

BELLARMINE

THE MAGAZINE OF BELLARMINE UNIVERSITY

SPRING 2023



WARRIOR POET LINDSAY GARGOTTO | BACKYARD FARMING | ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME



PINEAPPLE POWER!

Move over, Valor, there's a new mascot in town. Penny the Pineapple was born during a student retreat in summer 2022. "Last semester was the first fully in-person, maskless semester that we've had in a while, so we wanted something to re-energize and revitalize campus life," said Haley Planicka, Student Government Association president. Penny is "a symbol of chaotic energy while also bringing back the idea of hospitality with the symbol of the pineapple."

SGA bought the costume. "We wanted Penny to be a student-run and student-supported initiative that would be kind of a campus inside joke," Haley said. And the campus loves her. "We have even seen fan accounts being created on social media that post about her whereabouts and make memes of her. I think that Penny is emblematic of our resilient, unwavering and hospitable Bellarmine community."

TOP 3 FROM THE LAST ISSUE

Most-read content on www.bellarmino.edu/magazine



Check this out:
Mystery painting
returned to library



Bellarmino Magazine
Photo Contest:
We have winners



Eight new scholarships
will benefit students



Illustration by Kathryn C. Truman

WHICH VALOR ARE YOU?

We're always aiming for No. 4, but if we're being honest, it's probably more like No. 9.



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Dr. Sean Ryan, Senior Vice President
Dr. Paul Gore, Vice President for Academic Affairs & Provost
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In God's house there are many rooms

COVER: St. Robert Bellarmine welcomes spring to Bellarmine's campus.
Photo illustration by Brendan J. Sullivan

THIS PAGE: Douglas Miller's paintings “are alive and full of care. They are astonishing,” says Art Department Chair Sarah Martin. Read more about Miller in Secret Life of Adjuncts, Page 22.
Photo by Brendan J. Sullivan



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Moving Bellarmine Forward

IN LATE MARCH, Bellarmine University announced changes to strengthen and redefine the university in support of a new strategic vision—Bellarmine Forward—that will position Bellarmine as the region’s premier institution for well-rounded, career-ready graduates.

Bellarmino Forward is a bold plan centered on opportunity and success, both for students and for Metro Louisville. It capitalizes on career outcomes that are among the best in higher education, with 98% of Bellarmine graduates landing a job or continuing their education within six months of graduating. What’s more, 74% of Bellarmine graduates choose to stay in Louisville and 95% are working in their field of interest.

The new strategic vision describes a Bellarmine education according to five distinctive characteristics:

Career-ready graduates – Bellarmine is nationally recognized for providing talented leaders across high-demand fields—including healthcare, business and education—through innovative employer partnerships and a track record of helping students find rewarding careers after graduation.

Preparing students for life – Guided by its Catholic traditions, Bellarmine nurtures an interfaith community where a liberal arts foundation and hands-on experiences, guided by individualized attention in and out of the classroom, build critical thinking, self-agency, collaboration and character.

Community engagement – Bellarmine is deeply connected to its city and the region through distinctive community engagement, professional partnerships and athletics programs.

Equitable and inclusive – Bellarmine is a student-centered community committed to diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging in a welcoming learning environment grounded in social justice.

Best return on investment in the region – Bellarmine offers an affordable and transformational experience for students through small class sizes, robust student support and a breadth of ways to learn and engage.

For students, Bellarmine will strengthen academic programs in high-demand career fields and add flexibility for an enriching, multidisciplinary liberal arts experience. For Metro Louisville, Bellarmine will expand meaningful workforce development and community engagement partnerships.

‘We will continue to provide a well-rounded educational experience that is unmatched in this market.’

These changes are a proactive, forward-looking response to challenges facing not only Bellarmine, but institutions of higher education across the nation.

Our new strategic vision includes these initiatives:

Academics

In keeping with Bellarmine’s role as a leader in academic innovation, the university has reviewed its academic structure and majors through an ongoing process with faculty members and major regional employers. Bellarmine’s curriculum will maintain a strong foundation in the liberal arts as it produces well-rounded, critical thinkers.

The university will continue to invest in high-demand majors, building on the recent successes of new degrees in marketing, neuroscience, public health, biomedical science, nurse anesthesia and health professions education, as well as a degree-completion program for returning students with prior college credit.

Fundraising initiatives

In April, Bellarmine will launch the first phase of an ambitious fundraising initiative to support Bellarmine Forward, focused on

the personal attention paid to each student to ensure their success in the classroom and in their career field.

This effort will exist alongside the university’s commitment to raise private funds to support Bellarmine’s move to NCAA Division I, which has so far generated nearly \$8.9 million.

Community partnerships

We will continue to build mutually advantageous community partnerships that help to build enrollment pipelines; to establish internships, experiential learning and career

placement for students; and to develop new academic programs that provide talented graduates to fill community workforce needs.


Maximizing access and affordability

Bellarmino continues to make affordability a top priority. The university will increase its attention to tuition pricing and financial aid strategies to ensure a Bellarmine education is as affordable and accessible as possible, regardless of a student’s financial circumstances.

Regional and national visibility

The university will also continue to leverage its increased Division I visibility to grow into new regional markets with a higher percentage of college-age students through new regional recruitment strategies.

As an independent, private liberal arts institution, Bellarmine University is well-positioned to build upon its strengths and navigate the new higher education landscape. We will continue to provide a well-rounded educational experience that is unmatched in this market.

To learn more about the Bellarmine Forward initiative, visit <https://tinyurl.com/BellarminoForward>. 

Jim Mudd ’69 ‘taught us a great deal’

Thanks for the fine article in the Fall magazine about the Outdoor Drinking Season [“In Veritatis Amore”]. ODS was (and is) always so much more than baseball with a keg. Let me share a memory of ODS involving Jim Mudd ’69, former Podiceps president.



At ODS at the farm in the ’80s, Jim told us he had MS. In a subsequent year, he arrived leaning on a cane; a year or two later, in a wheelchair. Yet he wanted to be on the field for the annual game. We hoisted him in his wheelchair, and the keg, onto a tractor-pulled wagon, erected an umbrella over him for sun protection, and drove him to the field to watch the game.

Next ODS, the year before his death, I remember him greeting classmates with, “I know you by your voice, but it will take a few minutes for my eyes to be able to focus on you.” We put him in our son’s bed to rest a while. Jim made us all comfortable with his illness and astounded us with his graciousness. And bravery. And love. Soon after, we helped lay him to rest. Jim taught us a great deal at ODS.

Bob French ’69
Pekin, Ind.

Dr. John Oppelt: ‘One of a kind’

I was deeply saddened to learn of Dr. John Oppelt’s passing (see Passages, Page 15). Dr. Oppelt was a tremendous, one-of-a-kind teacher. His patience and humor with me as an adult returning to school after many years of being away in the military was priceless. His insights and advice were highly valued by me both as a student and personally. He will be deeply missed, but his memory will live on. I know I will never forget him. Rest easy, John.

Paul Hosse ’88
Louisville

Remembering Professor Fred Smock

Fred Smock was a friend and mentor to so many. Long after I was enrolled in his classes, he met me for lunch or dinner at some local favorites to edit my poetry and talk all things literary. When I heard that Fred had passed, I was shocked. I had just seen him for dinner at Kashmir to pick apart my poems a week before. I was on my way to Mount Saint Francis in Southern Indiana for a hike with my dog. I picked up every red rock I saw on the path to honor his life because what else do you do when something like this happens?

Fred often mentioned to me his love of the moon and we would always discuss the lunar events of late. Every poem I wrote and showed to Fred, I would ask, “But did it do anything for you? Like, was it worth reading?” and he almost always (almost suspiciously) replied, “It made my life better.” I wrote this poem (at right) for Fred and read it at his Celebration of Life Ceremony in the Quad in August 2022.

Maria Tori
Environmental Science major with minors
in Biology and Creative Writing

When the Spirit Goes

For Frederick Smock, who made my life better

By Maria Tori

When I heard the news of your passing, I picked up all the red rocks I found on the path and put them in my pocket to wish you something good when your spirit tucks itself away into the next thing.

A body perhaps, or just air.
On a good night, the light
bouncing off the moon.

On the best night, the moon itself,
perhaps.

I wondered what the moon tonight
would do without you noticing it.

I looked up after it and saw
nothing
but storm clouds coming
through and dusting up the sky—

the moon is resting,
just as you are.

WRITE TO US

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NEWS ON THE HILL

Compiled by Carla Carlton
Photography by Brendan J. Sullivan

FESTIVAL OF COLORS

STUDENTS PARTICIPATED IN A COLOR THROW SPONSORED BY CAMPUS MINISTRY ON MARCH 8 TO CELEBRATE HOLI, ONE OF THE MOST POPULAR AND SIGNIFICANT FESTIVALS IN HINDUISM. SEE MORE INDIA WEEK PHOTOS AT [HTTPS://TINYURL.COM/BUINDIAWEEK23](https://tinyurl.com/buindiaweek23)



HOMECOMING 2023

Homecoming Week, Jan. 31-Feb. 4, included a full schedule of events, including a new one: the Student vs. Faculty & Staff Basketball Game in Knights Hall on Jan. 31. With Dr. Jon Blandford calling the action, the students won, 46-39. In between the official Homecoming games on Feb. 4, alumni and families joined the Bellarmine community for the Alumni Association's Homecoming Hoopla, a complimentary event in the North Wing lobby of the Kentucky Exposition Center. At halftime of the men's game, Gus Orthober and Prince Mugabo were dubbed Homecoming Knights of Honor.



NEWS ON THE HILL

Bellarmino partners with Family Scholar House

Bekah Hildabrand, a Doctor of Physical Therapy student at Bellarmine, was a single mom living in an apartment, paying rent and making ends meet without much support. Finishing college was going to be tough.

Then she connected with Family Scholar House, a local nonprofit that assists vulnerable individuals and families working to achieve their educational and career goals. Her son is now 7 and she plans to graduate in 2024 and start work as a physical therapist in women's health. "It's such a great program—I could not do what I'm doing without their support," she said.

Bellarmino has forged a partnership with Family Scholar House to ensure students affiliated with the organization, like Hildabrand, have a seamless enrollment pipeline to the university and receive the financial, academic and social wrap-around services they need to succeed. Zaria Lucas, a community outreach coordinator with Family Scholar House, has dedicated weekly office hours on Bellarmine's campus.

"Research and experience tell us that a student's ability to persist through college isn't usually about academic ability; it's about all the other things going on in their lives," said Dr. Elizabeth Cassady, assistant vice president of career and community engagement at Bellarmine.

Our students and faculty are really going places



LONDON

The Summer 2022 CCSA (Cooperative Center for Study Abroad) London Summer Program had 16 Bellarmine students participating in a variety of courses, as well as three Bellarmine faculty teaching: Laura Hartford, Carol Stewart and Dr. Kristen Wallitsch. Students in Hartford's photography course produced these images and more, which were exhibited in Centro in the fall to encourage others to study abroad.

"This trip was one of the best experiences I have had in recent memory and has ignited a desire to continue traveling the world," said Griffin Rogers, who is now considering attending grad school in another country.

"This experience has encouraged me to take advantage of the world as a classroom

and place to explore things that I do daily, like photo taking," said Aniseya White, who took the above photo of the London Eye. "I hope that my experience of London inspires other to allow themselves to take the opportunity to study abroad."

Bellarmino students also participated in summer programs in France, Greece, Turks & Caicos, Spain, Denmark and Iceland.

ITALY

The Bellarmine Music Department made a grand 10-day concert tour of Italy in late February through early March.

Under the direction of Dr. S. Timothy Glasscock, the Oratorio Society performed masses at Saint Peter's in Rome (pictured) and Saint Mark's in Venice and did concerts

in the Florence Cathedral, the Basilica of Saint Francis, San Salvador in Ognissanti and Sant Agnese in Agone. The Bellarmine Traveling Gumbo Jazz Combo performed at Florence's Club Jazz and Rome's famous Cotton Club. The full group also took short jaunts to Lucca, Siena, Padua, Pisa and Assisi.

All in all, 59 travelers made the trip, including 42 singers. Other accompanying faculty were Dr. Dave Clark, Dr. Louie Hehman, Dr. Stacy Simpson, Jane Halliday, Meme Tunnell, Megan Burnette and Matthew Childress.

The next planned trip for this group is Paris to Barcelona in Spring 2025. Bellarmine alumni and donors will be able to join; information will be forthcoming through the Alumni Association.

New Nurse Anesthesia doctorate will lead to high-paying jobs, autonomy



Bellarmino has added a Nurse Anesthesia track to its Doctor of Nursing Practice degree offerings that will prepare nurses for high-paying jobs and a higher level of autonomy in a growing career field.

The new DNP-NA program, which received full accreditation in February, is supported with funding from a five-year, \$2.4 million partnership with Norton Healthcare.

Nurse anesthetists can practice without a physician's supervision, making them a valuable addition to the provider team in a variety of healthcare settings. The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics projects that overall jobs for nurse anesthetists will grow more than 14 percent through 2029. The median annual wage for nurse anesthetists was \$195,610 in May 2021.

Students in the 36-month DNP-NA program may complete all their required clinical practicum experiences in Norton Healthcare hospitals, so they won't have to leave the Louisville area.

Classes begin in August. For more information, visit <https://www.bellarmino.edu/lansing/nursing/graduate/dnp-na/>.

The power of internships

ELI LONNEMAN '21

For Eli Lonneman, a program instructor at the Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden, every day is different. One day, she might be training a chicken. Another day, she might be taking a deep dive into primate classifications.

"I love that it's different," she said. "And I think that I'm able to pivot because I came from a multifaceted educational background. It made me way more adaptable and able to approach problems with a really great point of view."

Lonneman, who majored in Environmental Studies, landed an internship in environmental education with the Cincinnati Zoo the summer after her junior year. She returned as a camp counselor the next summer, then worked part-time leading camps and overnight adventures.

This year, she is working full-time at the zoo through a federal AmeriCorps award that runs through August, leading free programs for children from underserved parts of the community. She plans to continue a career in environmental education. "It's a great marriage of the things that I love."

MOLLY JETT '20/'20 MS-DIGITAL MEDIA

"Bellarmino's Career Development Center was my launching pad," says Molly Jett, who double-majored in Communication and Design, Art and Technology and earned a master's degree in Digital Media. She had six internships in her time at Bellarmine, including one in China and one at WHAS in Louisville. After just two years in the smaller market of Macon, Georgia, she now works as a multi-skilled journalist at WDRB News in Louisville. Learn more at <https://vimeo.com/797048811>.



Bellarmino Women's Council celebrates 60 years



On March 26, the Bellarmine University Women's Council celebrated its 60th anniversary. The occasion started with a memorial mass in Our Lady of the Woods Chapel recognizing founding members Marge Smith, Jayne BecVar, Barbara Montgomery (back row, L-R), Bunny Barker and Rosie Rubel (front row, L-R) and continued with a brunch in Frazier Hall.

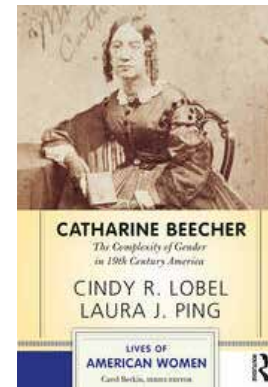
Seventy-five women answered the invitation of Msgr.

Alfred Horrigan, Bellarmine's founding president, in 1963 to form a group that would serve as a liaison between the college and the community it served.

In 1968, Bellarmine became a coeducational institution, and five years later, the Women's Council began an annual fundraising event, the Decorators' (later Designers') Show House. With the money raised over the years, the Women's Council established an endowed scholarship fund that is currently the eighth largest at Bellarmine at \$553,000.

While the Show House ended in 2017, the council continues to focus on relationship cultivation and fundraising, all in support of Bellarmine students. Multiple scholarship recipients attended the anniversary celebration, extending their gratitude for the generosity and support that have helped make their Bellarmine experience a reality.

Bellarmino Faculty Author



Dr. Laura Ping, History

Catharine Beecher: The Complexity of Gender in Nineteenth-Century America

In this new book in the Routledge Taylor & Francis Group's Lives of American Women Series, Ping, assistant professor in the History Department, and Cindy Lobel of Lehman College, CUNY, investigate how the life of education reformer Catharine Beecher is a lens through which to understand the cultural

changes of the 19th century. By looking at Beecher's writings and anecdotes from her life, this book offers insight into her personality and how her career shaped the culture of femininity.

Ryan honored as 'Pillar of the Profession'



Dr. Helen-Grace Ryan, vice president for Student Affairs, has been selected as a Pillar of the Profession by the NASPA Foundation Board in recognition of her years of outstanding teaching, research and service to the profession.

NASPA is a non-profit association that serves as the professional home for the field of student affairs, and Pillar of the Profession is one of its highest honors.

"While cliché, it's true that you truly are only as good as your team," Ryan said. "I've been fortunate to work alongside outstanding colleagues and students throughout my career. I'm grateful the NASPA community recognizes the good work we are doing on our campus. It is ultimately about serving our students and setting them up for success."

Two enter CPAK Hall of Fame



Dr. Leslie Maxie, Bellarmine's Dean of Students, and **Dr. James D. Breslin**, Dean of Student Success, were inducted into the College Personnel Association of Kentucky (CPAK) Hall of Fame Gallery of Outstanding Educators and Professionals this month. The Hall of Fame honors and recognizes university professionals who have served their respective institutions, the state, region and national associations through leadership and service.

ENTER THE 2023 BELLARMINE MAGAZINE PHOTO CONTEST

Welcome to the 2023 Bellarmine Magazine Photo Contest! Send us your best work in these categories:

- **Nature** (this includes landscapes and photographs of animals, birds or aquatic life)
- **Architecture/Cityscapes**
- **Creative/altered images** (photos that have been manipulated in some way, whether that's a long exposure, a digital effect, the use of a filter, etc.)

You may enter one photograph (black-and-white or color) in each of the three categories. First-place winners will receive \$100 each. All winning photographs will be featured in the Fall 2023 issue of Bellarmine Magazine and online.

The deadline to enter is 11:59 p.m. Friday, June 30. For complete rules, visit bellarmine.edu/photorules23. Questions? Email ccarlton@bellarmine.edu.



OH, THE PLACES YOU'LL GO!



Over their spring break, some Bellarmine Honors students and student-athletes read Dr. Seuss books in Spanish and English to children at Hawthorne Elementary School, a Spanish immersion magnet school in Louisville. Cambria Kingman, a sophomore originally from Loomis, California, returned to the school for a second day to share a book she wrote with her dad about an inchworm named JoJo.

Bellarmino hosts state's first Esports tourney for high schoolers

From March 17-19, 170 video gamers representing 15 high schools took over Frazier Hall for Bellarmine University's—and Kentucky's—first Esports Open. Teams competed in "League of Legends," "Rocket League" and "Super Smash." The tournament brought the energy and enthusiasm of professional Esports competitions to the high school level.

"Bellarmine is really positioning itself to be a leader in the Esports space," said Ben Sobczyk ("sub-check"), an instructor of Sports Administration and coach of Bellarmine's Esports team.

Last fall, Bellarmine unveiled a minor in Esports, the only academic credential in Esports in the Commonwealth. The minor offers classes such as Introduction to Esports, Introduction to Sports Administration, Business of Esports and Facility and Event Management.

Sobczyk said he hopes the tournament grows into a highly anticipated annual event. Esports is an official sport of the Kentucky High School Athletic Association.

Passages



DR. JOHN OPPELT, PROFESSOR, DEAN AND PROVOST

Dr. John Oppelt, who served as a professor, dean, provost and acting president in his 23 years at Bellarmine University, died on Dec. 20, 2022. He was 85.

Oppelt came to Bellarmine in 1981 and served as academic vice president under President Eugene Petrik for three years. At various times, Oppelt was chair of the Mathematics Department, dean of Arts and Sciences and provost, a role in which he was responsible for bringing Physical Therapy, Respiratory Care, Clinical Laboratory Science and Cytotechnology to Bellarmine from a public institution. In 1998, he was again named vice president for Academic Affairs and dean of Bellarmine College following a national search.

When Dr. Joseph J. McGowan, Bellarmine's third president, took a sabbatical in the spring of 1999, Oppelt was appointed acting president of the university.

Oppelt retired in May 2003. In 2004, he received the Msgr. Alfred Horrigan Distinguished Service Award, and in 2012, he was presented the Msgr. Alfred Horrigan Medal at commencement.

Bellarmino Athletics honored Oppelt, a longtime season ticket holder, at the men's basketball game on Dec. 29 in Freedom Hall.



FR. JOSEPH VOOR, FIRST CHAIR OF PSYCHOLOGY

Father Joseph H. Voor, Bellarmine's first chair of Psychology and a priest in the Archdiocese of Louisville for 72 years, died on Nov. 6, 2022. He was 97.

Frequently mentioned by alumni as a professor who made a difference in their lives, Fr. Voor taught at Bellarmine from 1956 to 1975. He was the college's first Psychology professor and then founding chair of the Psychology Department. During his time at Bellarmine, nearly 20 percent of the Psychology graduates went on to earn doctorates.

He also served at various times as director of the Guidance Office, director of Housing, prefect to the residence halls and director of the Upward Bound program, all while teaching a full load of classes.

He continued in residence at Bellarmine until 1982. He also taught at Nazareth College. In 2016, he received the Msgr. Alfred F. Horrigan Distinguished Service Award from the Bellarmine University Alumni Association.



MICHAEL B. CRUTCHER, FORMER TRUSTEE

Michael Crutcher, a former member of the Bellarmine Board of Trustees, business executive and lawyer, died of cancer on July 24, 2022, at his home in Seattle, Washington.

Crutcher was a graduate of Yale University and Harvard Law School. After graduating from law school in 1969, he joined the Seattle law firm then known as the Preston firm, becoming a partner in 1974.

In 1989, he became general counsel at the Brown-Forman Corp., a Louisville-based distiller. In 2007, he retired from Brown-Forman as vice chairman, general counsel and secretary. During his time at the company, he pushed the beverage spirits industry to more aggressively promote responsible drinking and reduce alcohol abuse. He was also chairman of the Distilled Spirits Council of the United States, the Centre for Information on Beverage Alcohol, and the International Center on Alcohol Policies.

In Memory

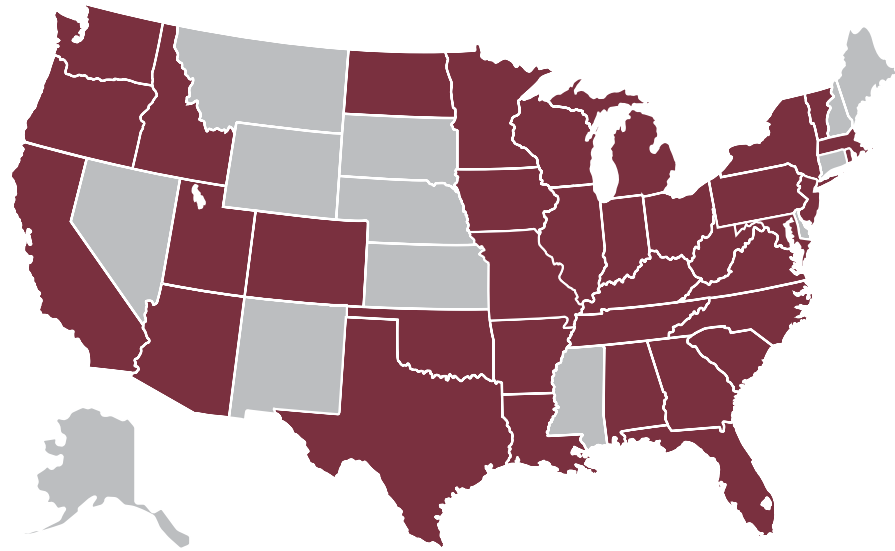
The following alumni passed away between Oct. 16, 2022, and March 15, 2023.

Dolores Whitlock '51	Joseph T. Laemmle '64	Victor A. Hodge '69	Christian B. Berghoff '81 MBA
Doris Heim Bohn '52	John J. Berry '65	Fred W. Kirsch '69, '72, '75	Carol R. Leet '81
John A. Brennan '54	Dr. Charles E. Boklage '65	Dr. Fred L. Milne '69	Glori Ann Kemper-O'Neil '84
Donald G. Nugent '57	Marilyn C. Kurtz '66	Richard D. Phillips '69	Sherl Ann Davidson '85
Eugene J. Hunckler '59	Dr. David T. Osborne '66	Robert L. Burke '70	Linda Anne Horton '87 MBA
Emmett Charles Ramser '60	Peter F. Manning '67	Dr. William M. Spahn '70	Mary Patrice Vonder Haar '88 MAED
Raymond B. Lutz '61	Jesse Eugene Schook '67	Jocelyn G. Watson '78	Ann Yent Yates '90
Dr. Wood E. Hunter '62	Paul Jan Wenz '67	Beverly Breyette '80/'91 MSN	Douglas Alan Schutte '97
Dr. Lawrence F. Reverman '62	Charles E. Scott '68	Tracy Ann Arnold '81	Ma'isah Karimah Burks '06

#KnightsGetHired

Class of 2022 outcomes, six months after commencement

Data collection and analysis provided by the Bellarmine Career Development Center



KNIGHTS NATION, USA

Grads are working and studying in 36 U.S. states, plus D.C., and 6 international destinations. Many stay local, with 70% of graduates choosing to call the Louisville MSA home.

ACADEMICS AND EARNINGS

877 DEGREES AWARDED
573 Bachelor's and
304 Master's/Doctoral

91% OF GRADUATES PARTICIPATED IN 90+ HOURS OF EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING
 Experiential learning includes internships, teaching, clinicals, scientific research, and other relevant work experiences

\$62K

AVERAGE EARNINGS

Graduate Degree Grads

22% of working grads reported earnings

\$50K

AVERAGE EARNINGS

Bachelor's Degree Grads

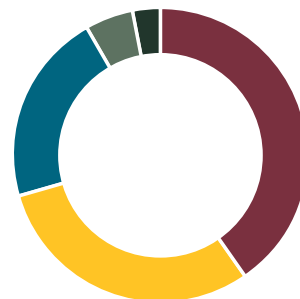
24% of working grads reported earnings

OUR TALENT PIPELINE

98%

**OF GRADUATES REPORT
WORKING OR CONTINUING
EDUCATION** within 6 months
of commencement

81% of Class of 2022 is represented in this outcome



EMPLOYMENT SECTORS

Healthcare 41%
Business Services 30%
**Education and
Community Impact 21%**
Other 5%
Tech/Analytics 3%

95% of graduates are pursuing **FULL-TIME OPPORTUNITIES IN THEIR CAREER FIELD OF INTEREST**

BACHELOR'S GRADUATES

28%

received a
Pell Grant

23%

are the first in their family to earn a college degree

21%

are students
of color

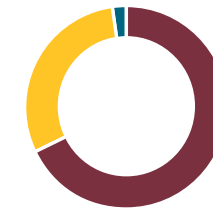
17%

are student-athletes

49%

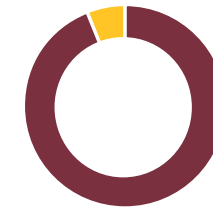
share one or more of the following identities: student of color, first generation, and/or Pell-eligible

DEGREE OUTCOMES



BACHELOR'S DEGREES

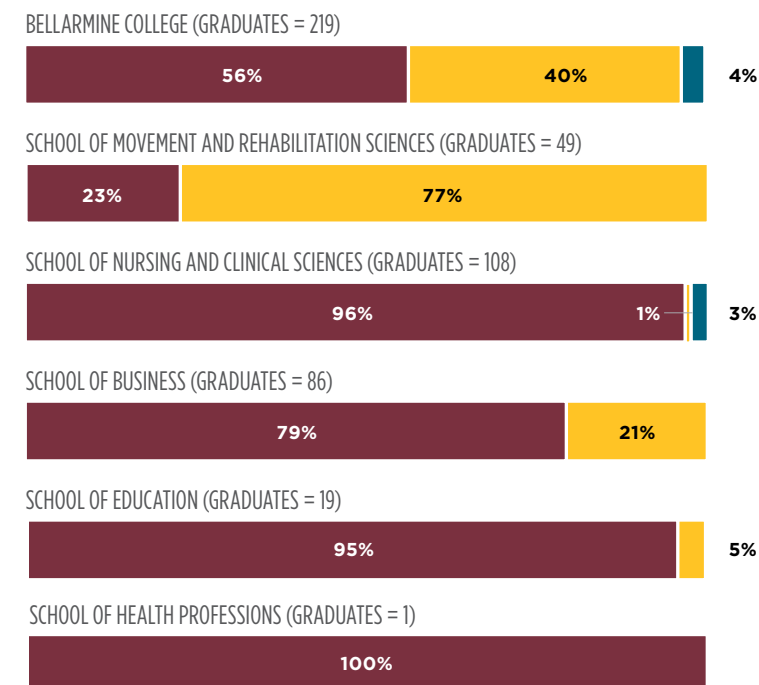
68% Working
30% Continuing Education
2% Still Looking



GRADUATE DEGREES
94% Working
6% Continuing Education

BACHELOR'S DEGREE OUTCOMES BY SCHOOL

Working • Continuing Education • Still Looking



**BACHELOR'S DEGREE STUDENTS
CONTINUING EDUCATION**

38%

of undergraduates continuing their education **CHOSE TO DO SO AT BELLARMINE UNIVERSITY.**

GRADUATE FIELDS OF STUDY



Healthcare 41%
Business Administration 20%
Social Sciences 17%
STEM 7%
Education 6%
Other 5%
Law 3%
Communication 1%



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Janice Baldon-Gutter

'87 MBA

DEI PROGRAM COORDINATOR,
SOUTHEAST ADA CENTER

Photo by Brendan J. Sullivan



QUESTION & ANSWER

By Carla Carlton

JANICE BALDON-GUTTER IS COMMITTED to making sure that everyone has equal opportunities.

In February 2022, she became the coordinator for the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Program for the Kentucky-based Southeast ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) Center, or SEADA. The SEADA Center is a project of the Burton Blatt Institute, a disability research, law and policy center at Syracuse University in Syracuse, New York.

“In this role I inform minorities, employers and employees, individuals and underserved communities about the ADA and the resources available from SEADA,” she said. “We also have a group called Serving Our Seniors dedicated to reaching out to aging populations. As we age, many people acquire a disability and are unaware that they may have protections under the ADA.”

She credits the MBA she earned at Bellarmine in 1987 with paving the way for advancement opportunities at DuPont Chemical Company in Louisville, where she worked for 30 years before joining the Burton Blatt Institute. She also has a Master’s in Human Resource Education from the University of Louisville and certifications from the Society for Human Resource Management and the Human Resources Certification Institute.

In addition to teaching Human Resources courses online for Purdue University Global, she is learning American Sign Language and revisiting the piano, having taken lessons as a child.

Bellarmine has become a family tradition: Baldon-Gutter’s great-niece, Alexandria Baldon, is currently majoring in Psychology and minoring in Criminal Justice and plans to graduate in May.

Baldon-Gutter couldn’t be happier. “Bellarmine’s MBA jumpstarted and helped maintain my career,” she said. “I am forever grateful and proud to be a graduate of Bellarmine University.”

What do you most enjoy about your job?

As an African-American female who is an active older adult with an acquired mobility disability, I am part of the intersectionality of race, age and disability. Working with the Southeast ADA Center has helped me merge my personal and professional passions. I am committed to community advocacy, social justice and equal opportunity for everyone. I am also interested in providing resources for caregivers and people with disabilities. And as a life-long learner, I get to increase my knowledge of disability law on a daily basis.

What are some of the most common rights that disabled people don’t realize they have?

Lack of knowledge about rights under federal laws such as the Americans with Disabilities Act 1990 and the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 in workplaces and communities. For example, many employees and individuals don’t have knowledge of workplace accommodations they may be entitled to or their right to privacy of their healthcare condition.


How can the disabled best advocate for themselves if they feel they are experiencing discrimination?

Use the computer and Google. It may sound simple, but it works! Network and learn about agencies and community organizations within your city or state. Contact local libraries and local city government offices and ask for help. In Metro Louisville government there is the Department of Aging and Disability Services–Resilience. Almost every city or state has a similar office. The Southeast ADA center serves eight southeast states (Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North and South Carolina and Tennessee) but also has nine other regional centers. You can contact us at adasoutheast@syr.edu to be connected to your regional ADA center.

What are some things that everyone can do to make the world more inclusive for the disabled?

Be considerate and respectful. Remember, disabilities can happen to anyone (you, your loved ones) at any age, for any reason, and at any time in life. Remember also that disabilities include both physical and mental. Also, provide equal opportunities and accommodation to everyone in the workplace and community. It is about diversity, equity and inclusion. Most accommodations in the workplace cost \$500 or less and are paid for with tax dollars in the community.

Was your Bellarmine experience a factor in your great-niece’s decision to become a Knight?

Bellarmine’s outreach to minority students and expanding diversity, equity and inclusion, along with her parents’ and grandmother’s research, were the major factors in her college-going decision. She had other offers, but the family wanted her to remain close. My sharing and their knowledge of my positive experience was icing on the Bellarmine hilltop! 

HOW TO BECOME AN URBAN FARMER

By Von Barnes



FROM THE EXPERT

URBAN FARMING HAS BECOME increasingly popular across the country, and Louisville is no exception. With a population of over 1 million living in an area of just under 400 square miles, it's easy to see why urban farmers are turning their backyards into micro-farms. Starting an urban farm in your space can be both rewarding and challenging; however, with some careful planning you can create a thriving source of fresh produce for yourself, family and neighbors.

There are two routes to consider before taking the leap: commercial or hobby. Do you want to sell at the farmers market and have a lot of customers? If your answer is yes, I recommend you get your farm number, which is provided free of cost from your local Farm Service Agency office (FSA). With a farm number, you will be able to tap into USDA grants and funds to help grow your urban farm operation. Keep in mind, you will also have to file a Schedule F with your taxes at the end of the season.

If you want to farm as a hobby, the first step toward starting your backyard farm is to decide how big you want to go and what kind of crops you want to grow. Louisville is in hardiness Zone 7a, which means our growing season is roughly from April 8 until October 30. Your options include both fruits and vegetables. Tomatoes, peppers and squash, as well as herbs such as basil, oregano and rosemary thrive in the mild climate conditions found here.

You will also need adequate space for growing these items, which could mean raised beds or containers if you don't have enough room for planting directly into the earth. If you decide to grow directly in your soil, it is always recommended to get a free soil test from the Jefferson County Cooperative Extension office to ensure your soil is free from contaminants.

Chickens make great additions to the backyard homestead as well. Not only do they provide eggs, but they also help fertilize soil naturally while eating pests that may otherwise harm other plants grown near them. With proper planning, chickens can do a lot of the ground maintenance to keep you from doing weeding and soil amending.

Once everything is set up, it is time to tend your garden regularly by watering plants when needed and waiting for the harvest. Be sure to keep good records on what you are planting and how much you yield. This will help you realize how much you should or should not do in all the years to come. You can also consider bartering with your neighbors. It is always good to have a few extra hands for the harvest and there is nothing sweeter than having a volunteer staff of happy neighbors. Reap the rewards of starting your own urban farm today! **BL**

TEDxBellarminoU

Von Barnes spoke at Bellarmine's fifth annual TEDxBellarminoU event on Feb. 3. View his and the six other TEDx talks at <https://tinyurl.com/TEDxBellarminoU23>.

Emmy Ammirati, Senior Lead Tutor, Writing, Smarthinking, Pearson Education: "I Think I Got My Degrees Just So I Can Raise My Children"

Ammirati has a bachelor's in art history and a master's in teaching with a concentration in learning disabilities. At Pearson Education, she tutors writing skills and helps develop new programming.

Dr. Nwando Anyaoku, Chief Health Equity Officer, Providence Swedish Health Services: "Inviting Diverse Stories into Medicine"

Anyaoku received her medical degree from the University of Nigeria and completed her residency at the Children's Hospital of New Jersey. She has master's degrees in public health and business administration.

Bridget Bard, Assistant Director of Louisville Melton: "Here I Am: Rediscovering the First Female Rabbi"

Bard is a growing presence in the Jewish community of Louisville through her work with Louisville Melton, a branch of the Florence Melton School of Adult Jewish Learning.

Gino Castillo, Educator and Clinician Percussionist, Composer, Singer: "The Cuban Jazz Experience"

Castillo, an Afro-Cuban jazz percussionist, leads and sings for the Cuban Cowboys, an international group based in Charleston, South Carolina.

Laura Formentini, Author, Non-Profit Photographer, Activist: "Love in Action"

Formentini, an activist for child welfare and the prevention of cruelty to animals, created an animal sanctuary and is establishing a sanctuary for mothers who have lost children.

Dr. Brittany Gentry, Co-Clinical Director of the Trauma Informed Counseling Center and Founder of Trauma Education & Advocacy: "The Untold Narratives of Labeled Youth"

Gentry provides therapeutic services for children, adolescents and families, but her passion is working with adolescents involved in the juvenile-justice system.



Von Barnes moved to Louisville from Central Florida, where he had learned about growing root vegetables and native tropical fruits. While in Florida, he earned a bachelor's in mass communication with a minor in marketing and electronic music. After spending a little over a decade in multimedia production at the University of Louisville, he turned his passion for gardening and husbandry into Kentuckiana Backyard Farms. His urban farm focuses on food production and distribution, wellness and education, and agritourism. Currently, he is on the Food in Neighborhoods Steering Committee and Jefferson County Ag Development Board. Additionally, Barnes works with Community Farm Alliance as producer and host of the "Blacker Berries" podcast series. Learn more at www.KentuckianaBF.com.



Douglas Miller, master artist and masterful teacher

By Harry Rothgerber '69

Photo by Brendan J. Sullivan

SECRET LIFE OF ADJUNCTS

IF CREATIVITY IS CONTAGIOUS, then Bellarmine art students are fortunate to study under Douglas Miller, a professional artist whose drawings are exhibited in galleries, businesses and homes across the region and country. Miller, an adjunct art faculty professor, has taught at BU for five years while maintaining a notable presence in the local art community.

“Douglas came highly recommended as a recent MFA graduate when we were looking for new drawing and painting faculty,” said Sarah Martin, chair of Bellarmine’s Art Department. “Luckily, he is a master at both.”

“His paintings are alive and full of care. They are astonishing in person,” she said. “I love getting lost in the detail of his large-scale images; I find them remarkable. It’s evident that he labored over each eye, bird wing, and moving stream.”

Growing up in Evansville, Indiana, Miller became interested in art and artmaking at a very young age; he then became obsessed with drawing.

“I found an aptitude for drawing and painting and those skillsets became a passion, or maybe the passion drove the proficiency,” he said. “Being encouraged by my parents and teachers really helped me focus on art and galvanized my fascinations.”

He attended the internationally renowned Ringling College of Art in Florida for several years. He planned to finish his BFA at the Art Institute of Chicago with a scholarship, but his plans changed as he moved, eventually stopping in Louisville 22 years ago. “In total, it took me 13 years to get my Bachelor of Fine Arts degree,” he recalled. “Stay in school, kids!”

Education has been a major influence in his family—his mom, dad, stepdad and sister are all teachers. “After I earned my master’s degree,” he said, “I knew I wanted to teach at the college level.”

In 2016, he received the Al Smith Individual Artist Fellowship from the Kentucky Arts Council and National Endowment for the Arts. “I used the funding to enhance my career by acquiring materials, traveling to exhibitions and exploring other mediums such as printmaking,” he said.

Miller is currently teaching Drawing II, Painting II, III, and IV, and Advanced Drawing. He has also taught Drawing I, Painting I, Figure Drawing I and II, 2D Design and Art Concepts.

“What is most meaningful to me is when students are engaged in the lessons and find an uncommon solution to some of the visual problems that we explore—it happens almost daily, and that is exciting!” he said “Also, it means a lot when students reach out to me after graduating to let me know how

As a college student, you more than likely learned from adjuncts—the highly specialized faculty who teach one or two classes per semester. The university couldn’t function without them. But did you ever stop to wonder what they were doing when they weren’t at Bellarmine?

transformative our drawing class was.”

“I’ve heard students say that they didn’t believe they had a talent for drawing or painting until they had Douglas as a professor,” Martin said. “He has a way of bringing out the best in his students—he expects much, but there is always a huge payoff for the students who work hard in his class.”

In reviewing Miller’s teaching, a past student commented: “I’ve been taking art classes my entire life, but I have never once had a teacher explain concepts the way he did—suddenly things clicked in my mind and he actually explained techniques in ways that made sense to me... He is one of those teachers I will never forget and [who] will have a lifelong impact on me.”

Miller regularly displays drawings at Louisville’s Edenside Gallery and other local venues. “I am a professional artist, so I’m very familiar with the ‘real world’ of art and design,” he said. “Most of my income is from exhibitions, commissions and illustration projects, so I know all too well the challenges of maintaining a business in the arts.”

Miller and his wife, a clinical psychologist, have been married for 16 years and live in the Highlands with their 13-year-old daughter.

When he’s not painting, he listens to his large collection of albums, writes songs or does Leonard Cohen impersonations on his baritone ukulele. “Additionally, I like to write strange little short stories and read science books,” he said.

He donates artwork to causes such as the Kentucky Humane Society and has also been involved in the Future is Now project of the Louisville Visual Arts Association, a mentoring project between artists and high school students.

When asked if he could really paint with his feet, as shown on his Facebook page, he responded, “I can! But all the paintings are terrible.” 🐾

IN AN INCREASINGLY COMPLEX WORLD,
WHAT IS THE REAL

VALUE of a COLLEGE EDUCATION?

By Justin D. Klassen, Ph.D.



‘The issue isn’t that asking a university for specialized training in a marketable major is asking too much. The truth is we should demand a lot more.’

GOING TO COLLEGE in the United States is expensive, not only because many universities have taken on extraneous expenses, but because a significant portion of the overall cost of education is borne directly by individual students and their families. One consequence of this arrangement is that higher education functions as a luxury rather than an equally accessible public good. Another is that even those who can afford an education are tempted to measure its value in reductive ways.

On the one hand, this is understandable. If a degree is going to deplete my bank account so drastically, then it had better pay me back, pronto. There is a compelling clarity to this logic, which is why some commentators and elected officials suggest that a university’s only legitimate role in society is to provide focused training attached to guaranteed employment. The same voices dismiss the value of learning that does not fit into this tidy equation, e.g., disciplines and programs that do not align directly with specific job qualifications in trending industries. Many college administrators seem to be persuaded, given the trend of cutting traditional liberal arts majors while emphasizing “degrees that pay.”

Unfortunately, this understandable response to the high cost of a degree is also self-defeating. That is to say, the more we discredit the intrinsic and transformative value of education, beyond its credentialing function, the less it will appear worthy of additional public investment. It is certainly fair to ask what a degree is worth, as many prospective students and their parents do every spring. But there are better ways to answer the question.

We ought to begin by reminding ourselves that anyone who promises a clear path to a guaranteed future return is lying. The world has never been that simple, and its complexity is even more pronounced in today’s economy. Many

students who are presently in college will get jobs in fields that did not even exist when they began their degrees. Most of them can expect to have several different careers over the course of their lives. So the issue isn’t that asking a university for specialized training in a marketable major is asking too much. The truth is we should demand a lot more.

Contrary to the popular consensus, the real and lasting value of a college education in a complex and dynamic world is and always has been rooted in the adaptability of broad, interdisciplinary learning. Narrow training prepares us well for success in domains where we can expect predictable repetition. These domains exist, but they are relatively rare. For the most part, life comes at us without barriers against uncertainty or moral complexity. This is not to say that life is sinister, just that it is too wild and wonderful for any single lens to capture. To live well in such a world takes more than training. It requires an openness to learning for its own sake.

David Epstein’s recent book, *Range: Why Generalists Triumph in a Specialized World*, offers illuminating examples of people who flourish in life and work precisely because they are open to learning beyond a single domain. They know that in an unpredictable world, you can’t decide beforehand what is worth knowing and what isn’t, and that worthwhile discoveries often arise from unexpected connections across disciplines. No wonder, then, he writes, that “compared to other scientists, Nobel laureates are at least twenty-two times more likely to partake as an amateur actor, dancer, magician, or other type of performer.”

We often hear that we can either treat education as a means to a lucrative credential, or we can learn for the sake of learning and end up over-educated and aimless. These Nobel laureates—and many others, including a surprising number of CEOs with liberal

arts degrees—show us that the truth is nearly the other way around. They succeed not in spite of their breadth, but because of it.

It is precisely when we value education intrinsically that it becomes the most useful tool—no mere expiring credential, but a lifelong practice of being flexible, inquisitive and morally discerning in a complex and ever-changing world. This is why many colleges require students in any major to learn subjects like ethics, literature and religion, along with social and natural sciences—not because they don’t care enough about their students’ success, but because they see them as full human persons, who like all of us are called to live wisely and well in community with others.

Let us therefore abandon the cynicism that would force us to choose between learning for its own sake and learning for success. The real world throws curve balls, both in terms of market needs and in terms of unexpected life events. That world needs the kind of people who can face inevitable uncertainty with creativity and moral imagination, who can approach complex problems like climate change with both scientific literacy and spiritual sensitivity. More than docile workers, we need people who can navigate all manner of relationships with a working knowledge of human psychology and a few cherished examples from art and literature of the transcendent joys of friendship.

And employers need them too. Younger business leaders especially say that creative thinking, empathy, leadership and civic engagement are very important skills in college graduates. They need people, in short, who are not just well trained but “good at being human” (Herbert McCabe). That’s the real ticket to thriving in work and life, and it is also the real promise of a college education. Don’t ask for anything less. ■

Dr. Justin D. Klassen is associate professor of Theology & Religious Studies and chair of Integrated Studies at Bellarmine University.

Armed with words

A veteran and a poet, Lindsay Gargotto fights to give military-affiliated students a voice

By Carla Carlton

Photos by Brendan J. Sullivan

*A classy woman with tattoos
You say
I am a hybrid*

*You do not know
my stories*

*Each pain.
Each triumph
Each realization*

The cover ups

*Each outline
Each fill-in
Each shading*

*Each thread
to my skin
The beginnings
The endings
that never started*

AMONG THE COLORFUL TATTOOS that adorn Lindsay Gargotto's forearms is a drawing of Athena, the Greek goddess of war and wisdom. "I love that she is about resolving conflict, but always ready to stand up for what is needed," she says.

That's also an apt description for Gargotto, a U.S. Air Force veteran and gifted poet who directs Bellarmine's Office of Military and Veteran Services (OMVS). She is talented in both areas; at various times she has been named Veteran of the Year and Author of the Year.

But mainly she uses her knowledge of war and her way with words to advocate for the growing number of Bellarmine students with ties to the armed forces. Under her watch, Bellarmine landed a highly competitive \$390,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Education to create a Center of Excellence for Veteran Student Success and last year received the prestigious "Military Friendly" designation, the highest such distinction a university can earn.

Gargotto is also an adjunct professor whose literature courses at Bellarmine spotlight the sharing of life stories, particularly those focused on the complexity of trauma.

"In my writing courses, we talk a lot about voice and visibility," she says. "While we have our particular stories, all these have some kind of connection—the feelings of being disenfranchised or being voiceless or undervalued. Those are things that we can collectively embrace and grow from."

Gargotto has helped others learn to tell their stories throughout her career. But before she could do that, she had to find her own voice.

'Woman of the Wild'

Gargotto, a Kentucky native, joined the Air Force in 2000, just before she turned 20. "I had been taking some community college courses, and I really liked college, but I couldn't afford it," she says. "I had a friend who had gone into the Air Force, and I thought, 'Well, if she can go into the military, I can go.'"

"It was the idea of getting to travel, having health care, having a job. I was an X-ray tech, so I got a really good job, a skill. And then it was a place to live, and education benefits, and meeting new people. I thought, 'If I don't do something now, I could be stuck here just doing the same thing for the rest of my life.' And I didn't want that."

She trained at the Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio, Texas, and was then stationed at Elmendorf Air Force Base in Anchorage, Alaska, for three years. Alaska was "mystical," she says, but it was also isolating. "I had my first daughter there, and I was alone," she says. "I had a lot of support from my military sisters, but it wasn't the same as having your mom and your aunts around you."

That daughter, Kyleigh, is now a sophomore Environmental Science major at Bellarmine; younger daughter Kady is a student at Ballard High School.

At nine months pregnant with her first child, Gargotto encountered a moose and her calf on the Alaskan base—an experience she captured later in a poem called "Woman of the Wild":

*I was walking into the hospital
around a dark corner. It was December.
It was always dark. I had no idea
they were there, a mother and calf—
bigger than horses,
things of mountain myths.
I was a solid mark for her.
I remember the briefing they gave us,
"mothers will kill without hesitation."
It was a narrow space between me and the baby.
The mother a few feet away.
She looked up, all eyes and head—
and charged me. No hesitation. All fight.
I screamed,
and went to my knees, cradling my baby.
We both had the same fear.*

*She stopped, only a foot or two away.
I could feel her grassy breath on top
of my head. I stayed with head down,
knees to the concrete, and she and her
baby walked away—together.*

*I kneeled on the concrete in the blackness
on my skinned knees murmuring
to my baby that I had saved our lives,
that I loved her. I would always protect her.
Even in Alaska, even from the wild.*

*But I am still not sure
which one of us
was the wild beast.*

After leaving active duty in 2004 and moving back to Kentucky, Gargotto used her military benefits to earn a bachelor’s degree in women’s and gender studies from the University of Louisville. She then earned a Master of Social Work and a Master of Fine Arts in Writing from Spalding University. She counseled military families at U of L’s Center for Promoting Resiliency & Recovery and mentored young women at the Home of the Innocents and Our Lady of Peace.

In the intervening years, she wondered where all the other women veterans were. At Veterans Administration events, “I’d be the only woman in the room,” she says, “and then they always thought I was the spouse, not the veteran.”

So in 2014, she founded Athena’s Sisters, an organization that provides resources and social interaction for active and former military women that has more than 200 members. She also created and edits WarrioHer and tHE ART of Sisterhood, publications containing the poetry, essays and artwork of military women.

Several art pieces made by veteran women decorate her colorfully chaotic office, which is also stuffed with books. One depicts a military boot filled with flowers, reflecting the signature table decoration for Athena’s Sisters events. A Navy vet crafted the organization’s logo in stained glass. “I’ve met a lot of amazing, talented women over the years that, you know, nobody was paying any attention to them,” she says.

In recognition of her efforts, Gargotto was named the first-ever woman Veteran of the Year in 2014 during the City of Louisville’s Week of Valor.

It’s important for women veterans to control their narratives, she says. And yet she never intended for her first collection of poetry to be published.

‘Words are her method and means’

While going through a tough personal time, Gargotto wrote one poem a day for 30 days “to see if I was getting better,” she says. The poems were “uncensored, unedited—just bare bones. But I shared them with a friend of mine who is a writer, an editor and an illustrator. And she said, ‘Can I just play with these?’”

That friend, Bree, founded and operates Green Panda Press, which publishes hand-made books by independent poets and artists. Gargotto’s poems and Bree’s collage-style illustrations became *When the Poppy Sheds: Poems of Recovery*, published in 2017.

“Lindsay is a survivor,” Bree said in an email. “Words are her method and means. The proof is in the poetry....She inspired me to cut and paste like we do memories. My collages support her columns of words that hold her head up to speak loud and clear: Love thyself.”



*Dreams have watermarks,
traceable, detectable –
each inexplicably marked.
Every dream
has lines and edges.
I have one dream for most nights,
and two dreams for lonely nights.
I wait for the edgeless nights,
where the lines cannot find me.*

Gargotto was happy with the book, but she didn’t promote it; the poems came from a place of vulnerability and she feared the judgment of readers. Then another friend submitted the book to the Appalachian Arts & Entertainment Awards—and Gargotto was named the 2022 Author of the Year.

A volume of poems related to her time in the service, *An Unbridled Cadence: A Bluegrass WarrioHer*, followed in 2019, and last year she published *When the Ashes Bloom*.

In 2017, Gargotto met Dr. Rick Brown, a former U.S. Air Force staff sergeant who was directing Bellarmine’s nascent veteran services initiative, and he recruited her to teach part time. When the Office of Military and Veterans Services was created in 2018, Gargotto became a part-time administrator, then full-time assistant director. When Brown departed for another position, she was named director.

In its short existence, the OMVS has increased military-

affiliated student enrollment by 85 percent, and retention has been high. That’s partly due to the Valor Learning Community, which Gargotto created with part of the federal grant. It’s the first military-affiliated learning community for first-year and transfer students in Kentucky.

The Valor Learning Community includes the same components as the five other Bellarmine learning communities, such as taking classes together, participating in programming that aligns with classes, getting support and guidance from faculty, and gaining peer mentorship.

One of those classes is an English course taught by Gargotto in which students examine the writing of veterans from the first World War through contemporary times. “It’s not a political class,” she says. “We do not discuss war in any way, shape or form. It’s not about ‘Do we think war is right or wrong.’ We might discuss what we think the author is saying about it, but we’re not discuss-



Lindsay Gargotto speaks at the Office of Military and Veteran Services’ inaugural Bellarmine Goes Gonzo Festival in 2022. The festival, which celebrates the work of Louisville native and Air Force veteran Hunter S. Thompson, includes Gonzo journalism writing contests for students and faculty/staff.

ing it. We’re critiquing for the writing, like any literature class.

“I try to make sure the class understands that yes, we are using the identities of ‘veteran’ and ‘military’ in this course, but you can apply it across any identity.”

“Lindsay is always advocating for veteran rights and pushes all of us to find and use our voices for what we believe in, even if she doesn’t necessarily share our view,” says Ben Porter, who retired from the Navy in 2018 after 21 years of service and is majoring in Psychology and Sociology/Anthropology with a minor in Art. He chose Bellarmine after his positive experience on campus as a Navy recruiter.

“When I first met Lindsay, I knew that I didn’t like the man that I was, and I didn’t know who I wanted to become. I had a voice in the Navy with my leadership roles and experience, but I had become institutionalized and carried a ton of emotional trauma

and baggage around with me everywhere I went,” he says. “I knew that I had to dump that junk and start fresh as the person I wanted to become, and Lindsay was always in my corner as I began to unpack everything.”

Her ability to listen is one of her greatest strengths, he says. “There have been situations over the years when I needed somebody to just listen to what I was going through. When working with vets, that is extremely important, and Lindsay gets it. She gets us because she is one of us.”

Porter will graduate from Bellarmine in May. Last May, 40 military-affiliated students received Bellarmine degrees, the largest number in university history.

Making that journey with military students is extremely rewarding, Gargotto says. “The military education benefit gets way under-utilized, because it’s not just about sitting in a classroom. There are so many other things that have to be in place to make us successful. Most of us have families, or we’re dealing with medical or other issues or just working jobs. So it’s great to be able to create these policies and work with faculty and staff to help them understand these unique barriers.

“It’s important that our students have a presence and a space here, and a voice. We haven’t really had that before.”

*Will you love me still if I become you
Believing you could mold me
into something else
A possession*

I know this story

*You want that girl only if she was like this
and like this and like this
And such*

*A heathen you took
out of Appalachia you said
Can’t take me to civilization, you said
for a cigarette butt on the road*

*Celebration is forbidden
Idle time is forbidden
Law breaking is fine if you say it is
You have rules rules rules
for everything.*


And you say you’re not indoctrinated

*You tell me stories
stories (the same stories)
stories
Then you ask me a question
Then you interrupt and tell another story
How you fixed this. fixed that fixed someone’s life*

You shhh me Order for me Tell me what not to order

*I find myself conforming
To you I have been trained this way
Way too long
I bend
I mold
Because of fear
Not love
Being with you feels like judgement day everyday
Not love*

*Family traditions and past do excuse you
And such*

I make my story not you 

The Office of Military and Veteran Services provides:

- VA and military benefit counseling and enrollment
- Specialized semester orientations
- Military/veteran student-specific programming, such as lunch-and-learns and peer mentors
- A dedicated lounge and study space
- Advocacy on campus for policy changes, such as priority registration and Military Absence Policy
- A Registered Student Organization and Learning Community
- A Center of Excellence for Veteran Student Success

Visit <https://www.bellarmino.edu/office-of-military-and-veteran-services/> for more information.



Sawyer Bivin celebrates his graduation in 2022.

Poetry in order of appearance: “Illustrated Woman,” *When the Ashes Bloom* (2022); “Woman of the Wild,” *An Unbridled Cadence: A Bluegrass WarrioHer* (2019); “The Night’s Edge,” *When the Poppy Sheds: Poems of Recovery* (2017); “Suffocating Directions,” *When the Ashes Bloom*

BELLARMINE MAGAZINE BOOK CLUB

The *Seven Storey* Goldmine The extraordinary success of Thomas Merton's autobiography

By Paul M. Pearson, Ph.D.

ROBERT GIROUX, ONE OF THE GREAT American editors of the second half of the twentieth century, edited works by 10 Nobel Prize winners, including Hermann Hesse, T.S. Eliot, Pablo Neruda, Isaac Bashevis Singer, Derek Walcott, William Golding and Seamus Heaney, along with five books that won the Pulitzer Prize and 10 books that won the National Book Award. Yet, the best-selling book of Giroux's career won none of these awards and was a most unexpected success.

The Seven Storey Mountain first appeared in print in America in October 1948, seven years after its author, Thomas Merton, had entered the Trappist monastery of Our Lady of Gethsemani in rural Kentucky on Dec. 10, 1941.

In the years before Merton entered Gethsemani, he had worked very hard to get his name into print, sending his poetry to a variety of literary magazines and his novels to a number of publishers, though he seems to have been more successful in reviewing books for newspapers, with 11 of his reviews

appearing in The New York Times Book Review and The New York Herald Tribune Book Review between May 1938 and the beginning of 1940.

On entering Gethsemani Merton did not expect to continue writing but was encouraged by his spiritual director to continue writing poetry. Even while Merton was still a novice, his abbot, Dom Frederic Dunne, encouraged him to undertake some translations and biographies of Trappist saints, along with some works about Cistercian life, so as to spread knowledge about the order in the United States, to encourage vocations, and to generate some income for a desperately poor monastery.

The grave financial issues the monastery faced were evident in an interview with Naomi Burton, Merton's literary agent, where she recalled that the publisher, Harcourt Brace, advanced the monastery \$1,000 on Merton's autobiography as they were in such terrible financial straits. Similarly, in a letter to Raymond Flanagan from October 1948, Merton wrote of the providence

of God getting "the book published just when Rev. Father needs dough."

Ultimately the abbot both allowed and encouraged Merton to write his autobiography. With the publication of *The Seven Storey Mountain*, Merton paradoxically achieved the bestseller status that he had yearned for before his entry to the monastery but had not at that stage achieved.

Merton's writing of *The Seven Storey Mountain* is not out of character; its novelty would lie in its emanation from Trappist silence, its phenomenal success, and the book's mass-market appeal. Time magazine, in early 1949, reported that people were reading and discussing the book "from the sedate lending libraries of New England to the bustling women's clubs of the West Coast."

'A GENERAL HALLUCINATION'

An autobiography is frequently the work of an older person who believes they have accomplished the major work of their life and is then reflecting on their life from a position of retirement, often with death approaching.

When Merton was writing *The Seven Storey Mountain* in 1946, he was in his early thirties, just eight years after his reception into the Catholic Church and only five years since his joining Gethsemani. Yet he obviously felt his life as a monk gave him a perspective on his life, a standpoint from which to look back at it.

Dante's *Divine Comedy* provided *The Seven Storey Mountain* with not just its title but with its allegorical form as well. Merton's autobiography, as with all the other journals, books and volumes of poetry that he saw through to publication in his own lifetime, is both carefully and highly structured, following the structure and mythological framework of The Divine Comedy.

The Seven Storey Mountain is divided into three parts, each mirroring the hell, purgatory and heaven of Dante's book, and Merton tells his story in the form of Dante's famous journey, the journey from hell through purgatory to paradise,

an ascending journey moving from the "unreal city" incarnated for Merton in Cambridge, London, and New York to the paradise of the cloister at Gethsemani, "the real capital of the country."

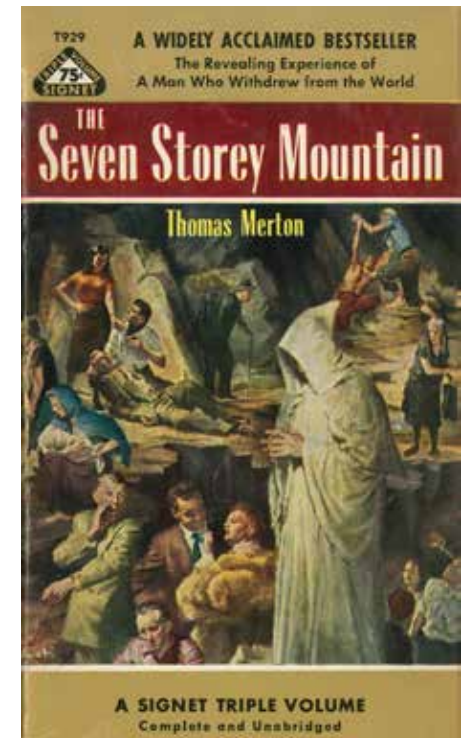
Although later in his life Merton disowned his autobiography as no longer belonging to him, he made no attempt to revise it. In the mid-Sixties, at the request of a local high school student, Merton compiled a graph evaluating his books. Even though he says that his autobiography had "created a general hallucination," and turned him into "a Catholic myth for children in parochial schools," he still rates it as one of his "better" books, the highest rating he gives to any of the books he wrote. Thus, in Merton's reckoning as well as in his reader's perception of the book, it remains quintessential to the Merton canon.

PUBLISHING THE MOUNTAIN

In numerous presentations and interviews over the years, Robert Giroux has spoken about his work of editing *The Seven Storey Mountain* and the extraordinary success of the book. As already mentioned, Merton had submitted other manuscripts for publication prior to his entry to Gethsemani in 1941 and had used the services of Naomi Burton who, at this time, was working for the Curtis Brown Literary Agency.

His pre-monastic novels, all semiautobiographical, had found their way into the hands of Giroux, who was working at Harcourt Brace. Giroux, like Merton, a graduate of Columbia University, had edited The Columbia Review and his first contact with Merton was when Merton submitted essays to The Review.

It is in a March 1946 letter to James Laughlin, the founder of New Directions and the publisher two years earlier of Merton's first book, *Thirty Poems*, that Merton's earliest extant reference to *The Seven Storey Mountain* occurs: "Rev. Father just okayed a new project—creative, more or less poetic prose, autobiographical in its essence" which,



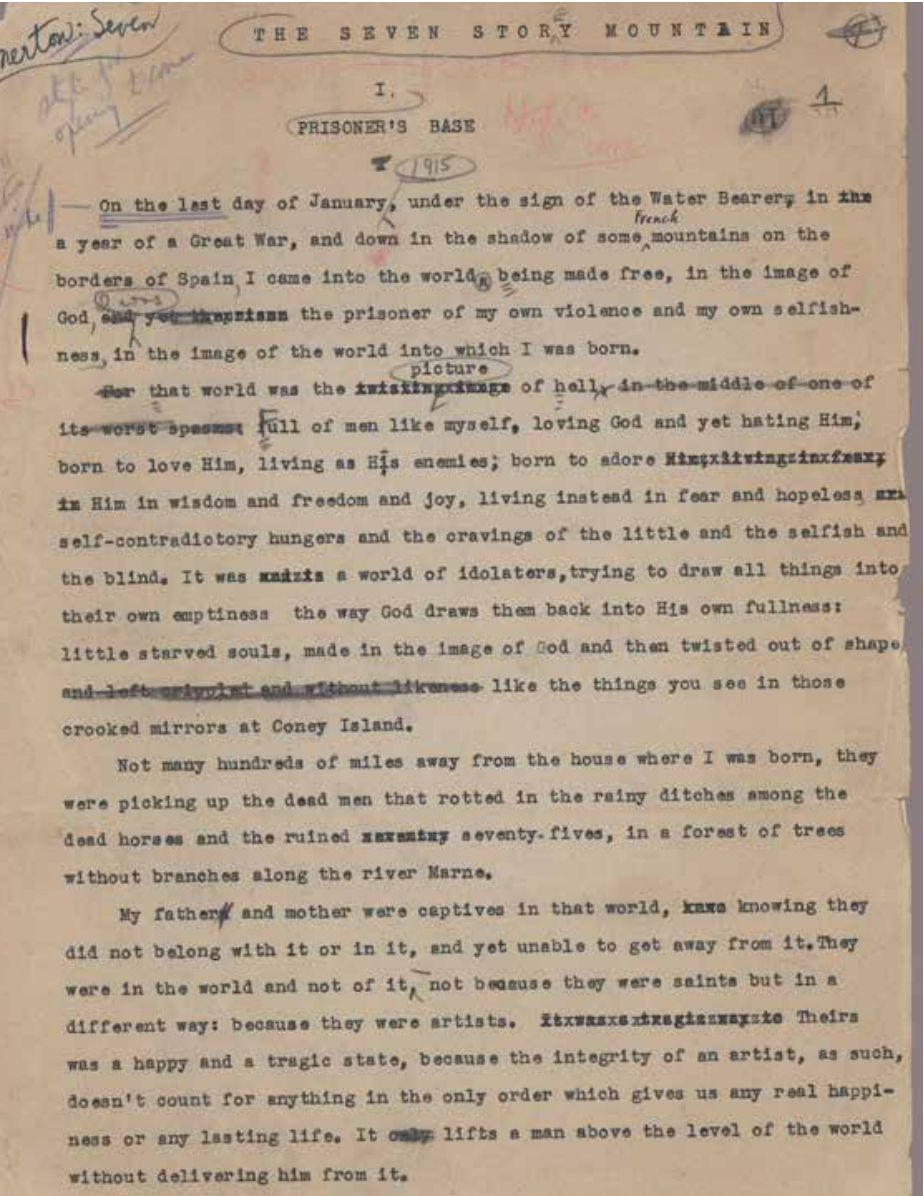
Merton writes, had "been brewing for a long, long time."

Merton suggests that he would like to "keep it down to about one hundred and fifty pages." However, five months later he would write to Laughlin again, saying that it had now grown to over 650 pages, turning into the mountain suggested by the title. Merton eventually mailed the manuscript to Burton on Oct. 21, 1946, though it would not be forwarded to Robert Giroux until mid-December.

Laughlin recalls that the manuscript of *The Seven Storey Mountain* was also sent to him, but that he delayed looking at it as he was departing on a skiing trip. This was probably providential for Merton; it would have been very unlikely that the book would have become the success it did if it had been published by New Directions, as the press lacked the vigor and reputation of Harcourt Brace, along with its sales and marketing capability.

After receiving the manuscript, Giroux read it immediately and recommended its publication to Donald Brace. It was an unusual title to be published by a trade

The year 2023 marks the 75th anniversary of the publication of The Seven Storey Mountain. —Editor



house at that time as, according to Burton, Catholic authors as a rule were published by Catholic publishers with one major exception: Graham Greene. Giroux’s recollection of his conversation with Donald Brace, his senior editor and founding partner of Harcourt, Brace and Company, clearly demonstrated the unexpected nature of *The Seven Storey Mountain*’s success. Giroux recalled:

I told Mr. Brace this was a manuscript by a former classmate of mine and that it was about his conversion to Catholicism and his going into a Trappist monastery, he

said, ‘you really like it?’ And I said, ‘yes, it’s really very readable.’ ... he said ... ‘You don’t think it will lose any money if we publish it, do you?’ And I said, ‘I really don’t think we’ll lose any money, but whether we’ll make any is problematic.’

On Dec. 29, 1946, Giroux sent a telegram to the monastery saying simply: “Manuscript accepted. Happy New Year.” Merton obviously agreed with Giroux that his autobiography would not make a great deal of money, writing to Raymond Flanagan, a fellow monk and author, in October 1948: “It won’t make enough

dough to build even one wing of a Quonset [hut] monastery, but it may help.”

In preparation for taking his solemn vows at the monastery on March 19, 1947, Merton completed his will, which was signed and witnessed on Feb. 17, 1947, solemnly swearing to “give and bequeath” to the Abbey of Gethsemani “all my estate both real and personal which I at present possess and also any estate both real and personal to which I may have any right, title, interest, or claim hereafter.”

Later the very same day, Merton would return to the abbot’s office to sign the contract for *The Seven Storey Mountain*.

MOUNTING SALES

Initially the planned print run was 5,000 copies, which would have been the break-even point for the publisher. Yet, before its publication date, October 4, 1948, the print run had been upped significantly. The main impetus for this was Giroux’s decision to send galley proofs to four people he considered to be the most important readers of this book: Evelyn Waugh, Graham Greene, Clair Booth Luce and Bishop Fulton Sheen. All four responded quickly and positively. The book had also been adopted by three Catholic book clubs, leading to the print run being upped to 20,000.

In its first year in print, *The Seven Storey Mountain* sold more than 600,000 copies in hardback. Bookstores would telephone the publisher, according to Naomi Burton, questioning the whereabouts of their orders only to find out the books had already been both delivered and sold.

To celebrate the publication of the 100,000th copy, Burton told one interviewer that she went with Giroux to Giovanni’s Restaurant where they had seven-layer chocolate cake to celebrate. After Merton’s ordination to the priesthood on May 26, 1949, Giroux presented him with a specially bound and engraved copy, the 200,000th copy to come off the press.

Initially the book didn’t appear on The New York Times’ bestseller list, as many of the bookstores reporting the sales on which the list was based did not include “religious books” and certainly not “Catholic books.” Harcourt Brace therefore took out a full-page advertisement in The New York Times challenging its bestseller list and *The Seven Storey Mountain*’s position on it.

The book entered the list on Dec. 19, 1948, and was continually on the best-seller list for every single week of 1949 and on into 1950. Although it spent many weeks at No. 2 on the list it never made the top slot.

Upon its publication in May 1949, Merton’s *Seeds of Contemplation*, published by New Directions, appeared briefly on the list, and then in the fall of 1949 *The Waters of Siloe*, also published by Harcourt Brace, entered the list and remained there for the remainder of the year, frequently sharing a neighboring position with *The Seven Storey Mountain*.

Merton’s prominence on the best-seller list led the renowned New York Times book reviewer, Charles Poore, to have one of his characters quip in a Dec.



31, 1949, story that “the 10 outstanding books of the 1950s... will mostly be written by Thomas Merton.”

WHY WAS *THE SEVEN STOREY MOUNTAIN* SO SUCCESSFUL?

We can get some idea of the reasons for the phenomenal success of *The Seven Storey Mountain* from the advertisements Harcourt Brace was taking out promoting the book, asking “Why are these two bestsellers—*The Seven Storey Mountain* and *The Waters of Siloe*—the most talked about books in America?” Their advertisements suggested, based on reviews, that:

- they take account of our deep spiritual hunger;
- thousands of us want to know why men become monks and what it is like to live inside a monastery;
- they are fascinating reading.

Those suggestions are all certainly valid but, with hindsight, other more important reasons can be added. Certainly the quality of the author’s writing was important, but perhaps more important was the period in which the book was published, a factor of timing that neither Merton nor Giroux could have truly anticipated. James Laughlin, speaking of this aspect, said:

The *Seven Storey Mountain* has something to say that people were at that moment in our social history ready to hear. It presented an answer to spiritual problems that many people, particularly young people who were upset by the way things were going in the country, who were upset by the threat of the atomic holocaust and all the rest of it. They wanted to hear that and they liked the way Merton put it, so simple and direct.

Reflecting many years later, Giroux would say that the book owed its success

to three things: It appeared “at a time of disillusion, following the Second World War, when another war—the Cold War—had started and the public was ready for a change from disillusion and cynicism.” Secondly, Merton’s story was unusual: “An articulate young man with an interesting background leaves the world and withdraws into a monastery.” And thirdly, it was well written, “a tale well told, with liveliness and eloquence.” This combination of the “right subject at the right time presented in the right way,” according to Giroux, “accounts for a good part of the book’s success.”

As succeeding generations have continued to struggle to find meaning in the face of issues and problems, Merton could never have imagined that his autobiography would continue to offer a countercultural option, an alternative, spiritual approach to living.

As one reviewer of the 50th anniversary edition of his autobiography wrote, Merton “transformed the tale of the Prodigal Son into a literary thriller—jazzed up, powerfully narrated, and as impossible to put down now as it must have been a half-century ago.” The book has remained continually in print and has been translated into more than 20 languages, with new translations still being made.

The questions Merton struggled over about the meaning and purpose of life face each new generation, and his story of a man who had embraced all that this world had to offer, who had worked his way through his own problems and had successfully come out the other side, has, as Graham Greene suggested, “a pattern and meaning valid for all of us” in the 21st century, 75 years after the book was first published. ■

Dr. Paul M. Pearson is director of the Thomas Merton Center at Bellarmine University and chief of research for the Merton Legacy Trust. He is resident secretary of the International Thomas Merton Society and served as its 10th president. This article was excerpted from The Catholic Library Association’s Catholic Library World, Vol. 87, No. 3, which was published in March 2017.



Students from Dr. Jon Blandford and Dr. Megan Burnett's Honors classes worked in partnership with Mighty Oak Academy, an independent preparatory academy for grades K-8 in Louisville's Portland neighborhood.

BUILDING CONNECTIONS

New office grows the number of classes featuring mutually beneficial community engagement

By Niki King

IN THE FALL SEMESTER OF 2022, first-year Nursing major Daniela Clements took an English 101 class with Dr. John Wieland that went far beyond writing essays.

She was required to complete eight hours of community engagement with Nativity Academy at Saint Boniface, a Catholic middle school in Louisville that serves low-income students. She observed classes there, shared her academic experiences with students and volunteered for a family event. Her class assignments were tied to those hands-on experiences, too, as she was asked to think critically about the socio-economic factors that influence Nativity's work, journal her observations and write a research paper.

Daniela said that volunteering was intimidating at first, but she came to appreciate the opportunity to learn about the school and make connections.

"I got to see how close all of the teachers, staff and students were," she said. "I cannot put into words the amount of care and compassion this school has for their students."

Classes like Dr. Wieland's that integrate community engagement into their lesson plans have increased at Bellarmine since the university launched its Center for

Community Engagement in 2020. The center offers centralized support to faculty in developing mutually beneficial community partnerships and community engagement opportunities.

"The purpose of our office is to help actualize the Bellarmine vision to 'forge new and mutually beneficial partnerships and provide a distinctive and transformative student experience,'" said Dr. Elizabeth "Liz" Todd Byron, the center's director. "To truly institutionalize community engagement, we make sure that it is a part of both the curricular and co-curricular areas of the university. At Bellarmine, we have a history of community engagement and campus members who believe in the work, so our office is here to support, highlight and expand the good work being done."

The center consults with faculty members who are interested in integrating community engagement or community topics into a course they already teach or would like to propose.

The center also partnered with the Faculty Development Center to host a Community of Practice on Community Engagement. Co-chaired by two faculty members, the Community of Practice meets monthly for a lunch-and-learn session. Every other month, community partners join for a meal and open dialogue on community needs and mutually beneficial practices.

"Through our Community of Practice, Bellarmine faculty share current curricular work with community, build interdisciplinary and collaborative efforts across the university and expand partnerships with local nonprofit organizations," Byron said.

The center has also developed a guide that outlines resources available for faculty as they develop such opportunities for their students.

Numerous courses have featured community engagement with the center's help, including eight in the fall of 2022. For example, Dr. Martha Carlson Mazur's Environmental Science course partnered with Catholic Charities' Common Earth Gardens and Dr. Gabri Warren's Community Nursing course collaborated

with Seven Counties Services, a system of mental health and addiction recovery facilities. This semester, Dr. Courtney Keim's Organizational Behavior and Leadership course is working with Metro Louisville's Department of Economic Development.

To develop his English class, Wieland approached the center and learned from Byron that Bellarmine had a historic relationship with Nativity Academy. They visited the school and worked on the details of the partnership with school administrators.

"Liz was fabulous to work with and provided support every step of the way," Wieland said.


The goal, he said, was for students to reflect after each hour of community engagement and consider how broader systemic and structural forces influence Nativity. The experience gave the students real-world experiences, issues, topics and themes to consider and write about.

He said his students all responded well to the partnership. "In reviewing the experience at the end of the course, my students reported a high level of satisfaction and didn't suggest any major changes to our format."

Erik L. Benvie, a student studying Design, Arts and Technology with an Art focus, said the class helped him understand how financial struggles can impact students' lives.

"There is one big thing I would like to share about the experience: It opened my eyes to just how great those kids are," he said.

Teachers at Nativity were impressed with Bellarmine students as well, saying they'd love to host more of them in the future.

"The Nativity counselor reported that some of the Bellarmine students went above the expectations for engagement and did a fantastic job of connecting with Nativity students," Wieland said. "She hoped that some of the students would continue to volunteer during their time at Bellarmine." 



'We have a history of community engagement and campus members who believe in the work.'
– Dr. Elizabeth "Liz" Todd Byron, director of Bellarmine's Center for Community Engagement



2023 ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME

By Carla Carlton

FOUR OUTSTANDING former cross country/track and field athletes. Two members of the 2011 NCAA Division II national champion men’s basketball team. The softball team’s only All-American. The career leader in points and goals for women’s soccer. The baseball pitcher with the most-ever strikeouts. The top goalkeeper in lacrosse history.

All entered the Bellarmine University Athletic Hall of Fame in a ceremony held in Frazier Hall on March 25.

Three of these exceptional athletes are playing sports at the professional level; another went pro only to have an injury switch his career path to physical therapy. Several have coached their sports, either professionally or as an avocation. Others work in healthcare or own businesses.

These Knights are still winners, on and off the field.

All of them say their Bellarmine experiences helped to shape them and continue to resonate in their lives.

“I never questioned my belonging at BU and recognized early on that I was somewhere special,” says softball standout Ally Foster ’16. “Looking back almost eight years later, I recall Bellarmine as a safe environment that pushed me, but gave me the space and resources I needed to open my mind to understand who I was as an individual and where I could go next.”

The Bellarmine University Athletic Hall of Fame was founded in 1977 to honor individuals who distinguished themselves and the university in the field of intercollegiate athletics. Turn the page to learn more about this year’s inductees.

ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME LEGEND: THE LATE JACK McGETRICK, who helped found Bellarmine’s Division I lacrosse program in 2004 and was head coach from 2005 through 2010, was inducted as a Legend. McGetrick died of cancer in October 2010. His 45 career wins at Bellarmine remain a program record.





ALLY FOSTER '16 SOFTBALL

Then: Foster was the program's lone All-American, in 2014 and 2016; 2014 GLVC Player of the Year; a four-time All-Region selection; and holds either the all-time or top 5 record in nearly every hitting and pitching category at Bellarmine.

Now: Recruiter in Human Resources for L&N Federal Credit Union in Louisville; coached Bluegrass Adrenaline, a travel softball team, for three years.

"My Bellarmine experience gave me the opportunity to grow personally and professionally, and I am proud to have a Bellarmine education to accompany me as I take on new adventures in my career."



EMILY FRITH '15 CROSS COUNTRY/TRACK AND FIELD

Then: Frith was a two-time cross country All-American (2012 and 2014), delivering in 2014 the top NCAA Championships finish in Bellarmine history (fourth). She was also a two-time GLVC XC Runner of the Year, a GLVC XC Freshman of the Year and a two-time outdoor track and field All-American (5,000 and 10,000).

Now: As a Human Factors scientist with Exponent Inc. in Bellevue, Washington, she examines relationships between movement, memory and creative problem-solving and their impact on human performance and safety across consumer and occupational contexts. She still enjoys running and hiking.

"My Bellarmine experience opened so many doors for me, academically and athletically. The best moments of my collegiate experience came to fruition because so many people at Bellarmine supported and believed in me, taught me to expect more from myself and invested time in my development. Becoming a Knight was one of the best decisions I ever made."



The Spiveys and son Cohen

MARY BETH GORHAM SPIVEY '17 SOCCER

Then: A forward on the pitch, Gorham Spivey was a first-team All-American and GLVC Offensive Player of the Year in 2015, GLVC Freshman of the Year in 2013 and a four-time All-Region selection, while being women's soccer's career leader in points (103) and goals scored (43).

Now: She, her father and brother run the Little Caesars franchise in Lexington. Husband Tate Spivey, who played soccer at Transylvania University, runs a soccer-training business and owns a carpet-cleaning franchise in Louisville.

"Bellarmine will always hold a special place in my heart because it was where I learned about who I am, who I wanted to be and how to treat others around me."



Jason Hapner, Angela Hapner Musk and daughter Maeve

ANGELA HAPNER MUSK '14 CROSS COUNTRY/TRACK AND FIELD

Then: Musk was an All-American and GLVC Runner of the Year in cross country in 2012; in 2013, she was GLVC Indoor Track Athlete of the Year and an All-American in the outdoor 1500. She captured six GLVC titles in her career, including five in individual events.

Now: Musk is in her seventh season as the head coach of Bellarmine women's cross country and her fourth as head coach for women's track and field and was named GLVC Coach of the year for cross country in 2017. She continued her own athletic career after graduation and competed in the 2019 ITU World Triathlon in Lausanne, Switzerland, where she placed 18th overall for her age division and sixth for the United States. Her run segment of the race was the fastest for her age division. Despite a recent diagnosis with a Glioblastoma brain tumor, she has continued to be a mentor and advocate for her athletes while undergoing surgery, chemotherapy and radiation. Her commitment to the sport is exceeded only by her commitment to her family, no matter what challenges arise.



Hobbs with wife Sadie and children Haven, Cormic and Benson

BRAYDON HOBBS '12 BASKETBALL

Then: Guard Hobbs is Bellarmine Athletics' lone National Player of the Year, earning the recognition in 2012, when he was also named GLVC Player of the Year for men's basketball. He is also the only Bellarmine athlete to have his jersey retired. He was a two-time All-American (2011 and 2012) and the 2009 GLVC Freshman of the Year and helped lead the Knights to the 2011 NCAA Division II National Championship.

Now: Living in Braunschweig, Germany, he is point guard/shooting guard for the professional team Basketball Löwen Braunschweig (Basketball Lions Braunschweig). In his 11-year professional career he has also played in Australia, Spain and Hungary.

"Not only did Coach Scott Davenport make me a better basketball player, but he prepared me for the real world as well. He understood that his job was not restricted directly to what happened on the court, but to polish us for what life could throw at us. The experiences and lessons from those four years will stick with me forever."



Meghan and her husband, Zack, live in Okolona with their dog, cat and axolotl

MEGHAN JONES SMITH '15 TRACK AND FIELD

Then: Sprinter Jones was a three-time All-American and three-time GLVC Track Athlete of the Year. She earned 11 All-Region laurels and was a 13-time GLVC champion, including seven individual titles.

Now: Jones is senior hematology technologist at Norton Audubon, where she began her career as a medical lab scientist.

"I often still think back to my time at Bellarmine and my track career. Track was a part of my life for many years, starting in fourth grade, and it was hard closing that door when I graduated. Receiving the news that I was being inducted into the Athletic Hall of Fame brought back all those memories. I feel incredibly honored to be recognized and am even more proud to be a Bellarmine Knight."



Kendle, wife Nadia and twins Tekoa Ace and Izzakin Joshua

JEREMY KENDLE '12 BASKETBALL

Then: The men's basketball guard was a two-time All-American (2011 and 2012) and the 2011 GLVC Player of the Year. He was the top scorer on the 2011 NCAA Division II National Championship team and ranks fifth all time in career points (1,792).

Now: In his 11th year as a pro basketball player, Kendle is currently a point guard/shooting guard for the Southland Sharks of the New Zealand National Basketball League. He has also played in Morocco, Switzerland and Australia. He lives in Brisbane, where he and his wife, Nadia, have operated a skill development coaching and mentorship business called Jeremy Kendle Basketball and a ministry called Hoops for Christ Australia since 2018.

"My Bellarmine experience shaped me personally and professionally for the better. I learned how important it is to do life with like-minded people who strive for excellence in all they do. The leadership at BU is the reason I and many other graduates are able to have successful careers and more importantly live significant lives that serve other people."



Chris Striegel and wife Ashley, who is attending the police academy for the Oldham County Police Department

CHRIS STRIEGEL '18 CROSS COUNTRY/TRACK AND FIELD

Then: Striegel was a three-time All-American in cross country (2015-17) and was the 2016 GLVC Runner of the Year. He holds the program records for the 8k and 10k, the indoor 5,000 and the outdoor 5,000 and 10,000.

Now: He's an analyst at the Rawlings Company, a health insurance agency in La Grange, Kentucky. In May 2022 he married Ashley Reyna-Padilla '20, another track and field alum. His brother, Josh Striegel, is a first-year student on Bellarmine's cross country/track & field team.

"My experience at Bellarmine has had a huge impact on my life. I obviously met my wife at Bellarmine, but some of my best friends too. We have been in each other's weddings and still get in runs together and hang out on the weekends. The degree I have was also hugely important in finding a job that I love."



Michael Thompson and wife Suzanne

MICHAEL THOMPSON '09/'11 DPT BASEBALL

Then: Thompson was the GLVC Pitcher of the Year in 2009, the consensus Midwest Region Pitcher of the Year and an All-American. He is the program's career leader in strikeouts (342).

Now: Following graduation in 2009, Thompson was drafted by the St. Louis Cardinals, but an injury ended his professional baseball career. "Luckily, I had an excellent career path in Physical Therapy because of Bellarmine University," he said. He returned, finished his doctorate and started a PT practice, HomeLife Therapy. He helps coach his daughter's softball team and his son's coach-pitch baseball team and has run three marathons, including two Boston Marathons.

"Bellarmine University helped shape me into the person I am today. I gained many life experiences both as a student and an athlete that continue to help me in my personal and professional life on a daily basis."



DILLON WARD '14 LACROSSE

Then: Ward was an All-American (the program's first) and the ECAC Goalie of the Year in 2013 at Bellarmine and continues to hold every major goalkeeping record in program history.

Now: Now playing professional lacrosse for the Colorado Mammoth, he was selected third in the 2013 National Lacrosse League draft, becoming the first goaltender to be drafted in the top three since 1999. [BU](#)



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THE ALUMNI CORNER

BELLARMINE MEANS BUSINESS



Jon Rupp '13 MBA The Pie Guy, Kern's Kitchen

Kern's Kitchen has been baking Derby-Pie® chocolate nut pies since Jon Rupp's great-grandparents invented the pie while managing the now-closed Melrose Inn in 1954 and still uses the same secret recipe today. Jon wears many hats, as Kern's remains a small business. He could be talking to a kitchen manager of a mom-and-pop restaurant one minute and a retail category manager who manages \$1 billion in business the next. He could be working on long-term strategy or boxing pies if production needs help. To

encapsulate his broad scope of responsibility, he made up his own title: The Pie Guy.

How did your Bellarmine education help prepare you for what you are doing today?

My Bellarmine MBA helped me prepare for where I am today by providing a broader set of skills to analyze our business as it has been and where it needs to go. It also assisted me in building a much more focused approach on the financial side without losing the personal approach we take with our customers and employees.

What advice do you have for those interested in pursuing your profession or industry?

For me, it's all about having authentic, real relationships with customers, suppliers and co-workers. Immerse yourself in your chosen industry, become a resource, and provide value to others.

What career accomplishments are you most proud of?

I'm most proud of taking my great-grandmother's recipe for pecan pie from her original recipe box (the same recipe box that had Derby-Pie® in it) and bringing it to market. It is currently sold right beside Derby-Pie® in Kroger and on our website. Also, working every day with my dad over the last 14-plus years, while challenging, has been extremely rewarding and has provided a lifetime of memories I will cherish.

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BUmeansbusiness](https://alumni.bellarmino.edu/BUmeansbusiness)*

KNIGHTLY NEWS

Update your information

Add the Alumni Association to your spring-cleaning to-do list. Update or confirm your contact information and stay connected to your alma mater at alumni.bellarmino.edu.

Join the Bellarmine Parents Circle

Learn more about the Parents Circle! Benefits include:

- Invitation to two events annually
- Reserved seating at your student's graduation
- Meeting other BU parents

For more information, contact Tami Fitzgerald at 502.272.8338 or tfitzgerald@bellarmine.edu.

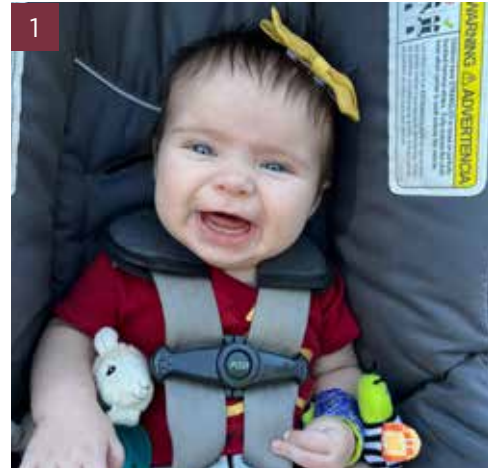
Calling all veteran alumni

Knight: Are you a veteran? Let us know! Our Office of Military & Veteran Services is doing great things, and we want you involved. Email alumni@bellarmine.edu with your service information.



Future Knights of Bellarmine

Knights arrive every day! One day soon, these children born to proud Bellarmine grads may also be wearing Scarlet and Silver. Send us a photo of your Future Knight! Fill out a class note at alumni.bellarmino.edu/BUclassnotes.



1. Rachel Oldham '17 and her husband, Tyler, welcomed their second child, Jordyn Rose, into the family last June. Keep an eye out to see if she follows in mom's footsteps and becomes a member of the BU softball team one day!

2. Allison Riggs Kerstein '11 and **Kevin Kerstein '12** welcomed their second child, Keegan, in September 2022. He joins sister Josie.

3. Katie Knott '15 and **Logan Knott '15** welcomed their first child, Luka, on Sept. 16, 2022—Katie and Logan's sixth wedding anniversary!

4. Shelby Young '15/'17 DPT and her husband, Robert, welcomed their first child, Lucy, in June 2022.

5. Lynne Costello Peralta '16 and her husband, Ederd, recently welcomed a baby boy, Klay Thomas Peralta. They live and do ministry together in the Dominican Republic.

6. Matt Raque '10 and **Julie Atkins Raque '11/'13MAEd** welcomed daughter Addison Jane Raque on Dec. 6, 2022. She joins brothers Carter and Mason.

ALUMNI AUTHORS



Erin Keane '98

Runaway: Notes on the Myths That Made Me
(beltpublishing.com)

In 1970, Erin Keane's mother ran away from home for the first time. She was 13 years old. Over the next several years, and under two assumed identities, she hitchhiked her way across America, experiencing freedom, hardship and tragedy. At 15, she met a man in

New York City and married him. He was 36. Through a deft balance of journalistic digging, cultural criticism and poetic reimagining, Keane pieces together the true story of her mother's teenage years, questioning almost everything she's been told about her parents and their relationship. Along the way, she also considers how pop culture has kept similar narratives alive in her. At stake are some of the most profound questions we can ask ourselves: What's true? What gets remembered? Who gets to tell the stories that make us who we are?



Emily Mofield '01

A Teacher's Guide to Curriculum Design for Gifted and Advanced Learners: Advanced Content Models for Differentiating Curriculum
(amazon.com)

A Teacher's Guide to Curriculum Design for Gifted and Advanced Learners provides educators with models and strategies they can easily use to create appropriately complex differentiated lessons, questions, tasks

and projects. The book provides multiple examples of how to embed complexity within standards-based lessons. Definitions of widely used terms, such as depth, complexity and abstractness, are explained and linked to models within specific content areas to support common understanding and application of schoolwide differentiation strategies. *Vertical Differentiation for Gifted, Advanced, and High-Potential Students*



In *Vertical Differentiation for Gifted, Advanced, and High-Potential Students*, Mofield outlines 25 engaging tools and strategies to stretch student thinking, promote deep learning and provide layers of challenge in the classroom and beyond. This book is essential reading for educators looking to support and extend student thinking across content areas and grade levels.



A Bellarmine love story

Kyle Laferty '17 and **Anna Flowers '17** met at Bellarmine in the spring semester of 2014. They were both in the Nursing program. After graduating together, the couple became engaged during the summer of 2018. By the fall of 2019, Kyle and Anna were married. In the spring of 2021, they traveled to Hawaii for their honeymoon, and that fall, the couple found out they were expecting their first child. Future Knight Oliver William was born in the spring of 2022.

"Over those eight years, a lot has changed," Kyle said. "My wife and I are both thankful to look back on our experiences at Bellarmine and are pleased to be a part of the Bellarmine family. Without BU, it's likely none of these amazing things in our lives would have happened. Go Knights!"

ARE YOU AN ALUMNI AUTHOR?

Let us know at www.alumni.bellarmino.edu/BUclassnotes. Please include your graduation year, a headshot, a photo of the book cover and a short blurb about the book.

Class Notes

Submit a class note about a change in employment, a recent career highlight or a new addition to your family!
Visit www.alumni.bellarmine.edu/BUclassnotes

1960s

Harry Rothgerber '69 was invited by the University of Louisville to serve on the Grawemeyer Presidential Selection Committee, the final stage of the selection process for the 2023 Grawemeyer Award for Ideas Improving World Order. The World Order Award is one of five Grawemeyer Awards conferred each year and, at \$100,000, is the largest monetary award in the fields of political science and international relations.

1980s

Rick Carrico '81 was named chief financial officer of Baptist Health.

Jose Cubero '82 was elected mayor of Shepherdsville in November 2022.

Dr. Tim Swenson '84/'88 MBA was appointed president of Sullivan University in September 2022.

Barry Fields '88, vice chair of the Bellarmine Board of Trustees, was recently elected to the University of Chicago Board of Trustees.

David Burianek '89 MBA was named president of nFuzion Healthcare in August 2022.

1990s

Susan Cozad '90, a three-time survivor of three different kinds of cancer, started Cancer Chic Boutique to help cancer patients and their families in need. She creates handmade

jewelry and adornments that are sold through small business retailers with 100 percent of proceeds going to the non-profit DragonBoat Beaufort in Beaufort, S.C.

Lisa Gunterman '90 received a ROSE Award from Louisville Tourism for serving as an LGBTQ+ ambassador.

Annette Karem '90 MBA was elected Jefferson County judge in the Court of Appeals 4th District, 2nd Division.

Jack Banbury '91 MBA was named a 2022 WLKY Bell Award recipient.

Jennifer Bedoyan '91 finished a two-year term as president of the Fresno County Women's Chamber of Commerce in California and was honored with the 2022 Tillie Award for her excellence and outstanding service to the organization.

Rick Fears '91 left Humana after 11 years to become Legato Financial Group's Medicare Advisor in June 2022.

Christine Ward '91 was reelected as circuit judge of Family Court 30th Judicial Circuit, 6th Division.

David Cox '93 MBA currently serves as president of the Arby's Foundation Board of Trustees/Inspire Brands Foundation, which supports children's causes and works to overcome food insecurity.

Kathryn Giles '93 MBA was

named by Schmidt Associates as the new business development representative for the firm's Louisville office.

Joe Hamilton '95 joined Machinify Inc. as a senior sentinel developer in April 2022.

Matt Kamer '95 co-purchased marketing communications agency Bandy Carroll Hellige in Louisville, renaming it BCH Agency.

Erin Burke '96 won the University of Chicago Outstanding Educator Award for her work at Sacred Heart Academy.

Kathy Spangler '96/'21 DNP was named #VeteranOfTheDay by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. Kathy served as a nurse in Afghanistan, caring for American soldiers and Afghan citizens. She is now the director of Fort Belvoir Community Hospital in Virginia after retiring from military work in 2021.

Col. Russell Stewart '96 accepted a position with the United States Senate as the assistant sergeant of arms for operations, security, emergency preparedness and continuity of operations.

David Brooking '98 was promoted to director of procurement at Winland Foods.

2000s

Karen Cassidy '00 was

Alumni to Know in Accounting

Four Bellarmine alumni were recently selected by Louisville Business First as among the Top 20 People to Know in Accounting in 2023:

- **Kourtney Nett '00/'01 MBA**, assurance partner and risk advisory services team leader at MCM CPAs & Advisors LLP
- **John Thomas '00/'01 MBA**, vice president, controller of BrightSpring Health Services Inc.
- **Larry Schwartz '01/'02 MBA**, Louisville office managing partner at KPMG LLP
- **Alyssa Ackerman '15**, a partner at Ackerman CPAs

honored as the Sacred Heart Academy Alumna of the Year.

Carol Coke '00 is an image consultant with The House of Colour, helping people find their best colors, clothing styles and fits.

Brennen Lawrence '02 MBA was appointed chief revenue officer of Axes.ai, a world-class fintech company present in 40 countries that is based in Atlanta, Georgia.

Krista Rumage '03 recently completed her Ph.D. in General

Psychology with an emphasis in Cognition and Instruction from Grand Canyon University. She is currently a psychology adjunct with JCTC, ECTC and WKU.

Robbie Tindall '04/'12 MBA was named vice president, Provider Process and Network Operations, at Humana.

Megan Eikenberry '06/'07 DPT is a physical therapy faculty member at Midwestern University in Phoenix, Arizona. She was recently awarded tenure and an academic promotion and has been a physical therapist at the Mayo Clinic in Arizona since 2009.

Travis Howell '06 was promoted to executive director of the Davison Chamber of Commerce in Davison, Michigan.

Alex Campbell '07/'12 MBA was named vice president, senior banking officer for Republic Bank.

Daniel B. Elliott '07 was elected to the Kentucky House of Representatives, serving District 54.

Emily Carroll '08 completed two years as production supervisor for the new FX show *Welcome to Wrexham*, starring Ryan Reynolds and Rob McElhenney, in Wales.

Jennifer Chappell '09 was elected to Louisville Metro Council representing District 15.

Dr. Terra Greenwell '09 was named chief academic officer at Jefferson County Public Schools.

Haja Jallow-Konrat '09

founded Caring Behavioral Services, a company with the mission to serve individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, in 2020.

2010s

Josh Miller '11 was honored with a 2022 Nonprofit Visionary Leader Award from Louisville Business First for his work as co-founder + CEO at IDEAS xLab.

Sam Sorsa '11 MBA was named chief financial officer for Barrell Craft Spirits (BCS).

Arielle Clark '13, owner and founder of Sis Got Tea, was featured as one of Louisville Business First's People to Know: Pride! She also recently signed a lease for Sis Got Tea's first physical location.

Celeste Flores '13 was chosen to be part of the 2023 Illinois Women Institute for Leadership Training Academy Class.

Dr. Alex Perez '13 was appointed to the active medical staff at Memorial Hospital and Health Care Center. Dr. Perez is a family medicine provider and will begin seeing patients at Memorial Hospital's Huntingburg Clinic in October 2022.

Billy Wersel '13 was a recipient of the Cincinnati Business Courier's Forty under 40 award.

Katie Tressel '14/'19 MAC married Brandon Recktenwald on Oct. 16, 2022.

Anthony Vega '14 was elected county clerk of Lake County, Illinois, becoming the first Latino and first LGBTQ+

person elected to a county-wide executive office in Lake County.

Virginia Zimlich '14/'17 DPT was promoted to RSM at Riverside Care and Rehab in Calhoun, Kentucky.

Monica Bischoff '15 was promoted to Terminal Generated Games product manager at the Kentucky Lottery Corp. in October 2022.

Kevin Rasp '15/'20 MBA joined Donan, a subsidiary of Alpine Intel, as Human Resources manager.

Alex Dilger '16 DPT works at MindBodyPhysio, treating patients with traditional physical therapy and Reiki therapy for deeper connectedness and healing in the emotional and trauma aspect of pain science.

Jennifer Clare Hartmann '16 and **Tucker Andrew Ciessau '17** were married on Oct. 7, 2022, at Churchill Downs.

Patrick Bailey '17 DPT was married in 2020 and became co-owner and clinic manager at ApexNetwork Physical Therapy, a physical therapy clinic that opened in January 2022 in Marana, Arizona.

Carol Finck '17 was named president of RISE Partners, an insurance and risk management company headquartered in Louisville.

Dalton O'Brien '17 DPT was named clinic director of the new ProRehab J-Town location in November 2021.

Samantha Schneider '17 was

recognized as one of the top-rated rural health nurse practitioners in South Carolina and Georgia.

Hanna Spoelker '17 recently started a new position as a trust administrative assistant with R.W. Baird Trust Co. She is also engaged to be married.

Lauren Batliner '18 earned a BSN from Bellarmine and has pursued a rewarding career in critical care. She reached her goal of becoming a flight nurse and accepted a job with Air Methods in June 2022.

Joe Drabot '18/'19 MBA and **Sarah Schuster '18/'20 MAEd** were married on July 9, 2022.

Bobbi Curry Gates '18 recently achieved her dream job: As a NICU nurse, she gets to care for the tiniest of miracles.

Taylor Hutchison '18 DPT married **Calli Paydo Hutchison '15/'18 DPT** and they welcomed first child Cade Hutchison in January 2022.

Nolan May '18/'22 DPT was married on June 18, 2022.

Erika Banta '19 finished physician assistant school and started a job as a hospitalist physician at Norton Audubon.

Hayley Fox '19/'21 MSN and **Joe Simon '19/'20 MBA** were married on Nov. 5, 2022.

Chris Smith '19/'22 Med joined Bellarmine's Student Activities Center as the new Student Activities coordinator in August 2022.

Bradley Washle '19 accepted a new position as the director of

THE ALUMNI CORNER

operations for the Bellarmine University Women's Basketball Team.

Julie Wilcox '19/'22 DPT is practicing physical therapy and is certified in dry needling and pelvic health.

Kathryn Wilson '19 DPT is engaged to classmate **Alex Ritchie '19 DPT**.

2020s

Lilly Caudill '20/'21 MAC and **Ryan Meyer '20** became engaged on Sept. 24, 2022.

Logan Clark '20 never thought that in a little over two years

during a global pandemic he would be where he is. Bellarmine didn't just prepare him for a career in operations management—it prepared him for life!

Hailee Bray Golden '20 and **Philip Golden '20** were married on June 18, 2022.

Axel Halvarson '20/'22 MAC was named assistant director of Athletics Communication, Social and Digital Media at Bellarmine University.

Molly Jett '20/'20 MSDM moved back to Louisville to become a reporter/multimedia journalist for WDRB.

Maddie (Wise) Moseley '20 and Tim Moseley were married on Sept. 17, 2022.

Elizabeth Seewer '20 DPT is working on her Ph.D. and was admitted to candidacy. She has now finished all but her dissertation and is very close to her second doctorate!

Danielle Morrison '21 DPT created a traveler PT position with Encompass Health.

Raven Naquin '21 DPT married **Matthew Powell '19/'21 DPT** and they are expecting a future Knight and PT alum baby in April 2023.

Lauren Siler '21 DPT was married on Nov. 5, 2022.

Justin Wiech '21 DPT married Victoria Von Busch on June 25, 2022.

Chauntasia Bender '22 DPT was married on Aug. 27, 2022.

Dustin McMahan '22 DPT was married in June 2022, one month after graduating PT school.

Crystal Small '22 was married during the summer of 2022 and started medical school in August.

SAVE *the* DATE

ALUMNI WEEKEND

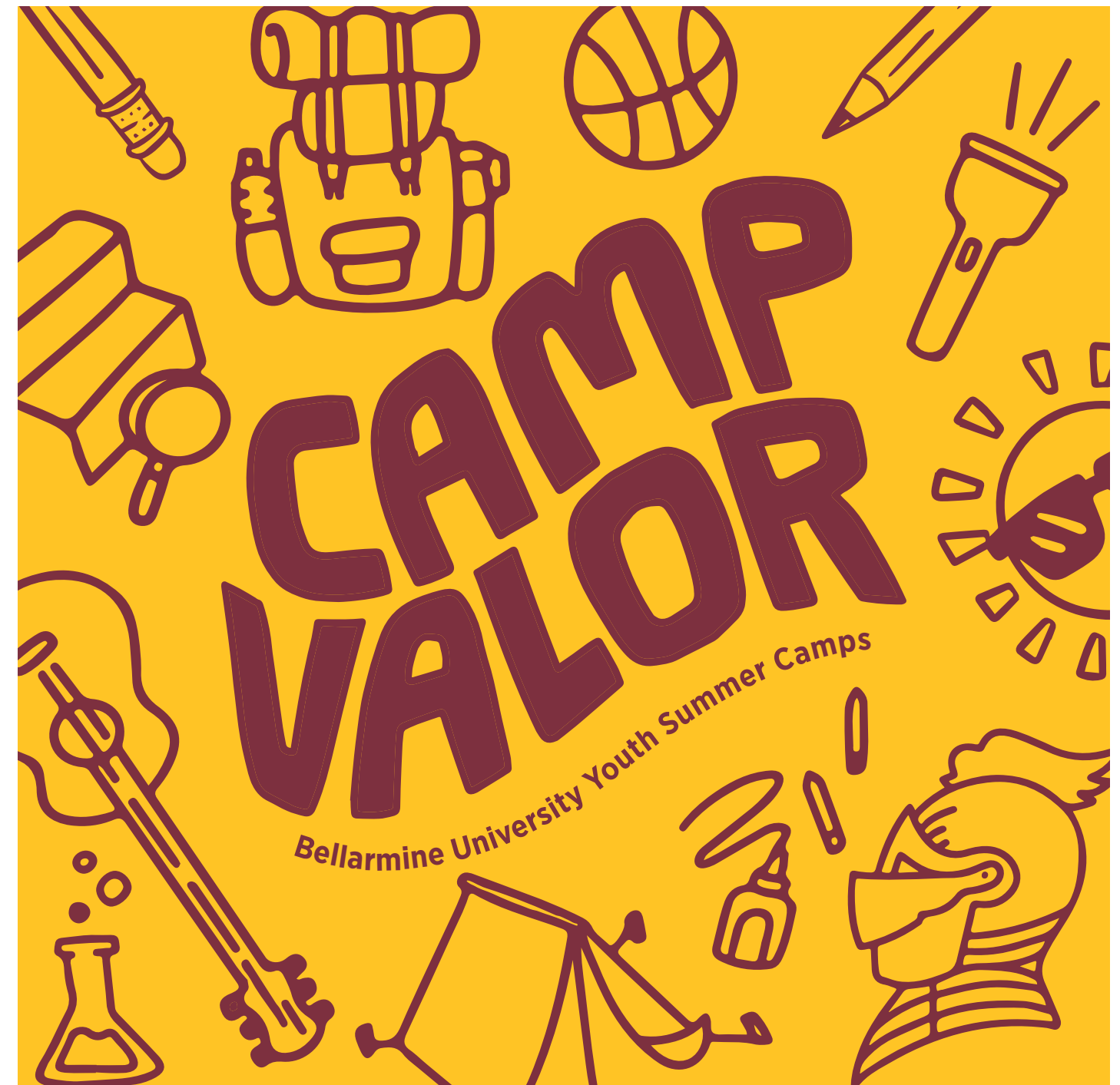
2023!

Alumni Weekend, Bellarmine's annual reunion celebration and salute to graduates, will take place Sept. 8-10, 2023. This year, we toast the **Classes of 1973 (50th Reunion), 1983 (40th Reunion), 1998 (25th Reunion) and 2013 (10th Reunion)**.

Join us for a weekend of fun and fellowship as we celebrate milestone reunions and champion the transformational Bellarmine experience!

Learn more at alumni.bellarmino.edu.



JOIN CAMP VALOR 2023!

Camp Valor will offer more than 100 camp sessions on Bellarmine's campus from June 5-July 28 for Mini Knights (Pre-K through second grade), Junior Knights (third grade to eighth grade) and Squires (high school).

Subjects include drama, archery, comedy improv, coding, stop-motion movie making and more!

Camp tuition covers all materials as well as a Camp Valor T-shirt, water bottle and stickers. Lunch at our University Dining Hall can be added.

Register today at bellarmine.edu/camp-valor

In God's house there are many rooms

In *Fratelli Tutti* [a papal letter sent to all bishops of the Catholic Church], Pope Francis calls readers to consider our world carefully. He comments on social, political and spiritual subjects in language accessible to both professionally trained theologians and to laypeople. I connected the encyclical to my own education and work, focusing on how they were underpinned by the 1965 Vatican II document on interfaith work, *Nostra Aetate* [In Our Time].

In considering *Fratelli Tutti*, I was reminded of my formation decades earlier. In Louisiana, I worked with the National Conference of Christians and Jews and with Catholic campus ministry. As I entered graduate school in Kentucky and my first career in the museum field, my commitment to *Nostra Aetate* affected my everyday relationships with organizations and people of all faiths. I was a member of several Jewish-Catholic dialogue groups. Later, as a teaching counselor, I collaborated with Hindu, Buddhist and Muslim families in the school where I taught, especially when there were critical events, such as untimely deaths, that required my interfaith awareness and counseling skills.

I brought these interfaith experiences to my ministry at Bellarmine and felt anchored in *Nostra Aetate* with a statement that became my guidepost for ministry: “We cannot truly pray to God the (Parent) of all if we treat any people as other than sisters and brothers, for all are created in God’s image.” This quote also is reflected in the tone and themes of *Fratelli Tutti* and in the title of my article, which referred to Jesus’ words in John 14:2, “in my Father’s house, there are many rooms.” It was at the core of our ministry on campus. As Fr. Ron Knott, a former campus minister, used to say, our office was “consciously Christian, deliberately Catholic, and unapologetically ecumenical and interfaith.” Our office motto was, “Many Faiths; One Ministry.” All were welcome, people of all faiths and none.

Having these themes of family and hospitality in mind, I considered how *Fratelli Tutti* affirmed our ministry programs and explained the context of that ministry with an introduction to the rich history of Bellarmine that I saw reflected in Francis’ words. With gratitude for Fr. Clyde Crews’ Bellarmine history *In Veritatis Amore*, I highlighted our original statement of purpose: “The College does not accept the notion that a school’s responsibility is to teach students simply to fit into the society

in which they live. It submits that students must be taught to evaluate this society and to exercise their trained human powers to change it whenever necessary.”

From Bellarmine’s earliest days, human rights were our focus. Civil-rights activism was encouraged even as our first president, Msgr. Alfred Horrigan, admitted the challenge of displeasing donors with his decisions in favor of social justice. Such commitment remains in our present, with our continued care of Thomas Merton’s legacy and his call to anchor our true selves in the work of God’s justice. The role of teaching individuals to help transform society and of creating a fair world must remain at the core of our mission as a viable Catholic institution.

I used vignettes from our programs to illustrate the six sections of *Fratelli Tutti*. In our moves toward conscious mission integration and interfaith work, we answered Pope Francis’ invitation to be a “culture of encounter.” We did not merely talk about the gospel; we imitated Jesus inviting all to be with us in our ministry. In turn, we were invited to facilitate conversations across the curriculum, from the first and last core courses to Physical Therapy and Communications, with both undergraduates and graduates.

These frequent invitations brought us out of the campus ministry office into the academic side of campus. They reinforced our mission, which is depicted in the Holy Family relief in Our Lady of the Woods Chapel, to assist our students’ growth in “wisdom, age and grace” (Luke 2:52) or mind, body and spirit.

Not unlike Msgr. Horrigan, we met a few students and perhaps potential donors who didn’t like what we were doing. Some days, we were “too Catholic” in the morning and “not Catholic enough” by that afternoon. Yet, I am convinced that even though Pope Francis’ encyclical was written after my retirement, if it had been our benchmark document we would have lived its message to the fullest.

Besides the honor of having my words translated into Chinese, the invitation from the Holy Spirit Study Centre gave me a unique opportunity to look back on Bellarmine’s history and nearly 20 years of my memories. Dozens of students’ faces formed fresh in my mind as I wrote. I hope if they are reading this, they are smiling with me at how we lived the call to be part of the universal family of God, *Fratelli Tutti*. ☐

The bilingual journal Tripod is published by the Holy Spirit Study Center of the Diocese of Hong Kong. In the most recent issue, a tribute to the second anniversary of Pope Francis’ social encyclical, Fratelli Tutti [All Brothers], Melanie-Préjean Sullivan, Bellarmine’s former director of Campus Ministry, was invited to reflect upon her experience as an interfaith chaplain in an American Catholic university. The above is a summary of her article, “In God’s house, there are many rooms.”

Our Roots Run Deep

By Andrew Schroeder

My start was thanks to a squirrel gathering a daily meal, with no way to know what had begun.

My place on these grounds is one of growth, one of transition, one reminiscing about the rhythmic bluegrass flowing in the wind.

Many have looked across these hills, conversed beneath my shelter, climbed my branches.

Whether in the bare of winter, spring renewed, heat of summer, or the technicolor fall, if you listen to me closely there are sounds always emanating, hinting a story to be told.

I shared this land with a plantation, never forgetting the sadness created for those enslaved there.

I watched as the property became a hospital, tending to those injured or worse for the sake of freedom and unity.

For nearly seventy years, this property alternated time twice over between a seminary and an orphanage. In seminary life, I observed the first pursuit on these grounds of a deeper formation of mind, body, and spirit. During the time of the orphanage, I listened for the sound of hope, knowing there was no way to encompass the pain that brought the children here.

After twelve years of quiet, in the mid 20th century, I lay witness to a property created for teaching once more, wondering what was to come from the drive of a youthful president and the vision of an Archbishop.

This new companion was named for a saint who once said, “Love is a marvelous and heavenly thing. It never tires and never thinks that it has done enough. It tackles work no matter how arduous, and in its lexicon is nowhere to be found the word impossible.” I listen to the conversations of those working here who share in my belief of this deep truth.

Still, this place was incomplete for nearly two decades, finally made whole thanks to the Ursulines.

The winter cold is a rugged one on my bones, but for many years the glow of Christmas lights from my companion evergreen warmed me. Alas, Mother Nature decided change was in store.

My twisted, bending arms have stretched further by the years, embracing the graduating classes who celebrated under my shade, reflecting in the momentous accomplishment, and ready for the challenge ahead.

My older age does not signal weariness, nor the width of my rings signal a change in resilience.

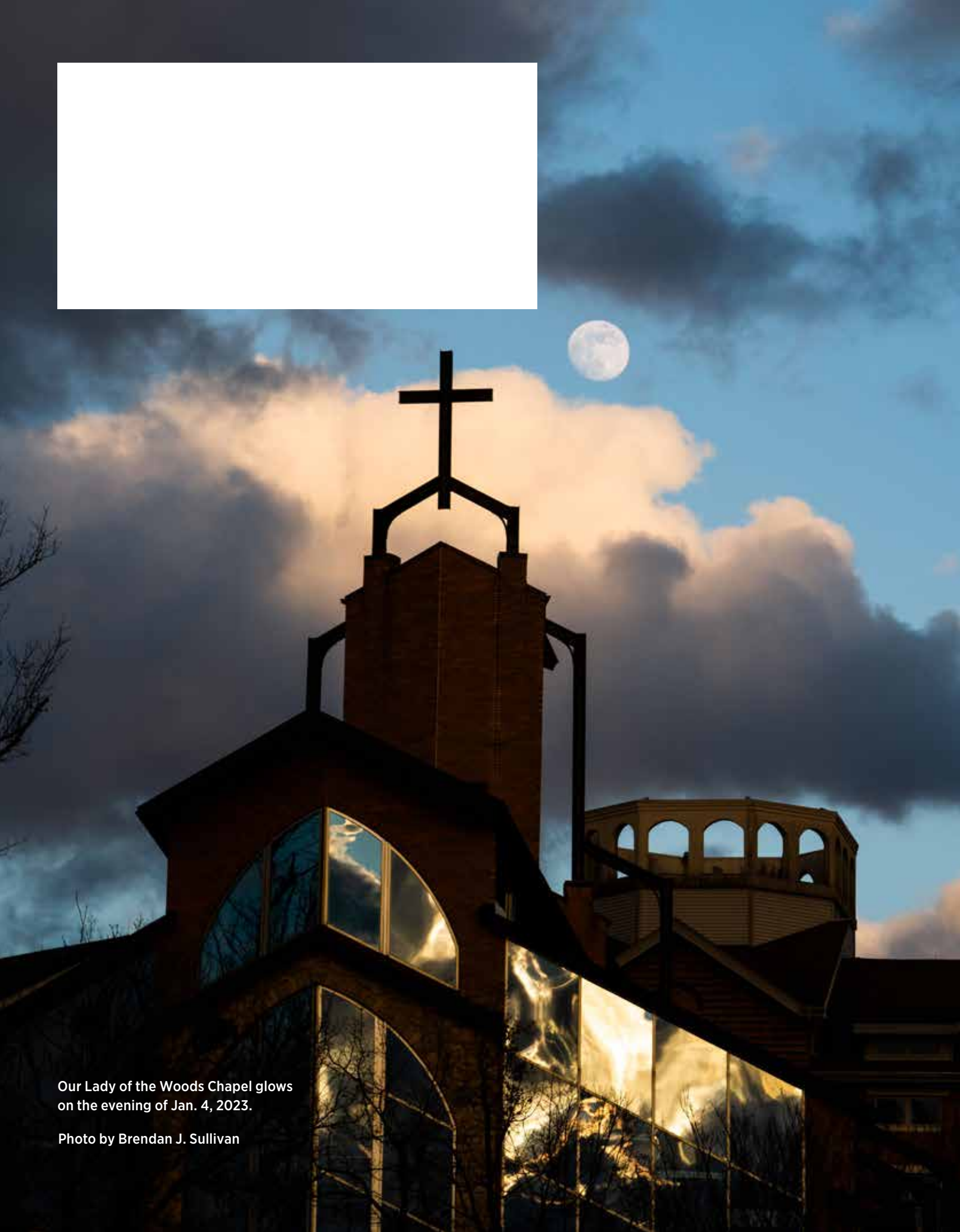
Six people who served as president of this school have walked under me, with a goal the same, lead this place to better.

My roots continue to run deeper. My dreams of what the year ahead will bring enlivens me as much as ever.

As the stars and moon grace me for another fortunate night, I am reminded of what the namesake of this place said, “God is within me. God rests close to me always.”

God bless this place and the story we share ahead.

Andrew Schroeder '04, director of Academic & Support Services for Student Athletes, is a proud Bellarmine graduate who is married to another enthusiastic alum, Anne. He is the father of four children, who support his inordinate love of trees and hopefully will grow in their love of them as well. For his own entertainment, he has created a “Trees of Louisville” list, with the Bellarmine bur oak being one of his favorites.



Our Lady of the Woods Chapel glows
on the evening of Jan. 4, 2023.

Photo by Brendan J. Sullivan