

Bellarmine's small campus has hosted a number of giants in the eyes of many. Mother Teresa of Calcutta (1982) and President John F. Kennedy (1956) are two of the most notable.



Fr. Thomas Merton (1915-1968) This groundbreaking leader is arguably the most influential Catholic author of the 20th century, having more than 50 publications credited to his name. The university's Catholic identity is rooted in the inclusive spirit of Thomas Merton

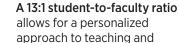
belief in the search for the true self, the interconnectedness of life, and the solidarity of the human spirit, which transcends ethnic, religious, and social divisions. In February 1965, Merton wrote to the founding BU president, Msgr. Alfred F. Horrigan, about his love for the institution: "This bond with Bellarmine College is to me a continued honor and joy."

Knights Closet

A no-cost clothing resource with new or gently-used career-ready outfits, scrubs, socks, BU gear, and business casual items, available to students as many times as they need to own or borrow (returned washed and ready for the next use).

Rev. John D. Deatrick '55 Knights Pantry

A no-cost food pantry for students to access privately as many times as they need.



mentoring.





Originally known as the Cardinal Section when it was launched in 1965, the Honors Program supports academic excellence and personal growth and provides high-achieving students with a community of like-minded individuals dedicated to intellectual exploration and social impact.



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Oct. 3, 1950

Opening Day at Bellarmine with 115 students and Msgr. Alfred Horrigan as founding president

1953

Administration Building (now Horrigan Hall) was added

1954

The first class of 42 students graduated

Alternative Spring Break

Bellarmine students show

their community spirit by

helping others in need and, in

ST. MONICA'

Activity Center

the process, gaining a deep understanding of these

challenges and a personal responsibility for change.

Dec. 5, 1956

Bellarmine College earned accreditation

Mar. 11, 1957

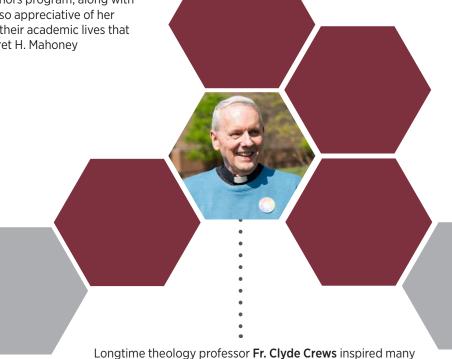
Ground was broken for Knights Hall

1959

Enrollment stood at 1,033

14 BELLARMINE MAGAZINE - SPECIAL ANNIVERSARY ISSUE

Founder of the Cardinal Section, the late **Dr. Margaret** Mahoney was the first woman to join the faculty at the then all-male Bellarmine College in 1958. She quickly emerged as a favorite of her history students and remained the only female professor until 1963. In addition to faculty and administrator roles, she led the Cardinal Section, now known as the Honors Program, until 1992. Graduates of this honors program, along with her many history majors, were so appreciative of her dedication and contribution to their academic lives that they established the Dr. Margaret H. Mahoney Scholarship Fund in 2000.



students and others over the years, serving in numerous roles at the university, including historian-in-residence, director of the Merton Center, chairman of the Theology Department, academic dean, and archival coordinator. A 1966 Bellarmine graduate himself, Fr. Crews published a history of Bellarmine titled "In Veritatis Amore" in 2017. He was honored with the Msgr. Alfred F. Horrigan Medal in 2023.

The late English **Professor Fred Smock** was named the 28th Poet Laureate of the Commonwealth of Kentucky in 2017. In his prolific career. Smock produced 10 books of poems and essays. and earned several awards for his writing and teaching, including the 2002 Henry Leadingham Poetry Prize, the 2003 Jim Wayne Miller Prize for Poetry, and the 2008 Kentucky Literary Award for Poetry. The Kentucky Arts Council honored him in 1995 with an Al Smith Individual Artist Fellowship in poetry. At Bellarmine, Smock received the 2005 Wilson Wyatt Faculty Award and encouraged creative endeavors of his students-English majors and others alike.





Jesuit Priest & Cardinal Robert Bellarmine is the university's namesake, born Oct. 4, 1542, in Montepulciano, Italy. He passed away Sept. 17. 1621. in Rome, and was canonized on June 29, 1930.

Bob Lockhart, professor emeritus and founder of the art program, contributed more than teaching and mentorship to the Bellarmine community. His creative talents are present across campus in sculptures of the Bellarmine Knight, the largest bronze sculpture in Kentucky, as well as bronze portraits of Robert Bellarmine (shown), Thomas Merton, and Angela Merici.

In Veritatis Amore

"In the Love of Truth" — the university motto harkens back to the university namesake St. Robert Bellarmine's invitation to each of us to learn and live in veritatis amore - in the love of all that is beautiful, true, and good in life.

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1960

Bellarmine teams in baseball, track, tennis, golf, and cross country were active

1964

Kennedy Hall was built 1,000th diploma awarded President Msgr. Alfred Horrigan and faculty signed a letter supporting the U.S. Civil Rights Movement

1967

Thomas Merton designated BU as repository for his manuscripts

1968

Bellarmine and Ursuline colleges merged, creating a co-educational campus

1968

The Grateful Dead performed on campus

1970

The Exploded Cube sculpture was installed on campus

Music Department Chair **Timothy Glasscock** is also the choral director at Bellarmine, where he brings years of conducting and performance experience, as well as infectious enthusiasm, to mentor his students. He conducts the Bellarmine Oratorio Society and leads innovative projects that connect students to the community through performance. He has received several recognitions, including the Joseph and Maureen McGowan Prize for Faculty Development and International Travel Awards for trips to places like Ireland, Scotland, and Spain.

Bellarmine Mock Trial

The mock trial provides skills and lessons in leadership, goal setting, and conflict resolution. It connects members to a rich network of attorneys and other professionals, as well as a rich legacy of competitive success, including that of the 13-member 1999 mock trial team, which outscored 64 teams, including Stanford, Harvard, and Duke, to bring home the national championship trophy back to what was then Bellarmine College. The second-string mock trial team finished fifth in the nation that year, a tremendous but often overlooked performance.



At Bellarmine, we are dedicated to the pursuit and love of truth and understanding of the world around us. Our fundamental commitment to academic inquiry and mastery compels us to aspire and expect excellence in all that we do.



Our Lady of the Woods Chapel

Completed in 2001 and nestled on a hill in the woods, Bellarmine's chapel is the center of campus worship and a work of art in its own right.



Completed in 2016 by connecting Horrigan and Treece Halls to the new McGowan Hall via a threestory atrium, Centro forms a bold new campus center.



Dr. Kathy Lyons, who passed away in 2024, is fondly remembered by many former students and colleagues for her kindness and dedication as an educator. She joined the faculty in 1963 as an English professor and taught courses at the university well after her retirement in 1994. During her Bellarmine career, she received several awards for her teaching and service. including the William T. Miles Award, the Wilson W. Wyatt Award for Community Service, and the Reverend Msgr. Alfred F. Horrigan Distinguished Service Award.



Louisville

A big city with a small-town feel, Louisville consistently ranks high on lists of the USA's most livable, most affordable, and most entrepreneurial cities, with arts, entertainment, sports, and commerce, and a smile and a "hello" — even from a complete stranger.

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1971

Women's basketball was added

1973

Dr. Eugene Petrik was named second Bellarmine president

1975

The MBA was launched as the first graduate degree program

1976

Men's soccer and women's volleyball were added

1976

The New York Times recognized Bellarmine for inventiveness and success June 22, 1982

Mother Teresa of Calcutta received the Bellarmine Medal during a visit to campus

18 BELLARMINE MAGAZINE - SPECIAL ANNIVERSARY ISSUE

Bellarmine Radio provides the campus community with a diverse mix of new and favorite music, as well as training and experiences for students. Bellarmine Radio is a chance for students to have their voices heard all over, not just on campus.

Its predecessor, WHUT, was a station built by students based on plans from a radio used in World War II tanks. The radio team set up in two small offices in their freshman dorm and played top 40, including then little-known bands The Who

and The Doors.

Experiential learning enhances a Bellarmine education, with 88% of graduates completing 90 or more hours of hands-on experiences.



St. Robert's Gate

At the main entrance to campus, the beautiful arch welcomes visitors to Bellarmine.

The Knights—A Legacy of Growth & Tradition By John Spugnardi

From a group of 13 young men in 1950 to a robust 500 men and women proudly wearing scarlet and silver, Bellarmine Athletics mirrors the university with its dynamic growth and competitiveness that includes multiple national championships and dozens of conference and individual titles.

Bellarmine Athletics began with new coach, Norb Raque, posting a notice announcing tryouts for a new athletic team, basketball. The Pioneers (Bellarmine's first athletic nickname) made their debut on Dec. 27, 1950, soon expanding its athletic offerings. Baseball made its debut in the spring of 1951, followed by golf, tennis, and track. Knights replaced the Pioneers' nickname to pay homage to Founding President Msgr. Alfred F. Horrigan's lifelong fascination with the Arthurian legend and the Knights of the Round Table.

By the 1960s, the Knights were competing in the college division of the NCAA (later called Division II) and made their first appearance in the NCAA basketball tournament in 1963. Later in the decade, the Ursuline merger brought coeducational academics, and women's sports quickly followed, when women's basketball made its debut in 1971.

Alumnus and longtime athletic director Jim Spalding '55 was a driving force in Bellarmine Athletics' expansion and helped found the Great Lakes Valley Conference (GLVC) in 1978. Bellarmine was a stalwart in the league, competing in men's and women's soccer, tennis, golf, basketball, cross country. track and field, (women's-only) softball and volleyball, and (men's) baseball.

Valor and Penny

Co-mascots Valor and Penny have that spirit! Valor, the long-time mascot of the Knights, displays the drive for success, and Penny the Pineapple—a widely known symbol of hospitality—represents the welcoming, community culture of campus.

Bellarmine dance owns two National Dance Alliance titles, taking the Division II crown in 2015 and 2019.

In 2020, Bellarmine transitioned all sports to NCAA Division I status and joined the Atlantic Sun Conference for the bulk of its competition. By year two in the league, men's basketball won the conference title at home, initiating an outpouring of national media coverage.

Of the Knights' many championships over the years, of particular note is the sole NCAA national title in school history: men's basketball (2011). Finishing 33-2, the team's run culminated with a heart-pounding 71-68 victory over BYU-Hawaii in front of a national television audience on CBS.



Students can choose from more than 60 countries on six continents to expand their education and explore the world.

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1990

Enrollment hit 2,600+

1990

and wrestling.

Brown Activities Center, Wyatt Center for the Arts. Norton Fine Arts Complex. Alumni Hall & Maurice D.S. Johnson Quadrangle were operational after being built in the 1980s

1990

Study Abroad

Women's sports teams were active in softball, track, cross country, tennis, and field hockey

1990

Dr. Joseph McGowan became Bellarmine's third president

1992

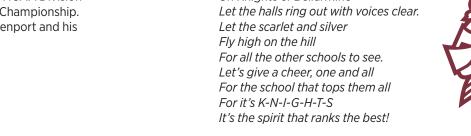
McGowan wrote "Alma Mater Bellarmine"

1995

Residence halls housed 386 students Veritas lifelong learning program began

KNIGHTS WIN!

The Knights scored their first-ever national championship in any sport, led by Coach Scott Davenport, at the 2011 NCAA Division II Men's Basketball National Championship. (See more about Coach Davenport and his retirement on page 13.)





The Knights men's basketball team won the 2022 ASUN Tournament title. However, due to NCAA reclassification rules, the Knights were ineligible to compete in the NCAA Tournament, and the ASUN's automatic bid went to Jacksonville State.



Bellarmine University was home to one of the first integrated men's college basketball teams in Kentucky.

The BU Fight Song by Frank Knoop

On Knights of Bellarmine



Honorary Knights

BU is proud to have several Honorary Knights on its Men's basketball team, going back to 2014 when Patrick McSweeney actually took the court in an exhibition game against the University of Louisville. At 15, McSweeney was connected to BU through Team IMPACT, an organization that matches children with serious illnesses with sports teams to join a game, even if on the bench. They have the experience of being a part of the team during a live event.



The Bellarmine Nurse By Will Weible

Since our founding, Bellarmine has offered an education designed to fulfill its mission to prepare students for meaningful lives, rewarding careers, ethical leadership, and service to improve the human condition.

Bellarmine's first president, Msgr. Alfred F. Horrigan, declared that "the liberal education ideal must be interpreted and applied in terms of contemporary reality," without losing focus on the liberal arts in that pursuit. In that spirit, Bellarmine added disciplines to meet the needs of a changing world, growing from 11 areas of concentration in our first decade to 35 today.

Few disciplines have seen a steadier rise than nursing, which today is Bellarmine's largest program with 270 undergraduates. A state-of-the-art facility enables premier learning opportunities, and graduates are in high demand.

"Graduates of the program assume various roles in professional nursing practice, with 100% employed upon graduation," says Diane Chlebowy, chair of the undergraduate Nursing program. "Graduates are in high regard and respected by local, state, and national healthcare and community agencies."

The program is about more than landing a job. Career training is enhanced by a holistic education that makes our graduates stand apart.

"Consistent with an inclusive Catholic university, we prepare nurse leaders with a global perspective, capable of improving practice through sound clinical judgment and scholarship," Chlebowy says. "The liberal arts education model offers an educational experience that prepares them to be successful in life, their career, and as contributing members of our society."

As the demands of the profession change, Bellarmine's dynamic model continues to produce graduates who make a positive impact, wherever they may go.

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1998

The Annsley Frazier Thornton School of Education was added

1998

The Bellarmine Knight sculpture was dedicated on Sept. 12

1999

championship

Students in study abroad programs increased 10-fold from 1995, from 7 to 70 The Mock Trial Team won the national

2000

Bellarmine celebrated its 50th anniversary

2000

Bellarmine College became Bellarmine University

2001

Our Lady of the Woods Chapel was dedicated

secured employment, enrolled in further education, or committed to military or volunteer programs within six months national average of those working are employed full-time in their field of study (per most recent data) Bellarmine graduates earn more on average than those from any other Kentucky college or university

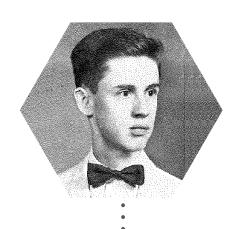
In 1968

Ursuline College merged with Bellarmine College, creating a coeducational campus at the Bellarmine site. In 2018, the university and the Ursuline Sisters of Louisville coordinated a year-long celebration of the merger's 50th anniversary. Events highlighted the legacy of Bellarmine's enduring Ursuline bonds, including a tour of the Ursuline Campus for Ursuline College alumnae.



Donors

During the 2024-2025 academic year, 364 students received support from 127 endowed scholarships, funded by generous BU donors.



John Regan, the first student enrolled in 1950, did so by submitting a notecard, a much simpler admissions process than today.

The Highlands

Our neighborhood is located on the edge of downtown Louisville, with some of the city's most popular public parks, shops, restaurants, and clubs. Funky and bustling with energy, the Highlands is home to art galleries, antique shops, consignment stores, bookstores, record stores, coffee shops, and boutiques— Louisville at its best (at least to us).

Pioneer Scholars

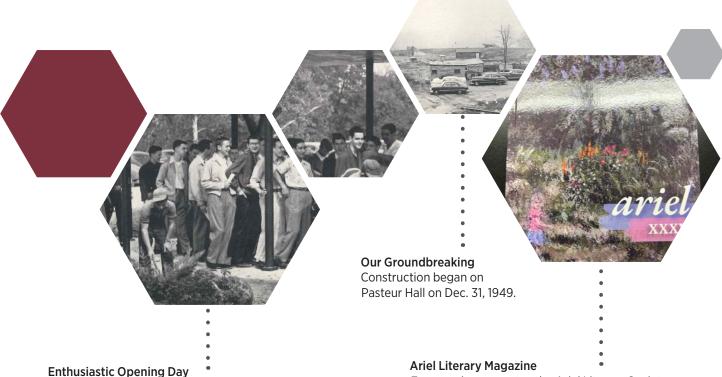
48% of incoming students are the first in their families to attend college. These Pioneer Scholars have the support of a unique network of fellow students, faculty, and staff to help cultivate their success.

College to University

Bellarmine College officially became Bellarmine University on Sept. 14, 2000.

Our Mission

We are an inclusive Catholic university that educates students—mind, body, and spirit—for meaningful lives, rewarding careers, ethical leadership, and service to improve the human condition.



The excitement for opening day in 1950 was so great that classes commenced before entry doors could be installed.

Liberal Arts

With its liberal arts foundation, Bellarmine fosters critical thinking and ethical reasoning providing a holistic education that integrates Catholic faith and reason to prepare graduates for meaningful careers and service.

Every spring semester, the Ariel Literary Society releases its free literary magazine containing student, faculty, and staff work from all genres, including poetry, fiction, drama, photography, painting, and more. The club also strives to promote literacy and explore literary history.



Our more than 28,000 alumni are the heart and soul of the Bellarmine community.

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2005

The Vision 2020 strategic plan was launched

2005

Men's lacrosse was added

2007

Bellarmine launched the Institute for Media, Culture, and Ethics

2009

Enrollment climbed to 2.881, with 700 campus residents

2010

Bellarmine celebrated our 60th anniversary with a year full of events 2010

1,000 students lived on campus

Community Endurance

Even during one of society's most challenging years in history, the Bellarmine community stayed strong in 2020, remaining connected and resilient as the university transitioned classes and activities to virtual formats within a week due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Registered Student Organizations

With more than 80 organizations to choose from, students can engage with others based on interests, background, and



The Hillside Concerts & Culture

The annual Hillside Concert featured exciting performances from contemporary artists, and is just one of BU's many traditional cultural offerings.

Knight of Knights

Presented at the annual Knight of Excellence, the Knight of Knights is awarded to an outstanding alumnus or friend each year. Longtime trustee and 2016 Alumna of the Year, Sharon Des Jarlais '72, shown, received the honor in 2024. To learn more about this year's award winner, Scott Davenport, see page 44.



Nationally Recognized Teacher Training Programs

The Annsley Frazier Thornton School of Education received the prestigious Frank Murray Leadership Recognition for Continuous Improvement from the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation in 2023.

IMPACT

ENGAGEMENT, BELONGING, WELLNESS, PURPOSE Creates career and life-ready graduates, prepared for a future beyond imagination



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2010

The Veritas Society

Campus included 42 buildings on 135 acres

Veritas offers lifelong learning experiences to retired or semi-

beyond, with a passion for learning. The society's goals include

retired adults, age 50 and over, in the Louisville area and

understanding past history and cultural heritage; keeping

members informed on what is happening in the world now; understanding changes in the world and finding a place in it.

2010

Best-selling author Michael Pollan delivered Vision 2020 Lecture

2011

Bellarmine opened our fourth new residence hall in five years

2011

Greek Life

The largest of the five Greek

organizations on campus, Alpha Delta

Gamma, aims to impact and enrich the

BU community by providing essential

and leadership, and is dedicated to the

support for education, philanthropy,

Men's basketball won NCAA Division II National Championship

Chimes

"Alma Mater" or "Love Me Tender?"
Each evening the chimes play, and a
long-time debate asks this question.
Turns out, both the "Alma Mater"
and "Love Me Tender", the oldie by
Elvis, borrowed their melody from
the southern folk song Aura Lea.

Java Men's Bellarmine Roots

The Java Men is an influential Louisville Jazz combo whose members—Todd Hildredth, Ray Rizzo, and Craig Wagner—met at Bellarmine. Their musical legacy continues to inspire Bellarmine musicians. Rob Collier '02 of Fire the Saddle, another band born at Bellarmine, said that he learned about the Java Men's Bellarmine roots on a campus tour, thinking, "Those guys are some of the best musicians I've ever heard. I want to be that good."

Love to Hate: The Hills & Death Stairs McGowan Medal

McGowan M

A BU tradition, the McGowan Medal provides students with the chance to recognize a family member, friend, or mentor who contributed to their success as a student at Bellarmine. The medal is named for Bellarmine's third president, Dr. Jay McGowan, who served as a mentor and guide to many individuals in the Bellarmine community.

James Skelton - Peace Corps Pioneer

James Skelton was the first known
Bellarmine graduate to join the Peace
Corps, serving in Latin America starting
in 1962, shortly after the organization was
founded. This was an early demonstration of
Bellarmine's mission-driven commitment to
service that improves the human condition.
Writing about the start of his experience in
a 1962 column in The Concord, Bellarmine's
student newspaper, he said: "We know
that we are just beginning a marvelous
undertaking, something which makes any
hardship, any effort, seem insignificant."

Our Veterans

BU is committed to serving those who served—the veterans, active duty, and reserve members of the military, and their dependents. With support from the Office of Military and Veterans Services, these students will find community, a low student-to-teacher ratio, accessible student services, and tailored programming.

Campus Art

Visual art displayed across campus, including statues such as The Knight, provide a balance of creativity and culture against the beautiful landscape of Bellarmine.

Exploded Cube

Installed in 1970 in the middle of the Quad, the exploded cube was designed by Eric O. Swab of General Electric's Appliance Park. Shaped like an angled arch that is 10 feet tall, the carbon-steel structure could be reassembled in the shape of a perfect cube. Dr. Jack Daly, a beloved Chemistry professor, helped to obtain the \$10,000 in federal funds used to build the piece, which weighs four tons.

THINGS
WE LOVE
ABOUT
BELLARMINE

1988 • 1989 • 1990 • 1991 • 1992 • 1993 • 1994 • 1995 • 1996 • 1997 • 1998 • 1999 • 2000 • 2001 • 2002 • 2003 • 2004 • 2005 • 2006 • 2017 • 2018 • 2019 • 2020 • 2021 • 2022 • 2023 • 2024 • 2025

2012

Health Sciences Building opened

Tree Campus USA

2013

The Arbor Day Foundation has designated Bellarmine

recognizes the university's continued commitment

sustainability of campus forestry.

to meeting the organization's core standards for the

a Tree Campus USA for 11 consecutive years. The honor

St. Robert's Gate was dedicated

2015

Lansing Learning Commons was dedicated

2015

Bellarmine hosted the Kentucky
Gubernatorial Debate

2015

Clayton Hall was dedicated

Owslev B. Frazier

Stadium

2015

BU dance won National Dance Alliance Championship, Division II

Vince The Facility Dog

Bellarmine Nursing adopted Vince the Facility Dog from Paws with Purpose, which provides highly trained dogs and handlers to give comfort and support to patients and families during



Humble Beginnings •

Now a private residence, 1804 Princeton Drive served as housing for faculty priests from 1950 to 1960.



Lecture Series

The Wyatt and Guarnaschelli Lectures bring riveting and well-known speakers to campus each year. This year's Wyatt Lecture was delivered by Daymond John, creator of fashion line FUBU and "Shark Tank" mogul.



John Delivers 2025 Wyatt Lecture

Daymond John, founder and CEO of FUBU, delivered the 2025 Wyatt Lecture on Thursday, Sept. 4, as part of the university's 75th anniversary celebration. An acclaimed figure in business innovation and public advocacy, John explored how entrepreneurship drives economic mobility and how public service and policy cultivate inclusive economic ecosystems. He also participated in a student pitch competition at the W. Fielding Rubel School of Business.

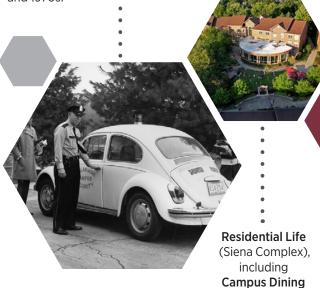
The lecture series, established in 1990 by Wilson W. and Anne D. Wyatt, features individuals distinguished in government or public affairs.

During his visit, John shared a core principle for success: "The key is to know your why. So many people reach a point where they realize that their why was somebody else's—their parents', society's. Once you know your why, then you'll understand the goal that you're setting, and then you'll understand the homework after that to reinforce that goal."



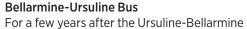
Vintage Security

Bellarmine Campus Security's Volkswagen Beetle was a mainstay for campus patrols in the 1960s and 1970s.



Bellarmine Farm

This on-campus community garden, managed by the environmental studies department, provides food to local food banks and offers plots for students to grow their own. It also features pollinator gardens, an orchard, and an outdoor classroom for hands-on learning.



merger, until residential facilities were available to accommodate the new female students, they were transported from the Ursuline campus to the Bellarmine campus on the Bellarmine-Ursuline Bus.



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2016

268 students were studying abroad

2017

Bellarmine Centro opened

2017

Dr. Susan M. Donovan was named fourth president, launched Tradition & Transformation strategic plan

2020

Bellarmine Athletics joined the Atlantic Sun Conference & NCAA Division 1

2024

Donors provided record contributions in a year

2025

Bellarmine celebrates 75 years Honoring Our Legacy, Shaping Our Future capital campaign launched