

FALL / WINTER '14

Saint Francis

UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE



...Onwards

toward the highest principles

PRESIDENTIAL INAUGURATION SPECIAL ISSUE



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The community of Franciscan friars celebrated the inauguration of their brother, Fr. Malachi Van Tassell during a breakfast held in the DiSepio Institute for Rural Health and Wellness on campus. The meal kicked off the official inauguration day festivities on Oct. 4, 2014.

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“...Onwards
toward
the highest
principles.”



University community celebrates new president's inaugural year



Appropriately held on the feast day of Saint Francis of Assisi and the University's Founder's Day on October 4, 2014 the community of Saint Francis University joined in celebrating the inauguration of our new president, Fr. Malachi Van Tassell, T.O.R., Ph.D. An oft-quoted saying credited to our patron, St. Francis of Assisi, best captures the spirit and significance of the new president's goals for his tenure here: "Preach the gospel at all times, and when necessary use words."

Focusing on that Franciscan mission, Fr. Malachi is striving to do his best to put our patron's famous words into practice. Throughout his inaugural year, and his entire administration, he is encouraging students, faculty, staff and alumni to join him in his aim for high principles and noble ideals, building on the Catholic and Franciscan foundation by continuing to spread the gospel through love, goodness, faith, humility, and service.

Clockwise from bottom, opposite: Fr. Malachi Van Tassell is presented with the symbols of the office of president by Very Rev. Richard L. Davis, T.O.R., '74, Minister Provincial of the Province of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus and chairman of the University Board of Trustees, during Fr. Malachi's inauguration ceremony held on October 4, 2014.

Students, faculty, staff, alumni and friends gathered in the Stokes Athletic Center on campus for the inauguration of Fr. Malachi.

Alex Peruso, a senior management information systems major and president of the Student Government Association, speaks on the inaugural year theme set by Fr. Malachi during the inauguration ceremony.

Following his installation, Fr. Malachi is presented to the University community as the 32nd president of Saint Francis.

Dr. Margaret Garcia, associate professor of business and finance and president of the Faculty Senate, carries the University Mace as she leads the recessional at the inauguration ceremony.



Onwards SFU

Inspired by a homily given by Pope Francis in April 2014, Fr. Malachi set the theme for his inaugural year: “We Christians were not chosen by the Lord for little things; push onwards toward the highest principles. Stake your lives on noble ideals!”

In his message regarding the University theme, Fr. Malachi expresses his belief that a student’s experience at Saint Francis should be transformative as they participate in the Franciscan values set forth by the University. It is his hope that all students will “push onwards toward the highest principles, and build on the Franciscan and Catholic foundation of Saint Francis University to become men and women of principle and conviction.”

“Push onwards toward the highest principles...to become men and women of principle and conviction.”

—Fr. Malachi Van Tassell, T.O.R.

Throughout the remainder of the inaugural year, there will continue to be a number of campus events centered around the theme, and it is the wish of Fr. Malachi that it is not only embraced by the students and faculty, but also by the University staff, alumni and community. Already, as part of the presidential inaugural year celebrations, the campus community has participated in the annual Reaching Every Door (R.E.D.) project, a day-long outreach event focused on public service and giving back.



Importance of family: Fr. Malachi is surrounded by his parents, brothers, sisters, nieces and nephews following his inauguration as president of the University.

About the Theme

Learn more about the Presidential Inaugural Year celebrations and the theme by visiting <http://francis.edu/onwards-sfu>.

View Photos and Video

To view photos from Inauguration Day or to view videos of the ceremony or Fr. Malachi’s inaugural address visit <http://francis.edu/inauguration-day-scenes>.

Big things

During the inauguration ceremony held in the Stokes Athletic Center on campus, representatives from the Alumni Association, the Faculty Senate, the Board of Trustees, the Franciscan Friars and the student body spoke on the inaugural-year theme set by Fr. Malachi.

“Saint Francis University was not chosen for little things,” said Alex Peruso, senior management information systems major and president of the Student Government Association. “Under Fr. Malachi’s leadership, we will move forward toward big things.”

Under the umbrella of the University theme, “onwards toward the highest principles,” Fr. Malachi’s goal as president is to continue to move the University forward, while remaining true to the identity of Saint Francis as that of a Catholic and Franciscan institution of higher education. Over the course of his inaugural year, he will continue to reflect on what being Catholic and Franciscan truly means in the 21st century, and he encourages others to join him in harnessing the true spirit of St. Francis of Assisi.

“An institution needs to have more forward-thinking dreams than it has memories, but at the start of a new presidential administration it is good to reminisce and reflect on our many successes,” Fr. Malachi said during his inaugural address. “As we move forward, we need to stay true to who we are, and we will move from reaching higher and going far and springboard onward toward the highest principles.”

Past to present

Fr. Malachi assumed the office of president of Saint Francis University on May 12, 2014, and, he is very pleased to admit, has spent his entire academic career here “among the pines.” Within the past 12 years he has worked at Saint Francis as an adjunct assistant professor of accounting, and has served as the treasurer and vicar provincial of the Franciscan Friars, Sacred Heart Province. During his years here at

Saint Francis, Fr. Malachi also served as NCAA Faculty Athletics representative and campus minister. In addition, he immersed himself in the surrounding community, serving for 10 years as both deputy fire chief and chaplain of the Loretto Volunteer Fire Company.

From an academic standpoint, Fr. Malachi has attained “a humble and generous attitude toward learning,” one of our eight goals of Franciscan Higher Education. Formally, he has earned a Ph.D. in higher education leadership from Capella University, a master’s degree in taxation from Arizona State University, a master of divinity from Washington Theological Union, and an undergraduate degree in accounting and Spanish from Franciscan University. Prior to becoming a Franciscan, he worked as a certified public accountant for Coopers & Lybrand in Phoenix, Arizona, and Arthur Andersen in Albuquerque, New Mexico.


Fr. Malachi professed his vows as a Franciscan in 1999, and was ordained to the priesthood in 2004 in the Immaculate Conception Chapel on campus. Upon becoming a Franciscan, he took the name Malachi, in honor of a 12th-century Irish saint who lived in Armagh, Ireland, the town to which Fr. Malachi’s family traces its roots. His namesake, St. Malachy, is revered for enthusiasm in re-evangelizing Ireland after centuries of Viking infiltration had left the Catholic country in spiritual conflict. It was the connection to re-evangelization that inspired Fr. Malachi to take the name during a period



Warm welcomes: The Saint Francis community greets and congratulates Fr. Malachi following the Inauguration Mass held in the Immaculate Conception Chapel on campus.

when Pope John Paul II called for “New Evangelization in the Americas.”

Originally, Fr. Malachi hails from Poughkeepsie, New York, the son of Fred and Barbara Van Tassell. He is the oldest of five children, and is the uncle to nine nieces and nephews.

Fr. Malachi is the 32nd president of Saint Francis since the University’s founding in 1847. He was most recently preceded by former president Fr. Gabriel Zeis, T.O.R., who served in the office for 10 years. 



The original artwork for the Presidential Inauguration was created by Danielle R. McMurtrie, '14, who is currently in the professional phase of the Doctor of Physical Therapy program at Saint Francis University. Her inspirations for the paintings were two of Fr. Malachi’s favorite Franciscan art pieces: a sacred image icon of St. Francis of Assisi and the San Damiano Cross. Prints of each piece are available for purchase, and all the proceeds will benefit the University’s service work through Hugs United.

If you would like to order prints or paintings from Danielle, you can download a printable order form from francis.edu/inauguration-day-scenes.

Lasting Legacies

Fr. Malachi reflects on presidents called home

WRITTEN BY | *Cecelia MacDonald '15*

The inauguration of a new University president was closely preceded by the loss of two former presidents of Saint Francis University earlier this summer.

Very Rev. Father Christian Oravec, T.O.R. '60 and Rev. Sean Sullivan, T.O.R. '53, former presidents of the University, left lasting legacies with the community – legacies that current president Fr. Malachi Van Tassell has deeply reflected upon in the hopes to continue to beneficially impact the University.

Both presidents' tenures have influenced Fr. Malachi in his new role.

Fr. Malachi met Fr. Christian when Malachi first entered the order as a young man. Fr. Malachi's first impression of Fr. Christian was as the president of Saint Francis University. Fr. Malachi acknowledges that even then, Fr. Christian was a very revered figure.

After being hired as a University employee by Fr. Christian in 2002, Fr. Malachi began teaching in the School of Business. He also served as Provincial Econome under Fr. Christian, which allowed them to develop a close professional relationship.

"If there was ever a public event, Fr. Christian was always present," said Fr. Malachi. "That has always stuck with me, and I want to do my best to be present." During his time as president, Fr. Christian maintained a presence on campus and worked towards fostering community. Fr. Christian has long been viewed as a fatherly figure of the University.

Fr. Christian taught multiple generations of alumni. In fact, he has long been considered synonymous with the University and its mission. He has made numerous contributions to the



Gathering of Presidents—clockwise from left: Fr. Malachi Van Tassell, Fr. Christian Oravec, Fr. Gabriel Zeis, and Fr. Sean Sullivan posed for a photo in December of 2013.

Very Rev. Father Christian R. Oravec, T.O.R.

Very Rev. Father Christian R. Oravec, T.O.R., 77, of the Third Order Regular Franciscans of the Province of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, died suddenly on Saturday, July 19, 2014 at Conemaugh Hospital, Johnstown, Pennsylvania.

He was born on July 13, 1937 in Johnstown, Pennsylvania and given the name Robert. He was the son of late Andrew George and Gabriella Theresa Kavacic Oravec. He was a graduate of Morell and Bheam Elementary Schools, Johnstown, Garfield Junior High School, Johnstown and Johnstown Central High School, 1955. After high school graduation he entered the Third Order Regular on September 8, 1955 in Loretto. He entered novitiate at Portiuncula Friary, Washington, D.C. on June 30, 1956, and made his first profession of vows on July 1, 1957. He pronounced his solemn vows on July 1, 1960 at Mt. Assisi Friary, Loretto.

Fr. Christian was ordained to the priesthood by the late Bishop J. Carroll McCormick, D.D. of the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown, at the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament, Altoona, on May 23, 1964. Fr. Christian received his Bachelor of Arts degree in Philosophy from St. Francis University, Loretto, 1960; Theological studies, St Francis Seminary, Loretto, 1964; graduate studies, the Catholic University of America, Washington, D.C. He did graduate studies at the University of Paris, France. He received a Baccalaureate, Universite de Louvain, Belgium, 1965; Licentiate Universite de Louvain, Belgium, 1967; Doctorate, Universite de Louvain, Belgium, with the doctoral dissertation *The Ecclesiology of Dietrich Bonhoeffer: Exposition, Evolution, Analysis*, 1969.

For over half a century Fr. Christian was a faithful son of St. Francis; a renowned educator and a respected business and civic leader. He was professor of Dogmatic and Systematic Theology, St. Francis Seminary, Loretto, 1969-1976; Director of Postulants of the Third Order Regular, 1970-1976; Executive Vice-President, St. Francis University 1976-1977; President of St. Francis University, 1977-2004.

He was elected to the Provincial Council four times and served sixteen years. He was Minister Provincial for two terms, and served eight years.

He was Chairman of the Board of Trustees, St. Francis University, Loretto, 2004-2012; Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Franciscan University of Steubenville, Steubenville, Ohio, 2004-2012. At the present time, he was Director of Provincial Archives and served on the faculty of St. Francis University.

With his very busy schedule, Fr. Christian made time to minister to the people of God. After ordination, while studying in Europe, he ministered at St. Josef Church, Vienna, Austria; Bon Pasteur Hospital, Paris, France; Joannes Hover Haus, Aachen, Germany; U.S. Army and Air Force bases in Germany and at Louvain and Brussels, Belgium. After returning to this country, he gave pastoral assistance at St. John Vianney Church, Mundys Corners, PA; Good Shepherd Church, State College, PA, as well as ministering in several local convents. He gave retreats and days of recollection in Franciscan communities, in dioceses, at parishes and military bases. He was involved in ecumenical ministry and was guest preacher for Baptist, Presbyterian, Methodist and Lutheran congregations.

Fr. Christian served on several boards and councils for the Catholic Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown, including the commission for the Beatification of Servant of God Fr. Demetrius Gallitzin. He served on numerous boards including the Board of Trustees, Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art, Loretto; Board of Directors AmeriServ Financial Bank, Johnstown; Community Relations Board, Vice Chairman, Federal Correctional Institution, Loretto; Steering Committee, Celebrate One (annual Ecumenical Christian Service.) He was chairman of accreditation teams, Commission of Higher Education, Middle States Association of Colleges and Universities and Chairman of Division I Certification Teams, National Collegiate Athletic Association.

Fr. Christian received many awards during his life, including Doctor of Pedagogy Degree, honoris causa, Franciscan University of Steubenville, 1983; Master of the Order, Third Order Regular, 1997; Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice Cross, Pope John Paul II, 2001; Prince Gallitzin Cross, Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown, 2002; and President Emeritus, St. Francis University, Board of Trustees, 2006.

Rev. Sean M. Sullivan, T.O.R.

Rev. Sean M. Sullivan, T.O.R., President-emeritus of Saint Francis University, passed away Saturday, August 2, 2014 at the age of 85. Fr. Sean died peacefully after a brief illness at Saint Francis Friary - Mount Assisi, in Loretto. Father Sean was President of Saint Francis University from 1972-1977.

Fr. Sean resided at St Francis Friary-Mt. Assisi since 2009 and was in the ministry of prayer. He was born June 6, 1929 in Cleveland, Ohio and given the name Frank Charles. He was the son of the late Frank Charles Sullivan and Margaret Mary Wilhelmy Sullivan. He attended St. Clement Elementary School, Lakewood, Ohio and graduated from Lakewood High School in 1947. After graduation he attended Miami University, Oxford, Ohio for three years. He entered the Franciscans on October 7, 1950. He made his novitiate at the Portiuncula Friary in Washington, D.C., and professed his temporary vows on July 2, 1952. He professed his solemn vows on July 3, 1955. Fr. Sean was ordained to the priesthood by the late Richard T. Guilfoyle, D.D., Bishop of the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown at The Blessed Sacrament Cathedral, Altoona, PA on May 25, 1957.

Fr. Sean received his Bachelor of Arts degree in Philosophy from St Francis College, Loretto, PA in 1953; he completed his Theology studies at St. Francis Seminary in Loretto in 1957 and did graduate studies at Villanova University, Philadelphia, PA and University of Wisconsin, Madison, Wisconsin. He received his Doctorate in Philosophy from the University of Fribourg, Switzerland, in 1963 and did

post-graduate studies at DePaul University, Chicago, Illinois, and Notre Dame University, South Bend, Indiana.

During his long and very faithful Franciscan life, Fr. Sean primarily ministered in education. He taught at Bishop Neumann High School in Philadelphia, Pa; he was Chairman of the Department of Philosophy at Franciscan University of Steubenville, Ohio and taught in that department; he was Acting President and then President of St. Francis College (University), Loretto, PA. He was Academic Dean and Professor of Philosophy at St. John Vianney Seminary, Miami, Florida; and he was Instructor of Philosophy at Barry University, Miami, Florida. Fr. Sean served as a member of the Board of Trustees of both Franciscan University of Steubenville and St. Francis College (University). He received an Honorary Doctor of Humanities from St. Francis College in 1997. He was Hospital Chaplain at Naples Community Hospital, Naples, Florida. From 1995-2009, Fr. Sean resided at Our Lady Queen of Martyrs Parish, Sarasota, Florida. During his ministry Fr. Sean served his Community in many ways. He was a delegate to the General Chapter of the Order; he served in leadership as Provincial Director of Studies; Provincial Councilor; and Director of Studies and Religious Formation at St. Francis Seminary, Toronto, Canada. Fr. Sean had a deep appreciation of the arts – all the arts. He helped found the Southern Alleghenies Museum of Arts, and was a member of the Board of Trustees from 1975 until 1996 at which time he became Trustee Emeritus.

Franciscan community, including authoring the “Goals of Franciscan Higher Education.”

Out of approximately 16,000 living alumni, Fr. Christian awarded over 8,100 of those diplomas. He loved hearing stories of all that graduates of Saint Francis have accomplished.


Fr. Christian was a private man, and although he was ill for quite some time, most of the community was not aware of the severity. Even among the brothers, his health problems were more extensive than many realized.

Fr. Sean was in his later years when Fr. Malachi first met him. The thing that struck, Fr. Malachi most about Fr. Sean was his humility. “You never would have known that he had

been president of the University,” said Fr. Malachi. He did a tremendous amount of work behind the scenes with little public fanfare, including founding the Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art.

“On a spiritual level, I am very happy that they are at peace,” said Fr. Malachi. “And I am very grateful for the wisdom that they have imparted to me over the years.”

Fr. Christian and Fr. Sean passed away on July 19 and August 2, 2014 respectively. They are buried beside each other in the Franciscan Cemetery on campus.

“They are tough acts to follow,” said Fr. Malachi, “but I know that they are in heaven praying for me.” 

Schwab Hall

Homestretch

*2014 great year for
restoration project fundraising*



Thanks to three major commitments to “The Capital Campaign: Called to Serve... Fulfilling the Promise,” in 2014, the restoration and expansion of Schwab Hall is on the fundraising homestretch.

“These transformative gifts bring us that much closer to our goal of a state-of-the-art learning center to house our School of Business. The generosity

of our benefactors will directly benefit countless students for years to come. Building on the theme of ‘Saint Francis in the Marketplace,’ a newly renovated Schwab Hall will serve as a nexus for preparing our Business students to be ethical business leaders with a firm foundation of Franciscan values,” said University President Fr. Malachi Van Tassell, T.O.R., Ph.D. 

Let's bring it home in 2015!

To support the Schwab Hall restoration project, visit <http://francis.edu/capital-campaign-for-business/> or contact Robert Crusciel '86, vice president for advancement at 814-472-3021 or rcrusciel@francis.edu.

Major Capital Gift Commitments to Schwab Hall in 2014

September 2014

\$1.5 Million

Anonymous Gift

August 2014

John '64 and
Sheila '65 (Widmer) Connors
\$500,000 commitment –
first floor to be named in honor
of Dr. Albert A. Zanzuccki,
professor emeritus
in accounting



February 2014

Bill Adamucci '66
\$250,000 commitment



Alumni Return to Campus to



“Tie One On for Kenny”

WRITTEN BY | *Anita (Fusco) Baumann '90*

PHOTOS BY | *Gregg Doll*

*“I’ve heard it said /
That people come into our lives for a reason /
Bringing something we must learn /
And we are led /
To those who help us most to grow /
If we let them /
And we help them in return /
Well, I don’t know if I believe that’s true /
But I know I’m who I am today /
Because I knew you...”*

Those lyrics from the song “For Good,” an anthem of friendship and remembrance featured in the hit musical, *Wicked*, capture the sentiment that led more than 150 alumni, friends, and community members to return to Loretto on Saturday, July 26, 2014 to celebrate the life of Kenny Resinski. Serving as director of S.T.A.R. productions and long-time assistant professor of drama, Kenny started his tenure at Saint Francis in August 1967. He died on December 15, 2013, unable to recover from heart valve surgery. What happened in between those dates—decades of teaching and directing that inspired and changed the lives of thousands of students, faculty, and community members as well as the audiences who watched his artistic vision made real on stage—that was the focus of the gathering that, fittingly, took place in the theatre.



Clockwise from top left: Members of casts from shows in the 1960's, 1970's, 1980's, 1990's, 2000's.

"Tie One On for Kenny" took participants on a journey through Saint Francis theatre traditions, all of which have been established or encouraged by Kenny and Bonnie Resinski. Entering at the lower level of JFK, attendees signed in on "Call Boards" and proceeded past the dressing rooms through the hallway that leads to the stairwell where, during shows, cast members would gather for a pre-show prayer led by Kenny. Each person had an opportunity to pay his/her respects to the Theatre Memorial Wall, which had long featured the names of departed performers and now included a new plaque with the words, "Kenneth (Kenny) L. Resinski / Artistic Director 1967-2013."

In the theatre, Kenny's vast tie collection provided a colorful and vibrant "set" on the stage as well as an active fundraiser since the neckwear was available for sale to ensure the legacy of theatre at Saint Francis. Many went home with a tie that they'd long admired or one they discovered that day.

With Christmas music playing in the background (Kenny's favorite holiday), attendees could visit various "scenes" that had been set up throughout the theatre:

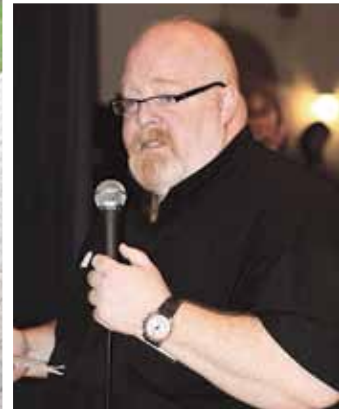
- Kenny's eclectic rhinoceros collection and other random "stuff;"
- Photo albums and cast lists;
- Two Gypsy Robes adorned with show memorabilia and alumni reflections, and a new Gypsy Robe featuring tributes to Kenny;
- An area dedicated to Alpha Psi Omega, the National

To view more event photos and to read a reflection by Nancy McCreary Waters '80 about her experience at "Tie One On for Kenny" and Alumni Weekend, visit <http://francis.edu/alumni-weekend/>.





Many in attendance were members of Alpha Psi Omega, National Theatre Honor Society.



Theatre Honor Society;

- A place to purchase "Theatre at Saint Francis" t-shirts and reprints of *An Actor Prepares in the Kitchen*, a cookbook Kenny and Bonnie helped create in the 1970s as a fundraiser for Cresson Lake Playhouse (of which Kenny was co-founder);
- Note cards to share theatre tributes and to identify

traditions that should be continued; and

- A cookie table with homemade goodies made by Leah (Mancinetti) Lesak '72, and a bar.

Everyone present were invited to join in vocal warmups, led at one point by Fr. Guy Sylvester '86 doing a spot-on impersonation of Kenny, and were given a Paper Bag Award, long a tradition in Saint Francis theatre. For this event, the bag



contained some signature Kenny items, like blue exam books and black Warrior #2 pencils.

After two hours in the theatre, the group moved to the Peace Pole, one of Kenny's favorite campus spots, for a brief prayer service, led by Fr. Chris Baumann, OSA, to dedicate a plaque that had been placed there in Kenny's honor.

The remembrance concluded with Sunday's Mass in the

Grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes, which Fr. Malachi Van Tassell, T.O.R., president, celebrated in Kenny's memory.

Though a sad occasion brought everyone together, a spirit of joy and camaraderie prevailed as alumni and friends expressed a collective wish for "Pax et Bonum (Peace and Good)" for a much loved professor and the entire Saint Francis theatre community. 🏡

Saying Thank You

CHARLES LEPPERT JR. ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP FOR JOHNSTOWN HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES

WRITTEN BY / *Eric Horell '13*

“In 1950, Saint Francis College gave a marginal student the chance to prove he could do college-level work and obtain a college degree,” says Mr. Charles Leppert, Jr. “SFC started me on a path to a rewarding career and life—for such an opportunity, I will forever be grateful to Saint Francis.”

Sixty-four years later, Leppert is giving back to the college that began his long and successful career in law, government, and corporate business. Greater Johnstown High School alumnus Charles Leppert, Jr. has created a scholarship for graduates from his high school alma mater to attend Saint Francis University. Leppert generously donated \$50,000 to the university to establish the scholarship.

Available to all graduates of Leppert’s high school alma mater, the Charles Leppert Jr. Endowed Scholarship will be rewarded to one incoming freshman from Greater Johnstown each year beginning in the fall of 2015. To be considered for the Charles Leppert Jr. Endowed Scholarship, Greater Johnstown graduates must meet the standard admissions requirements for Saint Francis University and be full-time incoming freshmen. Applicants to the university will then automatically be considered for the scholarship upon their acceptance.

LEARN MORE

Those interested in finding out more about this scholarship and other opportunities may register for an open house or individual visit at www.francis.edu/visit.

Questions about the Charles Leppert Jr. Endowed Scholarship can also be directed to the Office of Financial Aid at finaid@francis.edu or by calling 814-472-3010.

Those with questions about admissions standards and entry to Saint Francis University should contact the Office of Admissions at admissions@francis.edu or at 814-472-3100.

Leppert, now living in Alexandria, Virginia, hopes his \$50,000 gift will allow fellow Johnstown natives to pursue their passions. He encourages Johnstown students to “look beyond your current circumstances to your future and what you want to do with your life.”

A friar’s guidance

As a high school senior unsure of his future, Leppert found help in Father Augustine Cestario, T.O.R.

“Fr. Augustine would inquire what I was going to do after graduating high school,” explains Leppert. “I told him I wanted to be a lawyer but didn’t know the process for getting into college and law school.”

Fr. Augustine proceeded to help Leppert with his application and transportation from Johnstown, setting the foundation for a long and successful career: Leppert was now a freshman at Saint Francis College.

Leppert’s freshman year was an eye-and-mind-opening experience. When asked what stood out, Leppert is very inclusive, exclaiming, “It was my classes, the students, student life, and the activities. I was most impressed with the professors and their knowledge of the subject matter and how they wanted students to understand.”

All of this made Leppert wonder: “Was it the same at other colleges and universities?” He decided to see for himself, and in 1951, he transferred to the University of Pennsylvania. He says his decision was based on two things: “One, I’d be transferring to an excellent university, and two, I’d be going away to college rather than commuting daily.”

Leppert says the decision was not well received by his parents, but they eventually agreed. Leppert concluded his undergraduate studies at UPenn and graduated in 1954.

“SFC started me on a path to a rewarding career and life—for such an opportunity, I will forever be grateful to Saint Francis.”

—*Mr. Charles Leppert, Jr*

The path to a career

After UPenn, Leppert joined the United States Marine Corps as the Intelligence Officer for his Special Weapons Squadron, which served with the US Navy 6th Fleet during the Suez Crisis and Lebanon Crisis. He was honorably discharged in 1958, subsequently enrolling in the University of Richmond Law School.

Upon earning his law degree in 1961 and gaining admission to the Virginia State Bar, Leppert’s professional life soared. He operated his own law practice, worked in Congress as a Committee Counsel for several years, became a Deputy Assistant to the President of the United States for Legislative Affairs, and concluded his career as a lawyer lobbyist for the multinational company Procter & Gamble.

Leppert calls the opportunity to serve President Gerald R. Ford an “honor, a privilege, and the highlight of my professional career.”

“When I stepped out of the car as a daily commuter freshman to Saint Francis College,” explains Leppert, “The thought never crossed my mind that I would, someday in the future, be working in the most powerful office in the nation and the world.”

Sharing the power of education

Leppert’s gift to Saint Francis University demonstrates his belief in the power of higher education.

“This is one of the highest responsibilities we face as a nation: to provide the best education for our people as possible,” he says. “A quality education is paramount to the future of our nation and the world. It is my hope the SFU education the recipients of this award receive will be a strong factor in moving them to be better citizens and leaders.”

When asked what advice he would give to college students today, Leppert drew upon his years of experience and professional success when he responded, “It is persistence and desire that will overcome failure. They are the keys to achievement and success.”

For his own persistence, desire, and generosity, the entire Saint Francis community is grateful to Mr. Charles Leppert, Jr. We look forward to the new generation of Greater Johnstown graduates who will follow in his footsteps and proudly call themselves Red Flash alumni. 🏠

A new scholarship, the Charles Leppert Jr. Endowed Scholarship, has been established for Greater Johnstown High School students planning to attend Saint Francis University.



ON CAMPUS

our vibrant community

*Visit www.francis.edu/news-and-events
for all the latest campus news.*

Batman visits SFU for BatFlash Week

The batsignal was shining bright at Saint Francis University, but not for reasons of distress. Instead, this batsignal invited Batman to celebrate his 75th birthday on campus.

In celebration, Saint Francis University hosted BatFlash 2014, a week-long event featuring “Real Life Batman” Lenny B. Robinson, which took place Nov. 3 through Nov. 7. The highlight of the event included a parade around the campus mall and a meet-and-greet with Batman in the John F. Kennedy Student Center.

Children and families from across

the area turned out for the meet-and-greet event, during which children had the opportunity to have their photo taken with Batman. Appearances from sidekick Robin and villains Poison Ivy and the Joker, and the movie premiere of the documentary “Legends of the Knight” were also a part of the evening.

Many other events were held on campus throughout the week as part of BatFlash 2014, including presentations like “The History and Spirituality of Batman,” presented by Kent Tonkin and Paul Girardi, and “Being Batman in Business,” presented by the real-life

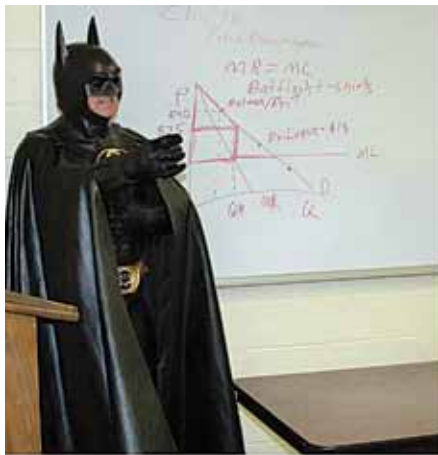
Batman himself, Lenny B. Robinson. As executive-in-residence, Robinson also visited a number of business classes to discuss topics such as economics and taxes.

Robinson, a real-life Bruce Wayne, is a wealthy man from Maryland who left behind his days as a business owner to visit children facing life-threatening illnesses dressed as the Dark Knight. Following his rise to stardom, via a 2012 viral video of himself being pulled over in a black Lamborghini dressed in full Batman costume, Robinson—“Real Life Batman” to his friends—has traveled the country in his new Batmobile, a replica of the 1966 television car, bringing smiles to fans of all ages and encouraging sick children to fight their illnesses.

BatFlash Week was sponsored by the Saint Francis University School of Business, Campus Ministry, and the Center for Student Engagement. SFU Greek Life, Athletics, and other groups also participated in multiple fundraising events throughout the week, and



Batman drives his Batmobile, a Lamborghini with no top, in the parade around the campus mall while the snow falls.



Pictured are an array of photographs from BatFlash week, from teaching classes and being interviewed to meeting mini-superheroes and driving the Batmobile in the parade. "The real-life Batman," Lenny B. Robinson, is the center of this collage, standing next to his Batmobile.

the proceeds from the charity portion of the event were donated to the Home Nursing Agency Healing Patch, a program for loss and hope for grieving children and families.

Batman's very origin ties into the Healing Patch's mission to serve

grieving children. As a young child, Bruce Wayne saw his parents die in front of his eyes, victims of a senseless act of violence; he, himself, is a grieving child. From that moment on, Bruce swears to take action, to become the Batman, so that others may not have to

suffer as he has suffered. This spirit of charity, healing, and service to others is a core tenet of the Healing Patch and of Saint Francis University.

Videos and pictures of BatFlash week can be found at <http://francis.edu/BatFlash14-wrap-up/>.



Students volunteered in local communities near campus, sporting their orange R.E.D. Day shirts. Pictured are two of the 15+ locations where students volunteered: Vale Wood Farms and the Mainline Community Center.

R.E.D. Day 2014 sees record participation

A record-breaking total of 350 students, faculty and staff members participated in this year's R.E.D. Day, resulting in a huge success.

Reaching Every Door (R.E.D.) proves that you don't have to travel across the

globe to give back. R.E.D. is a single day of service in which students go into local communities to show appreciation for all of the support that these communities provide to the University year-round.

This year, participation in the event was up by about 100 participants over last year with volunteers working at

more than fifteen service locations. Both of these numbers grew from previous years.

SFU's chapter of Gamma Sigma Sigma—a national service sorority—led the event's organization this year with sophomore Kierstyn Reddecliff serving as the chair of the R.E.D. committee. Members of the SFU community signed

up as individuals or groups to volunteer in local communities surrounding the University as a way of saying “thank you.”

Volunteers conducted clean-up projects, offered blood pressure screenings, served meals to seniors, winterized homes, and even helped get a local pumpkin patch ready for little visitors.

Br. Shamus raises over \$30,000 for Dorothy Day Outreach Center

For the fourth year in a row, Br. Shamus McGrenra '72, T.O.R. set out to raise funds for the Dorothy Day Outreach Center through his charity bike ride, “Five States in Five Days (the Lord willing)” (July 22-26, 2014). This year, he exceeded his goal of \$30,000 raising a total of \$32,168.51 for the Center.

Even though Br. Shamus was still undergoing chemotherapy, he didn't let it slow him down thanks to a little help from his friends who volunteered to ride with him. The group, including Sister Mary Ann Spanjers, OSF, a

Students volunteer at free dental clinic



A group of Saint Francis students, along with University professors Dr. Lauri Chose and Dr. Timothy Bintrim, gave up two full days and nights to volunteer at the Mission of Mercy free dental clinic in Allentown, Pennsylvania in September 2014. In two days the clinic provided free dental care to more than 2,000 patients. Now that's something worth smiling about!

Franciscan Sister of Christian Charity and friend of Br. Shamus for 14 years, and Jerry Laffey '73, whose friendship with Brother Shamus goes back to their time as undergraduates at Saint Francis and spans more than 40 years, traveled from Philadelphia, Pa., to Ocean City,

N.J.; from Ocean City to Cape May, N.J.; from Cape May to Berlin, Md.; and from Berlin, Md., to New Church, Va.

Since 2011, Br. Shamus' charity bike rides have raised almost \$100,000 for the Dorothy Day Center.



In addition to the main charity ride, Saint Francis sponsored “The Brother Shamus Shuffle,” a fun community event on August 23, 2014, that raised more than \$3,200 toward the \$32,168.51 total in 2014.



Mem and Jonathan Miller, both Saint Francis University alums, are the co-founders of Dimples, Inc.

Dimples, Inc. receives MassChallenge grant

Dimples, Inc., a company founded by two Saint Francis University alums with ongoing support by various members of the university community, recently received a \$50,000 cash grant from MassChallenge, the world's largest startup accelerator.

Dimples' co-founders, Mariemma '70 and Jonathan Miller '08/'10 of central Pennsylvania, developed a patented process for reducing ink costs when printing documents. Dimples provides solutions for publishing and corporate printing.

In addition to Dimples, Inc., MassChallenge received approximately 1,650 other grant applications from 40 countries, making this year's class the most competitive yet. The pool was whittled down to 128 finalists, and the top 26 faced a final judging panel, who determined which startups would receive equity-free funding.

Dimples, Inc. was announced as a grant recipient during the MassChallenge Awards Ceremony held in Boston, Massachusetts in October 2014.

The story of Dimples was originally published in the Saint Francis University Alumni Magazine Fall 2012 issue. Read it in the archives by visiting francis.edu/saint-francis-university-magazine.

WWII donation becomes part of SFU collection

On Veteran's Day 2014, it was announced that two families have donated collections of historical significance relating to World War II to the university. The School of Arts & Letters is still working to conduct an inventory of these substantial collections and will eventually place the items on permanent display for both public viewing and scholarly research.

The first collection was donated by Altoona, Pennsylvania resident Joseph E. Keirn, a retired Command Sergeant Major in the United States Army. He served for 35 years, and was awarded 18 medals, including the fourth highest United States Army award and eight meritorious service awards, before returning home and opening his own business, Keystone Radiator and Air Condition.

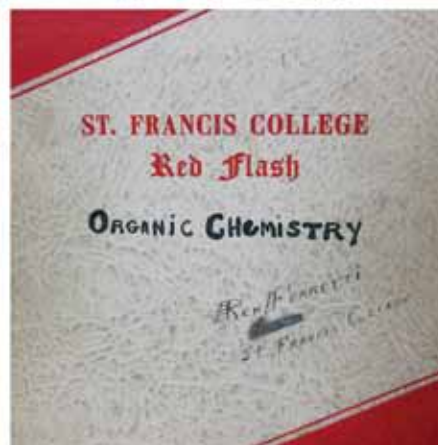
CSM Keirn is an avid preservationist of WWII memorabilia, amassing a significant collection of items that captures the essence of the "Greatest Generation" and paints a picture of life in the 1940s that goes far beyond the battlefield. In January 2014, when he decided to sell his business and accompanying display shop, he chose to donate his collection to Saint Francis based on the recommendation of State Senator John Eichelberger.

Keirn is quick to point out that he is not a collector or a seller of artifacts, but rather a "World War II advocate." The pieces that he gathered over the decades have allowed him to tell the stories of individuals. He wanted to make sure that his focus on featuring people continued when the collection left his hands.

The second collection is that of Renalto Ferretti who graduated from Saint Francis College in 1943 with a degree in chemistry before entering the U.S. Army. Based on his



Julie and Charles Bishop, Joseph Keirn, and Adele and Sam Piccioni '78 have donated their collections of World War II memorabilia to Saint Francis University.



The expansive collections paint a picture of life in the 1940s both on and off the battlefield. The items will be put on display as a permanent exhibit at Saint Francis University.

educational background, he was selected for the Manhattan Project, a research and development project that produced the first atomic bombs.

He attended Lehigh University as part of the program, and because of his educational performance, he was assigned to the Chicago Team of the Manhattan Project which was working to develop the American atomic bomb. The goal of his research was to develop a means of measuring the effect of radiation on the human body, which he successfully did.

During his work on the Manhattan Project, he was in the regular company of several Nobel Prize winning scientists.

“Uncle Ren,” as he was known to his family, passed away on September 5, 2013. His family has donated his collection of his memorabilia which includes his US Army uniform, much of his research, and even several items significant to the history of the University. The donation was made by his niece Julie and her husband Charles Bishop, and his niece Adele and her husband Sam Piccioni (class of 1978).

Nursing students achieve 100% pass rate

The 2014 nursing graduates of Saint Francis University achieved a 100 percent pass rate on the National Council Licensure Examinations for Registered Nurses, far-exceeding the statewide average of 82.82 percent and the national rate of 81.74 percent.

“We have a very well-rounded faculty that has expertise in all areas of nursing. Their availability to the students in helping them to achieve greatness is a hallmark of the University,” said Dr. Rita Trofino, associate dean of the School of Health Sciences and nursing department chair. “The advancement and expansion of our simulation activities provided safe areas for students to practice their clinical skills and advance their critical reasoning skills. The Lee Initiatives Grant and the support of the University in purchasing a state of the art simulator, a Sim Man3G, allowed further



2014 nursing graduates include, front row: Heather Eckenrode, Emily Stutzman, Brittany Boyd, Justin Bimle, Kathleen Bickford, and Kristin Allison; second row: Courtney Wendekier, Sharon Bracken, Amanda Marquis, Patrick Major, Samantha Hoy, Marlene Hileman, and Dustin Grow.

simulation activities, and the additions of a lab coordinator and IT lab technician have greatly improved the quality and quantity of our simulation activities.”

The recent graduates have found placements in the following healthcare systems: Duke LifePoint Conemaugh Health System; UPMC Altoona; Dubois Regional Medical Center, Somerset Hospital; Excelsa Latrobe Hospital; Pinnacle Health (Harrisburg); and

Inova Health System in Virginia.

In the past two years our graduates have been employed at major medical centers, such as the UCLA Medical Center in Los Angeles, Ca., UPMC Shadyside, UPMC Children’s Hospital, and West Virginia University Medical Center. Many former graduates have received, or have been nominated for, rookie of the year awards at their respective hospitals.

Second Annual Multicultural Day festival at SFU draws crowd

Did you know that more than 100 international students from 25 different countries attend Saint Francis University?

With a large and growing number of international students, Multicultural Day at SFU embraces the rich, diverse, and cultural backgrounds of University students, faculty and staff, allowing individuals to have a taste, literally, of the different cultures at the University.

The 2nd Annual SFU Multicultural Day festival, sponsored by the School of Arts & Letters, was held on campus in late September 2014. Many student clubs and programs played a role in the organization of the event, which featured international perspectives, music, dance, artistry, poetry and food.

This year, more than 100 individuals took part in the festival, a growing crowd from last year and one that hopefully continues to grow throughout the years.



Left to right: Yiran Li and Weijian Huang, students in our Intensive English Program and originally from China, help festival attendees write their names in Chinese at Multicultural Day.

ATHLETICS

tales of the Red Flash

Porter's number raised to Stokes Center rafters

On Saturday, December 6, 2014, DeGol Arena in the Maurice Stokes Athletics Center was the stage for both a Red Flash basketball game and a celebration of the program's storied history.

Prior to Saint Francis' game against Albany, all-time great Kevin Porter '72 was honored with a ceremony culminating with his #10 hung in the rafters beside those of the Frankies' greatest players including Maurice Stokes and Norm Van Lier.

Regarded as one of the best passers in NBA history, Porter scored 1,766 points with the Frankies from 1969-72 before his 10-year pro career. After his playing days, he filled the role of head coach at his alma mater from 1983-1987.

"Spending eight years of my life up here, Saint Francis really made a difference in my life and my family's life," said Porter, who also served as the team's head coach after his playing career. "It's a blessing to be back, and it's a blessing to be up there and be recognized with Maurice Stokes and Norm Van Lier."

Porter followed Stokes and Van Lier to Loretto and embarked upon a collegiate career that rivaled those of his predecessors. He concluded his four-year stint at Saint Francis ranked second all-time to Stokes in scoring with 1,766 points. That total currently ranks forth on the University's all-time list.

Porter averaged 23-or-more points in each of his final three seasons, including a career-high 24.7 scoring average as a senior in 1971-72. Only Stokes and Sandy Williams have recorded higher single-seasons scoring averages.

Upon graduation from Saint Francis, Porter enjoyed a 10-year career in the National Basketball Association. He led the NBA in assists four times and became the first player in the league's history to dish out 1,000 assists in a season, passing out 1,099 as a member of the Detroit Pistons in 1978-79. Porter finished his professional career with 5,505 assists and 8,008 points in 692 games.

Saint Francis inducted Porter into the Athletics Hall of Fame on Saturday, December 6, 2003.

"We have an unbelievable tradition here," Coach Rob Krimmel '00, '03 said of the Porter, Van Lier and Stokes

legacy. "One of the things that we talk to our guys about is understanding that tradition; understanding that the guys that came here to support Kevin-the other alumni-they laid the foundation of success here."

Playing in front of Porter and more than a dozen former Saint Francis players on hand for the special alumni event, the current Red Flash players delivered an awesome game in honor of the veterans in a 69-59 victory over the Great Danes. It's the first time the Flash has started 3-0 at home since 2004-05.



Kevin Porter '72 received his framed #10 jersey from University President Fr. Malachi Van Tassell, T.O.R.



More than a dozen former Saint Francis players were on hand for the special alumni event in honor of Porter.



The Saint Francis University men's soccer team turned in its finest season ever in 2014, racking up 13 wins en route to its first-ever Northeast Conference Regular Season Championship.

Men's soccer earns first-ever regular season crown

When the dust settled, Saint Francis University men's soccer had claimed four first-team All-NEC selections, including Defensive Player of the Year Francis de Vries. Additionally, eighth-year head coach Michael Casper picked up his first career NEC Coach of the Year honor after a season that saw him become the program's all-time wins leader (71).

De Vries carved out his own place in Red Flash history by becoming its first NSCAA All-America player in December.

The rising junior finished the 2014 season ranked 11th in the nation in game-winning goals (5) and was a key factor in Saint Francis' nine shutouts on the season.

Red Flash in early battle for NEC's most-coveted piece of hardware

There's still a long way to the finish line, but Saint Francis University is once again in a battle for the coveted Brenda Weare Commissioner's Cup.

With the 2014 fall season in the books, the NEC unveiled updated Commissioner's Cup standings and the top two finishers from last year's race – SFU (67.23) and Bryant (60.65) – are in familiar positions this time around.

Last year, Bryant (208.37) used a strong spring season to snag the Cup for the first time ever while SFU (193.93) took second in the overall rankings.

In terms of the 2014-15 races for the individual men's and women's Cups, Saint Francis and Central Connecticut are the first out of the gate. SFU (34.93) has a slight lead over Bryant in the men's Cup standings, while CCSU (33.08) is less than

one full point ahead of SFU (32.30) in the women's race.

Last year, Saint Francis netted the second-highest score in program history on the women's side to win the Joan Martin Commissioner's Cup for the second year in a row and third time in school annals. With 123.48 points, the Red Flash won by a wide margin over LIU Brooklyn (108.36) and Sacred Heart (104.05). On the men's side, Bryant amassed 110.20 points to win by a comfortable margin over Central Connecticut (88.18) and Sacred Heart (87.98).

The Northeast Conference will crown 15 more team champions during the 2014-15 academic year before awarding the Commissioner's Cup.



The Saint Francis University women's soccer team used a late goal by Siobhan Bross of Danville, PA) goal to rally for a 1-1 tie against Penn at Rhodes Field on September 11. The team advanced to the semifinal round of the 2014 Northeast Conference Tournament before seeing its season come to an end in November with a 3-1 setback against Fairleigh Dickinson.



SFU Women's Volleyball celebrate a good run.

Women's volleyball off and running under Kozak

While the SFU women's volleyball team season ended one game short of the Northeast Conference title match, there's no denying the strides made in 2014 under first-year head coach Jason Kozak.

SFU – which managed only five wins a year ago – saw its win total jump to 12, including its first winning mark at home (6-5) since 2010. Most importantly, its 8-6 mark in NEC play guaranteed the program's return to the postseason after a two-year absence.

In its NEC Semifinal match, the Flash stood toe-to-toe with #2-seeded Robert Morris for much of the evening, but that effort was undone by miscues at critical junctures.

"We competed with a lot of fight and energy tonight," said Kozak. "We

made too many errors to get the result we wanted, but I'm proud of the way we stuck together as a team. I'm happy with the improvement and progress we've made, as a team, this year."



Kylie Jackson and Hannah Dorian earned All-Conference team honors.

Women's cross country moves out of underdog status

The Saint Francis women's cross country team entered the 2014 season as an underdog, but quickly laid that case to rest on November 1 after taking care of business at the Northeast Conference Championships. The women placed third overall in a field of 10 teams. They were ranked sixth in the NEC preseason poll.

Kylie Jackson (Apollo, PA/Kiski Area) continued her stellar season finishing second overall at the Championship meet. The senior sped through the 5K course in 17:30.85. Hannah Dorian (Johnstown, PA//Westmont Hilltop) joined Jackson in the top 10, with a ninth place finish. Dorian's 18:04.45 was good enough to earn the newcomer NEC Freshman of the Year honors.

ALUMNI

flashbacks

1960s

◆ **Rich and Maggie Monaghan**, both of the class of 1963, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on August 22, 2014. It was a month after the birth of their 7th grandchild, Emma Rose Thompson.



◆ **Patrick Monaghan '66** (center) received Fordham Law School's 2014 New Jersey Alumnus of the Year Award on June 4, 2014. The award recognizes a graduate who lives Fordham's motto of practicing law in the service of others. He met his wife **Maureen (Farrell) Monaghan '66** at Saint Francis, and the couple has 8 children, 4 of whom are attorneys, and 12 grandchildren.

◆ **Dr. Frank Petronella D.D.S., P.C. '67** just celebrated 40 years in practice. He also recently purchased a historical building in Tuckahoe, N.Y. and now practices there.

◆ In August 2014, **Fr. John "Jack" McDowell, O.F.M. '68** was appointed to the position of president at Bishop Guilfoyle High School in Altoona, Pa.



◆ Members of the classes of 1967 and 1968 met up in March at Myrtle Beach. Included in pic are (L to R) **Dan Pienta '68**, **Denis Faherty '68**, **George Corbett '68**, **Dick Jones '68**, **Paul O'Connell '68**, **Jay Matera '68**, **Jim Brennan '68**, **Domenick Angelosante**, **Bob Waeger '68**, **Tom Gill '67**, and **Pat Normanly '68**.



◆ **Andrew Karl '68** was enshrined into the Greater Canton (Ohio) Amateur Baseball Hall of Fame on January 18, 2014. Andy played for 5 years in the Canton Class A League and was a one-time all-star pitcher. He coached baseball at Walsh University, founding the intercollegiate baseball program at the college in 1979 and leading the team to double-digit wins in its first season.

1970s



◆ **Rita (Thievon) Mullin '74** is the new general manager of Science Channel. She has been an employee of Discovery Communications for the past 18 years. She has previously served as executive vice president of programming and development at Oprah Winfrey Network and the senior vice president of content strategy for



◆ **Rich Yokim '71** submitted a photo from the 35th annual Dr. Tom Tanneberger Memorial Golf Outing held each June in Westport, New York. Pictured (L to R) **Tom Arthur '71, Vince Pestritto '72, Bob Ragone '72, Tom Cichalski '71,** Robert Tanneberger, his sister Carol Schwoebel, and **Rich Yokim '71.** Missing from the photo is **Tom Coster '74.** Another Delta brother, **Dave Erby '72,** made the banner as a retrospective of Tanneberger's life. Each year some of Tanneberger's Delta Sigma Phi fraternity brothers travel to honor him and to help raise scholarship funds for graduating seniors of Westport High School. After graduating from SFU, **Tom Tanneberger '71** attended Cornell University, becoming a veterinarian and then taking over his father's practice in their home town. To satiate his desire to continue to participate in sports, he took up bobsledding and became a member of the USA World Cup Team. He passed away as a result of an accident when a portion of the main highway was washed out on his way to Lake Placid for an organizational meeting for the 1980 Olympics.



◆ The Red Flash football team members of the 1970s and early 1980s recently held a reunion. Pictured are: (L to R) kneeling: **Ed Lang '80, Jay Roberts '75, Steve Martynuska '79, Tim Laurito '77, Dave "Fonzie" Shedlock '79,** Coach Jerry Roberts, **Ron Bertovich '77** (Director), **Frankie Perehinic '77, Joseph "J.T." Tomlinson '78, Ray Trybus '81, and John Shaffer '78.** Standing: **Vince Vizza '80,** Coach Hugh Conrad, **Tom "Whitey" McCabe '79, Tony Tomaselli '81, Joe Sweeney '76, Gary "Goose" Gouse '79, Ron Lynch '80, Dave Petrak '77, Mike Rockafellow '75, Mike Adams '76, Steve "Rapper" Osinski '77, Joe "Sobo" Sobocinski '80, Robert "Bobby D." DePiro, Steve "Dizzy" Degol '76, Chuck Connelly '72, and Mark LaMonaca '79.**

Discovery Fit & Health. Examples of Mullin's past projects include *Long Island Medium, Sister Wives, The Little Couple, Jon & Kate Plus 8,* and *Dr. G: Medical Examiner.*

1980s

◆ **Joann (Bugrin) Cantrell '81** has published *Legendary Locals of Pittsburgh,* one in a series of books about Pittsburgh.



◆ **John Goodrich, Esquire '83,** was named the Grand Marshall of the 2014 Pittsburgh St. Patrick's Day Parade. He is a second-generation Irishman and contributes to the Irish community, most notably through the parade's annual commemorative Button Party. He has served as the chairman of the Pittsburgh St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee Fundraising Committee since 1992. He is the principal of the law firm Goodrich & Associates, P.C., of Pittsburgh. Among many other honors, *Irish Voice Magazine* has recognized Goodrich as a "Top 100 American Irish Lawyer" every year since 2008. *The Irish*

ALUMNI | *flashbacks*

Echo also lists him as one of the top Irish-American lawyers. Goodrich is married to Nancy Z. Goodrich, Esquire, and has a daughter, Elizabeth.

◆ **Dr. Deborah Gentile '87** of

Allegheny General in Pittsburgh was the winner of the 2014 Health Care Heroes Physician' in the *Pittsburgh Business Times*.

◆ **Annette (Conrad) Romani '89**, a registered nurse at UPMC Altoona, has been selected for a Cameos of Caring Award. The Cameos of Caring program recognizes nurses who provide exceptional bedside care in healthcare institutions throughout western Pennsylvania, as well as those nursing professionals who contribute significantly to the quality of patient care, the management of more complex healthcare environments, and the science of nursing. She will receive her award at the Annual Cameos of Caring Awards Gala on November 8, 2014, at the David L. Lawrence Convention Center.



◆ **Brian McWalters '95** submitted this photo of his family at the SFU vs. James Madison University football game on September 13th. Pictured (L to R) are his son Brendan, his daughter Jessica, and his wife Nicole. Brian and Nicole met at Saint Francis and currently reside in Richmond, Va. He writes, "We went and showed our red colors amidst the sea of purple (JMU's colors). The game had a disappointing outcome, but we had a great day. I am the one taking the picture, but that is my warm-up jacket from my days on the cross country team at SFU. (And yes, it is old enough that back then we were St. Francis College)."

1990s



◆ **Helene Brown '99 (M)** was appointed to a position on the board of directors at UPMC Shadyside. Brown is the human resources director for UPMC Shadyside. She previously worked at Magee-Womens Hospital of UPMC and UPMC Braddock and

served on the board for the Pathfinder Credit Union.

2000s



◆ **Laura Neugebauer '09** was awarded her Master of Science Degree in School Counseling at the Johns Hopkins School of Education Commencement exercises on May 21, 2014.

Neugebauer is currently a faculty member of Our Lady of Good Counsel High School in Olney, Md. and teaches English and journalism.

Births



◆ A son, Brody James Cortazzo, to **Jamie (Bell) Cortazzo '04** and husband, Scott Cortazzo, on April 8, 2013.

Marriages



◆ **Justine Roberts '08, '09 (M)**, and Adam Bucynski were married by Fr. Malachi Van Tassell, T.O.R., on July 6, 2013 in the Immaculate Conception Chapel on the campus of Saint Francis University. The bride is the daughter of **Justin Roberts '75** and **Deb Roberts '83**. The couple resides in Loretto.

◆ **Blair Kosela '10** married Timothy John Young II on August 18, 2014. They reside in Huntersville, N.C.

Flashbacks in this issue include information submitted to the Office of Alumni Relations between March 2014 and September 2014.



◆ **Sherry Sokach-Lowman '07** married Tim Lowman on July 7, 2012 in Warrenton, Va. She writes, "It just happened to be the hottest day of the summer at 106 degrees with a heat index of 123 degrees. We had a beach themed wedding, so guests were encouraged to wear shorts, tropical shirts, sundresses and floppy hats!"



◆ **Logan Showalter '09** and **Rebecca Wojtaszek '10** were married on June 1, 2013 in the Immaculate Conception Chapel on the SFU campus. Members of the wedding party included alumni **Rachel (Morningstar) Hess '10** and **Patrick Finlan '10**. The ceremony was officiated by former Professor of Chemistry Fr. Nathan Malavolti, T.O.R., and music ministry was provided by former Director of Campus Ministry Fr. Christopher Dobson, T.O.R., former Professor of Education Dr. Frances Boyd, **Steven Lauer '09, '11 (D)**, and **Sarah (Cain) McMullen '09, '11 (M)**. The couple now resides in Pittsburgh with their kitten, Cheddar.

Deaths

Philip J. Baldacchino '49
 Susan Barone '63
 Frank Bianco '53
 Richard Burgan '70
 Frank J. Castelli
 Andrew R. Choby '36
 Donald R. Crawford '60
 Timothy Crittenden '68
 Thomas A. Daley '43
 Daniel J. Delvecchio
 Eugene Drinosky '61
 Richard A. Eck '69
 Fr. Thomas B. Ferris '57
 John Feulner '74
 Patricia (Schulz) Fuegen '63
 James A. Garwood '72
 Andrew Herbick '51
 Joseph Paul Hovanec, Jr. '52
 Stephen J. Koval '51
 Janis La Barre '71
 Donald LaRue '68
 Donald J. Lawn '66
 Frank J. Madey '59
 Barry Michrina '69

Kenneth L. Nedimyer '72
 Very Rev. Christian
 Oravec, T.O.R. '60
 Carl Preto '68
 Peter Previte '51
 John Raney '56
 John C. Rhoads '52
 James E. Riddle '78
 Fr. Neil Saller, T.O.R. '52
 John J. Schimminger '53
 Robert Slaventa '81
 Frederick L. Smeigh
 Lt. Col. Sebastian Francis
 Soklic '40
 Vincent Steimer '48
 David Stewart '97
 Robert P. Stier '67
 Rande E. Straw '75
 Fr. Sean Sullilvan, T.O.R. '53
 Robert Thompson, Jr. '94 (M)
 John Tongue '49
 Wilbur R. Trosch '60
 Christine (Wilt)
 VanDerBusch '75
 Carol A. (Cole) Wess '72

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.



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Alumni and Friends Journey to Ambialet

June 21-28, 2014

The Saint Francis University Alumni Association offered its second alumni travel opportunity in June 2014, this time in partnership with Saint Francis' Center for International Outreach and Education. A group of 50 alumni and friends traveled to the University's study

abroad facility in Ambialet, which became home base for a week as the group explored the Midi-Pyrénées region. Graduation years of the attendees ranged from 1960 to 2008, and 16 of our travelers also participated in the Alumni and Friends Pilgrimage to Italy in 2012.



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1. Each of the travelers got this first glimpse of the Ambialet property as he or she drove through the village in shuttles from the Toulouse airport or train station or in rental cars from other locations in France or Spain.
2. On Sunday, June 22, **Fr. Malachi Van Tassell, T.O.R., Ph.D.**, president of Saint Francis (center), celebrated Mass in the 11th-century Romanesque chapel, with Pere Jammes (left) and **Monsignor Timothy Swope '62** (right), rector of the Basilica of St. Michael the Archangel in Loretto, Pa.
3. On June 22, the travelers visited the Roquefort Société caves about 45 miles from Ambialet, where they toured the caves that feature a soil that produces *Penicillium roqueforti*, the mold that gives the cheese its unique character (though the mold is now produced in a lab). The tour was followed by a tasting of three different Société cheeses.
4. June 23 took the group to Conques, a hillside medieval town on the famous Way of St. James pilgrimage route that leads to Santiago de Compostela in northwestern Spain.
5. After a picnic lunch, the group took a guided tour of St. Foy Abbey-Church and then explored the town on their own.
6. June 25 was spent in Albi, and most of the travelers



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began their day at the Albi Cathedral (formerly the Cathedral Basilica of St. Cecilia), which was built in response to the Albigensian heresy. It is purported to be the largest brick building in the world.

7. On June 26, the travelers went to Toulouse, beginning their day with a guided tour of the Basilica of St. Sernin, known for its Romanesque sculpture.
8. While in Toulouse, Fr. Malachi stopped for a photo in the Church of the Jacobins, where a mirror at the base of a massive column provides an interesting visual and photographic effect.
9. **Jeannette (Janiszewski) Burrell '60** and husband, Dennis, were among the travelers.
10. Dinners were prepared by the excellent on-site chef, who also cooks for the study abroad students who study in Ambialet during the school year, and were enjoyed al fresco on the patio.
11. All the travelers pose for a group photo on the steps outside the chapel at the Ambialet site: the official souvenir photo!

12. Sherry Forney '93, and husband, John, pose for a photo during a wine lunch enjoyed by the group at Chateau de Salettes winery and restaurant.

13. Chris Collins '73, president of the Saint Francis Alumni Association and the host of the trip, addresses the group during dinner at Ambialet's Hotel DuPont.

14. Ambialet at twilight is a picture of perfect tranquility.

15. Frank Gemino '72 (right) and wife Carolyn pose with Fr. Malachi on the patio overlooking the town of Ambialet.

16. Le Prieure provided a warm and welcoming feel while alumni would reminisced and relaxed after dinner.

17. The Alumni Association Board of Directors was well represented on the trip. Left to right: **Anita (Fusco) Baumann '90**, director of alumni relations, **Denise Fetsko '96**, **Chris Collins '73**, president, **Jeannette (Janiszewski) Burrell '60**, and **Sharon Hoffman '80**.

18. Sixteen of 49 participants also participated in the pilgrimage to Italy in 2012. Back row, left to



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right: **Dan Pienta '68**, Fr. Chris Baumann, **Bill Zackowski '67**, **Tom Gill '67**, John Forney, **Chris Collins '73**, **Mike Sicola '62**, and Bob Kulikowski. Front row: **Ed Lang '80**, **Kathy (Zullig) Pienta '68**, **Anita (Fusco) Baumann '90**, Pat Zackowski, Pat Gill, **Sherry Forney '93**, **Denise Fetsko '96**, and **Fran (Haering) Sicola '62**.

- 19. Tom and Lynn (Mullen)**
Meredith, both class of 1972, were among the travelers.
- 20.** Four couples from the class of 1967—from left to right, **Bill and Pat Zackowski**, **Harry “Skip” and Mary Buckman**, **John and Jerilyn (Vermette) Waters**, and **Pat and Tom Gill**—did some traveling around France before and after the alumni segment.



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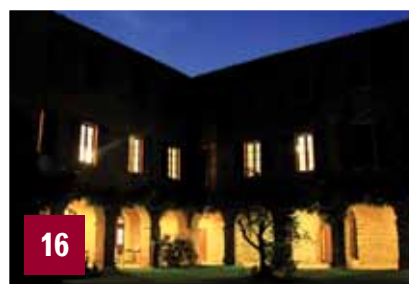
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What's Next for Alumni Travel?

Join us next year as we travel to Ireland for a “Journey to the Land of our Founding Friars”

May 27–June 7, 2015

Visit <http://francis.edu/alumni-and-friends-travel/> for trip details, itinerary, pricing, etc.



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Stay connected between issues



There are a couple of great resources to help you stay up-to-date on the latest happenings at Saint Francis University.

Campus News & Events

www.francis.edu/news-and-events

All Things Red Flash

www.SFUathletics.com

Social Media

Many departments on campus have social media accounts. Visit francis.edu/social-media to view a list. Here are a few of our favorites:

- Facebook.com/SaintFrancisUniversity
- Facebook.com/SaintFrancisAlumni
- Twitter.com/SaintFrancisPA
- www.flickr.com/photos/saintfrancisuniversity/
- www.pinterest.com/saintfrancisu/

