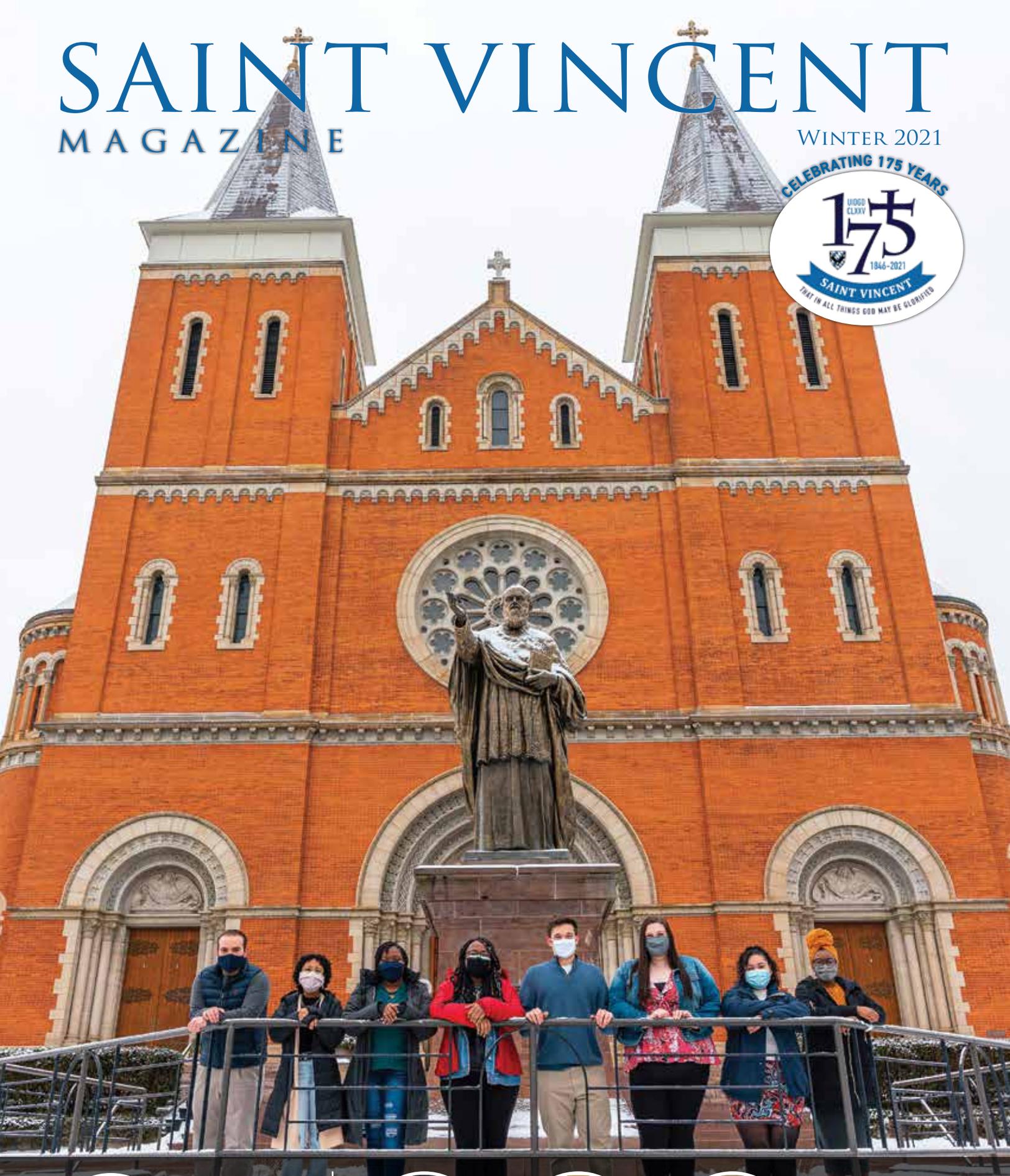
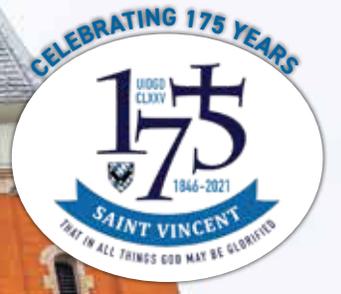


# SAINT VINCENT

MAGAZINE

WINTER 2021



**FOUNDER AND HIS MONKS**



**REMEMBERING THOSE WE HAVE LOST**



## STRENGTH, COMMUNITY CAN OVERCOME ADVERSITY

Dear Alumni and Friends,

Opportunity in adversity. As we near the completion of the first year of this global pandemic, so much about our world has changed. Perhaps more than any one of us could have envisioned, adversity seems to await on a near-daily basis. With negativity, grief, division and hatred seemingly rearing their ugly heads at every turn, we continue to find strength in our community, in our extended Saint Vincent family and in God. We look for those opportunities to be together, build unity and strengthen our faith.

As our students returned for the Spring 2021 semester, they were welcomed back with a two-week long series of events—a Fortnight of activities—to engage them academically, socially and spiritually. Typically held in January, we waited until our students were back on campus to celebrate our “Life in Christ” Week. Among the various events were opportunities to reflect upon the sanctity of human life, celebrate the work and the impact of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., and unite our students of all faiths.

We are also proud to have partnered with the Mainline Pharmacy Group, who has begun using the Fred M. Rogers Center on campus as a site to distribute the COVID-19 vaccine. The Rogers Center provides the location and appropriate space to assist with widespread distribution of the vaccine in our community and in our region. We are grateful for this opportunity to play a role in serving the people in our region.

In this spring semester, we have recommitted ourselves to the discipline that it will take to complete the semester with in-person learning as a residential campus. Last fall, we accomplished just that, due in large part to our students and their willingness to make the necessary sacrifices to protect not only themselves, but their friends, faculty and classmates. We look forward to a successful spring semester and we thank each of you for your prayers and support as we embrace the opportunities that adversity provides.

Blessings and the promise of prayers to you and your loved ones.

Looking Forward,

Father Paul R. Taylor, O.S.B.  
President



.....  
**“Forward, always forward, everywhere forward! We must not be held back by debts, bad years, or by difficulties of the times. Man’s adversity is God’s opportunity.”**

**—Archabbot Boniface Wimmer, O.S.B.**  
.....



## Finding Purpose

Jeri Eckhart Queenan spoke about purpose, leadership and opportunities amidst tragedy during the 2020 December commencement, held virtually.

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## Building Forward

Construction is underway on the new Student Life and Hospitality Center, the result of the successful Forward, Always Forward capital campaign.

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## Tribute To A Friend

Brother Norman Hipps, O.S.B., pays tribute to his friend, Dr. Michael Botsko, emeritus professor of mathematics, who died January 3, 2021.



## Alumni

Homecoming dates scheduled; alumni of distinction and all the latest alumni news.



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## Dr. Wissolik

Dr. Dennis McDaniel remembers long-time colleague Dr. Richard Wissolik, professor emeritus in English, who died December 9, 2020.

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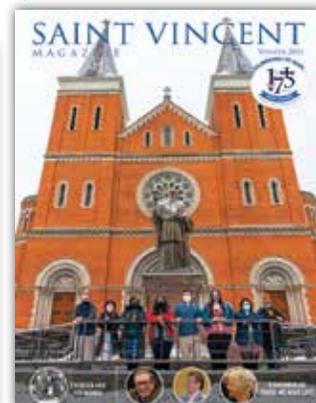


## Giving

Joe Scarpo, C'84, tells Jim Bendel that the difference in his life was due to the influence of the Benedictines.

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Saint Vincent will be celebrating the 175th anniversary of the founding of the Archabbey in 2021. Students standing in front of the statue honoring founder Boniface Wimmer, O.S.B. include junior Rob Gigliotti, seniors Alexis Ohree and Brianna Carter, junior Zakiya Moses, senior Mike Cella, sophomore Julie Reichert, senior Keila Lobos-Hernandez and junior Rya Jones. Alexander Byers photo.

# SAINT VINCENT MAGAZINE

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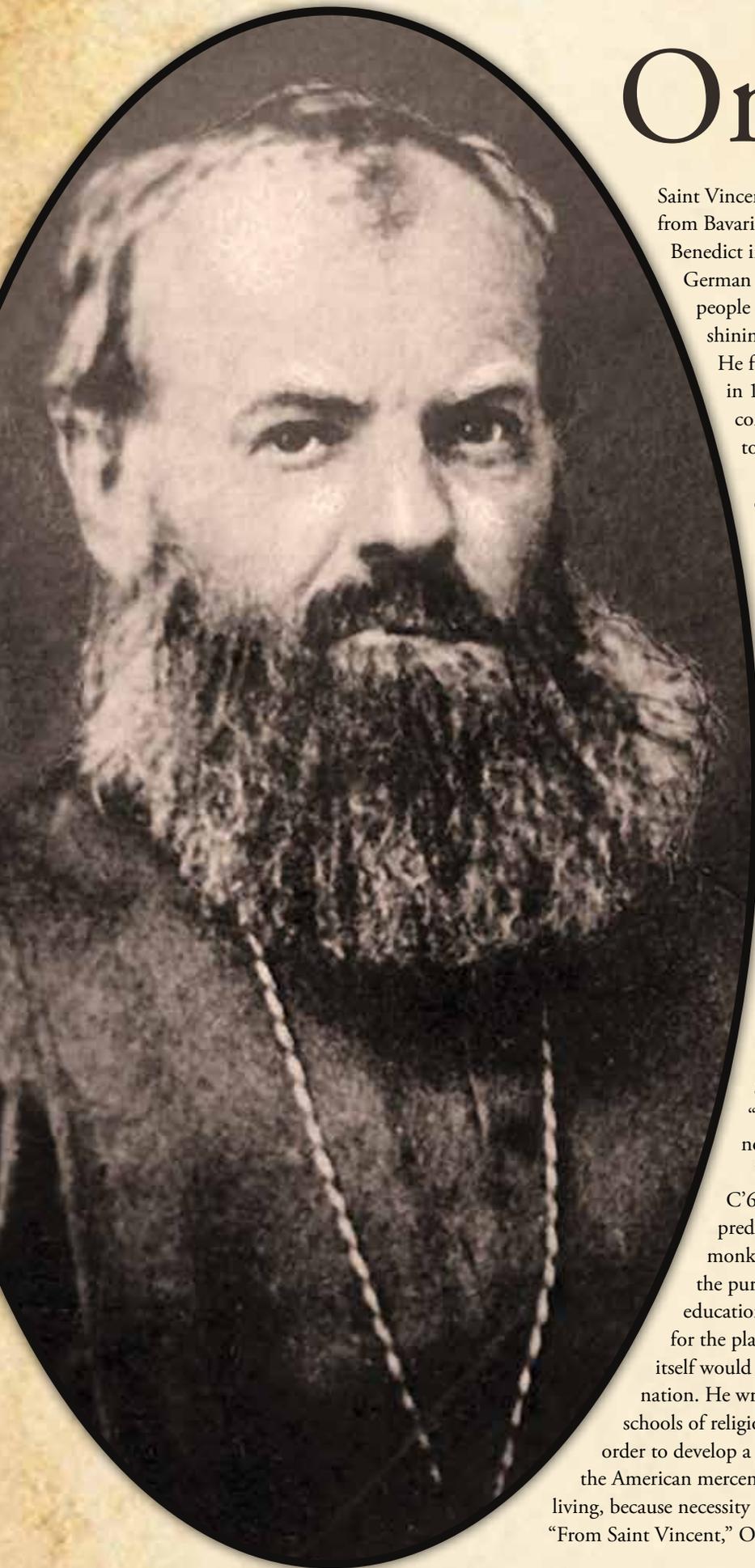
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# One Dream,



Saint Vincent's founder, Boniface Wimmer, was a Benedictine priest from Bavaria who had a dream—to establish the Order of Saint Benedict in the New World. He wanted to educate the sons of German immigrants, train a native clergy for the German-speaking people of the United States, and keep the light of Christian faith shining in a world that truly needed it, much as it does today. He founded Saint Vincent Archabbey, Seminary and College in 1846. Thus, 2021 marks 175 years since he set sail with 18 companions, men who felt a calling to religious life, a call to serve the missions in an unknown land.

This issue's cover reflects the reality of Wimmer's dream. He took over a parish founded in 1790 for the German, Irish and English Catholics of Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania. When he arrived on this frontier, at the behest of the local bishop, a small church and school were on the grounds, with one priest from the Pittsburgh diocese ministering to the growing parish.

Originally named Sportsman's Hall Parish, it was later consecrated as Saint Vincent Parish by a bishop whose custom it was to dedicate new church buildings for the patron saint upon whose feast day the dedication fell. Thus, the heritage of a French priest known for his pioneering work in clerical training, as well as his charity, became one with the German Benedictine whose patron was a missionary priest and bishop to Bavaria.

Wimmer created at Saint Vincent the first Benedictine monastery in North America and the first Catholic educational institution in the United States specifically devoted to the education of German-speaking priests for the American missions.

"We intend to establish a school for the Lord's service," Saint Benedict wrote in his sixth-century monastic *Rule*. "In drawing up its regulations, we hope to set down nothing harsh, nothing burdensome."

"Wimmer's aim," wrote historian Jerome Oetgen, C'69, S'73, "was to imitate the models of his Benedictine predecessors and establish strong, stable communities of monks who would devote their lives to the service of God, the pursuit of learning, the preaching of the Gospel, and the education of youth. He believed that America was fertile soil for the planting of this ancient tradition and that the tradition itself would contribute a new and vital spiritual energy to the young nation. He wrote, 'I am determined to have our monasteries not only schools of religion and of the sciences, but also nurseries of the fine arts in order to develop a better taste for these things and to keep from our people the American mercenary spirit which thinks of nothing but how to make a living, because necessity demands it and example encourages it.'"

"From Saint Vincent," Oetgen wrote, "he founded Benedictine communities

# 175 Years Later

and schools in Minnesota, Kansas, New Jersey, North Carolina, Illinois, Alabama, Georgia, and elsewhere. In 1855 Pope Pius IX elevated Saint Vincent to the rank of an abbey and named Wimmer its first abbot. Wimmer thus became the first Benedictine abbot in North America, and by 1887, when he died, he was recognized throughout the American Church as an outstanding missionary, ecclesiastical leader, builder, and educator—a worthy successor of Saint Boniface.”

One man. The son of a tavernkeeper from a small, farming village. One dream. Many helpers. Perhaps the first “dream team.” There were numerous American churchmen, friends and benefactors in Europe such as King Ludwig I of Bavaria, Cardinal Karl von Reisach of the Roman Curia, and Archbishop Gregory Scherr of Munich. There were the local bishops, such as Michael O’Connor in Pittsburgh, with whom he both agreed and disagreed. Wimmer worked at that dream, tirelessly, for the remaining forty years of his life. He worked to strengthen the monastery and school—both a seminary for training of future priests and what was to become a college—in Pennsylvania, and to establish others throughout the country.

It was not easy. His request to serve as a solitary missionary in America was denied, multiple times. As were additional attempts. Oetgen wrote that Wimmer eventually urged that his home abbey of Metten “establish a ‘mission house’ in Munich to train young men to become missionaries. The students would reside at the mission house under the supervision of Benedictine priests and pursue their education at the Ludwigs-Gymnasium and the University of Munich. Many of them, he suggested, would become Benedictines and these, once they reached America, would form the nucleus of a new branch of the Order in the New World. ‘They ... could be transferred to the other side of the ocean to establish firm centers for Catholic life and Benedictine monasticism,’ he wrote. He pointed out that this was the way Europe had been evangelized during the Middle Ages, and he bluntly charged that the Benedictine Order in Bavaria was abdicating an important responsibility if it failed to heed the call of the missions. ‘The harvest is ready,’ he said, ‘but there are no laborers. Let us not become isolated or transfer this work to others. We belong to the whole world.’ His persistence paid off. But perhaps those in his company began to wonder about Wimmer’s milk and honey, the promised land of America.

When he arrived at Saint Vincent on October 24, 1846, Oetgen noted, “Wimmer invested the four students and twelve of the lay brothers with the Benedictine habit in the church at Saint Vincent. Because there were only six habits available for all the novices, as one was invested he would retire to the sacristy, change back into secular dress, and return the habit to the sanctuary for

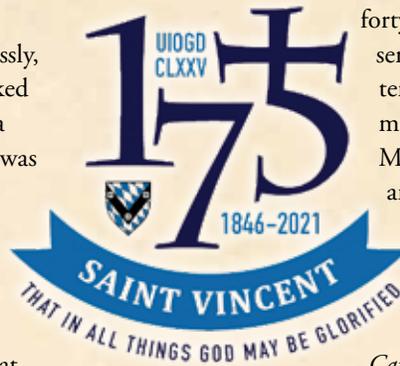
use in the investiture of another novice... As their first winter in America approached, the community made their home in the two-story schoolhouse built by Father Gallagher two years earlier. To accommodate the needs of so many new people on the property, the brothers set about constructing an outdoor kitchen and latrine. The schoolhouse, located about 150 feet southwest of Saint Vincent Church (built by Father James Ambrose Stillinger in 1935) had originally been intended for the minor seminary...”

Four decades later, as he approached the last months of his life, “the monastery of Saint Vincent had grown under his leadership from a small community of four students and fourteen candidates for the lay brotherhood to a large and thriving abbey with two hundred monks.” Oetgen wrote that “enrollment in Saint Vincent College had reached 296 students, and there were forty-five seminarians studying theology in the major seminary. In addition, Saint Vincent monks staffed ten dependent priories and served the Catholics of more than forty parishes in the states of Pennsylvania, Maryland, Kentucky, Georgia, Alabama, Illinois, and Colorado. Four independent abbeys, with their own schools, dependent priories, and parishes, had been founded from Saint Vincent and now flourished in Minnesota, Kansas, New Jersey, and North Carolina. “In 1887,” Oetgen wrote, “*Sadler’s Catholic Directory* said of the abbey in Pennsylvania:

‘Nothing in the growth of the Church in this country exceeds the wonderful development of this community.’ But Wimmer’s success could not be counted simply in numbers and statistics. Rather, it was the lives he had touched and the hearts he had changed by remaining faithful to the vision he had received in Munich more than forty years before that revealed the fullest measure of the man. Thousands of people throughout the United States had grown in the Catholic faith under the guidance of his monks; thousands of students had been educated in Benedictine schools; and more than four hundred secular priests educated by the monks of Saint Vincent now served in parishes throughout the nation.

Upon Wimmer’s death, Father Adalbert Müller, a Saint Vincent monk teaching in Rome, summarized the feelings of many when he wrote: ‘Whatever I know and whatever I am able to do, I owe next to God to our deceased Abbot. May God forgive me all the sorrows and heartaches which I caused dear Abbot Wimmer, and may He reward him for all the kindness he showed me and my confreres. Archabbot Boniface worked most zealously for the glory of God and for what he believed to be the true interest of our order. His zeal and his childlike confidence in God enabled him to do great things.’”

*Due to the coronavirus pandemic, plans for the 175th anniversary are still in flux. Look to the Saint Vincent College website, [www.stvincent.edu](http://www.stvincent.edu), for details this summer and fall. To read more about Wimmer’s work, refer to Mission to America, available at [www.stvincentstore.com](http://www.stvincentstore.com).*





St. Herman Dupré Science Pavilion

# “The love that moves the stars”

(Dante)

By Thomas M. Hart, O.S.B., Assistant to the President for Mission



A peculiar structure on our campus overlooks the Duprè Science Center. It is tall and slender, has pineapples and bees on it. There is a small square opening at the top—so what is it and what is it doing there? This thin tower is known as an analemma, something well-known to ancient peoples, down to our own age.

That small square at the top? Long before the invention of clocks and telescopes, people marked time with cues from nature. If at high noon, we were to mark on the ground where the sun shines through that square opening, and continue to do so every day for a full year, we would see developing a kind of figure eight design, and it is from this annual cycle of the sun that we derive the symbol for infinity,  $\infty$ .

The book of Ecclesiastes puts it best, in one of the most famous and well-loved poems ever written: “There is a season, and a time to every purpose under heaven” (3:1), going on to say: “God has made everything beautiful in its time; and he has put infinity into the human mind, yet in a way that he will never fully comprehend it” (3:11).

Each of us stands on that threshold between our finitude, and the eternal, with no beginning and no end.

Within the sight lines of the analemma, one’s eyes fall upon our cemetery, a popular place where people often go to reflect. When Saint Benedict, in his tools for good works, exhorts: “Day by day remind yourself that you are going to die” (RB 4:47), he is not being macabre, which is the first thing many people think when they read that; rather, he is simply exhorting us to face reality, that our earthly life is beset with limits.

Since October 1846, the founding of Saint Vincent, how many sunrises and sunsets did subsequent generations of our forebears experience (almost 64,000!). People before us have come and gone, and one day they will say the same about us. They bequeathed to us by their labor and sweat, treasures too many to be counted. The question then for us is: have we

been faithful to that inheritance, and with whatever each of us may be doing in the wider Saint Vincent community, what kind of inheritance are we endeavoring to pass on?

Origen (185 – 254 AD), in one of his commentaries on Scripture, wrote: “Understand that you are another world in miniature and that there is within you the sun, the moon, and the stars.”

Fast forward to today, Nobel Laureate in physics, Frank Wilczek observes that: “Ten octillion, the number of atoms within us, is about a million times the number of stars in the entire visible universe. In that very concrete sense, a universe dwells within us” (Fundamentals: Ten Keys to Reality, 2021).

And Jesus put it the most simply, when he said: “The kingdom of God is within you” (Luke 17:21).

With awareness that each of us stands on that liminal, threshold between our finitude and infinity, let us take confidence in the words of Saint Teresa of Avila (1515 – 1582 AD), a Doctor of the Church: “Let nothing disturb thee.”

May each one of us treasure a noumenon like unto Saint Gregory of Narek (950–1003 AD; another Doctor of the Church), who came to experience God in such a way which led him to address him: “Lord, you are the sum of all infinities.”

As we step back a little bit to take in an awareness of our rich heritage, may everyone we love come to experience “the sum of all infinities,” not just in some future existence, but on the ground here and now. Then we will know what Saint Benedict said, to do all things *ut in omnibus glorifictur Dominus* (“that in all things God may be glorified”)!  $\infty$



# Joanne Rogers: Musician, Teacher, Advocate, Friend

By Dr. Dana Winters

We were all so saddened to hear of the death of Joanne Rogers on January 14, 2021. During the last two decades, Joanne was instrumental in the development of the Fred Rogers Center for Early Learning and Children's Media; how we thought about our role to the external communities we serve, our advocacy for children, families and their helpers, and our work with Saint Vincent College students. Joanne was a tremendous musician, advocate for children and families and friend. Foundational to all of that, Joanne was a teacher. For decades, Joanne taught music to children and young people, and through her interactions with each of us, she taught us so much about what it means to work in service of one another through kindness, compassion and love.

On numerous occasions, Joanne had an opportunity to share herself with the students of Saint Vincent College—through the classroom and through special gatherings. As we remembered these times, Dr. Roberta Schomburg, executive director of the Fred Rogers Center, Dr. Junlei Li, former co-director of the Fred Rogers Center and I shared some of our favorite memories of welcoming Joanne to our classrooms, research meetings and social gatherings. Across all of these stories and times together, Roberta, Junlei and I identified three things that we will miss most about Joanne—all things that she offered to us, as leaders of the Fred Rogers Center, and to our students as they gained a deeper understanding of Fred Rogers and his work.

## 1 INSPIRATION

“Every time Joanne spoke, she inspired others to do good things and to make new commitments to families, caring and kindness,” offered Roberta. It didn't matter where she was speaking or to whom she was speaking, Joanne always connected with people on an individual level. She was always willing to listen to questions, stories and difficulties. She rarely offered advice unless asked, but modeled what it meant to care for another person. Even in the classroom, Joanne would listen attentively to students' questions, ask for additional information and answer with a wisdom and grace that inspired action from others. “Her words were a part of Fred's legacy, but in some ways, they were bigger than just Fred's legacy,” Roberta added. Her authentic kindness, compassion and inspiration were a part of every interaction.

## 2 COMFORT

As a relatively new addition to the Fred Rogers Center, I remember sitting in Joanne's living room, reminiscing about motherhood and the challenges of being a mother and being of service to others outside of the family. I remember feeling instantly comforted by the genuine and personal way Joanne received me into her home. It was as though we were lifelong friends. I know she brought this feeling to our students, as well, as they were introduced to her for the first time and she would ask them about their own lives, listen

attentively and make them feel as though they were the only people in the world. Joanne always insisted that she sit in the middle of all of the students, just like she was a fellow learner in the classroom. Students felt comfortable asking Joanne all sorts of questions, because she always made Fred and herself seem as normal and human as possible. Junlei recalled how Joanne would always make Fred “very human and normal and less of an icon and saint. I think that goes really well with her general push for the kids to just be very comfortable to be them, be themselves and to find their own unique ways of serving and answering the world’s call.”

## 3 TRUST

As the closest person to Fred, we looked to Joanne for approval for how we led the Center, studied Fred’s legacy, and engaged with students to extend Fred’s teachings. Overwhelmingly, Joanne instilled in each of us a sense of trust—in ourselves and in the work of the Center. She truly embraced the idea that the question should not be “What would Fred do?” but rather “What will you do?” She gave us all the permission and trust to use our own voices to carry on the philosophy of Fred. She gave that same trust to students. Inevitably, a student would ask a question about Fred or about how Fred would have reacted to a certain situation. Joanne always handled these questions with grace and kindness, and the same response. She would say, “Listen. Not listen only, but listen first.” She empowered

each of us and our students to listen to one another, to think deeply about what we are learning and to carry forward in a way informed by that learning.

Though we will miss Joanne dearly, we are comforted at the thought of her reunion with Fred in heaven, and we are so thankful for the time we shared with her. It was the inspiration, comfort and trust that she gave to each of us, to live a life of listening, learning and loving that will carry on for years to come through the work of the Fred Rogers Center and Saint Vincent College.

*Dr. Dana Winters is Director of Simple Interactions and Academic Programs and Assistant Professor of Child and Family Studies at the Fred Rogers Center at Saint Vincent College.*



*Joanne Rogers received an honorary degree from Saint Vincent College in 2000. She is pictured with Fred, who received an honorary doctorate from Saint Vincent in 1973, following the 2000 commencement ceremony.*



# Construction Begins on New Student Life and Hospitality Center



Student Life and  
Hospitality Hub  
Exterior Rendering

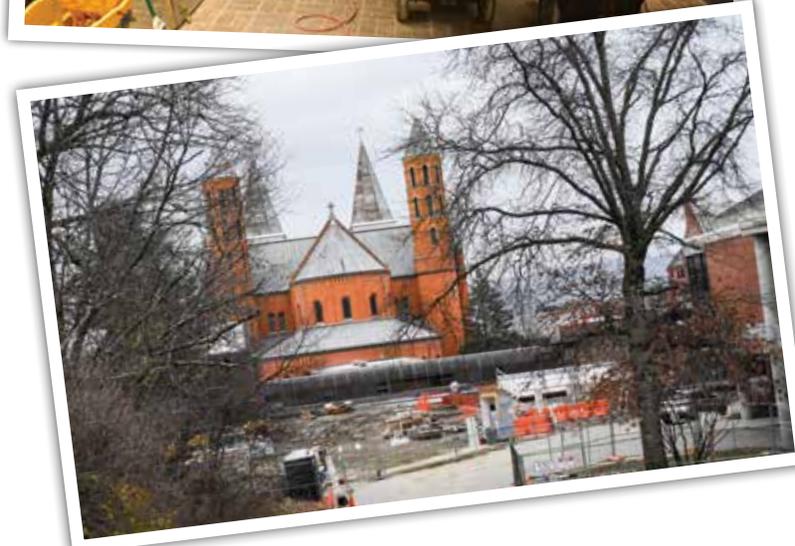


Rendering of dining  
hall in Student Life  
and Hospitality  
Center



## ■ Building Forward

*Construction* has begun on the new Student Life and Hospitality Center at Saint Vincent College. Funded by the College's successful Forward, Always Forward comprehensive campaign, the project will include the expansion and renovation of existing dining, meeting and gathering spaces; the upgrade and reconfiguration of kitchen and service facilities; and the building of a new Seminary dining space, to be named Amil and MaryAnn DiPadova Hall.



The project will be completed in two phases. The first phase, scheduled for completion in August 2021, will focus on upgrades to the mechanicals and kitchen equipment, renovations to the current dining space and the construction of the Amil and MaryAnn DiPadova Hall.

Phase II will include the renovation of the entire student dining area, as well as the kitchen and storage areas and specialty dining and meeting rooms. It is scheduled for completion later in 2022.

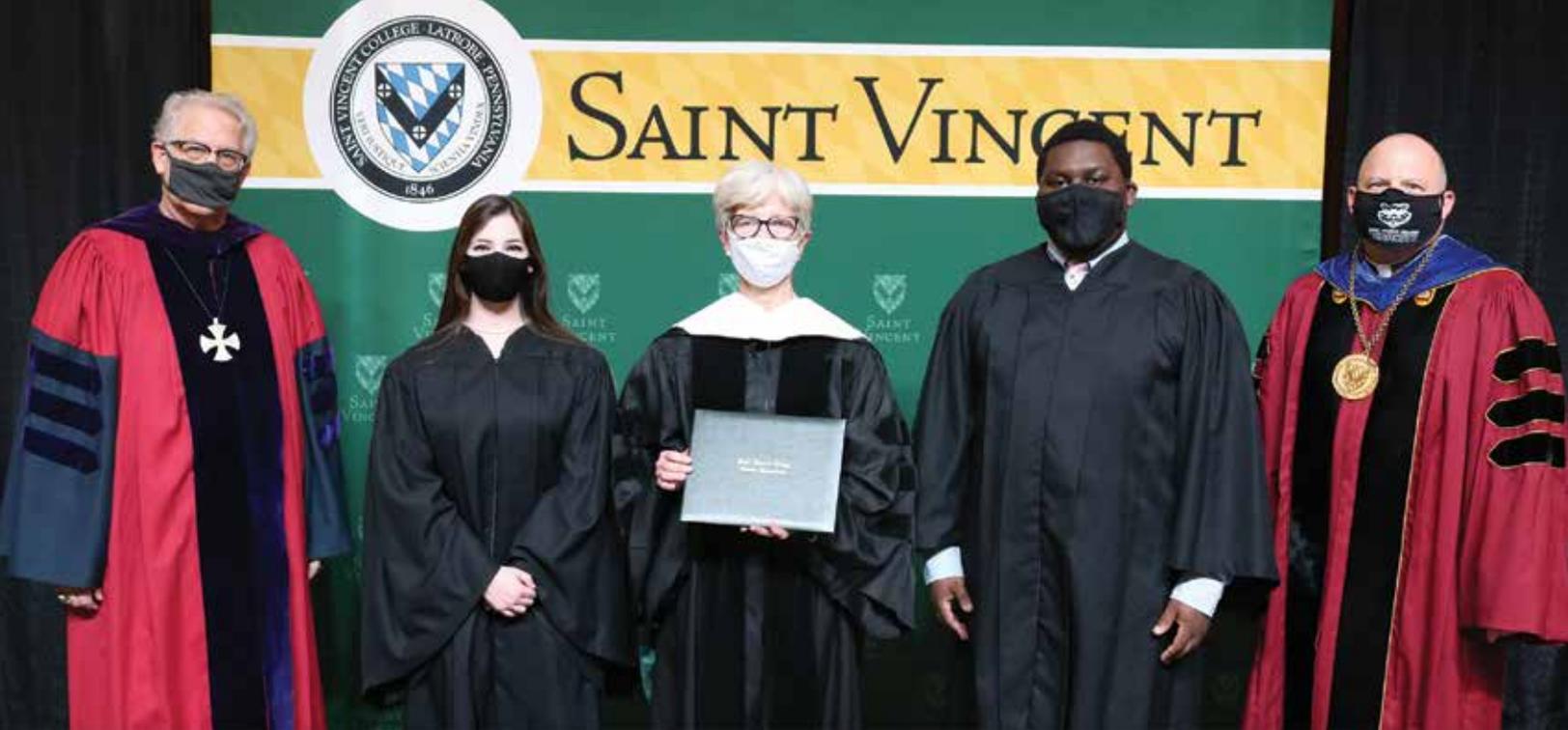
The Student Life and Hospitality Center will be located to the west of Anselm Hall, adjacent to the current Community Center Dining Hall, Prep Hall and the Dale P. Latimer Library.

The Saint Vincent Community is grateful to the benefactors who have supported this project for the sustenance of our students and the reception of guests.

The Student Life and Hospitality Center project is the third major renovation/expansion project of Saint Vincent College's \$110 million Forward, Always Forward campaign.

- The 11,260 square foot James F. Will Engineering and Biomedical Sciences Hall at the Sis and Herman Dupré Science Pavilion was formally opened in November 2017.
- A 53,000-square foot expansion of the Dale P. Latimer Library was completed in March 2020.

The Campaign has also provided advanced technological updates for classrooms and other student facilities in Alfred Hall and the Robert S. Carey Student Center, as well as enhancement to the College's endowment, financial aid, academic and support services and student life resources.



*From left, Archabbot Martin de Porres Bartel, O.S.B., chancellor of Saint Vincent College; Alaina Dorazio, C22; Jeri Eckhart Queenan, former trustee of Saint Vincent College, who gave the address and received an honorary degree; Kyle Watson, C21; and Father Paul R. Taylor, O.S.B., president of Saint Vincent College.*

## Commencement Address: Opportunities, Even Amidst Tragedy

Jeri Eckhart Queenan, former trustee of Saint Vincent College and Seminary and currently senior partner at global nonprofit organization The Bridgespan Group, received an honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters and delivered the principal address at Saint Vincent College's 16th annual December Commencement, held virtually on December 19, 2020. The College awarded 118 bachelor's and master's degrees, and also individually recognized each of its May 2020 graduates during the virtual commencement event.

Queenan has held leadership positions in the private, public, nonprofit and faith sectors, tackling society's most pressing problems. At Bridgespan, which collaborates with mission-driven leaders, organizations and philanthropists to break cycles of poverty and injustice, Queenan leads a number of large, complex initiatives.

She launched and led Bridgespan's global practice for its first decade, traveling to 50 countries on six continents, laying the groundwork for Bridgespan to become the global organization it is today. She spearheaded Bridgespan's multi-year initiative to end "the nonprofit starvation cycle," culminating in a 2019 announcement of bold policy change by five foundation presidents. Her clients include the precedent-setting

Goldman Sachs' 10,000 Women, an initiative that has achieved strong results by empowering underserved women entrepreneurs; the Ford Foundation's BUILD program, a \$1 billion investment in the long-term capacity of social justice organizations around the world; and MacArthur Foundation's Lever of Change, which unlocks philanthropic capital for social good. She led similar high-impact engagements with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, CIFF, UN Foundation, Salvation Army, Camfed, Global Teen Challenge and Catholic Charities D.C.

Noting that "the COVID-19 pandemic has caused countless deaths, sparked a global recession and forced major changes to how we learn, work and live," Queen said, "grief and

loss abound. AND astonishing innovations are taking place, like the COVID-19 vaccine developed in record time. Out of tragedy comes opportunity. Our nation also reckons with racial justice. The pandemic exposed pre-existing inequities for all to see—in housing, health and work. Philanthropists are shifting their grantmaking to strengthen organizations that address disparities and discrimination.”

She recounted the story of an earthquake on All Saints Day in 1755 in the city of Lisbon. “The city was completely destroyed as buildings collapsed, a tsunami swept away survivors and fires burned. While the king struggled, the prime minister had prepared for such a time as this.

He led Lisbon’s rebuilding with innovations such as prefab housing and underground water systems. Out of this devastation, entirely new fields of practice emerged, including modern seismology and urban planning.

“Saint Vincent has prepared you for such a time as this with the best of science and technology, business and communication, literature and culture, philosophy and theology. Perhaps, most importantly, you carry the moral and ethical framework that society so desperately needs as the foundation of recovery.

“You are launching your adult lives in the decade that may be the most productive and influential of the next century,” she said. “Accelerated by the pandemic, demand for technologies like telehealth, online learning, videoconferencing and streaming is exploding. The

future will bring entirely new ways of living and working. To lead in these times, you must find your purpose, build communities of connection and strengthen your spirituality.”

Finding your purpose, she said, “requires discerning your special gifts and recognizing the work that is uniquely yours to do. I am not talking about building a resume but rather discovering what Thomas

Such relationships, she said, “enable and multiply our impact. Take good care of the friendships you have formed here; keep them fresh. These friends and colleagues will be godparents to your children, investors in your businesses, your rock when times are tough.... The Benedictines show us that contemplation transforms and leads to action. They model spiritual values of

Point and other venues.

Prior to Bridgespan Queenan served as a senior official in the Executive Branch of government, first as White House Fellow and then Associate Deputy Secretary of Labor, overseeing line agencies with a combined annual budget of \$28 billion and leading Cabinet-level working groups on pension reform, steel industry restructuring and child care policy.

Later she served as chair and CEO of the White House Fellows Foundation in Washington, D.C., leading a successful fundraising campaign that put the program on solid footing. She was a member of the President’s Commission on

White House Fellowships for five years. Queenan is deeply involved in revitalization of the Catholic Church, the largest provider of social services in the world with 1.2 billion members.

Queenan graduated Phi Beta Kappa/summa cum laude from UCLA and began her career as a securities analyst at Trust Company of the West. After receiving her MBA with honors from Harvard Business School, she joined the Boston Consulting Group where she advised multinational corporations in health care and telecommunications.

She and her husband, Charlie Queenan, have been married for 37 years and are the parents of four adult children.

Recorded in the historic Saint Vincent Archabbey Basilica, the commencement address is available for viewing at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ljyLJUZEK9o>.

“Search for your special talents and build a life of meaning and purpose. Do the work that is yours to do. Pour your life out for others.”

—Jeri Eckhart Queenan

Merton named the “True Self”—the person we are called to be.”

She told a story of sitting at her parents’ dinner table when she was 17, watching the news and debating politics and policy. Her father told her, “those who have the ability to solve society’s greatest problems have an obligation to do so.”

In doing so, she said, “he named something about me that I could not see.... Parents, professors, and friends can help us if we listen.”

Queenan recounted meeting her husband, Charlie Queenan, and, on the night they met, talking about the core values and events that shaped them. “Charlie is my life partner, my best friend, my soulmate. We have supported each other’s mission-driven work, raised four children, created an extended community of family and treasured friends. ‘Two souls united, grace at our side’ is our motto.”

humility, respect, kindness and generosity. I have been changed by the monks here and around the world.”

Quoting futurist Bill Sharpe, she noted, “this is the future path of transformation, the pattern of hope.... Search for your special talents and build a life of meaning and purpose. Do the work that is yours to do. Pour your life out for others.”

Queenan has published numerous articles on nonprofit strategy and scale, board governance, building strong organizations, women’s entrepreneurship and performance measurement in the *Stanford Social Innovation Review*, *Chronicle of Philanthropy* and other journals. She has been an invited speaker at the InterAction Forum, Global Philanthropy Forum, Vatican Impact Investing Conference, MacDonald Conference for Leaders of Character at West

Interview with Ron Beghetto: Subtle Nuances of Creativity  
Learning & Life  
Beghetto

## Psychological Science Students Garner Research Experience, And Get Published

An Exploratory  
Case of Coll  
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An Interview  
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J. Ray-M

Examining the Role of  
Performance  
M. J. Hawthorne & M. Chikeleze

Anxiety Reduction in College Students After Brief Inter  
a Therapy Dog or Animatronic Dog  
N. Haefelin, N. Lange, B. Sweigart, M. Yonto, & M. G.



Dr. Mark Rivardo and students.

Having research selected for publication in an international journal can be a crowning achievement, providing validation and gratification for students after months—sometimes years—of research, experimentation, analysis and critical writing.

It's an experience that a number of recent Saint Vincent College graduates were able to realize firsthand, as studies authored by two groups of students from the Department of Psychological Science were published in the fall 2020 edition of the *North American Journal of Psychology* (NAJP).

Graduates Norina Haefelin, Nicholas Lange, Brent Sweigart and Michaela Yonto, all members of the class of 2019, teamed up to author "Anxiety Reduction in College Students after Brief Interaction with a Therapy Dog or Animatronic Dog," while Jessica Ray-Marino, C'20, and Kyle Ward, C'19, collaborated on "The Effect of

Timing of Change on Change Blindness and Eyewitness Identification."

Both groups of students conducted their research for courses taught by Dr. Mark Rivardo, professor of psychological science, with the change blindness project originating in his Collaborative Research Seminar and the therapy/animatronic dog study conducted in his Research Methods in Psychological Science class.

"Publication of these projects was pursued because of their contributions to the discipline," said Rivardo, "and the commitment of the students to continue working on them beyond the class for which they were originally conducted."

Rivardo explained that the goal for students in the Collaborative Research Seminar is to complete projects that are at least presented at a regional conference, the Annual Meeting of the Eastern Psychological Association, and are ideally publishable. He noted that both

projects ultimately were presented at the Eastern Psychological Association conference as well.

"Jess and Kyle really did a lot with the project beyond that first semester," Rivardo said. "They secured a Palumbo Student Research Grant to allow us to recruit participants online through Amazon Mechanical Turk, conducted several pilot studies to iron out any wrinkles and went through extensive revisions of the manuscript."

"The therapy dog study stood out," he continued, "because it was timely and relevant to the Saint Vincent community, as well as to the discipline at large. All the students continued to contribute after the semester ended, with Norina taking the lead on preparing the manuscript for submission and being the driving force that kept it moving forward."

Despite authoring vastly different studies and being enrolled in different courses, both groups of students shared many of the same experiences throughout

the long process, from their initial proposal of their projects all the way through the submission of their final manuscripts.

"Kyle and I started the project in 2017," said Ray-Marino, "my sophomore year and his junior year. I was still working on it after he had graduated and it was finally accepted for publication just as I was graduating. I have never spent so much time on a paper. We spent a lot of late nights, long weekends and even worked over the summer to complete it. It seemed like there were always revisions to be made."

"We collected all of our data, from more than 150 students, in less than two weeks," recalled Haefelin. "That was a pretty hectic data collection phase! But then after that, we made edits to the paper for about two years before it was finally published. I loved being able to work with my team. It may sound silly, but one of the most memorable parts was finally being able to submit the final paper after

countless nights of analyzing the data or addressing edits until 2 or 3 a.m.”

Rivardo explained that in order to fulfill course requirements, all students in his research-based classes must complete a study and submit a final manuscript. After evaluating these manuscripts, he identifies ones that may be worthy of professional publication and then discusses the next steps with the student authors. These steps include additional data collection and analysis, and typically extensive revisions of the manuscript before progressing to the lengthy review process.

“When I feel it is ready,” said Rivardo, “we submit the manuscript to a journal editor. The editor removes identifying author information and sends the manuscript to 2-4 reviewers who are experts in the field. The reviews are blind, so the reviewers don’t know who the authors are and the authors do not know who the reviewers are. Those experts return their reviews to the editor, who makes an editorial decision: reject, invite to revise and resubmit, accept with minimal revisions or accept outright. Typically, at least some revisions are required. Resubmissions go to the editor, who may solicit feedback from the original reviewers before making a final decision.”

After undergoing multiple rounds of revisions, the groups were elated when learning that their manuscripts had finally

been accepted.

“I was beside myself,” said Lange. “The level of gratification that I felt was immeasurable. It was gratifying to see successful results and turn in our paper at the end of the semester, but this was much different, seeing our hard work paying off and having it published in a journal available to the entire scientific community.”

“I remember jumping up and down and laughing from excitement,” added Haefelin. “I’ll never forget calling my parents and telling them that the hard work had finally

paid off. I was ecstatic.”

The majority of the published students are continuing to study psychology at the graduate level. Ray-Marino is pursuing a Ph.D. in school psychology at Penn State; Ward, a master’s in applied developmental psychology at the University of Pittsburgh; Haefelin, a master’s in clinical rehabilitation and mental health counseling at Penn State and Lange, a master’s in clinical health counseling at Indiana

University of Pennsylvania.

They all remain grateful for their experiences at Saint Vincent and for the mentorship and guidance of Rivardo and the entire SVC Psychological Science faculty.

“The dedication of the psychology faculty to their work is something I have never experienced anywhere else,” added Lange. “Each professor works hard to push students to surpass their perceived limits. They are kind, caring and a pleasure to be with, both in and out of the classroom. Their love for their work is easy to see, and they all

specific and meaningful impact on my personal and academic journey.

The now-graduate students also credit the rigorous, hands-on curriculum at Saint Vincent for their continued success and feel that they have been more than prepared for the rigors of graduate school.

“I feel far more prepared for psychological research work in comparison to my peers,” said Ward. “During my time in graduate school, many peers have approached me for assistance in conducting searches for peer-reviewed literature, reading empirical articles, creating literature reviews, understanding statistics and other research-based inquiries.”

Haefelin said, “I really think I am where I am today because of the amazing professors at Saint Vincent who not only prepared me for graduate school, but prepared me to be excellent and to be a competitive, high-achieving student.”

Including these two most recent submissions, work from Saint Vincent College undergraduates has appeared in the NAJP 15 times since 2008. While it may seem like a common occurrence, Rivardo emphasized the difficulty and prestige of the accomplishment.

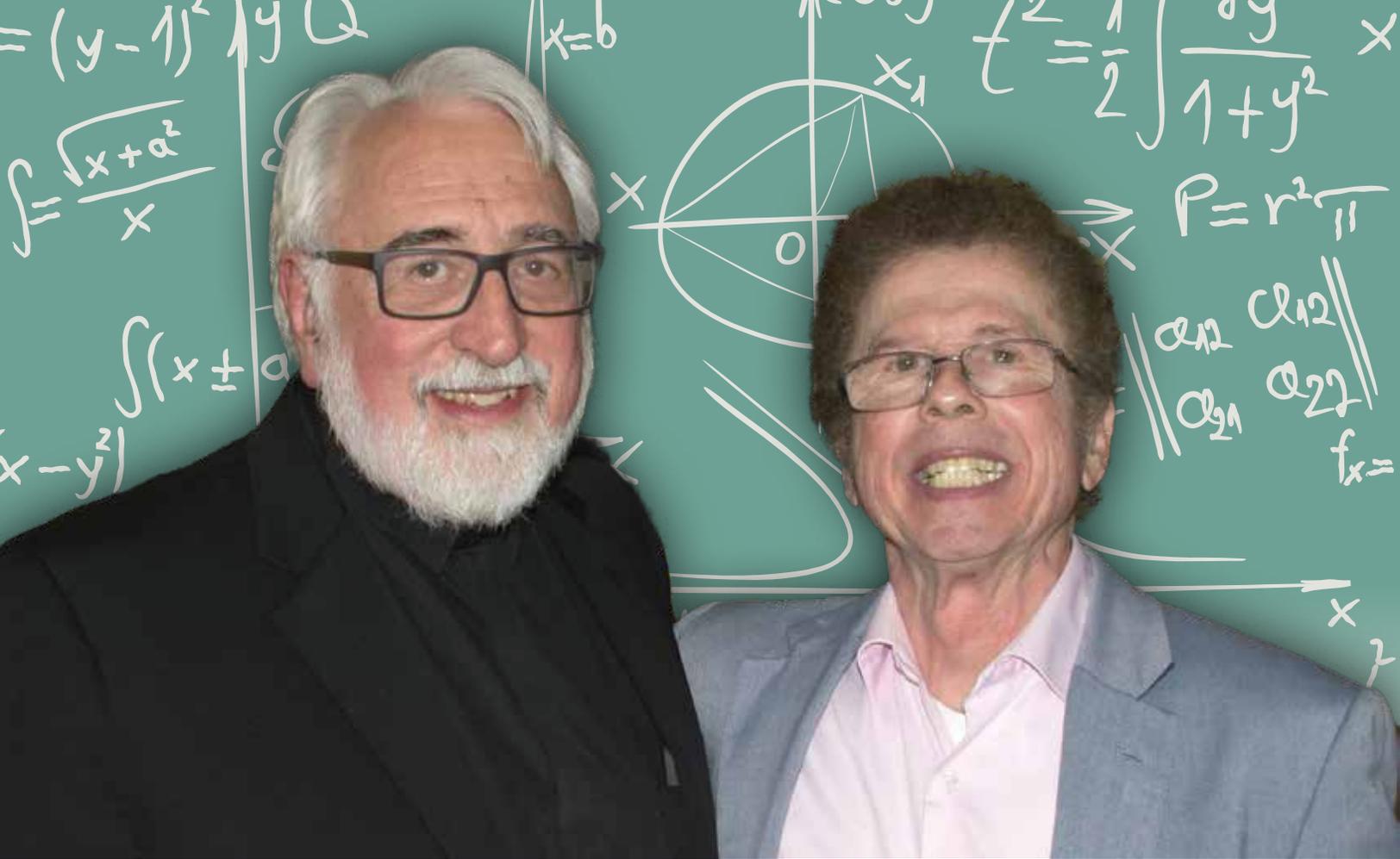
“In general,” he said, “it is very unusual for undergraduates in the discipline to have first author publications, especially in journals that are not explicitly for undergraduate research.

“I am proud of what we have been able to accomplish.”

—Jim Berger



Left, Kyle Ward receives the Award for Academic Excellence in Psychology at the 2019 Honors Convocation from Brother Norman Hipps, O.S.B. At right, Jessica Ray-Marino, C’20.



# A Tribute To A Friend

*By Brother Norman Hipps, O.S.B.*

**On January 3, 2021, Dr. John Smetanka communicated the following to the Saint Vincent community:**

**"With profound sadness we mourn the passing of Dr. Michael W. Botsko, emeritus professor of mathematics. Dr. Botsko's 50 years as a professor of mathematics at Saint Vincent were characterized by sustained excellent teaching and mentoring of his students, insightful scholarship, dedicated leadership of his department and good-natured collegiality. A committed and gifted mathematician and teacher of mathematics, Dr. Botsko published numerous journal articles, authored a textbook on Real Analysis and contributed to Saint Vincent in uncountable ways."**

It's interesting that the last adjective that Dr. Smetanka used that described the many ways that Dr. Botsko contributed to the community, was the adjective uncountable. Uncountable has a technical meaning in mathematics and when used as an adjective before infinity it refers to an infinity which is even larger than the infinity of the natural numbers.

It started in the fall of 1967 when a curly-haired 23-year-old Mike Botsko completed his master's degree at Duquesne University and began teaching full-time at Saint Vincent College, both introductory and advanced mathematics courses. For 50 years he continued teaching full-time while he married, began a family, did a Ph.D. in mathematics at the University of Pittsburgh, developed an ambitious research agenda and chaired the department for 40 of those 50 years.

As a teacher, he prepared every class by writing out the full lecture, proofs and problems, but never looked at them during the class. He would begin with precise definitions of mathematical concepts, a carefully worded statement of a theorem, typically broken down into hypotheses and conclusion, followed by rigorous proof. Examples followed to illustrate the theorem. He taught in his blue sports coat with chalk in his

hair and on his shoulders, passionately. Doing mathematics in front of students, but not as an actor or speaker disconnected from his audience; rather he taught with compassion knowing the names of every student, answering raised hands, calling on students by name and gently redirecting their answers. If they were off the mark, he would say, "That's close, but let's think a little more from another direction." The classes he taught were typically the calculus sequence, complex variables, topology and his favorite, a two-semester real analysis course.

He was always available to his students, whether that was on the first floor of Wimmer Hall in the 60s or 70s, the third floor of Placid Hall, the fourth floor of Alfred Hall or the new math wing in the Dupré Science Pavilion. His door would always be open and when he worked with students in his office, he would write carefully either the proof or the problem with which the student was struggling, so that the student always left with hard copies to review if he or she didn't quite get it during the tutoring session.

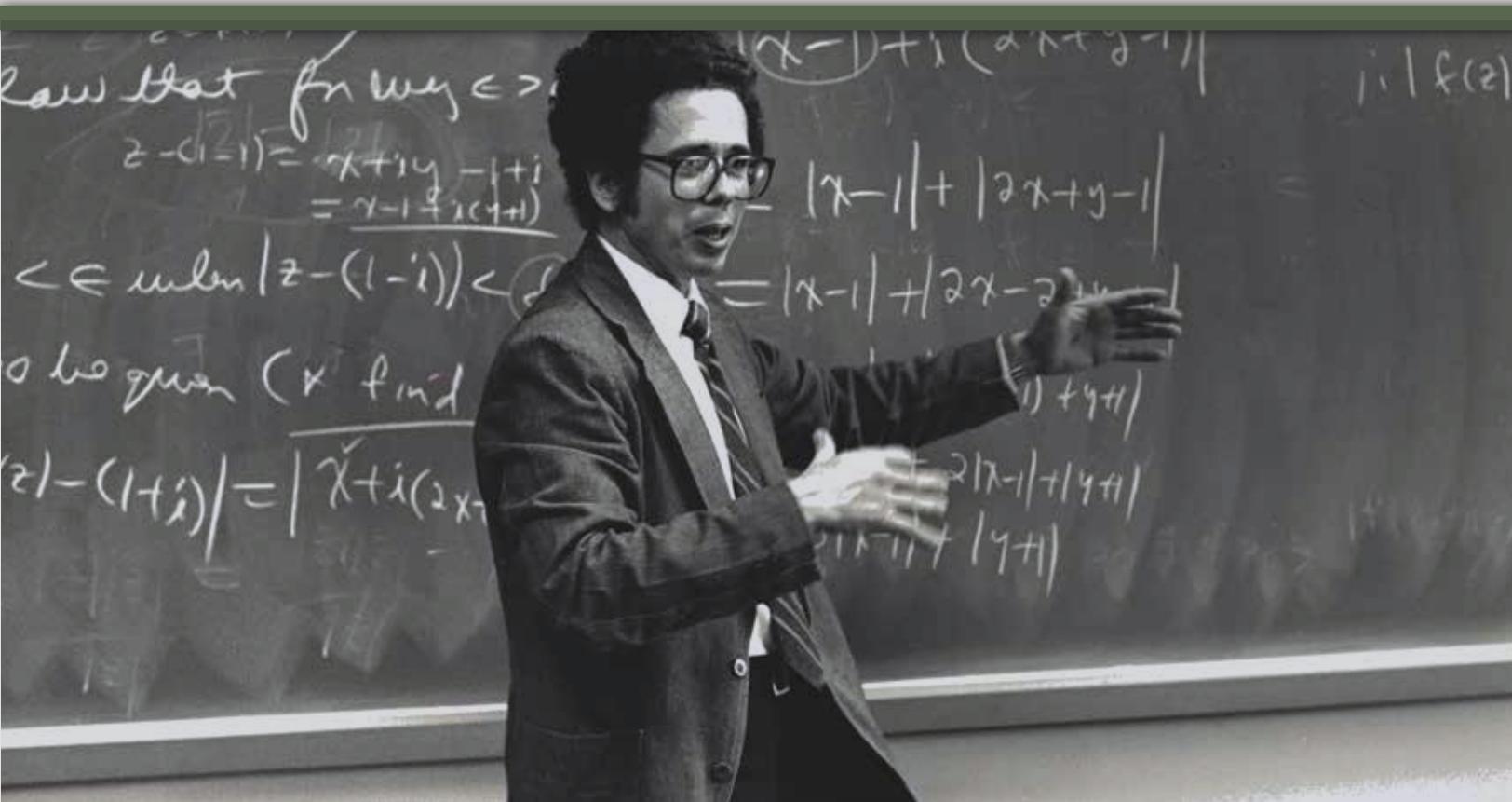
His relationship with students was always personal and supportive, but also challenging. He encouraged students to do more mathematics, whether here or at graduate school. Many of his students pursued a Ph.D., but a similar number became high school teachers where they wanted to replicate what they saw in the teaching of Mike Botsko.

Within the field, real analysis was his first love and in 1989 he published in the *American Mathematical Monthly*, "The Use of Full Covers in Real Analysis," an article which was widely cited in the mathematical community and subsequently published in Chinese. His unique discovery was that the full cover theorem could be used to prove the standard theorems covered in an upper-level undergraduate or first-year graduate course in real analysis. With this insight he published the textbook, *An Invitation to Real Analysis*, first in 1996, and then a third edition in 2008. The word invitation is meaningful. Mike saw all of his teaching and all of his research in the field as an invitation to his colleagues and students to see the wonders of this math world in which he lived.

Dr. Botsko's publication activity continued with problems and solutions appearing in the *Monthly* or in the *Mathematics Magazine* every year from 2000 through 2016. His chairmanship of the mathematics department, as well as his oversight of the 3/2 engineering program, were augmented by faculty who had been his students: Richard Gosser, C'71; Larry Mismas, C'76; Norman Higgs, C'66. Even the part-time adjunct faculty included mathematics graduates of Saint Vincent: Lou Congelio, C'69; Jim Novak, C'73; Paul Whiteside, C'82; and Rachel Kurdziel, C'00.

My fondest memory of Mike occurred in the complex variables class that he taught in the fall of 1967. There was a student in that class who was blind and often in the middle of a theorem whose proof might be three blackboard panels long would put up her hand and say "Mr. Botsko, I'm lost." Mike would leave the blackboard and walk over to the student, address her by name and begin, "Remember the hypotheses and the conclusion that we wanted to prove." He would systemically argue from the first hypothesis through various consequences of that hypothesis then add the second hypothesis and continue the argument until she would say "I'm caught up!" Mike's ability to explain mathematics with clarity and precision, even without the aid of visible notation and diagrams, was extraordinary, as was his dedication to using his gifts to teach so many students with care and individual attention.

For almost 50 years, nearly every student who took a course in mathematics at Saint Vincent College was instructed directly or indirectly by Dr. Michael Botsko. May he now enjoy the infinity of eternal life with God which is larger than the infinity of all mathematical realities.





*Dr. Richard Wissolik, yearbook photo, 1968, and in later years*

## Dr. Richard Wissolik

# An Indelible Impact

*By Dr. Dennis McDaniel*

Though Dick Wissolik, who taught at Saint Vincent for nearly 50 years, passed away recently, his impact on the college, his profession and especially his students remains indelible.

I was Dick's colleague in the English Department for 20 years, but I was also his student, and like many others, his student aide. My memories hearken back to the 1970s at SVC, which was, needless to say, a different era at Saint Vincent: ashtrays sat on every classroom desk, dorms were open to the public, tiny nuns spooned out our meals, and few if any women's restrooms could be found. What really stands out for me were the faculty, among whom, characters abounded: a long-haired Will Stubbs taught rock lyrics in Poetry class, Pat O'Neill sat under a lookalike poster of Karl Marx, Roy Mills played pinochle for hours in the Shack, and Joe Ryer asked us if he were walking or only "being"—these guys inspired me with their erudition but also with the image they projected—cool, learned, experimental and deeply interested in their students—the kind of professor that I struggle to emulate.

Among these amazing characters was Dick Wissolik. Though he was around the same age as the others, his image and sensibility evoked an earlier era. Having spent his early career in Africa working for Catholic Relief Services, Dick didn't live through the same 1960s as his contemporaries. At a time when his colleagues preferred a counter-cultural demeanor, Dick Wissolik struck a 1950s cool: he was more Steve McQueen than Stephen Stills. The first time that I saw Dick was on third Alfred while he was waiting for our Language and Rhetoric class to begin. Like a young Hemingway fresh from the veldt, Dick leaned against the classroom door, jacketed yet tieless, Marlboro burning in his right hand, opaque wayfarers accentuating his seeming indifference. I remember the first thing he said to class: "you guys are the smart section, so if you know more than I do by midterms, we'll just go to baseball games."

Like those of his colleagues, Dick's classes used the immediate subject matter as a launching pad for unlimited literary, historical and cultural associations. Drawing from his voluminous mental library stocked by years of reading and research, Dick wouldn't read "The Hollow Men" by T.S. Eliot as much as he would reveal the various cultural tributaries that fed it—the literature that inspired it, the historical moment that produced it, and the archetypal patterns that the poem would manifest. In Dick's class, James Joyce's "Araby" became a repository of cultural information, a liberal arts education in itself.

But Alfred Hall was only one site for Dick's teaching; indeed, the

world was his classroom. I retained as much from Dick's occasional visits to the Kennedy Hall pool room (now, ironically, the Wellness Center in the Carey Student Center), where my pals and I wasted our undergraduate afternoons. Dick would sweep in, shoulder his way into a game and show us how veterans play: balancing a cigarette out of the side of the mouth, curling the left index finger around the cue, cracking the balls sharply and definitively and coolly moving to the next shot before the object ball thunked into the pocket. When he gloated, it was through Shakespeare: "a hit, a palpable hit" he'd cry. Even his misses were educational—at the end of a long winning streak, Dick would take on the morose persona of the defeated Richard II, exclaiming, "For God's sake, let us sit upon the ground and tell sad stories of the death of kings." Or he would clutch his arm and cry out like the other, deformed, Shakespearean Richard, that love "did corrupt frail nature with some bribe, To shrink mine arm up like a wither'd shrub!" It became cool to quote the bard as we played. Shakespeare perpetually shadowed Dick—in the classroom, at the pool hall, or during individual conferences at Mr. Toad's in Greensburg, where I played Prince Hal to his sardonic yet merry Falstaff.

Our relationship was precious and enduring, but Dick fostered such connections countless times with successive student aides, colleagues, friends and his beloved war veterans. For us, Dick survives in the way that we read, talk and teach. He made the world our classroom, and we remain his students: good night, sweet prince.

## PAYING TRIBUTE TO TWO GREAT MINDS

Dr. Michael Botsko and Dr. Richard Wissolik were staples at Saint Vincent for decades. The indelible mark left on those who enjoyed their lectures or knew them from being on campus is without question. They exhibited the quintessential elements of what it means to be scholars, mentors and leaders. In honor of Dr. Michael Botsko, Emeritus Professor of Mathematics and Dr. Richard Wissolik, Professor Emeritus of English, two scholarships have been established to provide critical aid to Saint Vincent students. The scholarship in Dr. Botsko's name will provide supplemental student aid to those with a focus on the study of mathematics, while the scholarship in Dr. Wissolik's name will provide student aid broadly to Saint Vincent students. The awarding of both funds will be need-based.

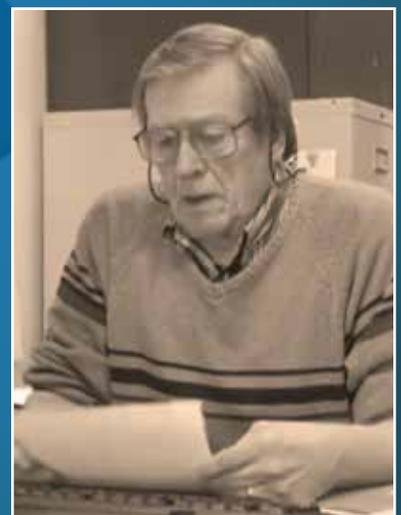
Providing the opportunity to current and future Bearcats to follow in their footsteps as young scholars, mentors and leaders, is a tribute and honor to Dr. Botsko and Dr. Wissolik. If you would like to support these scholarships, please:

*Contact Ben Becze*

*Senior Director of Development and Alumni Relations | [ben.becze@stvincent.edu](mailto:ben.becze@stvincent.edu)  
724-805-2457 | [www.stvincent.edu/support-saint-vincent-college/](http://www.stvincent.edu/support-saint-vincent-college/)*



SAINT VINCENT COLLEGE





*Senior Keila Lobos-Hernandez, representing the Uniting All People Club, accepts the Certificate of Achievement from Saint Vincent College president Father Paul R. Taylor, O.S.B.*

## Special Awards Of Achievement Presented At Convocation

Special awards of achievement were presented to a pair of groups by President Father Paul R. Taylor, O.S.B., during the 2020 virtual Founders' Day Honors Convocation, recorded in the historic Saint Vincent Archabbey Basilica.

Saint Vincent College's Uniting All People Club and its Forward Together Advisory Committee were each recognized by Father Paul for leadership and commitment to the Saint Vincent community.

### **UNITING ALL PEOPLE CLUB**

Father Paul commended the Uniting All People Club

for addressing and facilitating discussion across the campus community on the issues of racism, bigotry, hatred and social injustice across society.

"On our campus," said Father Paul, "discussions surrounding these issues that plague our society have increased and moved forward. Back in June, the 'Let's Talk and Listen' discussion forums were launched as a way for our entire campus community to engage in meaningful dialogue regarding racism, bigotry and social injustice. These moving and enlightening events would not have been as powerful or

productive if it were not for the leadership and maturity of our students."

Father Paul praised the Uniting All People Club for playing a critical role in these discussions.

"The conversations, reflections and experiences that were shared during these forums from our students, and especially our students of color, were profound," he said. "As we remain inspired by the work of our students to positively change our world, discussions and actions around these issues must and will continue."

Keila Lobos-Hernandez, a

senior English major and secretary of the Uniting All People Club, accepted the certificate of achievement on behalf of the club.

### **FORWARD TOGETHER ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

The Forward Together Advisory Committee was formed in May under the leadership of Dr. John Smetanka, vice president for academic affairs and academic dean, to develop a comprehensive health and safety plan to guide the safe reopening of campus for the fall 2020 semester.

"With ever-changing guide-

lines and directives," said Father Paul, "it was imperative that we had a group of leaders to advise the College and Seminary on the necessary procedures, protocols and safety measures that would need to be implemented on our campus. The work of this committee has been tireless, as they continue to meet weekly to review policies and directives and make recommendations on how to address the challenges that the global pandemic presents."

Smetanka and the Very Reverend Edward Mazich, O.S.B., rector of Saint Vincent Seminary, accepted the certificate of achievement from Father Paul

on behalf of the committee.

Along with Smetanka and Father Edward, members of the Forward Together Advisory Committee include:

- **Dr. Jack Aupperle**, campus minister.
- **Jamie Ballew**, senior general manager of dining services.
- **Bob Baum**, dean of students.
- **Elaine Bennett**, associate professor of anthropology and sociology.
- **Eileen Flinn**, Title IX coordinator and assistant general counsel.
- **Gretchen Flock**, director, Saint Vincent Wellness Center.
- **Michael Hustava**, senior

director of marketing and communications.

- **Judy Maher**, director of human resources and assistant general counsel.
- **Kathleen Pantalone**, senior director of event and conference services.
- **Dr. Aldo Prosperi**, campus physician.
- **Aaron Sams**, instructor of education.
- **Dr. Patricia Sharbaugh**, associate professor of theology.
- **Carla Tomas**, director of the nursing program in the Herbert W. Boyer School of Natural Sciences, Mathematics and Computing.

Father Paul also lauded the efforts of **Jym Walters**, head women's lacrosse coach and associate director of campus life, who has been responsible for monitoring and delivering meals to students in isolation/quarantine.

"He has gone above and beyond to serve our students," said Father Paul.

Conducted virtually due to gathering restrictions associated with the COVID-19 pandemic, the 2020 Founders' Day Honors Convocation can be viewed in its entirety at [www.youtube.com/SaintVincentCollege](http://www.youtube.com/SaintVincentCollege).

—Jim Berger



Father Edward Mazich, O.S.B., (left) and Dr. John Smetanka accept the Certificate of Achievement on behalf of the Forward Together Advisory Committee.

# Dr. Julia Cavallo To Direct National Consortium

Dr. Julia Cavallo, C'03, Saint Vincent College director of assessment and institutional research, has been named executive director of the Association of Benedictine Colleges and Universities (ABCU).

Cavallo, who will remain in her position at Saint Vincent, will be responsible for helping to advance the needs and priorities and increasing the visibility and viability of the ABCU, a consortium of 13 Catholic, Benedictine higher education institutions from across the U.S. and Canada committed to academic and professional excellence by concretizing Gospel values as interpreted by the *Rule* of Saint Benedict.

"I am humbled and honored to take on the role of ABCU



*Dr. Julia Cavallo, C'03*

executive director," Cavallo stated. "I see this opportunity as ABCU's executive director as a way to make a far-reaching contribution to helping students achieve academic

excellence by promoting the common good of Church and society and assisting young people to lead lives of balance, generosity and integrity."

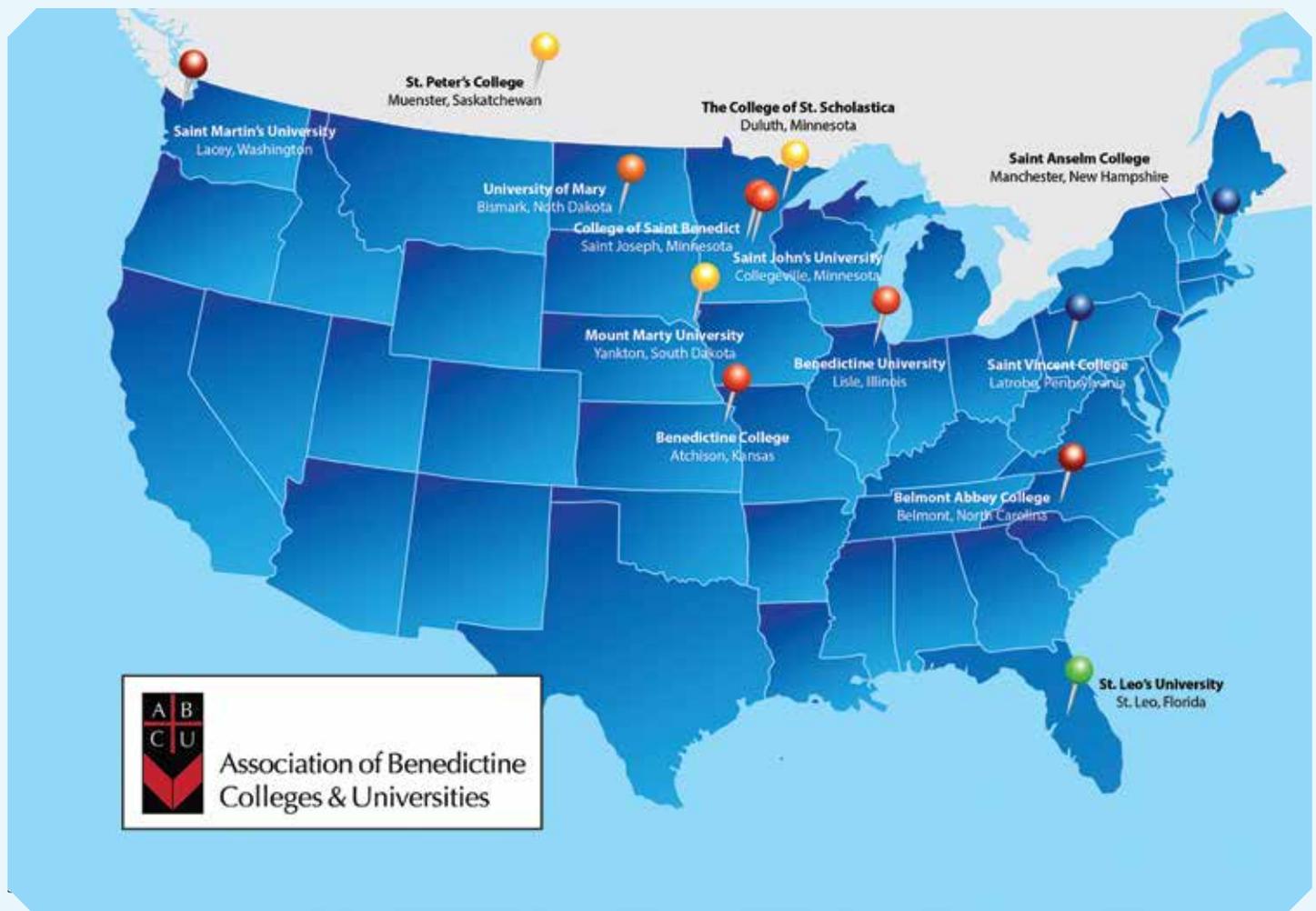
"Congratulations to Dr. Cavallo on this well-deserved appointment," said Father Paul R. Taylor, O.S.B., Saint Vincent College president. "It is critically important for Benedictine colleges and universities to forge ahead with a single mission. It is providential that Dr. Cavallo will have the opportunity to take the lead in this effort, as her presence at Saint Vincent, the first Benedictine college in the U.S., offers a unique and historic perspective."

In advancing the mission and reach of the ABCU, Cavallo will oversee a number

of initiatives, including the organization's annual Benedictine Leadership Formation Institute and its Benedictine Pedagogy Conference for faculty.

"In 2018," she recalled, "Brother Norman Hipps, O.S.B., (former Saint Vincent College president) invited me to the Benedictine Leadership Institute at Saint Anselm College. It was an opportunity to hear about how other Benedictine schools operate and how to reflect more deeply on my own role advancing our mission. It was extremely valuable."

A native of Hastings, Pennsylvania, Cavallo has worked at Saint Vincent College since 2006. After two years working as a public relations associate, she transitioned to the Office of Academic Affairs, where she



worked on special projects and in assisting the registrar. She took over institutional research responsibilities in 2013 and in 2018 added the role of director of assessment.

She graduated with honors from Saint Vincent with a bachelor of arts in communication, before earning a master's in curriculum and instruction from SVC in 2009. In June 2020, she completed her doctorate in education, with a concentration in higher education management, from the University of Pittsburgh.

Prior to attending Saint Vincent College, Cavallo also

leges in the U.S. and Canada and it is something that I look forward to helping advance.

"With so much uncertainty and so many injustices in the world," she continued, "it is vitally important that Benedictine institutions continue to serve as beacons of hope for students as they prepare for their careers and live meaningful lives."

The 13 institutions which comprise the ABCU include Saint Vincent College; Saint Peter's College, Muenster, Saskatchewan; Saint Leo University, Saint Leo, Florida; Benedictine University, Lisle,

**The Association of Benedictine Colleges and Universities (ABCU) formalized the 10 Hallmarks of Benedictine Education, which are:**

- + Love of Christ and neighbor
- + Prayer
- + Stability
- + Conversatio
- + Obedience
- + Discipline
- + Humility
- + Stewardship
- + Hospitality
- + Community

attended Catholic elementary and high schools and is passionate about the significance of Catholic education.

"I feel strongly about our Catholic, Benedictine identity and I really believe in what we do at Saint Vincent," she stated. "We develop our students just as our mission states—both professionally and personally, spiritually and emotionally—as we help prepare them for happy lives while seeking truth in all that they do. That can be said for all of the Benedictine col-

Illinois; Benedictine College, Atchison, Kansas; College of Saint Benedict, St. Joseph, Minnesota; College of Saint Scholastica, Duluth, Minnesota; Saint John's University, Collegeville, Minnesota; Saint Anselm College, Manchester, New Hampshire; Belmont Abbey College, Belmont, North Carolina; University of Mary, Bismarck, North Dakota; Mount Marty University, Yankton, South Dakota and Saint Martin's University, Lacey, Washington.

## SVC Center For Catholic Thought, Culture Honored

The Saint Vincent College Center for Catholic Thought and Culture has been named an Oasis of Excellence by the American Council of Trustees and Alumni (ACTA). With the distinction, the ACTA recognizes the Center for its strong liberal arts curriculum and dedication to broadening viewpoint diversity.

Directed by Dr. Jerome C. Foss, associate professor of political science, the Center was established in 2019 as an interdisciplinary academic institute that advances the mission of the College. Through campus programs and sponsored research, the Center engages today's intellectual climate through sustained reflection upon the Catholic Intellectual and Benedictine wisdom traditions.

The Center promotes scholarship in such areas as theology, philosophy, marriage and family, politics, economics, rhetoric, art and science. It offers a number of formative academic programs for students, faculty members and the general public to better inform them of the intellectual rigor of Catholic scholarship and its ability to improve the lives of thoughtful individuals and the health of communities.

Programming offered for students includes Benedictine Leadership Studies, the SVC Summer Institute in Rome, the Faith and Reason Program for young adults and various reading groups, lectures and colloquia. The College faculty can take part in annual summer seminars, reading groups and other programming to gather and discuss the Catholic Intellectual Tradition and its relationship to liberal education.

Currently, Dr. Jason Jividen, associate professor of political science, is leading a reading group on Xenophon's *The Cryopaedia*, while Dr. Lucas Briola, assistant professor of theology, and Dr. Justin Petrovich, assistant professor of business administration, are leading a reading group focused on the concept of Integral Ecology and E.F. Schumacher's *Small is Beautiful*.

The Center is guided by four principles: listening carefully and searching for God; lawful freedom, responsibility and the 10 Hallmarks of Benedictine Education; intellectual charity and joyful inquiry; and participation in the Catholic Intellectual Tradition.

Rev. Thomas Hart, O.S.B., the assistant to the president for mission, is the faculty seminar leader, while Rev. Rene Kollar, O.S.B., professor of history, is the Center's Boniface Wimmer Chair in Monastic Studies.

The Center's fellows include fellow in philosophy Dr. Michael Krom, professor of philosophy; fellow in theology Dr. Catherine Petranj, associate professor of theology; fellow in rhetoric Dr. Melinda Farrington, assistant professor of communication; fellow in science and religion Dr. John Smetanka, vice president of academic affairs and academic dean; and fellow in logic Dr. Jennifer White, assistant professor of mathematics.

Samantha Firestone, C'17, G'19, serves as the coordinator of both the Center and the BLS program.

# New Majors In Sports Management, Sports And Media

Addressing growing interest of prospective and current students, an increasing demand in employment and a strong track record of producing successful graduates in each field, Saint Vincent College will offer bachelor's degree programs in sports management and sports and media beginning in the fall 2021 semester.

The sports management program is designed for students seeking careers in athletic administration or business within the sports industry, while the sports and media program will provide students with a foundation in communication and business for careers in sports media and communications.

The sports management major will be part of the Business Department in the Alex G. McKenna School of Business, Economics and Government, while the sports and media program will be within the Communication Department in the School of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences.

Sports management majors will follow the curriculum of the management program, while also enrolling in additional courses spanning such topics as athletic administration, sports law and athletic marketing and promotion.

"Through the sports management major and the business core classes, students will be

exposed to the core business areas of marketing, accounting, finance and others," said Dr. Jeff Godwin, associate professor of business and chair of the sports management program. The major is designed to meet the needs of students wanting a solid business and liberal arts background, coupled with a focus on sports."

Sports and media students will enroll in a full complement of communication coursework, including classes in media production, publication layout and web design, as well as specialized courses covering topics such as athletic communications, sports and the media and sports and retail branding/design. Students

will also receive additional hands-on experience by completing an internship in the field.

David Safin, associate professor of communication and sports and media chair, stated, "We strongly believe that this mixture of courses will provide students with not only the requisite skills to work in athletic communication, but also the broad skills necessary to find a career in any field of communication. Alumni have a strong professional record in the field of sports media and communication. Communication majors interested in sports and media have found this success through a curated mix of study within the department, external internships and on-campus work with our Office of Sports Information. The sports and media major formally lays out the path these and others carved for themselves."

Both new programs will be interdisciplinary in nature. Sports management majors will take courses in economics, political science and communication, while along with communication courses, the sports and media program will include coursework in business, history and fine arts.

The College has produced graduates who have gone on to successful careers in sports. Communication alumni of the last 15 years currently hold titles of athletic director, director of athletic communications, manager of operations, sports information director, in-game host, multimedia producer and director of photography, while McKenna School graduates hold such titles as marketing manager, inside sales manager, manager of partnership activation, director of player personnel and facility manager.

## Justin Fabin New Chief Information Officer

Justin Fabin has been appointed Saint Vincent's new chief information officer (CIO). Fabin, who has served as director of cybersecurity and technical services since 2011, has more than 20 years of professional experience in computing and information technology.

Fabin will direct the overall operations and performance of technology at Saint Vincent College, Seminary and Archabbey and will oversee Saint Vincent's Information Technology Department and its 12 full-time employees and numerous student workers.

"The quality of work he has produced during his nine years at Saint Vincent clearly demonstrates that he is prepared for this new challenge," said President Father Paul R. Taylor, O.S.B. "I am confident that Justin will excel in this vital position."

"I am humbled to have the opportunity to serve the Abbey, College and our incredible



*Justin Fabin*

technology department as CIO at Saint Vincent," said Fabin.

Fabin joined the Saint Vincent staff in October of 2011 as the director of technical services. Along with supporting the technological needs of the Saint Vincent community and assisting with the development of multiple IT strategic plans and security plans, he has also been responsible for overseeing network infrastructure, administration and cybersecurity; internet and cable television; multimedia systems; telecommunications;

Service Desk operations; database and system administration; Microsoft 365; and user training.

Fabin has served as IT project manager for a number of major on-campus construction and renovation projects, including the Sis and Herman Dupré Science Pavilion and the Dale P. Latimer Library. He has also spearheaded network, multimedia and technological upgrades in residence halls, classrooms and offices across campus. In 2015, the Saint Vincent College Student Government Association selected Fabin as the College's Administrator of the Year. He earned an M.B.A. from Waynesburg University. He holds ITIL, CompTIA A+ and CompTIA Network certifications, while he was also a previous Microsoft Certified Engineer and Microsoft Certified Trainer.

Fabin and his wife, Chrissy, reside in Belle Vernon and are the parents of one daughter, Abigail.

## Patricia Sharbaugh Authors Book On Women In New Testament

Dr. Patricia Sharbaugh, associate professor of theology, has released the book *Irrepressible Light: The Women of the New Testament*. Published by Paulist Press, the book explores encounters between Jesus and women in the New Testament through the lens of spirituality.

“I wanted the book to be written in a way that appealed to anyone interested in deepening their faith or reflecting more deeply on their own lives,” said Sharbaugh. “My desire to write this book arose from the role spirituality books have had in my life. They have deepened my relationship with God and helped me to know myself better. I have lived my life with the spiritual friendship of many authors of spirituality books as I return to their writings again and again. I envisioned writing a spirituality book as a way to continue my conversations with these spiritual writers, deepen my own understanding of faith and share the insights I have discovered along the way.”

Each chapter in the new book explores one New Testament story describing an encounter between Jesus and a woman and identifies a specific theme of the story.

“The book took me about three years to write,” said Sharbaugh. “Work on each chapter began with research and after reading good exegetical articles and commentaries on the biblical text, I identified a theme to explore. Every story contains several possible themes, so choosing one to focus on was sometimes difficult. Once I chose a theme, I would do more research searching for articles and books that explore the theme I had identified.”

Sharbaugh has been fascinated with the women of the New Testament since she was assigned a project in a course at the Pittsburgh Theological Seminary in 1997. She has since delivered a number of lectures and retreats focused on the women of the New Testament, while she also teaches a course at Saint Vincent College on the topic, in which she plans to utilize her new book moving forward.

“The course was taught by Dr. Bonnie Thurston,” said Sharbaugh, “and one of our assignments was to write a biography of a woman in the New Testament. The combination of academic research and creative thought required for that assignment opened within me connections between my imagination and the biblical text. My study of the women in the New Testament began then and

has continued to this day.”

In studying the women of the New Testament, Sharbaugh was struck by how the focus of the text can change for the reader.

“We usually read the gospel from the perspective of men,” she said, “with a focus on the political, social and visible pronouncements of Jesus’s message. When we shift our attention to the women, we shift our focus to the hidden, the unexplored, the small everyday matters of daily life. Through this shift in our focus, the biblical text is rounded out and we awaken to the wholeness of life that Jesus engages and seeks to transform.”

Sharbaugh has been engaged in an academic study of the Bible for more than 20 years. While this deep academic study aided in her research and writing of the new book, she had to make a

conscious effort to make it more of an enjoyable read instead of a deep, scholarly analysis.

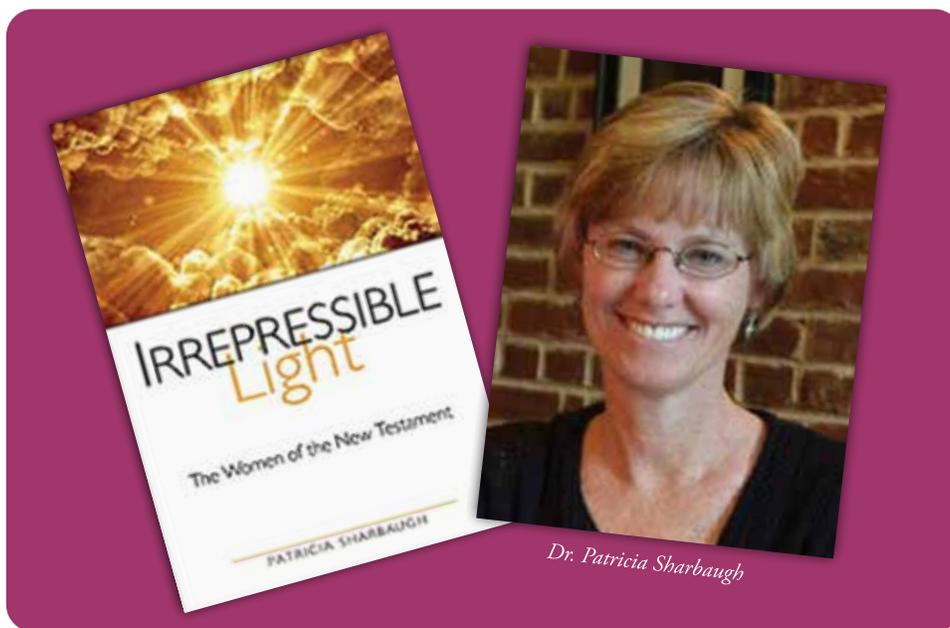
“Because I have been trained to write as a theologian,” she said, “I spent time rewriting parts of chapters that became too freighted with technical language or academic details. Occasionally, three pages I had written were rewritten into

a single paragraph. This was particularly true when I was writing about the biblical text. I had to let go of a lot of information I knew about the text for the sake of an enjoyable and readable book.”

Throughout her studies and during the writing and researching of her new book, Sharbaugh has continued to be influenced by the women of the New Testament. She hopes that *Irrepressible Light: The Women of the New Testament* similarly inspires readers while conveying the major role of the women in the gospels.

“I am grateful for the witness of the women in the New Testament,” she said. “I have learned so much from them about living a faithful life. These women teach us that no matter where we are in our lives—whether we are joyful or sorrowful, experience blessing or grief, have status and a firm place in society or are experiencing isolation and a sense of inadequacy—we all share the common power to turn to God in prayer, to enter into the deep spaces and open our hearts to God, and to catch a glimpse of the irrepressible light deep within.”

—Jim Berger



## Michelle Gil-Montero Receives Projektenmacher Award

Professor of English Michelle Gil-Montero was named the winner of the 10th annual Projektenmacher Award in recognition of initiatives that, in the spirit of Saint Vincent College founder Archabbot Boniface Wimmer, brought vision to reality through hard work and perseverance.

President Father Paul R. Taylor, O.S.B., presented Gil-Montero with the award during the virtual Founders' Day Honors Convocation.

"Boniface Wimmer, as many know, was a dreamer," said Father Paul. "He dreamed of bringing education and ministry to the United States, particularly for our country's many im-

migrants. However, his dreams were often met with ridicule or brushed aside as fantasy by his fellow monks. Mockingly, he was given the nickname of 'projektenmacher,' or, 'project maker,' for his dreams and vision which, in the opinion of others, were not realistic.

"We thank God that Wimmer was not deterred by the doubts of others and that he fulfilled his dreams of ministry and education in the United States. Without his dreams, we would not be here today, continuing to move forward, always forward, 175 years later."

An accomplished poet and translator, Gil-Montero teaches courses covering creative writing, nonfiction, poetry and language and rhetoric, directs the

Visiting Writers Series and the annual Martin Luther King Jr. Poetry Contest and serves as the faculty adviser of *Generations*, Saint Vincent College's student literary magazine.

"The admiration for her work was evident in the many nominations we received for her for this year's award," said Father Paul. "Today, our students continue to benefit from Michelle's dreams, passion, guidance and mentorship and continue to achieve success after graduation. Many have earned placement in prestigious MFA writing programs across the country, while many others have been published in journals, anthologies and magazines."

A driving force behind the creation of the literary transla-

tion minor at Saint Vincent, Gil-Montero is also the founder and publisher of Eulalia Books, an independent publisher of international poetry in translation housed at Saint Vincent College. Aimed at publishing modern and contemporary poets who do not yet have a collection translated into English, Eulalia Books is a true teaching press, as students assist in all facets of the publishing process and serve as interns in a variety of roles.

"Along with providing talented, up-and-coming writers and translators the honor of being published," said Father Paul, "Eulalia Books also provides invaluable hands-on experience for English and



*Michelle Gil-Montero is presented with the Projektenmacher Award by President Father Paul R. Taylor, O.S.B.*

literary translation students.”

“I want to thank Father Paul, my students, colleagues and family who rooted for this wild idea in its nascent stages,” said Gil-Montero. “There is a persistent myth in the arts that creativity comes from a place of isolation and dejection, but the truth is, creativity thrives when nurtured by the stability, love and support within a community.”

“When I first mentioned starting a small press poetry publisher at Saint Vincent, unlike the experience of Boniface Wimmer,” she said, “everyone was enthusiastic and collaborative, even if they didn’t always know what I was talking about.”

Since its establishment in 2018, Eulalia Books has published four original books, including *Prepoems in PostSpanish*, by Jorgenrique Adoum and translated by Katherine Hedeon and Víctor Rodríguez Núñez; *Echo of the Park*, by Romina Freschi and translated by Jeannine Marie Pitas; *Sleepless Nights Under Capitalism: From the Poems of John Wendell*, by Juan Gelman and translated by Erin Moure; and *Katabasis*, by Lucía Estrada

“There is a persistent myth in the arts that creativity comes from a place of isolation and dejection, but the truth is, creativity thrives when nurtured by the stability, love and support within a community.”

—Michelle Gil-Montero

and translated by Olivia Lott.

“Eulalia Books has brought four significant Latin-American poets into English translation for the very first time,” Gil-Montero said. “Our books have been favorably reviewed in *Latin-American Literature Today* and *World Literature Today*,

among other magazines, and poems from our publications have appeared in prestigious publications, including the *New Yorker*.

“The best part is that my editorial team members are all Saint Vincent students and recent alumni. They are just as head-over-heels in this work as I am.”

Along with recognizing her students, colleagues and family, Gil-Montero was effusive in

thanking the late Joe O’Connor, C’65, for his guidance and support during the creation of Eulalia Books. A renowned poet and frequent visitor to his alma mater, O’Connor passed away in April due to complications from COVID-19.

“Joe was my co-Projektenmacher,” she said. “He not only deeply believed in the project, as any of my students will tell you, but he helped to shape it. I miss his input and daily encouragement. We simply could not have started this adventure without him and we are even more committed to continuing it now in his honor.”

Each spring, Eulalia Books accepts submissions of poetry

manuscripts from Saint Vincent College graduates and residents of Westmoreland County whose poetry has not appeared in book form for the Joe O’Connor Poetry Series. The books released in this series are all handmade by students in Gil-Montero’s Small Press Publishing course.

Along with her extensive teaching background, Gil-Montero is the translator of nearly a dozen collections of Latin American poetry, while she published a chapbook of original poetry, *Attached Houses*, in 2013 and a full-length collection of original poetry, *Object Permanence*, in March.

Gil-Montero joined the Saint Vincent College faculty in 2007. She holds a bachelor’s degree from Brown University and an MFA from the University of Iowa Writers’ Workshop.

The 2020 Founders’ Day Honors Convocation can be viewed in its entirety at [www.youtube.com/saintvincentcollege](http://www.youtube.com/saintvincentcollege).

—Jim Berger

## Dr. Jason King Receives Thoburn Excellence In Teaching Award

Dr. Jason King, professor of theology, was presented the Thoburn Excellence in Teaching Award at the annual Saint Vincent College Founders’ Day Honors Convocation in the historic Saint Vincent Archabbey Basilica in recognition of his excellence in teaching, dedicated service to students and commitment to the values of Saint Vincent College.

Nominations for the Thoburn Award are made by alumni five to seven years after graduation. Alumni are invited

to name one member of the faculty who has made a significant impact on them through their teaching and personal interactions. More than 50 nominations were received for 30 different faculty members for this year’s award. The award was presented to King by Dr. John Smetanka, Saint Vincent College vice president for academic affairs and academic dean.

“Dr. King is a master teacher in all modalities, a fact recognized by his students,” said Smetanka. “His courses are the first to fill

each registration period. Whether in-person or online, Dr. King’s classes are characterized by academic excellence and challenge.

“His students describe him as passionate, engaging, devoted to students and their success, and possessing a really good sense of humor,” continued Smetanka. “A student shared that ‘class discussions enhanced our understanding of life and faith.’ Another shared that ‘I would recommend Dr. King to everyone. He is affable, kind and very smart.’ Yet another commented on the engagement

Dr. King engenders saying, ‘After each class I would have discussions about the daily material with my friends in the course. It was really wonderful to continue the discussion outside of the classroom.’”

“It was quite a surprise to learn that I was receiving this award,” said King. “When Dr. Smetanka called me into his office to tell me, I thought I was in trouble.”

King is honored to be recognized by so many students from years past, saying, “For me, that is what makes this award special.

That students would still be thinking—even after graduation—that their experience in my classroom was valuable truly astounds me. It is what teachers hope for, and I could not be more grateful for my students.”

He also credits his students and colleagues for his continued growth during his tenure at Saint Vincent.

“I feel like I’ve grown as a teacher, a scholar and as a Christian. And, I think SVC will keep pushing me to grow.”

In his remarks upon receiving the award, King recalled a story from Luke 24 in which a group of disciples did not recognize Jesus when he encountered them following his resurrection. Upon dining together, they finally recognized him, only for Jesus to disappear once again.

“The scripture reads,” said

“I often like to think of myself as Jesus in these stories, enlightening the minds of my disciples and causing their hearts to burn within them. I find that the students did most of the enlightening. They caused my heart to burn and they caused me to open my mind.”

—Jason King

King, “were not our hearts burning within us when he spoke to us on the way and opened the scriptures to us?”

“I often like to think of myself as Jesus in these stories,” he continued, “enlightening the minds of my disciples and causing their hearts to burn within them. But when I reflect upon my teaching,

it’s not the role I find myself in. I find that the students did most of the enlightening. They caused my heart to burn and they caused me to open my mind.”

King holds a bachelor of arts degree from Berea College, while he holds a master’s and Ph.D. from The Catholic University of America. He joined the Saint

Vincent College faculty in 2005 and his courses taught include Aliens, Monsters, Heroes and Jesus; Catholic Marriage; Ethics of Aquinas; God, Work and Money and Theology of Children.

Additionally, he has been regularly published in international journals, serves as editor of the *Journal of Moral Theology* and has authored two books.

The Thoburn Excellence in Teaching Award is made possible by a gift from the late Thomas W. Thoburn Jr., and Tina Thoburn, D.Ed., educators and philanthropists from Ligonier, Pennsylvania.

Conducted virtually due to gathering restrictions associated with the COVID-19 pandemic, the 2020 Founders’ Day Honors Convocation can be viewed in its entirety at [www.youtube.com/saintvincentcollege](http://www.youtube.com/saintvincentcollege).

—Jim Berger



Dr. Jason King, left, is presented the Thoburn Award by Dr. John Smetanka, vice president for academic affairs and academic dean.

## Professor Authors Book On Police Response To Mental Health

A new book co-authored by Dr. Kayla Jachimowski, assistant professor of criminology, law and society, examines police responses to mental health calls for service and the importance of police receiving proper training about mental health disorders.

*Police Response to Mental Health Calls for Service: Gatekeepers and Street Corner Psychiatrists*, written by Jachimowski and Dr. Jonathon A. Cooper, was published by Rowman & Littlefield and released in November.

Jachimowski first became fascinated in the topic of mental health and police response while she conducted research for her dissertation at Indiana University of Pennsylvania.

“I was originally interested in juvenile justice and delinquency,” she said, “so I did a lot of my school research at the doctoral level on that topic. However, at some point before I concluded my coursework, I heard a really fascinating story about a person with a mental health disorder at a veterinary clinic and an allegedly dead cat. I quickly realized that there’s a huge stigma around individuals with mental health disorders and being violent, which generally is not true. I then shifted my focus to the intersection between the criminal justice and mental health systems.”

The new book serves as somewhat of an extension of her dissertation, also entitled “Police

Response to Mental Health Calls for Service.”

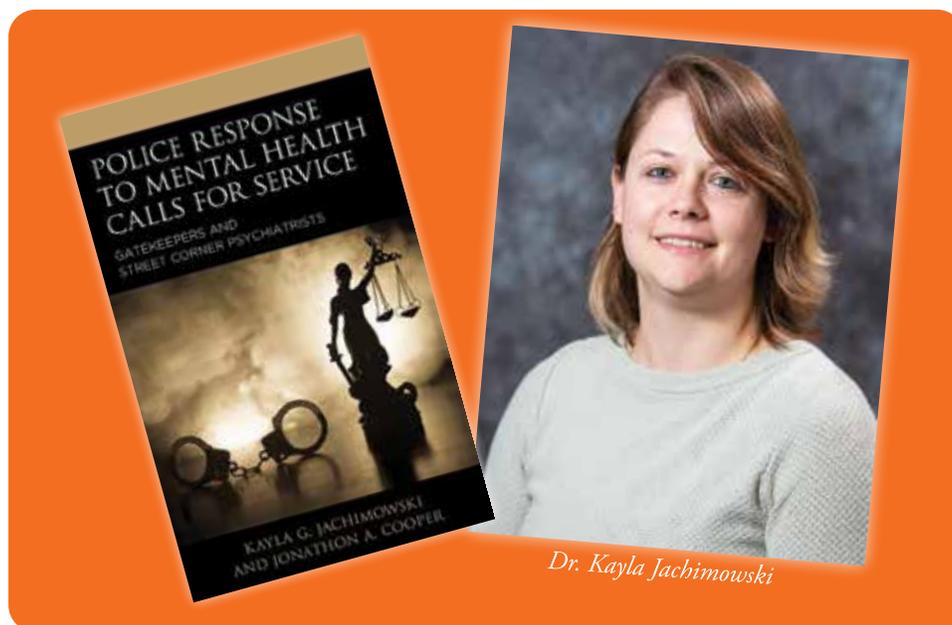
“In my dissertation,” she explained, “I looked at three variables of how police respond to these types of calls for service—crisis intervention

help when they respond to calls for service, be that guidance, intervention or training. And, a lot of officers want that help, and in most cases, they are doing what they can with what they have. It is unfortunate

she said. “I’m not saying this book doesn’t have those things—it does—but we wanted anyone who picked it up to be able to gain something from it.”

Jachimowski noted that a number of the topics broached in the book are covered in her coursework.

“The research behind the book, the concepts discussed and the goals of the future of mental health and criminology are all informed by the topics in the undergraduate class Mental Illness and the Criminal Process and in the graduate course



*Dr. Kayla Jachimowski*

teams (CIT) and mental health training-based interventions, the availability of resources and the social/personal factor. The book focuses more on CIT and mental health training, though the others are mentioned. Essentially, the book is a third of my dissertation, expanded. Then, I wrote an article about the influence of available mental health resources on the officers’ response.”

In their exploration of the relationships between police, the community and mental health service providers, the authors contend that proper training is imperative while the mental health system needs to devote more resources to adequately help.

“Functionally,” she said, “systems in society are all connected. As one breaks down, so do the others. Officers need

that our systems are strained to a point where we can’t get adequate resources to those who need it.”

Jachimowski was eager to collaborate with Cooper, an associate professor of criminology and criminal justice at Indiana University of Pennsylvania and the chair of her dissertation.

“I was really fortunate to work with him in the Criminology Advising Center at IUP,” she said.

The writers aimed to make the new book approachable for a multitude of audiences, eschewing technical jargon and heavy statistical analysis in order to appeal to practitioners, scholars and students alike.

“A lot of books can weigh heavy in jargon, complicated statistics or abstract concepts,”

Special Topics—Crisis Intervention Teams,” she said. “But, like a lot of topics, bits and pieces are introduced in other classes because there are a number of special populations in criminology.”

Excluding her dissertation process, Jachimowski estimated that it took a little more than eight months to complete the book and she is beyond thrilled to see this labor of love finally completed.

“It is really exciting that it has finally been published. I just hope people find it helpful and relevant to their research or careers.”

*Police Response to Mental Health Calls for Service: Gatekeepers and Street Corner Psychiatrists* is available for purchase at most major booksellers.

## New Daly Book: "Theories Of Crime Through Pop Culture"

Dr. Sarah Daly, assistant professor of criminology, served as editor of the new book *Theories of Crime Through Pop Culture*, bringing criminology theories to life through a wide range of popular works in film, television and video games. Released on Nov. 26 and published by Palgrave Macmillan, *Theories of Crime Through Pop Culture* includes submissions from a variety of contributors—including several affiliated with Saint Vincent College—that apply criminological theories to everyday life and modern culture.

"I actually had the idea for this book when I explained elements of criminological theories in a hip-hop song," explained Daly, "and I realized that a fresh approach to criminological theories with more modern artifacts would be fun! I also really liked the idea of having a

number of authors who could demonstrate their own thinking about issues rather than how I do it. We all think about these theories in different ways, so it's beneficial for students to see how people in varying stages of their criminology studies or careers make sense of them."

Among the 16 different pop culture pieces analyzed include the movies *Mean Girls*, *13 Reasons Why*, *Batman* and *Hunger Games* and television shows *The Office*, *Friends*, *Mister Rogers' Neighborhood*, *Game of Thrones* and *The White Shadow*.

Joining Daly, who co-wrote

an analysis of *The Office* with Chad Painter, C'19, G'20, faculty contributors included David Safin, associate professor of communication; Dr. Kayla Jachimowski, assistant professor of criminology, law and society; Dr. Eric Kocian, associate professor of criminology, law and society; and Dr. Dana Winters, assistant professor of child and family studies and director of Simple Interactions and academic programming at the Fred

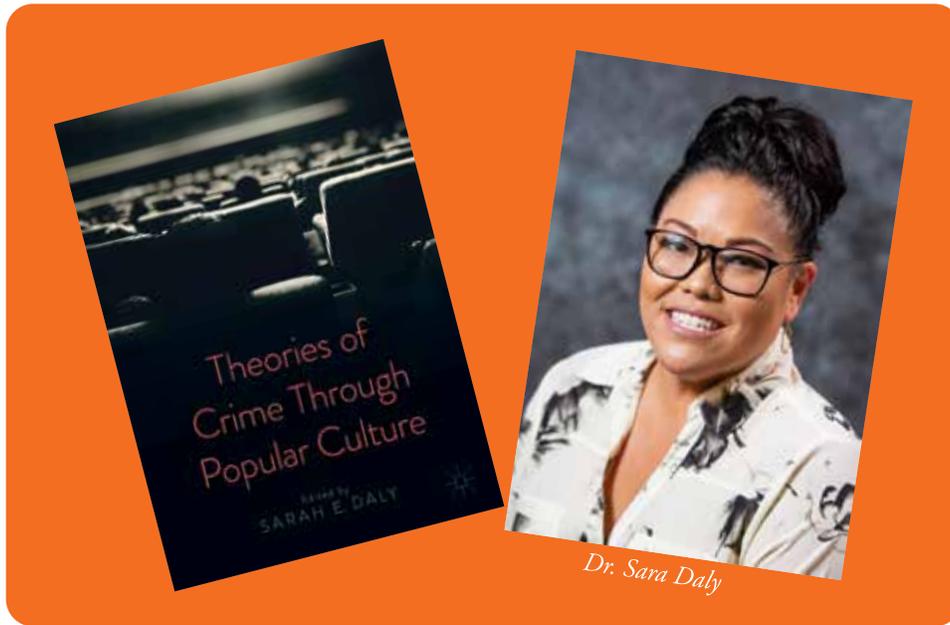
be seen everywhere. I also really enjoyed that some of the faculty teamed up with graduate students in these projects. This gave the students the chance to learn about the writing and publication process and think creatively. And, not only did they get the opportunity to publish, but they also provided an interesting perspective since they're relatively early in their careers compared to more experienced faculty. I thought that their understanding

process," she explained, "and all of the authors were really prompt and timely. It's been almost two years from idea to publication, but it's been easy and amusing the whole time."

This enjoyment of reading the submissions of her peers also led to Daly's creation of a new YouTube® channel named "Culture and Crime."

"So much of what we study is depressing, unjust or violent," Daly said, "and sometimes we need to find joy in this field. That's why I started my YouTube® channel—to make these fun connections and introduce criminological theories and research to a broader audience."

Daly plans to incorporate the book into her courses as another way of bolstering student engagement and reinforcing the prevalence of criminological theories in everyday life, and hinted at



Dr. Sara Daly

Rogers Center.

Along with Painter, current SVC criminology graduate students who contributed were Kristopher Kell, C'20; Rachel Vanetta, C'20; and Ryan Lemmon, while graduates of the criminology master's program who contributed include Rachel Baumann, C'18, G'19; Morgan Murphy, C'18, G'19; Chad Painter, C'19, G'20; and Colton Robinson, C'18, G'19.

"I loved that this was interdisciplinary," Daly said, "with contributions from Dr. Winters at the Rogers Center and Mr. Safin from the communication department. Criminology can

of the theories could be helpful for other students in similar positions."

In addition to soliciting her colleagues and students at SVC, Daly sought contributions from some of her professional colleagues from across the country, while also taking her call for submissions to social media.

After initially conceiving the idea for the book in January 2019, the publishing process took a little less than two years, as contributors and topics were identified in the summer of 2019 and a contract signed with Palgrave Macmillan in September.

"We had a review and edit

the possibility of subsequent editions.

"I hope that all the students and readers will understand that depictions of criminological theories are around us all the time," she said. "Those who love this discipline can't ever take their hat off and we see it even in shows that have nothing to do with crime."

"In the preface, I encourage readers to find their own applications of theory to popular culture and I hope that I'll receive chapters for subsequent editions!"

The book is available for purchase online and through most major booksellers.

## Dr. Urick Named To Posts

Dr. Michael J. Urick, C'04, associate professor of management and graduate director of the Master of Science in Management: Operational Excellence program, has been named the series editor for the *Exploring Effective Leadership Practices through Popular Culture* book series and the North American associate editor for *Measuring Business Excellence*. Both publications are from the United Kingdom's Emerald Publishing.

Urick began the *Exploring Effective Leadership Practices through Popular Culture* book series as an extension of his classroom teaching.

"In class," he said, "I like to provide examples of leadership and organizational behavior concepts from popular culture to make the material fun, engaging and more relatable to students."

The book series builds on this approach. Each book will explore one piece of pop culture, including movies, television series, comic books, video games and others, and analyze the leadership styles evident in its characters in order to conclude whether similar leadership practices are supported by research and would work in readers' own decision-making contexts.

Urick will also author two of the first books in the series, with the first scheduled to be published in May 2021.

*Measuring Business Excellence* is an academic peer-reviewed journal that provides a forum for advancing the theory and practice of assessing and managing non-financial strategic factors driving organizational performance improvements and value creation dynamics.

Urick joins a team of editors



Dr. Michael J. Urick, C'04

from Europe. As the only North American associate editor, his role is to promote the journal throughout the U.S. and Canada as well as to solicit and evaluate paper submissions from researchers in this area. He will also serve as lead editor of a special issue of the journal expected to be published in 2022.

Urick was chosen for this role based on his expertise in Operational Excellence, network of researchers and past experience as associate editor for the *Journal of Leadership and Management*, based out of Poland.

In 2019, Urick released his first solely-authored book, *The Generation Myth: How to Improve Intergenerational Relationships in the Workplace*, while he served as contributor and co-editor of a three-volume set of leadership books.

Urick earned his M.B.A. in human resource management and a M.S. in leadership and business ethics from Duquesne University, before earning his Ph.D. in management from the University of Cincinnati.



Robert Markley (center) advises students Luke Mulloy (left) and Joel Robinson during the SAP Business One certification program in December 2019. Mulloy and Robinson are among the 32 students who participated in the 2020 ASUG Best Practices: SAP Business One virtual conference.

## Students Attend Conference

Thirty-two students from Saint Vincent College's Alex G. McKenna School of Business, Economics and Government took part in the 2020 ASUG Best Practices: SAP Business One virtual conference in October.

The Saint Vincent attendees are enrolled in or have completed the College's SAP Business One certification program under the guidance of Robert Markley, the Carpenter Technology-Latrobe Specialty Metals Sponsored Lecturer in the McKenna School. "This conference gives our students the opportunity to learn and network with SAP Business One customers and partners from around the country," stated Markley. "We look forward to speaking with these experts."

Typically held as an in-person event, the 2020 ASUG Best Practices: SAP Business One conference was held virtually because of restrictions due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The

conference featured a wide array of business and technology professionals from industries across North America.

While the Saint Vincent College students were immersed in the virtual presentations and programming throughout the three-day event, a group was also showcased as they led a panel entitled "Emerging Workforce with the SAP Business One Candidates of Saint Vincent College." During the panel they provided answers and opinions on an assortment of technical and workforce-related questions while demonstrating the skills, personality and approach to the workplace of young people about to enter the workforce.

Since the SAP Business One certification program began at Saint Vincent College, more than 110 students have attended professional conferences, more than 80 have landed paid summer internships and 54 graduates currently work in the SAP ecosystem.



*From left, lab instructor Gail Seevers; sophomore Marissa Anderton; sophomore Caroline Hopkins; sophomore Suki Rowden.*

## Nursing Simulation Lab Provides Hands-On Experience

**By Jim Berger**

A new simulation lab in the Sis and Herman Dupré Science Pavilion is providing students enrolled in the Saint Vincent College/Carlow University collaborative Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) program with valuable hands-on experience.

Housed in the James F. Will Engineering and Biomedical Sciences Hall, the new lab features modern, high-tech equipment, aimed at mirroring a real-life clinical care setting.

Carla Tomas, MSN, RN, FNP-C, coordinator of the Saint Vincent College/Carlow University BSN program, explained that it is imperative that nursing students receive the extensive learning experiences provided by the simulation lab.

“If you want to have the highest-quality educational experience,” she said, “you have to have a lab where students can engage in simulated practice before they interact with patients. Evidence supports that the combination of simulation labs and clinical practice provides the optimal learning experience. It also facilitates their transition to success as a nurse.”



*Carla Tomas, MSN, RN, FNP-C*

Equipment in the new lab replicates the clinical experiences, including a skills lab and simulation center equipped with patient beds, mannequins, large LED screens and a centrally located station complete with a computer, speakers and HD cameras to observe and record procedures. Students and faculty then use a debriefing room in which they watch recorded simulations, review patient outcomes and discuss their simulation experience.

The equipment they use for practice is authentic, such as a medication cart—known as a computer on wheels—used for the administration of medicine and telemedicine diagnostics. Students use the equipment to refine their skills and the high-fidelity simulations to integrate the skills into complex patient situations.

Dr. Danielle Curran, DNP, MSN, RN, the director of both the Saint Vincent Lab and Carlow’s College of Health and Wellness

Labs, emphasized the importance of hands-on simulation training, pointing to a recent study conducted by the International Nursing Association for Clinical Simulation and Learning that reported students who received greater than 30 percent of simulation training in school have better patient

outcomes upon launching their nursing careers.

“In simulation, students are always waiting for something to happen or change in their patient’s condition,” said Curran. “It is crucial for students to experience this in what can be called a non-threatening environment while still being held accountable. In the simulation, if they’re nervous or do not know how to do a certain skill, they can take a time out. Mistakes are made in the lab so they are not made in the actual clinical settings.”

The lab in the Dupré Pavilion was designed to mirror Carlow University’s College of Health and Wellness Lab on its Oakland campus, assuring that students at Saint Vincent receive the same resources as those available to all Carlow BSN students. Tomas, Curran and simulation operations specialist Bill Ferchak worked hand-in-hand with Saint Vincent’s administration and Information Technology Department to ensure the new lab would meet the requirements of the National Council of State Boards of Nursing and the accreditation standards of the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education.

“When we were drawing up plans for the lab,” said Tomas, “which changed multiple times, I had to have architectural drawings and drafts ready and available for inspection from the state board and others. Bill and Dr. Curran came to campus multiple times a week throughout the summer to share their expertise and facilitate the planning and development of the lab. We worked very closely together to have the highest quality experiential learning experiences available at SVC.”

Bill Ferchak oversees all simulation technology of both Carlow’s College of Health and Wellness Lab and the Saint Vincent Lab, essentially onsite and on-call to ensure everything runs smoothly.

“I interpret new technology for our faculty and students, and explain the needs of faculty and students for the IT department. It’s essential that everything works,” he said. “I was at Saint Vincent all summer during the construction. Now every time there is a new group of simulations, I come out to prepare, making sure that simulators are updated and everything is functioning as it should. There’s always an update to be done, something to add or upload, or new technology to integrate.”

Additional technology and equipment will be continually added to the lab as the current and future students progress through their curriculum, including plans to introduce three new patient simulators modeling a mother, baby and young child. And, with its increasing prevalence exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, telemedicine training will also be emphasized.

“Utilizing telemedicine is the wave of the future,” said Curran. “As we have seen now with COVID, people may not be able to leave their house, but still need to be seen by a health care provider. We want to have our technology in the sim labs at the same level of hospitals and community settings because it’s very important to provide this realistic training to our students.”

Throughout its first semester of operation, Tomas said that the lab received a glowing response from her students, as it enables them to step outside of the traditional classroom while still receiving invaluable education.

“They’re very excited about the lab. We typically have two to three students involved in the sim room with the patients, with each session videotaped. Then, in the debriefing room, we watch the simulation. I’ll ask what they think they did well or what they’d change. They absolutely love coming to the lab and they love the sims. They’ll often come just to practice.”

The lab has also been lauded by prospective students and families and as the collaborative BSN program continues to grow, so will the new facility.

“Carlow’s BSN graduates have had extraordinary outcomes and are among those with the highest first-time pass rate for the National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX) in the region,” said Curran. “Technology is important for learners and families, and the lab at Saint Vincent delivers.

“It’s great that this program is offered in Westmoreland County.”



*From left are sophomore Shealyn Trostle, clinical instructor Marisa Harmon, sophomore Abby Horcicak and freshman Mackenzie Masten.*

# Engineering Students Float Idea Of Concrete Canoe

By Jim Berger

One of the most beloved spots on campus, Saint Vincent Lake brims with activity during the spring months, its banks dotted with hikers, birdwatchers, wildlife and fishermen and women. This year, a group of Saint Vincent College engineering students plans to add to this bustle.

Under the guidance of Dr. Derek Breid, assistant professor of engineering, six seniors—Reese Capo, Danielle Koehler, Michael Moresea, Eric Pennella, D.J. Rossi and Jonas Wudkwyh—have been working on a year-long capstone project of building a functioning concrete canoe with the aim of sailing it on Saint Vincent Lake upon its completion.

Breid explained that the project is the product of the Engineering Department's revamped curriculum, which includes an emphasis on larger scope, group-based design projects for each students' required capstone.

"Last spring," Breid said, "I met with our junior students to give them an overview of what we're looking for in a capstone and asked if they had any ideas in mind as far as projects or applications. One of the things I suggested was taking a look at some of the design competitions sponsored by various engineering societies. Over the summer, I heard from two of the students, Danielle and Jonas, who had looked into the concrete canoe competition offered by the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE). This seemed like a doable project for where our program is right now and the students seemed really interested in it."

Since the beginning of the fall semester, the group has been tasked with every aspect of planning and constructing a functioning canoe. Such a broad project mirrors many real-world engineering projects, which require the cooperation of a group of engineers, each with a different specialty.

"This project brings in a lot of areas of engineering and a lot of concepts that maybe not every student has experience with," said Breid. "It would give an opportunity for a chemical engineer and a material engineer and a mechanical engineer to all work together."

He noted that the students concentrating in chemical and material engineering have been working to develop the proper mix of concrete and the process by which it is mixed, poured and cured, while the mechanical engineering students are tasked with analyzing the stresses produced by the canoe supporting its own weight, plus the weight of its occupants, while floating in the water.

"Part of the requirements," he said, "is that the students are to analyze the design by modeling these stresses that are going to be put on the canoe and modeling the flotation. This includes measuring the force that the water is putting on the canoe, plus the canoe's own weight and the weight it will be carrying. Doing mechanical analysis is a big part of it, as they'll be modeling the stresses that are going to be developed and then work with materials engineers to see if the concrete mix works."

Wudkwyh, whose focus is mechanical engineering, has enjoyed working in a group setting and has been fascinated by watching the

progress made.

"It has been great having a group of students with such different interests and knowledge working together. My focus has been working on the hull shape of the canoe and ensuring that it will float. We have two basic groups—the chemical and material engineering students are focused on the concrete mixture, while the mechanical students are working on the physical hull design. It has been really interesting applying the knowledge gained from school to a real-world problem."

Koehler, who also has a mechanical engineering focus, said that projects like this are what initially drew her to the engineering field.

"My favorite aspect is watching the canoe become alive," she said. "Taking an idea and building it is why I became an engineer in the first place. I have come up with so many designs, but have never actually built them. Now, I have the opportunity to bring an idea to life. We all intend to be paddling in Saint Vincent Lake before the end of the semester."

The group met twice a week during the first semester to conduct research, test concrete mixtures and create the design of the canoe. They plan to move into the building stage in February and have the canoe ready to test by the early spring. While they are proud to be the first Saint Vincent contingent to take part in the concrete canoe capstone, Wudkwyh and Koehler said that being the pioneers also comes with some challenges.

"We don't have anyone that we can readily ask who actually has experience working on a concrete canoe," said Wudkwyh. "While we can research other schools in past competitions, it isn't a replacement for actually experiencing completing a build."

Koehler agreed, saying that it's difficult to know whether the group is always on the right track, but she has faith in her and her colleagues' work.

"We feel that we have put in a lot of effort up to this point and are confident that it will work out as planned."

Though they may be the first SVC group to take part in the concrete canoe capstone, they don't plan to be the last and have recruited a trio of underclass engineering majors in juniors Anthony Berardelli and Zachary Kuzel and sophomore Cara Luallen to help in this year's project while gaining invaluable experience for the future.

"We felt if we invited underclassmen to join the project," said Koehler, "the project could continue in the coming years."

The students followed rules and parameters from previous ASCE concrete canoe competitions and are planning to form a chapter of the society at Saint Vincent, which will enable SVC to take part in future competitions. While they may not get to showcase this year's project on a national level, Breid feels that the students are amassing significant hands-on experience that will prove invaluable for their future.

"This gives students experience in teamwork, designing, planning, building and testing," he said. "We talk about career readiness and how to talk about yourself in interviews. How are they going to set themselves apart in an interview from someone who may have gone to a larger school? This capstone project is one of the ways. It's something that's pretty unique here."

## Inaugural Gretsch Fellows in Children’s Music Selected

Accomplished children’s music educator, music historian and clarinetist Katherine Palmer and award-winning percussionist, composer and children’s book author Cory Hills have been selected as the first two Fellows of the newly created Gretsch Fellowship in Children’s Music at the Fred Rogers Center for Early Learning and Children’s Media at Saint Vincent College.

With generous support from Fred and Dinah Gretsch and their family, the Gretsch Fellowship in Children’s Media was created 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.”

Hills and Palmer were selected from a competitive field of more than 40 applicants from throughout the United States.

“Dinah and I would like to thank the dedicated team at Saint Vincent College for finding these Fellows,” said Fred Gretsch, CEO of Fred Gretsch Enterprises. “They both bring a wealth of knowledge, unique experiences and shared passion for music and children. We now challenge Ms. Palmer and Mr. Hills to seize this opportunity to the fullest. Join us in continuing the legacy of Fred Rogers by enriching the lives of children through music.”

“The Gretsch Music Fellows will carry forward the legacy of Fred Rogers through their keystone projects that engage children, their families, their



*Katherine Palmer*

teachers and their communities in celebrating the role of musical expression in bringing about joy, happiness and learning in the lives of children,” said Dr. Roberta Schomburg, executive director of the Fred Rogers Center.

Palmer, who will begin her one-year fellowship in January, holds a bachelor’s degree in music (clarinet) from the University of Miami, as well as a master of music (clarinet), master of arts (ethnomusicology) and doctorate of musical arts from Arizona State University. She is currently the curator of education at the Musical Instrument Museum (MIM) in Phoenix, Arizona, where she is in charge of developing and teaching interdisciplinary, ethnomusico-logical content.

Palmer plans to pursue the concept of ‘expanding the neighborhood’ by closely exam-



*Cory Hills*

ining the Fred Rogers Center’s vast archives to learn about Rogers’s use of music in his neighborhood, researching intersections between best practices in various streams of multicultural education and developing a model that incorporates music listening and music making as a practical guide for building cultural open-mindedness for families and young children.

Grammy award-winner Hills will begin his one-year appointment in September 2021. An active performer, composer and recording artist in Los Angeles, as well as a member of the Los Angeles Percussion Quartet, he holds a bachelor’s degree in music from Northwestern University, a master of music performance from Queensland Conservatorium, a master of music theory from the University of Kansas and a doctorate of musical arts from

the University of Kansas. He has individually commissioned and premiered more than 150 original works for percussion and has given solo and chamber recitals across the U.S., Australia, Europe, New Zealand, China and Mexico.

A passionate advocate for children’s music education, Hills will channel this passion to create a 50-minute music performance/assembly program for elementary schools, using research from the Fred Rogers Archive to explore different ways in which Rogers tackled difficult social concepts and topics with children.

“This will be an anti-bullying program,” he said, “that centers on issues related to social media and the importance of self-confidence and self-esteem.”

# SAINT VINCENT TO HOST 2022 NCAA CHAMPIONSHIP

Saint Vincent College, in conjunction with SportsPITTSBURGH, will serve as the host for the 2022 NCAA Division III Women's Volleyball Championship, scheduled for Nov. 17-19 at Duquesne University's UPMC Cooper Fieldhouse. Saint Vincent's selection was one of more than 450 selections of host sites announced for preliminary rounds and final sites of NCAA championships in Division I, II and III to be held from 2022-23 through 2025-26.

"I believe the success of these championships is because of all the hard work and partnerships we created in the last cycle and is why we have been so lucky with these bids," said Sue Hozak, associate athletic director. "The Pittsburgh championship in 2018 was viewed by many in NCAA Division III volleyball as a tough act to



follow and is still being talked about to this day."

In a virtual press conference, Hozak joined local officials, SportsPittsburgh representatives and athletic administrators from other universities in discussing the 11 NCAA hosting bids awarded to the western Pennsylvania region over the next five years. Encompassing all three NCAA divisions, they include national or regional championship events in women's volleyball, men's and women's basketball, women's bowling and women's gymnastics.

"To receive the 11 championships hosts from the NCAA while still holding several events in the coming years shows that the NCAA is satisfied with how we have held championships in the past," said Jennifer Hawkins, SportsPITTSBURGH executive director. "We are excited to continue the success from years past to welcome student-athletes, families and fans in the coming years."

"Pittsburgh is a sports town and the combination with being a college town, this gives us a chance to hold these

various championships and be a very hospitable city," said Pittsburgh Mayor Bill Peduto. "In the past, we have shown a great success of welcoming these championships and look forward to the next championships in Pittsburgh."

This will mark the second time in four years in which Saint Vincent College will host the NCAA Division III Women's Volleyball Championship at Duquesne, after successfully doing so in November 2018. It was the first time that a Presidents' Athletic Conference member was selected to host a NCAA championship event.

"Our staff will review all of our notes and put together a timeline and get right to it," Hozak said about the short turn around for the 2022 championship. "With the exceptional sports tradition that Pittsburgh has, I am sure we will provide an amazing event for everyone."

## FOOTBALL ALUMNI HOLD NETWORKING EVENT

On December 9, 24 College alumni who were members of the football team participated in a two-hour videoconference session with current football players for the Building Character Series 2nd Annual Alumni Networking Event. This annual event was coordinated by Armando Fortunato, C'12; Dr. Jeff Mallory, C'06 G'13, executive vice president; Ben Becze, senior director of development and alumni relations and head football coach Aaron Smetanka, C'12.

Coach Smetanka provided remarks prior to alumni introductions. Breakout rooms

commenced and provided the opportunity for alumni to share professional and personal experiences while engaging in excellent conversation with the current athletes.

"The Saint Vincent College Bearcat Football Alumni Networking Night has helped provide the opportunity for current players to learn about the student-athletes who walked in their same path on and off the field," said Smetanka. "The current players learn about future internship or job opportunities in their career paths. When our players graduate, they are moving on to a great career path in their

fields of study with our current job placement and success rate as a school being 98 percent. But we always want the current players and alumni to know you are part of the Bearcat Football Family for life as we RISE TOGETHER academically, athletically, socially, spiritually, and in the community."

"This event was a tremendous opportunity for our current students to engage and connect with our Bearcat alumni to build an even greater sense of community and common bond" said Becze. "If you're a Bearcat football alumnus who would like to participate in future activities like this, please

reach out to the alumni office at [alumni@stvincent.edu](mailto:alumni@stvincent.edu)."

Taking part were **Armando Fortunato, C'12; Bill D. Yanicko, C'08; Evan Lucas, C'12; Ian Jones, C'13; Jack Welsh, C'74; Jake Smith, C'12; Jeff Woodring, C'10; Jim P. Montgomery, C'14; Jimmy J. Muraco, C'12; Joe Yezovich, C'12; Joe Mylant, C'11; Josh Catalano, C'13; Josh Vigna, C'12; Juan Hernandez, C'13; Marco Sylvia, C'11; Marc Gonzales, C'10; Mark Cal, C'15; Mike Vanderwater, C'12; Mike Kale, C'12; Nick Werner, C'18; Scott Weaver, C'12; Terry Kernan, C'12; Zach Doebler, C'12; and Darius McGhee, C'14, G'18.**

# ALUMNI HOMECOMING AND FALL FAMILY WEEKEND OCTOBER 1-3



Look for more details soon!

SAVE THE DATE for the 2021 Alumni Homecoming and Fall Family Weekend to be held Oct. 1-3 this year. It is our hope that enough progress will be made by October to allow Homecoming and Fall Family Weekend to safely occur. Please stay tuned for more information throughout the remainder of winter and into the spring and summer.



## 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

## FILL THE STANDS WITH FANS!



Don't let not being able to cheer on the Bearcats in person this winter and spring stop you from showing your support for our student athletes. Commemorate the 2020-21 season with the purchase of your own personal cutout for the stands! Show your support in a new and exciting way to cheer the Bearcats to victory this season!

Cutouts are \$50 each for alumni and friends with a special discounted cost of \$30 for current students and Class of 2020 graduates!

Proceeds will benefit General Athletics or a team of your choice. Your cutout will attend home games and matches. At the end of the season, pick up your cutout on campus and keep the memory forever.

*\*A portion of this cost is a charitable deduction.*

To purchase a cutout, follow the instructions below or call Missy Intrepido at 724-454-1800 with any questions!

1. Wear Bearcat gear if you can!
2. Have someone take your photo from the waist up. No selfies please! Use a solid background. Please ONLY use your own likeness. ALL photos are subject to approval.
3. Email a JPG or PDF file to [melissa.intrepido@stvincent.edu](mailto:melissa.intrepido@stvincent.edu).
4. Payment for cutouts can be made online here or with checks payable to Saint Vincent College mailed to:

Saint Vincent College • c/o Missy Intrepido • Institutional Advancement •  
300 Fraser Purchase Road • Latrobe, PA 15650

5. If you would prefer to not have a cutout but would still like to support Saint Vincent College Athletics, a donation can be made by contacting Missy.

# SAINT VINCENT COLLEGE ANNOUNCES 2020 ALUMNI OF DISTINCTION

Saint Vincent College has announced its 2020 Alumni of Distinction in recognition of meritorious service and commitment to Saint Vincent. This distinguished group will be recognized in a formal on-campus ceremony at a later date.



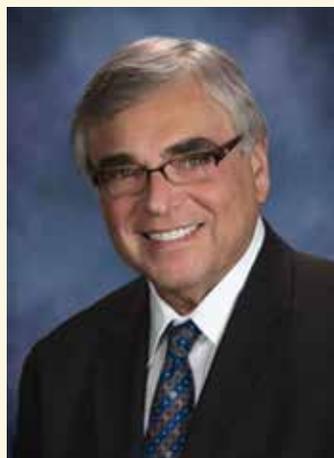
**Jeffery D. Ansell, C'90**

Jeffery D. Ansell, C'90, of Cockeysville, Maryland, earned a bachelor of science in political science, graduating with highest honors and earning the Saint Vincent College Award for Academic Excellence in Political Science. In addition to his academic achievements, Ansell was also a four-year standout on the Bearcat baseball team and was inducted into the Saint Vincent College Athletic Hall of Fame in 2016.

Since 1999, he has been employed by Stanley Black & Decker, where he is currently executive vice president and president of its Global Tools and Storage Group. Ansell has remained deeply involved with his alma mater, and in 2016, he spearheaded the creation of the Saint Vincent College Stanley Black & Decker Scholars program, which awards scholarships to first-generation college students while affording them the opportunity to travel to

the Stanley Black & Decker corporate facilities to meet with the company's employees for potential internship placements and job opportunities.

Ansell and his wife, Jackie (Capizzi), C'92, a fellow 2016 Saint Vincent Athletic Hall of Fame inductee, are the proud parents of four children—Jenna, Jordan, Jillian and Joseph.



**Dr. William A. DiCuccio, C'70**

Dr. William A. DiCuccio, C'70, of Gibsonia, graduated with a bachelor of science degree in biology, before earning his medical degree from Jefferson Medical School. He went on to start his own medical practice, which would grow to include six physicians and a patient network of more than 44,000.

DiCuccio also served as the medical director at the Butler County-owned Sunnyview Nursing and Rehabilitation Center for 32 years, while serving a 10-year tenure as the medical director for Butler County Prison and being named the Butler Health System's first vice president of medical affairs. Currently, he serves as vice chair of Butler County Community College and sits on the board of directors of World Servants, while he was past chair of the Jean Purvis Medical Center.

DiCuccio and his wife, Marge, started a mission in the Dominican

Republic, working with the local community to build a faith-based school that educates more than 400 impoverished students, establishing a water purification plant for the local residents and an eye center with state-of-the-art operating rooms to treat cataracts, which has treated more than 100,000 patients and restored eyesight to more than 3,000.

The DiCuccios are the parents of Saint Vincent College graduates William, C'97, and Kimberly, C'99.



**Mark W. Durishan, C'70**

Mark W. Durishan, C'70, of Charleston, South Carolina, graduated with a bachelor of science degree in accounting. As a student, he served on the entertainment committees responsible for organizing concerts by superstars Ray Charles (1967) and Dionne Warwick (1968), while he also worked in the campus bowling alley and was an avid card player. After going on to earn an M.B.A. from Eastern University, he began his career as a partner in public accounting before serving as CFO at a number of health care institutions, including a consortium of hospitals, a major insurance plan and health management organization, a pharmacy benefit company and finally the second-largest nurs-

ing home chain based in both the U.S. and Canada.

A Latrobe native, Durishan received his First Holy Communion and Confirmation in the Saint Vincent Archabbey Basilica, while he was altar server at the parish's first Mass celebrated in English.

He is married to Betty, and spends his retirement supporting charities devoted to serving families and underprivileged children, serving as rules official for the PGA, NCAA and the USGA and attempting to shoot his age in a round of golf.



**Paul P. Giunto, C'70**

Paul P. Giunto, C'70, of Fort Myers, Florida; earned a bachelor's degree in business administration, before embarking on a career in the commercial and casualty insurance business, 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.

Giunto is a member of the Saint Vincent College Board of Directors and has served on numerous charitable boards at both the local and national levels. He and his late wife, Roberta, are the parents of one son, Greg, and one daughter, Angela.

# CLASS NOTES

## 1940s

**Joseph Majer Sr., C'42**, the oldest living alumnus of Saint Vincent College, died on August 29, 2020 at the age of 99 in Clearwater, Florida. He was a Marine Corps and World War II veteran and later taught and coached at Johnstown Catholic High School (now Bishop McCort), then at Conemaugh Township Area High School. To read more about his achievements, visit <https://obituaries.tribdem.com/obituary/joseph-majer-sr-1079964450>.



**Andrew, C'46, and Dorothy Kaman** celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary on June 24, 2020. They are ages 94 and 89 respectively and reside in the same house where they raised their family and have lived for 65 years in Norton, Ohio. They have four children, ten grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren. Andrew has a bachelor of science degree in chemistry.

## 1960s

**W. Richard Howe, C'67**, has been elected chairperson of the Foundation Board for the Community College of Beaver County.

**Deacon Stephen A. Olenchok, Ph.D., P'64, C'68**, has published a book, *Thank the Holy Spirit: Reflections on Holy*



*Scripture*. It is a scriptural journey with selected passages from the Book of Genesis through the Book of Revelation. Taking his inspiration from the Holy Spirit, Deacon Steve has a bachelor of arts degree in biology from Saint Vincent. Following graduation he served in the United States Navy, then received a Ph.D. in medical microbiology (immunology) from the West Virginia University School of Medicine. He had a successful career at the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (CDC) in Morgantown, directed the National Farm Medicine Center in Wisconsin, returned to the CDC as a senior biological research scientist. Ordained a deacon in 2004 for the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, he is an Oblate of Saint Benedict of Saint Vincent Archabbey and is now pursuing pastoral ministry in the Diocese of Charleston. He and his wife, Marcia, have three sons, including **Stephen Jr., D.O., C'94**; Thomas and Benjamin.

**John Kriak, C'69**, and his wife, Bonnie Kriak celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on October 24, 2020, with a blessing ceremony at Saint Clement Church where they were married in 1970.

## 1970s

**Terrence "Terry" Tormey, C'76**,

was recently appointed CEO at Xenon-VR Inc., a medical device company bringing VR to the Ophthalmic Diagnostics market. He was elected to the Board of the American College of Healthcare Trustees, Board of Advisors at Kannalife (KLFE), and PhysioCue Inc.



### John P. McCann, C'70

John P. McCann, C'70, of Churchill; graduated with honors with a bachelor's degree in accounting, earning the College's Award for Academic Excellence in Business Administration.

As a student at Saint Vincent, McCann was a DJ for WSVR Radio as well as announcer for Bearcat men's basketball.

McCann, who would go on to earn a master's degree in taxation from Robert Morris University, has enjoyed a long career in the accounting and finance industry, beginning with a 25-year stint as a partner at Ernst and Young. He then was named CFO for Oberg Industries, a position he held for five years, before a 10-year stint as tax principal at McCrory & McDowell LLC and a three-year tenure as partner at ParenteBeard LLC. Currently, he is partner emeritus for Baker Tilly US, LLP.

McCann is married to Kathy. In addition to his role with Baker Tilly, McCann, who completed a half marathon at the age of 63, remains active in mentoring young tax professionals, assisting at a free care clinic, golfing, working out and playing cards.

### CORRECTION

A photo ID in the Ed McCormick story on page 43 of the fall issue should have read **David Baker, C'79**, not David Parker.



### Dr. Paul F. Moersdorf, C'70

Dr. Paul F. Moersdorf, C'70, of Elon, North Carolina, graduated with a bachelor of science degree in chemistry, before earning a master of science and doctorate in physical oceanography, with a minor in meteorology, from Old Dominion University.

While at Old Dominion, he taught mathematics and computer science before joining the National Oceanographic Office in 1978, where he created oceanographic databases. After being promoted to chief scientist for the Navy's Tactical Environmental Support System, he was named director of the Naval Meteorology and Oceanography Council's Space and Oceanography Program, overseeing procurement initiatives for the worldwide receipt and processing of satellite data. He was promoted to deputy chief of staff for program integration, charged with programming, planning and budgeting for meteorological and oceanographic equipment used by the U.S. Navy and Marines. He added additional duties as director of the Special Projects Office, coordinating intelligence, special operations and highly classified projects.

After retiring, Moersdorf spent three years on the faculty at Elon University, teaching oceanography and environmental science. A native of Little Falls, New Jersey, he is married to Katherine.

Members of the Class of 1970 recently had an online video-conference, which also included Ben Becze and Katie Vitale of the Saint Vincent Alumni office. Those classmates taking part included **Frank Nelson, James Scott, Anthony DeLauro, John Kopay, Gary Williams, Robert Reed, Robert Kessler, Joseph Hohman, William DiCuccio, Vincent Morris, Charles Gregg, Owen Grumbling, Mike Lawrence, Richard Bienvenue, John McCann, Richard McHugh, Mark Durishan, Chad Rittle, Robert Callen, William McEnery,** and **Joseph McAlarnen.**

## 1980s

**Scott Ringstad, C'80,** retired from state employment with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

as a vocational rehabilitation counselor on June 19, 2020, with 30 years of service.

**Robert Rogalski, C'86,** has been named president of Sharon Regional Medical Center in Dallas, Pennsylvania.

**Karen Puchalsky, C'87,** founder, president and chief executive officer of Innovate E-Commerce has led the Pittsburgh-based company through the past 23 years of accomplishments, growth and recognition. Started in 1997 as an enterprise solutions consulting firm, today the company manages the IT processes that allow companies to support all of the electronic documents for their supply chain. The company specializes in three dedicated



solutions; Managed Services, Secure Communication Gateway and InVaultive, a secure email and file sharing cloud service. The firm processes billions of transactions and specializes in supporting customers' supply chain order to cash processes. It moves critical, sensitive and confidential business information securely for its clients and streamlines the communication between enterprises and their banks, insurance carriers, health care providers, customers, suppliers and other third-party providers. Karen and Innovate E-Commerce have been honored with a variety of awards such as the INC. 500 award, Pennsylvania's Best 50 Women in Business and the Top 25 Women in Business and Best Places to Work by the Pittsburgh Business Times. She has been published in Supply & Demand Chain Executive and Institute of Indus-

trial & Systems Engineers Expert Column Section as well as featured several times on KDKA-TV's Sunday Business Page. She was also featured in Pittsburgh Business Times' Personalities of Pittsburgh and has been interviewed by various radio programs as a leader in cyber security solutions. Puchalsky hosted a business seminar, Cyber Security: Are you Prepared? for other industry leaders on how to keep their valuable data safe.

**Theresa (Bittner) George, C'88,** retired after 20 years with Loudoun County Behavioral Health Services. She began a holistic psychotherapy practice in Berryville, Virginia.



**Scott Joy, M.D., C'88,** was appointed the chief medical officer of the Continental Division of HCA Healthcare Physician Services Group.

## DEATHS

**Joseph Majer Sr., C'42,** on August 29, 2020. He was the oldest living alumnus of the College.

**Rev. Noel Rothrauff, O.S.B., P'45, C'50, S'54,** on December 15, 2020.

**John S. Tosh, C'48,** on December 1, 2020.

**John R. West Jr., C'49,** on August 18, 2020.

**W. Raymond Levay, P'51,** on October 1, 2020.

**Dr. John Macey, P'52, C'57,** on September 8, 2020.

**Frank P. Iozzi P'54,** on December 6, 2020.

**George Frost, C'54,** on August 2, 2020.

**Robert Gearing, C'54,** on September 11, 2020.

**Richard Mowry Jr., C'55,** on May 16, 2020.

**Joseph G. Mucci, C'55,** on November 30, 2020.

**Edward Hipp, C'56,** on October 18, 2020.

**Rev. Edward S. Litavec, C'56, S'60,** on November 20, 2020.

**Dr. Richard E. Doll, C'57,** on August 12, 2020.

**Charles J. Schafer, C'59,** on September 25, 2020.

**Thomas E. Koziatek, C'60,** on September 18, 2020.

**Joseph T. Maloy, Ph.D. C'61,** on December 6, 2020.

**Domenic A. Meffe Sr., C'61,** who passed away on January 1, 2021.

**John A. Sebak, C'62,** on September 2, 2020.

**Lougene "Gene" W. Kantor, P'63,** on August 3, 2019.

**Peter F. Abt, Colonel, USAF Ret., C'63,** on April 24, 2020.

**Anthony J. Petrarca, C'63,** on November 11, 2020.

**Christopher R. Pignoli, C'63,** on November 17, 2020.

**Rev. John J. O'Malley, S'65,** on September 11, 2020.

**Michael J. O'Hare, C'69,** on August 16, 2020.

**David A. Shaw, C'75,** on December 13, 2020.

**James D. Hughes, C'82,** on July 27, 2020.

**Mary Ann (Krawtz) Price, C'86,** on October 11, 2020.

**Stephen M. Sparks, C'89,** on November 19, 2020.

**Dr. Robert Michalow, C'91,** on December 9, 2020.

**Dr. Thomas Mans,** academic dean from 2001-2007, on December 16.

## 2000s

**Albert Ciuksza Jr. C'02,** is the vice president of growth and development at Solutions 21, and he has been recognized as a 2020 40 Under 40 Honoree by *Pittsburgh Magazine*.



**Hans Rocha Ijzerman, C'03,** associate professor of social psychology at the Université Grenoble Alpes, has written the book *Heartwarming: How Our Inner Thermostat Made Us Human*, published by W.W. Norton and scheduled for release in February. The book explores core body regulation and its powerful effect on human civilization and examines a number of important new questions, such as

# BIRTHS



**Andrea McCullum Mejia, D.O., Pharm.D., C07**, and her husband Juan Carlos Mejia Garces, M.D., welcomed their son, Sebastian Andrew Mejia McCullum, on June 27, 2020.



**Kalyne (Linville) Heinmuller, C'12**, and **Atty. Paul Heinmuller, C'10**, welcomed their first child Ashton Heinmuller on November 13, 2020.



John Richard Sigg, IV (Jack) was born September 13, 2020 to **John Sigg III, C'13**, and **Megan Fitzgerald Sigg, C'13**, and was baptized at Saint Francis of Assisi in Columbia, Maryland, on October 11.



Amelia Rader was born on July 24, 2020, to **Alyssa Rader, C'15**, and her husband, Joshua Rader.



the impact of climate change on society and how striving to keep our temperature in an optimal range can help us in relation-

ships, jobs and even in the world of social media. A renowned expert on social thermoregulation in humans, Ijzerman's writing has previously appeared in the *New York Times* and *Huffington Post*. *Heartwarming: How Our Inner Thermostat Made us Human* can be purchased through all major booksellers.

**Emily Torrero Duley, G'07**, accepted a new position as a social studies teacher at Battlefield High School in Prince William County, Virginia.

**Matthew Hanley, C'07**, was promoted to serve as vice president of sales and technology at Vail Rubber Works, Inc.



In June 2020, **Jennifer Bradford, D.O., C'08**, joined the staff of Pediatric Associates of Westmoreland. She is a pediatrician seeing patients at both the Greensburg and Irwin offices.

## 2010s

**Jason Brinker, C'10**, has been named to the board for the Greater Latrobe Partners In Education Foundation.

**Tyler Camaione, C'11**, recently completed a doctorate in clinical psychology at the University of Denver.

**Lauren Donahue, C'12**, started a new position as program director for new student engagement at the University of Notre Dame.

**Jo-Anne Thompson, Esq., C'14**, accepted a position as an energy and environmental law attorney at McNees Wallace and Nurick, Harrisburg.

**Brenda Wateska, C'15**, accepted a new position as the promotions

and special events coordinator at Live! Casino Pittsburgh at the Westmoreland Mall, Greensburg.

**Kyli Stoner, C'16**, was recently selected as a 2021 New Leaders Council Fellow for the Pittsburgh Chapter. Selection is a highly competitive process and fellows attend a six-month training program to learn how to be a part in building a new governing coalition for millennials.



**Olivia Cerniglia, C'19**, is an Inside sales district manager with ADP, and she is currently pursuing studies at Duquesne University for a master of science degree in higher education administration, Class of 2022.

## CONDOLENCES

Condolences are offered to:

**Barbara Redilla Wissolik, C'96;**  
**Damien R. Wissolik, C'88;**  
**Erica R. Wissolik, C'86;** Tracey

**Dowler, C'02;** Chrissy Scott and Kelly Scott on the death of their husband, father, and stepfather, respectively, **Dr. Richard D. Wissolik**, on December 9, 2020.

**Isabella Sparks, C23**, on the death of her father, **Stephen M. Sparks, C'89**, on November 19, 2020.

**Angela Belli**, director of the Winnie Palmer Nature Reserve, on the death of her father, David M. Check, on November 27, 2020.

**Mark Kachmar**, faculty member in Business Management, on the death of his mother, Marilyn J. Kachmar, on November 11, 2020.

**Father Anthony Grossi, O.S.B.**, on the death of his mother, Linda Grossi, on November 14, 2020.

**Patricia Owens**, retired, President's office, and her husband, Tom, facilities management, on the death of her mother, Mildred "Millie" Sweeney, on October 30, 2020.

## ENGAGEMENT

**Granville Wagner, C'18,** and **Katherine Maloney, C'18,** became engaged on September 5 and plan on getting married at the Saint Vincent Basilica in the spring of 2022.

## MARRIAGES



**Megan DePrimio-Faust, C'13,** married Jeff Faust on August 29, 2020 at the Basilica of the Sacred Heart at the University of Notre Dame.



**Angela (Delfine) Mechler, C'13,** married David Mechler on October 10, 2020 in a small ceremony with closest family and friends at Saint Gabriel of the Sorrowful Virgin parish in Pittsburgh. Mass was followed with a small reception at the South Hills Country Club. The celebrants of the marriage were **Father Stephen Mary Waruszewski, T.O.R.** and **Father Killian Loch O.S.B.**

**Regina (Woloshun) DeLellis, C'15,** married Daniel DeLellis at Saint Vincent Basilica on August 14, 2020. Regina also received a Ph.D. in Nutritional Sciences from the University of Florida and began working for entrinsic bioscience as a research scientist in May 2020.



**Julian Whalen, C'16,** married Bethany Meskel Whalen on November 21, 2020.



**Adam Holliday, C'18,** and **Haley Martin, C'18,** were married in Somerset, on September 26, 2020. Saint Vincent College alumni in the wedding party included bridesmaids **Elise Glad, C'18; Teresa Yanicko, C'18; Madyson Dyer, C'18;** and groomsmen **Richard Opfer, C'18; Anthony Donatelli, C'18; Daniel Boland, C'18,** and **Sean Anderson, C'18.**



**Helena Shoplik, C'16,** and **Christopher Vaughan, C'15,** were married on September 25th, 2020 at Saint Vincent Basilica by **Father Matthew Laffey, O.S.B., C'98, S'99.** Their wedding party included: **Gregory Love, C'16; Brendan Vaughan, C'16; Tyler Powers, C'16; Angela Fidazzo, C'16; Tracy Rush, C'16; Rachel DeNino, C'16; and Bridget Synan, C'16.** Other alumni in attendance were **Shane Benning, C'17; Joseph G. Paul, C'15; Daniel J. O'Connor, C'16; Anthony Sellitto, C'15; Allison Petris, C'12, G'14; Samantha Cicci, C'16; Brody Ruffner, C'15; Megan (Lucas) Ruffner, C'14,** and **Tessa Rado, C'04.**



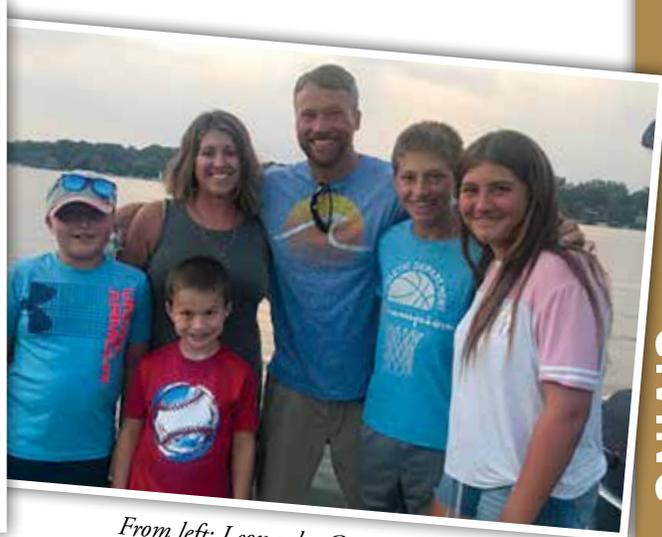
**Paisley Adams, C'19,** and **Jess Jaynes, C'18,** were united in marriage at Saint Vincent Basilica on August 1, 2020 by Father Killian Loch, O.S.B. The bridal party included Saint Vincent College alumni **Daniel A. O'Connor, C'18,** and **Benjamin Riddle, C'17,** as groomsmen.



Joe and Marcy Scarpo.



J.C. Howard and his fiancée, Katie McGrane.



From left: Leonardo, Cara, Nico, Keith, Dominick and Mia Biskup.

## THE DIFFERENCE IS ... BENEDICTINE

**J**oe Scarpo, C'84, succinctly states that his involvement with the Benedictines (and Saint Vincent College) has made all the difference in his life. That simple line of wisdom from the Gospel is a cornerstone for his professional and personal life. "The quote accurately explains and illuminates my view of life. If we have been blessed and managed to turn that blessing into financial reward, there is a responsibility to give back," says Joe.

His favorite courses at the college were philosophy and theology. "They made me look inside my being and make conscious decisions regarding my role in the world. That educational experience prepared me to learn how 'to think' and garnered knowledge to allow me to help to dramatically change the lives of others."

Upon graduation, Joe created a professional organization, Private Wealth Advisors (now part of CAPTRUST), that daily puts into practice the lessons learned at Saint Vincent College. Joe and his professional team speak to each of their clients to not only strengthen their personal assets, but to be very aware that "we all have a responsibility to set part of our treasure aside to make the world a better place."

Two other Bearcat alumni are part of Joe's professional team. Keith Biskup, C'02, states that "...in my first accounting class, the professor wrote a number on the chalkboard...and asked

what it represented. The answer: the cost of the class for the semester; if we went to class or not, the price was the same. That simple statement served as a beacon for my entire college career, and now, carries over into my professional life with clients." Joe Howard, C'16 recalls "...that the vigorous curriculum provided me with the knowledge to stand out among competitors; likewise, I learned what it means to be part of community."

For almost 30 years, Joe Scarpo has not only "talked the talk, but walked the walk." He has taken a significant leadership role in raising funds for the Colleges' Athletic Department through the annual Bearcat Open Invitational golf event. His personal contributions to that event mirror his tribute from the Gospel, "when much has been given...much will be required."

Joe Scarpo has "set the bar" high for all of us. As one of our alumni or a friend of Saint Vincent, if you have any desire to strengthen our mission, consider contacting one of us here at Saint Vincent College.

*"...when much has been given...much will be required..."*

—Luke 12:48

**Jim Bendel, C'60**

**Planned Giving Officer**

**Office: 724-805-2948 • Cell: 724-244-4805**

**James.bendel@stvincent.edu**



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