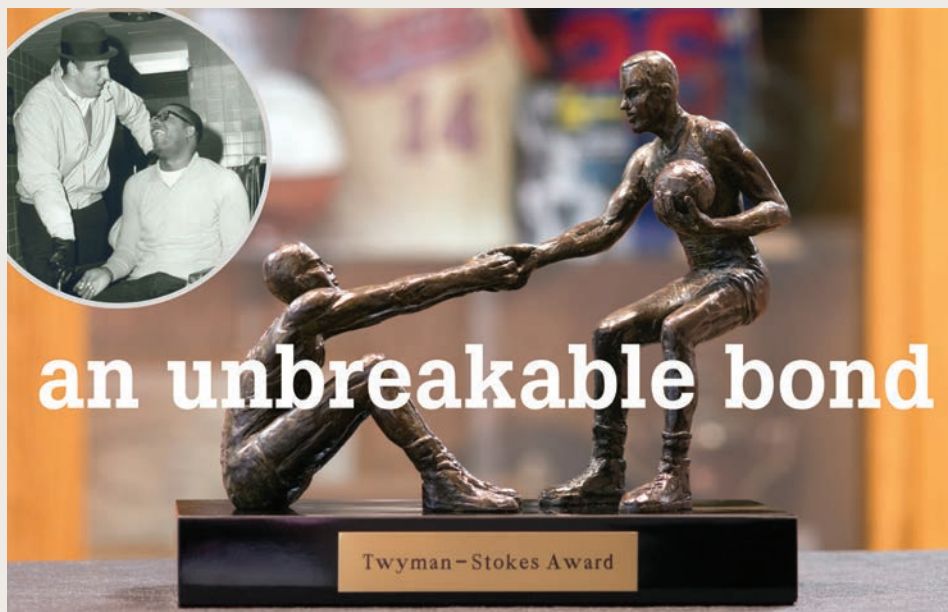
The University is proud to introduce a revamped logo as part of our rebranding initiative, yet lovers of tradition will be happy to know that the “bell tower” still takes center stage in the new design.

The Story of the Bell: When all seems lost, the smallest sign of hope can rally an entire community. Such was the case on Oct. 30, 1942, when a massive fire destroyed the heart of campus.

Classrooms, dormitories, the chapel, dining space and the library all disappeared with the flames that destroyed Old Main. The fire could have signaled the end of the Franciscans’ dream to bring education to this rural area, yet a hint of future potential remained as they discovered the 1859 bell intact among the rubble.

Today that bell, preserved in a humble brick tower on the campus mall, has grown into a symbol of new beginnings. It is rung on the day that new students are welcomed into the Saint Francis family, and again on their graduation day as they begin the next part of their journey.

It seemed only fitting to announce this new logo featuring our historic bell tower on the 75th anniversary of the fire. 



Inspired by the powerful friendship of Maurice Stokes and Jack Twyman, the NBA created the Twyman-Stokes Award in 2013 to recognize the league's "ideal teammate" who exemplifies "selfless play, commitment and dedication to his team". The winner receives a bronze statue and \$25,000 donated by the NBA to the charity of the recipient's choice. The NBA gifted this statue (pictured) to Saint Francis University. It greets players and fans in the Stokes Arena atrium, and serves all as a reminder of what it means to truly Become That Someone.

SFU Traditions: *The Maurice Stokes Story*

No story embodies this lesson of servant leadership quite like that of the friendship between Saint Francis grad Maurice Stokes '55 and his Cincinnati Royals teammate Jack Twyman.

The meaning behind "Become that Someone"

Our new University motto "Become That Someone" speaks to our Catholic-Franciscan mission to help students become compassionate, caring, successful professionals. The values of generosity, respect, discovery, and joy run deep in our culture and attract students with a desire to become that someone who makes a difference in the lives of others.

An unbreakable bond

The idea of using "Become That Someone" as an inspirational rallying call began in SFU Athletics to honor the special friendship between Saint Francis grad Maurice Stokes '55 and his Cincinnati Royals teammate Jack Twyman.

During the 2012-13 season, the Red Flash found inspiration in a quote from Twyman: "Maurice was on his own, something had to be done, and somebody had to do it. I was the only one that was there, so I became that someone."

The theme has continued to thrive in various iterations in the athletics world, especially with the Red Flash's partnership with Team Impact. Given the theme's grassroots popularity with students, and its perfect fit with the Franciscan mission of service to others, the University decided

to adopt it as the official branding statement in 2017.

The Stokes-Twyman story

In his brief three-year career, Stokes made the All-Star and All-NBA second teams in each season, but his career was cut short due to a terrible fall in 1958. During a game against the Minneapolis Lakers, Stokes fell and landed on his head. He was knocked out and slowly drifted back into consciousness. Despite the severity of the fall, he was sent back into the game.

Just days later, Stokes suffered a series of seizures while aboard an airplane to Cincinnati to face the Detroit Pistons in a playoff game. The ordeal left Stokes permanently paralyzed and unable to speak. The medical bills, and the attention required, became almost insurmountable. Enter Jack Twyman, Stokes' Royals teammate. Twyman became Maurice's legal guardian and assumed responsibility for his friend's medical expenses. The never-ending assists from Twyman supported and motivated Stokes until his passing in 1970. 🏠

Sources:

ESPN Story Behind the Twyman-Stokes NBA Teammate of the Year Award

Stokes Basketball Hall of Fame Induction (Twyman's 2004 speech)

"An Unbreakable Bond: The Brotherhood of Maurice Stokes and Jack Twyman" (2014) book by Dr. Pat Farabaugh, Saint Francis University; Associate Professor



AMBIALET

WRITTEN BY / *Tim Perkins,*
Executive Director,
Office of Study Abroad

Eleven and a half years ago I presented a plan to the University's Board of Trustees that promised the Semester in France program would change the University. It has. The program has helped Admissions build an ever-better student body, has attracted (and kept!) first-rate faculty, has impressed and delighted alumni, and has become a point of institutional pride. Most of all, it has changed the lives of hundreds of students.

Ten years ago, we welcomed a group of seven students to Ambialet, France, on the first Saint Francis semester abroad trip.

In the years since, we have renovated two thirds of the monastery, allowing groups to grow to as many as 32 students. In the four months they are in Ambialet, students learn the French language, history, architecture and art, and experience first-hand the many cultural differences between the United States and France.

Operating a program in a foreign





– 10 years after



country in the middle of nowhere is a distinct challenge. Students love the monastery—the setting is drop-dead spectacular—but they also want to see the world. So we help them do that, but in context.

We study famous artists; then travel to Paris, Albi, Rodez, Barcelona and Toulouse to view their paintings in museums in. We study religious history of the region; then visit the most spectacular cathedrals in the world, along with castles and other key historical sites. We study French; then volunteer in the local grade school, meet with high school students in Albi, and exchange visits with French university students who participate in a Medical Information Systems program. In addition to these core activities, students benefit from a visiting SFU professor each semester, each of whom offers a course that ties in with the international setting. The one anomaly to these locally-focused courses is Anatomy and Physiology, a core requirement for all Health Science students. The class is taught online, and is immensely important because it allows virtually all Health Science majors to

SUMMER IN FRANCE

While our site in France is buzzing with SFU students during the fall and spring semesters, the summer is filled with additional opportunities. Over the past 9 summers, we've welcomed more than 30 different groups with more than 500 participants from 14 countries for receptions, meetings, reunions, alumni events, and more.

In the summer of 2016, SFU opened its Ambialet site to area high schools. During their 9 days in France, high school students earn three college credits in FNAR 103 Cultures and Values while exploring the wonders of the region—castles, chateaux, ruins, quaint medieval hilltop villages, stunning views and awe-inspiring cathedrals. To date, fifty-three high school students from Bishop Carroll High School in Ebensburg, Bishop Guilfoyle High School in Altoona, Bishop McCort High School in Johnstown, and St. Joseph's High School in State College have registered for the high school program in France.

A recent addition to the summer agenda in Ambialet is the Arts France program which was offered for the first time last summer. The program is for artists from around the globe, all of various art-making disciplines, who wish to gather for studio work and participate in a creative community. Each participant brings their unique talents and actively engages with the dynamic community, seizing opportunities for collaboration and discussion with other participating artists.



SPRING 2016



SPRING 2017



SPRING 2018

spend a semester abroad. In fact, SFU has the only Physician Assistant program in the U.S. that allows students to spend a semester abroad—a huge gift to these students who work so hard, and an excellent recruiting advantage.

Through living in another culture, students have learned much about their own culture and the crucial foundations of western society—its art, architecture, religion and history. But above all, students have learned about themselves—about who they are and what they want to become. This growth is priceless, and the students who have participated in the program will readily tell you that. To this day my favorite student reflection is: “Now I know I have choices.”

This past June, 40+ alumni joined Fr. Malachi and several Trustees in a Celebration Tour that started in Barcelona and finished in Ambialet, where we hosted a day-long celebration event on July 1. It was be a wonderful day in which we thanked (former president) Rev. Gabriel Zeis, T.O.R. for his foresight in supporting this program, Fr. Malachi for continuing that support, and the hundreds of students who spent time here for giving life to French home, and making it matter. 🏠

Following in his father's footsteps

A JOURNEY TO AMBIALET

WRITTEN BY | *Rachel (Vasilko) Heckman '13*

It was September 2017, nearly 10 years since the first group of Saint Francis University students took off for an adventurous semester in Ambialet, and Dr. Art Remillard and his family were departing on a meaningful trip that would alter their lives forever.

It had been Art's parents, Dr. Vincent Remillard and his wife Joyce, who had been instrumental in the development of the Semester in France program, and who had escorted the first group of students to Ambialet in the spring semester of 2008. For years, Art had willingly listened to his parents' stories, but could never fully understand the magic of the ancient priory perched high atop a mountain in a tiny village in southern France, until he and his family arrived there themselves last fall.

"The experience changes the ordinary way in which we experience things. We come back different," said Vincent, a former professor of French at Saint Francis. "You can see a difference in Art. He has a totally different outlook on life."

An experience all their own

Art, an associate professor of Religious Studies at Saint Francis, and his wife

Kate, an adjunct assistant professor of mathematics at the University, had long discussed the possibility of participating in the Semester in France program by traveling with the students and teaching a course at the University's site in Ambialet. However, they wanted to wait until their children were old enough to appreciate the trip in their own rights. They added their names to the list of interested faculty and signed up to go in the fall of 2017, when Abraham and Ruth would be 10-years-old and seven-years-old, respectively.

When the time finally came, the family stayed in an apartment in Ambialet, just a quick hike down the mountain from the priory. Art spent the semester teaching a class in the centuries-old monastery, but believes his real experience came from just being present in a new country and being an active participant in the program.

"Teaching the Compassionate Care course, I remember thinking 'this is the perfect class for here.' We had the space and freedom to explore the subject," Art said. "There is just a different sense of time and priority."

In addition to their daily duties, the Remillard family also accompanied the students on day trips to nearby cities and towns including Carcassonne,

Conques, and Toulouse. They discovered new places, learned about medieval architecture, and soaked in the culture. Some of their best memories of the trip include swimming in the Tarn River, hiking through the Pyrenees Mountains, and playing Petanque, a game similar to bocce ball, with the locals near the village square.

"It's funny because we were always doing stuff, but it never felt busy," Art said.

Although the entire family received a lesson in the French language and culture, it was the children, Abraham and Ruth, who were more immersed than anyone else on the trip. Throughout their three months in France, the children attended the village school in Ambialet. It was there that they made new friends, learned a new language, and gained a new appreciation for life outside of the United States.

"We are very happy that our two grandchildren had the opportunity to go," said Joyce. "We are so proud to have started [the program] and to see it go down three generations."

Vincent and Joyce believe that their grandson, Abraham, will continue to study the French language, and will one day return to the place he once called his home.

“They left a piece of themselves there,” said Vincent.

Looking back

Although Art’s time in France mirrored that of his parents’ trip ten years earlier, he and his family have made their own memories.

“Everyone is different, and everyone takes something away from the trip from where they are in their life,” said Art. “We had our own experience, and it was definitely different from when [my parents] were over there. But now we can tell them our stories, and they understand what we’re talking about.”

During that first semester in 2008, the priory was still undergoing renovations. However, the small group of seven students, as well as Vincent and Joyce, still made the most of their trip. The old building lacked heat, and instead of the warm, cozy dining room, the group ate their meals in a large industrial kitchen. But nobody complained about the conditions, and instead gushed over the view of the mountains and the river from their bedroom windows.

Because of the renovations, the group spent half of the semester living in a home owned by the Franciscans located just outside of Paris. Vincent taught a Fine Arts class, as well as the second half of the French language course, Joyce acted as house mother, and Eric Crema, a local, took them on day trips to nearby cities and towns, as he has continued to do for each group since.

According to Vincent, that inaugural group of students and their business in Ambialet were a mystery to the village locals. But they were soon accepted, and throughout the years the program and its students have become an integral and beloved part of the community there.

Legacy

Since that first semester, the priory has been improved, and the program has continued to grow and develop. But no matter how things change, what will always remain is the magic of Ambialet.

“The people who go are not afraid to go back again – there or any other country,” Joyce said.

“It makes you more confident in yourself,” added Vincent. “It becomes a normal part of life. It stretches your mind and it can’t go back.”



Adventures in France: The Fall 2017 crew set out apple picking one afternoon—only one problem—the orchard wasn’t doing apple picking because of poor weather. Undeterred they bought a bunch and assembled a delicious apple crisp.

Although the program has changed so much since Vincent and Joyce took that first group of students 10 years ago, the Remillard’s link to their parents’/grandparents’ legacy is not lost on them. The trip was made more meaningful by the connections they made to the French region.

“My parents always talked willingly about it, and I could see the poetry of my parents going and then us going almost 10 years later,” Art said. “If we could all have a 19th century priory to be a landmark of what we’ve done in life, that would be pretty awesome.” 🏡

“It makes you more confident in yourself. It becomes a normal part of life.”

It stretches your mind and you can’t go back.”

—Dr. Art Remillard

Remembering Mike Jandora

Scholarship forming for Vietnam pilot killed in service



Andrew Michael Jandora '67

WRITTEN BY | *Eric Horell '13, '17,*
Director of Alumni Engagement

When asked to describe his friend Lt. Andrew Michael Jandora '67 in a sentence, Dr. George Shannon '67 takes a minute to consider his words carefully before responding: "Mike was a very strong personality in the quietest way." Jack Powers '67 says Mike "never boasted, even though he could have. He was what you wanted in a Frankie." Al Curtis '68 recalls how "genuine and dedicated he was." These memories and many more create the portrait of a beloved and respected Saint Francis University alumnus who led by example and whose steadfast values inspired his classmates and teammates alike.

Jandora came to then-Saint Francis College from Duncansville, Pennsylvania, to become a social worker. He was the second oldest of six children. His older sister, Julia Burke, a 1982 physician assistant graduate, says he had a fantastic "big brother attitude." When their father died in 1962, Julia says that Mike came home to work and support the family while attending Saint Francis. "He would hitchhike to school on Route 22," she remembers. "It was that important to him."

Mike joined the wrestling team and discovered he was a natural. "He never wrestled before then," recalls Powers. "The first ever match in school history was

against Slippery Rock, and everyone on the team loses except for Mike, the one guy who never wrestled in high school." Jandora would combine this natural ability with a tenacious work ethic to finish his wrestling career with an impressive record of 53-11-1.

After graduation in 1967, Jandora volunteered for military service because "Mike was a patriot," says Burke. He joined the Navy and became a pilot, flying F4 Phantoms. When asked why he sought to become a pilot, Burke believes it was because Mike sought out "things he knew he'd have to work for. He liked a challenge, and he saw that with becoming a pilot."

Jandora served in Vietnam in 1970 before returning to the States, and in 1972 he was stationed in San Diego for military exercises on the U.S.S. Enterprise. On July 7th at 10:20 p.m., Jandora's plane underwent a mechanical malfunction soon after launching from the aircraft carrier. His jet crashed into the ocean. The radar intercept officer was able to eject and survive, but Jandora died in the accident. The plane was never recovered, and Jandora's remains were never found.

It's been forty-six years since Jandora's death, but his friends and family still miss him dearly and remember him fondly. To honor his memory, they've created the Mike Jandora '67 Scholarship. When you look back over Jandora's life, it's clear why his classmates are preserving his legacy. To quote Powers, "Mike was the type of man who should be remembered."

"I'm overjoyed," Julia says about the scholarship campaign. "I'm proud of my brother, and to know that others feel the same way...I'm taken aback. I'm truly grateful and it's very meaningful to me." 🏠

To Donate

Donations may be mailed to Saint Francis University, Office of Advancement, P.O. Box 600, Loretto, PA 15940 or by calling 814-472-3021 and using your debit/credit card. Please be sure to indicate that your donation is for the Mike Jandora '67 Scholarship Fund.

You can also go to forever.francis.edu/makeagift to submit your donation online.

Celebrating 50 Years of Fine Arts *and looking to the future*

WRITTEN BY | *Tom Harrilla, Communications Specialist
Office of Marketing Communications*

For 50 years, the Fine Arts program at Saint Francis University has provided students with the tools to work with their hands, heads, and hearts. Organized to include the areas of visual arts, music, and theatre, the department exposes students to new ideas, hands-on learning experiences, creative outlets and study abroad opportunities.

Many have carried the lessons they've learned here throughout their professional careers. To celebrate the 50th anniversary, faculty and alumni have come together to remember and reflect on what makes the Fine Arts department at Saint Francis unique.

"This department is dedicated to providing students a way to express themselves and give them a space to discover their passion," said Department Chair and World Drumming Ensemble Director, Jim Donovan, a founding member of the multi-platinum touring band Rusted Root who has been with the University since 2006.

Music

Over the last five decades, the sounds of rhythm and verse have echoed throughout the campus. Many remember enjoying the choir performances at JFK, and have fond memories of the then SFC Singers performing their annual Christmas concerts aired over WFBC-TV and WFBC-FM in Altoona.

"I always had a passion for singing, so I joined the SFU Singers," said Mathematics major **Gerry Weaver '86**. "Singing in a group led me to continue doing what I love. I now sing with the Vienna Choral Society in Vienna, Va."

As the years passed and curricular offerings grew, so did the need for space. The Boiler House, once a building that



Students in the Hand Drumming course enjoy learning the basics of drumming and develop a foundation in group-music making. Students then have the opportunity to join the **World Drum Ensemble**, where they can study and perform traditional drumming music from all over the globe.

housed heating equipment, has been renovated into a modern Fine Arts classroom and rehearsal space.

Academically, the department now offers individual lessons in guitar, piano, voice, and hand drumming, as well as courses in songwriting, musical wellness, and music history. Students also have the option to join various music groups on campus such as the World Drumming Ensemble, Pep-Band, and Marching-Band.

"We have offered classroom and hands-on experiences for students who have come to us with both excellent backgrounds in music, and students with virtually no musical background," said Martha O'Brien, Music Instructor and Dean of Education. "We have found ways to give both groups a viable experience."

Decades of Thanks

1960s

"If it wasn't for the Fine Arts, I would not have expanded my thinking, discovered my passion and followed my dreams."

—*Michael R. Martorella '69*

1970s

"Fine Arts taught me how to express myself and gave me courage and confidence I never knew I had."

—*Anne Crusan '73*

"The Fine Arts experience gave me purpose and taught me that with a goal, perseverance, and hard work you can achieve your dreams."

—*Gwen Mauro Drescher '74*

"The Fine Arts fills my life with color and light...art is an endlessly renewable resource." —*Christine Eyre '78*



Visual Arts

The creation of a beautiful, tangible piece of art begins with a single stroke. Paint streaked on canvas, charcoal blended on paper, and the steady press of a camera shutter can elicit memories of drawing classes on the campus mall, visits from Artists in Residence, and countless hours closely inspecting photographs spread across a large table.

"Involvement in Fine Art classes at SFU helped me to maintain a mental balance," said Chemistry major, **Kaylyn Oshaben, '10**. "While both chemistry and photography required a lot of time, having these two very different workloads prevented me from burning out in either one. It also gave me a second set of mentors who looked at life through a slightly different lens."

Students of all majors have found value in escaping into a creative world of color and light. "We're always trying to get students involved in the visual arts as a complement to their major," said, Professor of Art, Chuck Olson.

"Our goal is to get as many students as we can participating in visual arts, music and theater as a compliment to their major," said Dr. Pete Skoner, Interim Dean of the new School of Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics at SFU. "The balance of left and right brain activities leads to more innovative professionals and happier human beings."

Showcasing the arts throughout campus is something the University continues to widely embrace. Original paintings and photographs from Fine Arts students are on display throughout the Science Center, Stokes Athletic Center, Library and other academic spaces, as a reminder that expressing oneself through creativity is

essential to the collegiate experience.

In the autumn of 2015, the Fine Arts department opened the Art Garage. Located behind Padua Hall, the Art Garage is a student workspace sculpted within the former St. Joseph Service Center garage. Open beyond class times, the space allows students to work on projects whenever they wish, easily fitting creative time into their schedules.



Kenny Resinski and his wife, Bonnie, smile for a photo in 2004. The couple has influenced thousands of students through their decades of involvement in the Theatre program.

Theatre

It is impossible to tell the history of theatre at Saint Francis without mentioning the name Kenny Resinski. Mr. Resinski started his tenure in 1967, and until his death in 2013, the longtime theatre director and drama professor inspired and changed the lives of thousands of students, faculty, and community members who were involved in his productions. The stage at the John F. Kennedy Student Center has seen a wide variety of performances in genres ranging from American Classics, Shakespeare, Greek Mythology, and Japanese theatre.

"Theatre is like family" is a common phrase uttered by nearly everyone who has been involved with the program at Saint Francis. "At first, I only wanted to participate behind the scenes," remembers **Kathy Friar Kross '73**. "After a few years of doing lighting and makeup, Kenny said it would be good for me to do something more. I got a part in *Fiddler on The Roof*. I was scared to death, but I had the time of my life."

Unlike universities that allow only theatre majors to participate in theatrical productions, students of all majors can be part of the program from their very first day.

"The Theatre program has provided a creative outlet

1980s

"Being involved in the Fine Arts gave me focus, purpose, and happiness."

—*Anne Volk '81*

"I viewed the Fine Arts as a very Holy experience. I am truly blessed to have attended Saint Francis."

—*Missy (Judith Baldino) O'Brien '81*

"Fine Arts fostered my emotional and physical well-being and introduced me to some of my dearest friends."

—*Katharine Fairhurst '84*

1990s

"I learned the importance of taking initiative, and responsibility. All of my "soft skills" were gained through my Fine Arts experience."

—*Dr. Danelle Conner '98*

2000s

"I learned that sometimes, going outside of your comfort zone can result in great reward." —*Chelsea Crandall '16*

for students looking to find, or escape, their comfort zone,” said Director and Theatre Professor, F.J. Hartland. “A common misconception is that you need to act to be involved in theatre—not so. We need set designers, costume designers, and lighting technicians. No matter your passion, there will be a role for you, whether on stage or behind the scenes.”

Fundraising is currently underway for a Black Box Theater that will be a welcomed addition to the Boiler House and Arts Garage. This much-needed addition will provide ample space for the theatre program as well as the campus community. You can find out more about this exciting campus addition below.



Art, music, theatre, and friendships are not the only

things that are created in the Fine Arts department. Perhaps the most important asset students forge are memories. Remembering the past is important. It’s fun, from time to time, to reminisce. But the focus must look onward so that future students can participate in those transformational experiences and create memories and skill sets that will stay with them their entire lives.

“Broaden your horizons,” advised **Gerry Weaver, ’86**. “Doing things and meeting others you may not normally experience during your four years in your major—that’s what a Fine Arts education is all about.” 🏠

*Explore the Fine Arts program at
SFU: francis.edu/FineArts*



Early concept vision by IKM, a Pittsburgh architectural firm, of the proposed Fine Arts plaza with a new theater complex flanked by the existing Art Garage and Boilerhouse.

Dreaming of the Resinski Black Box Theater

Thanks to a grassroots effort by a passionate group of theater alumni, funds are being raised for the **Resinski Black Box Theatre**. The proposed, flexible 10,000-square foot space would be available for performances, speakers, concerts, and lectures. This newest addition to the campus Fine Arts Center, that includes the Boiler House and Art Garage, would create a new vibrant gathering area for the campus community.

On March 24, 2018, fifty-six theater alumni and friends met on campus for a one-day

symposium. The goal of the symposium was to strategically inform the design of the Black Box Theater, build support and enthusiasm for the project and assess and identify sources of funding.

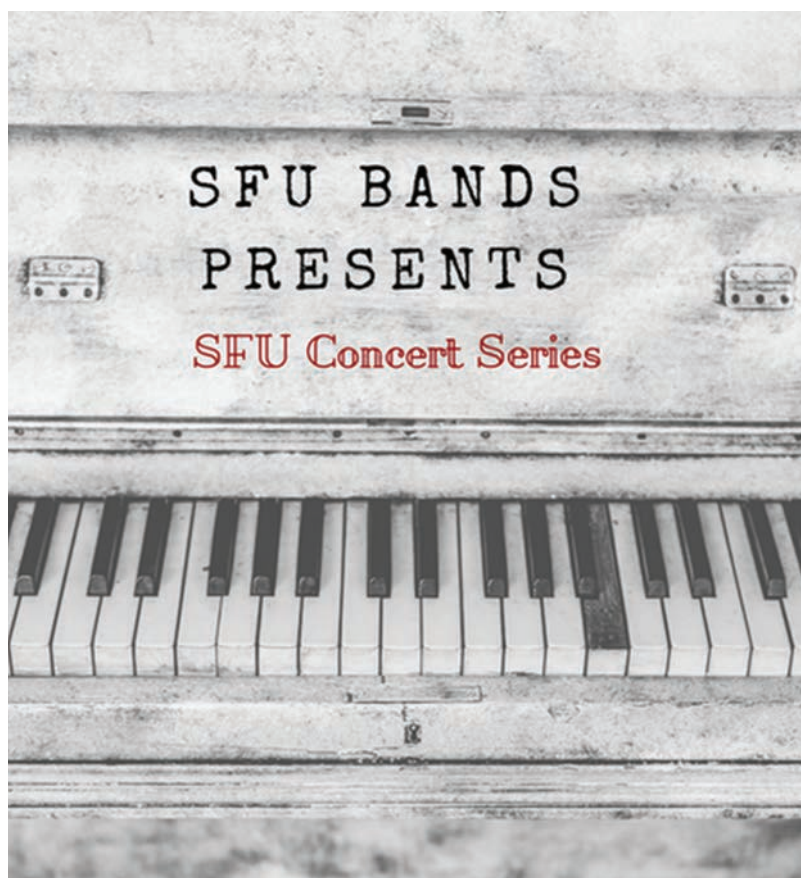
Chris Collins '73, campaign fund-raising chair, presided over the plenary session to vision the potential beyond bricks and mortar. University President, Rev. Malachi Van Tassell, T.O.R., Ph.D., Vice President for Advancement, Robert Crusciel '86, and additional University administrators joined project

architecture and planning firm, IKM, in opening the symposium. Two breakout sessions followed: “Designing the theater to SFU’s programmatic needs” and “the Black Box theater as a cultural asset for the community.”

If fundraising efforts go well, the goal is to open the theater in the autumn of 2021, to coincide with the 175th anniversary of Saint Francis University. If you would like to move this project forward, contact Robert Crusciel '86, Vice President for Advancement at rcrusciel@francis.edu or 814-472-3021.

The Future of the Arts at SFU

The Arts—including theatre, visual arts, music, and more broadly, humanities and language arts—have always been at the heart of an SFU education. With the formation of the new School of Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics (see page 20) this “heart” is beating louder than ever. Housing STEM, Arts, and Humanities programs in one collaborative school aligns with the national movement toward STEAM education, a way of learning embraced by incoming students.



2018 CONCERT SERIES

Performances in JFK Auditorium

Sponsored by
Saint Francis University Bands

Sept. 30: The Vogues

Oct. 20: Grease Sing-A-Long

Nov. 25: SFU Band Blast

Dec. 1: White Christmas in Concert

For more information:
Francis.edu/SFUconcertseries



Commencement 2018

An impressive 735 Saint Francis students turned their tassels this year at the Stokes Athletic Center. The 2018 ceremonies were held on Sunday, May 13, 2018 with 404 undergraduates and 331 graduate students receiving diplomas.

Photo & Video Galleries:
francis.edu/Commencement-2018





Graduate Speaker: Andrew Rush, Masters of Physical Therapy '00, M.B.A. '11 served as the speaker at the graduate ceremony. Rush is the Chief Executive Officer for Somerset Health Services Inc. In addition, he serves Somerset Hospital as Senior Vice President and Chief Operating Officer. He also played professional baseball for six years with the Boston Red Sox and San Diego Padres.



Undergraduate Speaker: Dr. Carolyn Yauyan Woo spoke to the undergrads. Dr. Woo, Distinguished President's Fellow for Global Development at Purdue University, was formerly President and CEO of Catholic Relief Services, the official international humanitarian agency of the Catholic community in the United States. Dr. Woo encouraged the young men and women to continue the service they started during their time at SFU.



Ranking & Distinctions

Stand proud SFU alumni! Below are just a few of the distinctions given to your alma mater during the 2017-18 academic year. We are so proud of these accolades, but at the end of the day our biggest success is seeing our graduates become talented, caring, and competent professionals who make a difference in this world. Make sure you share your success stories with us!

SFU Athletics Records Highest GPA in the NEC

June 21, 2018

Student-athletes established a new conference record with a (3.423) combined GPA for the 2017-2018 academic school year.

Saint Francis Greek Life Sets Record G.P.A.

June 15, 2018

Greeks achieve above national GPA averages once again and set a new all-time high for the Greek Life community on campus.

ALL 2018 Physician Assistant Graduates Pass National Certification Exam

June 15, 2018

This is the third class in the recent history of the PA Program to obtain a 100% first-time pass rate.

College Consensus Ranks SFU as One of the Best Colleges for Veterans

June 6, 2018

This new college ratings website ranked SFU 31 out of 192 schools in a survey combining perspectives from trusted ranking agencies and reputable student reviews. In May, College Consensus also named SFU among the Top Colleges in the North.

Shields Business Programs Receive Unconditional Accreditation

April 25, 2018

The Shields School of Business and its eight academic programs were officially conferred their “Reaffirmation of Specialized Business School Accreditation” by the International Accreditation Council for Business Education (IACBE)

Master of OT 2017 Grads Achieve 100 Percent Certification Pass Rate

April 11, 2018

For the second consecutive year, the graduating Occupational Therapy class achieved a 100% pass rate on the National Certification Examination.

Master of Health Science Program Ranked 5th in the Country

March 29, 2018

BestColleges.com ranked SFU’s program the 5th best Online Health Science Program in the country for the second straight year.

SFU Named to Kiplinger 2018 Best College Value List

February 20, 2018

SFU was named to “Kiplinger’s Personal Finance’s” list of the 300 Best College Values for 2018.

Business, Education, Engineering and Nursing Named Programs of Distinction

February 1, 2018

Four SFU programs are now sporting new “Field of Study” honor badges from the national Colleges of Distinctions organization.

Find more details: francis.edu/distinctions



A top college in PA for
Return on Investment

Affordable Colleges

ROI



Safety

A+ Rating

Niche.com



Top 13% of colleges
named "Best College"

Money Magazine

Best

**SFU Nursing Ranked #1
Program in the State**

January 29, 2018

76 Schools Analyzed. 30 Schools Ranked. SFU Nursing #1!

SFU Receives "A" Rating for Safety

January 22, 2018

The 2018 Safest College Campuses in America survey lists SFU as the 12th safest school in Pa., and the 124th safest school in the nation.

**SFU Named
2018 Military-Friendly School**

December 8, 2017

Saint Francis University has been designated a 2018 Military-Friendly® School by Victory Media.

**SFU Nursing Department 100% NCLEX-RN
Pass Rate Four Years in a Row**

October 27, 2017

The SFU Nursing Program becomes the only program in the state to have 100 percent pass rate for four consecutive years.

**SFU Moves Up in US News
Best Colleges Rankings**

September 12, 2017

SFU has moved into the top 20 listing of the "Best Regional Universities" in the northern United States.

MONEY Names SFU Among Best Colleges

July 21, 2017

The national financial publication, MONEY, has named Saint Francis University among the 2016-17 "Best Colleges".

ON CAMPUS

our vibrant community

New SFU academic structure spurs innovation aligned with workforce trends

Saint Francis University began the 2018-19 year with programs realigned under a bold, new academic organizational structure designed to strengthen opportunities for Business, STEM, Healthcare, and Humanities students. The new framework allows faculty to collaborate and create innovative programming based on current and emerging career trends.

According to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, nearly 300,000 jobs statewide require STEM skills. Over the next decade, more than 70 percent of new jobs will require these skills.

“We aim to fully prepare our

“A holistic, liberal arts education, grounded in the Catholic-Franciscan tradition, is more relevant than ever.”

**—Fr. Malachi Van Tassell,
University President**

students to make sure these opportunities are open to all of them as our graduates,” said University President

Fr. Malachi Van Tassell. “This can only happen with reimagining ourselves in a way that prepares us for a STEM-based future, while still bringing us closer to the liberal arts roots that have benefited generations of successful Saint Francis alumni.”

In addition to providing more student opportunities, the moves will also help the university better manage costs in the face of tuition affordability concerns. The goal is to stabilize tuition while still investing in initiatives that improve the student experience.

The university based the organizational changes on an evaluation

MOVING FORWARD

Below is a snapshot of the new academic structure, organized into three schools. Programs in the former School of Arts & Letters have been moved into the new school structure to provide more opportunities for current students.

The Shields School of Business, led by Dr. Randy Frye as Dean, welcomes the Communications and Sociology & Criminal Justice programs. With these new offerings, the Shields School of Business expands its high-caliber, accredited portfolio by offering courses in concentration areas such as finance and marketing, with emphasis on a foundation of thinking, speaking, and writing critically.

The School of Health Sciences & Education, led by Dr. Don Walkovich as Dean. This School houses

all our accredited and nationally-ranked Health Science Programs, and now welcomes the departments of American Sign Language, Education, Psychology and Social Work. This will allow us to continue providing an interdisciplinary approach to learning that will give our graduates an advantage as they pursue their career.

The School of Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, & Mathematics, led by Dr. Pete Skoner as Interim Dean. This School is Home to all our innovative STEM, Fine Arts, Fermentation Arts, History & Political Science, Literature & Languages and Women's Studies programs. Through merging Arts and Sciences, we afford students the opportunity to explore professional interests both within and outside their field of study, help them grow as scholars, and prepare them for success in work and in life.

of the School/Dean structure, which consisted of both quantitative analysis and attitudinal feedback. The results affirmed that restructuring the schools was necessary for growth, and valued interdisciplinary curriculums that allow a more significant integration of the arts.

“A holistic, liberal arts education, grounded in the Catholic-Franciscan tradition, is more relevant than ever,” said Van Tassell. Having fields separated into four schools increases costs for students, and creates silos that prevent the arts and humanities from being a truly in-depth experience for all students. Conversely, these “silos” prevent our liberal arts majors from fully experiencing the benefits of a strong business and STEM foundation.”

Current majors are all still available


and new majors are under development that will offer additional career paths to students. A thorough review of all programs will be conducted by faculty and administration between 2018-2020 for recommendations on consolidation, elimination, growth, and transformation opportunities.

President Van Tassell explained that while the shape of the school structure has changed, the academic purpose remains the same.

“It is our mission to educate competent, caring, compassionate, workforce-ready professionals who can bring forth solutions to tomorrow’s problems. True to our liberal arts roots and Franciscan heritage, our faculty and staff are committed to helping students examine ethical issues,

demonstrate global awareness, and become actively involved in community service. Above all, we will guide them to become that someone they are meant to be.”

The 2018 freshman class will graduate in 2022, Saint Francis’ 175th anniversary year. The significance of that impending milestone is not lost on Van Tassell.

“This introspective look at our institution will serve as a catalyst for the outward innovation that will define the next chapter in our history,” he said. “Because we took this opportunity to re-imagine ourselves and prepare for emerging societal and workforce needs, our graduates will continue to exemplify the spirit of St. Francis of Assisi for the next 175 years and beyond. 



A series of paintings representing the STEM disciplines, grace each floor landing in the Science Center which opened in the Fall of 2013. The paintings were created by Fine Arts Professor Chuck Olson along with Matt Metzger, a Psychology/OT student who worked with Sciences to bring their concepts to life. The new school of STEAM will provide even more opportunities for students in all fields to explore artistic mediums and expand their creative portfolios.



Breaking ground on the new Health Sciences addition L-R: Jean (Payne) Rogers '82, Board of Trustees' member; Rita Trofino, Nursing Department Chair; Madison Krug, Nursing major; Paul Sansone '88, Board of Trustees Member; the Rev. Malachi Van Tassell T.O.R. Ph.D., University President; the Rev. Richard Davis T.O.R. '74, Board of Trustees Chairman; Donald Walkovich, School of Health Sciences and Education Dean; Madison Maslonik, Nursing Major; Lisa Hartmann '85, Alumni Association President; and Bill Brennan, Celli-Flynn Brennan Architects & Planners Vice President.

New Programs at SFU

Aviation Program (pilot training)

This new program which opened in Fall 2018 is offered in partnership with Nulton Aviation Services of Johnstown. It allows students to earn a bachelor's degree and a private/commercial pilot's license at the same time. The 21-credit Aviation Concentration (private/commercial pilot certification) at SFU is only the third program of its type in Pennsylvania to combine bachelor's degree credits with pilot licensing.

The creation of this program is made possible through seed funding in the form of a \$1.9 million state multimodal grant awarded to the Johnstown-Cambria County Airport

Authority. The funding is part of a workforce development initiative to stem a shortage of pilots nationwide as the Baby Boomer generation retires.

The grant provides scholarship money for students who enroll in the program and also will assist the university with marketing.

Scholarships will be awarded on a first-come basis for students who meet the admissions criteria and are accepted into the program. In order to be considered for scholarship awards, students will need to apply to Saint Francis through either the Undergraduate Admissions or Adult Degree & Continuing Studies.

Learn more: francis.edu/aviation

Business Analytics (enrolling for Fall 2019)

Data is often used to create new understanding, drive decisions, and plan strategic direction. Business executives ask for data-driven reviews of departments, programs, products, and people.

Nearly every industry relies on analytics to grow and succeed. Manufacturing professionals use data analytics to identify inefficiencies in routes, methods and processes. Entertainment and retail shopping services use analytics to provide real-time, tailored recommendations. Law enforcement analyzes trends in crime to deploy assets more effectively.

According to an October 2017 LinkedIn report, both “statistical analysis and data mining” and “data presentation” are among the top 10 skills sought by potential employers globally. Further, the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics ranks the professions of “statistician” and “operations research analyst” among its top 20 fastest growing


professions. The new Business Analytics major opening in the Shields School of Business will help prepare our students to fill this demand.

Learn more: francis.edubusinessanalytics

SFU Breaks Ground on New Health Sciences Addition

Saint Francis University students pursuing health science careers are one step closer to having a new interdisciplinary space to practice real-world healthcare scenarios.

While construction for the Health Sciences Experiential Learning Commons began in early April, a ceremonial groundbreaking was held on Saturday, July 28th. The facility is expected to open by July 2019.

Phase one of the reinvention of Sullivan Hall is a 10,000 square-foot addition that will provide much-needed classroom, laboratory, and clinical education space to instruct students enrolled in health science programs. 



Fall Open Houses

Saturday, Oct. 20
Saturday, Nov. 10

Explore life at SFU in
this full-day experience.

Sign up at
francis.edu/visit



ATHLETICS

Northeast Conference Champs



Women's Soccer

The team continued to build on its dynasty in 2017 with its fourth title in the last seven seasons. The Red Flash entered the NEC Tournament as the number two seed but advanced to the final with a 2-1 win over Central Connecticut State in the semifinals. The NEC Final pitted the Red Flash vs. the top-seeded Fairleigh Dickinson Knights. The Saint Francis defense held firm and the Red Flash would outlast the Knights in a thrilling penalty shootout. Saint Francis represented itself well in the NCAA Tournament, losing to No. 13 Virginia 2-0.



Women's Basketball

It was a record-setting year for head coach Joe Haigh, with the team achieving their first NEC title since 2010-11 and the 12th in program history. They won 24 games overall, the second most in program history, with 16 in-conference, the most since 2003-04. They also held the largest win margin in NEC history with an average of a 17.9 point lead per game in conference play. The Red Flash came face-to-face with in-state rival Robert Morris in the NEC Championship game on ESPNU. Junior Jessica Kovatch, the MVP of the Tournament, helped SFU roll to a 66-56 victory. Their standout season came to an end at the NCAA Women's Tournament, where they battled No. 1-seed UConn at the famed Gampel Pavilion in Storrs, Connecticut.

Bowling

The team went on a memorable run to capture its second NEC title in program history and its first since 2013-14. Saint Francis didn't get an automatic berth into the NCAA Tournament Field as a Final-Eight team but proved its worth with a dominating performance in a win over Bowie State at the Holiday Bowl in Altoona in an NCAA Play-in Game. It was off to Saint Louis and the NCAA Tournament for the first time in school history where SFU went toe-to-toe with defending champion



SFU Athletics crowned NEC Commissioner's Cup Champs

Backed by championship performances from women's soccer, women's basketball, bowling and softball, the Saint Francis Athletics Department claimed its first-ever Brenda Weare Commissioner's Cup for the 2017-18 academic school year. Additionally, Saint Francis took home the Joan Martin Commissioner's Cup, awarded to the University with the highest achieving women's sports programs.

"We are grateful to have won the Brenda Weare Commissioner's Cup and the Joan Martin Commissioner's Cup in 2017-18," said Director of Athletics Susan Robinson-Fruchtl. "These honors are a testament to our Red Flash student-athletes, coaches and staff. The success we are experiencing is a culmination of several years of hard work by many people at the University. We could not have accomplished any of this without the support

and leadership of our President, Fr. Malachi Van Tassell and his administration, and Dr. Frank Montecalvo, our Vice President for Innovative Partnerships and Student Development. I'd like to thank our former AD Bob Krimmel, for continuously improving Red Flash Athletics. Our faculty and other staff at SFU, such as our Faculty Athletic Mentors (FAMs) and Team Chaplains, have also been great team players in working together to help Red Flash Athletics grow and be in a position to accomplish an honor like this."

Saint Francis's 20 NEC-affiliated sports totaled 202.70 points for its highest total in school history. The Red Flash defeated Sacred Heart, its closest pursuer, at 193.14 points. Saint Francis athletes also managed to record a combined 3.409 cumulative G.P.A. in the spring semester, which was a new department record.

"These honors are a testament to our Red Flash student-athletes, coaches and staff. The success we are experiencing is a culmination of several years of hard work by many people at the University."

*—Susan Robinson-Fruchtl
Director of Athletics*

www.sfuathletics.com

McKendree in its first match, a narrow defeat. SFU's amazing season came to an end in its next match vs. North Carolina AT&T State.

Softball

The Saint Francis softball team captured its second consecutive Northeast Conference Title, steamrolling the conference with a 16-0 record. The Red Flash have won 38 straight games vs. conference opponents, the longest conference winning streak in the NEC. Saint Francis represented well at the NCAA Regional in Tucson, Arizona, losing a tight game to #14 Arizona 1-0, followed by a hard-fought battle with Mississippi State that led to an 11-5 loss. The game was tied at 5-5 through five innings.



Men's Basketball coming to a state near you



Happy Fans— Alumni Larry Lewis, Len Murray, Allen Spencer, Sam Sloan, and Kevin Porter showed up to support the Red Flash at the first round of the CIT in Chicago.

Head Men's Basketball coach Rob Krimmel and his staff pieced together one of the most difficult schedules in the program's history for the 2017-18 season. The Red Flash scattered 31 games across 10 different states, clashing with three nationally-ranked opponents.

"There are a variety of factors that go into us creating our non-conference schedule each year," said head coach Rob Krimmel. "One of those factors is scheduling games where our alumni and the families of our current players are located. In doing so, we are able to keep people connected with our program who

"Playing a national schedule allows us to connect with as many Saint Francis friends and alumni as possible."

—Rob Krimmel, Head Men's Basketball Coach

otherwise would not be able to see us in-person."

The Red Flash opened the season across the country in California with games at No. 22 Saint Mary's and San Francisco. The team also took

on No. 19 Louisville and then No. 1 Duke which was nationally televised on ESPN2.

In addition to providing the program with nationwide exposure, the schedule allowed Krimmel and the program the opportunity to connect with its alumni base across the country.

"Playing a national schedule allows us to connect with as many Saint Francis friends and alumni as possible," said Krimmel. "It also helps us in recruiting, as we look to enhance the visibility of our program by playing not only teams from different parts of the country, but also those that have a national reputation."

Saint Francis hosted an alumni reception on December 5 in Durham, North Carolina prior to its game with Duke. The event was sponsored by SFU Trustee Paul Sansone '88 and was attended by more than 100 supporters.

When Saint Francis played the University of Illinois-Chicago in the first round of the College Insider Tournament, former SFU great and NBA star Kevin Porter was in attendance as well as Saint Francis's all-time leading scorer in Men's Soccer, Barry Bimbi.

Krimmel saw the advantages of playing a national schedule and has vowed to do so again in 2018-19. The Red Flash will return to California to open its season at UCLA on Nov. 16 before heading to North Carolina to face off with the Tar Heels on Nov. 19.

Day of Giving

Thank you to everyone who supported the University's first official Athletics Day of Giving on Monday, March 26, 2018. The "Let's Get Stoked" campaign resulted in a total of \$38,259.33 from 97 donors, and included \$26,000 from an anonymous donor.

"We are so grateful for all those who contributed

to our Stokes Day of Giving Campaign," said Director of Athletics Susan Robinson-Fruchtl. "We would not be able to do the things we do for our student-athletes without the help and generosity of our donors. Thank you for 'Becoming That Someone' in this campaign."

Beyond the Ribbon

Senior soccer player Nick Hanuscin spent most of his five years in Loretto with a heavy heart. Hanuscin's mother Kathy was first diagnosed with breast cancer while Nick was a sophomore in high school at Bishop Eustace Prep in New Jersey. His mom's cancer returned again during Nick's sophomore season at Saint Francis in 2014.

"I was at Sacred Heart for a game," explained Hanuscin. "As soon as I saw my dad sitting alone in the stands, I knew something wasn't right because my mom rarely missed a game."

After the game, former SFU head coach Michael Casper arranged for Nick to leave with his dad to go home to be with his mom. Although it was just a one-night stay, it meant the world to both of them.

Nick was back on campus the next day. Despite being four hours away from home, he remained upbeat and inspired as his mom continued her fight with breast cancer for the second time. It was with the support of his teammates and close friends that Nick was able to cope with what had been thrown his way.

Good news continued as Kathy's cancer seemed to be in remission. Unfortunately, her cancer returned for the third time during Nick's senior season in 2017. Not only would there be extensive treatment, but this time major surgery would be involved. More than ever, Nick would need the support of his SFU Family.

Hanuscin credits his Red Flash Family for helping him through some very painful days. Specifically, Nick credits Jessica Johns, the Saint Francis Athletic Trainer, and his teammates for helping him cope as he tried to balance school and athletics with his concern for his mother's health. Due to both his academic and soccer commitments, Nick rarely got the chance to be with his mom. This was one of the hardest things for him to overcome. Today, Kathy Hanuscin is in remission again. Surgery was successful and she is continuing with her treatments.

Hanuscin knows how much the support of his SFU Family has meant to him while dealing with his mother's illness, and wants to return the favor. His new mission for his final semester at Saint Francis was to make sure that his fellow SFU students are surrounded by similar support systems.

While preparing for a class presentation, Hanuscin learned that most cancer fundraising does not go directly to cancer research. That ate at Hanuscin; when

he decided to raise money for those affected by cancer, he wanted 100% of the money to go directly to those who needed it the most. With the support of President Fr. Malachi Van Tassell and Director of Athletics, Susan Robinson-Fruchtl, Hanuscin set out to create a fund which would directly support SFU students affected by cancer. Hanuscin teamed with Johns to start the "Beyond the Ribbons: Flash FAM Cancer Support Fund." Its goal is to provide financial and emotional support to SFU students who have an immediate family member affected by cancer.

"My family and I have fought cancer three times," said Hanuscin. "I want my fellow students to know that I have been, and still am in their shoes. Everything will be okay. With help, you can get through it. My mom's mantra has always been 'It's All Good.' That is something that has provided comfort to me, and I want the Saint Francis community to know that people are looking after them and that everything will be good."



On October 27, 2017, Hanuscin and his teammates organized their second "Think Pink" game during their match versus Sacred Heart. The proceeds from this year's event went to the new "Beyond the Ribbons" fund rather than to a cancer fund with no ties to SFU. Since that game, the fund has raised over \$3,000 with every penny going directly to those in the SFU community who need it.

"It's amazing to see how much support we have received from the Saint Francis students, faculty and staff," Hanuscin continued. "I am honored to play a part in helping SFU families cope with cancer and I hope that we can continue to raise money for this good cause in the future."

Kathy continues to inspire the Hanuscin family with her strength and positive outlook on life. According to Nick, she is winning her current fight against breast cancer and he couldn't be more proud.

You can donate to the SFU Beyond the Ribbons: Flash Fam Cancer Support Fund through Facebook facebook.com/SFUBeyondTheRibbons/ or Instagram [@sfubeyondtheribbons](https://www.instagram.com/sfubeyondtheribbons).

Making the Grades

SFU Athletics Records Highest G.P.A. in the NEC

SFU student-athletes established a new North East Conference record with a combined G.P.A. of 3.423 for the 2017-2018 academic school year. The Red Flash edged out Robert Morris (3.420) and LIU Brooklyn (3.401) for the award. All three schools beat the previous record of 3.381 established by Sacred Heart during the 2016-17 academic year.

"Our student-athletes are individuals of discipline, hard work, and fine character, both in the classroom, and in their sport," said University President, Fr. Malachi Van Tassell T.O.R. "I am proud of them, and thankful for all those who help to educate these men and women of distinction. Earning this award is certainly a point of pride for Saint Francis University."

Academic Year Stats: After recording a 3.337 cumulative G.P.A for Fall 2017, the student-athletes broke the department record during the Spring 2018 semester with a 3.409 cumulative G.P.A. In the process, the SFU Athletics Department posted cumulative grade-point averages above 3.0 for the 38th and 39th consecutive semesters. A record 420 student-athletes posted a G.P.A of 3.0 or higher during the spring semester



Reaching graduation is the ultimate goal for SFU student-athletes. Men's Basketball players Daniel Wallace (left) and Deon Baker, celebrated the achievement at the Commencement ceremony on May 13.

with 285 athletes recording a G.P.A. of 3.50 or higher, and 60 earning a perfect 4.0. For the academic

school year, SFU student-athletes recorded a combined G.P.A. of 3.373 across both semesters.



sfuathletics.com

ALUMNI

flashbacks

1950s

◆ **Mike Steirer '57** and his wife Jan celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on December 23, 2017.

1960s

◆ **Ken Letso '67** retired from being a teacher, principal and superintendent with the Central Cambria School District. Ken and his wife go to St. Augustine, Florida during the month of February. In August, Ken goes to British Columbia, Canada fly fishing with six other retired principals. As a hobby, he ties flies for fishing, works on stained glass projects, and attends different events at Saint Francis.



◆ **Brian McNerney '67** and his wife, Carol Ann, fortuitously ran into the Red Flash women's water polo team while at the San Clemente pier. The team was on the West Coast for a tournament, and both they and Brian enjoyed sharing stories about their time at Saint Francis.

◆ **Andy Karl '68** (right) attended **Mike McGraw '68** and his wife Joann's 50th Wedding Anniversary Party on December 30, 2017 in their hometown of Saratoga Springs, N.Y.



◆ Members of the classes of 1968-71 gathered for the 8th year in a row in March for a 5-day, 4-round golfing adventure in Myrtle Beach, S.C. Shown in the picture are (L-R) **Jay Matera '68**, **Jim Brennan '68**, **Pat Normanly '68**, **Dick Jones '68**, **Vince Fitzpatrick '68**, **Sue O'Connell**, **Rose Matera '71**, **George Corbett '68**, **Paul O'Connell '68**, **Len Aloï '68**, **Bob Gagnier '68**, **Tom Gill '67**, **Maria Gagnier '71**, **Ed Landerkin '68** and **Bob Waeger '68**. Missing from the photo is **Mike (Goody) Asselta '67** who joined the group for the final two days of golf. Next year's trip will be held during the first week in April. Alumni and friends from any SFU class are cordially invited to attend.

1970s



◆ **Dawn Marzarella '79**, **Ray Marzarella '81**, **Al Falabella '79**, **Brian Woods '80**, **Carol Woods '81**, **John McGough '79** got together to celebrate Al's 60th birthday.

Flashbacks in this issue include information submitted to the Office of Alumni Relations between August 2017 and March 2018.

ALUMNI / *Flashbacks*

◆ **Pat Mulhern '73** received the Paul Phillips Award as the Outstanding Marshall in the 2018 Philadelphia St. Patrick's Day Parade. Pat is a retired Federal Agent and after 9/11 served as an original Air Marshall to safeguard air travel.

◆ **Marianne Rittner-Holmes '79** co-wrote and published her first book: *Kent McCray: The Man Behind the Most Beloved Television Shows*, a memoir about the person who worked with such icons as Bob Hope, Red Skelton, and Groucho Marx. The book is available on Amazon and Barnes & Noble.



◆ Since 2014, Red flash football players, coaches and team directors of the 1970s (those involved with Coach Art Martynuska) have gathered for an annual reunion. This year's group met on September 9, 2017 for the Red Flash game vs Wagner, to celebrate the awarding of the second Arthur and Carmella Martynuska Scholarship prior to the game and dinner at Immergrün Clubhouse after the game. Those attending the dinner from left to right: **Steve Martynuska '79 & '92, Frank Perehinec '77, Frank Flaherty '81, Tony Tomaselli '81, Don Lybarger '79, Dave Shedlock '79, Ron Lynch '80, Joe Drop '71, Mike Rockafellow '75, Chuck Conley '72, Andy Shank '71, Joe Sweeney '76, Mary Catherine Graves '78, Steve Klaszky '72, Jay Ruane '80, Sean Donoghue '79.**

◆ **Mike Zingarelli '73** retired the Eagles Super Bowl flag and replaced it with the Saint Francis flag among the palm trees in sunny Florida, far from the Loretto winters.



1980s



◆ SFU alumni attended the 2017 Military Bowl in Annapolis, Maryland on December 28, 2017 to see Navy versus Virginia. From left to right: **Brian Petry '82, Mark Pizzillo '83, Brian Radatovich '82, John Monahan '82, Marty Nesbitt '83.**

◆ **Geraldine (Ertel) Hart '89** was unanimously confirmed as the new police commissioner of the Suffolk County Police Department. She will be the first woman to serve in the position in the department's 58 years. Hart was the former head of the FBI's Long Island office.

2000s



◆ **Jessica Burket '07**, first row, third from left, is currently a Ph.D. candidate in Biomedical Sciences at Eastern Virginia Medical School in Norfolk, Va. She was one of sixteen selected to the NASA Space Radiation Summer Program at the Brookhaven National Laboratory in New York. The program focused on various health issues related to space radiation—a critical obstacle in long-term space missions to Mars. Ms. Burket and her colleagues conducted cell-based radiation experiments.

Connect to the Saint Francis University Alumni Association at facebook.com/SaintFrancisAlumni



◆ **Shianne Witherow '17 BSN, RN** received a Certificate of Excellence in Care Award as an Intensive Care Nurse at Cleveland Clinic. The award was presented by the Clinic to Shianne after she took her dying young adult patient to be with her sister, who was also in the hospital, so that the sisters could be side by side when the patient was taken off life support. The award was for going above and beyond to help the family and the patient meet her end of life needs.

Submitting a Flashback

We love to hear from our alumni! Please share with us information about career changes, promotions, relocations, volunteer work, engagements, marriages, births, and interesting things.

How to submit a Flashback:

- **Email:** sfu-alumni-office@francis.edu
- **Fax:** 814-472-3044
- **Mail:** Flashbacks
Office of Alumni Relations
Saint Francis University
PO Box 600
Loretto, PA 15940

We welcome photos and will publish them as space permits. Digital files are best as long as they are high quality. A larger file size (300 dpi or higher) is better than a smaller file size. Photos submitted by mail will not be returned.



John Balouris '08 and Anna (Hoffman) Balouris '10 welcomed Paul William Balouris to the world on August 31, 2017.



Jason Burkett '09 and Ashley (Bauer) Burkett '10 '11 welcomed Reese Alexandria Burkett on July 14, 2017.



◆ **Andrew Farabaugh, MD '06 and Melanie (Stockman) Farabaugh, MD '07** welcomed a daughter, Amelia Rose, born on August 22, 2017. She joins her big brother Landon. The family resides in York, Pa.



◆ **Cesar Pena '06 and Heather Jackson-Pena '04 '05** welcomed Ivy Chase in the early morning of October 20, 2017.

Births and Adoptions



◆ **Justine Roberts '08 '09 '16, and Adam Bucynski** welcomed Marlo Jean Bucynski on May 18, 2017. She was baptized by Fr. Malachi Van Tassell in July 2017.



◆ **Crystal (Shumgart) Witmer '08 and Shaun Witmer** welcomed a baby girl, Zoe Jane Witmer, into their family on November 9, 2017. She was born 20 inches and 5 pounds, 12.4 ounces.



◆ **Richard Zelnosky '13 and Sarah (Zeak) Zelnosky '11** welcomed Rayla Nicole Zelnosky to their family on February 20, 2018. The family happily resides in Altoona, Pa.

Marriages



◆ **Tim Crawford '10, '11 (MBA)** and **Cait (Hurley) Crawford '10, '12 (DPT)** were married on May 20, 2017. Alumni there for the celebration were: **Dave Young '10, '11 (PA)**, **Noelle (Lyons) Ferragonio '10, '12 (DPT)**, **Amy (Burkholder) Lantz '95**, **Lexi Crawford '91-'93**, **Cory Reed '11**, **Tim Smith '10**, **Brian Neff '10, '12 (DPT)**, **Trista (Dixon) Farabaugh '10, '12 (DPT)**, **Erin (Stenberg) Young '10, '11 (PA)**, **Jess Carter '11, '12 (PA)**, **Rose Tyger '11, '12 (PA)**, **Rachel Rodgers '10**, **Sam (Kline) Fyock '10, '11 (PA)**, **Amy (Kleinosky) Meadows '03**, and **Bill Hanlon (faculty)**.



◆ **Megan (Pfeil) Widener '14, '15** married **Brian Widener** on May 20, 2017 at Grace Lutheran Church in State College, Pa. Megan and Brian met at their Tang Soo Do class in 2017. **Kathryn Brown '12** was the maid of honor.



New chapel doors donated by **Bradley Walent '96** and **Patrick Koehl '97**.

Deaths

Eric M. Abood '00
Edward Adelsberg '59
William Andahazy '63
Susan (Vought) Ankeny '98 '00
Anthony Baldacchino '58
Andrew Balko '65
John M. Baraniak '69
John Beale '53
Charles Bender '67
Michael Berzonsky '59
Fr. Alex Bombera, T.O.R. '43
Louis Borelle '53
Patrick F. Branagan M'91
Arlene (Kinnally) Bucci '64
George Caroff '64
Alfred D. Conigy '56
Linda Decruz-Harper '69
Matthew J. Distasio '04
Marie Eiter '63
Delores M. Fritch '65
John Paul Galliker '68
Fr. M. Gerald Gordon, T.O.R. '64
Vincent Richard Hagg '50
William F. Hahn '60
Robert Hanna '74
Jacob Hershberger DPT '15

Raymond Hite '89
Gertrude Hoover '87
Paul F. Humm '52
Fr. Jerry Kanzic '77
Stephen J. Kasold '73
Edward James Kolar Jr. '66
Michael J. Kurtz '79
Lawrence J. Lehmier '59 M'63
Walter Lodolinski '58
Edward Maloney '59
Charles Malt '64
Michael McCall '65
Michael McDermott '67
Fr. Colman McGarril, T.O.R. '50
Thomas "TJ" McGarvey '77
Francis McTavich '56
Kathryn Alicia Monahan '64
James Nalisnick '68
Carol A. Nixdorf
Jason M. Petrella '98
John T. Quinn '87
Robert Rehovich '71
Ernest Reigh '50
Diana Reitz M'98
Robert J. Roper '72
Suzanne (Schettig) Shevock '62

Herbert Stangl '56
Henry C. Stossel '53
Robert Villarreal '58
Eugene Wade '54
Albert Zanni '52

◆ Fr. Gervase Cain, T.O.R. '53, executive vice president from 1977-83; taught philosophy from 1963-79, chairing the department from 1966-70. He passed on May 12, 2018. He was 86.

◆ John 'Jack' Murphy passed away on April 28, 2018, at the age of 93. His career spanned 51 years as a member of the history department from 1957-2008.

◆ Dr. Claire Sackin, professor and long-time chair of the social work department from 1976-97, passed away on June 24, 2017. She was 91.

◆ Barry Surma '82, Director of the Small Business Development Center (SBDC) at Saint Francis University passed away February 9, 2018.





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Save the date
HOMECOMING 2018



October 18-20
francis.edu/homecoming

See you in Loretto!