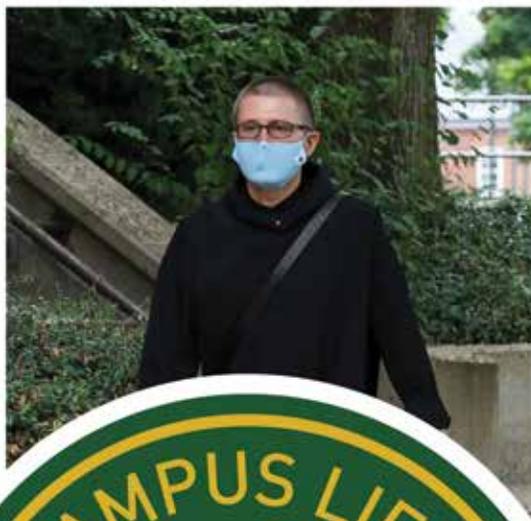


SAINT VINCENT

MAGAZINE

FALL 2020



CONNECTEDNESS AT THE HEART OF OUR COMMUNITY



Dear Alumni and Friends,

We have missed the opportunity to see many of you in-person these last six months at the various events and gatherings that would have typically brought us together in the spring and summer. We are all well-aware of the challenges this pandemic has brought into our daily lives, and we look forward to seeing you soon.

Even as we face this uncertainty, we have reason to be optimistic, as our campus is again full of students, engaging in an academic and social experience unlike any other in our College's history. You will read more in this magazine about many of the changes on campus as we work to mitigate the spread of COVID-19, the ways in which our community has grown stronger and how our students and alumni have selflessly worked to serve others.

Our faculty, staff and administration deserve a particularly special note of commendation, as they continue to show incredible adaptability, strength and unity as we worked through the summer to welcome students back to campus; and to do so while providing an experience that continues to be uniquely Saint Vincent.

Our students are engaged in rigorous study and community life on campus. Many conversations being held are about their futures and careers, our current response to the pandemic, dialogue about social unrest, racial tensions, mental and physical health and their role in the world. We are proud that they are discussing their critical thinking, personal experiences and thoughtful solutions to these issues.

Saint Vincent is also under new leadership, as we welcome Archabbot Martin de Porres Bartel, O.S.B., as the 12th Archabbot of Saint Vincent and the Chancellor of the College. Having served as the 14th President of Saint Vincent College from 1995-2000, we are glad to have him back on campus. Our current students will now get to know Archabbot Martin, who was known as the "students' president" during his time in that role.

Special thanks to Archabbot Douglas Nowicki, O.S.B., who provided remarkable leadership in his 30 years as Archabbot and Chancellor. We are grateful for his wisdom and guidance in moving Saint Vincent forward.

Finally, we continue to be inspired by the resilience of our students. Their return to campus has restored the heartbeat of Saint Vincent College. In all that we do, we continue to put our students first and we thank all of you for the many ways in which you make being a Bearcat a transformational experience for every student who walks with us.

Forward, Always Forward,

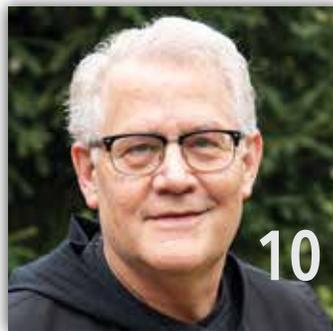
A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Fr. Paul, O.S.B." with a stylized flourish at the end.

Father Paul



Covid Fighters

Elizabeth Volna, R.N., C'18, and Dr. Bryan Christensen, C'01, are among our alumni providing support during the novel coronavirus pandemic.

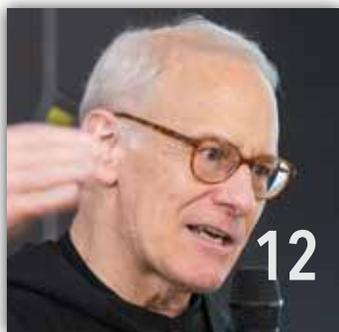


12th Archabbot

This summer a familiar face returned to campus, after service work in various parishes. Father Martin de Porres Bartel, O.S.B., is now Archabbot Martin.

Battling ALS

Father Nathan Munsch, O.S.B., talks about his change of plans for his retirement as he battles Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS), Lou Gerhig's disease.



Alumni

Now known as Brother Simon-Peter Clayton, O.S.B., this 2012 college alumnus has returned home to Newark to dedicate his life to service.



Athletics

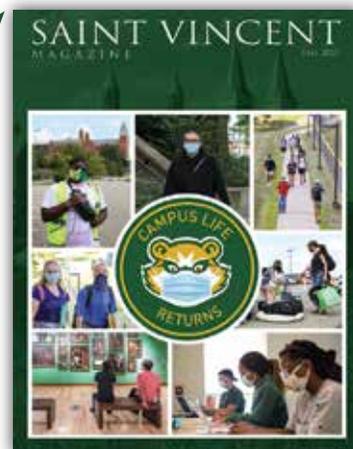
Swimmer Zach Baum achieved All-American status. Read about some coaching changes and retirements in Athletics, starting on page 32.



Giving

Ed McCormick, C'79, has never forgotten the influences of the Benedictines, nor of Joe Heisel, C'43, in changing the course of his life, forever.

Cover



Alexander Byers has been documenting the return to campus during the fall semester. Read more about the College's plans during the novel coronavirus pandemic on the page 4 feature by Michael Hustava, senior director of marketing and communications.

SAINT VINCENT MAGAZINE

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VOLUME 18, ISSUE 1

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Ben Becze

EDITOR & DESIGN
Kim Metzgar
svmagazine@stvincent.edu

**AD ARTWORK AND
CAMPAIGN DESIGN**
George Fetkovich

ALUMNI NEWS COORDINATOR
Katherine Vitale

PROOFREADER
Carol Riddle

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS
Ben Becze
Jim Bendel
Jim Berger
Samantha Hilyer
Michael Hustava
Kim Metzgar
Julia Snyder
Sports Information Office

PHOTOGRAPHY
Alexander Byers
Alumni Relations Office
Sports Information Office

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FALL 2020



FALL 2019

THE TIMES THEY ARE A'CHANGIN'

By Michael Hustava



In a world full of variables, change is constant. Even in the simplest of times, this would hold true. So, amid a pandemic, adapting to change was paramount in how Saint Vincent College prepared to welcome students back for the fall semester.

With changing guidelines from federal, state and local authorities throughout the spring and summer, it was critical that the College maintained a firm grasp on what would be necessary to resume face-to-face instruction and a residential experience this fall. From that notion, the Forward Together Advisory Committee was formed.

Led by John Smetanka, Ph.D., vice president for academic affairs and academic dean, the committee began its work shortly following the conclusion of the spring semester.

"At the heart of a liberal arts and sciences education is the dialogue between student and teacher; learner and scholar; and among learners who are discerning the wisdom and knowledge of their discipline and of life. The connectedness of every person at Saint Vincent is what strengthens our community and moves us forward. When we are together to learn, worship, play, compete and grow, our community thrives."
—Rev. Paul R. Taylor, O.S.B., President, in a letter to the Saint Vincent community on May 15, 2020

"The Forward Together Committee was charged with reviewing all the guidelines from federal, state and local health officials and agencies, and to continuously review those guidelines because they are ever-changing," Smetanka explained. "From there, the Committee began to formulate a plan for the

campus community so that we could move forward to resume and sustain operations through the semester."

The result of their work was the Saint Vincent College and Seminary Health and Safety Plan, published on July 6, which outlined the steps the institution would be taking to

resume campus operations, in accordance with guidelines and directives from federal, state and local authorities. While the plan was finalized and shared with the community this summer, it is considered a living document that will be updated as guidelines and restrictions change.

Smetanka explained that the planning for the fall semester began almost immediately when classes shifted to remote instruction and the residence halls were closed last March.

"[The fall semester] was in a lot of fog, of course, because there was so much uncertainty, and there still is. Nonetheless, we still had to chart a course forward," he said of the planning process. "We didn't know what the situation would be like in the fall. We did know, and we still anticipate, a potential for a second wave exists, combining COVID-19 with the flu season."

Even with the anticipated challenges and amidst much uncertainty, the task remained clear: design a term that minimizes the potential impact of a second wave, while delivering an on-campus experience that mitigates opportunities for the virus to spread and maintaining a strong sense of community.

"The plan is to be as safe as possible while fulfilling Saint Vincent's mission—the call that we have to educate students in the way that we feel is best," Smetanka said of how the committee developed the plan. "What's at the heart of the Health and Safety Plan is to do that in this environment safely. Everything that we have done as a committee has been with that in mind; how we can carry forward our mission while mitigating the risk of transmitting the disease."

By starting classes on August

17, it allowed the College to adjust the academic calendar to 14 weeks with no breaks and completing final exams the weekend before Thanksgiving. The plan limits students leaving campus, restricts visitors and places an emphasis on mask wearing, physical distancing, good hygiene and enhanced cleaning, sanitizing and disinfecting procedures.

Dining hours have been extended with mobile ordering options. Residence hall capacity has been reduced by 25 percent and students are limited to interactions within their residence hall "neighborhood." Classroom capacity is limited to 50 percent. Masks and physical distancing are required by all members of campus when in public spaces. When examining the start of the fall semester from that perspective, clearly this is a time unlike any other in Saint Vincent's history. That is not to say, however, that students are not embracing this challenge as they have returned to Latrobe.

"It has come across loud and clear that students are excited to be back on campus. With the first-year students I am teaching, I have never had a class that was this engaged from day one," Smetanka said. "They want to be in the classroom. They are longing for that togetherness on campus. Even though it's not the way that everyone would want it, I think this period of isolation has caused people to reprioritize what is important to them. Thankfully, for our students, education is high on their list."

With discipline, self-care and by being a good neighbor, the Saint Vincent College community continues to move forward, together.



Prayer During This Time Of Uncertainty

Loving God, throughout history there have been uncertain times when people have asked, "Why?" and "Where were you?"

We are experiencing such a time now and uncertainty is all around us.

In the midst of this uncertainty is our realization that we are not in control of the world as much as we might like to think we are.

Send us your comfort and the assurance that you are in control and you care for us in ways that we do not always recognize or understand.

Help us not to focus so much on our worries and concerns so as not to recognize your presence and care for us.

May we follow the example of those who have gone before us in ancient Israel and in New Testament times who faced difficulties with a faith that led them to surrender their fears to you.

Help us to follow the example of Mary; as she faced the sudden and unexpected change in her plans magnified your greatness in a way that put the concerns in a diminished perspective.

May we magnify you and never lose sight of the vision of our founder who moved "forward, always forward" in Faith. We ask this in Jesus' name.

AMEN.

—Father Killian Loch, O.S.B.
Director of Campus Ministry

Covid Fighters



Dr. Bryan Christensen, C'01, has traveled the world to train others in the fights against Ebola and Zika. Now, the enemy is COVID-19.

It's a trying time for those professionals working in public health. There have been few people in the world who have not felt the impact of the novel coronavirus disease COVID-19 in 2020, and, in some parts of the world, in 2019. Saint Vincent College alumnus Dr. Bryan Christensen, C'01, an epidemiologist for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in Atlanta is among those on the front lines of the fight.

Dr. Christensen was featured in the winter 2015 issue of *Saint Vincent Magazine* for his work in response to Ebola, a hemorrhagic fever caused by a virus. In 2016, while continuing to work on Ebola, he was called to assist with the CDC response to Zika, a mosquito-borne illness that was breaking out in the United States and in South America. Now, he's helping with the response to COVID-19.

"We became aware of a novel coronavirus in China in early January," he said. "A

couple of weeks later I went on paternity leave and was out of the response. In mid-February I returned to work and started supporting the response. I've been on it since in various capacities."

His role with the CDC focuses on healthcare infection control and epidemiology. With Ebola his primary duty focused on making sure the most effective infection prevention and control measures were put in place in hospitals, so that healthcare personnel and their patients were kept safe and the virus wouldn't spread. Other team members investigated community transmission and conducted testing. In addition to disease surveillance, CDC experts provided training to healthcare personnel on the use of personal protective equipment (PPE) and ensured that labs processing samples followed the safest protocols.

During the COVID-19

(Continued on Page 8)

Dr. Bryan Christensen, C'01, pictured from work with the World Health Organization last year for the Democratic Republic of Congo Ebola response.

Just six months into her nursing career, Elizabeth Volna, C'18, finds herself on the front lines of the COVID-19 pandemic.

A registered nurse in the trauma/surgical intensive care unit at UPMC Presbyterian Hospital, Volna graduated from Saint Vincent College in 2018 with a degree in biochemistry, before graduating from the University of Pittsburgh's Accelerated Bachelor of Nursing program in August 2019.

When she was hired shortly thereafter at UPMC Presbyterian, Volna was eager to begin a career in a field on which she had her sights set when still a high schooler. Little did she know, she was about to be thrust into a worldwide medical crisis.

"Never in a million years did I think that six months into my career, I would be working on the frontlines of a pandemic," Volna said. "I feel proud to be helping out in this time, though. My parents raised me to be the good man in a storm."

As an intensive care nurse, Volna has become accustomed to working long hours with critical care patients suffering from various conditions. Since the spread of COVID-19, though, her daily routine has been turned upside down.

"The unit that I work on has been transformed into the COVID-19 response unit," she explained. "A typical day of work now is completely different than when taking care of sick trauma patients. We work at least three 12-hour shifts a week. Being a trauma intensive care nurse, we are trained to be prepared for anything that comes through the door. However, when the entire unit has patients in airborne precautions, our care has changed completely."

One of the more challenging aspects of treating COVID-19, said Volna, is how rapidly the virus can deteriorate a patient's respiratory system, often leading to the onset of acute respiratory distress syndrome, a life-threatening buildup of fluid in the lungs.

"It's much quicker than anything we have worked with before," she said. "We must always be on our toes. Most sick COVID-19 patients are on a mechanical ventilator."

Adding to the obstacles of treating COVID-19 is the extremely contagious nature of the virus, which has led to the implementation of strict safety policies at hospitals across the country.

"Our staff has been very proactive in educating us on the proper use of personal protective equipment (PPE)," stated Volna. "We even have staff assigned to observe our use of PPE to ensure we are utilizing it

(Continued on Page 9)

Elizabeth Volna, C'18, in her personal protective equipment during a shift at UPMC Presbyterian Hospital



(Continued from Page 6)

pandemic, Dr. Christensen has a variety of assignments. He has “assisted in the development of healthcare infection prevention and control (IPC) guidance” and led CDC teams deployed to the west coast to conduct infection control assessments at skilled nursing homes and assisted living facilities. His role was to help these facilities build capacity to manage their outbreaks. This involved training staff to use the appropriate PPE, to practice proper hand hygiene, and to strengthen their cleaning and disinfection practices. Most of the personnel were fairly well-trained, he said, and “we had a lot of engagement with management to help them understand what was going on at their facilities, to help them manage their outbreak. The main challenges were lack of PPE, including respirators, gowns, and eye protection, and very little access to testing. In some places it was taking three days, sometimes a week to get test results back, and in these settings the virus can spread extremely fast.”

The challenges included making sure healthcare personnel did not transmit the virus to others and helping them work around inadequate supplies or testing kits. Then there were the more complex assessments, such as helping those in memory care. “How do you keep someone in a room who doesn’t understand that they must stay in the room, and that they can’t be in another room? How do you help

someone who does not have the mental capacity to understand the need to wear a mask? There were a lot of complications particularly with the most vulnerable populations.”

Additionally, Dr. Christensen has led CDC’s collaboration with Emergency Medical Service (EMS) national leadership to help raise awareness of EMS challenges and infection control risks.

There are other, more personal challenges as well.

“I’m a first-time father,” he said. “My son was born during a pandemic. It’s been frustrating not being able to take him out and show him the world. It really limits what we can do. We don’t go to restaurants. We don’t go to the store together. My wife is an infectious disease physician, and she is working on the clinical side of the response. The case count here in Atlanta has been high at times. It seems to finally be starting to trend downward, but it still makes it tough if we are both working on COVID.”

In addition to his usual work, there is the task of reviewing medical updates and internal CDC reports, reports from different partners. And those other viruses and illnesses—Ebola, measles—have not gone away. They are still here, still affecting people in various parts of the world, still a threat to many across cultures and borders.

Dr. Christensen has been doing remote assistance to the Indian Health Services (IHS) helping different tribes get their facilities prepared with infection



Dr. Bryan Christensen, C'01

prevention and control. “From the fall of 2017 to the summer of 2019, I went to nine different IHS Areas to help the IHS in many rural parts of the west, in areas that have ongoing issues. They are well-aware of the challenges that they have including limited resources. Some facilities are brand new and staffed well, but others are not. It becomes a real challenge helping them in those settings.”

In 2019 he also spent time supporting the Ebola response in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Dr. Christensen is not unaware of the criticisms of his agency’s efforts, which make things even more challenging. It’s work that he has been doing since completing graduate

school. Following his time at Saint Vincent, where he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in biology with a minor in religious studies, he went to Penn State University, where he earned a master’s degree in environmental pollution control in 2003. In 2009, he completed a Ph.D. in environmental health engineering at Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health.

“I’m ten years in,” he said. “I’m not going to give up because of one outbreak response. We have worked tirelessly as an agency in Atlanta and out in the field. I know it is making a difference despite the challenges.”

—By Kim Metzgar

Elizabeth Volna, R.N., C'18

(Continued from Page 7)

properly. Proper use of PPE in the hospital is the number-one preventive method in not contracting COVID-19.”

Along with the enhanced safety measures in place for health care workers, hospitals have also enacted policies that prohibit visitors in the hopes of limiting exposure to the virus. While it can be difficult for patients and their families, Volna feels that she and her colleagues are diligent in communicating with those affected.

“This policy has made communication between nurses and family members over the phone extremely

important,” she said. “We are not only caring for the patients medically, but we are also the hands to hold during these scary times.”

Having the chance to offer this aid and compassion is what initially drew Volna’s interest in nursing while in high school in Meadville, Pennsylvania.

“I first sparked an interest in nursing when I was 18 years old,” she recalled. “I became a certified nursing assistant in a nursing home in my hometown, where I learned compassion and patient care skills.”

Volna continued to work as

a certified nursing assistant after enrolling at Saint Vincent College, and as the biochemistry major thrived in the classroom, her interest in nursing continued to grow. While Saint Vincent didn’t offer a nursing program at the time, Volna’s concentration in pre-allied health, along with the support of her faculty in the Herbert W. Boyer School of Natural Sciences, Mathematics and Computing, more than prepared her for her time after Saint Vincent.

“Many people at SVC influenced me in wonderful ways,” she said, “but especially Dr. Matthew Fisher and Dr. Bettie Davis. They were—and still are—extremely supportive of every student they have had in class. They always had their doors open to students and were the parental figures for students away from home.”

In addition to the educational foundation Volna received at SVC, she also credits her experience as a Bearcat student-athlete for instilling the value of teamwork, which she sees firsthand each day in the hospital.

“Whether it was on the cross country course or the lacrosse field,” she explained, “I learned how to work alongside others effectively toward one goal. Through athletics, I learned that everyone has a job and a place on the team, and everyone contributes in some way. In the hospital, not one job is more important than another. What is important is that we all work cohesively toward one goal, and that is

the health and well-being of our patients.”

When she feels overwhelmed, Volna thinks back to another formative moment from her time at Saint Vincent College, one shared by countless other classmates and alumni.

“As a freshman,” she said, “you receive a little red book, ‘The Rule of Saint Benedict.’ It is more than just a little book. It holds the Benedictine Hallmarks that you will never forget. I think the Hallmark that Saint Vincent College has fostered in me the most is ‘community.’

“This has especially inspired me to give back without expectation of reward and set a foot forward for the greater good of our community.”

As her patient volume increases and her shifts grow longer, Volna remains committed to excelling in her dream career, saying that her only long-term career goal is to become the best nurse that she can be. Regardless of where this journey may lead her, she will forever look back fondly on her four years at Saint Vincent College.

“I am thankful for the Saint Vincent College community that shaped who I am today,” she said, “including professors, coaches, peers and teammates. I am truly blessed.”

—By Jim Berger

The coronavirus illustration was created at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) by Alissa Eckert, MSMI, Dan Higgins, MAMS.



Elizabeth Volna, R.N., C'18

The Students' President Becomes Archabbot, Chancellor



Archabbot Martin R. Bartel, O.S.B., Twelfth Archabbot of Saint Vincent. Alexander Byers photo.

More than 10,000 people were reached on social media with the live Vimeo® announcement of the election of Archabbot Martin de Porres Bartel, O.S.B., as the 12th archabbot of Saint Vincent. Many of those persons watching were Saint Vincent College alumni, who attended between the years 1995 and 2000, when Archabbot Martin served as college president. There were more than 6,000 views of the live broadcast and 75 shares. On Facebook®, more than 23,000 users were reached, with 400-plus likes and comments from all over the world, including Brazil, Wales and China.

Saint Vincent Magazine reached out to some of the alumni and friends who commented that night for some additional insights into the priest and leader they all came to know back then.

“I knew Archabbot Martin back in the days when he was the president of Saint Vincent College,” **Luis Cosenza, C’97**, of Mechanicsburg recalled. “He actually lived on the second floor of Rooney Hall, which I lived on one of the wings on the same floor. I used to attend the Mass he would have in his dorm room every Sunday evening. I had just come off Active Duty in the Navy before coming to Saint Vincent, and he always went out of his way to make sure that I was doing OK. I can’t thank him enough, and I can’t think of a better person to lead Saint

Vincent.”

“Mike and I invited Father Martin to our March 2000 wedding as a sign of the respect and admiration we had for him while we were students at Saint Vincent,” noted **Heather Hall, C’98**, spouse of **Michael, C’99**, of New York. “Not knowing for sure if he would be able to join us, we were surprised on our wedding day to see him vested to concelebrate the Mass with Father Gilbert Burke and Father Joseph Bronder. Father Martin was ready to guide us in repeating our vows, but was surprised to learn in the moment that we had memorized them. We had the best ‘microphone holder’ so that friends and family could hear us in the Basilica.”

“Father Marty, as we knew him 20-plus years ago at Saint

Vincent, truly was a large part of daily life on campus,” stated **Patty (Malingowski) Van Deusen, C’98**, of Pittsburgh. “During my senior year, he was a moderator on the second floor of Rooney Hall. I was a prefect on the third floor, and he was known to be a friendly face in the dorm. Many of us would gather in his room on Sunday evenings for some of the most enjoyable Masses I’ve attended in my life. Saint Vincent has a winner in Archabbot Martin. We are all proud to have had our time with him and know he has Saint Vincent’s best interest in mind. Congratulations!”

“Most Saturday or Sunday evening Masses were standing room only,” stated **Joe Belsterling, C’94**, of Zelienople. “I vividly

remember him looking around the room and counting heads to make sure that he had enough hosts for all attendees. Mass in the dorms was a great memory of what Saint Vincent taught to so many at such a formative time in our lives. It is a place where Jesus Christ is with us everywhere. He is with us in the cafeteria, the classroom, the athletic fields, everywhere. Even the dorms. It brought to light all of the things that everyone said as we grew up in a Christian lifestyle. Things like God is everywhere, and you are never alone. It wasn’t where we were as much as it was what we took away. I took some of the most spiritual growth in my life from those weekly experiences.”

“Those attending [Mass] would gather around the living room,” recalled **LaurieAnn Donatelli Rossi, C’91**, of Tarentum. “It was transformed into a peaceful, prayerful chapel where we would feel the Lord’s presence. The students participated as lectors and Father Martin always related the gospel message in ways that we could apply to our own lives and know God’s true presence. It was an experience of spiritual growth being able to pray together and being part of a faith community.”

“He was a beloved professor, dorm moderator and friendly priest to all of us students at the time,” said **Carrie Jablunovsky, C’91**, of Valencia. “After I graduated from SVC, I came

back to be a dorm moderator with Father Martin. At least once a week, I think it was Sunday night after he had a small Mass for all of us in the lounge, I had to tell him and the boys to quiet down when they got into a heated game of Euchre and then blasted ‘Spirit in the Sky’ on their boom box. It was all in good fun and made for an enjoyable year. A few years later, when Father Martin was president of the college, he married my husband, **Nick Jablunovsky, C’90**, and me at the Basilica.

“We were so honored to have him officiate our wedding. He holds a special place in our hearts today and we are so happy for him in this appointment as Archabbot.”

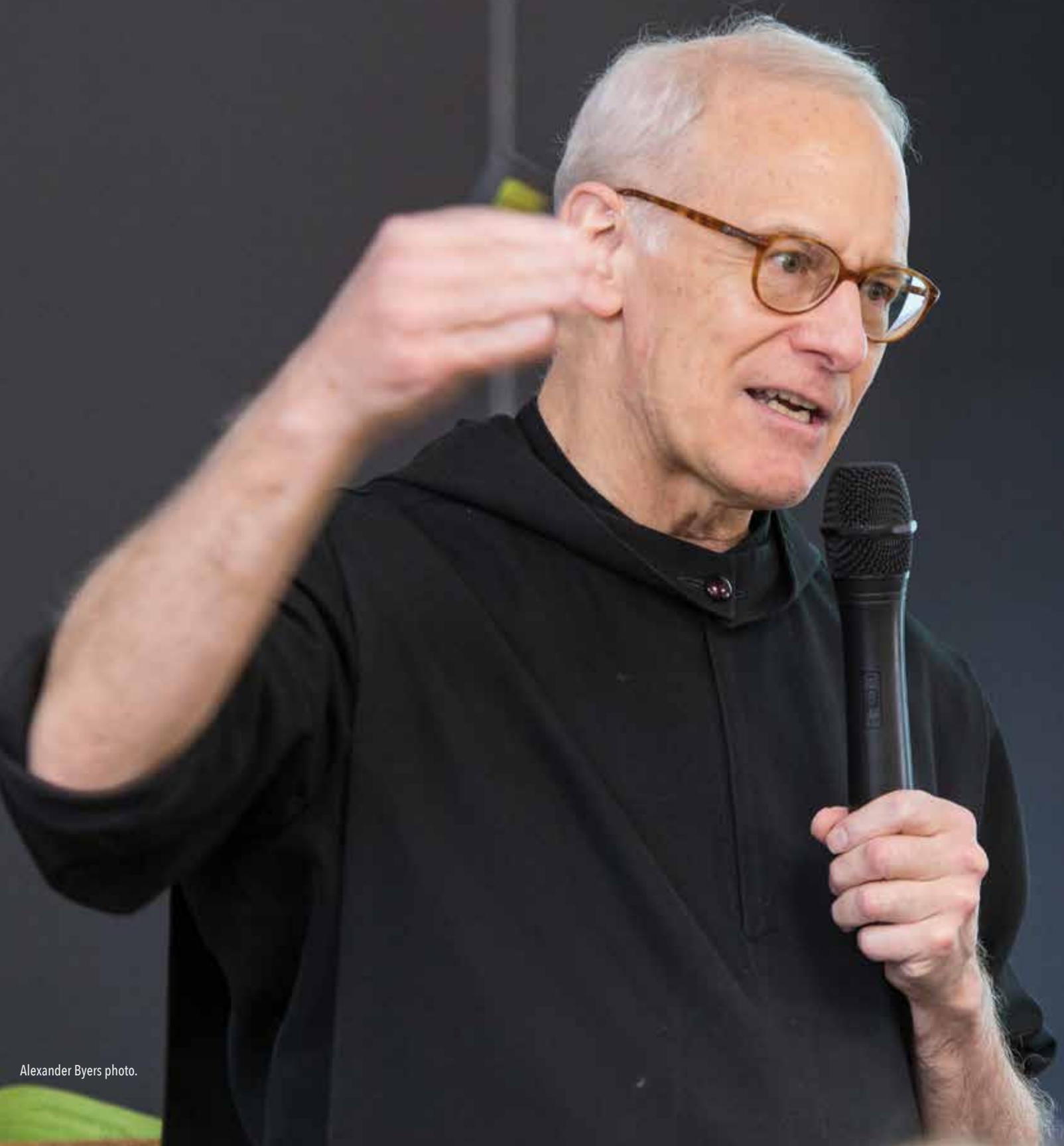
ABOUT ARCHABBOT MARTIN

- Elected 12th Archabbot of Saint Vincent June 23, 2020, becoming chancellor of Saint Vincent College and Saint Vincent Seminary.
- Installed by Bishop Edward C. Malesic, Diocese of Greensburg, July 10, 2020.
- Administrator of the MACH1 (Monaca, Aliquippa, Center and Hopewell) Parish Grouping in the Diocese of Pittsburgh, 2013-2020.
- Priest Advisory Council and a religious order representative to the Presbyteral Council for Bishop David Zubik, Diocese of Pittsburgh.
- Board of Directors of Serra Catholic High School.
- Pastor, Saint Bruno Parish, South Greensburg and administrator of Saint Benedict Parish, Marguerite, Diocese of Greensburg, 2008-2013.
- Pastor of Saint Martin Parish, New Derry, Diocese of Greensburg, 2001-2009.
- President, Saint Vincent College, 1995-2000.
- Juris Doctor degree from the University of Pennsylvania Law School, 1989.
- Master of business administration degree from Bowling Green State University, 1984, management information systems.
- Master of Divinity degree, Saint Vincent Seminary, 1984, with highest honors.
- Bachelor of business administration degree, Temple University, 1978, accounting.
- Studies in finance at Indiana University of Pennsylvania, 1981; Latin and philosophy Saint Vincent College, 1980-1981; and the University of Akron, 1975-1977.
- A 1974 graduate of Barberton High School, Barberton, Ohio.
- Simple profession of vows, Saint Vincent Archabbey, July 10, 1980.
- Solemn profession of vows, Saint Vincent Archabbey, July 11, 1983.
- Ordained a deacon, August 11, 1984.
- Ordained a priest, May 25, 1985.
- Associate professor of business administration, Saint Vincent College, 1989 to 2001.
- Administrative assignments, Saint Vincent College. assistant treasurer, 1985-1986; assistant controller, 1980-1985; acting provost, spring 1992; and acting academic dean, 1992-1993. He also served as a dormitory moderator from 1990 to 2000.
- Judicial clerk to Westmoreland County Common Pleas Court
- Judge Bernard F. Scherer, 1989-1990; legal intern, Community Legal Services, Philadelphia, 1988-1989; summer associate, Peter Goldberger, Philadelphia, 1988.
- Certified Public Accountant in Pennsylvania since 1989, member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, and the Pennsylvania Institute of Certified Public Accountants.
- Affiliated with the American Bar Association, the Pennsylvania Bar Association, the Westmoreland Bar Association, the American Business Law Association and the Intercommunity Legal Conference.
- Saint Vincent College Board of Incorporators, 1989-present.
- Wimmer Corporation Board of Directors, 1985-present.
- Saint Vincent Archabbey Council of Seniors, 1990-1993, 1995-present.

Abundant Life, Steadfast Faith

Father Nathan Munsch Thanks God Every Day During Battle With ALS

By Samantha Hilyer



Benedictine Father Nathan Munsch, O.S.B., former pastor of Saint Benedict Parish, Marguerite, and a retired theology professor at Saint Vincent College, relies on his faith and perspective as he faces the challenges of Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS).

Father Nathan, a professor for 25 years, said he had no concept of what ALS, known as Lou Gehrig's disease, was until the day of his diagnosis.

He said an astounding number of people have expressed interest in learning about his journey. He attributed the fascination to curiosity about the rare, debilitating disease, along with the publicity ALS gained through the "Ice Bucket Challenge" started in 2014 to raise awareness.

He does not see ALS as an evil. Rather, borrowing words from an email from a friend, Father Nathan hopes to turn his situation into a blessing to those who are witnessing his ALS journey by acting with both graceful composure and steadfast faith.

He wakes up every morning, "thanking God for existence and for the existence of the world in all its complexity," Father Nathan said.

Father Nathan noticed the onset of symptoms of the neurodegenerative disease—hand weakness—in 2017, but he was misdiagnosed with carpal tunnel syndrome.

Within a year, he developed drop foot, which caused him to fall frequently, and had back surgery to correct the issue. His ability to walk seemed to improve, he said; however, his condition swiftly deteriorated. By 2019, he

"I have had a remarkable life in so many ways, so being bitter about it ending doesn't make any sense."

—Father Nathan Munsch

depended on a walker.

Father Nathan was diagnosed with ALS in May 2019. Since then, the disease has progressed to include paralysis below his right knee, difficulty breathing and loss of fine motor skills in his extremities. There are few options for symptom management for ALS. Father Nathan has been doing mild, regular exercise as well as using equipment to assist his lungs.

He has transitioned from being an independent person to

needing assistance for various daily tasks.

He said retirement earlier this year has given him time to pray and to contemplate his circumstances. While he mourns for his community and his wish to be a wise, guiding figure in the monastery in his later years, Father Nathan is not bitter.

"I have had a remarkable life in so many ways, so being bitter about it ending doesn't make any sense," he said.

Father Nathan said his experience gives him a renewed

sense of gratefulness for his Catholic faith and the privileges he has had to receive an education and become a priest.

The Pittsburgh native is being supported through his difficult journey by his family and the Benedictine community.

The college has established an endowed scholarship in his name, and \$60,000 has been raised thus far, Father Nathan said. Funds will benefit students studying theology.

He is grateful for all the love and support he has received, but most of all, he is "enormously grateful" for his faith," he said, noting, "it is important to me to still be able to attend daily Mass and receive the sacraments."

Samantha Hilyer is a junior English major from Patton. This article originally appeared in The Catholic Accent, newspaper of the Diocese of Greensburg. Used with permission.

A MONK'S LIFE

- Bachelor of arts degree in history from the University of Notre Dame, 1973.

- Master of arts in Classical Languages from Duquesne University, 1976.

- Taught high school for three years.

- In the summer of 1979 left teaching and, traveling alone with a backpack, embarked on an eight-month pilgrimage to Greece, Turkey, Israel and Europe.

- In July of 1980 entered Mount Saviour Benedictine Monastery near Elmira, New

York. While there he served variously as a sacristan, librarian, translator, dairy and sheep farmer, wood cutter, cook, sub-prior and novice master.

- Bachelor of Sacred Theology degree, Catholic University of America, 1991.

- Ordained to the diaconate at Mount Saviour in 1990 and to the priesthood in 1991.

- Came to Saint Vincent Archabbey in 1993, and in 1995 officially transferred monastic stability to Saint Vincent.

- Served as a hospital chaplain, an instructor in religious studies, Latin

teacher at Saint Vincent Seminary.

- Doctorate in systematic theology from Boston College, Chestnut Hill, Massachusetts, 2002.

- Pastor of Saint Benedict Parish in Marguerite, 2004-2008.

- Returned to teaching at Saint Vincent College.

- Pastoral responsibilities for two parishes in Salisbury and Pochontas, PA.

- Director of pastoral formation, Saint Vincent Seminary, 2015-2020.

- Retired due to ALS diagnosis.



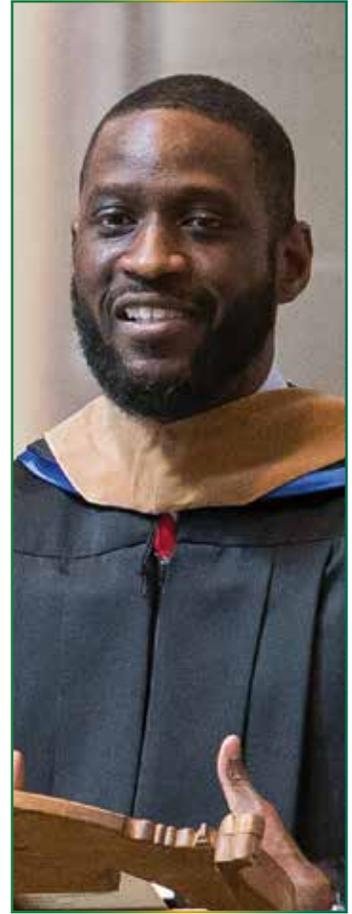
Tyrique Anderson, C21



Keila Lobos-Hernandez, C21



Kyle Watson, C21



Will Thomas, C'00

“Let’s TALK and LISTEN”

It had been a great day spent at an amusement park in Virginia and they were tired, hungry, the mother, son and family friend. Stopping at a restaurant for a late night meal, there was one family in the corner already done eating. They took their seats at the counter, with no friendly word of welcome. The manager walked past once, twice, and then again, but it was like he looked right through them. Five minutes, ten minutes passed. Finally, a worker gave them a menu. Thirty minutes passed. No one had taken their order. It was as if they weren't there.

“Finally my mom’s like ‘we’re tired of this,’” Tyrique Anderson said. “We stand up and we’re about to leave.” His mother

announced to the room: ‘You know what? This is very rude. We’ve been here for 40 minutes. We are going to call corporate.’ My mom’s friend, who is white, and I walk out and we get in the car and my mom’s still in there talking.” The next thing they knew, an employee started screaming, challenging his mother to a fight to provoke her as his mother was explaining her concerns. A different employee picked up the phone, dialing 9-1-1. “There’s a Black lady in here screaming and we don’t know what’s going to happen,” the caller said. Fortunately, Tyrique’s mother recognized that they were calling the police and left. “We ended up getting in the car and driving away.”

The sting of this happening, not in 1950s America, or in 1960s America, but decades, generations past the Civil Rights act, and other actions aimed at equality and fair treatment, influenced Anderson, a Saint Vincent College senior, to take action after watching the George Floyd incident unfold in Minneapolis on Memorial Day 2020. Floyd, a Black man, was arrested after allegedly passing a counterfeit \$20 bill at a grocery store, and died after a white police officer pressed his knee to Floyd's neck for almost nine minutes during the arrest. Bystanders filmed the events.

Anderson said that in the days that followed, as protests emerged and individuals and groups began making statements about the incident, he and his fellow classmate, Keila Lobos-Hernandez, began wondering about Saint Vincent.

"We were like, Saint Vincent hasn't said anything," he recounted. Anderson said it would "be important for the students. They want to hear that [the college] cares about the problems going on in their world and with people who look like them..."

Anderson and Lobos-Hernandez wrote an email. The response from Saint Vincent occurred less than a day later. "We were very surprised," at the speed of the response, he said. But Saint Vincent had, indeed, already been preparing a statement.

"The command of Jesus Christ is clear: 'Love one another.' There are no exceptions," wrote Father Paul Taylor, O.S.B., president. "We seek to follow that command, as did our founder, Boniface Wimmer who said, 'to all who knock, welcome.' As a Catholic,

Benedictine college, we must be part of the solution, which starts by standing in solidarity with our Black community by creating a meaningful forum for dialogue for all in our community."

Mary Collins, vice president for student affairs, Father Paul, Dr. John Aupperle, a campus minister, and Dr. Chris McMahon, among others, began developing details of that forum for members of the Saint Vincent community to come together to engage in meaningful dialogue regarding racism and injustice. In addition



“Any community formed under the guidance of the *Rule of Saint Benedict*, with its priority for hospitality and welcoming all as Christ, will remove divisions and create unity.”

**—Father Paul Taylor, O.S.B.
President, Saint Vincent College**



to Anderson and Lobos-Hernandez, Kyle Watson, president of the Uniting All People club on campus; Kaleb Wilson, president of the Student Government Association; Dr. Sarah Daly, assistant professor of criminology, law and society; Brother Cassian Edwards, O.S.B., assistant to the director of campus ministry and Father Killian Loch, O.S.B., director of campus ministry, and others were quick to become involved.

The result was a series of "Let's Talk and Listen" forums,

held online in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"When everything started happening related to concerns about racism it kind of exploded among our students," said Collins. "We saw that. Our students saw that. Father Paul saw that. We heard from student leaders Tyrique and Keila, who reached out and said 'what can we do as a college to address this and go forward together?'"

Collins, the students, professors, alumni and others began looking at ways for finding "an outlet for students to share their experiences and

for Black students on campus, aimed at helping students' well-being.

"The main purpose was to get a sense of what are people's experiences, what are they worrying about, are they doing something right or wrong," Collins said. "We felt very strongly that we are a community that cares about each other. While we aren't perfect, we are community."

Issues discussed included expanding the diversity of the faculty and staff to match the diversity of the student body. Anderson said it also involved honest discussions with faculty members on inclusion in the classroom.

"I remember sitting in one class," he said, "wondering why we haven't talked about any Black psychologists yet. I'm pretty sure Black people have made contributions, but we have yet to talk about them."

As the school year has begun, Collins said, talks will continue, based on these summer conversations and "what we can do to help our community grow."

Sometimes the fear of change can prevent people from moving forward. Collins said one alumnus remarked in a session that "we have to move forward to discover, to become involved, to have conversations, to encourage."

"Bigotry has been around as long as the human race," Father Paul noted. "It is an ugly legacy of our ancestors but it is not a curse that we need to pass down to future generations. Through prayer, love of one another and faith in God who is Father to us all, we can make our time a time in which positive change occurs."

—Kim Metzgar



Dr. Jeff Mallory Returns YES, YOU CAN COME HOME AGAIN

By Jim Berger

On August 1, a familiar face returned to Saint Vincent College when Dr. Jeff Mallory, C'06, G'13, was appointed executive vice president and chief operating officer.

He worked at Saint Vincent from 2009 to 2014 and returns after a six-year stint as an administrator at Duquesne University, most recently as assistant vice president for diversity, inclusion and student advancement. He fills the role previously held by Father Paul R. Taylor, O.S.B., from 2012 until his selection as the College's 18th president in June 2019.

"Jeff is a proven leader in higher education and his presence will further enhance our College community," said Father Paul. "His body of work, beginning from when he enrolled at Saint Vincent, shows his dedication to positively impacting the lives of students and making a difference in the community in which he lives. I am particularly excited for our students, who will benefit

greatly from Jeff's expertise and experience. We are grateful to again have Jeff on campus, and to welcome him home."

The native of Bedford, Virginia, is equally thrilled to return to the school—and community—that has continued to shape him since he made his first visit on a basketball recruiting trip as a high school senior.

"I was focused on basketball and didn't think much beyond athletics," he recalls. "We had done some research on SVC and its history, but my first image of Saint Vincent is having five Benedictine monks approach my family on Wimmer Lane as soon we pulled onto campus. Being raised Baptist, it really struck me. I still replay that moment over and over again. I can say that from that point forward, my life changed forever."

Calling his undergraduate experience "tremendous," Mallory earned his bachelor's degree in public policy analysis from the Alex G. McKenna School of Business, Economics and

Government and also left a lasting mark on the men's basketball team. The seven-foot center was a three-time all-conference honoree and helped lead the Bearcats to three trips to the NAIA National Championship Tournament. He remains the program's all-time leader with 313 blocked shots, while his 1,580 points rank fifth in team history.

After graduation, he was afforded the opportunity to pursue a professional basketball career in Spain with the CajaSur Cordoba Basketball Club.

"I was born and raised in a Virginia farming community of about 7,000 people," he said, "and as a youth, there were times I never thought I'd ever venture out of town beyond my childhood. The majority of my family worked in the rubber factory in town, so my leaving to go to college in Pennsylvania was a huge deal. Later, I found myself in NBA tryouts, and then, all of a sudden, I'm in Spain playing basketball and learning the Spanish language."

He earned a full-time starting spot at power forward for his new club, but was most impacted by his initial difficulty in acclimating to the new culture.

"I noticed—and my parents noticed, too—that I found myself perhaps complaining a little too much, even though I had things taken care of, as a pro athlete. I had several teammates at Saint Vincent from Europe and it always amazed me—they never complained when they got here, but instead, would find a way to really get ingrained into the Saint Vincent community right away. So, I picked up the phone and called them to ask, 'What are some things you did? How did you handle it so well?'"

After two years in Spain, Mallory returned to Saint Vincent to serve as assistant coach of the men's basketball team under coach D.P. Harris. While his experience playing professionally aided his coaching, it also became the driving influence behind his decision to pursue a career in higher education.

“When I came back to Saint Vincent,” he said, “I had noted that there was an influx of students from Brazil and China but there was a limited orientation program for them. I really understood how difficult acclimating could be. While an international student-athlete may have certain things in place for orientation and acclimation within their teams, there wasn’t anything like that here for the general international students.”

This led to his hiring as the coordinator for multicultural student life in early 2010. One of his first acts in this new role was implementing International Orientation Week, while his responsibilities grew to include advising the College’s departments and community in their support of minority and international students, serving as an academic adviser for the Office of Academic Affairs and the SVC Opportunity/ACT 101/SSS Trio program and chairing the annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Remembrance Committee.

In June 2012, Mallory was promoted to coordinator of campus and multicultural student life. He led SVC’s Orientation Program, serving as faculty adviser for the Student Government Association, Multicultural Student Union and International Student Union and chairing the New Horizons Speakers Series, while earning a Master of Science in Management: Operational Excellence.

He was proud of the success he and his office had connecting with students and enhancing the prominence of the Office of Campus and Multicultural Life.

“You have to uplift students’ voices and find a way to make sure you put their voice into the conversation,” he said. “I thought we did a nice job of that. I think

students need a champion and need people who will be there for them. Early on, we sensed that we were giving value to students. My wife, Amy (Tenerowicz, C’04), and I found ourselves being invited to all kinds of significant events in students’ lives.

“I still think that it’s the highest privilege when someone sends their son, daughter or loved one to you as a college. No student deserves a status quo experience because you simply don’t know what their families have done to put them in a position to pursue a degree.”

In 2014, Mallory departed for the position of director of diversity and inclusion at Duquesne University. He led efforts to enhance the school’s connection and engagement with alumni, develop relationships with more than 60 Pittsburgh corporations, strengthen on-campus relationships with students, faculty and the Board of Trustees and raise more than a half million dollars for student scholarships.

“When I entered, it was a student service office,” he said. “We went from having an office that was completely reactive to one that was considered to have many best practices within Pittsburgh. We started a consortium of 16 different institutions, the Greater Pittsburgh Higher Education Diversity Consortium, which I was privileged to co-found and remain as President Emeritus.”

In 2018 he was promoted to assistant vice president for diversity, inclusion and student involvement. His work provided tangible results, among which was achieving a retention rate of nearly 90 percent and nearly doubling the school’s annual incoming classes of minority students from nine to 16 percent.

Driving 40 miles each way

from his Unity Township home to Duquesne’s campus, working 12-14 hours daily, raising three children and serving on the boards of nearly a dozen non-profit organizations left Mallory with little free time. Yet he still enrolled in Duquesne’s Doctor of Education program in 2016.

“I started to think of my family name, I thought about my brothers behind me and I thought of our students. We ask them all the time to push their thresholds and at times be uncomfortable. I said to myself, ‘Jeff, you’re somewhat of a hypocrite. You’re telling your students to shoot for the stars and to be uncomfortable, but you have not pursued a terminal degree.’”

Mallory credits a pair of his mentors from Saint Vincent for their inspiration and encouragement during his doctoral studies.

“Dr. Nancy Rottler was a big factor,” he said. “Dr. Gary Quinlivan told me more than once that he knew I’d get that terminal degree. I learned that if you want it badly enough, you have to create ways and mechanisms to get it done.”

He completed his doctorate in educational leadership in 2019.

“Several students came to my graduation,” he said, “and that was intentional. Their encouragement was really incredible. I realized that it was about the whole village that supported me.”

Upon his return to Saint Vincent, he said, “I didn’t have any butterflies,” he said. “If anything, I find myself asking Father Paul, ‘What else can I do to help?’ He’s a tremendous leader and tremendous mentor in many ways. Many college campuses now don’t know what to do or how to move forward. I think here, we clearly know what we want to do, we know the value we want to give students and we know the

impact that we want to have on the community.

“You obviously have to take care of what’s happening now, but you have to have the foresight to figure out what you’re going to do four or five years down the road. We know the day-to-day here and we’re also mindful of 2025, 2026 and beyond.”

His primary responsibilities include assisting Father Paul and offering direction to student life and activities, but Mallory remains committed to supporting the student body and plans to continue building relationships with students and reinforcing the connectedness of the College’s community.

“When you’re looking at society now,” he said, “you see that people want and need to be respected, loved and appreciated. If you have an issue or concern, we hope that you’re encouraged to come forward. Everyone belongs here. You should love being part of this community. You shouldn’t be lukewarm—you should love it. And if you don’t, we welcome the opportunity to discuss how we can make that happen for you.”

On that fateful first trip to campus 19 years ago, Mallory never thought Saint Vincent College would play such a large role in his life, but he’s beyond grateful that it has and will continue to do so.

“I never would have thought that,” he said, “but I know now how that impact has been realized. Some of my most trusted people are here. I met my wife here. My brother, Dillon, graduated from here. It’s very much a family affair.

“I have the highest respect for the Saint Vincent community. It’s a true privilege to go anywhere now as a representative of Saint Vincent.”

New Book Continues Saint Vincent History Through 2020

Dr. Jerome Oetgen, C'69, S'73, talks about his latest book, to be released this fall, in this interview. *Always Forward, A History of Saint Vincent Archabbey, 1949-2020*, completes the history of Saint Vincent from *Mission to America* through June of 2020, when Archabbot Douglas completed his service as the 11th Archabbot of Saint Vincent.



Dr. Jerome Oetgen, C'69, S'73

Q: As the author of *An American Abbot, Mission to America*, and *Always Forward*, among many other publications, I think it is safe to say you are the foremost expert on both Boniface Wimmer and Saint Vincent. How did it all begin?

My family was always close to the Benedictines. My father and mother were good friends with the monks at the Benedictine priory in Savannah, my home town. My father and uncles, as well as my brothers and I, all went to the Benedictine high school there. The first Mass I served as an altar boy was celebrated by Father Bede Lightner, O.S.B., the prior of the Benedictine monastery in Savannah. My uncle was a Benedictine priest at Belmont Abbey in North Carolina. And it was at Belmont that I spent my first two years of college and where I first started to read seriously in Benedictine history. So I had the good fortune of being close to Benedictines all my life.

Father Demetrius Dumm, who was rector of Saint Vincent Seminary when I was a student, used to say that while Jesuit education is a pressure cooker, Benedictine education is a crock-pot. My

experience is that 12 years of the Benedictine crock-pot tends to rub off on you. What they've given me has nourished me throughout my life.

When I came to Saint Vincent in 1966, I was aware this was the place where Benedictine life in the United States began. Father Omer Kline invited me to help him in the archives, and there I discovered the letters of Boniface Wimmer. I'm not sure how much help I actually gave Father Omer, but I certainly did a lot of reading in the archives. By the time I graduated from college, I was deep into American Benedictine history, the life of Wimmer, and the story of Saint Vincent. I started writing and publishing articles about Wimmer, both in the Saint Vincent College magazine and in *The American Benedictine Review*. There were a lot of relatively untapped primary historical sources gathering dust

in the archives, and I decided it would be a pretty interesting project to tap into them. That's how it all began.

Q: Did you as an undergraduate student envision Saint Vincent becoming so deeply ingrained in your life?

Not really. At the beginning I certainly didn't expect to become as attached to Saint Vincent as I did. I thought I'd spend maybe a year or two here and then return to Savannah. But things turned out differently. Shakespeare says in Hamlet, "There's a divinity that shapes our ends, roughhew them how we will." That seems to be what happened to me. Saint Vincent really did become "deeply ingrained" in my life. I look on my coming here as providential.

I joined the monastery and lived here for seven years. Eventually I realized my calling was to marriage and a family, but the influence of the Benedictine community on my life was transformational.

My teachers here had a profound influence on my life. Men like Father Champion Gavalier, Father Sebastian Samay, Father Maurus Wallace, Father Warren Murrman, Father Vernon Holtz, Brother Benedict Janecko, to name just a few. And I made

good friends among the younger monks, who also had an important impact on my life. People like Brother Norman Hipps, Brother Nick Koss, Brother Elliott Maloney, Father Myron Kirsch, Father Vincent Crosby, Archabbot Douglas. The list goes on.

Q: Can you outline some of your education and work experiences after leaving Saint Vincent?

When I left Saint Vincent, I went to the University of Toronto for graduate studies. I wrote my Ph.D. dissertation on an Anglo-Saxon Benedictine abbot. I spent three years there, and then for ten years taught in the English department at Seton Hill College (now University). That was a time when Seton Hill and Saint Vincent had a significant program of academic cooperation. Part of the cooperation involved the Opportunity Program. I was in charge of Seton Hill's Opportunity Program, and Brother Norman was in charge of the Opportunity Program at Saint Vincent. In the summers, he and I ran a joint program that brought the students and faculty from the two schools together in what was a pretty effective program to help students succeed in college.

In 1983, I took a Sabbatical from Seton Hill and went to teach first in the Peoples' Republic of China and then in the Soviet Union. When I came back to Seton Hill, I spent a couple of more years teaching. But then,

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Available Fall 2020.

still under the spell of living and working in China and Lithuania, I applied to the U.S. Foreign Service and spent the next twenty-five years as a U.S. diplomat in American embassies in Latin America and Europe. Countries where I served included Paraguay, Ecuador, Spain, Italy, Nicaragua, and Haiti. I retired from the Department of State in 2011 and since then have been living in Arlington, Virginia, with my wife, Cecilia. We have two adult daughters, Mercedes and Teresa; an adopted 15-year-old daughter from Haiti, also named Theresa; and two grandchildren, Isabel and Joseph. A third grandchild is due in December.

Q: The volume of material you covered in this final book—the abbacies of six men—is incredible. Can you speak to information management with this project?

There was a lot of material to cover. Thousands of pages of documents in the archives; the letters and papers of six archabbots; almost eighty years of publications produced by the college, seminary, and archabbey; dozens of people to interview. I had just retired from the State Department, so I had time on my hands to do the necessary research. It took me almost eight years just to do the research.

And I had lots of help with information management. Many members of the Saint Vincent community contributed by helping me identify and understand the meaning of key details and events in the modern history of Saint Vincent. Others helped by

reviewing drafts of what I wrote and by giving critical advice and inspired suggestions. Father Andrew Campbell provided essential help in finding important material in the archives. And Kim Metzgar, director of Archabbey Publications, was an astute and judicious editor throughout the entire process. If it weren't for the help that a lot of people at Saint Vincent gave me, the book could never have been written.

Q: What are some of the most interesting facets of Saint Vincent that you have covered in this new book?

Perhaps one of the most interesting facets is how frequently and consistently the Saint Vincent community has managed to overcome challenges that sometimes threatened its very existence. The fire of 1963 is a good example. The fire almost destroyed the place, but the community overcame the crisis with faith, prayer, and hard work.

There are various other crises covered in the book that required strong leadership, communal effort, and, it would seem, divine intervention to overcome. For instance, the challenges that came in the 1960s and 1970s, with the major changes that took place during that period in both the Church and the society at large, resulted in a lot of conflict within

the Benedictine community itself. At Saint Vincent the conflicts led to a renewed commitment on the part of the monks to the essential meaning of community. And that meant a renewed recognition and understanding of the fact that a diverse mix of people can indeed live together in faith and harmony with one another, that they can share both space and ideas, respecting each other's

differences, making peace with one another after arguments and disagreements, celebrating together the

good times, urging each other on through the difficult times, trying to keep up with those who forge ahead while giving a hand to those who lag behind. It led to an understanding that a community of faith is always greater than the sum of its parts. It led to the flourishing community Saint Vincent is today.

Q: Favorite Saint Vincent story? Archabbot Boniface Wimmer had grown old in the service of the Lord and the Order of Saint Benedict. Based at Saint Vincent, Wimmer had devoted his life to successfully establishing the ancient Benedictine tradition in North America. But Archabbot Boniface was essentially a simple person, a humble monk without

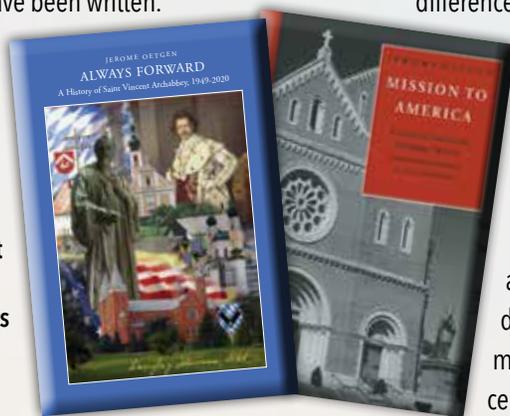
pretensions or worldly ambitions. Despite a somewhat rough façade, he was fundamentally a kindly person, and sometime during his final decade of life, he adopted a dog as a pet.

Archabbot Boniface clearly loved the dog, who appears to have been faithful, friendly and quite intelligent. But other than that, we don't know much about Wimmer's pet. We don't even know what kind of dog it was, whether it was a purebred or a mongrel or a mutt.

Archabbot Boniface's dog pretty much had the run of Saint Vincent. Beloved of the archabbot, the dog was treated with respect (if not veneration) by just about everyone on campus—students, seminarians, farm workers, lay brothers, priests. To a certain extent, the charisma of the archabbot even seemed to rub off on the dog, who some said carried itself with the dignity of a canine prelate.

At the time, no one realized that the dog itself was something of a sign of its master's prophetic gifts. If some 19th-century member of the Saint Vincent community had been granted the gift of living into the last decade of the 20th century, when the 10th successor of Boniface Wimmer, the 11th archabbot of Saint Vincent, was elected, that ancient 19th-century monk would have been astonished at Archabbot Boniface's gift of prophecy. Because the name Boniface Wimmer gave his beloved pet was... Douglas. This is a true story!

—Kim Metzgar



Gretsch Family Establishes Fellowship In Children's Music

Gretsch is recognized worldwide as a maker of finely crafted guitars and drums, but the name will also grace the newly-established Gretsch Fellowship in Children's Music at the Fred Rogers Center for Early Learning and Children's Media.

A generous grant from Fred and Dinah Gretsch and their family has endowed The Gretsch Fellow in Children's Music to conduct research and develop best practices in music experiences for children within the ethos and vision of the Fred Rogers Center and its mission "to help children grow as confident, competent and caring human beings."

"We extend our appreciation to Fred and Dinah Gretsch for their sponsorship of this new fellowship program," said College President Father Paul R. Taylor, O.S.B. "This partnership provides a fantastic opportunity for professionals to engage in rigorous academic research, while building upon



Dinah and Fred Gretsch. Photo: Stephen Morton. From gretsch.com.

a set of shared beliefs in the importance of music in the development of young children. The Fred Rogers Center, with its consistent history of excellence in the field of child development, is once again on the cutting edge of research for the benefit of children. We are excited to begin this fellowship in the fall and look forward to a continued friendship with the Gretsch family."

"We are grateful for this opportunity to bring a

musician/scholar as a Fred Rogers Fellow to the Center to explore the materials in our Archive and to study the many ways that Fred Rogers used music to connect with children about really important things in life," said Dr. Roberta Schomburg, executive director of the Fred Rogers Center. "Fred's concern for children's feelings was evident in the songs he created for 'Mister Rogers' Neighborhood.' His love of music and his understanding of children went hand in hand as he created songs that have touched the lives of children and families for fifty years."

"Dinah and I have a guiding belief enriching lives through participation in music and we can think of no one who exemplified and lived that principle more than Fred Rogers," said Fred Gretsch, chief executive officer of Fred Gretsch Enterprises. "Our family is honored to further the work of the Fred Rogers Center through the Gretsch Fellowship."

During the two-semester

appointment, a Gretsch Fellow will be expected to conduct research in the Fred Rogers Archive and prepare a scholarly whitepaper, journal article or other scholarly product related to children and music. Topics of study will vary depending on a Fellow's area of expertise and may include, for example, research on Fred's methodology for integrating music in "Mister Rogers' Neighborhood," observations of children learning and performing music and studies of effective methods for musical instruction. The Fred Rogers Center also has the capacity to support a "virtual" Fellow to facilitate participation by academic faculty; preschool, kindergarten and elementary teachers; music educators; and others who may not be able to maintain a physical presence on the campus during both semesters of the appointment.

A passionate musician, Fred Rogers believed that music was critical for the social and emotional development of young people.

ARCHIVE ONLINE

The Fred Rogers Center for Early Learning and Children's Media has unveiled a new online exhibit entitled "Fred Unboxed," a collection of materials from the Center's vast archival collection that explores the many ways Rogers cared for children and families. Made possible in part by a grant from Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield, the online exhibit, located at <https://unboxed.fredrogerscenter.org>, draws from more than 22,000 items housed in the Fred Rogers Archive, including video clips, interviews, promotional materials and scripts from the eponymous "Mister Rogers' Neighborhood," interviews of Rogers' friends and colleagues, behind-the-scenes photography, handwritten drafts of some of Rogers' most famous songs and other assorted documents.



Ben Schachter’s Billboard Design Receives Award

“Apples are good. Fighting Anti-Semitism is better. Did you fight yours today?” reads a proposed billboard designed by Ben Schachter, professor of visual art. The design was named a runner-up for the Emma Lazarus Art Award for art combating anti-Semitism. The billboard’s message, a play on the proverb “An apple a day keeps the doctor away,” reminds people to look for anti-Semitism in every-day life, Schachter said.

The award was presented to Schachter and others in Philadelphia by the Combat Anti-Semitism Movement. Founded last year, the organization spreads awareness about anti-Semitism, and the inaugural Emma Lazarus Art Award recognizes art that embodies the fight.

Schachter said combating anti-Semitism is about fighting for the rights to congregate freely and speak freely.

“Anti-Semitism attacks [American values] as well as Judaism,” said Schachter.

He has a bachelor’s degree from Wesleyan University and an M.S. and M.F.A. from Pratt Institute and has been a member of the faculty since 2003. He teaches a wide array of courses in the College’s Art Department, spanning drawing, painting, digital art, two- and three-dimensional design, architecture and art history.

Digital Archive Documents Pandemic Experiences

With a shared mission of preserving local history and engaging the community and local partners, the Saint Vincent College Department of History and the Westmoreland Historical Society created a digital archive documenting the COVID-19 experiences of people in the region at <https://pandemic2020svc.omeka.net/>.

Saint Vincent history and public history students will gain extensive hands-on experience in managing the project. Faculty participants include Dr. Karen Kehoe, associate professor of history and Lauren Churilla, lecturer of history.

Churilla has been working with students in her Digital Humanities course to test the site and she said that the hopes are to integrate it into additional classes moving forward.

Galleries Move To Online Exhibits

With the precautions established for campus visitation during the COVID-19 pandemic, patrons of the arts and managers of art galleries have been tasked with finding new ways to quench their thirst.

Lauren Churilla, director of the Foster and Muriel McCarl Coverlet Gallery, opened her exhibit, “Technological Textiles: Computing History and Decorative Textiles” online this summer. Additionally, she is reconstructing a number of previous exhibits as virtual exhibits online so that the work of the gallery can continue.

Andrew Julo, director of the Verostko Center for the Arts, has had to make adjustments to his exhibit plans as well. In addition to overseeing the move of the permanent art collections to the VCA’s new gallery space, he had been preparing for the biannual National Catholic Arts Exhibition, which was scheduled to open this fall.

Due to the fluctuating situation with the virus, Julo is exploring virtual exhibits as well. The new dedication date of the gallery space as part of the Dale P. Latimer Library is still uncertain.



Churilla’s digital exhibit can be found at <https://mccarcoverletgallery.omeka.net/exhibits/show/technological-textiles>. Look for updates on the VCA at <https://www.stvincent.edu/community-events/the-arts/saint-vincent-gallery>.

Aaron Sams Receives Quentin Schaut Award

Aaron Sams, an instructor in the Education Department, has been named the recipient of the Quentin Schaut Faculty Award.

Named in honor of Rev. Quentin Schaut, O.S.B., an English professor and the seventh president of Saint Vincent College, the award recognizes the contributions, leadership and achievement of a junior faculty member to the curriculum and life of the College. The award was announced by Dr. John Smetanka, vice president for academic affairs and academic dean.

Sams has been a member of the Saint Vincent College faculty since 2014 and teaches a variety of courses



Aaron Sams

in the Education Department at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. His undergrad courses include Physical and Cultural Geography, Science and the Environment for Early

and Special Learners and Teaching of Science for Grades 7-12. He also helps oversee Saint Vincent's pre-student teaching and student teaching programs. At the graduate level, Sams presides over courses that include Current Issues and Trends in Education, Assessment Systems for Online Education, Integrated STEM Education and Technological Application for Differentiated Instruction.

"Though none of us become educators with the goal of receiving awards and honors for our work, it is nonetheless very encouraging to be recognized," Sams said.

Sams holds a bachelor's degree in biochemistry and a master's in classroom instruction, both from Biola University, while

he is currently completing his doctoral work in curriculum and instruction, with a concentration in STEM education, at Texas Tech University.

Sams taught chemistry in the Woodland Park School District in Colorado and has previously served as co-chair of the Colorado State Science Standards Revision Committee. In 2009, he was honored for his work when he was named a recipient of the Presidential Award for Excellence in Math and Science Teaching, the highest honor given by the U.S. government to recognize excellence in STEM teaching.

The co-author of seven books on the flipped classroom concept and an adviser to Ted-Ed, Sams has delivered keynote addresses at numerous educational conferences, both nationally and internationally.

"Thousands around the world have benefited from his training and insights on how to teach face-to-face, online and by using hybrid models," said Dr. John Smetanka, Saint Vincent College vice president for academic affairs and academic dean.

"Saint Vincent is particularly blessed to have Professor Sams on faculty. This semester, more than any other, Saint Vincent faculty have benefited from his generous spirit and dedication to our educational mission. As we moved online, he offered his expertise in workshops, one-on-one consultation and in countless responses to email conversations. This pandemic has had lasting negative impacts, but it has also provided examples of dedication to community and our collective endeavor."

He and his wife, Kelsey, are the parents of three children.

David Safin Earns Award Of Merit

David Safin, C'00, associate professor of communication, has been named the recipient of an Award of Merit from The Best Shorts Film Competition for his film "Backward Sometimes." Safin earned the Award of Merit in the Web Tube Length category for the film, which explores his nearly lifelong association with the College.

"While the video chronicles so much of my personal history at the College," stated Safin, "it really is a tribute to my parents, who put both of their sons through Saint Vincent, as my brother, George, graduated in 1998. My parents recognized that an education at Saint Vincent lasts longer than four years, and this video is a testament to their wisdom."



David Safin

The Best Shorts Competition recognizes film, television, videography and new media professionals who demonstrate exceptional achievement in craft and creativity, and those who produce standout entertainment or contribute to profound social change. Entries are judged by highly qualified professionals in the film and television industry.

Rick Prickett, chair of The

Best Shorts Competition, said, "Best Shorts is not an easy award to win. Entries are received from around the world from powerhouse companies to remarkable new talent. The Best Shorts Competition helps set the standard for craft and creativity."

Safin earned a master of science in multimedia technology at California University of Pennsylvania and a master of fine arts in film and digital technology from Chatham University. He has been employed at Saint Vincent since 2003 having held a number of administrative positions, rising to director of multimedia services, before joining the faculty full-time in 2013.

Safin is now a four-time Best Shorts Competition awardee. He and his wife, Kate, have two children.

Dr. Michael Krom Releases Book On Saint Thomas Aquinas

Dr. Michael Krom, professor of philosophy and director of the Benedictine Leadership Studies program, has released the book *Justice and Charity*, an examination of Saint Thomas Aquinas. Published by Baker Academic and released July 22, *Justice and Charity* explores Aquinas's moral, economic and political theory, and illustrates how his system of thought remains relevant in addressing contemporary societal and political issues more than 700 years after his death.

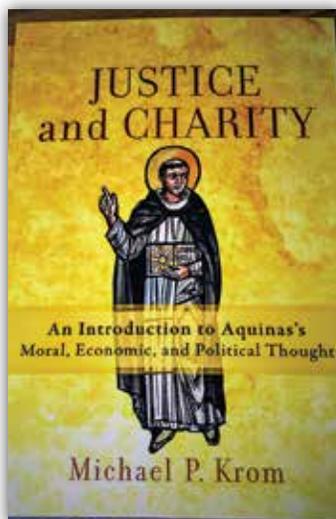
"This book is the fruit of 10 years of teaching college students, seminarians and monks at Saint Vincent," said Krom. "Whether I was teaching Ethics, Political Philosophy or Faith and Reason, I found the ideas that crystallized in this book to be those that most



Michael Krom

helped my students' development. I dedicated it to my students and it was written to anyone who wants to sit with me at the foot of one of history's greatest thinkers and saints."

Krom argues that in order to understand the Church's teaching on moral, economic and political



issues, one needs a strong foundation in Aquinas's thinking.

"As Saint John Paul II said," Krom stated, "the Church sees Aquinas as 'a master of thought and a model of the right way to do theology.' Whether one is a Catholic trying to think with the mind of the Church or a

non-Catholic who wants to understand Catholic social thought, Aquinas provides the basic vocabulary and insights that have allowed the church to so effectively speak to contemporary life."

Krom plans to incorporate this book into his coursework for the upcoming academic year.

"I will use the book in both Thomistic Philosophy and the ethics course I teach for the Benedictine Leadership Studies students," he stated. "This book is intended for undergraduates, seminarians and anyone who wants to understand Catholic social teaching more fully."

Justice and Charity is available in both paperback and hardcover. It is available through major booksellers nationwide.

Michelle Gil-Montero Publishes Full-Length Poetry Book

Object Permanence, the first full-length collection of poems by associate professor of English Michelle Gil-Montero, has been published and released by Ornithopter Press. The book is a collection of poems written by Gil-Montero over a span of more than 10 years.

"I had been writing poems in a similar vein for years," explained Gil-Montero, "and a number of them had been collected in a chapbook in 2013. At one point, new work came together with some of that old work in a way that suggested a full-length book."

'Object permanence' refers to the early developmental stage in which the child learns that the world exists independently of one's own ability to perceive it. Gil-Montero unveils the elusive



Michele Gil-Montero

debris of daily life in order to invoke, paradoxically, its impermanence. These poems summon the liminal world of early motherhood, of early morning, of seasons in transition. "There are themes that recur throughout the book," Gil-Montero said, "like motherhood, loss



and the interior life. But mostly, they are just strange, language-driven poems that have a certain kinship in their music and poetics."

Object Permanence is available for purchase online through Ornithopter Press, Amazon and most major booksellers.

While this is her first full-length book of poetry, Gil-Montero previously released a chapbook, *Attached Houses*, published by Brooklyn Arts Press, in 2013. Additionally, she has translated a number of works of Latin American writings.

Gil-Montero, who holds a B.A. from Brown University and an M.F.A. in Poetry from The University of Iowa Writer's Workshop, teaches a wide variety of courses in creative writing. She also serves as the faculty adviser to the student literary magazine "Generation," director of the College's Visiting Writers Series, and co-editor of Eulalia Books, an independent publisher of international poetry in translation housed at Saint Vincent College.

Saint Vincent First To Receive It's On Us Initiative Grant

As part of the It's On Us PA Initiative aimed at combating sexual assault on college campuses, Saint Vincent College was named Pennsylvania's first recipient of a special \$15,000 research grant to monitor and assess the effectiveness of the statewide program. The assessment program was proposed and developed by Dr. Sarah Daly, assistant professor of criminology, law and society, and Ryan Lemmon, a student in the criminology graduate program. The duo, along with a group of SVC criminology students, used stratified sampling to randomly select 28 colleges from the 113 Pennsylvania institutions that have received It's On Us funding since the program's inception in 2016. They will then survey administrators, students and Title IX coordinators at the institutions to learn how It's On Us grant funding has been utilized and the effect that its programs and policies have had on campus.

After formally accepting the grant in mid-January at a press conference at the state capitol in Harrisburg, Daly and Lemmon were eager to begin their research. Unfortunately, the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on higher education forced them to alter their plans.

"In mid-2020," Daly said, "many colleges were uncertain about what the fall semester would entail. Now that we're in the new academic year, many colleges and universities across the state have adjusted their Title IX information-sharing procedures and programming to reach students enrolled in online, on-campus or hybrid courses. With such a broad range of approaches, we fear

that the effectiveness of our efforts would not be accurately measured in the way we had hoped. In terms of research methodology, we want to ensure that the instruments we created are valid measures of the variables that predict the effectiveness of Title IX programming under normal circumstances."

The researchers' plans were complicated even further in May, when the U.S. Depart-

ment of Education announced a complete overhaul of its Title IX regulations, which officially went into effect on Aug. 14. "Given the rush for colleges and Title IX coordinators to read and review the more than 2,000 pages of text and implement the complex regulatory changes at the very same time schools were planning for and reopening their institutions, Ryan and I didn't want the evaluation to create additional undue burdens on those selected for the sample," Daly said. "The purpose of the study and its design is to help colleges throughout the Commonwealth, not inconvenience them."



Dr. Sarah Daly, assistant professor of criminology, law and society, speaks at a press conference at the Pennsylvania Capitol in Harrisburg.

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Because of the unforeseen

hurdles, the project has been extended and is now slated to be completed by December 31, 2021. Interviews and surveys will be conducted through the summer and fall of 2021, while the researchers will also analyze the new changes to federal Title IX regulations as well as recent lawsuits filed against the U.S. Department of Education seeking to block the implementation of these new regulations.

"We hope that we can spend the next calendar year refining our procedures and waiting to see the outcomes of the federal lawsuits," said Daly. "We can also include measures to better understand the ways in which the federal policies affected colleges' and individuals' perceptions about the changes, which can provide an even more nuanced understanding of the complexity of these issues."

Lemmon, who plans to work in law enforcement while also continuing to conduct research following the completion of his master's, jumped at the opportunity to assist Daly with this groundbreaking initiative.

"Dr. Daly offered to let a

graduate student write the grant proposal with her to gain experience in grant writing," Lemmon said. "I personally value research and evidence-based practices, as I think that it is the best way to improve most structures and organizations."

"I also recognize the immense value of It's On Us," he continued, "and strive to be a part of positive change. From the research we did for the literature review, sexual assault, harassment and stalking can have significant negative consequences on all types of students, inhibiting their ability to attend college without fear. The research also shows that many students will encounter these problems while in college and may need help dealing with it. It is important that campuses have a culture where students can feel safe and, when these events happen, feel comfortable reporting them, know how to report them and who to report them to."

Daly and Lemmon have continued to work diligently in identifying the colleges that they will survey, developing the interview and survey questions and laying out an updated and detailed timeline. They will submit a mid-project report to the Pennsylvania Department of Education in October.

"Strong research and evaluation doesn't have to occur in a bubble—rather, it can be adjusted, modified and enhanced."

"Ryan and I have no doubt that despite the complications, we can still provide a meaningful final product that will further guide the efforts to prevent, address and reduce sexual violence on college campuses across Pennsylvania."

—Jim Berger

MSMOE Program Receives Top 25 National Ranking

Saint Vincent's Master of Management: Operational Excellence (MSMOE) program has been ranked among Value Colleges' Top 25 Best Online Master's in Management Programs in the U.S., as well as one of the Top 25 Best Value Master's in Management Programs in the nation.

Value College's rankings are based on a program's cost, reputation (as determined by www.collegeconsensus.com) and average annual alumni salary (via data from the U.S. Department of Education's College Scorecard).

"Saint Vincent College's MSMOE program has students

focus on building on their existing work experience with coursework highlighting the challenges that managers face day to day," the website states. "They learn to reduce waste within organizations to improve quality and efficiency while encouraging commitment from employees. Degree graduates possess refined leveraging techniques and problem-solving skills and are ready to take over leadership positions within various disciplines and industries."

"We are thrilled by these new rankings. They, along with the half-dozen other rankings

we've received over the past three years, truly show that our program has a track record of developing effective leaders. I am proud of the MSMOE's exceptional students, outstanding faculty, rigorous curriculum and flexible course offerings. Rankings such as these are a testament to the quality of our students, the hard work of our faculty, and the innovativeness of our approach to learning," said Dr. Michael Urick, graduate director of the MSMOE.

Saint Vincent is one of just two Pennsylvania institutions listed in Value College's Top 25 Best Value Online Master's

in Management programs, while SVC is one of only three institutions from the state ranked in the Top 25 Best Value Master's in Management Programs.

In addition to earning high marks from Value Colleges, Saint Vincent College's MSMOE program was also recently ranked in the top third by *U.S. News and World Report* in its 2020 list of Best Online Master's Business Programs (non-MBA) in the nation.

The MSMOE program is a 36-credit, year-round program.

Dr. Bradley Watson Releases Book On Progressivism

Dr. Bradley C.S. Watson, professor of political science, has released the book *Progressivism: The Strange History of a Radical Idea*, published by The University of Notre Dame Press.

Watson, the Phillip M. McKenna Chair in American and Western Political Thought in Saint Vincent College's Alex G. McKenna School of Business, Economics and Government, has devoted a significant part of his career to studying the nature and history of American progressivism since its formation in the early 20th century.

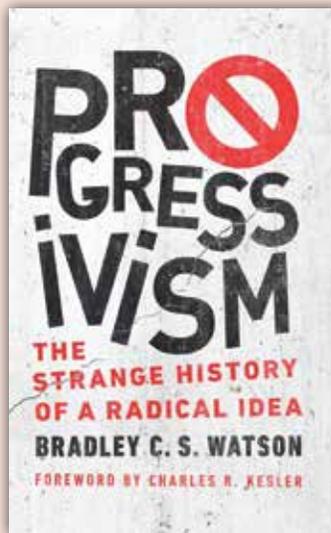
"It was evident to me that no one had written a comprehensive history of how American history was told through the 20th century by progressive historians," explained Watson. "The fact is, most American historians,



Dr. Bradley C.S. Watson

the bigwigs as well as the lesser lights, were, and are, fellow travelers of the progressive movement. They were hardly dispassionate scholars. They were, in one way or another, promoting the very thing they purported to chronicle."

This marks Watson's second major book project on progressivism, following *Living Constitution, Dying*



Faith: Progressivism and the New Science of Jurisprudence (ISI Books, 2009). He also recently edited a collection featuring the leading scholarly critics of progressivism, entitled *Progressive Challenges to the American Constitution: A New Republic* (Cambridge, 2017). While he has extensively researched and written on the

subject for the duration of his career, Watson said that he still learned a great deal through his latest project.

"I learned a lot about something I had a general sense of but hadn't studied seriously—the progressive reconfiguration of Christianity," he said. "Whether Protestant or Catholic, leading progressive thinkers and theologians sought to bring Christianity down from the clouds and use it to justify comprehensive statism. Nowadays, we tend to associate fervent Christianity with the political right, but it was not always so."

Watson was happy to align with The University of Notre Dame Press, which has remained quite enthusiastic about his latest work.

The book is available from most major booksellers.

Jessica Gibbs Receives President's Award

Senior criminology, law and society major Jessica L. Gibbs was named winner of the 46th annual Saint Vincent College President's Award this spring. It is presented annually to the member of the graduating senior class who best embodies what the Catholic, Benedictine liberal arts and sciences college values in its students—outstanding academic achievement, student leadership and community service.

A native of Lemont Furnace and graduate of Laurel Highlands High School, Gibbs is the daughter of Robert and Raelynn Gibbs. She was named to the



Jessica Gibbs

Dean's List in every semester and also received the Award for Academic Excellence in the major of criminology, law

and society as the major's top graduating senior. She is a member of the Alpha Lambda Delta honor society. In 2019 she was chosen to receive the Class of 1968 Father Ronald R. Gorka Scholarship Award.

Gibbs has worked as a research assistant for the criminology department and Bruce Antkowiak, professor and head legal counsel for Saint Vincent College and Archabbey, while she has completed internships with the Westmoreland County Public Defender's Office and with Adelphoi Village, where she worked with adjudicated, incarcerated juveniles while observing the inner-workings

of group homes and maximum-security units. Following graduation, Gibbs is enrolled in the criminology master's degree program at Saint Vincent College while employed as a paralegal for the U.S. Attorney. She plans to attend law school.

Gibbs was one of five finalists for the award, joining Grace A. Harris, an early childhood education and mathematics double major from Canonsburg; Sarah M. O'Callaghan, an early childhood education major from Columbia, Maryland; Isaac K. Therrien, an economics/mathematics major from Freedom; and Paul F. Weisser, a philosophy and politics major from Red Lion.

Criminology Program Among Nation's Best

The Saint Vincent College criminology, law and society program has been ranked among the nation's best criminology bachelor's program in the U.S. by www.gradreports.com.

As part of the website's 2020 rankings of the Best Colleges for Earning Potential, the criminology, law and society program placed 24th nationally. Saint Vincent was one of just two Pennsylvania schools included in the top 25, and one of just four Catholic institutions listed. The rankings took into account tuition and graduates' median salaries and debt.

Established in 2011, the criminology, law and society program at Saint Vincent College aspires to be much more than a traditional

criminal justice major, giving students a solid foundation in the theoretical core of criminology, a thorough understanding of the legal system that enacts criminal laws and processes cases through the investigative, prosecutive and corrections phases and a broad, societal context for the criminal system that only a rigorous liberal arts regimen can supply.

Graduates of Saint Vincent College's criminology, law and society program regularly go on to careers in law enforcement, corrections, probation and juvenile counseling, as well as successfully completing law school and graduate school at some of the top programs nationally.

Dual Master Of Science Degree Programs Offered

Saint Vincent College is now offering a dual Master of Science program in criminology and school counseling, designed to provide students with a unique blend of preparation for employment in both school-based counseling and juvenile criminal justice.

Successful candidates will earn Master of Science degrees in both criminology and school counseling as well as certification in K-12 school counseling by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

According to the occupational outlook, professions combining youth corrections, counseling, abuse treatment, education and others are expected to grow 22 percent. The dual Master of Science degree program will prepare candidates for positions in such fields as school counseling, school-based crisis or intervention specialist, youth corrections, juvenile counseling, probation or parole services, child and youth agency administration, career and lifestyle counseling, substance abuse treatment and re-entry education and mentoring.

Students can earn two master's degrees in two calendar years by attending classes in the evening two nights a week during the fall and spring terms. Courses will also be scheduled at various times during the summer, while certain online courses will be offered, as well.

In seven semesters, candidates will have two degrees.

Dr. Paul Follansbee Receives Boniface Wimmer Faculty Award

Dr. Paul Follansbee was named the 2020 recipient of the College's Boniface Wimmer Faculty Award. The award recognizes a senior faculty member who has demonstrated sustained excellence. Follansbee joined the faculty in 2008 as the James F. Will Professor of Engineering Science, the College's first endowed STEM professorship, and recently retired. Prior to coming to Saint Vincent, he was an internationally-renowned expert in materials science and engineering, holding the position of division head at the U.S. Department of Energy's Los Alamos National Laboratory.

"Though I was without a background in academia," said Follansbee, "I was warmly welcomed onto this campus by staff, faculty and students alike.



Dr. Paul Follansbee

I am humbled by the award bestowed upon me in the name of Boniface Wimmer for our efforts to build the engineering community. I joined Saint Vincent as the James Will professor of engineering science, and it quickly became my mission and passion to build the engineering community here."

Follansbee was instrumental in the continued growth of the Engineering Department, including the development of several new courses, the strengthening of the College's 3/2 engineering program and the formation of its four-year engineering bachelor's degree program. Under his guidance, the department has grown to include more than 70 students.

"Dr. Follansbee has developed new courses, including Introduction to Engineering, and has supervised independent studies to enhance the experience of engineers at Saint Vincent," said Dr. John Smetanka, vice president for academic affairs and academic dean.

Follansbee's students have continued to excel after graduation, both professionally and ac-

ademically. Recent graduates have gone on to professional careers at Lockheed Martin, Kennametal, Westinghouse and Philips Respironics, while others have continued their studies by pursuing doctorates or master's degrees at Penn State University, Carnegie Mellon University, Massachusetts Institute of Technology and the University of Pittsburgh.

"I've had a rich and rewarding career as an engineer," Follansbee said, "and I am gratified that so many Saint Vincent graduates are embarking upon careers with these same opportunities. I hope they, in turn, recognize the role that Saint Vincent has had in shaping their futures."

Doctor Of Nurse Anesthesia Practice Program Revamped

With the beginning of the 2020 spring semester, the Herbert W. Boyer School of Natural Sciences, Mathematics and Computing welcomed the first 30-person cohort in its newly revamped Doctor of Nurse Anesthesia Practice (DNAP) program, in partnership with the Excelsa Health School of Anesthesia. The intensive, three-year program is now a full bachelor's degree to doctorate program designed to prepare registered nurses to become nurse anesthetists and sit for certification from the National Board of Certification and Recertification for Nurse Anesthetists.

Dr. Michael DeBroeck, program coordinator, said that the move to a bachelor's to doctorate program was made in accordance with updated regulations from The Council on Ac-

creditation of Nurse Anesthesia Education Programs (COA).

"This was done to better prepare graduates to be more well-rounded as they entered into practice," he said. "For our particular program, we were fortunate to be able to blend our already well-established and successful Master of Health Science entry program and our DNAP completion program and step into this new phase with as few learning pains as possible."

The DNAP program is a full-time program, as successful candidates complete the 91-credit curriculum over nine consecutive semesters, beginning with traditional classroom instruction before culminating with extensive clinical training. Courses are taught by faculty from both the Excelsa Health School of Anesthesia and the Boyer School, while Excelsa

Health offers student rotations through clinical affiliations with more than 20 hospitals throughout Pennsylvania, Ohio, Maryland and West Virginia.

"Students will carry very heavy course loads in their first year of the program," said DeBroeck, "and will then have very large clinical time commitments for the final two years."

Admission to the program is highly selective. Applicants must have maintained a cumulative 3.0 undergraduate GPA, hold a degree in nursing (R.N. or B.S.) or a related field, have at least one year of critical care nursing experience and provide three professional references, including one from their current critical care supervisor.

"The thing that separates our program from many is that we strive hard to create a caring and mutually supportive environ-

ment where our students feel like part of the family," he said. "We treat them like the caring, adult professionals that they are and give them all the support that they need."

The 14-year partnership has been a success, with DeBroeck stating that all graduates have had signed job contracts in-hand prior to their completion of their program. For this, he credits the highly-qualified faculty along with the strong relationship between Excelsa Health and Saint Vincent.

"Since first arriving at the College in 2006," he said, "the close and collegial relationship that was there at the start has only continued to grow and mature over time. We have excellent lines of communication and work hand-in-hand to provide the best and highest caliber education to our students.

Cyber Defense Program 'Center Of Excellence'

The National Security Agency (NSA) and Department of Homeland Security (DHS) have named Saint Vincent College a Center of Academic Excellence (CAE) in Cyber Defense Education for its bachelor of science program in cybersecurity.

The jointly sponsored award program aims to reduce vulnerability in the national information infrastructure by promoting higher education and research in cyber defense and producing a growing number of professionals with cyber defense expertise in various disciplines. The program takes into account an institution's academic program of study, including curriculum, faculty profiles and qualifications and maturity of the program.

"This recognition places us within a select group of col-



Dr. Anthony Serapiglia, director of the Center for Cybersecurity Studies.

leges and universities across the country that offer cybersecurity programs that have this certification from the NSA," said Dr. Stephen Jodis, Boyer School dean. "It also demonstrates our commitment to continue building high-quality programs in the sciences and in our Department of Computing and Information Systems."

Saint Vincent College is one

of only 10 four-year institutions in the state of Pennsylvania to hold the honor of being a Center of Academic Excellence in Cyber Defense Education and will maintain the distinction through the 2024-25 academic year.

The designation was awarded following a thorough evaluation by the NSA, DHS and Central Security Services. Among the required benchmarks were the program's curriculum, as well as community outreach, collaboration with other programs, faculty research and student activities and competitions.

"After a self-evaluation of our program and institution," said Dr. Anthony Serapiglia, associate professor and director of the SVC Center for Cybersecurity Studies, "we realized that we had a very strong existing program that only needed a few additions to meet the award's requirements. Over the past three years, we've been able to strengthen the program and integrate those last couple of pieces to be able to enter the application process."

Serapiglia explained that the program's rigorous curriculum was thoroughly vetted, being evaluated on 22 total knowledge units containing specific topic

items and outcomes. Eight of the items are the core fundamental areas of cybersecurity, while the other 14 are optional areas that highlighted the cybersecurity program's strengths and differentiated it from others, including forensics, networking, ethics and cryptography.

"In the end," he said, "there were 272 topics and 74 outcomes that we had to prove are included within our program. We cover that through a subset of 11 courses that are required as part of the cybersecurity degree."

Along with gaining recognition on the national scale, Serapiglia noted that a number of benefits come with being named a Center for Academic Excellence, for both students and faculty.

"For our students," he explained, "it immediately provides access to a pipeline of government positions and other job opportunities. The notation they will have on their transcript and their résumés will help their applications stand out. For our faculty, there is a vibrant research community to collaborate with and learn from. The CAE program sponsors regional resource centers for workshops, training and consultation. As we continue to grow and expand, we are always looking to forge partnerships with industry and outside organizations. Having this designation is a major calling card that announces the quality and standing of our program."

The CIS program was featured in the 2017 *Saint Vincent Magazine*. Refer to: https://issuu.com/saintvincentcollege/docs/svc_winter_magazine_2017_sm.



PPE DONATION

At the start of the coronavirus pandemic, the Departments of Biology, Chemistry and Interdisciplinary Sciences in Saint Vincent College's Herbert W. Boyer School of Natural Sciences, Mathematics and Computing made a sizable donation of laboratory supplies to aid first responders and medical personnel. The collection of items included more than 500 boxes of gloves, 500 face masks, 200 shoe covers, 180 bouffant caps, 100 fluid-proof gowns and surgical caps, 30 sets of surgical gloves, 25 sets of disposable scrubs, 20 sets of safety goggles and 10 disposable lab coats. A team of Boyer School faculty and staff members gathered the donated items. The SVC team included Romi Green, chemical hygiene coordinator; Father Shawn Anderson, O.S.B., associate professor of biology; Brother Albert Gahr, O.S.B., associate professor of biology; Krista Jobe, human anatomy lab manager; and Kayla Uveges, laboratory coordinator.

It's GO-O-O-O-AT Time!



iStock photo © ArisSu.



Ian Tracey looks over the study site at Beaver Run Reservoir

Long known as Saint Vincent College's resident bird expert, associate professor of biology Dr. James Kellam has been involved in the study of a different animal throughout the summer. Kellam and senior Ian Tracey teamed up to study the effectiveness of goats in controlling the growth of the noxious weed lespedeza at the Municipal Authority of Westmoreland County's (MAWC) Beaver Run Reservoir near Saltsburg. The reservoir serves as the source of supply for its George R. Sweeney Water Treatment Plant, which provides drinking water for more than 150,000 residents.

For the study, goats are being deployed to eat lespedeza plants at Beaver Run. Their fecal samples will then be collected by Tracey and taken to the greenhouse outside of the Sis and Herman Dupré Science Pavilion, where they will be mixed with potting soil. Tracey will then monitor the potting soil to determine whether the seeds successfully germinate or if they were killed by the digestive tracts of the goats. In the fall, new seedlings will be planted as part of the MAWC's efforts to increase tree cover at the reservoir and their growth will be continually monitored.

Laura Blood, source water supervisor at the George Sweeney Treatment Plant, explained that noxious weeds such as lespedeza often out-compete tree seedlings, thus severely hampering the MAWC's reforestation goals.

"We want to make sure we identify and overcome any obstacles to tree growth in order to ensure our reforestation goals," she said. "This goat study will allow us to make data-based decisions to ensure a thoughtful, well-informed approach to overcoming obstacles on the path to meeting these goals."

"We looked at the lespedeza height before and after goat treatment," Tracey said, "and will compare that to the control, where no goats are. We want to see if the species diversity increases due to the lespedeza being removed, which frees up more resources and allows more species to flourish. And, finally, we're going to see if the goats' intestinal tract can destroy the seeds. That would be fantastic."

The idea for the study was borne during a bird-watching excursion Kellam made to Beaver Run in January, where he met Blood.

"After we talked about birds and my job at the College," recounted Kellam, "she wondered if any Saint Vincent students may be interested in studying lespedeza on MAWC lands adjacent to the reservoir. I said that I thought I could find someone to help her. Laura already had a rough idea of what should be done, but wanted our involvement to ensure the study was done with scientific rigor."

The practice of using goats to control vegetation is becoming more commonplace.

"We could use pesticides," he said, "which would be very effective and inexpensive, but are environmentally hazardous. We could use physical labor, which would be effective and environmentally safe, but expensive. Goats are cheap compared to hired workers, so they are a satisfactory union of these three concerns—cost, environmental friendliness and effectiveness."

Blood said that the study will be a major factor in determining whether the MAWC will permanently use goats to control growth as it looks to meet its reforestation goals to help protect, preserve and improve water quality and she lauded the work of Tracey and Kellam.

FOUR NEW MEMBERS JOIN COLLEGE BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Dr. Carlonda R. Reilly

joined Kennametal Inc. (NYSE: KMT) as vice president and chief technology officer in September 2018. As a C-suite executive, Reilly leads the Research, Development and Engineering organization worldwide at Kennametal, delivering science-based advanced materials, tooling and wear-resistant solutions to various industries. Additionally, Reilly serves on the board as a director for W. L. Gore and

Associates Inc.

Prior to joining Kennametal, she had a 22-year career with the DuPont Company, where she held successive global R&D, manufacturing, marketing and business leadership roles. She has cultivated a deep expertise throughout her career in developing and commercializing technology innovations which have proven to deliver significant value and growth.

Reilly holds a bachelor's degree in chemical engineering from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and a M.S. and Ph.D. in chemical engineering from the University of Delaware. She is also a Harry S. Truman Scholar. Reilly is sought out as a motivational speaker, panelist and mentor and is a passionate advocate for diversity

in STEM careers. She also serves on the Board for the University of Delaware Research Foundation and the Advisory Board for the Carnegie Science Center, while she also enjoys spending time as an executive mentor for mid-career corporate leaders in The Advanced Leadership Initiative at Carnegie Mellon University's Tepper School of Business.



While on the association's Board of Player Representatives, he actively participated in a number of landmark negotiations, including the 2011 Collective Bargaining Agreement, while he was also an active member of the NFL Players Coalition, acting as a community advocate to help form partnerships between law enforcement and community, increase criminal justice reform and increase educational and economic advancement.

He served as host of "The

Ramon Foster retired in March after an 11-year playing career with the Pittsburgh Steelers, establishing himself as one of the top guards in the NFL. He played in 160 games, with 145 starts, helping the Steelers to six playoff appearances. Along with his stellar play, Ramon was a respected team leader and served as the Steelers' player representative for the NFL Players Association.

SAINT VINCENT COLLEGE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Br. David E. Carlson, O.S.B.

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Robert J. Clemens, Ph.D.

Vice President and Chief Technical Officer, Kennametal Inc. (Retired)

Kimberly M. Colonna, Esq.

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Rev. Patrick T. Cronauer, O.S.B.

Academic Dean, Saint Vincent Seminary

Rev. Thomas P. Curry, O.S.B.

Pastor, Saint Vincent Basilica Parish

Mr. John J. Degnan

President and CEO American Insurance Association; CEO Chubb Corporation (Retired)

Mr. Richard A. DiClaudio

Principal and CEO Energy Innovation Center Institute

David A. Dzombak, Ph.D.

Hammerslag University Professor and Department Head, Civil and Environmental Engineering Carnegie Mellon University

Mr. Ramon Foster

Sports Journalist and Commentator NFL Player for the Pittsburgh Steelers (Retired)

Mr. Paul P. Giunto

Executive Vice President RPA Insurance Services, LLC (Retired)

Mr. Donald A. Haile

Technology Consultant Fidelity Ventures

Mr. John J. Hans

CEO, Imagine! (Retired)

Rev. Isaac P. Haywiser, O.S.B.

Adjunct Professor of Business, Saint Vincent College

Very Rev. Earl J. Henry, O.S.B.

Prior, Saint Vincent Archabbey

Ramon Foster Show" on Pittsburgh's 93.7 The Fan and remains an active media member, currently serving as an analyst and columnist for DKPittsburghSports.com and as morning co-host on Nashville's WGFX-FM.

He graduated from the University of Tennessee with a B.A. in sociology and has been engaged in community service activities, volunteering for the Mid-South Food Bank, the P.I.C.K. Foundation-Nashville, the Salvation Army of Memphis and Mid-South and event chair for Every Child Inc.'s annual fundraising event. He has served as guest speaker for the ManUp Summit and for the UPMC Sports Medicine Concussion Clinic's cerebral concussion seminar.

After earning a bachelor's degree from Saint Vincent in



business administration, **Paul Giunto, C'70**, embarked on a career in the commercial and casualty insurance industry, with a client list that ranged from middle-market businesses to Fortune 500 corporations. He worked in Pittsburgh, Denver and San Francisco in a variety of leadership roles, including CEO and owner of several entrepreneurial firms.

A native of Verona, Pennsylvania, he currently resides in Fort Myers, Florida, and has served on numerous charitable boards at both the local and national levels, including 12 years as a Saint Vin-

cent College trustee. He is excited to have another opportunity to serve the SVC community as it faces ever-changing challenges and opportunities.



Troy Ovitsky, C'99, is managing director and head of Wells Fargo's Contingent Credit and Structured Notes Trading Group and has 21 years of fixed income derivatives experience. Since joining Wells Fargo (First Union) in 1999, he has held various positions, primarily on the derivatives trading desk. In 2008, he transitioned to full-time management of the contingent credit risk associated with derivatives.

In 2014, he was given the opportunity to lead this trading team and all aspects that support the desk, including the quantitative model developers and a robust technology team. His team manages and owns the modeling of the credit valuation adjustment (CVA) risk for the firm and is working on the build-out of a full credit, capital and funding platform for all derivatives. In January of 2019, he was given the additional opportunity to lead and grow the fixed income and structured notes origination and trading business within the Corporate and Investment Bank.

He earned a bachelor of science degree in economics from Saint Vincent, with minors in finance and mathematics. He is married with two sons and resides in Charlotte, North Carolina.

SEPTEMBER 14, 2020

Timothy Q. Hudak, Esq.
CEO, Eckert Seamans

Mr. Michael L. Keslar
Chief Information Officer
Asset Services and Global Marketing
The Bank of New York Mellon

Rev. Matthew T. Laffey, O.S.B.
Director of Campus Ministry
Penn State University

Mr. William G. Laird
CFO, Loyola Univ. Chicago (Retired)

Mr. John M. Lally
Lally & Co., LLC
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Mr. Ralph H. Liberatore
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Spine Products, Inc.

James V. Maher Jr., Ph.D.
Provost Emeritus
University of Pittsburgh

Very Rev. Edward M. Mazich, O.S.B.
Rector, Saint Vincent Seminary

Rev. Warren D. Murrman, O.S.B.
Professor of Theology and Liturgy
Saint Vincent Seminary

Mr. Troy A. Ovitsky
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Rev. Nathanael R. Polinski, O.S.B.
Assistant Professor
Saint Vincent Seminary

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Executive Vice President
Energy Sales & Transportation Services
of CONSOL Energy (Retired)

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Vice President and Chief Technology
Officer, Kennametal Inc.

Mr. Paul A. Seaman
Co-owner, JASPAR LLC

David M. Siwicki, M.D.
Jamestown, RI

Kiron K. Skinner, Ph.D.
Associate Professor
Carnegie Mellon University

Mr. John N. Stevens Jr.
Director
SunTrust Robinson Humphrey (Retired)

Rev. Paul R. Taylor, O.S.B., Ph.D.
President, Saint Vincent College

Mr. William R. Thomas
Executive Director of Advisory
Services, Ernst and Young, LLP

Rev. Jean-Luc C. Zadroga, O.S.B.
Administrator Pro Tem
MACH I Parish Grouping,
Diocese of Pittsburgh

Rev. Frank E. Ziemkiewicz, O.S.B.
Headmaster
Benedictine Military School

Most Rev. David A. Zubik
Bishop. Diocese of Pittsburgh

COACHING CHANGES WITH LACROSSE, GOLF, TRACK TEAMS



Peter Tulk

A number of coaching changes have taken place with four Saint Vincent athletic teams. Longtime men's lacrosse coach Peter Tulk announced his retirement this spring. Lacrosse alumnus Zach Wilfong, C'11, has been named to head the program. Samantha Firestone, C'17, G'19, a standout golfer and bowler, has been tabbed to lead both the men's and women's golf teams for Dr. Thomas Cline, who has retired from coaching. Kevin Wanichko, C'12, cross country head coach, will lead the track teams as well.

LACROSSE

A four-year men's lacrosse standout for the Bearcats from 2008-11, Wilfong returns to his alma mater with considerable coaching experience, most recently serving as head coach at La Roche University.

"I am truly grateful and tremendously excited for the opportunity to return to my alma mater and lead the Saint Vincent College men's lacrosse program," said Wilfong. "Coach Peter Tulk has been my coach, my mentor and my friend since 2006. Over



Zach Wilfong, C'11

the course of two decades, he built the foundation for Saint Vincent lacrosse and formed countless relationships along the way."

Named head coach at La Roche in September, The Redhawks went 2-2 in a 2020 season that was abbreviated due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Prior to his time at La Roche, Wilfong served as head coach of the men's lacrosse club team at the University of Pittsburgh for the 2019 season. Six of his players earned All-Continental Lacrosse Conference (CLC) honors, while he led the team to the quarterfinals of the CLC playoffs.

For the 2017 and 2018 seasons, Wilfong served as offensive coordinator at Seton Hill University. In 2017, he helped lead the Griffins to a 12-6 record and their first-ever Great Midwest Athletic Conference (GMAC) Championship. A season later, the Griffins repeated as GMAC champs and advanced to the semifinals of the NCAA Division II National Championship Tournament for the first time in team history.

In 2016, Wilfong was an assistant coach at Ohio Northern

University. He began his coaching career with a three-year stint as assistant coach at Pittsburgh Central Catholic High School.

Wilfong remains one of the most decorated players in the 34-year history of men's lacrosse at Saint Vincent College. As a senior in 2011, he became just the second player in team history to eclipse 200 career points and still ranks fifth all-time with 201. His 81 career assists rank fourth in team history and his 120 career goals are good for seventh. A three-year team captain for the Bearcats, Wilfong was the first player from Saint Vincent College ever selected to compete in the prestigious United States Intercollegiate Lacrosse Association (USILA) Division III North-South All-Star Game in 2011.

A native of Columbus, Ohio, he graduated from SVC in 2011 with a bachelor's degree in history.

Tulk is the winningest coach in the history of the SVC men's lacrosse program, amassing an overall record of 140-122 during his 19-year tenure, which covered two stints (2000-09, 2011-20). The Bearcats finished .500 or better in 13 of Tulk's 19 seasons, including seven seasons with nine or more wins, while he coached each of the 21 100-point scorers in team history.

"My time at Saint Vincent has been great," Tulk said. "I love coaching and I am certainly going to miss it. I enjoyed every part of coaching the lacrosse program. I thoroughly enjoyed developing the relationships with student-athletes through the years."

Tulk was named the third head coach in SVC men's la-

crosse history prior to the 2000 season after successful head coaching stints at Mt. Lebanon and Franklin Regional High Schools in suburban Pittsburgh.

During his initial 10-year tenure at SVC, Tulk guided the Bearcats to a 69-61 mark. Tulk led the Bearcats to the championship game of the Ohio River Lacrosse Conference (ORLC) in 2015, 2017 and 2018, and was selected the 2017 ORLC Coach of the Year.

The 2018 squad was the most successful in team history, setting a team mark with 15 wins, including a 10-0 mark in regular season conference play. In 2019, the Bearcats finished 6-1 in Presidents' Athletic Conference play, advancing to the conference quarterfinals, before Tulk's final team went 3-1 during the shortened 2020 season.

Tulk will remain on the staff of the Small Business Development Center, which he has been a part of since 2000.

GOLF

Samantha Firestone will serve as the new head coach of both the men's and women's golf programs. Firestone takes over for Dr. Thomas Cline, who had served as the head coach since 2004.

"It is a true privilege to be named head coach at my alma mater and an opportunity that is rare," said Firestone, who competed for four years on the women's golf team, serving as team captain three times, and was named the college's Female Presidents' Athletic Conference (PAC) Scholar-Athlete of the Year in 2016-17. The Pen Argyl, Pennsylvania native was a four-time all-PAC selection, including three first-team nods in 2013-14, 2014-15 and 2016-17. Firestone posted



Samantha Firestone, C'17, G'19

back-to-back top five finishes in the PAC Championships in 2015-16 and 2016-17, and won individual tournaments at the Thiel College Spring Invitational (2015-16), the Saint Vincent Fall Invite, the Penn State Altoona Fall Invite and the Saint Vincent Spring Invite (2016-17).

She finished her athletic career as a captain of the inaugural women's bowling team in 2017-18. She earned her bachelor's degree in marketing in 2017 before



Dr. Thomas Cline

completing her master's degree in instructional design and technology in 2019.

Firestone has spent the past two years at Saint Vincent working as an assistant to the vice president of student affairs and the dean of students. She is also the coordinator for the Center for Catholic Thought and Culture and the coordinator for Benedictine Leadership Studies. Her goals are to build upon the foundation of success that was established under Cline. Cline served as head golf coach since



Kevin Wanichko, C'12

2004 and was also the chair of the golf coaches in the Presidents' Athletic Conference.

In 2013-14, the men's golf team won the Presidents' Athletic Conference and earned a berth to the NCAA Division III National Championships, its second in two years. Senior Captain Tim Barto was the first Bearcat to qualify for the finals at Nationals with a 72-71, 1-under par, in Greensboro, N.C. Following the season, Dr. Cline was named PAC Coach of the Year.

As coach of the women's team, Cline built a golf program that became a contender for the conference championship, eventually breaking through for its first title during the 2017-18 season. Cline won the 1979 PIAA State Golf Championship, the same championship that Arnold Palmer won twice. He had a golf scholarship at the University of Virginia, where he earned All-ACC Academic honors from 1981-1984.

The golf teams will return to Latrobe Country Club as their home course for the first time in a number of years when play resumes.

TRACK AND FIELD

Women's cross country and track and field coach, Kevin Wanichko, has been named the head coach of the men's track and field team. Wanichko has been the head coach of the women's cross country and track and field programs since July of 2016. This past season, he served as the assistant for the men's track and field team. He took over the full-time duties at his alma mater after guiding fellow Presidents' Athletic Conference member Chatham University during the 2014 and 2015 seasons.

As a student-athlete, Wanichko excelled as a four-year competitor in both cross country and track for the Bearcats. He won several championships, which included the 2011 PAC Individual Cross Country Championship.

He was a five-time ECAC medalist and an All-Region runner during the 2011 cross country season. In 2014-15, He was named to the PAC's 60th anniversary team.

TRACK TEAMS, STUDENT ATHLETES HONORED FOR ACADEMICS

The Saint Vincent College men's and women's track and field teams were honored as All-Academic Teams by the U.S. Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association (USTFCCCA) for the 2020 NCAA Division III Track & Field season.

Overall, there were 209 women's programs and 150 men's programs from Division III honored for their academic excellence. Head coach Andy Herr and the men's team finished with a GPA of 3.383 while Kevin Wanichko's women's squad maintained a GPA of 3.701.

The Presidents' Athletic Conference had a total of six programs with All-Academic accolades including Chatham University, Geneva College, Thiel College, Washington & Jefferson College and Waynesburg University.

A total of 105 Saint Vincent student-athletes were named to the Presidents' Athletic Conference Spring 2020 Academic Honor Roll.

The PAC Academic Honor Roll recognizes student-athletes on varsity sports teams who have earned a grade-point average (GPA) of 3.6 or higher on a 4.0 scale during their semester of competition. There were 813 honorees across the conference, the most ever for a single semester (previous high 588, SP18). The 1,368 honorees are the most ever for an academic year (555 in FA19, 813 SP20) for the PAC. The previous high was 1,151 in 2017-18.

To read more visit: <https://athletics.stvincent.edu/news/2020/6/24/general-104-saint-vincent-student-athletes-make-the-pac-spring-honor-roll.aspx>

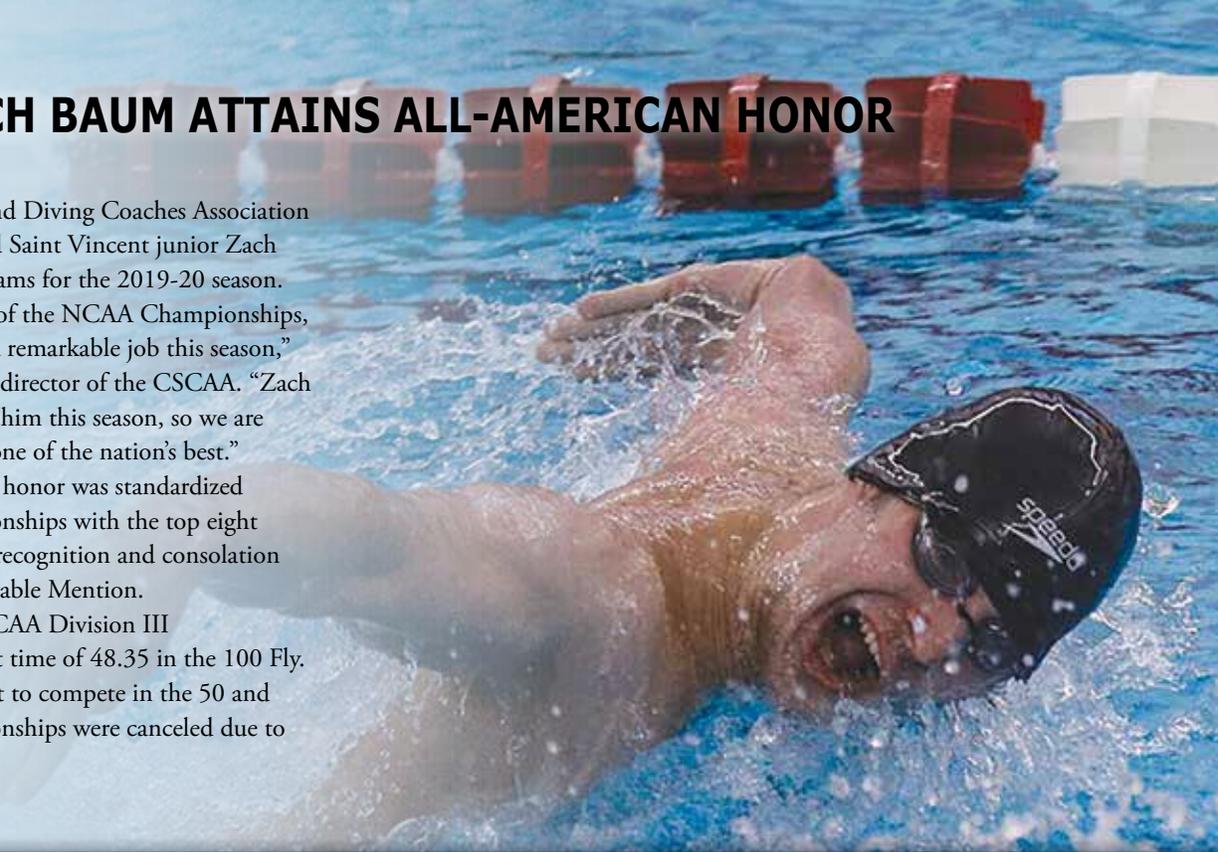
ZACH BAUM ATTAINS ALL-AMERICAN HONOR

The College Swimming and Diving Coaches Association of America (CSCAA) named Saint Vincent junior Zach Baum to its All-American teams for the 2019-20 season.

“Despite the cancellation of the NCAA Championships, coach Josh Gurekovich did a remarkable job this season,” said Greg Earhart, executive director of the CSCAA. “Zach had the rug pulled out from him this season, so we are excited to recognize him as one of the nation’s best.”

In 1985 the All-American honor was standardized around the NCAA Championships with the top eight finalists receiving first-team recognition and consolation finalists being named Honorable Mention.

Baum qualified for the NCAA Division III Championships with a B-cut time of 48.35 in the 100 Fly. The Derry native was also set to compete in the 50 and 100 Free before the championships were canceled due to COVID-19.



SPRING SPORTS WRAP-UP

As the winter issue of *Saint Vincent Magazine* was going to press both the men’s and women’s basketball teams were preparing for the President’s Athletic Conference playoffs. Swimming was in the midst of its season and the women’s bowling team was on its way to more wins. Track had just returned to action. The baseball and softball teams were finishing spring break preparations for the season in Florida. Tennis players were preparing for spring play and lacrosse was just getting underway.

While the disappointing endings to these seasons were shared across the nation by all spring sport athletes, this is how Saint Vincent’s Bearcat teams were faring:

- The women’s basketball team lost to Washington and Jefferson in the semifinals of the PAC Women’s Basketball Tournament, 74-53.

- The men’s basketball team lost a heartbreaker to Grove City 70-69 in the PAC tournament semifinals.

- The women’s bowling team had a 16-2 conference record and a 50-7 record going into the Allegheny Mountain Collegiate Conference tournament. Head coach Jeff Zidek finished in a tie for Coach of the Year honors. Dani Koehler was named to the All-AMCC First Team, The team’s .877 winning percentage was the highest in the nation, including all Division I, II and III programs.

- The men’s tennis team was in Florida sporting a 2-0 record with plans to return to Latrobe for the completion of its season.

- The Saint Vincent women’s tennis team opened its spring season with a win, then split its spring break double header at the USTA National Campus in Orlando, Florida.

- Women’s lacrosse started with a perfect 2-0 record in

exhibition play.

- Softball was gearing up for conference play with a tough spring schedule that left the team at 4-4.

- The inaugural men’s volleyball team, coached by Scott Wisneski, had some growing pains as it was still seeking its first win. But the Bearcats were gaining experience and beginning to coalesce when the season came to an end.

- Men’s lacrosse was in a good place at 3-1 as the team prepared for its conference schedule.

- The baseball team was in Florida with a 3-4 record preparing to start PAC play when it returned home.

- The men’s and women’s track teams made the trip to Youngstown, Ohio, for the PAC Indoor Track and Field Championships. Both squads finished eighth out of the 10 conference teams.

- The Bearcat swim teams

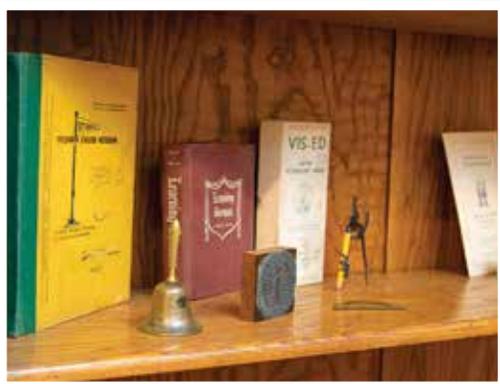
concluded their time at the PAC Championship with both the men and women finishing third.

Special honors went to Zach Baum, who received the 2019-2020 PAC Men’s Swimmer of the Year award. Danny Whirlow and Marion D’Aurora were both named to their respective PAC Sportsmanship Teams. Kevin Martin was also named, along with Baum, to the PAC First-Team. On the women’s side, Claire Kenna, D’Aurora, Sara Basala, Lauren Connors, Katie Kozy, and Erica Steele were First-Team selections.

The Saint Vincent swimming team had 17 student-athletes—nine men and eight women—selected as all-league performers by the Presidents’ Athletic Conference for the 2019-20 season.

To keep up-to-date on the fall and winter sports seasons, and the changes due to COVID-19, visit athletics.stvincent.edu.

NEW SAINT VINCENT PREPARATORY SCHOOL MEMORABILIA DISPLAY



The Alumni Relations Office has created a new display of items and memorabilia from Saint Vincent Prep. Located on the second floor of Alfred Hall, the display provides a glimpse into life as a Prepster. The project was spearheaded by Prep and College alumnus **Rich Schulte, P'64, C'68**, with rare items ranging in dates from the late 1930s through the late 1960s. Items include letterman's jackets and sweaters, band letters, a rare edition of the Father Camillus freshman English textbook, and several editions of the yearbook, *The Chimes*. Items which may spark memories for Prepsters include bars of unopened Bon Ami as well as The University of Pittsburgh Trophy for State High School Debate, won by Saint Vincent Prep in 1942. This trophy was lost for many years and discovered at a sale and returned home to Saint Vincent in 2019 by Schulte. Thanks to all of the Prep alumni who donated items for this display.



Brother Simon-Peter Clayton, O.S.B., C'12. Photo by Jack Barsody.

SIMON CLAYTON PROFESSES VOWS IN NEWARK

When **Simon Clayton, C'12**, left Saint Vincent after graduating with a degree in marketing, he developed a successful career in the financial industry. Born in Newark, he had attended Saint Benedict's Prep—run by Benedictine monks—before coming to Saint Vincent College.

At Saint Vincent, he had been a finalist for the President's Award, and was active—to say the least—in many different areas on campus. He was a volunteer for AmeriCorps, for the Martin Luther King Challenge Day, Sports Friendship Day and a prefect for the Office of Residence Life. He was an admission tour guide, had completed an internship with Merrill Lynch and served as an instructor with Kids Corporation in Newark. He sang with the college choir, the camerata and the Saint Vincent College Singers. He was a member of Student Government Association, the Alpha Phi Omega service fraternity and the Multicultural Student Coalition.

For a time he was known as “Simon the pie man” for his efforts to generate extra income for a study abroad semester by taking orders and baking pies. He volunteered with the Missionaries of Charity in Kolkata, India, before attending Tsinghua University in Beijing, China. He also completed an internship with the International Trade Office for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Now, he's a Benedictine monk of Newark Abbey—for life. He returned four years ago to answer God's call, and professed solemn vows on March 21 at the abbey's Saint Mary's Church. Now he is known to his confreres as Brother Simon-Peter. Due to the coronavirus pandemic, the profession was livestreamed, with only the members of his monastic community and close family members attending.

Brother Simon-Peter works as director of Leahy House, the dormitory for Saint Benedict's students, and serves as kitchen liaison for the monastery. He is also pursuing a master's degree at Immaculate Conception Seminary at Seton Hall University.

STEPHANIE MURRAY NATIONALLY PUBLISHED

Stephanie Murray, C'13, recently saw pieces published in *The Washington Post* and *The Guardian*. Murray's article in *The Washington Post* concerned a fitness center surviving the COVID-19 quarantine while she wrote an opinion piece on the value of parenting experience in *The Guardian*.

Her recent articles are only the latest in a thriving writing career. She has written more than 75 articles on topics such as resilience, self-care and social media for *Verily Magazine*, a women's fashion and lifestyle publication, and she has published additional work in *Reason*, *Aleteia*, *Motherfigure* and top Medium publications, such as *The Startup*, *The Ascent* and *The Writing Cooperative*.

“Saint Vincent is where I was first introduced to and fell in love with the creative process of telling a true story,” she said, crediting multiple faculty members in the English department.

“Through Professor Michelle Gil-Montero's creative nonfiction workshops, I started to develop an understanding of what makes for a compelling essay,” Murray said. “Also, a lot of the writing I've done is analysis and commentary, which I learned to do in literature and literary criticism courses, and Dr. Snyder's Intermediate Writing class seriously leveled up my knowledge of how words work.”

Murray's interests do not stop at writing, though. She continues to use her background in economics in her writing, as well as in public policy research and analysis.

“My studies in economics taught me to think critically and methodically about human behavior—how we respond to incentives, how seemingly small policy changes play out in big ways in individual decision-making—and that's a really important part of writing about the real world,” Murray said.

In 2018, she completed her master of public affairs degree at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where she garnered the school's Penniman Prize for an analysis of potential approaches to combating the U.S. opioid epidemic. Her website is www.stephaniehurray.com.

—Julia Snyder



CLASS NOTES

1960s

Leonard Solo, C'61, and his wife, Deanna (Cross), formerly of Wyano, celebrated their 55th wedding anniversary recently. They now live in Marlborough, Massachusetts, he writes, "having left our house for a condo in this nearby city. Our three children and three grandchildren live in nearby towns. We continue to spend significant time at our other home in Naples, Florida. I also published my ninth book, *The Spirit of His Seasons*. It's a unique collection of connected poems which include selections from my previous four books of poetry plus new poems."

James Ragan, C'66, H'90, was honored by the producers of "Rattle-cast" to be the guest interview on the one-year anniversary of "Rattle-cast's" 2 episodes. Live-streamed over Youtube®, Facebook® and other outlets on both American coasts, he was encouraged to recite from his recent book of poetry, "The Chanter's Reed," and to also inform others of the interview. available at https://youtu.be/odLcD7_5ck0.

Richard, P'65, C'69, and Joanna Stillwagon, SHU'69 marked their 50th wedding anniversary in 2020. They were married May 9, 1970 in the Basilica. He is retired from Torrance State Hospital as its chief executive officer and she is retired from the Ligonier Valley School District as a senior high art teacher. They have two children and ten grandchildren.

Walter Rutherford, C'67, and his wife, Bonnie, moved to Oregon where they are living in the Willamette Valley and pursuing bio-dynamic farming. Walt retired this January after 45 years as a psychologist in San Diego. Bonnie has continued her ministry with an internet church.

Mat, C'69, and Sharon Ros celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary this year. They were married on April 11, 1970.

1970s

Vincent Morris Jr. C'70, recently took part in the World Masters Speed Skating Championships held in Austria and Italy. He skated the final 3000 meter event well, finishing 3rd overall in the Masters All Around Championship, a combination of sprints and longer distances. "That, along with the Games up in Innsbruck really fulfilled a life-long athletic challenge," he noted in a message to classmate **Jim Scott**.

Rev. Sean Code C'71, Ohio State U '73, MA journalism, Duquesne U '85, JD, Saint Mary Seminary and University '92, M.Div., announces that he has retired after 27 years of active ministry as a priest of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown. "My sister and I are preparing to take up residence on the Outer Banks of North Carolina. My email address remains sean.code@gmail.com and I look forward to hearing from all my friends and classmates, and seeing you at reunions, or on our deck, if you are so inclined. May God bless you and your loved ones today and always."

W. Rod Olson, C'78, is the founder and principal of Olson-Ng Retail Consulting Group, www.olsonng.com. The company provides merchandising consultation on planning, reporting and allocation to retailers of all sizes. Olson-Ng Retail Consulting Group was recently recognized in Retail CIO Outlook magazine as one of the top ten merchandise consulting groups for 2019. What differentiates Olson-Ng in the market, Olson notes, is

a hands-on approach to solving merchandise and retail-related problems.

1980s

Gene M. Battistella, D.O., C'88, was recently elected and installed as the 109th president of the Pennsylvania Osteopathic Medical Association, a statewide organization for physicians holding the Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine (DO) degree. He is board-certified in internal medicine and a practicing physician for St. Clair Medical Services-West Hills Medical Division with an office at Heritage Valley-Kennedy Campus (formerly Ohio Valley Hospital) in McKees Rocks. He is also past vice chairman of the Board of Directors and past president of the medical staff at Ohio Valley Hospital. Prior to being elected president of POMA, Battistella served as vice speaker of the POMA House of Delegates, chair of the Committee on Young Physicians-West Region and co-chair of the Legislative Committee. He serves as the POMA delegation chair to the American Osteopathic Association. He is also chairman of the POMA Foundation. Battistella also serves as chair of District 8 and oversees the planning and execution of the district's annual educational program.



Richard A. Marhefka, C'89, has joined the Law Office of Phil DiLucente



& Associates in Pittsburgh, where he focuses his practice exclusively on personal injury and medical malpractice cases.

1990s

Dr. Marianne DiMatteo, C'91, has been named chief executive officer of Grant-Blackford Mental Health in Marion, Indiana.



She most recently served as chief operating officer at Pittsburgh-based Familylinks Inc. Prior to that she was chief operating officer at the Community Guidance Center in Indiana, Pennsylvania. Her master of social work degree was from California University of Pennsylvania and her doctorate in administration and leadership was from Indiana University of Pennsylvania.

Heather Hall, C'98, and **Michael Hall, C'99**, provided this update: Mike recently celebrated his 10-year anniversary with Columbia University as the executive director of financial aid; Heather continues as director of music at Holy Family in New Rochelle as well as work as a salesforce administrator for University Neighborhood Housing Program in the Bronx. Their two teenage sons, Sean and Colin, are both students at The Frederick Gunn School in Washington, Connecticut.

Autumn (Coleman) Purdy, C'98 was recently added to the staff at *Literary Mama* as a Reviews Editor.

Ann Marie Lund Schiavone, C'98, was appointed to the position of associate dean for faculty

scholarship at Duquesne University School of Law. Just last year, she was awarded tenure and promoted to associate professor of law. Upon returning to Duquesne in 2013 as a member of the faculty, she has taught a variety of courses at the law school including Legal Research and Writing I and II, Conflicts of Laws, Pennsylvania Legislative Process and Animal Law.



2000s

Abigail Chabitnoy Kerstetter, C'09, was recently honored with the Colorado Book Award in the poetry category for her collection "How to Dress a Fish



(Wesleyan University Press, 2019)." Colorado Humanities announced Chabitnoy's selection on May 30 via Facebook Live. Chabitnoy is a poet of Unangan and Sugpiaq descent and a member of the Tangirnaq Native Village in Kodiak, Alaska. Following her graduation with bachelor's degrees in English and anthropology, she received her MFA at Colorado State University, where she was an associate editor for *Colorado Review*. Chabitnoy's poems have appeared in *Hayden's Ferry Review*, *Tin House*, *Gulf Coast*, *Pleiades*, *Tinderbox Poetry Journal*, *Nat Brut*, *Red Ink* and *Mud City*.

2010s

Chris Payne, Ph.D., C'11, accepted a position as assistant professor of biology at Franciscan University of Steubenville, Ohio, to begin in fall 2020. He was hired to develop an



environmental/ecology program while engaging undergraduates in his research and promoting the mutuality of faith and science.



Alexandria (Klofta) Barr, C'12, was accepted into the M.A. program for Applied Child and Adolescent Development at the University of Minnesota, where she currently holds a 4.0 GPA and is part of the Honors Society. She is using this degree, along with her coursework, experience and English concentration in Children's Literature from Saint Vincent, to build her own family child daycare home business, ABC Home. She notes she is "currently building the physical site along with a team of designers, contractors and architects to provide the best environment for children between four months and four years old, after several families in the Pittsburgh area approached me seeking care for multiple

families in a setting that was more intimate than a traditional daycare. So far we've had great success in building a program that melds my 10 years of experience in child care, Montessori principles and scientific research in child psychology and development. We also teamed up with web designers and just launched our website: www.abchomepgh.com."

Anna Henry, C'11, G'18, has been admitted into the Leadership Studies Doctorate Program at Gonzaga University starting this summer. She notes that "it is at Saint Vincent that I acquired a general love of various subjects and genuinely enjoyed the small class sizes. Saint Vincent not only provided me with the tools I needed to grow into my career, but provided me with my passion for learning!"



CONDOLENCES

Condolences are offered to:

David C. McNamara, C'70, **Stephen M. McNamara, C'72**, and **Kevin J. McNamara, C'75**, on the death of their father, William P. McNamara, on May 25, 2019.

Frank J. Kubus Jr. C'81; **Francis J. Kubus III, C'12** and **Abigail Rose Kubus, C'15** on the loss of their mother and grandmother, respectively, Mary Elizabeth Kubus on April 29, 2020.

Kenneth Montrose, C'83, and **Paige Montrose, C'20**, on the death of their father and grandfather, respectively, Russell Montrose, on February 25, 2019.

Mark R. Ferlan, D.O., C'93, on the death of his father, **Lawrence Ferlan, C'56**, on July 2, 2020.

Lisa Poole, C'00; **Romi Green, C'94**; **Brody Green, C'15**, and **Coby Green**, student, on the death of their grandmother and great-grandmother, respectively, Maria Mische, on March 12, 2020.

Julian Metro, C'20, and **Peter Metro** on the death of their father Daniel Metro on July 17, 2020.

Mary Person, C21, on the death of her mother, **Susan (Mehalic) Person, C'96**, on June 28, 2020.

Timothy Bates, employee in the Small Business Development Center, on the death of his father,

Richard D. Bates, on February 19, 2020.

Dr. Thomas Cline, professor of marketing, on the death of his father, Jack Z. Cline, on April 20, 2020.

Kim Metzgar, Archabbey public relations, on the death of her father, Ronald J. Opatka, on May 24, 2020.

Lorrie Quadro, athletics, on the death of her father, Larry D. Fernau, on April 24, 2020.

Harold Simms, an employee in the Facilities Management Office, on the death of his wife, Lorraine A. Simms, on February 17, 2020.

Holden Diethorn, C'13, an economics and politics major at Saint Vincent, recently earned a Ph.D. in economics from SUNY-Albany. His dissertation entitled "Essays on the STEM Doctoral Labor Market" analyzed how immigration policy and postdoctoral training impact the career outcomes of doctorates with STEM degrees. Diethorn earned Special Sworn Status from the U.S. Census Bureau to study the STEM labor market, using both individual- and firm-level data from within the Federal Statistical Research Data Center. Diethorn will continue working as a researcher at the National Bureau of Economic Research using U.S. Census Bureau data to explore topics such as the

impact of postdoctoral training on the career trajectories of STEM doctorates and how high-skilled immigration impacts firm innovation and the labor market outcomes of native workers. Holden's wife, **Rachel, C'13**, who graduated with a degree in mathematics, earned her Ph.D. in mathematics at Syracuse University and has joined Yale University as a lecturer.

Regional accounting firm, Brown Schultz Sheridan & Fritz (BSSF), has hired **Josiah E. Hartzler, C'15**. He joined the BSSF team as an audit staff accountant. He received a degree in criminology, law and society, and also earned a bachelor of science degree in accounting from Indiana University of Pennsylvania.



He is in the Camp Hill office.

Dr. Emily Kukura, C'15, graduated from St. George's School of Medicine, Grenada. She started her family medicine residency at Latrobe Excelsa Health in July 2020.



Bridget Fertal, C'19, has been awarded the Allen Ginsberg Fellowship to Naropa University's Jack Kerouac School of Disembodied Poetics starting in the fall of 2020. She will earn an MFA in Creative Writing in the school's residency program. As a fellow, Fertal will receive full funding, an additional \$5,000 scholarship, as well as a \$3,000 stipend as compensation for duties performed as a requirement of the fellowship.

Fellowship recipients are trained in pedagogy and have an opportunity to teach college-level writing or work in the writing center.

2020s

The School of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences announced that 32 of its 2020 graduates will continue their educations at institutions across the U.S.:

Victoria Badar, a history major from Huntsville, Alabama, will pursue a master of arts in history at the University of North Alabama.

Geri Ball-Pringle, a psychology major from Plainfield, New Jersey, will pursue a master of science in counselor education at Saint Vincent College.

Ashley Brady, an early childhood education major from Pittsburgh

will pursue a master of education in K-8 mathematics and science at Slippery Rock University.

Elliot Campbell, a psychology major from McKeesport, will pursue a master of social work at Washington University-Saint Louis.

Andrew Conley, a politics and theology major from Grove City, will pursue a master of arts in theology at the Byzantine Catholic Seminary of SS. Cyril and Methodius.

Paige Dawson, a psychology major from Waynesboro, will pursue a master of science in criminology at Saint Vincent College.

Michael Doelling, a history major from Latrobe, will pursue a master of arts in history at Marquette University.

DEATHS

Rev. Adrian W. Harmening, O.S.B., C 48, on May 18, 2020.

Duane Silvis, C'48, on May 11, 2020.

Francis X. Yandrick, C'49, on February 14, 2020.

Frederick R. Favo, P'51, on June 8, 2020.

George I. Kocerka, C'51, on March 24, 2020.

Richard J. Woods, C'51, on November 20, 2019.

Joseph Deagan, C'53, on May 11, 2020.

Herman K. Dupré C'53, on April 25, 2020.

Father John J. Vinsko, C'53, on June 6, 2020.

James Wehner, C'53, on July 27, 2020.

James E. Wilkins Jr., C'54, on June 12, 2020.

Edward T. O'Connor, P'50, C'55, on May 13, 2020.

Richard Cornett, D.D.S., P'52, C'56, on September 27, 2019.

Paul M. Duggan, M.D., P'52, C'56, on March 31, 2020.

Lawrence Ferlan, C'56, on July 2, 2020.

Monsignor Donald J. Mondello, C56, on May 21, 2020.

Raymond B. Wrabley Sr., C'54, on April 17, 2020.

Robert A. Maycheck, C'57, on May 13, 2020.

Ciro Aloisi, C'60, on April 15, 2020.

Rev. Richard Weiss, C'60, S'80, on June 20, 2020.

John H. Rowley, P'63, on March 4, 2020.

Dr. Thomas Peter Pavick, C'63, on March, 25, 2020.

Dr. Robert F. Kooser, C'64, on May 21, 2020.

Joe T. O'Connor, C'65, on April 13, 2020.

John Francis Painley, C'66, on February 24, 2020.

Joe "Bobo" Campus, C'68, on July 6, 2020.

Barry J. Kraynack, M.D., C'69, on June, 26, 2020.

Richard John Obidowski, C'70, on June 11, 2020.

Anthony "Dutch" Surman, P71, C75, on May 22, 2020.

David A. Frey, C'73, on March 24, 2020.

Jeffrey Baloga, C'77 on July 17, 2020.

Alfred A. "Fred" Crocker Jr., C'77, on July 3, 2020.

John R. Meinert Jr., C'78, on March 19, 2020.

Robert C. Gleason, C'79, on June 2, 2020.

Timothy M. Smith, C'84, on July 25, 2020.

Shawn P. Bleyer, C'86, on June 11, 2020.

Richard Balik Jr., C95, on May 23, 2020.

Susan (Mehalic) Person, C'96, on June 28, 2020.

Paul J. Noroski, Ph.D., C'02, on February 7, 2020.

Sarah A. Ank, C'16, on May 14, 2020.

Bill Keltz, Cemetery Sexton, on July 23, 2020.

Ryan Farrell, a philosophy and political science major from Rochester, New York, will attend Kent State University to pursue a master of science in philosophy.

Leah Fertal, an early childhood education major from Bethel Park, will pursue a master of science in special education at Saint Vincent.

Cara Geary, an English major from Acme, will pursue a master of science in counselor education at Saint Vincent.

Jessica Hartner, an early childhood education major from North Huntingdon, will pursue a master of science in special education at Saint Vincent College.

Sarah Kalp, an early childhood education major from Greensburg, will pursue a master of science in curriculum and instruction at Saint Vincent College.

Kristopher Kell, a sociology major from Apollo, will pursue a master of science in criminology at Saint Vincent.

Nathaniel Kohl, a psychology major from Wilmington,

Delaware, will attend Duquesne University to pursue a master of science in mental health counseling.

Madison Kollar, a sociology major from Latrobe, has been accepted into the University of Pittsburgh's master of social work program.

Ashley Krause, a communication major from Allison Park, will attend Chatham University to pursue a master of sustainability degree and a master of business administration degree.

Maria Loftis, an early childhood education major from Monongahela, will pursue a master of education in reading literacy at Slippery Rock University.

Molly Massimo, an early childhood education major from Johnstown, will pursue a master of science in instructional design and technology at Saint Vincent College.

Ryan McElhinney, a middle-grade education major from North Huntingdon, will pursue a master of science in curriculum and instruction at Saint Vincent College.

Megan Miller, a psychology major from New Salem, will pursue

a master of science in applied developmental psychology at the University of Pittsburgh.

Sarah O'Callaghan, an early childhood education major from Columbia, Maryland, will attend Saint Vincent College to pursue a master of science in curriculum and instruction.

Katherine Palko, a philosophy major from Indiana, Pennsylvania, will attend Boston College to pursue a master of theological sciences degree.

Johanna Philips, an English major from Baden, will pursue a master of fine arts in screenwriting at Point Park University.

Tia Quairiere, a psychology major from Connellsville, will attend Indiana University of Pennsylvania to pursue a master of science in speech-language pathology.

Jessica Ray-Marino, a psychology major from New Kensington, will attend Penn State University to pursue a Ph.D. in school psychology.

Aliyah Rhodes, a psychology major from Mather, will attend California University of Pennsylvania to pursue a master of science in clinical mental health counseling.

Rachel Seamans, a psychology major from New Castle, will pursue a master of arts in psychology, with a concentration in forensics, at Carlow University.

Nicolette Smith, an English major from Buffalo Grove, Illinois, will pursue a master of science in curriculum and instruction at Saint Vincent College.

Paul Weisser, a philosophy and politics major from Red Lion, will attend Baylor University to pursue a Ph.D. in politics.

Arienne Winkleblech, a psychology major from Greensburg, will attend Ithaca College to pursue a master of science in exercise and sport science, with a concentration in sport psychology.

Robert Wynn, an English major from Cleves, Ohio, will pursue a master of science in curriculum and instruction at Saint Vincent College.

Helena Zrile, an anthropology major from Mercer, will attend Drexel University to pursue a master of public health degree.

Six 2020 graduates of the Herbert W. Boyer School of Natural Sciences, Mathematics and Computing have been accepted into and will attend professional health schools across the U.S.:

Kaitlin Ackinclose, a biology major from Greensburg, has been accepted into the Ohio State University College of Optometry.

Tyler Foradori, a biochemistry major from Brockport, will pursue a doctor of osteopathic medicine degree at Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine.

Robert Lynn, a biochemistry major from Penn Township, will pursue a doctor of osteopathic medicine degree at Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine.

CONTACT US!

Saint Vincent College Office of Alumni Relations
alumni@stvincent.edu or 724-805-2457
www.stvincent.edu/alumni

Ben Becze
 Senior Director of Development and Alumni Relations
ben.becze@stvincent.edu 724-805-2457

Katie Vitale
 Assistant Director of Alumni Relations
katherine.vitale@stvincent.edu 724-805-2265

Julian Metro, a biology major from Pleasant Hills, will pursue a doctor of osteopathic medicine degree at Lincoln Memorial University, Debusk College of Osteopathic Medicine.

Alex Morgan, a biology major from Glassport, will attend Palmer College of Chiropractic Medicine to pursue a doctor of chiropractic medicine degree.

Grace Noel, a bioinformatics major from Latrobe, will pursue a doctor of medicine degree at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine.

Eleven recent graduates of the Herbert W. Boyer School of Natural Sciences, Mathematics and Computing have been accepted into allied health programs at institutions across the U.S.:

Jenna Answine, a chemistry major from Greensburg, will pursue a master of physician assistant science degree at Saint Francis University.

Danielle DeRienzo, an integrated science major from Venetia, will pursue a master of physician assistant science degree at Seton Hill University.

Allison Hartsek, an integrated science major from Uniontown, will pursue a doctor of occupational therapy degree at Kettering College.

Matthew Jaeger, an integrated science major from Ligonier, will pursue a doctorate of pharmacy at Duquesne University.

Gerald Kiliany, an integrated science major from Greensburg, will pursue a doctorate of pharmacy at Duquesne University.

Alyssa Le, a bioinformatics major from Scottdale, will pursue a master of physician assistant studies degree at Mercyhurst University.

Leah Memmo, an integrated science major from Bridgeville, will attend Nova Southeastern University to pursue a doctor of physical therapy degree.

Sarah Proud, an integrated science major from Uniontown, will attend La Roche University to pursue a master of science in nursing.

Dorothy Rowe, a biochemistry major from Ambridge, will enter the accelerated bachelor of science in nursing program at Baldwin Wallace University.

Olivia Scott, a chemistry major from Pittsburgh, will enter Duquesne University's Second Degree Bachelor of Science in Nursing program.

Caroline Snyder, an integrated science major from Cumberland, Maryland, will pursue a master of science in nursing at La Roche University.

BIRTHS



Jennifer (Smith) Pannill C'02 and Julian Pannill had their second child, Layla Audrey Pannill, on April 3, 2020. She joined big brother, Caden Julian.



Jennifer Perestock Roberts, C'05, and her husband, Nathan Roberts, D.O., FACOS, welcomed their second child, Callahan Joseph, on March 31, 2020.



Cristin (Clague) McGregor, C'08, and her husband, Scott, of Edgewater, Maryland, announce the birth of their first son, Parker Scott McGregor, on March 10, 2020. Scott is AEGIS weapons system program manager with the United States Navy.



Chris Payne, Ph.D., C'11, and his wife, Angelica Payne, announce the arrival of Gabriella Maria on December 26, 2019. She was baptized March 7, 2020, at Saint Sebastian Parish in Akron, Ohio, by Father Anthony Simone.



Melanie Henry C'15, and **Max Henry, C'14**, announce the birth of a son, Beau William Henry, on March 10, 2020, in McKinney, Texas.

GUARDIAN SOCIETY

Guardian Society members are loyal alumni and friends who have remembered Saint Vincent College in their estate planning through bequests, insurance policies, trusts or annuities. Their stewardship guarantees a quality education to Saint Vincent students of the future. For information call 724-805-2949.



ENGAGEMENTS MARRIAGES



Lindsey Daniels, C'14, and **Samuel Walters, C'14,** announce their engagement. They met freshman year at Saint Vincent.



Dr. Emily Kukura C'15, is engaged to Robert Martin III. Their wedding will be held October 10, 2020, in Johnstown.



Steve Janik, C'15, and **Carly Meholic, C'15,** are planning a November 2020 wedding in Latrobe.

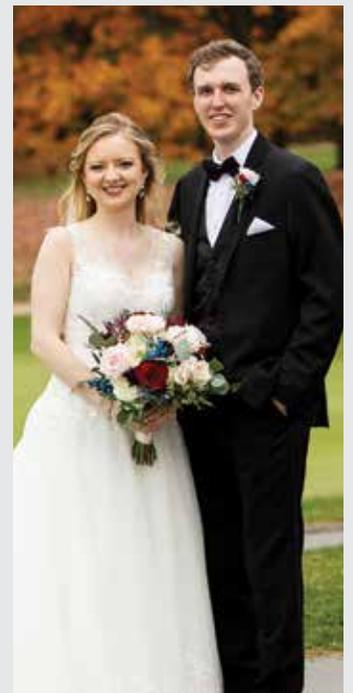
Alexandria Klofta, C'12, married Jonathan Barr, M.Ed., on June 27 in a small private ceremony in Bethel Park. Jonathan is currently a high school math teacher for Belle Vernon School District as well as their head volleyball coach and assistant swim coach.



Victoria L. Magiera, C'13, and **Patrick J. Shiner, C'11,** were married at Saint Vincent Archabbey Basilica on December 28, 2019, by **Father Thomas Curry, O.S.B., S'02,** Alumni in the wedding party, from left, included **Trish Allan Schreiber, C'13; Averie Shaughnessy Comfort, C'13; Mitchell Magiera, C'16; Theresa Nath, C'15; Brittany Ray, C'13; Zachary Ray, C'12; Alex Coffroth, C'12.**

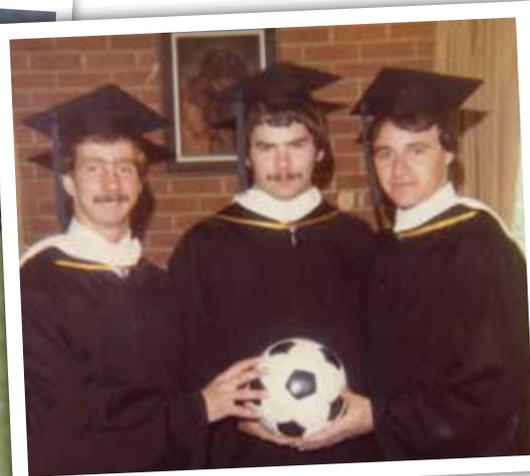


Sadie E. Stresky, C'13 and **Maxwell F. Schrenk, C'13** were married October 26, 2019, at Church of the Assumption in Bellevue. Alumni members of the bridal party included: front, from left, **Dr. Rachel (Gettinger) Diethorn, C'13; Megan DePrimio, C'13; Olivia Sharkey, C'13; Chelsea Skonezny, C'12; Maxwell Schrenk, C'13; Sadie Stresky, C'13; Carly Marsh, C'13; Abby (Bryant) Brenller, C'13; Colleen (Fisher) Cocchi, C'13; Sarah Palmer, C'12; Dr. Sara (Maurer) Wilkins, C'13.** Back, from left, **Richie Sipes, C'13; Shay McGowan, C'13; Deven Gross, C13; Shannon (Hiles) Kaufman, C'15; Dr. Michael Kaufman, C'13; Matthew Hedfors, C'13; Holden Diethorn, C'13; Jared Ryan, C13; Zachary Carr, C'13; Matthew Fickley, C'14; Thomas Cocchi, C'13.** Not pictured but also attending were **Rachel Ejzak, C'16; David Safin, C'00,** Communication professor; **Dr. Melissa Cook,** former Communication professor.





Amy and Ed McCormick.



From left, Mike Miriello, Ed McCormick, Dave Parker, graduation day, 1979.

Giving Back Returns Favor Of Life-Changing Advice For Ed McCormick, C'79

After graduating from high school in the South Hills of Pittsburgh, and working on a loading dock, Ed McCormick, C'79, found himself struggling to find focus with his life. Then, as a result of encouragement from one of the monks at Saint Vincent, he was encouraged to visit with Joe Heisel, C'43, and see if he might be able to offer some guidance.

As a result of that encounter, Ed states that "Joe was the most dynamic, positive person I have ever known, and he encouraged me to have confidence in the mission of the Benedictines at Saint Vincent and pursue my dream of graduating from college! The impact of Joe Heisel's counsel has served as the basis for my lifetime of service to others, shared equally in every respect by my wife and life partner, Amy.

"I came to Saint Vincent College in 1975 and never left the area. My career as a teacher has been in Greensburg and allowed me to be available to help the college as a volunteer: Steeler-Letterman Days, Alumni Council, Homecoming, Class Reunions and other activities. Hey, how could I say 'no' to Father Paul, Father Martin or Brother Norman!"

When Ed and Amy decided to include Saint Vincent College in their estate plans, the needs of the students were at the center

of their attention. "My wife and I leaving a planned gift is a practical, common sense move. In setting up our estate, we wanted to continue our long practice of supporting programs we believe in. We designated our future gift to the Father Gilbert Burke, O.S.B. Scholarship Fund that directly benefits students with financial needs. I reaped the benefits of support when I was a student and it makes sense for me to continue helping future generations," he said.

"I believe a liberal arts education based on the Benedictine values and traditions is a relevant resource for the students at Saint Vincent." For his peers, as they begin to consider adjustments in their personal lives, downsizing, etc., Ed suggests that they "consider supporting programs at the college that are important to them, just as Amy and I did in our plans. What a perfect opportunity to help students just as Joe Heisel did for me many years ago!"

"There are many ways to support our students. You can designate a particular area that is important to you. My encouragement is to take the time and contact Jim Bendel, C'60, to discuss what makes sense for you. Believe me, you will make a difference by creating a lasting legacy for our Alma Mater!"

Jim Bendel, C'60
Planned Giving Officer
Office: 724-805-2948
Cell: 724-244-4805
James.bendel@stvincent.edu



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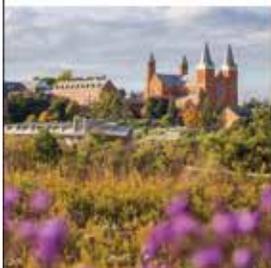
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