

SPRING 2012

Saint Francis

UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE



Sculpting Life

SFU Alumnus
John Martini
breathes life
into metals

a message from the President

Living Franciscan values in a modern world: a message for today

Fr. Gabriel Zeis, T.O.R.


As Saint Francis lay dying he reminded the friars that they would follow the Gospel of Jesus Christ in their uniqueness. No follower of St. Francis of Assisi would ever expect to be another Francis, for God had called Francis in his individuality. Yet Francis also made it clear that they must hold firm to the truth of the Gospel and the teachings of the Roman Catholic Church.

Following St. Francis of Assisi is about finding our personal journey. God has called each of us to take seriously this mission and to live it out fully. As I have journeyed, I have discovered this great diversity among the Franciscan family, both secular and religious. Seeing this diversity gives me great joy that the hope of St. Francis, that many would find individual ways to live the Gospel, is alive today.

Throughout the centuries, followers of St. Francis have been doctors, lawyers, teachers, artisans and craftsmen. They have been rich, poor, educated, uneducated, noble and commoner. They have been leaders



fully involved on the world stage and they have excused themselves from the world. They have been priest, nun and pope. Many have been outstanding in their field, such as Michelangelo and Dante. But what they all share is willingness to live the Gospel through their uniqueness.

It is truly remarkable to see our students learning to apply the Gospel in their uniqueness. The proof can be seen in our alumni who express the Gospel in subtle and dynamic ways through their businesses, their teaching and their professions. It is seen in their writing and in their art. It is seen in how they live out their lives as parents and members of society. I am so very proud to say that our alumni live Franciscan values in a modern world. I believe that our students' ability to hear the Gospel and adapt it to the times in which they live will truly be the hallmark of our University's success. 

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On the Cover: "Recent Sculpture" an exhibit by Alumnus John Martini '70 at Eglise de La Riviere Eglise Notre-Dame, Ville de Beaumont, France.

Uncharted *Waters*

*Bahamas cruise provides SFU students with
American Sign Language immersion experience*

WRITTEN BY | *Amanda Stoehr Drumm '03, '08(M)*

College students routinely travel to exotic destinations around the world to refine their skills in Italian, French, Spanish and other foreign languages. They find themselves engrossed in not only the language, but also in the norms, traditions, values and customs of another culture. One language and culture that until now Saint Francis University students have not had the opportunity to be fully immersed in is American Sign Language (ASL).

ASL is the fourth most popular language in the country, yet where do you find a place to immerse students in ASL? Saint Francis students, who signed up for ASL 450 in May, found a place on an eight day/seven night cruise to the Bahamas on the Royal Caribbean Oasis of the Seas ship, coordinated by Passages Deaf Travel (PDT), an agency that specializes in Deaf travel.

A trip like no other

The late Karen Walkney Mrdjenovich, an ASL adjunct assistant professor at Saint Francis for

17 years and a well-respected member of the Deaf community, dreamed of expanding the ASL program offerings. She taught courses in sign language and Deaf culture and ultimately wanted to be able to “bridge the gap between the Deaf and hearing communities.” Providing students with an immersion experience would enhance the program offerings and became a mission for her substitute, Gale DeArmin, ASL adjunct instructor. The course was approved in November 2010, and sadly Mrdjenovich passed away a month later.

The Royal Caribbean cruise ship would be the host for this immersion experience, and DeArmin coordinated the trip with PDT. She assured them that Saint Francis students would adhere to all policies set forth by Royal Caribbean, PDT, and that they would be well prepared. Dr. Peter Skoner '85 (M), associate provost, was enthusiastic about the trip. “Saint Francis continues to expand the opportunities for our students to experience cultural immersion while providing community service,” said Skoner. “Having students experience Deaf



“The students came back from their travels with many examples of transforming encounters where it was evident that they grew as individuals and learners while helping others.”

—*Dr. Peter Skoner*
Associate Provost

culture and use ASL was a uniquely valuable learning opportunity, made possible through the enthusiasm, expertise and contacts that Ms. DeArmin brings into her courses and to her students. Indeed, she and the students came back from their travels with many examples of transforming encounters where it was evident that they grew as individuals and learners while helping others.”

Angel Ackerman, office coordinator at PDT, was also thrilled with how the students conducted themselves on the trip, “They were absolutely wonderful and willing to help. They came on all of the private events and signed very well. The Deaf community was very accepting of the students. We definitely enjoyed having them and would do it again.” Saint Francis is the first university to provide this intensive ASL experience for its students through PDT.

The journey before the journey

To be considered for the trip, students had to be fluent enough to be able communicate the entire time in ASL, and each of them signed a pledge agreeing not to use their voices in the public areas of the cruise ship. Talking to each other in the midst of the Deaf community would have been extremely offensive.

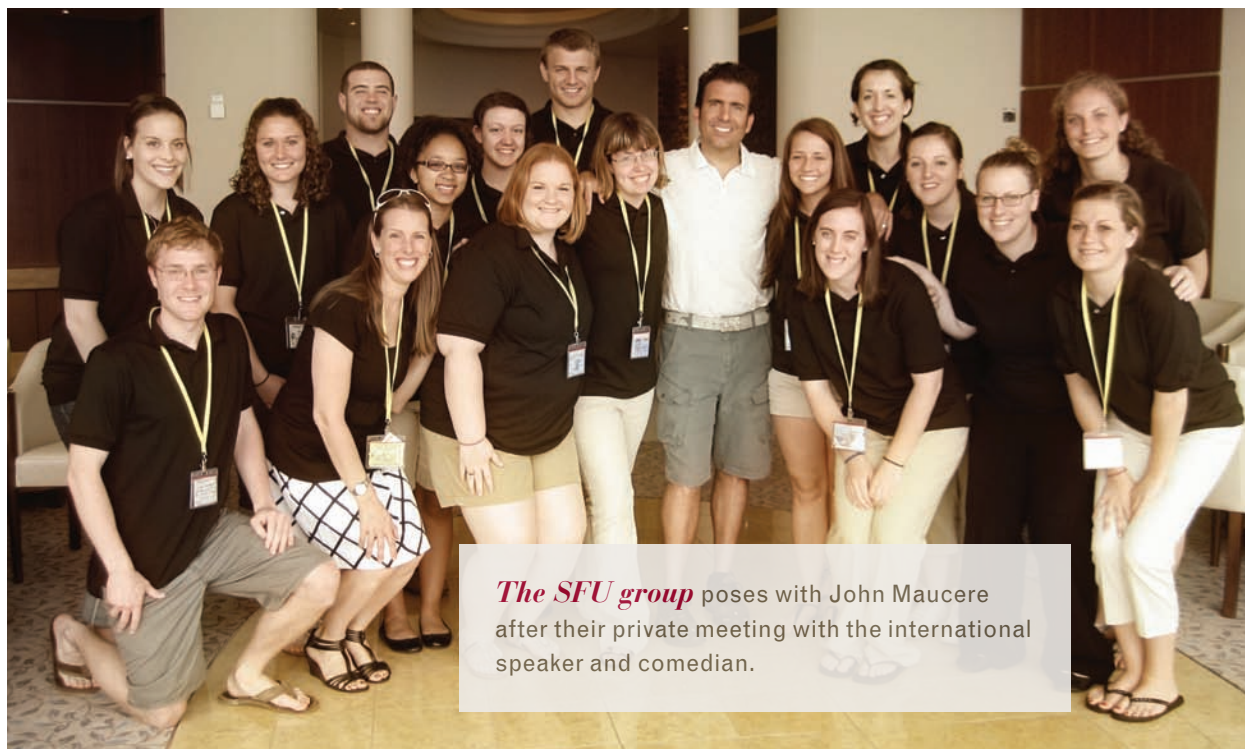
In addition to the signing-only oath, students agreed to follow the Code of Professional Conduct as outlined by the Registry of Interpreters of the Deaf. This code is a set of rules that dictates the professional manners, behavior and ethics one must use as an interpreter, which included being respectful of the Deaf culture. Students also had to write an analysis on the book *Mask of Benevolence*. The book addresses audism, an attitude that results in a

negative stigma toward anyone who does not hear.

Deaf culture is very visual, so to avoid being mistaken as disrespectful, but rather as students participating in an educational experience, they dressed business casual and wore modest bathing suits. They were also advised to be well groomed and to not have long fingernails or nails with designs, etc. that would serve as a distraction while signing.

All aboard!

Once aboard the ship, the students took their pledge very seriously. “There truly is not a better way to learn a language than to be completely immersed in it, and the cruise was no exception,” said Noelle Barber, a physician assistant and Spanish student who went on the cruise. “To be able to walk around a cruise ship or to go on any given excursion and



The SFU group poses with John Maucere after their private meeting with the international speaker and comedian.

to observe sign language everywhere you go is incredible. All of the Deaf individuals we interacted with were so happy that we, as students pursuing degrees, were excited to learn ASL. In turn, they were eager to teach us their language and to socialize with us.”

Logan Showalter '09, a student assistant on the trip, echoed that sentiment, “Students had countless opportunities to immerse themselves in Deaf culture and ASL. The cruise provided the opportunity to gain exposure to many different settings. We were able to see a variety of different signing styles, and had exposure to other sign languages. It was also an interactive experience where we could get instant feedback on signing and tips on how to improve.”

It was eye opening for the students to not be able to use their voices, as Barber realized, “To go a whole week without using my voice anywhere in public was quite an experience. It was fun to grasp that we were all capable of doing this, and it really helped put things in perspective for us. It made me realize to an extent what it’s like to be Deaf and made me think about the



All Smiles: Students Noelle Barber and Christopher Freidhoff are on the ship’s deck with John Maucere (center).

inequalities that they face in terms of access to communication.”

There were more than 450 Deaf passengers on the ship, as well as 26 Nationally Certified Interpreters, and famous passengers including Luke Adams, from CBS’ *The Amazing Race* television show. He

was the first Deaf person to compete in the reality show where teams race around the world on a quest for a one million dollar grand prize. The SFU students became friends with Adams and still communicate with him.

The group also had a private meeting with another well-known Deaf person, John Maucere, an international speaker and comedian. He is known for his work on television shows and commercials, but more importantly he has made it his life mission to champion for the

“There truly is not a better way to learn a language than to be completely immersed in it.”

—Noelle Barber

Deaf and to show all things are possible for the Deaf community.

In addition to making famous friends, the students improved their sign language skills and gained a greater understanding of Deaf culture, including hugs. The Deaf culture loves to demonstrate friendship and affection through hugging, and SFU students happily stepped out of their comfort zones and embraced the culture. The students said they felt fortunate that they were being accepted and welcomed on the trip. Junior Danielle Dezort noted, “Not only did we get to improve our social skills amongst Deaf people,

Best experience of our lives

One sentiment the entire group agreed upon was that the trip was a truly life changing experience. “Going on the cruise, I knew that I was going to learn a wealth of vocabulary, but I never expected to gain as much as I did,” said Barber. “Not only did we learn a plethora of new signs, but we also learned more about the Deaf culture, and came home with many new friends. I could not be happier that I participated on the cruise. It inspired me to continue to learn ASL and be involved with the Deaf community for many years to come.”

Malia Lonergan, a physician assistant major,

agreed. “The opportunities that I had to interact with the Deaf community were endless; I am thankful for everything that my Deaf friends shared with me.”

Terry Smith, assistant director of the ASL cruise, was impressed with the students. “I enjoyed them. It was nice to see the students get exposure to Deaf culture and to watch



“I love you” is signed by SFU students taking in the ship's picturesque views.

but we also got to experience the Deaf culture by being accepted as students and learning the way they do their entertainment.”

The students watched visually vibrant shows on the ship, such as “Hairspray”, which was interpreted, and water shows with divers and synchronized swimmers. DeArmin noted, “They participated in activities and games that were played exclusively in ASL. They enjoyed the games and were able to experience the whole culture.”

their signing skills from start to finish. I was praising the students for their motivation; I was very proud of them.”

Students from several majors including physician assistant, occupational therapy and education participated. The value of the trip will continue to have far reaching effects. All of these students will graduate with the knowledge and confidence to carry ASL into their chosen professions, which will continue to impact others for years to come. 🏠

Sculpting Life

John Martini '70

WRITTEN BY | *Marie Young*

Industrial steel is not typically a medium known for its whimsical soul. Yet artist John Martini '70 finds a spark of life in the rough-edged steel sheets that become the foundation of his large-scale sculptures. From the 30-feet tall *Head2Head* greeting motorists along I-295 in New Jersey to whimsical creatures juxtaposed against ancient cathedral walls in France, Martini's work exudes life.

For more than 40 years, Martini has found his passion in the art world. Yet a career as an artist was not such an obvious choice for him. As a teenager in New Jersey, Martini set out to pursue a more traditional path. Fate and



This exhibition of Martini's work, "Recent Sculpture" at Eglise de La Riviere Eglise Notre-Dame, Ville de Beaumont, France, coincided with a public sculpture dedication of his work, "La Passeur...2007," in the city park in Beaumont.



“In 1982, I started a gallery (the Lucky Street Gallery) for other artists, and I gave myself a show.”

—John Martini '70

“Champs Livres 2003, Animal Representations in Today's Art,” (above) a two-person exhibit with Niki de St Phalle at ORCCA cultural center for Champagne in Ardennes, France. Below: “Sculpture and Monoprints” an exhibition at Galerie Antoine Laurentin, Paris, 2011.



family steered him to Saint Francis College where his aunt's brother-in-law, Raymond Berner '55, was an English professor. Loretto was miles away from his home, yet John, encouraged by his family, took a leap of faith and enrolled without knowing much about the school.

"I started as a business major," Martini explains, but after two and half years, he transferred into sociology. "It was the end of the 60s and it was a time of transition at the college. Saint Francis was becoming very active politically and socially," he remembers. To this day he can still see images of poverty-stricken Pennsylvania communities devastated by the coal industry. He wanted to find a way to help poor communities so after college he joined VISTA, a government-run service organization, along with two other SFU grads, Darene Cahill '70 and Pam Benvenue '70.

Slowly an art career began to intertwine with his social work path. It started with jewelry making in his spare time and eventually the pieces began to morph into larger works. His first public commission, a sculpture for the Fulton County Administration Building in Georgia, came in the early

1970s, and his art career picked up when he moved to Key West in 1976.

Martini, who has held numerous shows in New York and Paris, jokes about how he landed his first gallery exhibition in Key West. "In 1982, I started a gallery (the Lucky Street Gallery) for other artists and I gave myself a show."

Lucky Street has passed in and out of his hands a few times over the years. He even owned it for a time with Darene, now a nurse practitioner, as his partner. It is

still a favorite place for him to display his work.

Since that first exhibition, his career has been filled with interesting highlights. For instance his work is on display at sculpture gardens such as the Grounds for Sculpture in New Jersey; he has even appeared onscreen in MTV's *The Real World: Key West*. He just finished an exhibition at the Galerie Antoine Laurentin in Paris last fall, and he has new shows planned for 2012 in Key West and Atlanta. 🏠



John Martini '70 in his Key West studio, The Lincoln Theater, in 2008.



Endless Possibilities

*Six new academic programs
expand possibilities
for SFU students*

WRITTEN BY | *Amanda Stoehr Drumm '03, '08 (M)
and Marie Young*

The world is heading into exciting, new territories, and we want our students to be ready to seize the best opportunities. In that spirit, Saint Francis is introducing six new academic programs that will help students pursue their dream jobs in areas that are proving resilient in a tough job market.

Applied Mathematics Concentration, Mathematics, B.S.

Applied mathematicians solve real-world problems using statistics, biomathematics, cryptography, scientific computation, mathematical modeling, economics, financial mathematics, operations research and engineering. This new concentration within the existing four-year mathematics degree will allow SFU students to focus their studies along a number of career options in public service/government, the military, financial services, scientific research and academia.

Arts & Letters, B.A. with 3 tracks

College days are a time for exploration and self-discovery, of course, all leading to a fulfilling career. The Arts & Letters major is an interdisciplinary major that embraces a holistic approach along many flexible career paths. The program explores the connections between behavioral sciences, humanities, politics, economics, religion, culture, history and aesthetics. Students can choose courses in subjects that interest them, and practice applying the knowledge they gain in the classroom through an undergraduate research project or an internship. They can choose to pursue a graduate school, professional, or general track within the Arts & Letters major.

Gaming/New Media Production Concentration, Computer Science, B.S.

Our computer science department has partnered with Harrisburg University of Science and Technology to offer this new area of concentration within the existing four-year computer science

degree. The curriculum encompasses web and entertainment technologies, including computer science, visual story-telling, graphic arts (still and video) and sound and human commands which are integrated to produce a dynamic new media format. Saint Francis students will spend the second semester of their junior year and first semester of their senior year onsite in Harrisburg. There they will complete concentration coursework in Harrisburg's state of the art media production facilities.

Healthcare Management Concentration, Business Administration, B.S.

Healthcare Management is a new area of concentration within the four-year business administration major that prepares students for management careers within the extensive industry of United States healthcare. Students receive in-depth knowledge of macro-level healthcare policy challenges and issues. They are trained in healthcare economics, contemporary management and marketing practices in the healthcare management field and healthcare information systems. In the spirit of St. Francis of Assisi, they are also introduced to the special ethical and legal issues facing healthcare managers, as well as the critical nature and complexity of healthcare strategy and policy decisions.

Paralegal Certificate

The post-baccalaureate Paralegal Certificate program can help students gain credentials needed to enter the paralegal profession, and can also be a helpful step toward law school admission. Program faculty are experienced attorneys and paralegals that teach practical and rigorous classes. The curriculum offers fundamental skills in legal principles, writing and research, and emphasizes

If you are a graduate who works in one of these fields, see page 13 for details on how you can join our Career Mentoring Network. For enrollment information on any of these programs, visit www.francis.edu, or contact the office of admissions at admissions@francis.edu or 1-866-DIAL-SFU.

professional responsibility and ethics. The career outlook is positive in the paralegal field, with position openings in law offices, insurance agencies, banks, corporations and government agencies. The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics projects paralegals will be in high demand for the remainder of the decade.

Public Health, B.S. or B.A.

The new public health program, officially opening in the fall 2012, will provide a highly sought after degree that strengthens the University's emphasis on healthcare across disciplines as part of a liberal arts tradition. The curriculum integrates the values of Franciscan higher education, preparing students to provide competent, compassionate and ethical care to global communities, while readying them for the healthcare realities of the 21st century. This field is one that is expected to grow, and students that choose this major can look forward to choosing from a variety of jobs, such as health promotion program coordinator, regulatory affairs specialist, consumer safety officer and emergency preparedness specialist. 🏠

Working Earthly Miracles

*Effective advocacy
brings simplicity and
joy to Manhattan*

WRITTEN BY / *Marie Young*

Christopher Collins '73 thought his personal experience as vice chair of the New York City Board of Standards & Appeals and as counsel to the Land Use Committee of the New York City Council would provide the inspiration for his recent talk on campus. Yet after some thought, he decided on a topic that was close to his heart and might prove far more meaningful to SFU students.

In November, Collins presented "Building New York's High Line Park: A Case Study in Effective Advocacy" as part of the iLead (Institute for Leadership Education by

"Leaders are advocates either for, or against, something."

—Christopher Collins '73

Alumni of Distinction) speakers series sponsored by the Student Government Association. Collins is a founding board member of the Friends of the High Line.

As Collins tells it, the tale of the High Line is one of "two guys with no plan, no money and no experience" who convinced landowners, developers and the City of New York that an abandoned elevated rail line wasn't

an eyesore to be cleared away, but rather a potential oasis in the midst of the bustling Manhattan's West Side.

"Leaders are advocates either for, or against, something," he shared with the students. "You are not necessarily

born with this ability. It is a skill set that you have to develop."

Collins used the tale of the High Line to outline a "toolkit for effective advocacy" that the students can use no matter where life takes them after graduation.

The High Line was a celebrated achievement in the 1930s. It was a time when the West Side boasted a thriving warehouse district, and 10th

The High Line:

Christopher Collins '73 (left) takes his brother John '59 on a tour of the project that is near and dear to his heart, a restored elevated rail line in Manhattan.

Avenue was filled with horses, trains, cars and pedestrians literally colliding. Part of a massive public-private infrastructure project, the High Line was a rail line that lifted train traffic 30 feet in the air helping to eliminate 10th Avenue's unfortunate moniker, "Death Avenue."

By 1980 though, the character of the neighborhood evolved beyond its warehouse roots. The last train unceremoniously rolled through and the High Line, no longer needed, fell into disrepair. Yet nature reclaims what humans don't want, and a tiny, wild habitat began to emerge where the birds dropped seeds over the years.


Most people only saw the



eyesore, but Collins shared how two men, Joshua David and Robert Hammond, strangers until the High Line cause brought them together, saw something wonderful: a meadow in the middle of Manhattan.

Through the iLead platform, Collins shared how these two unlikely men used every tool in their arsenal including using stunning emotional photos, making famous friends and finding

advocates with knowledge of zoning laws and New York real estate. In the end, they formed a group that managed to fund the \$150 million project and show a well-funded landowners group that handing over their land for a public park would be more financially advantageous than tearing down the High Line.

To learn more about the High Line project visit www.thehighline.org. 

SFU ALUMNI . . .

You are invited to join the **CAREER MENTORING NETWORK** and make a difference in the lives of SFU students! Go to www.collegecentral.com/stfrancis. Click on Alumni, then Mentoring Network. Use password "Loretto" and add your profile. Questions? Contact SFU Career Services: 814-472-3019, careerservices@francis.edu

Breathtaking Bolivian Adventure

Gaining engineering experience through service

WRITTEN BY | *Amanda Stoehr Drumm '03, '08 (M)*



Faculty and students on the Bolivian trip pose at the reclamation site. Pictured in the front row are: Dr. William Strosnider and Professor Freddy Llanos of the Universidad Autonoma Tomas Frias; back row: Dr. Joel Bandstra, Ashley Neptune and Kelsea Palmer.

Juniors Kelsea Palmer and Ashley Neptune were not sure what was in store for them when they signed up to go on the University's first international engineering trip last May. Nevertheless they put their trust in engineering faculty members Dr. William Strosnider and Dr. Joel Bandstra who asked the students to trade the mountains of Loretto for the Andes as part of a two- week service project.

Together, they worked on mining reclamation in an impoverished Bolivian community where the acid mine drainage problem is much worse than in Pennsylvania. According to Strosnider and Bandstra, the setting provides a great experimental training ground for environmental engineering students.

Elevated

The group's first task after boarding the plane was to take elevation sickness pills. Loretto sits on a mountain almost 2,000 feet above sea level. The



The Saint Francis group stayed in the capital city of LaPaz.

Bolivian site, in comparison, sits nearly 15,000 feet above sea level. Such a sharp contrast in elevation can cause sickness, heaviness in the chest and loss of breath because at the higher altitude carbon dioxide takes more time to leave the blood.

The climate also proved challenging. The team left Loretto with summer emerging, to be greeted by a Bolivian winter. They arrived in the chilly, bustling, crowded capital city of LaPaz. From there, they boarded a bus traveling up to the mountain city of Potosí, near the mining area. Palmer and Neptune were struck by the culture they experienced at the site. “The people were

“The people were humble, shy, but very hospitable.”

—*Kelsea Palmer*

humble, shy, but very hospitable. You could tell it was a poor area, but I never felt unsafe or worried,” remarked Palmer.

Getting to work

The group woke early each morning to a brisk temperature in the low thirties. They gathered their hats and gloves before leaving the hostel to begin the two-hour bus trek to the isolated work site. The landscape that greeted them was rugged, with little vegetation. They would often pass packs of wild dogs along the way and Neptune shared, “They are treated well by the Bolivian people, but are used to fending for themselves because the country is so poor.”

At the work site the team joined faculty and students from the University of Oklahoma Center for the Restoration of Ecosystems and Watersheds and

“The team was exhausted from the twelve-hour work days, but it was worth it.”

—*Dr. William Strosnider*

the Universidad Autónoma “Tomas Frías” mining engineering department. The group used their collective knowledge to aid the tens of thousands of people in the surrounding farming



Every day the group traveled two hours each way to this reclamation site to help build a water treatment system.



Dr. Joel Bandstra (left) and Dr. William Strosnider hold the Saint Francis flag as Ashley Neptune and Kelsea Palmer “reach higher” in the Andes.

communities whose water supply has been damaged by acid mine drainage.

During the daylight hours, when temperatures would warm to the fifties, they worked to build a water treatment system to reclaim much-needed irrigation water for farming. The most back-breaking work was carrying limestone to place in the river so the metal would precipitate out of the water.

Native farmers worked alongside the crew to help move an astounding 40 metric tons of limestone boulders into the Juckucha River. “Working hand-in-hand with the local community and our new friends from the University of Oklahoma was an uplifting experience. The team was exhausted from the twelve-hour work days, but it was worth it,” said Strosnider.

Environmental Engineering at Saint Francis

The bachelor of science major in environmental engineering is a new 4-year degree emphasizing solid engineering principles coupled with real-world design experience and integrated communication skills. The first class is expected to graduate in Spring 2012. Learn more at <http://www.francis.edu/environmental.htm>.



Ashley Neptune (left) and Kelsea Palmer pose with a teenage crossing guard dressed in a zebra suit, a common occurrence in LaPaz.

Centuries old pollution

The indigenous farming communities in the Rio Juckucha watershed have suffered mining pollution for more than a century. Acid mine drainage has degraded local water supplies, rendering crucial water resources unusable for human and animal consumption or agricultural use. This contamination has created tension between local farmers and miners.

The Saint Francis environmental engineering program and multinational partners are working to help resolve this difficult environmental and social

problem. By partnering with EMAK, a progressive mining company in the region, they continue to tackle the water contamination issue, working to restore the Rio Juckucha for the benefit of the local environmental, agricultural and regional mining interests.

“We had the opportunity to learn a lot about another culture and I think the travel bug has bit us both.”

—Kelsea Palmer

Grateful and proud

Palmer and Neptune were grateful for the experience they had in Bolivia and are proud of their accomplishments at the site. They were fortunate enough to be able to explore the city, sail Lake Titicaca and tour pre-Incan ruins before they delved into the hard work. “We had the opportunity to learn a lot about another culture and I think the travel bug has bit us both,” said Palmer.

The Saint Francis group hopes the experience gained through the Bolivian project can be applied to acid mine drainage issues in Pennsylvania and in other states. In the meantime, the team is proud to know that the work they performed during their two-week stay helped to reduce pollution in waters of the Rio Juckucha for decades to come. 🏠

ON CAMPUS

our vibrant community

*Saint Francis students, faculty, and staff incorporate
the Goals of Franciscan Higher Education
in the work they do and services they perform*

Prison Ministry

The Institute for Contemporary Franciscan Life (ICFL) at Saint Francis University offers a program of independent adult learning through distance education. In 2009, ICFL coordinator, Diane Rombouts, secured a grant to establish a Prison Ministry on behalf of incarcerated individuals who had written the Institute seeking an opportunity to better themselves through education. James Colbert, from Texas, was the first to enroll and today is just one course away from completing the program.

Colbert completed his prison sentence last year and was provided temporary residence by a Benedictine order in Hulbert, OK—Clear Creek Monastery—while he worked with a construction company



Photo by Br. Jerome used with permission of Clear Creek Monastery

James Colbert (center) with Abbot Philip Anderson, O.S.B. (left) and Father Christopher Andrews, O.S.B., before a statue of St. Benedict at Clear Creek Monastery in Hulbert, OK.

on their building project. James gives credit to the ICFL for giving him hope and determination to do something important with his life.

The ICFL Certificate program is open to anyone interested in learning more about Catholic

Franciscan values in contemporary society. Noncredit courses are aimed toward personal enrichment, ministerial enhancement and ongoing formation for Secular Franciscans. To read James' story, visit www.francis.edu/MagazineSpring12.htm

Friar cycles 330 miles for Dorothy Day Center

What does a 64-year-old Franciscan friar do when the stories of poverty become too much for him to bear? If he is avid cyclist Br. Shamus McGrenra '72, T.O.R., he rides 330 miles on his bike to raise money for charity.

At the end of July, Brother Shamus went on a week-long ride from Pittsburgh to Washington, D.C. to raise money for SFU's Dorothy Day Center, a community-based, outreach organization that provides services for the homeless and underprivileged in the area. The trip raised more than \$11,800. All of the proceeds went directly to the center, which just



Avid cyclist Br. Shamus McGrenra '72, T.O.R.

celebrated its 30th anniversary in the fall. He plans to repeat the fundraiser this summer. To

donate to the center, call the SFU Office of Advancement at 814-472-3021.



Author and motivational speaker Jackie Freiberg visited campus in the fall as part of the University's annual Dr. Albert A. Zanzuccki Endowed Chair Distinguished Lecture Series. She presented her talk, "Innovation and Leadership," to more than 500 SFU students, faculty, alumni and friends. She is shown with Dr. Randy Frye '90 (M), dean of the School of Business, (left) and Dr. Zanzuccki.

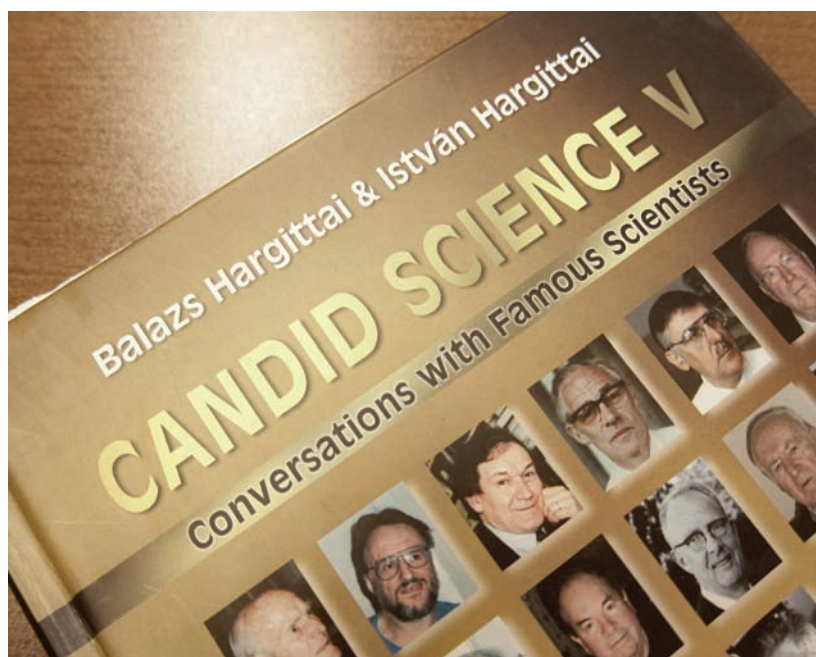
In Good Company

There is an interesting connection between last year's chemistry Nobel Laureate and one of our faculty members in the School of Sciences. The winner of the 2011 Nobel Prize in Chemistry, Dr. Dan Shechtman, who has been recognized for his work on the nature of crystals and their atomic structure, was featured in a chapter of the 2005 book *Candid Science V: Conversations with Famous Scientists*. This volume of the *Candid Science* series was written by Dr. Balazs and Dr. Istvan Hargittai.

Dr. Balazs Hargittai is our

very own associate professor of chemistry, and the co-author is his father, who is a professor of chemistry in Hungary. According to Balazs, the *Candid Science* series is a family tradition, with his father and mother working on many volumes together.

Balazs paired up with his father on this edition featuring the interview with Shechtman. The 2011 Nobel Laureate announcement by the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences included the book among "links and further reading" on Shechtman.



Rising chemistry star

Selamawit Woldemeskel, a junior chemistry major, had the opportunity to conduct research at Princeton University this past summer.

Woldemeskel, originally from Ethiopia, worked in the molecular biology department investigating the malaria parasite. At Saint Francis, Woldemeskel's undergraduate research in the laboratory of Dr. Michele Hargittai includes characterizing the DNA binding property of the mitochondrial transcription factor A protein. Woldemeskel hopes to go to graduate school at Princeton to prepare for a research career.





Elisha Fleig, recipient of the 2011 Student Service Award, is shown here (white shirt) in her role as director of orientation at “Move-in Day” for the incoming class.

Day of Reflection

As part of the Day of Reflection ceremony on October 4, Saint Francis University honored individuals from the broader community whose actions exemplify Franciscan values.

The Assisi Award was granted to Stan Brock, founder of the Remote Area Medical Volunteer Corps (RAM) and former co-star of *Wild Kingdom*. R.A.M. is a volunteer corps dedicated

to providing free health care to people around the world. Brock invited SFU students to volunteer at his next clinic in Tennessee.

The Franciscan Courage Award was given to veterans Thomas Kriss, a Cresson prison guard (left), and Keith Maul of Lilly. The two came under attack during a route clearing mission in Iraq. Maul, who lost an arm and a leg, credits Kriss, who is not a medic, with saving his life.

Elisha Fleig, a double major in physician assistant sciences

and Spanish, received the 2011 Student Service Award. Her campus activities include Hugs United, the S.M.I.L.E. program at the Dorothy Day Center, Rural Outreach Chemistry for Kids (R.O.C.K.), Student Activity Organization homecoming chair, Student Government Association student senator, recruitment chair and social chair for her sorority, class secretary and the director of orientation for this year's incoming class.



Project RED (Reaching Every Door), a service event started by SFU student Lauren Wingard, was inspired by Texas A&M's "The Big Event" designed to "give back" to the community. In the all-day SFU event this past October, more than 200 student volunteers, with a heavy student-athlete turnout, worked on projects in Ebensburg, Loretto, Cresson, Gallitzin and Duncansville. The plan is for RED to develop into an annual event.

Groundbreaking Ceremony:

The Saint Francis community celebrated the beginning of our new 70,000 square-foot science center on October 7. It will house state-of-the-art classrooms, laboratories and research facilities (including an aquatic research facility); advanced chemical instrumentation and youth outreach areas; in addition to places for students and faculty to gather, study and learn. Read more at www.francis.edu/capitalcampaign.aspx



ATHLETICS

tales of the Red Flash

*Visit www.sfuathletics.com to get
all of the latest Red Flash news*

Bowling team earns national preseason ranking

The Saint Francis bowling team earned a national preseason ranking for the first time in the program's short history. SFU was ranked 13 on the National Ten-Pin Coaches Association list. "We're honored to be recognized by the NTCA coaches," Head Coach Tom Falbo said. "Our ladies take pride in this, but our goals focus around areas of our performance. We've had a strong start since the vote. If we stay focused on who we are, any reward will

be humbly appreciated, but know it stems from our performance and fight from our ladies."

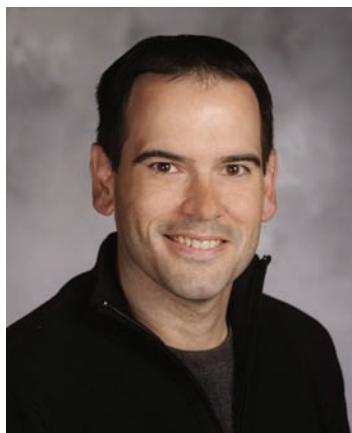
SFU forms marching band

In the fall of 2012, SFU's first-ever marching band is expected to take the field with Dan Atwood at the helm. Atwood was hired in 2011 as the band's director and he immediately began recruiting efforts. Atwood was previously the band director at Everett (Pa.) High School. Under his direction, the Everett marching band routinely performed at

Sophomore Marissa Matassa

demonstrates perfect form during a home game. The team now ranks 13 in a national media poll.





Dan Atwood, first-ever
SFU Band Director



The Red Flash women's soccer team proudly showcase their NEC
regular season title trophy.

events such as the National Memorial Day Parade in Washington, D.C., and the National Fourth of July Celebration in Philadelphia, in addition to engagements at several professional sporting events. He also served as past president and vice president of the District 6 Pennsylvania Music Educators Association. He will oversee the University's pep band, and is already working at developing the marching band.

Women's soccer wins regular season title and hosts NEC Championship

It was a close game, but in the end SFU beat a tough opponent, Wagner College, in overtime to clinch the Red Flash's first Northeast Conference (NEC) regular season title. The win was even more special because it garnered the right for SFU to host the NEC Championship, on November 6, at DeGol Field. "We're very proud that we were

able to make school history by winning the regular season championship," said Head Coach Brenda van Stralen. Unfortunately, SFU lost the NEC Championship match to Long Island University.



Athletics Director Bob Krimmel proudly
accepts eight NEC Sportsmanship awards
in June on behalf of the Red Flash from NEC
Commissioner Noreen Morris.

ALUMNI

flashbacks

Includes information shared with the Office of Alumni Relations between April 2011 and October 2011

1950s

◆ **James Hunter '52** writes: "After being snow birds for 19 years, Laurie and I have decided to relocate to Vero Beach, Fla. permanently."

◆ **E. Clayton Burkey '56, '79 (M)** received the Bertrand Farr Silver Medal from the American Hemerocallis Society for his accomplishments in hybridizing flowers.

◆ **Thaddeus Lekawa, M.D. '57** is now semi-retired from his own practice, Hayshire Medical Center, and is now only practicing two days a week with the family practice, Wellspan Health Systems Medical Group.

◆ **Maurice P. Rossi '57** has five children and ten grandchildren.

◆ Daughters Kathleen, Colleen, Eileen, Joleen, Laureen, Bernadeen, and Christine of the late **Thomas J. Moyer '57**, were featured in the Erie newspaper in an article discussing their friendship, sisterhood and how their father impacted their lives.

◆ **Stanley Niedzwiecki '59** writes, "We went to Disney World for our 50th wedding anniversary in May 2011. We took our whole family of 24!"

1960s

◆ **Norman Chlosta '62** resigned his position as director for the

Patuxent Site/Florida Tech in early 2011 to pursue other interests in public policy and public administration. He had served as director for 15 years while simultaneously teaching graduate courses at Patuxent Naval Air Station in southern Maryland. Florida Tech also has granted him the status of faculty emeritus in management. He recently was appointed by the governor of Maryland to his local county's property tax assessment appeal board. Norm and his wife, Carolyn, live in Swan Point, Md.

◆ In July 2011, TKE brothers, **John Betters '64, Tom Lane '64, John Stefani '64** and **Fletcher Gately '64** got together for a reunion. This



◆ In May 2011, **Mary Ann (Maloney) Nolan '64** rappelled down the side of a 17-story bank building in Wilmington, Del., to raise funds for the Special Olympics. Mary Ann and her family have always supported the Special Olympics, and her daughter Elizabeth has participated in the program for 16 years. Mary's business, Waggies by Maggie and Friends, employs cognitively impaired young adults.

◆ **James L. Griffith '62**

attained the distinguished "Leaders in Law" ranking in the 2011 Chambers USA Guide for his work at Fox Rothschild LLP in Pennsylvania.



third book, *Spies in the Continental Capital: Espionage Across Pennsylvania During the American Revolution*, was published in spring 2011. He has been busy on the lecture circuit, speaking at places like West Point and Fort Ticonderoga, both in N.Y., and at Delaware Valley College in Doylestown, Pa. He recently provided a chapter on "George Washington as Spymaster" for Blackwell's *Companion to George Washington*, which is forthcoming.

◆ **Cynthia (Kowalski) Piniak '69** recently retired after teaching for 37 years at an elementary school. She and her husband, Brad, travel frequently to visit their children and grandchildren.

◆ **Joseph J. Mikulas '69** writes: "My wife, Sue, and I continue to marvel at our country's natural beauty. We are fortunate to have visited Mt. Rushmore, Yellowstone Park, and the Grand Tetons. However, we recently celebrated a local 'treasure,' the birth of our third grandchild. Mason joined Ava and

Hannah on March 10, 2011. All three are the children of our daughter, **Beth (Mikulas) Lovergine '97**, and her husband, Nick."

1970s:

◆ **Eileen (McGovey) Diehl '70** writes that her seventh grandchild, Kourtney Anne, was born on June 5, 2011, to her daughter, Allison, and her husband, Major Kristopher Szymczak, USAF. Kourtney was welcomed by older sister Sophie, age 2.

◆ **Russ Kiel '72** has been married to his wife, Sue, for 38 years. They have two children, Mike and Amy, and two grandchildren, Jack Harland, who is five, and Benjamin Michael, who is one.

◆ In May 2010, **Mary (Kramer) Asma '73** was the first recipient of the Humanitarian Award at Alleghany Regional Hospital in Low Moor, Va. The award recognizes "those individuals whose daily dedication and care giving epitomize the



◆ **Marjorie (Gates) Muir '68** recently found herself in the role of "Mother of the Groom" when her son, Terry, married.

was the first time in 47 years that they had seen each other! They had a great time and felt as if they had been transported back into TKE's chapter room in 1964. All four have committed to celebrating their 50th anniversary at Alumni Weekend 2014.

◆ **Mary Consigli-Petrovich '66** retired in 2003, after a 36-year career at the telephone company. She spends half of the year in Clearwater Beach, Fla., and the other half in White Plains, N.Y.

◆ **John A. Nagy '68**'s second book, *Invisible Ink Spycraft of the American Revolution*, was picked up by the History Book Club. His



◆ Nine alumnae from the Class of 1973 spent time together last year at Stonewood Lodge near Somerset, Pa. to celebrate their 60th birthdays. This group takes a vacation together every five years for their birthdays. Pictured front row: **Beth (Stolberg) Griffith** and **Mary (Kramer) Asma**; back row: **Barbara (Donahue) Murphy**, **Mary Ellen Lilly**, **Kathy (Hayes) Weidmann**, **Alice Evans**, **Pat Carroll**, **Anne Crusan** and **Arlene (McCue) Gentile**.



◆ **Ed Finegan '77** hosted the 21st annual "Boys Weekend" in Sea Isle City, N. J. Pictured from left to right are: **Tom McElroy '77**, **Mark Benz '77**, **Jim Denora '78**, **Tom Finley '77**, **Wally Croke '77**, **Tom Madara '77**, **John Bolha '78**, **Willy Grab '77**, **Ed Finegan '77**, **Bill Feely '77**, and **Rob Bissinger '77**. Also in attendance, but missing from the photo, were **Tom Dreyer '77**, **Steve Osinski '77**, and **Petey O'Toole**. **Paul Pancoe '77** took the photo.

highest standards of quality and personal commitment." She currently works as an R.N. and clinical supervisor.

◆ In May 2011, **Kenneth J. Horoho '77** became a member of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court's Continuing Legal Education Board. He also is currently an adjunct professor at the University of Pittsburgh School of Law and serves on the Board of Trustees at Saint Francis.

◆ **Tom Clark '77** is now celebrating his 30th year in standup comedy. He has recorded two albums on Crooked Cove Records, is a recognized corporate speaker, and has introduced a new character into his comedic repertoire: the Downeast humorist C.L. Thomas, who isn't afraid to speak his mind about any number of things. He also recently launched a new comedy blog, www.tttomtalks.com, where he hopes to

feature not only his own writing, videos and thoughts on comedy, but also what others in the business are doing. Clark had a busy 2011 summer season, performing at a string of stand-up gigs, returning to the Rhumb Line Resort in Kennebunkport, and offering a weekly show at the beautiful Cliff House Resort in Ogunquit, Me. Tom recently signed with New Wave Entertainment, which will distribute his two CDs, "How To Be A Better Tourist," which features his comic Downeast character, as well as "Coast To Coast Comedy," a recording of gigs Clark performed live in Los Angeles and Portland, Me.

◆ **Alan Rosensteel '77** is director of career services at the Golf Academy of America – Carolinas. He has been a PGA of America member since 1984, and was formerly head golf professional and director of instruction at Myrtlewood Golf Club

in Myrtle Beach, S.C. He began his golf career as a playing professional, winning the 1984 Riviera Open on the North Florida Winter Tour. In 1989, he turned to teaching and became a Golfing Machine Certified Instructor. He was recognized by *Golf Magazine* in 2000 as one of the Top Instructors on the Grand Strand.

◆ **Mark Hughes '79** is the associate producer of a musical CD called "Nine Lives" by Paul Sanchez and Colman deKay. One hundred nine of the best musicians in New Orleans play on this musical adaptation of Dan Baum's *New York Times* best-selling book.

1980s

◆ **John F. Coleman Jr. '83** was named vice chairman of the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission in February 2011. He will hold this job and title until



John F. Coleman Jr. '83

April of 2012. Previously, he served over 12 years as the executive director of the Jefferson County Department of Development. He is a certified Economic Development Professional and a graduate of the United States Chamber of Commerce Institute of Organizational Management at Notre Dame.

◆ **Edward W. Monborne '84** has been named CEO of Reinsel Kuntz Leshner, a certified public accountant and consultant group. He has more than 27 years of accounting



◆ **Steve Rogers '82** writes: "**Bob Goodney '84** (left) and I had this photo taken with our sons after their final varsity baseball game at Mount Saint Joseph High School in Baltimore. Bob's son, Gabe, and my son, Patrick, played together for two years. Bob and I both met our wives at Saint Francis: **Jana (Ross) Goodney '84** and **Jean (Payne) Rogers '82**. It was a total coincidence that our boys ended up at the same Catholic high school. Boy, how time flies!"



◆ **Gale Rhodes '87** writes: "Recently, a group of Saint Francis alumni met for a night at Monmouth Park Racetrack." Pictured: first row: **Cheryl (Svarczkopf) Bertovich '79**, **Ron Bertovich '76**; second row: **Kerry (Manning) Betlesky '88** and **Amy (Manning) Sweeney '79**; third row: Kevin Manning, **Cathy (Wolohan) Manning '88**, **Gale Rhodes '87** and **Bill Gray '77**; fourth row: **Pat Sweeney '77**.

experience, including ten years with an international public accounting firm, and has worked for Reinsel Kuntz Leshner since 1994. Monborne is a member of the American and Pennsylvania Institutes of Certified Public Accountants.

1990s

◆ **Lorie Eget-Ratchford '92 (M)** recently was named principal of Bishop Carroll Catholic High School in Ebensburg, Pa. She previously served as an English teacher and club moderator at the school and as assistant principal during the last school year.

◆ **Elizabeth Arnstein '94**, an English teacher at Visitation School in Mendota Heights, Minn., was one



◆ **Rob Ruby '97** writes, "Several alumni participated in our annual Friar's Cup Golf Outing, which was held in State College in June 2011. In attendance were alumni from classes of 1996 to 1998, many of whom were Alpha Phi Delta brothers and/or football alumni."

ALUMNI | *flashbacks*

of five school chaperones this past summer to lead a group of ten students to assist the Sisters of Mercy with their work at a rural hospital in Kenya.

◆ **Sandra Pollino '96** combined her work as former flight attendant and nurse with her Bachelor of Science degree in psychology, her Master of Special Education degree in counseling, and her Doctor of Psychology degree to write a book entitled *Flying Fear Free*.

2000s

◆ **John Handrigan '00** is now men's assistant golf coach at the University of Florida. Most recently, he served as the assistant men's golf coach at the University of Kansas where he helped coach the team to a pair of tournament victories in 2010 and a top-50 national ranking. Prior to his time in Kansas, Handrigan served as the head men's and women's golf coach at Queens University in Charlotte, N.C., head men's golf coach at Coker College in Hartsville, S.C., and assistant coach at Saint Francis.

◆ **Matt Hartman '02** writes: "In May 2011, I married Kelly Streeter at Camp Mary Orton in Columbus, Oh. Our wedding was graced with several members of the Saint

Francis Men's Cross Country team, which won the NEC from 1999 to 2003. My wife and I live in Flagstaff, Az. where I coordinate Adventure Education at N. Arizona University and Kelly works as a nurse."

◆ **Bridget Campbell '05, '06 (M)** won the Hilton Head Triathlon in May of 2011; this was her third win in this triathlon.

◆ **Tarah (Schloss) Miller '05** recently was hired as Bridgewater College's first head coach for women's golf, a program that will

begin play in fall 2012. Previously, she was a lead staff instructor at The Everybody Golf School in Alexandria, Va., where she conducted lessons for golfers of all abilities at the Pinecrest Golf Course and Oak Marr Golf Complex. She was also involved in the EAGLE Junior Golf program in Arlington, Va., and provided golf instruction in after-school enrichment programs to elementary school-age children. She received full membership in the LPGA in November 2011, and



◆ **Angeletta (Runzo) Henry '00** writes: "Recently, a group of Saint Francis alumni ran in the Pittsburgh Half Marathon." Front row: Jeff Henry; back row (left to right): Jessica Graham, **Letty (Runzo) Henry '00**, **Anne Reilly-Overdorff '98 '00 (M)**, **Tim Henry '99**, **Ben Henry '99**.



◆ **Janel Strittmatter '02** writes: "The 1st Annual Cross Country and Track Reunion was held in October 2010." Front row: **Nichole (Garbinski) Galiote '03**, **Sarah (Eshelman) Sell '01**, **Janel Strittmatter '02**, **Anna (Hoffman) Balouris '10**; back row: **Erin (Walczak) Sotosky '03**, **Roberta Pickens**, **Kate (Wallace) Remillard '00**, and **Anne-Marie DiBenedetto '02**.

Not pictured but also in attendance was **Tammy Pearson '01**.



◆ **Justin Long '10** writes, "After graduating from Saint Francis, I completed two years at Penn State (main campus) studying civil engineering. I now hold two degrees: one from Saint Francis (B.A. in engineering with honors) and one from PSU (B.S. in civil engineering: structural). I recently just passed my Fundamental of Engineering licensing exam and am now a licensed Engineer in Training. I work for Clark Construction LLC in Bethesda, Md. (10th largest contractor in U.S.) as an office engineer. The photo shows me on a recent vacation in Costa Rica standing in front of the Arenal Volcano.

is a certified member of the United States Golf Teachers Federation.

◆ **Kendra Sacks '07, '08 (M)** and **Daniel Meyring '98** joined more than 80 physicians, nurse practitioners and nurses from around the world in completing the first phase of their training to become certified FertilityCare practitioners and NaProTECHNOLOGY (NPT) consultants through the Pope Paul VI Institute in Omaha, Neb. NPT is a new women's health science that monitors and maintains a woman's reproductive and gynecological health through medical and surgical treatments that cooperate completely with the reproductive system. Dan currently works as a family medicine physician assistant at Eastern Carolina Medical Center in Benson, N.C. Kendra is also a family medicine physician assistant, and she works at In His Image Family Medicine, P.C., in Gardner,

Ma. The education program is 13 months in duration, but Dan and Kendra can immediately begin incorporating the techniques of the Creighton Model of natural family planning and the medical applications of NPT into their practices.

◆ **Sean Ployd '07** recently accepted a position as avian keeper at the Nashville Zoo at Grassmere, located in Nashville, Tenn. He works with neotropical passerines, hyacinth macaws, Manchurian cranes and double-wattle cassowaries, a flightless bird and keystone species of New Guinea and Australia.

◆ **Jennifer (Decoskey) Weyant '07** is now the technical services manager for the New Pig company.

◆ **Diana (Thompson) Burick '07** writes, "**Andrew Burick '07** and I married on June 25, 2011. I am currently working at an urgent care center and Andrew is finishing his Masters in Public Administration

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@mail.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.

degree from Duquesne University."

◆ **Bruce Wilkens '10 (M)** is now practicing as a physician assistant at Botsford Hospital in Farmington Hills, Mich.

◆ **Rebecca Hauser '11** recently accepted a position at Franklin Regional High School where she will be teaching chemistry and forensic science.

Births

◆ A son, Uziah David Oluremi, to **Emmanuel '98** and **Heather (Hohing) Adekunle '99** on December 16, 2010



◆ A son, Justin Timothy, to **Timothy Woods '89** and wife, Beverly, on January 21, 2011



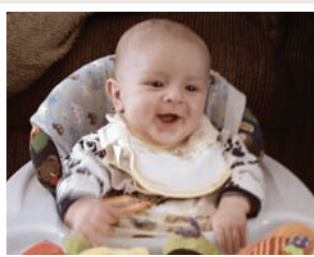
◆ A daughter, Danielle Julia, to **Cindy (Waeger) Fee '95**, and husband, Walter, on April 25, 2011, delivered by **William Bohonyi, M.D. '77**



◆ A son, James Patrick, to **Chris Seymour '97** and wife, Sarah, on January 4, 2011

◆ A son, Caden Michael, to **Scott '98** and **Wendy (Nadik) Carricato '00**, on September 25, 2010

◆ A son, Noah Philip, to **Jenelle (Price) Cooper '00**, and husband, Mike, on January 28, 2011



◆ A son, Thomas Anthony, to **Anthony Triano '99** and wife, Kelly, on December 2, 2010



◆ A son, Ryan Matthew, to **Nathan '01** and **Jennifer (Dawson) Rager '01**, on April 2, 2011

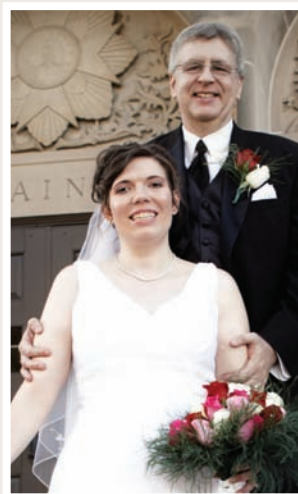


◆ A son, Michael Anthony, to **Randall '06** and **Ashlei (Eckert) Harrington '07** on September 21 2009, and a daughter, Katherine Elizabeth, on June 21, 2011

Marriages

◆ **Matthew Hartman '02** and Kelly Streeter, in May 2011

◆ **Robert Conner '09** and Virginia Russo '09 on August 19, 2011



◆ **Gerard Grefenstette '83** and Megan Stanton on September 3, 2010, with **Thomas Cloherty '82** serving as a groomsman



◆ **Andrew Burick '07** and **Diana Thompson '07, '08 (M)** on June 25, 2011

Deaths

J. Robert Brown '59
 Christopher R. Brunner '77
 Hugh P. Campbell '53
 Patrick D. Carnicella '81
 Patricia (Middleton) Daily '75
 Dominic A. Demario '49
 John James Driscoll '50
 Peter E. Gdula '58
 Dr. Louis F. Garzarelli, Sr. '91 '93 (M)
 Gregory Wayne Griffith '88
 Robert D. Hayes '68
 Hannah P. Hines '56
 Donald Krause '69
 Brian E. Kilty '82
 Alan Bruce Mason '85
 Thomas J. Manning '50
 Patrick J. McDermott '58
 Lisa Maria Silva (Rhoades)
 Monroy '07
 Eugene Novak '50
 Kathleen (Kiernan) Olenowski '78
 Thomas J. Perosky '49
 John E. Rizer, Jr. '70
 Christopher J. Rooney '63 (M)
 Brother Luke D. Stone, T.O.R. '71
 Michael J. Strollo '51
 John A. Tiernan '53
 John M. Washington '57
 Thomas F. Wertz '67
 Ed Yost '73

In memoriam

John Alexander '65

Dr. John Alexander '65 passed away on December 10, 2011. A member of the University's Board of Trustees, John was chairman of the board of the United States headquarters of pharmaceutical company, Daiichi Sankyo Inc. After earning his bachelor of science degree in biology

Helen (Lieb) Phister

presents Bob Crusciel '86, '96(M), vice president for advancement, with a \$10,000 check as a contribution to the James W. and Helen Marie Lieb Award. James Lieb, Helen's first husband, served as an assistant professor of mathematics at Saint Francis from 1963 until his passing in 1985.

Helen and her family made this gift in memory of her second husband, Jim Phister, who passed on June 25, 2011. Jim was the director of food services at Saint Francis from 1967-1999.



from Saint Francis, he graduated from St. Louis University with his doctor of medicine degree and a master's degree in public health from Johns Hopkins University. John began his career in pharmaceutical research with the Squibb Corporation in 1976, progressing to senior vice president, Division of Medical Affairs. From 1991-1999, he was executive vice president, Medical Research, at G.D. Searle and Co., responsible for world-wide clinical development. He joined Sankyo Pharma Inc. in 1999 as president of development, responsible for product development in the U.S. and Europe. In 2004, he became global head of research and development and in 2006 successfully directed the merger resulting in Daiichi Sankyo Inc. John is sur-

vived by his wife, Margie; daughters Laurie, Jennifer and Anna; and four grandchildren.

Jim Phister

Jim Phister, director of food services from 1967-1999, passed away on June 25, 2011, at his home, at the age of 78. Preceded in death by his first wife, Betty, and grandson, T.J. Phister, he is survived by his wife, Helen (Lieb), 12 children, 25 grandchildren and 17 great-grandchildren. In a handwritten note Jim penned shortly before his passing, he wrote, "It was a great life and a lot of fun." For his many years of service to our students, faculty and staff, the University dedicated the addition to Torvian Hall in Jim's honor in October 2008.



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ITALY:

Pilgrimage & Tour

A Nawas International tour sponsored by the
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and Anita Fusco Baumann '90.

11 Days: November 5-15, 2012

\$2,199 from New York

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- All service charges and local hotel taxes
- \$100,000 automatic flight insurance*

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Anita Baumann
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abaumann@francis.edu.**