AMERICA’S HEALTHIEST CAMPUS

BOOSTING LITERACY

NURSING MEETS THE LIBERAL ARTS

FIGHTING HOMELESSNESS

AMAZING ALUMNI ART
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Page</th>
<th>Section Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>THE READERS WRITE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Letters to the editor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>A WHOLESOME SPRING</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Bellarmine takes the lead in fighting poor health and illiteracy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>THE ART OF NURSING</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>In the Lansing School, students learn the liberal arts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>THE HEALTHIEST CAMPUS IN THE NATION</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>You’re not going to eat that, are you?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>QUESTION &amp; ANSWER</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Jewish Hospital nurse Eric Gocke</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>HOME WORK</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Bellarmine freshmen build a Habitat house</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>BACK IN THE SADDLE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>In the middle of a career helping children with special needs, Anne Moll takes a break to help...children with special needs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32</td>
<td>BELLARMINE LEGACIES</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>It's legacies galore this year at Bellarmine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36</td>
<td>A GIFT COMES TO LIGHT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>A son’s gratitude transforms the McGrath Art Gallery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40</td>
<td>NOT JUST BY THE NUMBERS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Women’s hoops coach David Smith notches a big win</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>42</td>
<td>NEWS ON THE HILL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>48</td>
<td>BOBBY B: MAN ABOUT TOWN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>52</td>
<td>ALUMNI CORNER</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>55</td>
<td>THE FORT: ON A LINE FROM MAUREEN CLUB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>A poem by Danielle Fleming</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

ON THE COVER: LANDLORD, OIL ON CANVAS, BY CHRISTINE PURYEAR ’05
LEFT: EMERGING WORLD’S FAVORITE DARWIN’S TULIP, ACRYLIC ON CANVAS, BY KATHLEEN BUECHLER ’07

Alumni art show — page 36
How social networking made my day

FOR THE PAST COUPLE OF YEARS, social networking has taken the Internet by storm, making it easy for lonely people to showcase their cats in ways not embraced since personal web pages took the Internet by storm a decade before. Myspace, Facebook, Linked In, and smaller baby-talk networks like Bebo, Xanga, and Friendster allow us to chronicle the demise of western civilization in ways that would make our ancestors.com twitter.com with envy.com.

On a workday morning last winter, Linked In mania swept through our offices at Bellarmine. Linked In is Myspace for grownups: a site that lets dorks like me post business cards online. Like all such sites, setup takes about 60 seconds, after which you pause, reflect upon your mighty networking skills and wonder, “Now what?” What happened next surprised me. Well, actually, what happened next is that I linked my business card with the business cards of about 11 people I knew, then paused to listen to the cacophony of crickets chirping. But what happened after that surprised me.

A few days later, I got an invitation from another Linked In member to join her network. That prompted me to go online and read her profile, where I learned a little about her cats. But in an adjacent box, I saw the name of a dear Bellarmine classmate I hadn’t seen in over a decade. I couldn’t believe my eyes.

In the mid-’90s, my friend moved to Chicago and I moved to Boston. Somewhere in the maelstrom of childrearing, career-building and other manic endeavors, we lost touch. Because his name is a common one, it over-gogles, making it impossible to find him that way. And because I moved twice in a couple of years, he couldn’t find me. Until, that is, Linked In linked us in. We forsook the Internet entirely in favor of a phone call, and I am delighted to report he is just as crazy as ever.

Like most colleges, Bellarmine is now all over the social networks. We have admissions and alumni Myspace and Facebook pages, and a Linked In group for alumni. Even St. Robert Bellarmine has his own Facebook! And, of course, we boast our own in-house alumni social networking site, at bellarmine.edu/alumni, where you can connect with your former classmates. Bottom line: You have no excuse not to get in touch.

If you caught up with me online today, I’d probably bend your ear about how fantastic this magazine is. Carla Carlton has a feature on some of the amazing work going on in the Lansing School, Dr. Carol Pfeffer shares news of a student Habitat for Humanity project, and two talented young writers – Katie Kelty and Rita Dixon – bring their skills to the magazine. We also welcome the marvelous photography of Geoff Bugbee.

See you online,

Jim Welp ’81
Editor-in-Chief
GEOFF OLIVER BUGBEE is a Louisville photographer who works both locally and globally on environmental and humanitarian issues. In 2007, he traveled to more than 15 countries to produce stories ranging from hunger and poverty to curable blindness to the effects of HIV/AIDS on the world’s poorest communities in Africa. See more of his work at www.geoffbugbee.com.

RON COOPER is a freelance writer and photographer whose work has appeared in The Courier-Journal, The Voice-Tribune, and Kentucky Monthly magazine. He was a newspaper reporter for 25 years, including 12 years with Business First.

RITA DIXON ’08 is a senior communications major with a minor in history and will graduate in May. A native of Hustonville, Ky., she is a member of the university’s track and field team and editor of the student newspaper, The Concord.

KATHLEEN KELTY ’07 graduated magna cum laude. Originally from Cincinnati, she moved to Louisville after her communication internship at Bellarmine turned into a full-time position. Kelty is now junior graphic designer in Bellarmine’s Communication and Public Affairs office.

DR. CAROLE PFEFFER ’74 is an associate professor of English and has been a member of the Bellarmine faculty since 1990. She also serves as director for the IDC program, overseeing the freshman, sophomore, junior and senior seminars required of all Bellarmine students. A Bellarmine graduate, Pfeffer also teaches American literature to English majors and is developing courses in film studies.
The ‘Stairs of Mounting Interest’

Did you know that there was a trotter at Louisville Downs named Bobby Bellarmine? It happened during my time at Bellarmine, probably 1970 or ’71. The Downs had a Bellarmine Night (no pun intended) when he raced. I believe he lost.

It was so fine to see Carol Schuler in Bellarmine Magazine (Winter ’07-’08). A momma to many of us, Carol and her daughter, Noelle, were very kind to this homesick kid from northern New York. Our class was the first to go four years co-ed and the last to wear Bellarmine beanies!

When, as an Army lieutenant, I lived in a Quonset hut by rice paddies with cold winds bearing down the Korean peninsula, I would think of my Bellarmine family: Marilyn Staples, Bill Stewart, Hank Schmidt, Fr. John Deitrick, Steve Kirn, Sharon McClafferty, Ray Johnson; Ann Spinnato, Leslie Overly, Marianne Rosel (I swore her into the U.S. Navy; she went on to become the speechwriter for Navy secretaries John Lehmann, the 9/11 Commission chairman, and Sen. James Webb, D-Va.), Linda Diane Simms, Judy Simpson, Nora Holleran, Linda Fox, Martha Edlin; Mike Gramig; my British roommate, Sally Carne (still friends); David Solari (now Abbott Placid Solari, OSB); Mary Zeminick, Bob Marcellino; Ed Burkett (our red-headed leprechaun football coach who claimed he married Carolyn Schreckengost because he could not spell her last name!); the Zarella sisters and Thurmond brothers; Chris Covatto; and all the Podiceps (I was the second woman member). So many wonderful minds, hearts and souls I would think of and know that the world was good.

As I teach my cadets about Flannery O’Connor I am inspired by Joan Brittain’s Honors English class, and I use Fr. George Kilcourse’s text on O’Connor! Small world.

I had the great blessing of knowing Fr. John Loftus my first semester of college. Fr. John posted daily notes on the lobby bulletin board. One of the funniest things he wrote that first semester of co-ed classes was to refer to the lobby staircase as “the stairs of mounting interest.” This, because male students took to sitting by the windows in the lobby to watch the women students come down the stairs. Every seat was always occupied between classes.

Since graduating in 1972, I have repeatedly and sincerely told people, “Bellarmine College was the best thing that ever happened to me - it made everything that followed possible.”

*Natalie J. “Tully” Stewart-Smith ’72 / Roswell, N.M.*
Diplomacy and Peace

I graduated from Bellarmine in ’96, earning a commission in the U.S. Army. I have been on active duty for almost 12 years, mostly overseas. Currently, I am deployed to Iraq on a 15-month tour. My wife sends me magazines and I am catching up on some; I really enjoyed the piece on Dr. Mil Thompson in the Summer 2007 issue of Bellarmine Magazine. Dr. Thompson is welcome to provide my e-mail address to any of his students who have any questions on the military, war and Iraq.

I spent the last three years teaching military science and history at Furman University. I really enjoyed engaging students, especially students not in ROTC, as I was their only connection with the military. I am a very different person now than I was as a Bellarmine student. I saw the world as black and white; now I see the world as gray. Dr. Thompson’s Senior Seminar class seems very interesting, and I guarantee I am for diplomacy and peace at all costs. Political and religious freedoms come at a high cost; take a moment and remember those who have made the ultimate sacrifice. There is no such thing as a just war, but there are men and women of honor who put their lives on the line every day.

Major Russ Stewart ’96, Military Police / Al Faw Palace, Baghdad, Iraq

Leading the Way

Carla Carlton’s article (“Saving the World, One Freshman at a Time,” Winter Bellarmine Magazine) rekindled my excitement for the university’s future. As a recent graduate of Bellarmine’s spirituality program, I am keenly interested in reconciling the many perspectives from which one may observe and make sense of the world. Carlton’s article paints Rob Kingsolver as a man with a similar passion. I believe his plan to promote “environmental consciousness” as a central tenet for the university is right on target. And he’s right; such a development can and should be cross-curricular. I have no doubt the theology department could lend a very important spiritual dimension to Kingsolver’s proposed program, contributing its expertise in the area of sacred space and the reverence for the land so evident in ancient religious peoples. Spirituality, philosophy, English and history, along with science, can all be called upon to participate. Bellarmine can and should be a leader in this area.

Dan Dykstra, MA Spirituality ’07 / Louisville

A ‘Delight to Read’

I enjoyed reading the Winter issue of Bellarmine Magazine. Carla Carlton’s article on Robert Kingsolver and his honors seminar was not only informative but a delight to read. Paul Pearson’s article about “The Room” and Thomas Merton brought back memories of the original space in the old library. What an asset to Bellarmine is the presence of Frederick Smock (whom I’ve never met). I can see that gate (“Vieux Carré”) in my mind’s eye probably better than if I had seen the actual one some time in the past.

A few years ago I learned about the Bellarmine jug. My 1966 edition of the Random House Unabridged Dictionary claimed that Roberto Bellarmino was the object of the caricature on the bottle. Interesting.

Bill Stewart ’57 / Louisville
EMILY DICKINSON SAID, “A little madness in the spring is wholesome.”

And this spring, it’s not just the usual, colorful riot of leaves and flowers we await on our campus. We also welcome the latest fruits of Vision 2020, as we become the Premier Independent Catholic University in the South and thereby the leading private institution in the region.

This new life is not just about us. Our students and our alumni will benefit from Vision 2020, of course. But so will everyone. Every thriving metropolitan region has a nationally pre-eminent private university of significant size and stature, to work in concert with the public institutions, and Bellarmine is becoming that private university for this city, state and region.

We are private, but we operate in the public interest. All the private colleges and universities do.

Many people might not realize it, but Kentucky’s private institutions enroll almost a fifth of all the state’s college students. We turn out almost a quarter of the state’s bachelor’s degrees every year, including 25 percent of the state’s teachers and nurses. We produce disproportionately more college degrees in math and the sciences. Forty-three percent of the state’s physics degrees, 38 percent of the state’s math degrees and 34 percent of the state’s biology degrees are awarded to the 22 percent of Kentucky college graduates who attended the state’s private institutions.

It’s a great return on Kentucky’s relatively small investment in private higher education. (Only 3.5 percent, about $45 million, of the $1.2 billion that the state spends on postsecondary education benefits these private institutions – and it does so in the form of financial aid to students.)

At Bellarmine, we are in the vanguard of this work. And Vision 2020 brings more and more evidence that our initiatives and innovations are directly aligned with the public interest. They reflect our overriding commitment to social justice – to making the world a better place.

Exhibits A and B: We are going after two of Kentucky’s most destructive and persistent public ills, poor health and illiteracy.

by DR. JOSEPH J. MCGOWAN
With the arrival of Dr. Louis Heuser (see page 16) to address healthy living, and the imminent arrival of Dr. Robert B. Cooter Jr. (see page 44) to address literacy, Bellarmine is on the verge of a transformation that could also transform our community, our commonwealth and our region. We are focusing expertise and attention on areas that are of grave importance.

Dr. Heuser is a former surgeon and a pioneer in wellness at the renowned Heuser Clinic in Louisville. He knows that Kentuckians are unhealthy and that obesity is a devastating problem for the commonwealth. Last fall, Dr. Heuser joined Bellarmine as an executive-in-residence and plans to make our campus a model of wellness, by adding academic and athletic programs and by changing our campus culture.

Dr. Cooter, who will begin this fall, will occupy the new Ursuline Endowed Chair of Teacher Education at Bellarmine. Before coming to us he served as Distinguished Professor of Urban Literacy Research at the University of Memphis. Professor Cooter will teach courses at the undergraduate and graduate levels in reading/literacy education, and his research focuses on innovative ways of improving reading instruction for children living at the poverty level. What could be more important for the present and future of Louisville and Kentucky?

Dr. Cooter also serves as editor of *The Reading Teacher* – the largest literacy education journal in the world – which will now be housed at Bellarmine University!

His wife, Dr. Kathleen Spencer Cooter, will also join us. A popular and accomplished early childhood and special education professor, she will direct a new research center focused on literacy education for underserved populations as a vehicle to social justice.

We are so fortunate and thankful that these luminaries are bringing their vital, redemptive work to Bellarmine.

It feels like spring, and all spring means.
"If you look at the mission of the university, I think we live that mission,"
Nursing meets the liberal arts at Bellarmine’s Lansing School

When Bellarmine College added a bachelor’s degree in nursing in 1977, and then a master’s in 1984, not everyone was sure the degrees were consistent with the school’s mission of producing critical thinkers steeped in the liberal-arts tradition. Some were concerned Bellarmine might instead focus too narrowly on preparing students for specific careers.

Mary Pike, an assistant professor of nursing who earned her bachelor’s in nursing at Bellarmine in 1980 and joined the faculty in 1983, recalls a faculty meeting early on when “somebody said we were becoming ‘Bedpans on Newburg Road.’”

At first she was offended. “But the more I thought about it, my response to that is, I’ll tell you what: Getting a bedpan under somebody sometimes requires some of the most critical thinking I have ever done.”

It’s a perfect example, she said, of how good nursing requires more than just a mastery of the science involved. It also involves empathy and the ability to make effective decisions in any number of situations – just the sorts of things that come from a well-rounded liberal-arts education, which Bellarmine’s nursing program has emphasized from the beginning.

“If you look at the mission of the university, I think we live that mission,” Pike said. “Leadership. A broader perspective on things. A strong foundation in the sciences, but also a strong foundation in the liberal arts.

“It’s not just the lab values. We address all that, absolutely – you need a smart nurse. But you also need someone who understands the implications of what (patients are) going through.”

by Carla Carlton
A BROADER PERSPECTIVE

The nursing program was housed in the division of science and mathematics until 1982, when it became the Donna and Allan Lansing School of Nursing and Health Sciences, named for renowned heart surgeon Allan Lansing and his wife, Donna.

The Lansing School has grown steadily: In addition to the bachelor’s and master’s programs in nursing, it now includes programs in physical therapy, respiratory therapy, clinical laboratory science and exercise science. To respond to a growing number of applicants who have a bachelor’s degree in another field and are entering nursing as a second career, the school added an accelerated second-degree program; participants in this program finish in one grueling academic year. And this semester, the Lansing School is offering the first two courses in a family nurse practitioner program that will eventually lead to a new Doctor of Nursing Practice program.

But the traditional bachelor’s of science in nursing is still by far the Lansing School’s largest program, with an average of 84 graduates in each of the past three years.

“When we designed our bachelor’s curriculum, we very much wanted a strong liberal-arts focus right from the get-go,” Pike said. The program must prepare students to pass a required state examination, so they are rigorously trained in the science of nursing. But in addition to those courses, they must also take 38 hours of liberal-arts courses, including English, history, philosophy, theology and the four interdisciplinary (IDC) courses (freshman, sophomore, junior and senior seminars).

Over the course of their time at Bellarmine they also spend 800 to 900 hours in clinicals, doing hands-on work in a hospital or the lab.

With all of that to juggle, you can imagine how students might not be aching to curl up with Kierkegaard or Virgil. “A lot of people complained about classes they had to take that were not quite nursing; they wanted to zone in on their major,” said Lori Ann Minton, a 2003 graduate of Bellarmine’s traditional nursing program who is now a nurse in the coronary-care unit at University Hospital and is working on a master’s in nursing education. “But it makes you more well-rounded.”

“In nursing, you’re thinking on your feet all the time. I don’t know if all the [liberal-arts] courses prepared me for that more than nursing courses, but definitely you come across so many different cultures now; people from all over the place. And every course you take – theology, or a music-appreciation course – all of it just gives you a broader perspective on how things are, and you’re a little more open-minded.”

Minton has the perspective of time. Brittany Cripe of Louisville, a senior in the traditional nursing program, finds it can be a little harder to appreciate the liberal-arts requirement in the moment.

“If you asked most nursing students, especially during finals, we would rather solely focus on nursing-related classes because of the difficult content and time required to learn the material,” she said. “But …because we are required to take liberal-arts classes, I feel Bellarmine nurses have an additional knowledge base and reference for our actions and our responsibilities to our patients. I believe, too, that is why most nursing students of Bellarmine do attend Bellarmine. We are smart people: We know that attending a liberal-arts university will benefit us in the long run.”

It will also benefit patients, Pike believes. “We want to produce leaders. And we do think the liberal arts have a huge influence on students being able to do that. Unfortunately, due to accreditation and the enormous number of clinical hours and those sorts of things, you can’t just add more courses on. So you have to embrace those opportunities in other ways.”

WHITNEY PITMAN PERFORMS AN ULTRASOUND ON A PATIENT AT UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL. IT’S A BOY!
EVALUATING ART

One way is by incorporating the arts into nursing courses. All sophomore students take Nursing 206, Nurse-Client Interaction, essentially a communications course.

“It’s very hard, particularly for people who are 18 or 19 years old, to go in and talk with individuals, many of whom have gone through life-changing experiences – they’re being told they have a disease and will have to go through all sorts of treatments that could end up in death,” Pike said. “One thing they study is a variety of concepts related to communication and how you identify those. Like, how do I know you’re depressed? What are the kinds of things that might tell me you’re depressed?”

At the end of the semester, the class takes a field trip to the Speed Art Museum, where Pike is a longtime docent, and students apply what they’ve learned to the subjects in works of art, such as “Priscilla Johnson,” a 1966 painting by Alice Neel. “We take works that have some good human interaction in them – things like silence, mistrust, aggression, denial, conflict. We’ll do a couple of examples so students get used to it. Students in all the health disciplines have to get used to the fact that we are not in a field where we can say, ‘I’ll get back to you in two weeks.’ You are out there in front of everyone. You have to answer questions; you are put on the spot. This is a very safe way for them to challenge what they see, because maybe someone else sees it differently. And that’s OK. You see that, you have your data, and this person sees this, so where do we go from there? What questions are we going to ask to confirm or verify our findings? ‘You look angry.’ ‘No, I’m not at all. I was just a little worried about something.’ Well, that’s very different.

“That makes for a different experience, plus it gets them in the art museum. It’s an opportunity to get them to use different ways to learn about something that on the surface appears very technical, but at the same time, the very essence of it is human.”

ARTIST IN RESIDENCE

For each of the past five years, the Lansing School has welcomed an undergraduate artist-in-residence. The selected students receive a scholarship from the Arthur BecVar Endowed Artist in Residence fund, immerse themselves in the school and produce a piece of work about one or more aspects of that experience. Previous years have resulted in chapbooks of poetry and a painting that hangs in Miles Hall, home of the Lansing School.

Current artist-in-residence Jordan Kelch, a Covington senior with a major in English and a minor in theater, decided to write a one-act play, possibly focused on men in nursing. He hopes to have a staged reading later this spring. Kelch spent the fall semester sitting in on classes, shadowing a hematology lab, and interviewing students. “The one question I always ask is very basic: ‘So what made you want to do this?’ One guy said, ‘It’s my way of being able to make some difference.’ With doctors, it’s more medicine-based. Nursing is really people-based. They really take care of these people. This guy is a nurses’ aide, working his way up. He gets patients water, changes their bed, takes them to the bathroom – you know, really basic things.

“You see these people who are extremely industrious. Almost all of the health science majors I’ve met, whether in clinical lab science, nursing, physical therapy – they’re all very driven kids. And I think that’s kind of something you find at Bellarmine – it’s contagious, too; sort of wonderfully contagious – that atmosphere of hard work. As an English major, it’s refreshing to me to see these people studying something completely different, but at the end of the day the motivations are all somewhat similar. It’s this passion for helping people, for community. … Their motivation is very similar to my motivation for writing something like this, just trying to explore emotions, to explore the motives of why we do things, why we care about people. Why would someone want to take these people to the bathroom, change their sheets, you know. ▶

(continued on page 21)
The Lansing School is launching two new programs that will help address the changing face of health care.

This semester, the school is offering the first two courses in a new Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP) program. The full curriculum will be introduced in the fall. Students will be able to complete all the courses for the master’s-level program within one calendar year, and graduates will be eligible to proceed directly into a new Doctor of Nursing Practice that will be offered in August 2009.

The doctoral program comes in response to a 2004 vote by the American Association of Colleges of Nursing to move the current level of preparation necessary for advanced nursing practice from the master’s degree to the doctorate level by the year 2015. “The changing demands of this nation’s complex health-care environment require the highest level of scientific knowledge and practice expertise to assure high quality patient outcomes,” the association says on its website.

The Rev. Michael Huggins, the associate director of Bellarmine’s FNP program, said he has seen firsthand the need for changes in how nurse practitioners are educated. Huggins, a priest of the Archdiocese of Louisville who received his bachelor of science in nursing degree from Bellarmine in 1996, also holds a doctorate of education from Spalding University and is working on his Ph.D in nursing at the University of Kentucky.

“I’ve been a nurse practitioner for 11 years. Way back when, NPs had a very limited scope of practice,” he said. “You typically worked in collaboration with a physician, saw a few chronic problems and treated patients. Now... we are typically by ourselves and see a full range of medical issues, both chronic and acute, and the state of the art in medicine has expanded so that the level of education can’t stop at the master’s level – it has to go to the doctoral level.”
DR. LOUIS HEUSER IS WORRIED ABOUT YOU. A former surgeon and a pioneer in wellness at the renowned Heuser Clinic in Louisville, he knows that Kentuckians are among the nation's unhealthiest citizens. You know the drill: Obesity is an epidemic. Diabetes is on the rise, even among children. Cancer and heart disease are our top two killers. And in most cases, those unhealthy conditions can be linked directly to diet, lack of exercise and smoking.

Dr. Heuser wants to change all that. Last fall, he joined Bellarmine as an executive-in-residence with big plans to make BU a model of wellness. His ambitious plans include: a new exercise science major at the Lansing School, beginning this fall; a state-of-the-art “human performance” program for Bellarmine athletes; and a comprehensive wellness program for the entire Bellarmine community.

To write off Heuser as a fitness guru would be a mistake. He's not limiting his ambitions to the health sciences field or the athletic department. Heuser's goal is nothing short of revolutionizing health in the community and the entire region. “We want to be known as the healthiest campus in America,” he said. “Mentally, physically, spiritually, Bellarmine University is the place to be. We're four years away from achieving that goal. By the time we graduate our first exercise science degree, we're going to have the healthiest campus in the nation.”

How does Heuser plan to achieve that lofty aim? There are “many spokes in the wheel,” he said. And it all starts with the exercise science degree. •
EXERCISE SCIENCE

“Exercise science is the spearhead for the campus wellness program as well as a major for the students,” Heuser said. With two classes – personal wellness and introduction to exercise science – launched this spring, exercise science will become a full-fledged major this fall.

Graduates of the program will have a variety of career options: They could go on to medical school; they could seek degrees in nursing, physical therapy or any of the allied health professions; or they might choose to become certified fitness instructors, run a YMCA or a gym, or pursue any number of careers in the burgeoning health and fitness industries. “As the community becomes more conscious of the health benefits of exercise, there are going to be more jobs specifically related to using exercise science to prevent and treat disease,” said Heuser. He expects half of his students to go to med school and half to pursue careers in exercise science.

“There is a growing demand for the major,” Heuser noted, pointing out that many students don’t want to commit to nursing or physical therapy and that many athletes are drawn to the major because of the emphasis on human performance. “Athletics is huge on the Bellarmine campus,” he said. “We have over 400 student athletes – 70 on the track team alone – and women’s sports are very well-developed here.”

Heuser also sees the community at large as a great training ground for his students. “Our internships will be community-based, so we will be in the public school classrooms, teaching exercise in PE classes and nutrition in science classes.”

THE WELLNESS PROGRAM

Once he’s established his exercise science program, Heuser will have a small army of students on campus who will form the core of the wellness program that’s the centerpiece of his agenda. The students will serve the campus community in much the same way current Lansing School students offer nursing and physical therapy clinics on campus – a place where anyone in the BU community can get free evaluations and advice from nursing and physical therapy students, all under faculty supervision.

These “service learning clinics” offer free services to community members suffering from anything from a sprained ankle to high blood pressure to an automobile injury. The services are popular with the community and give the students experience that complements their classroom, clinical and internship work. Heuser wants to extend these services to people who are well, with the goal of keeping them that way.

All community members will receive a free “health risk assessment,” along with specific recommendations on how to improve their health. The advice will include both exercise and diet recommendations, and, ultimately, student-led fitness classes in the SuRF.

THE WAY WE EAT

Considering his ambitious vision to make Bellarmine the healthiest campus in America, it’s not surprising that Heuser has some strong opinions about the food service. “The volume of tater tots that are consumed on this campus alone tells me that we have some serious nutritional issues here,” he said. “They must bring tater tots in by the semi truckload. One of the most popular breakfasts is biscuits and gravy and tater tots. You might as well just eat a cup of Crisco and drink a glass of high fructose corn syrup – it’s essentially what they’re eating.”

What should they be eating? “The ideal breakfast will have about 30 grams of lean protein and 50-60 grams of complex carbohydrates. Skim milk, egg whites and lean breakfast meat like Canadian bacon are easy protein sources. Whole grain cereals and oatmeal are good sources of carbohydrate – and fruit on that cereal or oatmeal,” he said. Heuser starts his day with a smoothie of his own design. “I have a smoothie – a protein shake with fruit in it – my own special recipe. That would be easy to offer on campus. It’s perfect for students short on time to get the right kind of carbs and protein.”
So, will Heuser ban tater tots and order in truckloads of oatmeal? No. “I hesitate to legislate food. I support philosophically the proposed Louisville ordinance to ban trans fats. Trans fats really affect your lipid profile – probably more than any food. High fructose corn syrup is another one of the big culprits. It’s in just about everything and it’s so high in calories and radically changes your metabolism to have that much sugar concentrated in a meal. It also causes a huge surge in your blood sugar level and then immediately a huge drop. So, naturally, you want to go back and have another sugary surge to get your blood sugar back up. You’re on a roller coaster all day long, which is a metabolic disaster.”

But for Heuser, education is the way to go. “The unhealthy foods will still be here,” he said. “It’s an educational process. I’ve got to get to the students and convince them of the benefits of a healthy nutrition program. We’re going to use classroom instruction, the Internet, online menus and suggestions about items students can eat and ones they should avoid. The food vendor can provide any food we request, but if the students don’t eat it, I haven’t served any purpose.”

Teaching by example is a big part of the plan, and once again the students will lead the way. “The obvious place to start is with the athletes. We’ll have a training table menu, and all students and faculty can follow the example,” he said. “The best bet is going to be the steam table at Koster’s. We want that to be the safe haven to go to – so we’ll always have a lean protein and steamed vegetables to go to for a healthy option.”

New media is another weapon Heuser plans to use. He hopes to launch a nutrition and fitness blog and offer podcast videos, perhaps including footage of himself rating students’ food choices in Koster’s. “Let’s see, you want to run a four-minute mile, but you’re eating biscuits and gravy for breakfast?” he said, laughing. “Kids don’t learn the same way I did when I was in college. I have to make sure my teaching isn’t old fashioned.”

**GETTING OFF THE COUCH**

Once you’ve ditched your tater tots in favor of a smoothie, you’re halfway there. To become a Heuser disciple, though, you’re going to have to put down the remote and get off the couch. Fortunately, help is on the way. “We plan to help everybody on campus to understand these concepts and tailor a workout for them,” he said. Every workout will include some kind of core muscle training – the abdominal, lower back, hip flexors – weight training and a balanced resistance training. “We tend to burn a lot more body fat if we use interval training than just constant workload.”

“We’re going to have to eventually upgrade the SuRF Center. I’d like to develop a separate training facility for our athletes. For the success of the athletic program, we’re going to have to have a facility. It will come – it’s just a matter of time.”

“You might as well just eat a cup of Crisco and drink a glass of high fructose corn syrup.”
“One of my goals with the personal wellness course is that every student is comfortable going to the gym. Wherever they go, they’re not intimidated, and they know how to use the equipment. Eighty percent of people who go to the gym waste their time. They do a couple of exercises that don’t hit all the major muscle groups. They don’t have a focused game plan. I want the kids in the personal wellness course to have that ability. It’s like an owners’ manual for the body. So for the rest of their lives they’ll know how to take care of themselves. They’ll also develop recreational activities that they really enjoy.

“That should be the norm at Bellarmine rather than the exception. You shouldn’t be a weirdo because you ride your bike to school or go to the SuRF. A 55-year-old woman shouldn’t be the exception at the SuRF, she should be the norm. She shouldn’t feel intimidated working out next to a 20-year-old kid. That’s the cultural change I’m going to have to achieve here.”

Besides longevity and just feeling good, Heuser also points out the often-overlooked mental and spiritual benefits of wellness. “Mental health is just as important as physical health,” he said. “For students who are under a tremendous amount of stress, exercise is a great way to relieve that stress and lower the pressure that they’re under. A big part of being a student is being scared a lot. Our program can relieve a lot of that pressure.”

Starting the Revolution

Considering everything he’s seen first-hand as a surgeon and all he’s learned as a physician and fitness expert, Dr. Heuser’s infectious optimism is impressive. He’s a man who can fire off disturbing health facts like a sports junkie:

“America consumes more sugar than the rest of the world combined – 300 million Americans eat more sugar than six billion others.”

“Eighty percent of the surgeries I performed could have been prevented if the patient had practiced good nutrition and fitness.”

And this doozie we’re all so painfully aware of: “You can’t find many places that are worse, health-wise, than Kentucky.”

And yet, he remains convinced that our chronic health problems can be reversed. “It’s a unique situation here. Other exercise science programs have a strict focus of research – antioxidants, free radicals’ effect on the circulation – everybody has their one little niche. This is a more holistic approach, rather than specializing in one area. This is such a great place for me to be in this quest for improving the health of our community and our state.

“I feel like the whole campus is an experiment in a lab here. We’ll find out what works here and we’ll promote that to other schools. This is a unique program that gives me a position to do some really exciting things, and I consider it an honor. Five years ago I was reluctant to think this could be turned around. But from what I’ve seen in our grade-school program, I think it can be turned around with a concerted, educational effort. And Bellarmine is the place to do it. We’re educators. This is what we do!”

“YOU SHOULDN’T be a weirdo BECAUSE YOU ride your bike TO SCHOOL OR GO TO THE SuRF.”
The Art of Nursing (continued from page 14)

“It’s interesting to see the caring, loving side in so many different people of so many different backgrounds and so many different interests all come together for a lot of the same purposes.”

Just as some liberal-arts classes might take nursing students out of their comfort zones, his artist-in-residency has had a similar effect on Kelch, who concedes he’s never been strong in math or science. Before this, “if you had said, ‘Go write a play,’ it would have been the last thing I’d have chosen – to write a play about health sciences, which I know nothing about,” he said. “But I’m kind of glad it turned out this way. It gives you an excuse to learn something, meet other people and pick some brains.

“I mean, that hematology lab? I was kinda like, ‘Uh... Hi, guys, I’m gonna write a play!’ And they’re sitting there trying to draw each other’s blood.”

HANDS-ON THINKING

Long before graduation, nursing students must apply critical-thinking skills in their clinicals, where they take care of actual patients in a hospital setting under the guidance of their clinical instructor as well as other nurses in the unit.

“They do pretty heavy clinical loads here at Bellarmine; I think that’s one of the things that makes them a little unique from the other schools of nursing,” said Minton, who taught a clinical in pediatrics last fall at University Hospital on Fridays from 6:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. “You find out pretty quickly if it’s the thing for you. It’s not an easy job.”

During rounds, students observe the good and the bad, she said. “We discuss patients and cases and problems, and how to do something better. We conference about it afterward and try to problem-solve.”

Bellarmine uses about 40 clinical instructors every semester. Many, like Minton, are graduates of the program. “I just love this program. All of the teachers knew your name. I felt like I was so well-prepared when I graduated. I came in with such a good knowledge base.”

Brittany Cripe, who will graduate this spring, said she feels “extremely prepared” by her education. “I feel it is not about pass rate, but about evidence-based knowledge, so when the day comes that I am the only nurse in a room I will not have to second-guess what and why I am doing the action needed.”

But the pass rates speak well of the program, too. From 2002-04, Bellarmine’s pass rate on the National Council Licensure Examination, a requirement for receiving a Kentucky nursing license, was 100 percent; in 2005 and 2006, the most recent years for which the school has numbers, the pass rate was 97 percent. And Bellarmine places 100 percent of nursing graduates seeking positions in the field, says Dr. Sue Davis, dean of the Lansing School.

Kimberly Black Maffet, associate vice president for workforce development for Norton Healthcare Inc., said she prefers Bellarmine grads to those of any other school. “They are just the absolute best of the best, top of the line,” said Maffet, who’s in charge of hiring for Norton’s four Louisville-area hospitals (soon to be five when Norton Brownsboro opens in 2009).

“The liberal-arts focus is really the all-encompassing training ground for the well-equipped nurse. Students are not only prepared academically, but also prepared with common sense – the ability to think critically. That is so important in nursing because every single patient is different and presents in a different way. You have to be a critical thinker to look at a puzzle that’s not put together and figure out what’s going on.”
Answers, Stat!

After graduating from Bellarmine in 1998 with a nursing degree, Eric Gocke (“GO-key”) served six and a half years in the Army in Hawaii and Texas, quickly ascending to leadership roles in each assignment. He also led a six-month humanitarian mission in Honduras, where his medical team saw 4,400 impoverished people in five days. Gocke is now the evening-shift charge nurse in the Jewish Hospital emergency room. “I supervise the nurses and techs that work there and coordinate care with doctors,” he said. “A big piece of what we do is moving people through quickly and safely.” He recently moved quickly and safely through our silly questions.

Q. What’s the most important thing you learned at Bellarmine?
A. When I entered nursing school I had very little understanding of what nurses actually do and I was very young and immature. Six years later I finally graduated and was a completely different person than I was when I started. I learned perseverance. Had I given up every time I did not succeed, I would definitely not be who I am today. I am able to adapt quickly. I’ve always had short orientation periods. I attribute that to the education I got at Bellarmine. It has put me at great advantage in my career.

Q. How did your liberal-arts classes play into your eventual career?
A. Being in the Army, I had to work with a lot of different areas outside health care – dealing with the infantry, or combat-gear areas in the military. The liberal arts classes really give you an edge, when you’ve had to step outside your focus as a nurse and learn something else.

Q. Is the ER as exciting as it looks in TV shows set in hospitals?
A. It’s not as glorified as they make it look. For every really fascinating, interesting case you do, there are about 50 that are garbage, really frustrating, where the patient has everything wrong but something medical – you know, they’re drunk, they have personal issues.
Q. No matter what time of day it is, the TV sets in hospital ERs always seem to be showing “Oprah,” and you can’t change the channel. What’s up with that?

A. We like to get our patient’s minds so involved in other people’s dirty laundry that they won’t notice what we are really doing behind the desk – that is, reading books and surfing the web trying to figure out exactly what may be wrong with them and how to make them better! In all seriousness, I have never missed a Cardinals game while working a shift. Be nice to me when you have an emergency and maybe I’ll let you in on my secret!

Q. Do the nurses and doctors in your ER date only people who work at the hospital, like they do on “ER,” “Grey’s Anatomy” and just about any other hospital TV show?

A. It’s really not as common as you might think. It does happen from time to time and the competition is fierce, especially for us nurses (male nurses). Unfortunately, residents, firefighters and paramedics have a knack for getting in our way!

Q. On shows like “ER,” they’re always bringing in a family who’s just been creamed by a drunk driver, and then moments later they bring in a guy who’s been in a wreck and … he’s the drunk driver! Does that happen all the time?

A. That really does happen quite often, and it’s really unfortunate. Most cities have only one or two Level 1 trauma centers, which means that the hospital selection is small for those who have suffered serious injuries. You really have to be on top of your game to make sure that your patients don’t know who else is in the department.

Q. What’s the toughest call you’ve had to make on the job?

A. One of the most important jobs of the charge nurse is to ensure that those who have life-threatening emergencies are treated as quickly as possible. The toughest decisions come when bed space is limited and I have to decide who must be seen immediately and where.

Q. If you were on M*A*S*H, would you be Hawkeye, B.J., Charles, Radar or Col. Potter, and why?

A. If I had been asked this question nine years ago, I would have said Hawkeye or B.J. When I was a new Army nurse, the two most important things to me were No. 1, taking care of my patients, and No. 2, goofing off at formations, official functions and meetings. Things are much different for me now. Sometimes I’m Radar because I’ve gotten pretty good at predicting when things are going to get difficult. But these days I’m mostly like Col. Potter. I spend a great deal of time putting out fires and ensuring that those who I supervise have all of the resources they need to provide the greatest emergency care in Louisville. Sometimes I’m the life of the party, and sometimes I’m the mean guy giving people the boost they need to succeed.
Honors freshmen take a hands-on approach to the problem of homelessness

Bellarmine's Joe Esch, a junior from South Bend, Indiana, helped build a Habitat for Humanity House last fall.
“HOME IS THE PLACE WHERE, WHEN YOU HAVE TO GO THERE, They have to take you in.”

“DEATH OF A HIRED MAN” — ROBERT FROST

Home Work

ROBERT FROST OFFERS A REASSURING SENTIMENT, but Bellarmine’s 60 Honors freshmen and their four Freshman Focus instructors were reminded last fall that home remains elusive for an alarming number of individuals in the United States, and in Louisville in particular.

While planning their courses last summer, the professors working with these four advising classes decided to embark on a joint service activity addressing a social issue in the community. A number of worthy topics surfaced in their discussions, but they decided upon homelessness, in part because so many of the freshmen would soon be experiencing their own displacement from home as they moved into the residence halls on Bellarmine’s campus.

In the first week of classes, Dr. Adam Renner of the Frazier Thornton School of Education provided data that a number of students found both astounding and unnerving: In 2005, 23 shelters served approximately 16,000 homeless individuals (Brookings Institute, 2005), and a reported 4,000 homeless children attend Jefferson County Public Schools. Students’ reactions, sought through journal responses, indicated shock and concern:

“Another thing that surprised me was that an average of one out of 24 students in the JCPS system can be classified as homeless. As an education major, this is something I will have to face every day in my classroom.”

“I’m fortunate enough to be able to afford to go to college and live in dorms….many of us complain about the size of our rooms, but in reality these things we take for granted would be a luxury for so many people.”

“It’s amazing how we can compartmentalize everything in our lives. Out of sight, and out of mind, but not out of reality, our world, or our city.”

Professors helped students both to think about issues related to homelessness and to engage in service activities aimed at helping solve the problem, such as working with Habitat for Humanity.

by DR. CAROLE PFEFFER ’74
To underscore the importance of pooling resources to work effectively in addressing large-scale problems, instructors coordinated activities with Chris Mozier, a member of the Student Government Association, and Beth Davis from the office of academic affairs, who were instrumental in arranging for the university to sponsor a Habitat House each month. On the second Saturday in October and November, approximately 15 honors freshmen (and their instructors) showed up for work.

Many of the freshmen, never having participated in Habitat for Humanity, welcomed this opportunity, as their journal entries indicated:

“When I worked for Habitat for Humanity I realized how amazing it is for a person to own her own home… I remember talking with the homeowner because she was helping us put the finishing touches on the place… She said she couldn’t recall feeling anything like this before…”

“Insulating houses is not fun, but through the experience I was able to see homelessness and help one person escape it… This was a good experience that helped me better understand poverty and my ability to help to some degree.”

“My group worked on landscaping for a new home, and I’m glad that Habitat pays attention to these kinds of important details. By the time we finished, a newly-built house looked a lot more like a home.”

The difference between a house and a home is a topic addressed in a 1995 article by Pastor Jim Burklo that some of the freshmen read. Their reflections in response to the article illustrate students’ awareness of the difference between these two situations and the devastating consequences of each. As one student so eloquently wrote: “Without a house to go to every night, factors like the temperature and the dangers of an area can have horrible effects… On the other hand, homelessness can be anything from a person living out of a car to an executive living out of a suitcase and hotel rooms… A nomadic lifestyle leads to a lack of foundation, fellowship, and purpose in life.”

This pilot project for Honors freshmen had its own purpose, and last fall saw students insulating homes, planting flowers, cleaning up lots after construction, serving meals at a local shelter and participating in various collections for the homeless. Just as important, these freshmen read, wrote, and talked about a social ill and a person’s
responsibility in the face of such problems. And that’s the true beauty of service learning, a strong value in the Bellarmine community; it allows students and professors to learn and work together, improving the lives of others while their own hearts and minds undergo conversion.

Much will no doubt be forgotten by these students as they move on to their sophomore year, but the odds are good that their perceptions of homelessness are forever changed, as noted in one student’s end-of-the-semester reflection: “We need to fight both homelessness and houselessness. We need to invite people into our communities and reach out to those in need. We need to help build houses, donate money, and volunteer at soup kitchens. But we also need to talk to people, develop relationships with people from all walks of life, and warm people’s hearts with love. Only then can social problems be solved.”

“WE NEED TO FIGHT BOTH HOMELESSNESS AND HOUSELESSNESS. WE NEED TO INVITE PEOPLE INTO our communities and reach out to those in need.”
A SABBATICAL GONE WRONG WAS EXACTLY WHAT BELLARMINE PROFESSOR ANNE MOLL NEEDED
Her name was Saige. She was born with a variety of physical ailments that restricted her to a wheelchair, limited her ability to use and control her hands and head, and inhibited her verbal communication. Children like Saige, as well as disabled adults and struggling teens, are the clients WindWalkers equine therapy serves. But Saige was a challenge. The staff had never worked with someone who required such physical involvement and they were unsure of her mental capacity.

Where the staff saw a challenge, however, Bellarmine education professor Anne Moll saw an opportunity to improve a life. At their first meeting, there was an immediate connection. To the staff’s surprise, the 9-year-old made eye contact and vocalized to Moll – something Saige had not done with any other worker. Assisted by the staff, Saige began her therapy by guiding Teapot, a 25-year-old gelding, around the arena. Having such responsibility and control was a rare experience that bonded Saige with the horse.

The next time Moll worked with her, Saige seemed agitated. Trying to pinpoint what the girl wanted, Moll asked, “Do you want to ride Teapot?” Saige blinked yes and started laughing. Secure in the saddle, she walked with Teapot for 10 minutes, sitting upright, free from her chair, in control of her head and hands.

When the WindWalkers staff tried to dismount her from the horse, Saige began crying. They feared the experience had been too much for her or that she had been hurt, but Saige was too upset to tell them what was wrong. Finally, Moll asked, “Does your heart hurt?”

Saige blinked yes. As if on cue, Teapot turned his head and placed his muzzle deep into her chest. The staff stood speechless for a few moments before Moll told Saige, “Teapot is trying to tell you it is okay and that he will be waiting for you next week.” Saige stopped crying; when she did, Teapot moved his head to hers and then turned, ready to walk.

A few months later, Saige and her parents moved, but they ended up returning to the WindWalkers area. “We were excited to hear that she would be coming back, and I was anxious to see her,” Moll recollected.

Sadly, before Saige could restart her lessons, she died in her sleep. Although her time with Moll was brief, Saige’s story of overcoming physical and mental obstacles renewed Moll’s passion.

Saige is one of many clients that the WindWalkers Equine Assisted Learning and Therapy Center has helped since opening in the summer of 2005 in Carbondale, Colo. With a staff of volunteers, therapists, psychologists, specialists and educators, WindWalkers engages clients physically and emotionally with horses in order to improve fine and gross motor skills, address emotional issues and develop social interaction.

by KATIE KELTY ’07
WORK COMES CALLING

Dr. Anne Moll originally went to Colorado on sabbatical in the spring of 2006 to relax and brainstorm new teaching strategies. Her goal was to disconnect from the world long enough to reconnect with herself. No work, no consulting, no teaching. No chance.

Since she received her bachelor’s degree in general and special education from Bellarmine in 1981, Moll has worked tirelessly to remove the stigma associated with disabled children. Her career started in the classroom, then led her to working with the Kentucky Department of Education. While at KDE, Moll collaborated with educators, schools, parents and children on integrating students with disabilities.

After training more than 6,000 people, Moll returned to Bellarmine to teach part-time. Two years later, Dr. Doris Tegart, senior vice president of academic affairs, convinced Moll to come to Bellarmine full time to work with pre-service and master’s level teachers.

Moll said she accepted the invitation because “I believe that Bellarmine’s position of requiring a dual certification in both special education and general education was the most ethical and professional way to train teachers.” Later that year, she finished writing her book, Differentiated Instruction Guide for Inclusive Teaching (2006 second edition), to help schools, teachers and parents identify and overcome learning barriers.

Moll’s 16-year career left her in dire need of a break. She made plans for a month-long sabbatical in Colorado, where “I promised myself time away from
everything, including work with those who have disabilities.” But that was not to be. Moll’s host in Colorado was a member of the WindWalkers staff. She asked Moll if she would observe the program and give her opinion.

“While the idea of working with horses – a lifelong dream of mine – was enticing, I was really looking forward to not doing anything related to my professional life,” Moll said. But a week later she found herself working as an educational consultant with WindWalkers three to four days a week. By July, Moll had been elected to the board of directors and has continued to work with the program ever since.

COMMUNICATING THROUGH EQUINE THERAPY

Programs like WindWalkers are popping up all over the country due to the growing number of children with disabilities. The U.S. Census Bureau estimated there were 63 million disabled individuals under 20 in 2005; an increase of 76,000 from 2004. With numbers on the rise, educators, therapists and specialists are seeking alternative therapy routes that address a number of issues. Equine therapy does just that by allowing children, and their families, to work physically and emotionally with specially trained horses.

Activities are specific to each client but include every aspect of tending to a horse. Both gross motor skills like strength, core balance and left-right coordination and fine motor skills can be improved through riding, walking or grooming horses, as well as cleaning up after them.

Moll’s work focuses on both the physical and mental needs of the client. By encouraging clients to take responsibility for and connect with other living creatures, “clients not only learn how to groom and ride a horse, but to learn their personality, and how to communicate with the horse, and through this learn more about themselves.”

“THEY ALSO LEARNED ABOUT HUMILITY, HARD WORK AND HOW TO turn poop into something positive!”

THE HEARTS OF THE BLUEGRASS GARDEN

Last spring, Moll invited five Bellarmine students to work with WindWalkers for a month. “They had the chance to learn different strategies, see parents from a very different perspective by spending considerable time with them, and they learned the power of the horse-human connection. They also learned about humility, hard work and how to turn poop into something positive!”

One of the major, and humbling, tasks the Bellarmine team had to do was clean out a 100-foot-by-10-foot horse and goat pen. When they finished, the students estimated they had scooped 1,500 pounds of manure. Somewhere between 1,000 and 1,500 pounds, they came up with a brilliant idea: to plant a garden, fertilized with humility, where families could find peace and solace while visiting WindWalkers.

Using donated plants, small rocks etched with inspirational sayings and fertilizer, the students created the Hearts of the Bluegrass Garden. This spring, a tree will be planted there in Saige’s name.

Moll’s sabbatical didn’t turn out as planned. She was unable to take even two weeks off before she began working, teaching and consulting. But, Moll admits, “being connected directly to people and seeing differences happen each day” was exactly what she needed. She will return to teaching at Bellarmine in August.

from the author
KATIE KELTY

Dr. Moll’s story is one example of how equine therapy can empower. I never met Saige, but I have witnessed the same elation and achievement within my family. My 18-year-old brother, Pat, has autism, a mental disability in which individuals have great difficulty grasping abstract concepts, expressing emotions and communicating with others.

Like many children with autism, Pat has a gift. After seeing a movie once, Pat is able to recite it verbatim. When overwhelmed, he retreats into predictability by playing out movie scenes in his head. The movies vary, but the result is always the same: total fixation.

One summer, Pat became fixated on horse movies. He added every film imaginable to his mental library. Horse figurines, books, cowboy hats and posters filled his room and head. My family enrolled him in an equine therapy program similar to WindWalkers and Pat was in heaven. He was living in one of his movies, grooming and riding his 25-year-old horse, Eagle.

Pat entered several competitions with children from his riding group. Everyone left the competitions with ribbons, but Pat could not have cared less about that. It was all about Eagle. When Pat saddled up, his posture improved, he made eye contact with others, and he became confident and even protective of his horse. He would engage in activities we never thought possible because of his extreme tactile sensitivity. Pat could not wear shirts with tags in them because they would bother him so much, yet here he was, burying his face in Eagle’s coarse mane.

Although the horse was ancient, drooling and on his last legs, to Pat he was Black Beauty, his gallant, noble steed. Since then, Pat has moved to a different school system in Tennessee, but a picture of the two of them still sits on his dresser, bigger than any other picture he owns.

A nationwide listing of equine therapy centers is available at www.vetmed.ucdavis.edu/CCAB/EATprograms.htm
ROBERT O’CONNOR (CENTER), HIS SON-IN-LAW DON MUCCI, AND GRANDSONS ANDREW AND MARK.
For three generations of Wernerts & Muccis, Bellarmine is

All in the Family

For many families, Bellarmine has become a tradition. In some cases, third-generation Knights are now on campus. This year’s total of 127 “legacies” — students whose parents and/or grand-parents also attended Bellarmine — is a record. Correspondent Ron Cooper talked with members of two such families about how Bellarmine gets in the blood.

Don Mucci, a 1981 Bellarmine graduate with a degree in business, traces his family legacy at Bellarmine to his father-in-law, Robert O’Connor, a member of the 1954 “pioneer” graduating class who went on to become a Louisville psychiatrist.

A Louisville native, Mucci said he had excellent professors who taught him to think outside the textbook.

“I was a student with average intelligence, but I worked hard,” he said. “I got the perfect education with studies in accounting, marketing, economics and management.” In his senior year, he was allowed to form his own company, a golf manufacturing firm, on paper. Add to that philosophy and religion classes and, in Mucci’s estimation, Bellarmine was the source of a well-rounded education.

Mucci, an executive and partner in a Louisville insurance firm, attributes much of his success in business to his Bellarmine professors. Following in his footsteps are sons Mark and Andrew, a senior and freshman, respectively, and both business school students.

“Mark visited Notre Dame and Xavier before settling on Bellarmine,” Mucci said. “At the end of the day, Bellarmine did the best job from a recruiting standpoint and making Mark feel welcome.”

Both Andrew and Mark Mucci said they attend Bellarmine because of the small class size and ample attention from professors.

“I also like Bellarmine because it’s so close to home,” Mark said. “When I lived on campus (he currently rents a house off campus), I could go home when I got hungry or needed to have the laundry done. Bellarmine is a great school, a great place.”

Now Don Mucci, who is a member of Bellarmine’s Board of Trustees, is waiting to see what his youngest son, Stephen, a St. X freshman, decides about college. It’s early, but the writing appears to be on the wall: The father and son both attend the Knights’ lacrosse games, and Stephen loves wearing BU-insignia apparel.

“Stephen thinks that Bellarmine is the only place to go,” he said.

by Ron Cooper
“I feel blessed by a connection to this place. I feel Bellarmine is inside of me.”

The legacy of Dr. John J. Wernert Jr., another member of the pioneering 1954 graduating class who went on to become a prominent Louisville psychiatrist, factored strongly in the decision by current senior Lauren Wernert to attend Bellarmine University.

“All of the stories that I’ve heard about my grandfather are spectacular,” she said. “I’ve always looked up to him. I feel blessed by a connection to this place. I feel Bellarmine is inside of me.”

An elementary teaching student with an emphasis on art, she is connected to a place that her father, Dr. John J. Wernert III, a 1981 BU graduate with a bachelor’s degree in biology and chemistry, also found strongly compelling.

“Attending Bellarmine was the best decision that I ever made,” said Dr. Wernert, an Indianapolis psychiatrist who specializes in geriatric disorders such as Alzheimer’s and other forms of dementia. “Bellarmine became my extended family.”

The elder Dr. Wernert, who passed away in 1974, worked as a chemical engineer at the DuPont plant in Louisville and served in the U.S. Army Air Corps in the Pacific Theater during World War II. Returning home, he set his sights on a medical career and looked around for the best school to undertake his undergraduate studies. He was one of approximately 130 young men in Bellarmine’s premiere class – a number that eventually shrank to about 50 due to the Korean Conflict and the resulting military draft.
Wernert’s decision to go into psychiatry would mark his life in many positive ways. While working at Our Lady of Peace Hospital across Newburg Road from Bellarmine, he met a psychiatric nurse from Owensboro, Theresa Schadler, who would become his wife. In 1958, Wernert graduated from the University of Louisville School of Medicine. He went on to serve as superintendent of the old Frankfort (Ky.) State Hospital and eventually entered private practice.

John J. Wernert III, the eldest of seven children, said the family attended St. Agnes Catholic Church, which, like Bellarmine, was strongly influenced by the Passionist order. He recalls with unfailing clarity the day that he walked into the office of Bellarmine President Eugene Petrik with no idea how he would pay his tuition.

“Dr. Petrik reached into the drawer of his office desk and pulled out an application for financial assistance,” he said. That started Wernert down the path of a continuing legacy. Like his father, Wernert eventually went on to the U of L School of Medicine, where he earned his degree in 1985.

Wernert said he not only received an excellent education at Bellarmine, but also a sense of direction for his life both personally and professionally.

“Bellarmine instilled in me a sense of personal responsibility and a commitment to society and the community,” he said. “My professors and mentors taught me to be accountable. I received a solid academic foundation and a way to approach life as well.”

Bellarmine was a good fit for the family, Peg Wright said. “Even though on paper the tuition was more expensive than any schools around at the time, we all got grants, we got work study, and we were just able, every one of us, to pay for it and go through. At other schools, there’s no way we would have been able to do that.”

Even her mother did work study, Wright recalled, with two children still at home. Looking back now, she said, she has a better appreciation for how challenging it must have been.

“I was really proud of her. I just thought she was such a strong, tough lady to do that.”

“The Donahues are another legacy family – with a twist.”
Sometimes even small gestures can have big consequences.

Forty years ago, a few words of encouragement from a vice president led a Bellarmine bookstore manager with a seventh-grade education to pursue her dream of painting fine china. Four decades later, her work is housed in the collections of the Smithsonian and the Speed Art Museum – and a gift from her son became the catalyst for a transformation of Bellarmine’s McGrath Art Gallery, where the first-ever Alumni Art Show was held last fall.

Mary Alma McIntire was born in Springfield, Ky., to a farming family of modest means. Following her parents’ deaths when she was in the seventh grade she moved to Louisville, where an older brother lived. Eventually she met and married Norbert Rademaker, with whom she had four children. Norbert’s family was in the drugstore business and fairly well-off for the time. The women in the family did two things for leisure: In the summer they grew irises, and in the winter they painted china.

“While they accepted my mother very graciously and hospitably, they let her know that she was a country person and that they were refined,” said her son, Charles Rademaker of Arlington, Va. “That’s how she started doing china painting.”

It was important to Alma Rademaker that her three sons and daughter have the college education she never had, Charles said. But money was still an issue; Norbert’s salary as a pharmacist didn’t leave a lot for extras. She approached Father Raymond J. Treece, vice president of Bellarmine College, about a job, perhaps in the cafeteria. Instead, he made her manager of the bookstore.

“I don’t know how they met or how this came to be,” Charles Rademaker said. “But Father Treece saw something in her that my mother didn’t know was there. He always encouraged her: ‘You can do this; you have the natural ability. Just push forward.’ The college and Father Treece took a chance on her that paid off well for everyone.” Charles Rademaker’s two older brothers graduated from Bellarmine.

How a son’s gratitude helped transform the McGrath Art Gallery

by Carla Carlton
McGRATH ART GALLERY
Wyatt Center for the Arts
Daily, 8 a.m.-7 p.m.

Upcoming shows:

* 2008 Student Art Show
   April 10-30
   Opening: April 10, 5-7 p.m.

* 2009 Alumni Art Show
   Mid-November to mid-December; exact dates have not been set.
   Bellarmine graduates with a major or minor in art who would like to be considered for the show should contact curator Kathleen Buechler at 502.451.2577 or kathleenpaints@insightbb.com.

On the web:

Did you miss the 2007 Alumni Art Show? Take a virtual tour at www.bellarmine.edu (do we want a more specific URL here?)

THE 2007 ALUMNI ART SHOW IN THE MCGRATH ART GALLERY
He attended Bellarmine from 1962-63 before transferring to another school. Their sister graduated from Ursuline College and later worked at Bellarmine as a secretary for Father John Loftus, the dean of students.

Father Treece also encouraged Alma Rademaker to pursue her china painting, and after she retired in 1964, she took it up full time. “I think it was her goal to match what my father’s aunts had done back in the ’30s,” Charles Rademaker said. “She always felt like she was not quite there, not quite the artist they were.”

He had a feeling she was wrong about that. After her death in the mid-1990s, he asked a curator from the Smithsonian’s Renwick Gallery to evaluate his mother’s work. “He came by and said, ‘Wow, this is special stuff – would you give us a piece?’ Once you strike at a place that’s well-known, other places take notice. One by one, other places asked for pieces, too.

“My mother was a very humble, quiet person who took pains with work but would never have dreamed of being in a national gallery… She would be absolutely thrilled to know her work would receive this attention.”

It seemed appropriate, Charles said, to give back to Bellarmine, where Alma had received so much encouragement. In 1999, his family donated a tea set painted by his mother to the university, along with $500 for a case in which to display it. The tea set was given a place of honor in the president’s home in Glenview, so the $500 wasn’t spent. But because it had been earmarked, it sat in an account until last year, when Rademaker agreed with university officials’ request to offer it to the art department.

Department chair Caren Cunningham decided to put the money toward two new banks of lights for the McGrath Art Gallery. Rademaker kicked in another $250 to cover the total cost. Cunningham also asked that the existing lights be lowered by about 6 feet. Altogether, she estimates, the changes have increased the light on the artwork by 60 percent. Galvanized by the donation, she was also successful in having the gallery repainted and re-carpeted with university funds.

“Now what we have is a handsome gallery where you can see things,” Cunningham said. “We can get more work in.”

When a show scheduled for last November had to be postponed, Cunningham decided it was the perfect time to hold an Alumni Art Show. “I’d been wanting to do that for years. So I thought, ‘This is when I’ll have everyone come back, now that the gallery looks better.’” The show featured the work of about 30 alumni who graduated with fine-arts degrees from 1977 to 2007. Cunningham plans to make the show a biennial event.

Charles Rademaker’s $750 gift truly became transformational, she said. “It might not seem like much to anyone else, but in fact, it was the catalyst. It gave me the voice to push a little bit and ask.”

“I think a lot of people think unless you have huge funds to put up a whole wing or something really flashy it doesn’t matter, but small gifts do matter,” Rademaker agreed.

He hopes to visit Bellarmine someday to view the refurbished gallery space.

“Have you ever gone to a gallery or an art show and … there’s a piece that may not be special to the world because it’s not a Picasso or anything, but it will hit you as just right. I think my mother’s work functions in that way.” And shows at the McGrath Gallery could have the same effect, he said. “The art students exhibiting won’t know who’s there or who sees their work, but these pieces can have an impact they don’t know about – maybe even years later.”

Much the same as a few words of encouragement.
(CLOCKWISE FROM ABOVE) CONVERSATIONS WITH MICHELANGELO, ACRYLIC ON WOOD, ALEXIS BROWN '06; DUKE, OIL ON BOARD, RHEANNA SMITH '04; GOT MARES?, OIL ON CANVAS, JAIME CORUM '96; THE LOAFER, ACRYLIC, COLIN GARCIA '04; UNTITLED, ACRYLIC, VIRGINIA JOHNSON
Not Just by the Numbers

“IT’S NOT only 500 wins; IT’S HOW MANY YEARS HE (SMITH) HAS BEEN COACHING. HE’S HAD TO sacrifice a lot.”

BEING ONE OF ONLY SEVEN ACTIVE COACHES IN NCAA DIVISION II women’s basketball to win more than 500 games is quite a milestone on paper—but for Bellarmine coach David Smith, it doesn’t go much past the paper. Smith says the meaning in coaching cannot be found in the stats; instead it’s in the people who have come in and out of his office throughout his career.

“You don’t think, ‘We’ve got to win this one for No. 372.’ There are always games you should have won or shouldn’t have won,” said Smith, who is in his tenth year at Bellarmine. “What you are looking for each year is if the team played up to its potential.”

Smith recalled that when he arrived at Pennsylvania’s Shippensburg University in 1990, that team had won 10 games over the previous 10 years. His 13-13 season there was one of his most enjoyable—regardless of how it appeared on paper.

“Coaches get too much credit for wins and too much blame for losses.”

Former assistant coaches, former athletes and even opponents understand the level of sincerity and dedication in Smith’s coaching, and they have great respect for his long and successful career.

“He has strengths that go well beyond the stat sheet,” said Amy Siegel, a former assistant coach to Smith who is now an assistant coach at Indiana State.

Siegel attributes much of her coaching success to Smith. “He was really instrumental in my getting my first coaching job,” said Siegel, who in 2005 took the head coaching position at Saint Joseph’s College in Indiana—the same school where Smith began his coaching career. “When that job became available, he was super-helpful to me and through the interview process,” she said.

Siegel isn’t the only person Smith has helped launch a coaching career. Jeannette Yeoman, head coach of the women’s basketball program at SUNY Cortland University, led St. Joe’s to the NCAA Division II “Elite Eight” under Smith in 1990. When Smith subsequently took the head coaching position at Shippensburg, he had an opening for a graduate assistant. Knowing Yeoman’s interest in coaching, he asked her to come along.

Today, Yeoman is mirroring Smith’s winning ways in her tenth season at Cortland with that school’s career win record. She said there are two things to remember about winning.

First, winning is not easy. “People just assume when they see [a team’s] win percentage [that] it’s easy. To win when you’re not playing your best—it’s really difficult.”

by RITA DIXON '08
Second, it takes time. “It’s not only 500 wins; it’s how many years he [Smith] has been coaching. He’s had to sacrifice a lot.”

Northern Kentucky University head coach Nancy Winstel, who has been coaching for 30 years, can relate. “As much as anything, it’s perseverance. In this day and age most coaches don’t stay in coaching,” she said. “It’s a tough profession.”

Winstel, who passed the 500-win mark three years ago, has been a rival of Smith’s since his days at St. Joe’s. “I have all the respect in the world for Dave. Back in our younger days I’m not so sure we appreciated each other as much as we do now,” she said. “It’s one of the neat things about coaching… I think we get it that we are more alike than we are different.”

Smith also counts the success of his players off the court as more important than his number of wins. “This is my 26th year as a head coach, and in that time I’ve never had an athlete who has completed their eligibility and not gotten their degree,” Smith said. “Someone said the other day that that is an even greater accomplishment than 500 wins.”

“Academics are a priority” at Bellarmine, said Siegel, a former Knight who graduated the year before Smith’s arrival. “I know from playing there.”

Bellarmine Athletic Director Scott Wiegandt appreciates Smith’s balance of expectations and caring. “He would give [the athletes] the shirt off his back,” Wiegandt said. “He’s hard on them. He has high expectations. [But] he’s fair. He cares very deeply.”

“He’s always someone who, if I had a problem or situation and needed someone to talk to, he’d be there for me,” said Yeoman, who looks forward to seeing Smith at the NCAA women’s basketball convention each year.

“The wins are important, but it’s the people you come in contact with that mean the most,” said Winstel.

For Smith, it comes naturally. “I knew when I was in junior high school that I wanted to get into coaching, and really there hasn’t been anything else that I’ve wanted to do,” he said. “I’ve always said that when I retired I may get out of college coaching, but I’ll probably go back and be a volunteer coach at the middle school level. To watch those kids when they learn something, that’s really the joy in coaching.”
DENNIS OGBE, A 2005 UNDERGRADUATE, RECEIVES HIS MBA AT DECEMBER COMMENCEMENT.
GROUND BROKEN FOR SIENA SECONDO

The transformation of Bellarmine’s campus into an Italian hilltown continued in late November when ground was broken for Siena Secondo, an $8.8 million residence hall that will house 146 students when it opens for the spring 2009 semester.

Siena Secondo is the second phase of the Siena housing complex; the first phase, Siena Primo, opened last fall. Bellarmine’s Vision 2020 plan for growth envisions all new architecture having a Tuscan flavor to honor the birthplace of Bellarmine’s namesake, St. Roberto Bellarmino. Eventually, four residence halls will surround a piazza in the Siena complex, and Bonaventure and Lenihan halls will be torn down.

As Bellarmine attracts more residential students, there’s a need for more places for them to socialize. The new café on the ground floor of Siena Primo that opened this spring is geared to that, staying open until midnight seven days a week. The café has booths and a counter and, in nice weather, outdoor seating that overlooks the new stadium. “We hope students will use it as a place to hang out and not just for eating—that they will linger,” said Helen-Grace Ryan, Bellarmine’s dean of students.

274 GRADUATE IN DECEMBER

USA Harvest founder Stan Curtis delivered the commencement address as 274 undergraduates and graduates received their degrees in December.

“After you celebrate tonight,” Curtis told them, “I hope that tomorrow you’ll measure yourself against your God and your fellow human beings and come to the conclusion that you can, will, and should make a difference in this world. We’re counting on you.”

Curtis, an investment executive with Hilliard Lyons in Louisville, doesn’t just talk the talk. He founded Kentucky Harvest, a food distribution charity, in 1986 after realizing how much food was being thrown away by restaurants every day. USA Harvest is now in 124 cities with more than 121,000 volunteers and has distributed more than 11 billion pounds of food.

Curtis received an honorary degree, as did philanthropist Joan Cralle Day, president of the Cralle Foundation, a family foundation with a legacy of giving to education, health services, the elderly and faith-based organizations.

FORMER CBS NEWS PRESIDENT SPEAKS AT BELLARMINE

The Institute for Media, Culture and Ethics sponsored a public lecture by Andrew Heyward, retired president of CBS News on Nov. 1.

Heyward told the crowd of approximately 400 that television news is experiencing an “era of disaggregation” as news is broken into smaller, more easily consumed pieces. Thus, he contended, the mainstream media is threatened. “We’re in a time when consumers have more power than ever before to choose exactly what they want to consume,” he said. Despite that threat, Heyward expressed optimism about the future of journalism. “What I’m hopeful about,” he said, “is that in a fully informed world the best-done stories, the most relevant, the best-reported, the ones that really stand up to the most scrutiny, will be the ones that prevail. I think it’s going to be harder to just have the trappings of journalism without having the substance behind those trappings.”

In addition to his public lecture, Heyward met with communications classes and participated in a live talk radio show from campus. – Alex Koch, The Concord
GNADINGER, BUCALOS LEAD EDUCATION SCHOOL

Dr. Cindy Meyers Gnadinger was named dean of the Annsley Frazier Thornton School of Education in November after serving as acting dean since last May.

“All the qualities and habits required in this post have been abundantly evident in Dr. Gnadinger’s excellent service as acting dean,” President Joseph J. McGowan said in making the announcement. “She has brought extraordinary energy, intelligence, resourcefulness, creativity, patience, humility and good humor to this important work.”

Gnadinger, who has been a member of Bellarmine’s education faculty since 2000, drew acclaim for Bellarmine last fall with the school’s model Principal Leadership Program, a certification program in collaboration with the Kentucky Department of Education. Most recently, she was instrumental, along with Dr. Doris Tegart, in bringing Dr. Robert B. Cooter Jr. and his wife, Dr. Kathleen Spencer Cooter, experts in literacy education, to Bellarmine this fall (more on that below).

Gnadinger will lead the School of Education with support from the new associate dean, Dr. Anne Bucalos. Dr. Bucalos is an outstanding educator and noted scholar, having been published in Beyond Behavior and Teaching Exceptional Children Plus, among other respected journals. Dr. McGowan said, “Dr. Bucalos serves as a model for students and faculty in the School of Education and has provided exceptional service to Bellarmine University and the educational community.”

LITERACY SPECIALISTS, JOURNAL COMING TO BELLARMINE

In a major coup for Bellarmine, Dr. Robert B. Cooter Jr. will join Bellarmine’s faculty this fall as the university’s new Ursuline Endowed Chair of Teacher Education. Dr. Cooter’s primary research focus is improving reading instruction for children living at the poverty level. At Bellarmine, he will teach undergraduate- and graduate-level courses in reading/literacy education. He is also co-editor through 2011 of The Reading Teacher, the largest literacy education journal in the world, which will now be housed at Bellarmine.

Dr. Cooter’s wife, Dr. Kathleen Spencer Cooter, who is an early childhood and special education professor, will join him at Bellarmine, where she will direct a new research center focused on literacy education for underserved populations as a vehicle to social justice.

Before coming to Bellarmine, Robert Cooter served as Distinguished Professor of Urban Literacy Research at the University of Memphis. In November, the Cooters and their colleague, J. Helen Perkins, received the 2007 Urban Impact Award from the Council of Great City Schools for creating and implementing the Memphis Literacy Academy, an outreach program in the Memphis city schools designed to increase the expertise of hundreds of inner-city teachers in teaching reading.

Dr. Cooter also served as the first “Reading Czar” for the Dallas (Texas) Independent School District. There, he created the acclaimed Dallas Reading Plan, which trained approximately 3,000 teachers in literacy instruction. He has written or co-written more than 60 journal articles and some 19 books in reading education.
**RHODES TRAVELS ABROAD AS A FULBRIGHT SCHOLAR**

*Dr. Fred W. Rhodes*, Bellarmine’s vice president for academic and student life, collaborated on a variety of education issues with American and German officials in Germany last fall.

Rhodes traveled to Berlin after being awarded a Fulbright Scholar grant, according to the United States Department of State and the J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board. His trip took him to 11 universities and included a visit with representatives in Germany’s Parliament.

Rhodes and his colleagues focused primarily on three areas of higher education that are somewhat new to Germany but now of great interest: international studies, fundraising and career development. “In Germany, going to college is a right, not a privilege,” Rhodes said. “This is the first year higher education wasn’t free for Germans – it now costs 500 euros.”

While the Germans were eager to pick the brains of their American counterparts, the benefits worked both ways, Rhodes noted. “It’s a great opportunity to learn from others while traveling abroad.”

Rhodes is no stranger to international affairs. A 15-year veteran of student affairs at Bellarmine, he has collaborated with professors Bob Lockhart, Sue Davis, Dan Bauer, Caren Cunningham and other faculty and administrators to coordinate student service-learning trips to El Salvador, Perú, Jamaica, Guatemala and Belize, as well as a planned relationship with Malawi in 2009. His work with international student programs has also taken him to England, Ireland, Greece, Italy, Switzerland, Austria, France and the United Arab Emirates.

At the encouragement of two of his colleagues, Rhodes applied for the Fulbright scholarship and was one of only two top administrators in his group to win the prestigious award. (Most Fulbright scholars are department chairs or specialists in a given discipline.)

The flagship international educational program sponsored by the U.S. government, the Fulbright Program is designed to increase mutual understanding between the people of the United States and the people of other countries. The program affords participants, who are chosen for their academic merit and leadership potential, the opportunity to study, teach and conduct research, to exchange ideas and to contribute to finding solutions to shared international concerns.

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**BELLARMINE GETS HIGH MARKS**

Bellarmine students like their school. The 2007 National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE, or “Nessie”) ranked Bellarmine higher than the national average in all of the 10 benchmarks studied.

The survey includes five categories with two scores in each, which represent the opinions of both first-year students and seniors: level of academic challenge; active and collaborative learning; student-faculty interaction; enriching educational experiences; and supportive campus environment.

NSSE, which is housed at the Indiana University Center for Postsecondary Research in Bloomington and supported by a grant from the Pew Charitable Trusts, is designed to provide an estimate of what undergraduates at hundreds of institutions nationwide gain from attending college.
The black-tie crowd was liberally punctuated with cowboy hats on Oct. 13 as more than 400 people enjoyed “A Knight in the Country.” That was the theme of the annual Knight of Knights dinner and dance, which this year honored Stephen A. Williams, president and chief executive officer for Norton Healthcare. The evening celebrated Williams’ rural roots by “re-creating” his small Western Kentucky hometown of Lola on the indoor tennis courts. Guests were welcomed by a bluegrass band and a wood-carving artist, and Williams and his wife, Kathy, along with President Joseph J. McGowan and his wife, Maureen, dined on the front porch of a country estate. It was also on the porch that Dr. McGowan knighted Williams, dubbing him “Sir Stephen of Lola.”

The Knight of Knights honor has been bestowed upon an individual since 1998 to recognize outstanding support and service to Bellarmine University. Williams has been with Norton, Kentucky’s largest health-care system, since 1977 and has served as president/CEO since 1993.
SEVEN NEW OVERSEEERS APPOINTED

Bellarmine’s Board of Overseers welcomed seven new members in November. The overseers are a group of community leaders, made up of alumni or friends of Bellarmine, who serve as university ambassadors and fundraisers. Overseers strive to increase membership in Bellarmine’s President’s Society by securing contributions of $1,500 or more. Each board member is appointed for a renewable three-year term.

The new members are Robert G. Bader Jr. (’78), chief executive officer of Trover Solutions Inc., which offers insurance subrogation and claims recovery services; Paula Padgett Evans (’85, MBA ’93), a territory executive with IBM; Dale Getteffinger, president and chief executive officer of the accounting firm Monroe Shine & Co.; David B. Holobaugh (MBA ’96), president of David Construction; R. Thad Keal (’87), partner with the law firm Turner, Keal and Dallas; Thomas P. O’Brien III, partner with the law firm Frost Brown Todd, LLC; and Heather Peet Spurlock (’91), controller for Texas Roadhouse.

CREASON PARK PROJECT DEDICATED

Students and neighbors of Bellarmine gained a new place to exercise when a system of paved paths was dedicated by Mayor Jerry Abramson on Oct. 5. The project, which connects Joe Creason Park property with Bellarmine property, includes a new pedestrian bridge over Beargrass Creek, 4,500 feet of new asphalt and a new pedestrian entrance to the park at Newburg Road and Trevilian Way. The path provides four possible walking routes, ranging from half a mile to 1.5 miles.

The new path offers an alternative for neighbors who used to exercise on Bellarmine’s old cinder track, which was replaced by the Owsley B. Frazier Stadium.

RUBEL SCHOOL ACHIEVEMENTS

The W. Fielding Rubel School of Business has been selected for inclusion in the 2009 edition of “Best Business Schools,” to be published by the Princeton Review and Random House.

“Best Business Schools” is modeled after the Princeton Review’s flagship publication, “The Best 366 Colleges,” in which Bellarmine is also listed. The business publication offers school profiles and rankings based on student opinion on a variety of topics ranging from academic offerings to job placement.

In other good news for the Rubel School, Bellarmine students scored in the 95th percentile – the highest level – in 2007 business-school testing by the Educational Testing Service, a nonprofit institution whose mission is to advance quality and equity in education.

ROBERT J. “BOB” FITZPATRICK, the founding chair of Bellarmine’s accounting department, died at age 89 on Dec. 22, 2007. Fitzpatrick served 25 years as department chair, then taught for 10 years. Upon his retirement in 1985, he was named professor emeritus.

For his outstanding efforts on behalf of Bellarmine, Fitzpatrick was presented the Msgr. Alfred F. Horrigan Distinguished Service Award from the Alumni Association in 1994.

Fitzpatrick will be remembered both as a faculty member and a benefactor. He was one of the earliest members of the Heritage Society and through his planned gifts created the Robert J. Fitzpatrick Endowed Scholarship Fund, which continues to grow and each year awards scholarships to outstanding accounting students.

Fitzpatrick was also a member of the Kentucky Society of CPAs and played saxophone for a number of bands including The Mellotones, The Wednesday Night Band and The Holy Name Band.

MARY JOAN RIEHM, a former deputy mayor of Louisville and alumna of Ursuline College, died of pancreatic cancer on Jan. 20. A reporter and editor at The Courier-Journal from 1968-73, Riehm served as press secretary to Louisville Mayor Harvey Sloane from 1974-77. When Sloane left office, she became director of communications for the Kentucky Department for Human Resources, then served as manager of government relations for Humana.

In 1985 Mayor Jerry Abramson appointed Riehm the first woman deputy mayor of Louisville, a post she held through 1995 and again from 2003-06. A nationally recognized expert on local government reorganization, Riehm also served as founding director of the 23-county Regional Leadership Coalition and as chair of the Alliance for Regional Stewardship, a national organization promoting regional development.

Her leadership as an alumna of the Leadership Louisville program led to the board’s recent creation of the Joan Riehm Women’s Leadership Fund. She was also a co-founder and board member of the Leadership Kentucky program. She served on numerous local boards and the board of overseers for Bellarmine University.
I woke up stone-cold sober and in no mood to brag about it. The sunlight pouring through the mini-blinds just illuminated the fact that I still hadn’t found the Bobby B statue (see *Bellarmine Magazine*, Winter 2007-08), my suit looked more disheveled and anachronistic than a Bellarmine Beanie, and this hovel sure wasn’t in Montepulciano. At least I finally had some solid leads. My man Ian forwarded me an email:

I am Patrick J. McGinley. They called me “Tonto.” Graduating class 1970. I remember Bobby B well because I spent more than a few nights with him my senior year. After three years of dorm life several friends and I moved into a subdivided house on Willow Avenue near Cherokee Road. Once in we realized that there were several Bellarmine students in the upstairs apartment and that made the house almost completely Bellarmine students. We called ourselves “The Willow.” We made no attempt to compete with The Podiceps, The Ball and Chain or The TOP (The Other Place). Besides me, other members included Don Devitt, Joe Fischer, Greg Fischer, Roger Raw, Don Oberle, Gerry Abel, Tom Gaddis and Jack Leonard. There were an abundance of temporaries, such as Spider Webb, Charlie McDermott and Stan Hitron, but those were the original full-timers. Roger and Jack had something to do with “The Ass End” on-campus coffee house entertainment group that brought The Grateful Dead, et. al. to the campus, and we often had big-name people coming over after performances.

Jack was from a Chicago suburb and quite a character. He was one of, if not the original, Bobby Bellarmine mascots to frequent the basketball games in full dress. He would dance in front of “That Damned Band,” and one night after a game he returned home with the statue of Bobby B. It remained with us for some time but I frankly was involved in many other legal and illegal activities that distracted me from having much interest in where Bobby B. went or when he disappeared.

I had little thought about the statue until one day, while wandering through a large church in a back alley Roman street, my attention was called to a side altar. As is common practice in Europe, I looked for the saintly remains found beneath this dark and foreboding place of worship. To my surprise, there lying in front of me was what I thought was the statue we so proudly cheered at the ball games in Louisville. Indeed, after second glance, I realized it wasn’t a statue at all, but was Bobby Bellarmine himself. The real Bobby was not much bigger than the statue. He lay prone in a case before me and I stared in awe.

I have often thought about that plaster statue many times since, but had no idea it had ever gone missing after I saw it last in 1969-70. I have lost track of all of the Willow members except for Don Devitt. He still lives in Chicago and my contact is very infrequent. I myself am a well-past-retirement-age-but-still-active school teacher in the public schools of Northern Kentucy. I would make attempts at contacting some of the names here to pursue this further. Good luck. I hope some of this is helpful.

*Pat McGinley ’70 / Cold Spring, Kentucky*
I was Bobby Bellarmine (the human mascot) for two school years ('68-'69 & '69-'70). The costume was nothing more than a large altar boy's red cassock and white surplice and a priest's beret that somebody had “found” a couple of years before me. Bobby Bellarmine was always the smallest Podicep because the cassock fit. I can’t guarantee it, but I believe the statue was “possessed” by the pep band. It was always kept in secret somewhere and would appear out of nowhere at basketball games.

Jack Leonard ’71 / Orland Park, Illinois
Thanks to Jack Leonard, I now had two important new pieces of information: The statue was possessed and these guys were some serious kleptomaniacs. Before I could pursue those leads, another message popped in from Ian:

I may have some info regarding the infamous Bobby Bellarmine legend and the semi-infamous Ball and Chain. The original statue may have had more fingerprints on it than just the Bill and Mike you refer to in your article. I believe that notorious characters named Jeremiah (Jerry) and Steve (Surfer Boy), both living in the “old dorm” at the time, concealed Bobby B from the authorities and were instrumental in moving Bobby to more safe houses than Bonnie and Clyde.

You must put this in the context of the late 1960s at Bellarmine. This was serious stuff. Remember, Bellarmine was an “all boys” school at the time and the rules were very strict; freshmen were required to wear beanies – yep, beanies. A no-nonsense guy named Jim Stammermin was in charge of the dorms and his proctors could ground you or have you bounced out of the dorm altogether. Now, imagine the fear in the heart
of Surfer Boy when a surprise inspection of our dorm rooms was announced. Two senior proctors, Henry and George, began to search each room regardless of objections from the tenants. If Bobby B was found, someone was in real trouble – ejected from the dorm and possibly school. Inside Surfer Boy’s closet is the towering statue of Bobby B hiding behind some button-down shirts and blue jeans.

Senior proctor Henry is looking in one direction and proctor George slides back the clothes, confronts Bobby B staring at him and, to Steve’s utter amazement, says, “OK, nothing here,” and the search continues throughout the remainder of the dorm. After that confrontation with “The Man,” folks were a lot more clandestine about moving Bobby B around and where they concealed him. I do not recall the Ball & Chainers ever plotting to steal him as he was readily available to most of their members and I do believe he even showed up at a couple of their parties.

The Ball & Chain was a group of guys who initially joined together primarily as an intramural sports team. Look in a ’65-'66 yearbook for a football team called the Dormies; most if not all of those guys were in the Ball & Chain. The purpose was to have a place to go off campus and throw a party and hang out with the guys and the ladies. Remember, this is 1966. Those guys lived in a strict dorm (no girls allowed), and very few kids had cars. There was a storefront on Bardstown Road and we (OK, yea, I was in the Ball & Chain) rented the upper floor of this old building. It had a large, open ballroom, a kitchen, a couple of bedrooms and a back porch. It was decorated in early-American Goodwill discards.

John Ford, a business law teacher at Bellarmine, strongly suggested we incorporate to protect ourselves and our parents from lawsuits. So “Ball & Chain Inc.” was the official name. Now you could not just join the Ball & Chain. You had to be voted in, and while it was hardly exclusive it seemed to consist of a lot of “Chicago boys,” a contingent from Buffalo, some east coasters from New Jersey and Connecticut, and a crazy group from Ohio. There was also a very eclectic mix of Kentucky guys. Two in particular, “Jonesie” (a real country boy) and E. George from Bardstown, come to mind. I believe the Podiceps and FYB were both offshoots of the necessity to have a place to gather with the attractive ladies from Ursuline College.

Again, to put this in context of the time, there was a cultural separation that hung over the dorm kids and the rest of the student population. Primarily based on the stereotype of the guys from Kentucky all being “country folk” and the guys from Chicago all being “city folk,” which led to some interesting conversations and confrontations. One of the most notable was a football game between the “farmers” (their chosen name) and the dormies. It was a big event with lots of hype and lots of spectators and sort of took the edge off the culture gap. I could go on, but I do not want to bore you with long ago war stories from the early days of Bellarmine College. I will say many of the guys from the Ball & Chain received a ticket to Southeast Asia as their senior trip and at least one (Jim Curtin) did not return. In that respect it may not be so different from today.

Ed Dugan ’69 / Valrico, Florida

Thanks to Dugan, Leonard and McGinley, we know much more about the saga of Bobby B (and also that Bellarmine students are both resourceful and prone to misdemeanors). But we still don’t know where Bobby B rests! If you have any information, please contact Ian Patrick at ipatrick@bellarmine.edu or N. Vestigator, care of jimwelp@bellarmine.edu. We won’t use your name in the magazine unless you consent. And if the news ain’t good, we can take it. People who wear beanies at an impressionable age can take just about anything.
FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Happy Derby season, fellow Bellarmine alumni,

It is a wonderful time to be a Bellarmine alumnus/a. Our vision of what Bellarmine can be is leading to a renaissance for our alma mater, and there are many exciting things happening on campus – from welcoming a record freshman class of 570 students, to opening our beautiful new Frazier Stadium, to breaking ground on the second of the four planned Siena residence halls, to starting several new academic programs. There is so much to be proud of, but what I am most proud of is seeing the university make all this progress while holding onto the attributes that make Bellarmine the unique and wonderful place that we all appreciate.

The Alumni Association is also adding many new events and programs, and I highly encourage you to visit www.bellarmine.edu/alumni and register so you can stay up to date. In addition to social events, we are beginning to offer networking, family, spiritual and service events as well.

Our brand-new “Knight to Knight” Networking Group will hold its first event in May. I hope these will become “signature” events of the Alumni Association and provide you with valuable and enjoyable networking opportunities.

In the coming months we will also be forming alumni teams for the Relay for Life service event; beginning an annual Alumni Mass at our beautiful chapel on the evening after Derby; welcoming our newest members at an event for all May graduates; and holding an Alumni Wine Tasting Night. We are also planning regional events in Bardstown, Southern Indiana, Lexington, Indianapolis, Chicago and Cincinnati.

One of my major goals is to provide you and your family with valuable and enjoyable events and programs. If you have suggestions, questions or comments, please don’t hesitate to contact me.

Peter Kremer ’02, Executive Director, Alumni Association
502.452.8334 / pkremer@bellarmine.edu

FROM THE ALUMNI BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Greetings, fellow Bellarmine alumni,

The Alumni Board of Directors has been working hard to provide you with a comprehensive, vibrant Alumni Association. We are excited about the progress we are making and hope you will participate in our upcoming events and programs.

Our Networking Committee has been helping coordinate the upcoming “Knight to Knight” networking events, our Web Committee has made many upgrades to the alumni website, our Events Committee has helped organize all of our larger events, our Young Alumni Committee is working on new events for recent graduates, and our Awards Committee is in the process of selecting the 2008 Alumni Award winners.

I encourage you to register your contact information at www.bellarmine.edu/alumni. This is the very best way you can stay up to date with all that is happening around campus and with the Alumni Association. And please plan to attend an alumni event soon. I know you will enjoy it.

Reid Massie Hafer ’00, President, Alumni Board of Directors
Senior Brand Manager, Heaven Hill Distilleries, Inc. / rhafer@heaven-hill.com
Join the New Alumni Networking Group

The Alumni Association is excited to begin “Knight to Knight” networking events on Bellarmine’s campus. These events will be great opportunities to meet and network with other Bellarmine alumni in the Louisville area.

Each event will feature a speaker from the professional community as well as time to network. Attendees will also receive a database of the other members in the “Knight to Knight” Networking Group.

Networking Luncheon  
Wednesday, May 14  
11:45 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Networking Breakfast  
Wednesday, Aug. 20  
7:45 a.m. - 9 a.m.

Networking Luncheon  
Wednesday, Nov. 12  
11:45 a.m. - 1 p.m.

For more information or to RSVP, please contact Peter Kremer, director of the Alumni Association, at pkremer@bellarmine.edu or 502.452.8334.

Have you checked out bellarmine.edu lately?

By registering with us as an alumna/us, you’ll receive our monthly e-mail update, plus gain access to other great benefits.

The Alumni Association is a non-dues-paying organization. You are a member of the Association the minute you sign up. Simply log in to begin enjoying the many great benefits of being a member, including:

✓ Networking  
✓ SURF Membership Discount  
✓ Continuing Education Discount  
✓ Facility Rental Discount  
✓ Library Access  
✓ Career Center Access

Registering is easier than ever. We’ve greatly simplified the process of signing up. Just visit www.bellarmine.edu/alumni to begin.
1970s
ROB BADER ’78 was appointed as CEO of Trover Solutions Inc.

1980s
MICHAEL P. SHIELDS ’84, a certified public accountant who holds an MBA from The Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania and dual B.A.s in accounting and computer science from Bellarmine, has opened Mobus Financial Group, LLC (www.mobusfg.com) in Louisville to offer business-planning and financial-management advice to established corporations and advanced-stage start-ups.

AMELIA DEBUSMAN MCCARTY ’86 was elected to the board of directors of the Columbus, Ohio, branch of the International Dyslexia Association.

MIKE SMITH ’86 has moved back to Henderson, Ky., with Brenntag Mid-South.

1990s
ERIC MOSER ’97 has joined the Commonwealth’s Attorney’s Office as an assistant assigned to the Narcotics Unit.

2000s
MICHAEL BRINKMAN ’00 married Angela Perretta on Dec. 15, 2007. They live in Covington, Ky., where Michael teaches English and is the guidance counselor at Holy Cross High School.

SARAH O’DONNELL HAYS ’00 and Mike Hays welcomed son Liam Michael on Nov. 21, 2007. He joined big sister Nora Rose, who turned 2 in August.

CHRISTIAN MASCAGNI ’00 has left the Commonwealth’s Attorney’s Office to enter private practice with the Mascagni Law Office.

TARYN PIKE SKEES ’03 and her husband, RICHARD ’04, welcomed son Ethan Anthony on March 3, 2007, and are expecting a second child in March 2008.

ASHLEY FREEMAN ’04 completed her Master of Arts in Teaching at Bellarmine in December 2007 and began teaching senior English and coaching softball at Eastern High School in January.

KATRINA LEARY JOHNSON ’04 and Micah Johnson welcomed daughter Jennings Ashley Johnson on Nov. 1, 2007.

JANET YU JOHNSTON ’04 graduated from the Brandeis School of Law in May 2007 and joined Eddins-Domine Law Group, PLLC as an associate attorney, practicing business, real estate, family law and estate planning. She married Donald Johnston, an account executive at The Courier-Journal, on June 3, 2006, and they live in Jeffersonville, Ind.

NATHAN BUTLER ’05 has been appointed director of operations for the Total Traffic Network at Clear Channel Louisville. This is in addition to his current role as director of operations and affiliate relations for the Kentucky News Network.

WILL COLON ’06 and ASHLEY SOUTH ’06 were married Dec. 1, 2007, in Louisville. The Colons just purchased their first home and adopted a puppy.

TRAVIS HOWELL ’06 and Deanna Laramore of Flint, Mich., will be married July 12 in Burton, Mich.

KAMERON ALLEN ’07 will marry JASON SMITH ’08 on July 12. They met during their freshman year at Bellarmine in 2003 and made it all the way through college together!

DARLENE ORANGIAS ’07 is engaged to marry Stephen Emery of Prospect, Ky., on May 10.

Let us know what’s been going on with you. — E-MAIL US AT PKREMER@BELLARMINE.EDU
the fort

On a line from Maureen Club

You couldn’t know me
Without knowing this.

That at eight years old,
When the leaves were forest green
and everything smelled of fresh cut grass
and soft pink petals,
I would sit alone in the wooden tree fort
I had built with the boys
eating wild berries from an ice-blue bowl.

I’d hear the squirrels shuffling
through thin layers of leaves
before they climbed with their claws
scratching off pieces of bark to the top of the tree.
The creek would ripple along the stones
uninterrupted by the light touch of spider legs dancing
above the fish that shared stories beneath the current.

I’d simply sit,
feet dangling off the wood’s rough edge
staring at the nail bent at its half
And with fingers stained a deep red
I’d think about climbing to the sun.

by DANIELLE FLEMING

ENDNOTE:

This poem by Danielle Fleming, a senior communication and English major from Duluth, Ga., won the poetry division in the 2007 Kentuckiana Metroversity Writing Competition, which is open to all students registered at Metroversity institutions. Jacob Banser of Louisville, who graduated last spring, placed second, making 2007 the fifth consecutive year that creative-writing students from Bellarmine took the top two prizes in the poetry competition.
NURSING COMES TO BELLARMINE
page 10

PIZZA EATING CONTEST, 1981
What would Dr. Heuser say?
page 16