

# June 2021 Staff Appreciation Nominations

## Hospitality

*One of Bellarmine's symbols is the Pineapple which represents hospitality and cura personalis - concern for each person. Please select a staff member that characterizes learning and life at Bellarmine, as well as truly valuing the faculty, staff and students in our community.*

- **Gina Priddy:** Gina Priddy is the queen of hospitality and care at Bellarmine. She is always checking on folks to make sure they are doing well and she is genuinely interested in their health and well-being. If she determines that a person is in need of anything she strives to get that person exactly what they need to be successful! She is so thoughtful and kind, truly goes out of her way to look after and out for others. Gina does this in a way that is not intrusive but is simply very caring and makes you feel special and cared about. She is one terrific lady who truly cares and values the BU community!

## Solidarity

*The Ursula Laurel Tree represents the merger between Ursuline College and Bellarmine University in 1968. Please select a staff member that is truly collaborative with others, one who seeks to compromise and improve the environment in the best interest of Bellarmine, and one who demonstrates teamwork and empathy.*

- **Stephanie Reilly:** Stephanie Reilly should be recognized for her work at Bellarmine because she always strives to be collaborative, innovative and supportive. Stephanie always thinks about making a project, event or campaign strategic and engaging for alumni. She works to make sure that her team spends time on projects that fulfill the University's strategic plan. She reaches out to campus partners and makes projects beneficial and collaborative. The pandemic has produced challenges for alumni and donor engagement because they are unable to come to campus for events and programs. Alumni that are engaged and attend events are more likely to donate time and give back to their alma mater. Throughout the pandemic, Stephanie has been pioneering new ways to keep alumni engaged through non-event engagement and virtual events. She pivoted to create a social media campaign that celebrated the hard work of Healthcare Heroes and teachers. She has worked tirelessly to recruit alumni for three different mentoring programs in the 2020-2021 academic year. For the Spring 2021 Mentor program, she has worked with Career Development to match students and mentors on not only careers but affinity groups as well. This is the first year that affinity groups have played a role in alumni-student matching. She spent hours matching alumni and students so that students would be able to have meaningful experiences. She also constantly works to make processes efficient and strategically innovative. She implemented a new form that gave alumni multiple volunteer opportunities and ways to stay engaged. Stephanie is also working with campus partners to implement virtual Alumni Town Halls. These programs have given alumni the opportunity to feel connected and reacquainted with the University. The first Alumni Town Hall focused on Athletics and Bellarmine's first year in D-I sports. Stephanie worked with the Special Events team and many members of the Athletics

Department, including student athletes, to make the quick 30-minute virtual event informative and meaningful for attendees. She is currently collaborating with fellow team members and campus partners to execute the remaining Alumni Town Halls. Finally, Stephanie is an empathetic leader that deserves recognition for her tireless work to support her team. As the new Executive Director of the Alumni Association, Stephanie continuously advocates for her team and colleagues. She has implemented weekly Alumni Team and One-on-One meetings for all of the people that she supervises. During those meetings, Stephanie listens to her team members and makes sure that we have a space to express our highs and lows of each week. She helps celebrate successes and helps reevaluate when something is not working. She also gives recognition to team members during full department meetings. Stephanie has mentored me and taken me under her wing since I started working with her. She has helped me learn the importance of having a strong and engaged Alumni Association. She created training documents and guides to help new employees transition into the field. Stephanie has given me opportunities to implement projects and new ideas by supporting and guiding me. Stephanie has also supported me through a year full of challenges and changes. I began working two weeks before we began working from home. She trained two new team members via Teams calls. When Stephanie learned about the University's difficult decision to part-time furlough my position, she immediately called me. She called to check in and see if she needed to go collect food and supplies from Food Pantries. Her presence and support gave me hope that things would get better. Throughout the summer, she would check in with me and ask me how I was feeling. She would continually make sure that I felt included in team discussions and decisions with my limited hours. I will never forget her kindness and empathy for my situation. She was a silver lining during a difficult time. She continues to be a tremendous leader and advocate for her team. I can never fully articulate the true gratitude and appreciation that I have for Stephanie Reilly. For this and more, I believe that Stephanie Reilly should be recognized for the Solidarity category.

## Intrinsic Values

- **Pamela Smith:** Pamela Smith works tirelessly for all faculty and students and colleagues in the School of Education. While her official title is the assistant to the deans, she actually assists everyone in the SOE--and she does this with outstanding patience and consideration. I am consistently impressed with how Pamela Smith mentors all of our work study students. She guides each one in developing a professional identity, listens and shares advice when they face life challenges or speed bumps, gets to know their interests, personalities, and, in many cases, their families. She's not a faculty member, but she is a teacher to each of them and in this she values the dignity and beauty of every individual. She is essential to their Bellarmine experience and the SOE is better for the work she does.

## Light of Truth

- **Jennifer Davis:** Jennifer is AMAZING! She has been a great friend for all the years that I have worked in the Office of Financial Aid. I am truly blessed and lucky to call her a friend, and I could not think of anyone else more deserving than her to be nominated. Working with her for the past 12 years, I have seen first hand how much she cares for others, whether the person she is talking to is a student, another staff member, faculty, or a parent of a student. She is

compassionate, motivated, and does her work with so much care and love. No matter what comes her way, Jennifer can adapt to anything and do it all with a smile. This past year Jennifer was helping to make things run smoothly in the Financial Aid Office, while also finishing her Master's program here at Bellarmine and being a wife and mom to two small children. Jennifer cares deeply for everyone and always puts our students first.