

Saint Francis

University Magazine

Spring Seussical!

Living the Fine Arts Life

INSIDE:

Shots in Arms

**Celebrating
Catholic Character**

SFU Scholarships

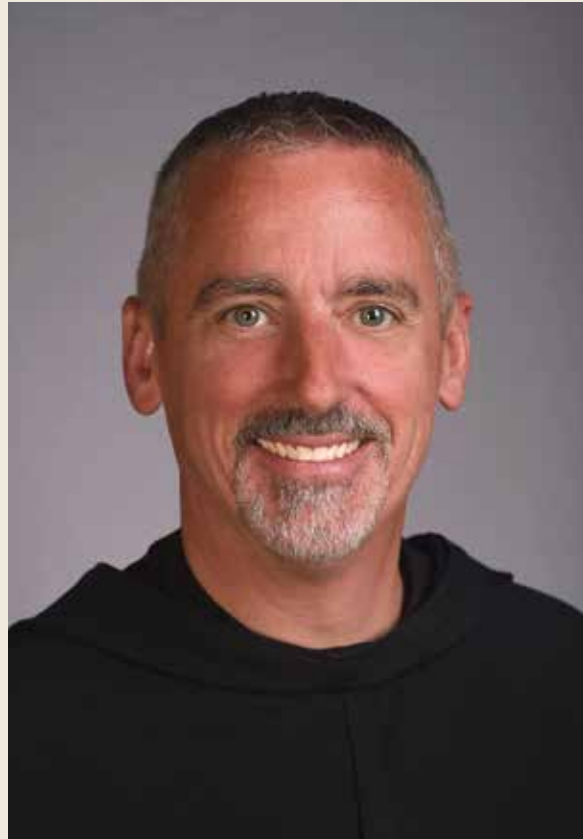
Message From the President

Home is where the heart is. There is no place like home. Welcome home! These sayings emphasize the primacy of place of one's residence. After Christ's crucifixion, the two disciples on the road to Emmaus headed for home, a place of safety and comfort after harrowing events. We ourselves have no doubt spent a considerable amount of time in our home in the last sixteen months.

As we move beyond the pandemic, we have a greater appreciation for our campus home. Our alumni will return to campus in 2022 for Alumni Weekend. It will be the first gathering since 2019! I foresee a festive reunion of classmates and friends. When our alumni return to their campus home, we will kick off the 175th anniversary of Saint Francis University. We will host the athletics Hall of Fame induction that same weekend. It will be a welcome, joyous event.

During the pandemic, our students could attend class and reside on campus, in-person, face-to-face for the entire 2020-2021 academic year. When the first students returned to their campus home to attend class on June 1, 2020, it was a welcome sight. Just think: Saint Francis University students have been on-campus, in-person, face-to-face for over a year. This was no small feat, and something about which not many schools can boast. Our students were blessed with the comfort and stability of campus life, albeit in a modified fashion. Members of our campus community were cooperative, flexible, and resilient. The theme for the year was 'magnanimity.' Students went out of their way to be magnanimous towards faculty and staff, complying with campus protocols. Though the restrictions under which we lived and worked at times seemed onerous and confining, we nonetheless had a lot to be grateful for, including a very low COVID-19 positivity rate. Our students enjoyed being with one another, cultivating friendships, being mentored by faculty and coaches, and studying in the idyllic campus setting. (And yes, parents and students alike were grateful for the "away at school" experience.)

The stories you will read in the magazine have a common theme: our campus home in Loretto. Enjoy our stories of a campus coming back to life during a pandemic. God has been good to us! I am reminded of the Scripture from



2 Samuel 7:29, "Now be pleased to bless the house of your servant, that it may continue forever in your sight; for you, Sovereign LORD, have spoken, and with your blessing the house of your servant will be blessed forever." We praise God for getting us to where we are today. We move forward in His grace and providence.

Thank you for your loyalty to Saint Francis University. I hope to see you one day in Loretto. There is no place like home!

Sincerely,

**Very Rev. Malachi Van Tassell, T.O.R., Ph.D.
President**

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On the cover: Senior Ethan Wesner (Computer Science/Cybersecurity) took the stage in April as the Cat in the Hat. Photo Courtesy Scott Stover
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Goals of Franciscan Higher Education

Franciscan Character

Humble and Generous
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Community of Faith and Prayer

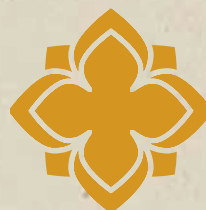
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of Individual Persons

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Solidarity and Reconciliation

Reverence for All Life
and Care of Creation

Spirit Of Simplicity and Joy



Goals of Franciscan Higher Education: *Aggiornamento*

Subtle, yet powerful, refinements to celebrate 30 years of spiritual transformation

STORY BY / Marie Young, Lead Editor

Saint Francis University is a vibrant, growing community of learners grounded in the Catholic faith thanks in no small part to the guiding themes espoused in the Goals of Franciscan Higher Education.

For the past 30 years these goals (drafted by then Saint Francis College President Fr. Christian R. Oravac, T.O.R.) have permeated every aspect of University life.

To honor the 30th anniversary of these goals, and to recognize the transformative journey they have inspired, the Franciscans of the Third Order Regular of Saint Francis of Penance have unveiled subtle, yet powerful, refinements (*aggiornamento*) to ensure that these goals remain relevant for generations to come.

STRENGTHENING LEGACY THROUGH AGGIORNAMENTO

Older generations may know the word “*aggiornamento*” (opening the windows, letting in some fresh air) in the context of the Second Vatican Council which brought spiritual renewal for the Church under Pope John XXIII in the early 1960s. In many ways, “*aggiornamento*” aptly describes the process the Friars took in honoring, yet refreshing the 30-year-old goals.

University President, Fr. Malachi Van Tassell, T.O.R., Ph.D., shared a bond with the original author of the goals. “Fr. Christian was a mentor to me and the fact that he authored the goals is very special to me,” Fr. Malachi explained. In his 19 years on campus, Fr. Malachi (first as a faculty member, then as University President), has witnessed the tremendous impact the goals have had in the classroom and beyond. “The goals which Fr. Christian authored were very good,” he explained. “We just wanted to make a few tweaks, especially having had 30 years to reflect since their



Aggiornamento Task Force from left: Br. Marius Strom, Father Malachi Van Tassell, Fr. Stephen Mary Waruszewski, and Fr. James Puglis.

origin. We made some subtle, yet powerful adjustments to make them very, very relevant in this day and age.”

The work of reviewing the goals was a natural outgrowth of the 2018 University restructuring initiative. “The fact that we are a much different institution than we were several years ago calls for a little introspection. Post the restructuring we have become more focused as a university on innovation and change. And we have become very focused on the Catholic Franciscan mission. To reflect these shifts, we updated our 15-year-old mission statement and recrafted our vision statement to capture our University mantra of helping students to “become that someone that God wants them to be.” In the fall of 2020, I felt it was time to take the next step and look at the Franciscan Goals in the context of who we are now as a community.”

While Fr. Malachi was having conversations about the Goals with some of our younger friars, Fr. Stephen Mary Waruszewski said to him, “The Franciscan Goals are going to be 30 this year, and so am I.” That comment continued the conversation down a productive path. “We realized on

one hand these goals are timeless, built on Franciscan values dating back 800 years; yet in the spirit of *aggiornamento*, we knew that we wanted to freshen them up so that they will resonate a little bit better with this generation of students and the ones soon to come.”

Fr. Malachi continued, “We pulled together an intentional task force of young friars (Fr. Stephen Mary Waruszewski, Fr. James Puglis and Br. Marius Strom) to work on the refinements. These friars are part of the innovation and change that is happening on campus. They have fresh ideas, and they are newly minted Franciscans so we wanted to let them put their fingerprints on it. In addition, I invited Fr. Jonathan St. Andre, who is a University Trustee and a Franciscan Scholar, to give guidance to the young friars.”

The Committee of Friars met officially in late December 2020 and again in January 2021 to delve into the Goals and possible revisions. The fruit of this work is a new “*aggiornamento*” version of the Goals of Franciscan Higher Education that was shared with the University Community in March.



Highlights from **Goals of Franciscan Higher Education** (aggiornamento)

University President, Fr. Malachi Van Tassell, T.O.R. shared his thoughts on the changes and their significance to the University community. You can read the full text of each goal here: francis.edu/franciscan-higher-education/

Franciscan Character

Core idea: Realizing the presence of God in every student; the faculty and staff strive to demonstrate through word and work the love of God as they facilitate the spiritual and intellectual formation of our student body.

"In the aggiornamento version 'Franciscan Presence' becomes 'Franciscan Character' and moves to the first spot in the most significant of the 2021 refinements. It is not just that Franciscans are present here. All community members who have Franciscan hearts and minds are helping to form our students. The transformative experience is not limited to the work of the Friars."

Humble and Generous Attitude Towards Learning

Core idea: As a community of learners, we encourage a free and open exchange of ideas as we seek Truth together.

"Here, we continue to emphasize that as a community of learners we humbly share our gifts and talents with one another; realizing that God is the source of all knowledge, and that we are on a journey towards 'Truth' with a capital 'T.' "

Community of Faith and Prayer

Core idea: Following Saint Francis, who did what God had given him to do, the University invites all of its members to spiritual growth, regardless of their background.

"This goal reflects the belief that innately people are spiritual beings. So whether you are Catholic, Jewish, Muslim, or another faith, we are a community that finds strength in praying together."

Respect for the Uniqueness of Individual Persons

Core idea: Imitating Francis of Assisi, we recognize that the image and likeness of God dwells in every human person and is expressed in a particular way through their unique giftedness.

"When we look at alleviating issues of race, issues of gender, or any issue of 'differentness' really, we find the unifier is recognizing that every person was created by God. They have innate dignity. Only in affirming that dignity can we help them to develop the unique gifts and talents that each bring with them."

Service to the Poor and Needy

Core idea: ...we strive to love Christ who is particularly present in the least of our brothers and sisters, especially the poor and the disenfranchised.

"We see Christ in everyone. When our students reach out to do service projects, it isn't just service for service sake. They encounter people in the world who have greater problems than they do. On a spiritual level it gives them the opportunity to see Christ in someone who is poor."

Solidarity and Reconciliation

Core idea: Living as brothers and sisters to one another and all creation, we form, by God's design, a Community that transcends particular nations and cultures.

"In this aggiornamento version 'a Global Vision' has become 'Solidarity and Reconciliation.' A global vision is not lost with

these changes, in fact, it is still very present in this reframed language that addresses healing our fractured world. The word 'solidarity' resonates with younger people seeking a unifying vision and common goals. Solidarity signifies that we are part of something bigger than ourselves. When you dig into the reconciliation piece, the Franciscans see themselves as peacemakers: bringing peace, bringing unity, and bringing reconciliation to a situation. So especially as the Franciscans reach out to the marginalized, this shift in perspective is particularly timely today when you think of the challenges in our country."

Reverence for All Life and Care for Creation

Core idea: Flowing from the abundant Goodness of God and our identity as sons and daughters of God, we live as brother and sister to one another and all creation.

"You will hear echoes of Pope Francis in the language shift from 'the Goodness of All Humanity' to 'Care for Creation.' The friars incorporated this phrase to intentionally broaden the focus to caring for the earth and the environment, in addition to human beings. When you really dig deep it goes back to St. Francis of Assisi who 'sees God in all of creation.' It brings an 800-year-old concept and melds it with Pope Francis in a way that is very relevant to students today."

Spirit of Simplicity and Joy

Core idea: Joyfully imitating St. Francis, we affirm that God draws close to us in whatever state and circumstances we have been given.

"A Charism of Franciscans is Joyfulness. We wanted to emphasize when we imitate God, there is really a joyfulness about this. We are supposed to be joyful people by nature, and we want to accentuate that. Following God, and the rules and regulations of our faith, isn't a drudgery. It brings a freedom and a joyfulness. It boils down to seeing God in everything. There is a joyfulness in one who imitates St. Francis and tries to live simply. We see it in this day and age (be it coping with the pandemic or political situations); if you have a relationship with God, and you have a relationship with people, in many ways that's all that matters. There is a joy in that, in realizing what's important at the core."

Total Game Changer

Sister Thea Bowman Foundation Scholarship provides opportunities for Black students



Devan Brown, '04 (accounting), parlayed his educational experience into a position as a reference data operations analyst at JPMorgan Chase & Co. in Delaware.



Brown is thankful for the path opened up by his time at Saint Francis as a Thea Bowman Scholar.

"I wouldn't be here—I wouldn't have my beautiful wife and lovely children or my beautiful home. It's been a life changer and a major blessing for me."

STORY BY /
Rachel (Vasilko) Heckman '13

When Devan Brown '04 first arrived on campus for his freshman year in 2000, he was stunned by the rural, small-town campus. Growing up in Baltimore, Maryland, he was used to the diverse, fast-paced culture of the inner city, and the lack of such in Loretto came as a total culture shock. Four years later, however, his experience at Saint Francis University had altered his life's course and had opened doors that had previously been closed.

"The [Sister Thea Bowman Black Catholic Educational Foundation] helped fashion who I am to a degree because it allowed me to be at Saint Francis," Brown said. "I wouldn't be here—I wouldn't have my beautiful wife and lovely children or my beautiful home. It's been a life changer and a major blessing for me."

'HER LEGACY IS EDUCATION.'

The granddaughter of slaves, Sister Thea Bowman, was born on December 29, 1937, in Yazoo City, Mississippi. Having converted to Catholicism at the age of nine, she joined the Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration when she was just 15 years old. With a passion for Catholic education and African American literature, Sister Thea eventually received her doctorate of English literature and linguistics from the Catholic University of America.

For 16 years, she continued to share her love of learning and her love for God through teaching, touching the lives of kids at all levels—elementary, secondary, and higher education—until the Bishop of Jackson, Miss., invited her to become

the consultant of intercultural awareness. Sister Thea traveled the country in her new role, giving presentations that combined singing, gospel preaching, prayer, and storytelling. Her programs, aimed at breaking down racial and cultural barriers, opened communication and understanding.

In 1984, Sister Thea gave the keynote presentation at the National Catholic Educational Convention in New Orleans. There she met Mary Lou Jennings. Jennings was a member of a social justice committee at a diocese in Saginaw, Michigan. Jennings had worked hard to reopen the diocese's inner-city Catholic school by raising funds for its operation. Still, with no understanding of Black consciousness, she was having trouble putting together a mission statement for an all-Black student body. Seeking help from Sister Thea, Jennings attended the Convention in the hopes of meeting her.

"I heard her speak, and I was mesmerized at her dynamism, at her presence in the room," Jennings said. "And I was the only white person in the room; everyone was African American, and they were singing and clapping and waving white handkerchiefs, and she was singing."

During their first conversation that day, Sister Thea invited Jennings to visit her in Jackson, Mississippi, to understand better how some Black people become trapped in a life of poverty.

"When I went to meet with her, she showed me the poverty that is in Mississippi among the Black people, and I had never seen such poverty," Jennings said. "These kids and people were living in tin shacks 11 and 12 at a time. It was as if civil rights never took place, and to this day, there isn't that much that has changed."

During that visit in 1984, Jennings realized the passion for Catholic education that



Sister Thea Bowman

"She always told me, 'Don't walk in front of me, Mary Lou; don't walk behind me; walk beside me.'"

**— Mary Lou Jennings,
Former Executive Director
of the Sister Thea Bowman
Black Catholic
Educational Foundation**



Sister Thea Bowman

Photos Courtesy of Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration, fspa.org

she shared with Sister Thea and the help she wanted to provide for the poor Black children living in the south.

"[Sister Thea] said to me, 'You need to do something to raise us up out of poverty.' She was very direct, very honest, clothed in the truth," Jennings said. "She was Black AND she was Catholic, and she was a voice for African American people."

With the inspiration she had received from Sister Thea, Jennings wanted to do whatever she could to help the poor kids she had met attend college and give them better and brighter futures. Her goal and the vision of Sister Thea were to raise money to provide poor Black kids with scholarships to Catholic universities. In October 1989, with the help of the Ed-

mundite priests at St. Michael's College in Colchester, Vt., Jennings and Sister Thea started the Sister Thea Bowman Black Catholic Educational Foundation.

"She always told me, 'Don't walk in front of me, Mary Lou; don't walk behind me; walk beside me,'" Jennings said. "We can never walk in these students' shoes as a white person. We are privileged, but we can open doors for them."

THEA BOWMAN SCHOLARS

Although Sister Thea passed away in 1990, Jennings continued the Foundation's work for 31 years. She received help from members of the Foundation's board and organizations like the Pittsburgh Steelers, whose late owner Dan Rooney was a

personal friend of Sister Thea.

In March 2021, Jennings stepped down as executive director of the Sister Thea Bowman Foundation, and its board of directors appointed Joseph Barker II of Atlanta to take her place. Barker has plans to continue to grow the Foundation, raising more money and establishing partnerships with even more Catholic colleges and universities across the country.

"We plan to continue the tremendous growth that Mary Lou has started throughout the years. Ultimately, our mentality is that the more students that we can mentor, the more students that we can put through these universities. The more students that we can put in these enrichment programs, the more the communities that are much



“[The scholarship] was such a pivotal thing in my life. It allowed me to further my education which allowed me to reposition myself in life.”

— Devan Brown '04

in need will be impacted positively by a broader set of students provided this opportunity,” Barker said. “So it starts with the development work; it starts with the doors that Mary Lou has opened—increasing the funding so that we can increase the students.”

The Foundation partners with nine different Catholic colleges and universities, including Saint Francis, to provide scholarships ranging from \$7,500 to \$10,000 a year. The partnering school matches the scholarship awarded by the Foundation, and the money helps pay for tuition, books, and on-campus housing.

The primary goal of the Sister Thea Bowman Foundation is to raise Black students out of poverty through educational scholarships. At the same time, Thea Bowman Scholars begin to find themselves through the Foundation’s enrichment program and the partnering schools’ mentorship programs, which Jennings now oversees since her departure as executive director.

“One of the reasons the enrichment program is the soul of the Foundation is because these kids don’t know who they are,” Jennings said. “It’s to help them realize who they are, and to study the Catholic intellectual tradition, the African American intellectual tradition, and to unfold in them the deep African American spirituality that they have. They need people to lift them up and then step aside and let them go on.”

To be eligible for the scholarship, a student must be Black and have a clear need for financial assistance. They also must commit to working with the Foundation’s mentors through the enrichment program and must maintain a 2.5 GPA. According to Jennings, the Foundation has a 98% retention rate for its scholars.

LIFE-CHANGING

As a teenager, Brown didn’t even think he would go to college. He pictured himself as a blue-collar worker living in the same city where he had grown up.

But when he heard about the scholarship through the Sister Thea Bowman Black Catholic Educational Foundation, he decided to apply.

As a scholarship recipient, Brown soon found himself as an accounting major at Saint Francis. While he admits that he did not take the opportunity seriously at first, it was the advice of his mentor, Lynne Banks—to not mess up his chance at success—that pulled him back to reality and kept him on track. Her constant support and the support he received through the Foundation helped keep him focused on his school work and new career goals.

Now, a reference data operations analyst at JPMorgan Chase & Co. in Delaware, a job he has held for the last 14 years, Brown believes that he was so lucky to have been chosen for the scholarship and allowed to shape his future differently.

“[The scholarship] was such a pivotal thing in my life,” Brown said. “It allowed me to further my education which allowed me to reposition myself in life.”

While the Saint Francis culture was a massive shock to him coming in as a freshman, Brown had an amazing experience in Loretto. He and his college friends still keep in touch, even 17 years later, to share all the positive things they are doing in their lives. Brown also credits his time as a Thea Bowman Scholar at Saint Francis for allowing him the chance to discover himself and become the person he is today.

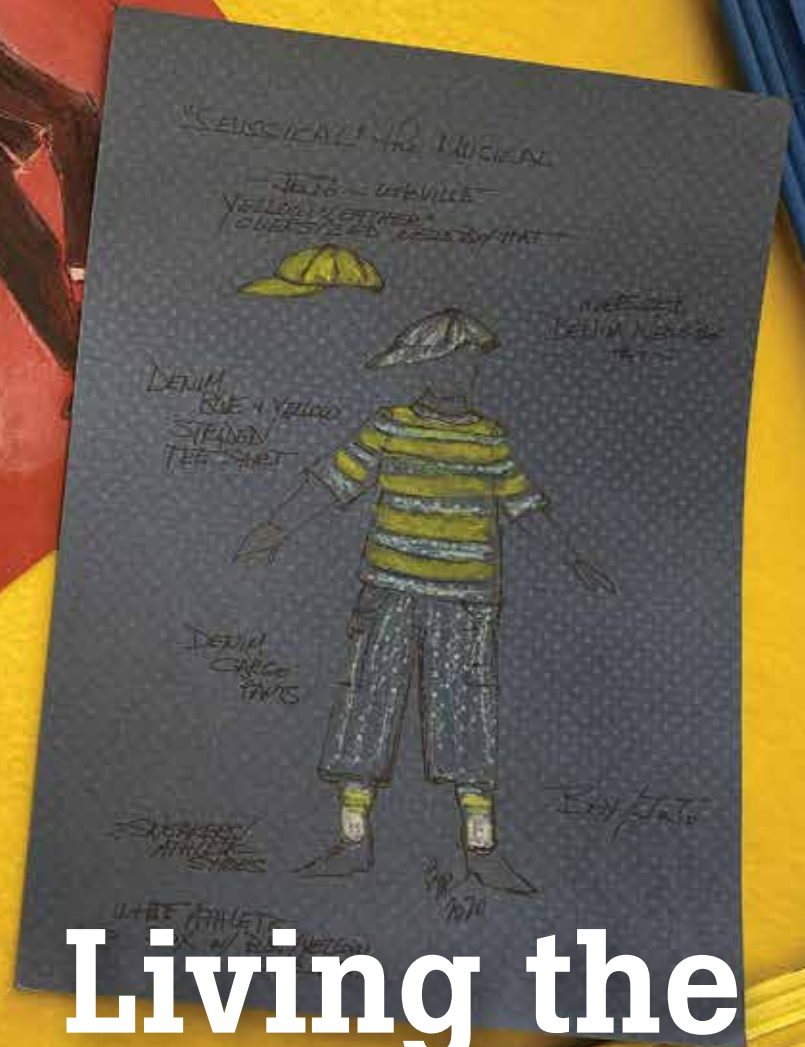
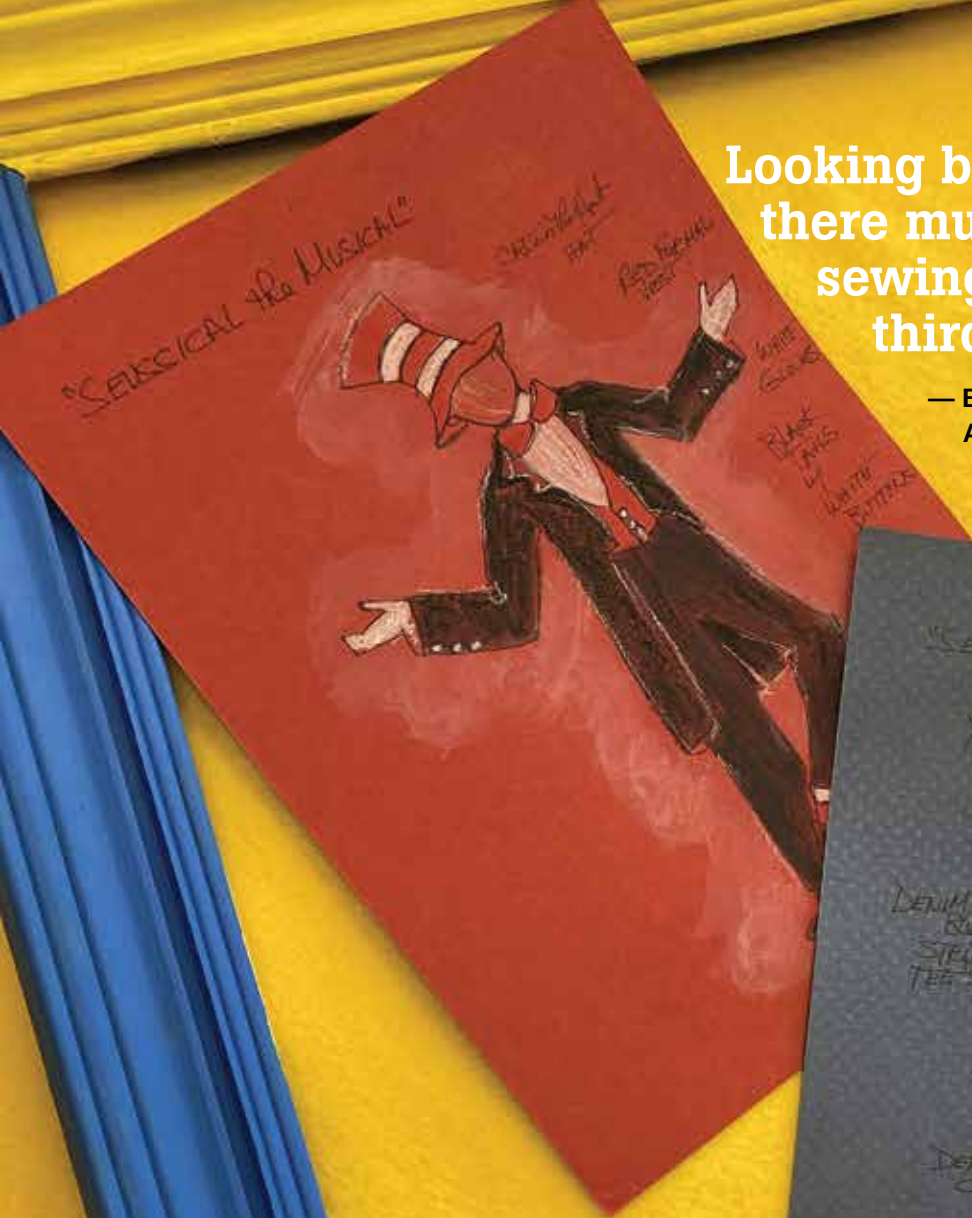
Since Saint Francis entered into a partnership with the Sister Thea Bowman Black Catholic Educational Foundation in 2000, 10 students, including Brown, have received the multi-year scholarship funded through both partners. While there are currently no Thea Bowman Scholars on campus this year, Barker said he hopes to reinforce the Foundation’s partnership with Saint Francis and enroll scholars to attend the University by the fall semester of 2022.

“I hope the partnership continues because [the program] is a game-changer,” Brown said.

To find out more about the Sister Thea Bowman Scholarship, donate, or apply, visit theabowmanfoundation.org.

Looking back, I realize that there must have been one sewing machine for every third room in the dorms."

— Bonnie Resinski,
Adjunct Instructor of Theatre



Living the Fine Arts Life in Loretto

STORY BY /

Rachel (Vasilko) Heckman '13
and Marie Young, Lead Editor

Times have changed since the beloved director and drama professor Kenny Resinski founded the Theatre Program at Saint Francis College. Yet, one thing has remained constant: the creative touch of Kenny's wife, Bonnie.

For Saint Francis, she is the vibrant link between the past and the future, designing and creating costumes for SFU productions for the past 54 years while mentoring students both past and present.

ACT I

Once upon a time, drama was an extracurricular option for students at Saint Francis. In 1967, theatre became “academic” with the establishment of the Fine Arts program. The college hired three instructors to teach art, music, and theatre. Suddenly, what had once been a hobby for students could now be incorporated into their college education, as they took classes in the visual arts, music, and theatre production. That’s how the Resinskis entered the scene.

The program blossomed through Kenny’s passion for theatre and teaching, yet no one would argue that he could not have done it without Bonnie. “When it came to the first musical we did, which was ‘Oklahoma,’ in the spring of 1968, he wanted to know if I would be able to make costumes for the female leads, and he wanted them all in gingham,” Bonnie recalled.

She had an innate ability to form fabric into his artistic vision while helping him provide a home-away-from-home for young college students. Bonnie got to know the students as they worked to create costumes. “At that time, girls were not allowed to wear pants at Saint Francis, so it became pretty much ‘the costume’ that women wear dresses or skirts in public,” Bonnie shared. “As a result, most girls knew how to sew. Looking back, I realize that there must have been one sewing machine for every third room in the dorms.” The students’ abilities, coupled with a



Hatching Plans: Work Study student/OT major, Rosie Stock working behind the scenes with Bonnie Resinski and Dan Atwood imagining Suessical costumes and props.





When you're a designer, you design everything to fit together to create a cohesive vision for a production."

— Bonnie Resinski

ready source of fabric from Roaring River Mills in Altoona, allowed Bonnie to create new pieces for each show Kenny directed.

Bonnie remained Kenny's right-hand-woman throughout the years, and her costume ideas often influenced the entire production. In the spring of 1974, when the department performed Steven Sondheim's "Follies," Bonnie created an incredible 84 costumes for the show. For the production of "Spoon River: An American Folk Musical" in 2007, Bonnie designed every 19th-century style costume from only denim.

"I learned that when designing a production, you have to take a lot of care if you're not designing with a director you know," Bonnie explained. "There is a difference between being a costumer, which is a person who finds costumes to put on people and being a designer. When you're a designer, you design everything to fit together to create a cohesive vision for a production."

Even when Bonnie began working full-time as an English teacher and theater director at Northern Cambria High School in 1988, she continued to donate her time and talents to the SFU theatre program. Although she quickly learned the value of reusing and repurposing old costumes from the wardrobe over creating brand new pieces for each production.

ACT II

Sadly, Kenny passed away in 2013, leaving a gaping hole in both the heart of the Resinski family and the theatre program. Yet, Bonnie remained an integral part of the Fine Arts at SFU and eventually found a rhythm working with other directors with different visions.

Now an official member of the Theatre Program, she serves as the Costume Designer, Wardrobe Manager, and Adjunct Instructor of Theatre under the administrative umbrella of the Center for Fine Arts led by Dr. Daniel Atwood. Established in 2019, the center expanded the arts umbrella to bring together academic offerings in theatre, music, and visual art and co-curricular activities such as theatre productions, art exhibits, marching band, pep band, and dance.

Bonnie plays a critical role in grassroots fundraising to provide a centralized physical location for Fine Arts, a dream that will finally become a reality with the grand opening of the Connors Family Center for Fine Arts: Home of the Resinski Black Box Theatre. Of course, theatre patrons won't need to wait until the Connors Family Center for Fine Arts opening to see Bonnie's creative touch in an SFU production. With COVID-19 restrictions easing, the University has been able to resume live performances in the JFK Auditorium.

BEHIND THE SCENES OF "SEUSSICAL THE MUSICAL"

Dan's SFU directorial debut was slated for last summer until the pandemic canceled production of "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat," but in April of 2021, live theatre returned to JFK with "Seussical the Musical." Dan's take on the popular musical opened on April 9 with restricted capacity audiences of 100 masked guests filling each performance.

Seniors Ethan Wesner (Computer Science/Cybersecurity), Kayla Rosas (Medical Laboratory Science), and Madison Book (Health Science-OT) were cast respectively as The Cat in the Hat, the Sour Kangaroo, and JoJo. COVID-19 restrictions required the cast to rehearse with masks in place. They were authorized to go maskless for performance time unless, of course, they were one costumed fish masks or some such role that called for a mask.

Many alumni know Dan as an accomplished musician and the SFU Director of Bands. He arrived at the University in 2011 to create a marching band program and resurrect the University pep band. What they may not know is that he has been a professional actor for more than 20 years. He recently completed a background part in an upcoming Jason Momoa Netflix production, "Sweet Girl."

Dan also has a soft spot for "Seussical" and its themes of imagination, acceptance, and individuality. The last play that he directed in his role at Everett High School 10 years ago just happened to be "Seussical."

“My philosophy has always been that the theatre provides a place for all interest areas and all levels of expertise because it’s so collaborative.”

— Dr. Daniel Atwood



Dan, Bonnie, and the cast and crew achieved a successful collaboration to put on a live performance within the context of COVID restrictions. Despite wearing masks and social distancing and reducing show capacity, many parts of the process were remarkably familiar to Bonnie.

“The first thing I do at the start of a production is chat with the director and find out what the director has in mind for the world of the play,” she laughed. After working with Dan to solidify the elements of the vision through sketches, Bonnie began the work of creating or acquiring the physical pieces to execute the idea.

One student with a front-row seat to the production process was senior Rosie Stock '21. She came to Saint Francis specifically to major in Occupational Therapy, but she also knew that she wanted to be involved in theatre. In 2017 Rosie auditioned cold for “The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee,” directed by F.J. Hartland, and earned a place in the cast. For the past two years, she has had the pleasure of diving deep into the production side of theatre as Bonnie’s work-study student. Her ability to seek out items that fit the artistic vision earned her the unofficial title of Online Shopping Specialist. Her ability to be a strong liaison with Dan, Bonnie, stage manager Scott Rhiner, and the cast earned her the moniker “Theatre Mom.”

SOMETHING OLD, SOMETHING NEW

The props, sets, and wardrobe of the fantastical world of Dr. Suess offered both fun and challenges. With five decades of costumes and props in stage storage, Bonnie could reimagine and reuse items from past productions. Yertle the Turtle, the Cat in the Hat, and Sour Kangaroo harken back to former plays.

Bonnie made all the costumes from the ground up in the early days when she had more time. Yet to create the elaborate world in “Seussical,” she combined scratch creations with purchased finds and repurposed pieces. For example, she decided to purchase Gertrude’s costume because the cost of fringe would make sewing the costume cost-prohibitive.

THEATRE 110: LEVERAGING DIVERSE TALENTS TO PULL OFF A PRODUCTION

“Many theatre courses at Saint Francis offer ways to experience the energy of theatre without having the pressure to perform,” shared Dan. Theatre 110 class (Performance and Production) is one great example. In the P&P course, students from different disciplines come together during supervised class time to develop a live performance. Bonnie and Dan guided P&P students to bring “Seussical” to life and encouraged them to try new things.

“Part of what is great about this course is that we end up finding hidden talents in the students that they didn’t know were there,” Dan shared. By the end of the semester, a wide range of majors taking the P&P course brought their unique perspectives to flesh out just about every aspect of the production following the artistic vision set by Dan and Bonnie. These diverse majors contributed in equally diverse ways, such as engineering major Nicholas Serbin working on how to rig a helicopter for one scene.

“My philosophy has always been that the theatre provides a place for all interest areas and all levels of expertise because it’s so collaborative. All I ask is for willing hearts and hands. We learn from each other,” Bonnie shared. “So you have a set, you have costumes, you have props, you have lighting, you have sound, you have all of these components that go together, and each one of them demands a particular sort of knowledge and discipline,” Bonnie said. “And when you’re doing it, it becomes a whole lot of fun.”

Offering college credit for valuable behind-the-scenes and/or onstage activities began under Bonnie’s husband Kenny, who developed the 1-credit P&P course that students could take up to three times. It remains a wildly popular way to fulfill Fine Arts credits.

These immersive fine arts classroom experiences will only broaden once the Conner Center for Fine Arts opens in 2023.

► See more at francis.edu/fine-arts



Coming Soon

The Connors Family Center for Fine Arts (Home of the Resinski Black Box Theatre)

PROGRESS SNAPSHOT

JANUARY - MARCH 2018

- ◆ SFU announces plans to renovate space to construct a black box theatre in memory of Kenny Resinski. IKM Incorporated of Pittsburgh, a highly-regarded architecture and planning firm with extensive experience designing and creating performance venues, is retained as the project's architectural firm.
- ◆ SFU hosts a symposium on the theatre to strategically inform the design, build support and enthusiasm for the project, and assess and identify sources of funding.
- ◆ The Resinski Black Box Theatre alumni fund-raising alumni committee is established; co-chaired by Christopher Collins '73 and Bonnie Resinski. Committee members include Michael Martorella '69, Alan Zajdel '72, Mary Anne Majestic '79, and Anita (Fusco) Baumann '90.

MARCH 2018-MARCH 2019

Project fund-raising intensifies. Highlights:

- ◆ Alumni couple John '64 and Shelia Connors '65 provide the project's lead gift.
- ◆ The University receives a six-figure estate gift from an alumnus restricted to the project.
- ◆ The University initiates three fund-raising challenges:
 - A \$250,000 TKE challenge from an alumnus who will double match all TKE gifts up to \$125,000, completing the initial three-million-dollar fund-raising goal for the Resinski Black Box Theatre. The Challenge is ongoing through December 2021 and has already generated \$156,000 in matching funds.
 - A \$10,000 Alpha Psi Omega challenge from an alumna who will match dollar for dollar up to \$10,000.

The Challenge has surpassed its goal, raising \$52,000 from Alpha Psi Omega alumni and friends.

- A \$10,000 community challenge from an alumnus who will match dollar for dollar up to \$10,000. The Challenge is ongoing through December 2021.

APRIL 2019

- ◆ The University establishes the Center for Fine Arts, bringing all areas into one academic center. Because of early fundraising success, Fr. Malachi announces the decision to move to a free-standing arts complex with the RBBT theatre as the signature piece rather than renovating the former garage space.

FALL 2020-SUMMER 2021

- ◆ IKM conducts user engagement seminars to gain consensus on design, critical programming needs, and building aesthetics with more than 100 stakeholders. IKM, working with SFU, develop final interior and exterior concepts, cost and space analysis, and final recommendations.

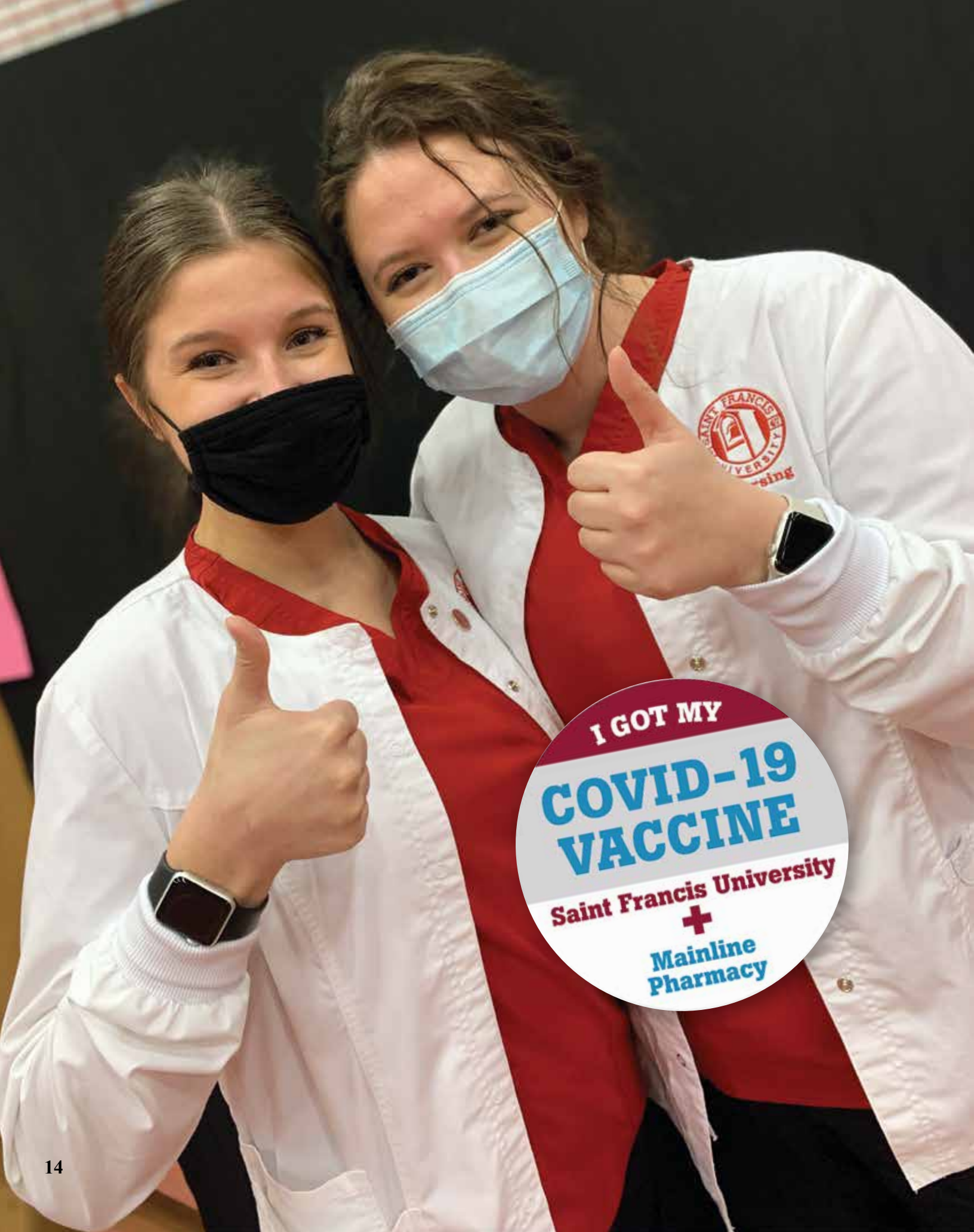
JUNE 2021

- ◆ The University initiates a \$25,000 1:1 challenge to the classes of 1970-1979 in support of the project. The Challenge will be launched in Fall 2021.

OCTOBER 2021

- ◆ A ceremonial groundbreaking is planned for October 1, 2021 during the annual Founders' Day Celebration. Construction is slated for Summer 2022 with an anticipated opening for Fall 2023.

► To support the project, please contact Bob Crusciel, Marie Melusky, or Steve Hessmann in the Advancement Office at 814-472-3021 or visit the website francis.edu/MakeAGift.



I GOT MY
**COVID-19
VACCINE**
Saint Francis University
+
Mainline
Pharmacy

Delivering Vaccines and Hope

Walking in the footsteps of St. Francis of Assisi

STORY BY / Erin McCloskey, Asst. VP for Communications & Marketing,
and Jordan Johnson, Multimedia Communications Coordinator

“Shots in arms” became a global rallying call to stem the spread of COVID-19 through vaccinations. The Saint Francis University community answered that call and found that the mission was so much more. As in the words of St. Francis of Assisi, “It is in giving that we receive.”

In January, as the vaccines started to roll off the manufacturing lines, Saint Francis embarked on an aggressive mission with Mainline Pharmacy to lead the region in administering vaccines to those in the high-risk category. Mainline received one of the earlier supplies of the Moderna vaccine in the area, but they needed space and volunteers to vaccinate large numbers of people quickly. By tapping into SFU facilities, qualified health science students who could give shots, and a motivated volunteer base, Mainline established a central location to reach the rural populations it served.

The partnership began with Mainline providing vaccinations for the health science students and faculty who would be working at future clinics or doing clinical work at healthcare facilities. At the time, Pennsylvania Department of Health guidelines had opened Phase 1A vaccine eligibility to health care personnel, including students.

As soon as the PA Department of Health announced the broader vaccine rollout plan, the Maurice Stokes Athletics Center opened its doors to the public. At the peak, SFU students, faculty, and staff supported two clinics each week and administered nearly 2,000 vaccine doses a day.

“WHERE THERE IS DESPAIR, HOPE.”

What impacted Dr. Don Walkovich, Dean of the School of Health Sciences and Education, the most was seeing the frail, elderly community members who came to the first public clinics on campus. “Many of them had rarely left their home during the past year. When they walked through the doors, you could see the fear in their eyes. Yet when they left, many thanked us from the bottom of their hearts for holding the clinics. They hadn’t seen their families or hugged their grandchildren that whole time, but coming here, they received hope along with the vaccine. It reminded me of the Prayer of St. Francis of Assisi and the line, ‘Where there is despair, hope.’ We were able to be that instrument of the Lord’s for these people.”

Mainline Pharmacy has been a trusted partner with the University for over 5 years. The local full-service pharmacy serves the campus community with the delivery of prescriptions, medications, and medical supplies. Mainline has a proud history since 1980 of serving local communities.

THE PRAYER OF ST. FRANCIS

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace

Where there is hatred, let me sow love

Where there is an injury, pardon

Where there is doubt, faith

Where there is despair, hope

Where there is darkness, light

And where there is sadness, joy

O Divine Master, grant that I may

Not so much seek to be consoled as to console

To be understood, as to understand

To be loved, as to love

For it is in giving that we receive

And it's in pardoning that we are pardoned

And it is in dying that we are born to Eternal Life

Amen.





27 on-campus vaccine clinics hosted



Volunteers from across campus brought along their families to help grateful couples like these get their vaccinations.



13,000+ volunteer hours donated

THE POWER OF VOLUNTEERING

The clinic volunteers quickly realized their role was less about placing “shots in arms” and more about reflecting the image of God in the way they care for others, following in the footsteps of the institutions’ patron saint.

The volunteers played a pivotal role in providing a safe, friendly, and well-organized experience for the community. They took on traffic control, temperature checks, second dose scheduling, vaccine administering, and entering vaccine records into a database. During the distribution peak, clinics required 150 volunteer shifts, with each shift scheduled for a 2-hour window. Initially, most of the volunteers were SFU faculty, staff, and students. As clinic participant rosters increased, so did the need for volunteers. Word spread, and soon the volunteer bank grew to include children of employees, SFU alumni, and concerned community members.

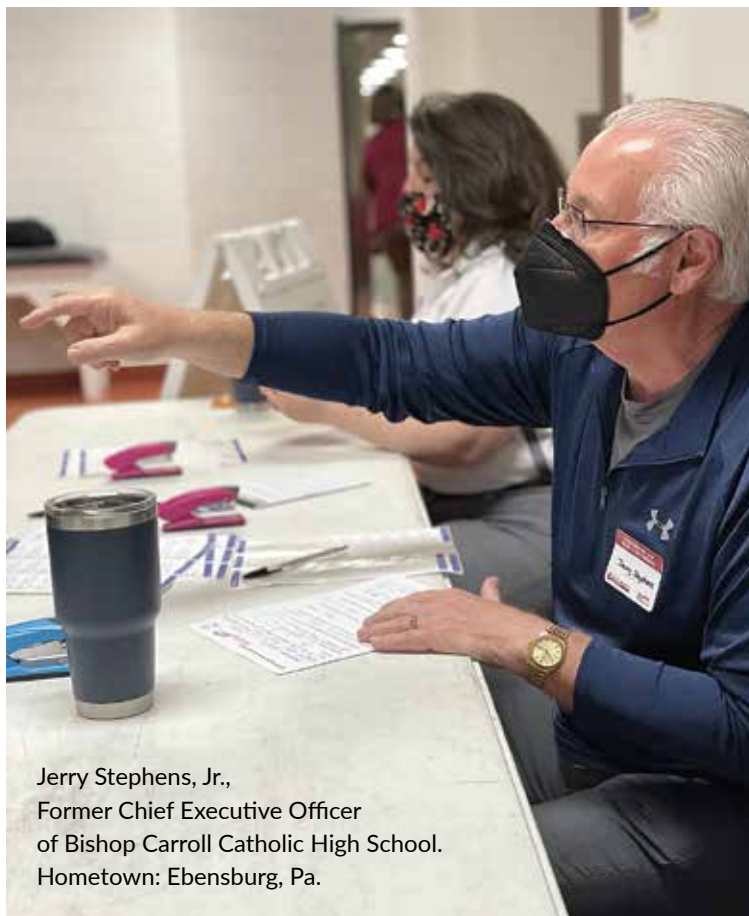
VOLUNTEER JERRY STEPHENS, JR.

Several community members became regular volunteers, such as Jerry Stephens, Jr. Jerry received his vaccination earlier than many and found volunteering a way to help others gain access to the vaccine that he so greatly appreciated. He saw his effort as a tiny piece that would ultimately contribute to getting back to ‘normal.’ According to Jerry, he fully realized the historical impact that the University was making on the surrounding communities through the volume and scale of the clinics. He also felt that the clinic was a positive atmosphere during what was, and continues to be, a difficult time for many.

VOLUNTEER TORI RAMSY

When Tori Ramsy, a junior OT major, saw the email needing volunteers circulated on campus, she did not hesitate to sign up. She felt a calling to play even a small part in helping the community eradicate the virus and encouraged others to do so. Tori also viewed volunteering as a chance to learn something and expose herself to interactions she may not have otherwise had as a student.

One interaction that sticks out to Tori was when an older woman struggled to help her husband back to their car. The woman asked Tori if she could help her push his wheelchair. Alongside an OT faculty member, Tori aided in helping the man get safely back to his car. The man then sincerely thanked Tori by her name. “It made me feel as if what I did, my one small action, really meant something to him,” she shared. Tori reflected on her time volunteering and said that one of her favorite parts of the clinic was welcoming hundreds of people every morning.



Jerry Stephens, Jr.,
Former Chief Executive Officer
of Bishop Carroll Catholic High School.
Hometown: Ebensburg, Pa.



Tori Ramsy, Junior, Occupational Therapy major,
Hometown: Broad Top, Pa.



Alexis Keagy, Senior, Nursing major
Hometown: Duncansville, Pa.

VOLUNTEER ALEXIS KEAGY

Alexis Keagy truly enjoyed meeting all the vaccine recipients. Their appreciation, kind words of gratitude, and smiles (even if covered by a mask) touched her. As she administered the COVID-19 vaccinations, she couldn't help but notice scars on many from when they had rolled up their sleeves years ago to receive the polio vaccine. "I respectfully recognize that it is because of these individuals that polio is now eradicated. These individuals not only helped in that process but are now also receiving another vaccine to help fight this pandemic," she noted.

Alexis provided more than a shot with her volunteer time. While volunteering one day, Alexis looked across the room and saw two ASL professors signing back and forth with a patient and quickly realized that the individual was deaf. As the patient approached her station, she knew she could make their vaccination process easy and comfortable for this individual. In her first semester at Saint Francis, she had taken an American Sign Language class to prepare for the prospect of signing with deaf and hard of hearing patients; however, she never thought that the opportunity would come so quickly. She made eye contact and began signing to inform them of the vaccine process, directing them where to sit, and clarifying which arm they would like for their vaccine. The look of surprise and relief in their eyes made a dramatic impact on Alexis. Before leaving, the patient signed to Alexis how appreciative they were for volunteering and assisting in communicating. Keagy knew she was meant to be volunteering that day and will never forget the difference she made in their process of receiving the vaccine.

38,000+ COVID vaccines administered at SFU clinics

A FAMILY AFFAIR

Throughout all 27 clinics, it was common to see families arrive together to receive the vaccine. For some, it was extra meaningful when a family member could administer the vaccine to them through volunteering.

Among special vaccinations were brothers Karch and Karson Helsel of Johnstown, PA. Karch, a pharmacy student at Duquesne University and Mainline Pharmacy intern, volunteered to administer the vaccine at our first clinic. Karson is a current nursing student at SFU. Karch had waited until the clinic at SFU to administer his first dose of the vaccine to his brother, Karson.

Brothers, Karson Helsel (left), Senior, Nursing major, and Karch Helsel (right), Pharmacy student, Duquesne University. Their hometown is Johnstown, Pa.



BOND BETWEEN GENERATIONS

Throughout clinics at SFU, it was common to see younger generations accompanying elderly parents and grandparents through the vaccine clinic stations. Several elderly recipients of the vaccine reflected on how they remember accompanying their parents to receive the Polio vaccine or even receiving it themselves. Several volunteers also brought their children to work at the clinic as an opportunity to expose them to different generations, witness the historic effort, and teach the lesson of having pride in volunteering for those who are in need.

Many elderly patients commented on what receiving the vaccine meant to them – sharing time with grandkids, eating inside a restaurant, or returning to leisure travel.



Mainline Pharmacy's 100,000th dose was administered at an SFU clinic



Mandy Lasinsky, Clinical Services Coordinator for My Health at Work (Health Services)



Kimberly Beck, Dean's Administrative Assistant in the School of Health Sciences and Education

RECOGNIZING EXEMPLARY SERVICE

Annually, the University names a Theodore Soriano Outstanding Service Award for Administrators and the John Soriano Outstanding Service Award for Operational Employees. This year, the award winners were Mrs. Mandy Lasinsky, Clinical Services Coordinator for My Health at Work (Health Services), and Mrs. Kimberly Beck, Dean's Administrative Assistant in the School of

Health Sciences and Education.

Mandy was instrumental in leading the institution through thoughtful execution of CDC guidelines allowing a safe return to campus for the academic year.

Kim's dedication to the partnership with Mainline Pharmacy provided extraordinary coordination for the 27 vaccination clinics held on campus.



Congratulations Classes of 2020 and 2021!

SFU held 170th Commencement Exercises on Saturday, May 8, and Sunday, May 9, 2021. The in-person commencement exercises were divided into four small ceremonies by School recognizing graduates of the classes of both 2020 and 2021. A total of 632 students earned diplomas in 2020 and 682 students graduate in 2021. ► francis.edu/Commencement



I could not be more appreciative of the Rogers' generosity and Maureen's loyalty and passion for Red Flash Athletics."

— James Downer,
Director of Athletics



Blessing of the Maureen "Mo" Malloy Basketball Performance Center

STORY BY /
Miles McQuiggan, Director of Athletic Communications

The Saint Francis athletic department celebrated a new addition to the Stokes Athletic Center October 21, 2020 with the blessing of the Maureen "Mo" Malloy Basketball Performance Center.

The Performance Center was named in honor of assistant director of dining services Maureen "Mo" Malloy for her Franciscan values in enhancing the college experience of Saint Francis students and student-athletes. Malloy celebrated her 50-year anniversary as a Saint Francis employee in November.

The Maureen "Mo" Malloy Basketball Performance Center was made possible by a generous donation from Steve '82 and Jean (Payne) Rogers '82. Steve played for the Saint Francis men's basketball team from 1978-82 and the Rogers' two daughters graduated from Saint Francis.

Saint Francis University President the Very Reverend Malachi Van Tassell, T.O.R. provided the blessing for the new facility and was joined by Mo Malloy, Steve and Jean Rogers, Director of Athletics James Downer, head men's basketball coach Rob Krimmel, and student-athletes from the men's basketball program.

"There is little doubt that the Maureen "Mo" Malloy Basketball Performance Center will make a profound impact on our basketball programs and our athletic department as a whole," said Downer. "This state-of-the-art facility will not only upgrade our strength and conditioning efforts, but allows us more flexibility and the ability to be more efficient with the ultimate outcome of enhancing the student-athlete experience at Saint Francis University. I could not be more appreciative of the Rogers' generosity and Maureen's loyalty and passion for Red Flash Athletics."

Krimmel, who has experienced Malloy's presence and kindness as a student-athlete and now as the Red Flash head coach, is grateful to continue celebrating the influence she has on Saint Francis student-athletes.

"Today was a special day as we were able to recognize Mo for all that she has meant to the Saint Francis community for the last 50 years," said Krimmel. "Because of the generosity of Steve and Jean Rogers, Mo's impact will be felt for many years to come by the student-athletes who use the Maureen "Mo" Malloy Basketball Performance Center. I am extremely grateful for all that Mo, Steve, and Jean have done for Saint Francis Basketball and for Saint Francis University."

The Maureen "Mo" Malloy Basketball Performance Center has already begun making an impact on Red Flash student-athletes – an extension of the impact Malloy has made on the Saint Francis campus for 50 years.

ATHLETICS

Conference Champs



The Red Flash Women's Softball won its fourth-consecutive Northeast Conference title in May and advanced to an NCAA Regional in Austin, Texas. (Photo by Roger Kerekes)



Sweet Victory: Saint Francis men's basketball defeated Pitt, 80-70, on November 25 for the Red Flash's first victory over the Panthers in program history. (Photo by Alex Mowrey)

Title Retained

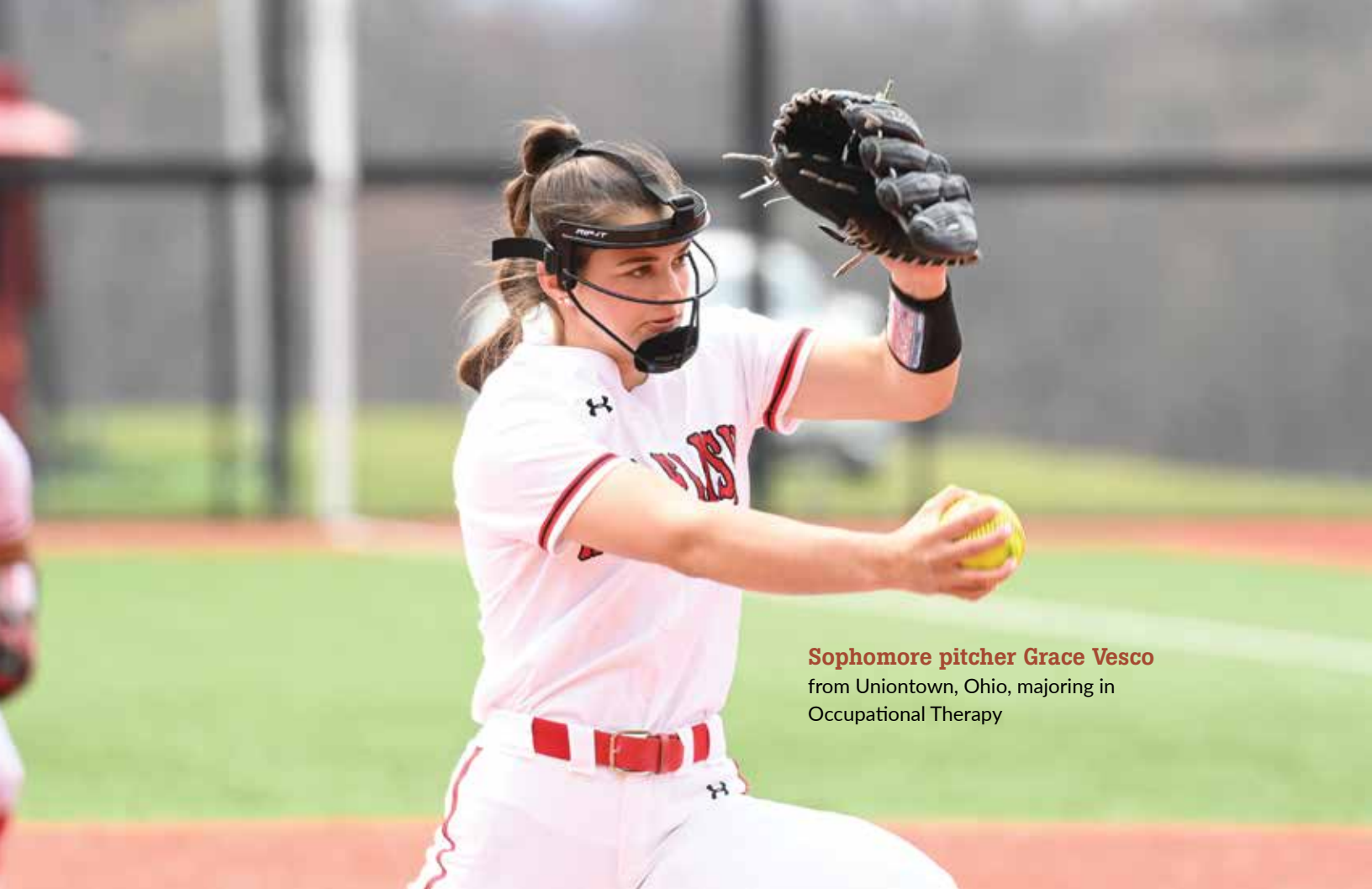
The Saint Francis women's outdoor track & field team won its third Northeast Conference title in May with the fourth-highest winning point total in NEC history. (Photo by Dave Silverman)



Celebrating the Wins In Images



Back in Action: Saint Francis men's volleyball hosted and defeated Charleston in April in SFU's first home postseason event since the Red Flash's return to competition. (Photo by JD Cavrich)



Sophomore pitcher Grace Vesco
from Uniontown, Ohio, majoring in
Occupational Therapy

Vesco finishes a stellar season as a finalist for National Freshman of the Year

Pitcher Grace Vesco made the cut as one of 15 finalists for the 2021 National Freshman of the Year awarded by the National Fastpitch Coaches' Association / Schutt Sports Division.

This was the latest accomplishment in a growing list for the Occupational Therapy major from Uniontown, Ohio. For more information about all NFCA Awards, visit nfca.org.

Vesco Flash Facts

- 31 appearances, 25 starts, 23 complete games, 22 wins, 13 shutouts, 167.1 innings pitched, 196 strikeouts, 1.00 ERA
- Unanimous selection for NEC Pitcher of the Year
- NFCA DI National Freshman of the Year Top 15 List
- NFCA All-Region First Team, All-NEC First Team, NEC Tournament MVP, NEC All-Tournament Team
- Three no-hitters
- Four-time NEC Pitcher of the Week, five-time NFCA Top Performer, NEC Pitcher of the Month for February, eight-time NEC Prime Performer
- Broke single-season program records in shutouts (13), strikeouts (196), ranked second in wins (22) and ERA (1.00)
- NCAA rankings at the conclusion of SFU season: tied third in shutouts (13), fifth in hits allowed per seven innings (3.26), sixth in ERA (1.00), tied 13th in wins (22), tied 28th in strikeouts (196)

She's been recognized as an NFCA Top Performer six times, NEC Pitcher of the Month for February, four-time NEC Pitcher of the Week, and eight-time NEC Prime Performer. Opponents batted just .129 against Vesco this season through 147.2 innings of work. She completed 21 of her 22 starts and added two saves in 26 total appearances. Vesco elevated her play against NEC opponents with a 0.66 ERA and seven shutouts (one more shared) in 11 starts.



With her volunteer work this spring, Keara McGraw aims to ensure the vaccination site in DeGol Arena this spring is replaced by a Red Flash women's volleyball home match in the fall.

McGraw makes essential contribution in DeGol Arena despite a canceled season

When Saint Francis women's volleyball outside hitter Keara McGraw found her junior season canceled due to the pandemic, she discovered her nursing skills could make a different contribution in DeGol Arena. McGraw jumped on the chance to be a part of the COVID-19 solution when the nursing department reached out to juniors and seniors for help to administer COVID vaccines to community members.

She has volunteered at five different vaccine clinics in the same building where she hits the court and says she will be working at least three more.

"I try to pick up at least one shift every week," said McGraw. "Shifts run for two hours, and I typically administer around 25-30 shots during that time. We greet the individual and help them feel as comfortable as possible by answering any questions regarding the vaccine. After the individual is comfortable and informed, we administer the vaccine and sign their papers."

With everything that has been lost by so many, McGraw says the most heartbreaking thing is hearing countless stories of families not seeing each other due to COVID. She talked of having one individual tear up as soon as she sat down because she was so grateful to receive the vaccine.

"It's moments like those that make this experience so special," said McGraw.

With the integration of the new vaccine into the public, McGraw

also knew that this vaccine was potentially the answer to having her senior season. She was more than willing to give her time now to help fight this pandemic to redeem her final season.

"I am so proud of Keara for all of her hard work," said head coach Sara McMullen. "Being a nursing major is hard. Being a D1 athlete as a nursing student is harder, and she can manage both. In any ordinary year, that is a challenge, but now you add in COVID and her season being taken away. Instead of being upset by the current circumstances, she has jumped at the opportunity to help make a difference. Keara has a special way of making anyone she is around feel valued. I bet all of her patients that she has given the vaccine to left feeling safer and with a smile."

"This shows Keara's time management and flexibility skills in not only her studies but also in community service," explained Dr. Kimberly Forst, DNP, RN, who is the BSN Program Director and a clinical associate professor. Dr. Forst praised McGraw's ability to meet her goals during these difficult times. "Keara's clinical instructors use words such as 'great student,' 'compassionate,' and 'real team player' to describe her. Keara is an asset to the SFU nursing program and will be a great RN one day," she said.

After she graduates in May 2022, McGraw plans to work in a hospital to gain extra needed experience in her field before continuing to earn her master's degree.

NABC Guardian of the Game



"Our guys are the ones who put in countless hours to make an impact in our local community. I am extremely thankful for the efforts of our student-athletes and staff."

— Rob Krimmel '00

Saint Francis head men's basketball coach Rob Krimmel '00, who recently completed his ninth season as the leader of his alma mater's program, is a "Guardian of the Game" 2021 honoree.

Coaches are "Guardians of the Game," according to The National Association of Basketball Coaches (NABC). They share a collective responsibility to serve and support student-athletes, fellow coaches, and the game of basketball.

Guardians of the Game is a national awareness and education platform to amplify the positive role coaches play in the lives of student-athletes and the contributions coaches make to their communities and society at large.

Each year, the NABC hosts the Guardians of the Game pillar awards. The awards recognize member coaches who exemplify the five Guardians of the Game core values: Advocacy, Leadership, Service, Education, and Inclusion.

To those who know Saint Francis head men's basketball coach Rob Krimmel, the fact that he is among the "2021 Guardians of the Game," presented by CoPeace, comes as no surprise.

Krimmel, who recently completed his ninth season as the leader of his alma mater's program, is one of two honorees in the Service

pillar. He shares the honor with Georgia Tech associate head coach Eric Reveno.

Krimmel has been a champion for the NABC Stay In To Win program for eight seasons. The program is presented to middle school-aged children focusing on student success and dropout prevention. The Red Flash also joined Team IMPACT, a national nonprofit that connects children facing serious and chronic illnesses with college athletic teams, forming life-long bonds and life-changing outcomes. Its mission is to improve the quality of life for those children by establishing and expanding vibrant team-based support networks. Saint Francis signed 12-year old Jorden McClure, diagnosed with Larsen's Syndrome, a disorder of the development of the bones, and have had him as a team member through his senior year of high school.

"I am very humbled to receive the award," said Krimmel. "Service will always be part of what is expected of a Saint Francis Basketball player. Our guys are the ones who put in countless hours to make an impact in our local community. I am extremely thankful for the efforts of our student-athletes and staff."

Student-athletes grow dedicated fan's philanthropic efforts

The Money Wars competition is a tradition among the Northeast Conference's ten-member schools during basketball season to raise money for the Children's Cancer Recovery Foundation. Saint Francis has taken the win five times in the competition's 11-year history by collecting the most donations during those years for the Foundation.

The last 13 months have caused almost all plans to be changed, including Money Wars. The foundation that benefited from the event closed its doors, and the doors were closed to fans at NEC basketball games this winter. Conference-wide competition paused for a year, but the NEC encouraged its members to continue making an impact for charities of their choice. For the Red Flash, they knew this year's charity would involve dedicated season ticket holder and teenage philanthropist Jakob Zernick from Ebensburg.

At eight years old, Jakob was diagnosed with Crohn's Disease. His experience undergoing treatment at UPMC Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh inspired him to give back to the hospital which he does through his unique take on philanthropy: selling fresh vegetables he grows from seeds in his garden, gathering donations, and holding fundraisers.

His spirit for both the Red Flash and for



community service made Jakob's charity, Seedz 4 Needz, an easy pick for Saint Francis' Money Wars partner. The 10-day fundraiser provided friendly competition between the Red Flash programs to grow the dollar amount for Seedz 4 Needz. Women's volleyball captured the team title for the event, with lacrosse, swimming, and field hockey rounding out the top four. In total, Red Flash student-athletes raised \$3,471 for the organization. While the plans for the NEC-wide event in 2021-22 are to be determined, Red Flash student-athletes hope to have cultivated a new donor base for Seedz 4 Needz.

Zernick can't wait to be back in DeGol Arena in 2021-22. "I am extremely thankful to have SFU choose my organization for the 2021 Money Wars," said Zernick. "The donation will go excessively beyond to provide a better future for children who are going through immense difficulties within their lives."

Whatever tasks or challenges await Red Flash student-athletes, a tradition and culture of community service success on the Loretto campus will continue to grow.

► **Learn more about Seedz 4 Needz by visiting <https://seedz4needz.com>**



**SCAN THIS CODE WITH YOUR SMARTPHONE CAMERA
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PHONE WITH SCHEDULES, SCORES, NEWS, AND MORE!**





**"Not everybody in the world
has something on Mars."**

— Art Springsteen '70

Art Springsteen, a '70 Saint Francis chemistry graduate, founder of Avian Technologies in New London along with his wife Kathryn. He holds a white calibration device the company is known for in their office on Friday, February 25, 2021.

Photo by Geoff Forester/the Concord Monitor. Reprinted with permission.

Green Valley on Red Planet

Reprinted with permission from *Valley in News*, West Lebanon, N.H. Article by John Lippman, *Valley News* Business Writer. Originally published: 3/6/2021

Desolate, rock-strewn, dusty and with a daily temperature of around minus-80 degrees Fahrenheit, Jezero Crater on Mars does not have a lot in common — even in winter — with the Upper Valley.

But if you look carefully the next time you gape in awe at one of the photo images of the Martian landscape beamed from NASA's rover Perseverance, you will see telltale signs of intelligent life ... from the Upper Valley.

That's because the Mars rover, which landed in Jezero Crater last month, contains a piece (albeit a small one) of equipment invented in New London. More precisely, it's a part of a piece of relatively low-tech equipment on Perseverance.

But, hey, how many places on Earth can boast they have a hand in a Mars rover mission?

Avian Technologies, a New London engineering firm run by a team of wife and husband Ph.D.s (she in inorganic chemistry, he in organic chemistry), designed the material used in concentric rings that are part of the color palette used to check the accuracy of the rover's camera, called a Mastcam-Z.

Known as a "calibration target," the dinner plate-size palette is attached to the rover and photographed by the Mastcam-Z, which enables scientists back at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, Calif., to make sure the images they are viewing are accurate for color, tone and clarity, said Art Springsteen, who

co-owns Avian Technologies with his wife, Kathryn Springsteen, a former dean at Colby-Sawyer College.

Space missions are not Avian Technologies' usual line of work. The seven-employee company with annual revenues in the low seven figures specializes in making coatings and materials that set standards for the pharmaceutical, agricultural and optical industries.

But Springsteen — and yes, he said he's "distantly" related to Bruce Springsteen, whom he last saw "when we were 10 years old at a wedding in New Jersey" — said that the alumina and glass material named AluWhite98 used for the white bands in the concentric rings is a specialty product of the company.

The white-to-gray scale porcelain "reflectance standards" on the calibration target are designed to withstand the brutal conditions of Mars' atmosphere, Springsteen explained.

Contractors of the color palette for the calibration target "wanted something that is stable. You can't put a piece of white and gray cardboard on Mars," Springsteen said.

Although Springsteen has been working on the project since 2016, he said the mission is not a cash cow.

"All the stuff combined we made maybe \$200," he said.

So why spend all that time and resources with such small payback?

"Because of science. We don't have to make money in everything," Springsteen said.

And then there's the prestige of planting the Upper Valley's flag, so to speak, on the Red Planet.

"It's on Mars," Springsteen said. "Not everybody in the world has something on Mars."

Remembering Michael “Goody” Asselta

Endowment fund established in his memory

STORY BY / Eric Horell '13, '17,
Director of Alumni Engagement

In the 1969 Bell Tower yearbook, the Alpha Phi Delta photo features a name that leaps out from the rest: “Mr. Goodtime,” a cameo appearance by Michael “Goody” Asselta '67, who unexpectedly passed away on August 22, 2020. It's also a testament to what his friends loved most about him.

“Goody graduated two years ahead of me, but he was always there for me and the guys afterward,” remembers John Muffo '69. “He liked people,” his wife Sandy explains. “That’s why he loved nothing more than to have a big party,” a love for fun which led to his nickname of Mr. Goodtime, or “Goody” for short.

For decades Goody organized the FUI Open. Pronounced “phooey,” FUI stands for “Fine, Upstanding Individuals,” explains Claude Fusco, Jr. '68, “which is more than a little tongue in cheek.” Every year Goody would bring together Alpha brothers and non-brothers alike to celebrate their friendship over bike rides, golf, and dinners, all while raising money for good causes such as diabetes and multiple sclerosis research. “Forty or fifty people would attend,” says Jim Kilcoyne '71. “Goody was the catalyst in everything we did.”

“When I tell people I still get together with at least thirty-five college buddies every year, fifty years after we graduated, everyone says, ‘Get outta here!’ I like to brag about it,” chuckles Michael Onufrychuk '71. “People go their own ways after school—spouses, kids, jobs, whatever—but I stayed in contact with my friends because of Goody.”

The loss of Mike is especially felt as his Alpha brothers organize the FUI Open without him. “For years, Goody did all this by himself, and now there’s a bunch of us doing it, and we’re exhausted!” exclaims Muffo. “We keep asking each



Michael “Goody” Asselta '67

other, ‘How did Goody pull this off every single year?’”

But Goody did more than just the FUI, serving as a volunteer for multiple causes year-round. While recalling all of Goody’s charitable works, Paul Rooney '71 raises a concern: “Will you be able to fit it all in one page?” And while certainly not a comprehensive list, Sandy touches on many of them: “He helped organize the Fairport (NY) Music Festival, which benefited the [Golisano] Children’s Hospital, and he also helped with the Rochester (NY) International Jazz Festival. He volunteered at the Dimitri House in Rochester [a homeless shelter], and when we moved to North Carolina, he cooked at the Good Shepherd Center. He also served at the Sister Isaac Center, which is not unlike the Dorothy



As seen in the 1969 Bell Tower

Day Outreach Center.”

So it only fits that Mike’s loved ones have created an endowment in his memory that will benefit the University’s Dorothy Day Outreach Center. “Mike was a quintessential Saint Francis guy, and he found [the DDOC’s] mission coupled with the University to be perfect. He always said, ‘My heart is with the Dorothy Day Center.’”

“This endowment will be perpetual, and the more money raised, the more people the Center will be able to help. And it shows how much we love Goody,” says Rooney.

“It’s something that’s going to last. It’ll always be there for people,” says Fusco. After a pause, he adds, “Just like Goody was always there for us.”

To Donate

Donations may be mailed to Saint Francis University, Office of Advancement, PO 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 Michael “Goody” Asselta Endowment.

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

FLASHBACKS

(Includes items submitted prior to March 1, 2021)



◆ On January 9, 2021, Dave Magarity '74 and daughter Maureen made Division I history as the first father and daughter head coaches to go against each other in any college sport. Dave led the Army women's basketball team in a loss against Maureen's Holy Cross team, 80-46. Said Dave to the Associated Press prior to the game: "What's unique about it—it goes without saying that not only is it possibly the first time it's happened, but we're in the [Patriot League]. It's one thing if we were playing in a tournament or it would have been nice to play in the NCAA Tournament or NIT. We're in the same league, in this crazy season, we play each other four times." Maureen's Crusaders got the better of the Black Knights in those other games, winning on January 10th and February 6th before Army won the final game in the series on February 7th. While Army was bested in the series, that final win was especially touching as it marked Dave's final home game with Army; he announced that he would retire from coaching at the end of this season. He retires as the winningest head coach in Army women's basketball history with a record of 263-167 over 16 years. Dave began his coaching career at Saint Francis as a men's assistant coach in 1974 before becoming the men's head coach in 1978.

1960s

◆ Fr. Albert G. Baltz '65 celebrated 50 years in the priesthood. Fr. Baltz studied six years at Our Lady of Loretto Seminary and, by extension, then-St. Francis College.

1970s

◆ Last October Paul Dillon '73 won the 2020 Delaware State Golf Association (DSGA) Super Senior Amateur Golf Championship held at White Clay Creek Country Club in Wilmington, Del. Paul volunteers in support of golf events and served on the Board for the Maryland State Golf Association for eight years.

◆ The Honorable Jerry Garguilo '72 was reappointed as an Associate Justice of the Appellate Term of the New York State Supreme Court and appointed as Associate Justice of the State Coordinating Panel concerning multi district litigation.

◆ On December 26th, 2020, John Lafferty '70 and Maureen (Ficca) Lafferty '71 (right) celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary. John and Maureen have four children and nine grandchildren. Their granddaughter, Ashley Lafferty, is a senior at SFU. They live in Doylestown, Pa.



◆ On September 19, 2020, Bill Lockwood '70 and Margherita (Mammona) Lockwood '68 (both photos above) celebrated 50 years of marriage. Both are retired and live in Hazleton, Pa. Their son Jeff Lockwood '94 is currently living in Belgium, while daughter Samantha lives in Philadelphia.



◆ For more than twenty years the above group of alumni have come together several times a year. Here they are in Emmaus, Pa, prior to the COVID-19 pandemic. Left to right: Tom Fitzpatrick '73, Kirk Hallett '73, Ed McGuire '74, Joe Raynock

'73, Fran Kosloski '74, and Bill Kreider '74. Missing from the photo is Joe Hunt '74, who could not attend, Peter Jugovich '74 and Walt Figel '73, both of whom passed away in 2020.

1980s

◆ Richard J. Conwell, M.A. '81 '82, Lt. Colonel (Dr.), MSC, AFRES, holds the distinction of being the longest serving Airman veteran in U.S. military history, with fifty-five and a half years of continuous service going back to June 1965. He and his wife Cecelia Evans-Conwell reside in Cranberry Township, Pa. They have one son and four grandchildren.

◆ Lynne M. Hopfl '86 was named Women's Health and Wellness Hero by the Central Penn Parent Business Journal for 2020. Lynne retired from the Hershey Medical Center after 28 years as a Labor and Delivery Nurse.

◆ Louis C. Schmitt, Jr. '84 (right) was elected to a second term in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives. He represents the 79th Legislative District which includes the city of Altoona, as well as Logan and Allegheny Townships. His new term commenced on December 1, 2020 and will continue through November 30, 2022.



◆ Paul Francis Travers '86 was Ordained to the Sacred Order of Deacons on November 7, 2020 by His Excellency, the Most Reverend Leonard P. Blair, Archbishop of Hartford. Deacon Travers is assigned to the Saint Thomas the Apostle and Saint Timothy Church in West Hartford. Paul Travers is to the right of Archbishop Blair in the photo.

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1990s

◆ Dr. Kelly Cordoro '95 (right) was honored as the McCalmont Family Endowed Professor in Pediatric Dermatology at the University of California, San Francisco, where she is Chief and Fellowship Director of Pediatric Dermatology at UCSF. She credits her success to the Saint Francis biology department and her teammates on the softball team for a well-rounded experience while in college.



◆ Thomas Fox '99 published his first book, *A Penny's Thoughts*, a fiction novel told from the perspective of a penny as it travels America. The book is now available on Amazon and Barnes & Noble. The book is under Fox's pen name, Tommy O'Sionnach, which is his family's name from three centuries ago in Ireland. It translates to "Son of the Fox."

◆ Dr. Matthew Ussia '99 recently published his first book of poetry titled *The Red Glass Cat* on Alien Buddha press. His poem *St. John Minadeo* was named poem of the week for Allegheny County as part of the City of Asylum's All Pittsburghers are Poets project. His works have also appeared in *Recasting Masculinity*, *Dreamers Anthology*, *Winedrunk Sidewalk*, *The Ekphrastic Review*, and the *Open Mic of the Air Pod* cast. He also has an essay in *Mister Rogers and Philosophy*. He teaches English at Duquesne University.



2000s

◆ Jennifer (Roseman) Christman '03 and her husband Corey Christman have debuted their first four wines from their company Bravery Wines, a new Finger Lakes brand. A portion of the proceeds from each bottle go towards the Yellow Ribbon Fund, a veteran service organization that supports injured service members and their caregivers. Their wine can be found at bravery.wine.

2010s

◆ Kimberly Elter '16 was named by Harrisburg Young Professionals to their list of the top 20 in their 20's in the Greater Harrisburg Area for creating and establishing a meaningful impact in the community. She was recognized for her efforts in creating and growing 6 Degrees, the first speed networking and mentoring event with Harrisburg Young Professionals, and for her role in growing HYP Toastmasters, a local club within Toastmasters International that advances the communication and public speaking skills of its members.



◆ Kellie Mason '13 (left) was recognized as Teacher of the Year for Madison County Public Schools for 2019-2020. Principal Donald Dodson praised her work, saying, "Ms. Mason played a lead role in facilitating our new writing initiative to ensure vertical alignment within our grade levels and implementation into the established curriculum... Ms. Mason is adored by her students for her thoughtful and supportive approach to learning. Our community could not ask for a more devoted, caring, educator to guide our children into adulthood."

◆ Mallory E. Romano '14 of Hopewell, Pa, is the new Administrative Officer for Jumet Financial's new office in Canton, Ohio. Jumet Financial has a team of six who service over 450 clients in 30 different states.

◆ Marissa (Basile) Spurlock '12 (right) was recognized as Teacher of the Year for 2017-2018 in Madison County Public Schools. On Monday, May 14, 2018, Madison County Public Schools celebrated the annual Teaching, Learning and Caring Awards. These awards honor outstanding teachers and staff members who have made a difference and greatly impacted the lives of their students.



Births and Adoptions



◆ Brian Isenberg '15 and Jennifer (Mueller) Isenberg '14 welcomed Robert Benson Isenberg on December 27, 2020.



◆ Julie (Ramsey) Spehar '05, '07 and husband Borut welcomed their second daughter Emma Lily Spehar on May 13, 2020. Emma Lily joins Lydia Eve at home.

Marriages



◆ Jessica (Ulishney) Kurek '12 married Marco Kurek on August 8, 2020 at Saint Bernard Catholic Church in Pittsburgh, Pa.

(List includes names submitted prior to March 29, 2021)

Deaths

Michael F. Asselta '67	Wilbur J. Holtz '60	Margaret Fox Parker '64
Michael Bichko '72	Patricia (Zerbee) Hoover '74	Jayne (Yingling) Parrish '69
T. Michael Billson '67	Randy Johnson '81	Lyle Parrish '51
Lester A. Boyer '59	Peter Jugovich '74	William C. Pfeiffer '76
Brian Brown '58	Frank Kachinski '54	Jack Phelan '77
Peter Burnham '66	Alan Killian '94	John L. Pikus '56
Robert Carroll '53	William Kimmel M '85	Jason D. Plummer M '04
Patricia Chappell M '92	Carolyn (Phillips) Knight '65	Marlene (Gresko) Price '71
William F. Coenen '62	Dr. Walter "Wally" Klein,	Walter Quayle '64
William F. Connelly '63	Business Professor	Richard L. Regala '63
Fr. Joseph F. Connolly, T.O.R. '64	Frank Kuzemchak '49	David Rematt '50
Maureen (O'Connor) Coster '87	H. Connell Lang '53	Maryellen (Franko) Reynolds '66
Scott Cover '96	E. Richard (Rick) Leahy '72	William Riggs M '02
Marie (Barrett) Coyne '57	Lorraine (Wagner) Lebel '74	Paul A. Rusnack '54
Pasquale W. DeMartino '53	Henri J. LeClerc '60	David L. Scahill '65
James M. Duffy '69	Francis P. Libonati '61	Andrew G. Shank '71
Janice Zagra '85	Elizabeth Diana (Davis) Long '63	Donna (Fisher) Sherlock '64
Patricia Elias '93	Thaddeus Machowski '61	Mary Jane (Gates) Siatkowski '51
Pamela (Way) Farabaugh '86	Paul R. Malloy '57	Charles W. Smith '52
Kent Murry Ferguson '81	Stephen E. Maroney '70	Janice M. Smith M '90
Walter Figel '73	James R. Mathieson '69	John C. Smith '64
Dr. Edward T. Fitzpatrick,	Martin McDermott '72	Donald E. Sobina '69
English professor	William McNeal '51	Sister Jean E. Solari, CSJ '65
Eugene Frank '69	Brian McNerney '66	Joseph J. Standa '50
Kathleen (Sonefelt) Fraundorfer '72	Rev. Blase Meyer '64	Fr. Andrew Stanko '67
Fletcher J. Gately '64	David Mongon '65	Ronald Stevens '73
Leo Glass '54	William D. Mongovan '64	John C. Sutusky '69
Laura Gregory M '05	Randolph Myers Jr. '43	Henry Trybus '51
John Halcovich '62	Mary Myron '75	Laura (Mullen) Walker '71
Harry P. Hanley M '81	Nancy (Williams) Nebel '71	James White '84
Fr. James R. Himmelsbach '70	Francis W. Niland '50	Clifford Lee Wolf '68
Donald G. Heffner '59	Fr. Jack J. O'Malley '59	Albert L. Yarashus '56
Jason J. Hench '97	Agnes (Milko) Panar '62	Jerome A. Yetisko '56
	Anthony N. Paone '48	Douglas Zaher '79

How to Submit 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.

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

Flashbacks can be sent to:
sfu-alumni-office@francis.edu

OR Fax: 814-472-3044

OR: Flashbacks

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