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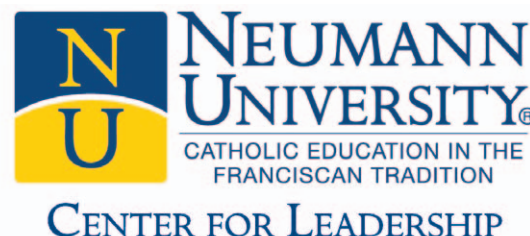
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alumni, family and friends

SUMMER 2023 Vol. 51, No. 2

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*Jayana Murray is a very happy
college graduate and the first in her
family to earn a degree.*

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

Getting to know our students personally is one of the most joyful aspects of my job as president. During May 13 Commencement Exercises, I had the honor of handing diplomas to hundreds of new graduates, and I recognized many of the smiling faces as they approached me to complete their college journey.

Even more gratifying was the fact that approximately half of the graduates were the first in their families to earn a college degree. In the last five years, 52 percent of Neumann's first-year students have been first-generation students.

The path to a college degree is not easy for these young women and men. They have to navigate higher education without the benefit of a road map that a parent could provide. They experience the stress of tuition payments, balancing academics with part-time jobs and campus activities, and scheduling classes that fulfill the credit requirements of their major.

Fortunately, Neumann University offers a nurturing environment for first-generation students. Our faculty are more than subject-matter experts in the classroom. They are mentors who counsel, cultivate confidence, and challenge students to reach their potential.

I have lost count of the number of students who have told me that a faculty member encouraged them to get out of their comfort zone and test their intellectual and leadership skills. Every one of them has been grateful for the advice.

In this issue of *Accent*, you will read the stories of several first-generation students who represent — more powerfully than any collection of data points or statistics — the impact of this Franciscan university on the lives of those who have the values and work ethic to achieve their dreams.

All they need is a college that emphasizes critical thinking and supports them with encouragement and care. That combination, my friends, is Neumann's wheelhouse.

Dr. Chris Everett Domes
President

“
In the last
five years,
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have been
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students.
”



AROUND CAMPUS

Matthew Glass
and Hayley Hughes



Dr. Colleen McDonough

From the CIA to the Classroom

Professor Colleen McDonough is back at Neumann after working for the CIA for two years. At the agency, she was working on a team that compiled psychological assessments of world leaders. She returned in January as the director of the MS in Forensic Psychology program, which she describes as the intersection of psychology, criminal justice, and law. "I felt like my work at the CIA perfectly positioned me for this job," she says.

Students Stage *Beauty and the Beast*

John Baxter directed 27 students in the University Players' production of *Beauty and the Beast* in March. Hayley Hughes and Matthew Glass played the title roles.

"We always try to get a musical that we can tailor to our available talent, and I knew that we would have no problem filling this one out. Plus, it's light, uplifting, and the kind of musical that plays well here," Baxter said.



Students Partner with Eagles Autism Foundation

Education students partnered with the Philadelphia Eagles Autism Foundation to raise money and awareness in April. Activities included hosting an Easter Egg Hunt, organizing a panel discussion, and participating in the May 20 Eagles Autism Challenge, a bike/run/walk fundraising event.

Dr. Jenelle Abnett with autism awareness organizers Santina Talotta, Miranda Foglio, Lauren Retkovis, and Megan Snyder

White House Stories

Stewart McLaurin, an expert on the White House, visited campus on March 23 to reveal little-known details about the history of the iconic building and share some untold stories about its past.

McLaurin is president of the White House Historical Association, founded by First Lady Jacqueline Kennedy in 1961 to share and preserve the rich history of the White House. A private nonprofit, nonpartisan organization, the association is committed to enhancing the understanding, appreciation, and enjoyment of the executive mansion.

Stewart McLaurin



Sport Management Students Hold Conference

The Sport Management senior seminar class (SM460) presented its annual Sport Business Conference on April 20. The event offered participants the opportunity to learn more about sports business-related topics, network with professionals in the sports industry, and hear Dr. Karen Weaver, University of Pennsylvania, discuss her research on the intersection between college sports and higher education.

With guidance from Dr. Julie Lanzillo, students organized the entire event, including panel discussions on "Women in Sports" and "Behind the Action" that brought subject matter experts to campus.



The Sport Management senior seminar team



Best Collegiate Radio Show

Living Black History won the award for Best Collegiate Radio Show in a national contest sponsored by the Catholic Media Association. In the program that was broadcast on WNUW 98.5, four students interviewed Regina Paige Garrettson, a member of the university's dining hall staff, about her life experiences stretching back to the 1960s. Students also produced the show.

Garrettson spoke about growing up in the projects of Bedford-Stuyvesant in Brooklyn, NY, moving to East Orange, NJ (where she first realized that her family was poor), and witnessing milestones in the Civil Rights movement. Tyler Hauser, one of the student interviewers, explained that the purpose of *Living Black History* was "to bring you the past experiences of those you won't find in textbooks or on TV."

Regina Paige Garrettson on the air with Neumann University students.

U.S. News Ranks Online Bachelor's Degree

U.S. News & World Report has ranked Neumann's online bachelor's degree among the best in the country. In rankings released in January, the magazine named Neumann's program as #113 nationwide and #4 in Pennsylvania. To assess online degree programs, "*U.S. News* chose factors that weigh how these programs are being delivered and their effectiveness at awarding affordable degrees in a reasonable amount of time."

Neumann offers two online bachelor's degree programs: the BS in Business and Organizational Studies and the BS in Public Safety Administration. Both programs offer courses in a 7.5-week format, providing adult students flexibility in completing the degree.

Top 50 for MS in Business

Neumann's master's degree in Business and Organizational Leadership has been ranked as one of the nation's 50 best online graduate programs in the field by Online Master's Degrees. According to OMD, Neumann's program earned the ranking "for overall quality, affordability, and commitment to student success."

The graduate business degree is rooted in classic liberal arts ideology. It prepares professionals to lead high-performing teams, develop effective strategies, and make a positive impact in the lives of others. The 30-credit, fully online program takes just 18 months to complete.





◀ Irish Chamber Honors Neumann

The Irish American Business Chamber & Network presented its Ambassador Award to Neumann University in February in recognition of the university's study abroad programs in Ireland and the Irish heritage of many Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia.

The IABCN presents the award annually to a business or organization that supports the development of economic and educational ties between the Greater Philadelphia Region and Ireland.

Dr. Chris Domes and Ambassador Geraldine Byrne Nason

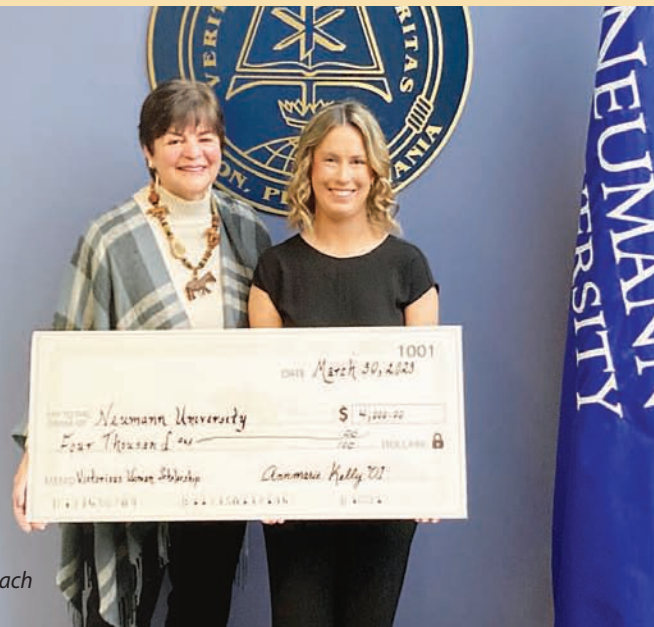
Victorious Woman Scholarship

Author and entrepreneur Annmarie Kelly '01 has a deep appreciation for Neumann University and how she was welcomed into the campus community as an adult student. She established the Victorious Woman Scholarship to pay it forward and help a current NU student.

She came to campus in the spring to present a \$4,000 check to junior Alison Rockenbach, an early education/special education major. Rockenbach is a transfer student who had to put her education on pause during the pandemic.

Kelly is well aware of the financial challenges students have when attending college. "This scholarship isn't huge, but it may be enough to push the student over the edge and pay for that last bit of tuition," she explained.

Annmarie Kelly and Alison Rockenbach



Admissions Hosts Second College Fair

Neumann's 2022 college fair was so successful that the Admissions team did it again, hosting the popular event on March 30 in the Mirenda Center. The fair was open to high school students and their families with morning and evening sessions for the convenience of the guests.

More than 1,000 people attended the fair and had the opportunity to speak with representatives of more than 70 colleges and universities.

The college fair drew crowds to campus.



First Place in Reducing Waste

Neumann University won first place in the Campus Race to Zero Waste small campus division in the Per Capita Recycling category. Campus Race fosters friendly competition among colleges to promote recycling and waste reduction. Last year, Neumann placed 24th out of 118 schools. This year, 200 colleges and universities participated.

Neumann logged 39.645 pounds of recycled material per capita and was ranked second in the nation in the overall contest, regardless of the institution's size.

AROUND CAMPUS



Puppy Yoga

College students are hounded by stress, and everyone knows that spending time with pooches and practicing yoga are good ways to relax. So, four seniors in Dr. Kathleen Swanik's Health Sciences class doggedly pursued their dream of combining the two activities into one super stress-relief experience – puppy yoga.

On February 23, thirty lucky students exercised while six canine celebrities, provided by Rags 2 Riches Animal Rescue in Garnet Valley, scurried from one student to the next, begging for attention, licking faces, and even falling asleep in a few laps.

Puppy yoga put stress "on paws."

21-Day Challenge

Twenty-five faculty, staff, and students participated in a 21-Day Challenge for Racial Justice. The three-week program was organized by the university's DEI Council.

The concept involved reading or viewing some short, eye-opening, educational articles or videos and then gathering once a week to discuss the content in a friendly setting. The three themes were the Historical Context of Race and Racism, Whiteness and Privilege, and Steps Forward.

Glen Riddle Hall Set to Expand

Glen Riddle Hall, the residential wing of Our Lady of Angels Convent, will expand its capacity by the start of the fall 2023 semester to accommodate an additional 24 students in 11 rooms on the fourth floor.

The second and third floors of Glen Riddle opened to resident students in the fall of 2022, approximately 14 months after the university purchased Our Lady of Angels Convent on June 30, 2021. The addition of 24 residents will increase the total number of students living in Glen Riddle to more than 60. Thirty-eight Sisters also live in separate areas of the convent.

Nursing Care for the Dominican Republic

Eight nursing students addressed the medical needs of people in the Dominican Republic during spring break. Dr. Amy Luckowski has been taking nursing students to the Dominican since 2014 in partnership with Solid Rock International.

Many people in the country live far from a healthcare facility and do not have the means to afford regular check-ups and essential medicines. The Neumann team traveled to different rural locations each day, providing and assisting with outpatient medical care.



Grace Buegel with a young patient

Students March against Gun Violence

Scores of students expressed their concern with the epidemic of gun violence in the country on April 5th. A crowd of approximately 110 students, faculty, staff, and Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia gathered on the front lawn of the Mirenda Center where a grieving mother, a state legislator, several students, and Dr. Chris Domes addressed the impact of gun violence and possible solutions to the problem.

"Am I next?" Judith Colt, a junior Psychology major, asked the crowd. She reminded everyone of the long list of school shootings — from Sandy Hook and Parkland to Uvalde and Michigan State — that she has seen in her young life. "Demand action from your local members of Congress. Demand gun laws that require the registration of firearms and background checks. Please use your voice for those whose voices were taken too early," she said.

Judith Colt led the march against gun violence.





Ava Irwin, Robert Mawhinney, Brandon Kerrigan, and Noah Froshour

Four Students Work at the Super Bowl

Sport management majors Ava Irwin, Robert Mawhinney, Brandon Kerrigan, and Noah Froshour worked at Super Bowl LVII last February. They were hired by Living Sport, a company that offers opportunities for young adults to explore the world and get professional experience through sporting events.

Connor Herlihy, Living Sport director of digital media, spoke to Dr. Julie Lanzillo's Events and Facilities class last semester about the Super Bowl program. Four students jumped at the chance to work at the country's most popular sporting event and spent ten days in Arizona, working and networking with sport professionals worldwide.



The 2023 Habitat team

Habitat for Humanity ▶

Eight students traveled to North Wilmington, North Carolina, over spring break to participate in the Habitat for Humanity Collegiate Challenge with members of the Mission and Ministry department.

Habitat's Collegiate Challenge provides year-round alternative school break volunteer opportunities to college students across the United States. The team was led by Guilherme Lopes, director of campus ministry, and Jill Tutak, assistant director of campus ministry.



Brad Ingelsby

First Film Festival is a Hit

The inaugural Neumann Inspires Film Festival featured Brad Ingelsby, a slew of original films by aspiring filmmakers, and a screening of *Heart of Camden*, a documentary celebrating the life and work of Fr. Michael Doyle.

Ingelsby wrote and produced *Mare of Easttown*, the Emmy Award-winning HBO series that is set in Delaware County. As the featured speaker at the festival, he was interviewed by Sara McDermott Jain, answered questions from the audience, and presented awards to winning filmmakers at the end of the evening. Jain is the festival director, a screenwriter, and an adjunct professor at Neumann. *Old Young* by Emma Baiada took home the Best of Fest prize.



Professor Rauscher Shares Expertise on PHL17

Dr. Marisa Rauscher was interviewed in March by PHL17's Jennifer Lewis-Hall for her public affairs show, *In Focus*. Rauscher talked about the Pennsylvania teacher shortage, Gov. Shapiro's proposed \$2,500 tax credit, the many hats that teachers now wear, the need for demographic diversity in the profession, and the many rewards of teaching.

Dr. Marisa Rauscher

Golf Outing Lands on the Green ▶

The 3rd Annual Athletics Golf Outing took place on May 22. Hosted on two courses, with a total of 168 golfers, the event raised more than \$91,000 in support of Neumann's student athletes, both on and off the field. The university will use the funds to improve facilities, upgrade equipment, and most importantly, support its student athletes with academic, personal development, and mental health resources.

The Athletics Golf Outing raised more than \$91,000.

Loyal Alumnus Brings Baltimore Students to Campus

Eight students from The Community School in Baltimore visited campus on April 28, thanks to the relationship that Tom Culotta '18, the TCS head of school, has with Neumann.

The students toured the campus, visiting classrooms, athletic facilities, and residence halls before chatting over lunch with Dr. Chris Domes about higher education and their college plans.

The four-hour visit culminated in the Mullen Communication Center and an introduction to Neumann Media by Director Sean McDonald, who arranged the filming of a live news broadcast with TCS students serving as anchors, operating cameras and teleprompters, and acting as floor managers.

A graduate of Neumann University's adult program, Culotta is the founder of The Community School, an academic and mentoring program that has worked with hundreds of students, helping them stabilize their lives and go on to college. Beginning as a community youth organization in 1977, TCS has grown under Culotta's leadership into a full four-year, state certified high school.

A Documentary on the Legacy of the Sisters of Saint Francis

Adjunct Professor Sara McDermott Jain is leading the production of a documentary on the history of the Sisters of Saint Francis and their legacy. The project is expected to be a two-year process of collecting stories, reviewing archives, and interviewing Sisters about their mission and values. The goal is to create an inspiring full-length film depicting their history and how the mission continues today through new leaders.

The film will capture the impact of the Sisters and educate the public about how they have truly shaped both history and their surrounding communities. It will look back to share some of the Sisters' most amazing stories and look forward to focus on how their legacy will continue. The project will illustrate that their most important influence may still be yet to come.

Thanks to the generosity of President Phil Goropoulos, CHI-St. Joseph Children's Health has made a significant donation to support this project.



Our Legacy Continues with YOU: Day of Giving

On Wednesday, March 8, 2023, Neumann University encouraged alumni, parents, faculty, staff, and friends to participate in the 24-hour giving initiative, the annual Day of Giving. Through this effort, collectively the university raised an unprecedented \$150,103 from 429 donors in support of student success.

"The Franciscan tradition will continue with Neumann PRIDE shining brighter every single day," said Carrie Snyder, vice president for university advancement. "Thanks to our donors, students can embrace an accessible, affordable, and exceptional educational experience."



Neumann Named a Military Friendly School

Neumann University has been named a 2023-24 Military Friendly school. The Military Friendly® rating system is owned and operated by VIQTORY, a small business that is managed by veterans who were disabled during military service. It measures a college's commitment, effort, and success in creating sustainable and meaningful opportunities for the military community.

More than 1,800 colleges participated in the Military Friendly survey. Neumann received a Silver designation for 2023-24, placing it among the top 20 percent in the country. Ratings are based on military student support and retention, graduation and career outcomes, culture and commitment, and financial aid and loan repayment.



Dr. Rosalie Mirenda

President Emeritus

1937-2023



**It rained on Commencement Day at Neumann, the day on which Dr. Rosalie Mirenda passed away.
Even the heavens mourned as the longtime university president
“graduated” with the Class of 2023.**

Soon after the news reached campus, Dr. Chris Domes captured the mood of the community. “It is with a heavy heart that I share sad news of the passing of Dr. Rosalie Mirenda, President Emeritus of Neumann University,” he wrote. “Rosalie served students with passion and committed herself to living the mission and values of Neumann University for over four decades as a professor, academic leader, and for twenty-one of those years, as president.”

Dr. Rosalie M. Mirenda was president of Neumann University from 1996 to 2017. From the moment she took the helm of the institution, she forged a reputation as a tireless advocate and savvy visionary. Under her leadership, enrollment tripled, annual and capital giving increased, the campus expanded from 14 to 68 acres, new academic programs were added, athletic teams grew from 9 to 23, and state of the art residence halls were built to accommodate more than 700 students.

Athletic fields were added, and laboratories, the library, and the chapel were renovated to ensure appropriate environments for student learning, growth, and success.

In 2009, Neumann achieved university status and opened the Mirenda Center for Sport, Spirituality and Character Development, a 72,000 square foot facility named in honor of Dr. Mirenda and her husband, Tony. Designed to be more than an athletic center, the building uses exhibits and storytelling to provide a new perspective on sports, one that goes beyond the obvious element of competition to address the myriad ways in which students learn life lessons, develop character, and deepen spirituality through sports.

Dr. Mirenda was always committed to the Catholic Franciscan mission of the university, which is based

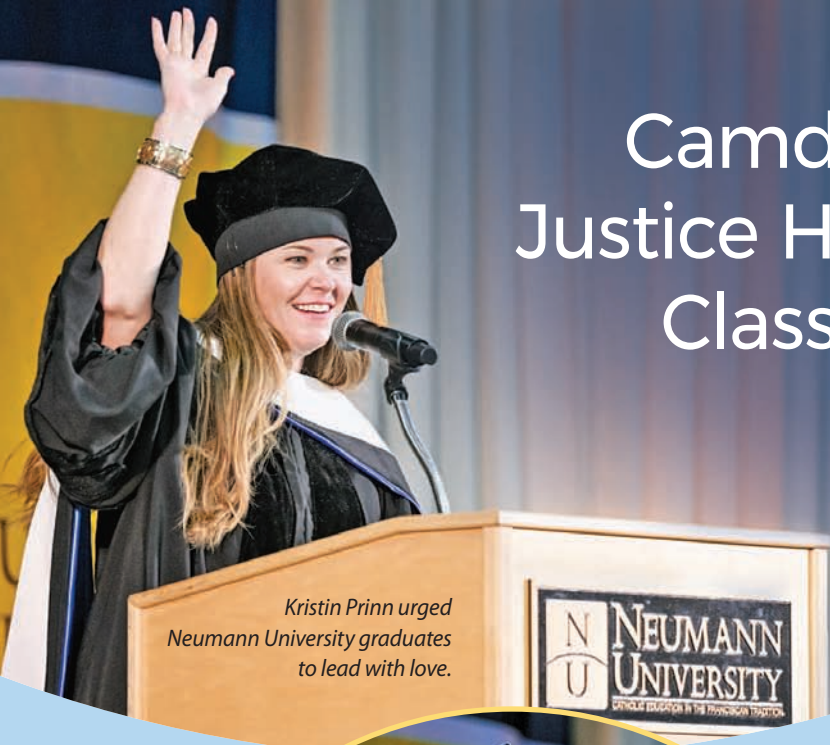
on the belief that knowledge, while valuable in itself, is best used in the service of others. She embraced this distinctive identity in word and deed.

She served on the boards of the Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities, the PA Association of Independent Colleges and Universities, Seton Hall University, Archmere Academy, Holy Child Academy, Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary, the World Meeting of Families 2015, and more. Through her efforts, Neumann spearheaded the formation of Drexel Neumann Academy in Chester, Pennsylvania.

Dr. Mirenda was recognized by countless organizations for her steadfast faith, distinguished character and numerous accomplishments. She received the Benemerenti Medal (2016) from Pope Francis, the Gary Papa Award (2013) from the Delaware County Community Foundation, the Sons of Italy Distinguished Achievement Award (2013), the Sourin Award (2012) from the Catholic Philopatrian Society, the Catholic Graduate Hall of Fame Award (2011) from the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, the Woman on the Move Award (2011) from Main Line Times, The Keys and Sword Award (2011) from Cathedral Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul, the Catholic Leadership Institute Award (2010), the Outstanding Alumnus Award (2006) from Widener University, the Pontifical Honor of the Cross, Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice (2003), and the Nursing Alumna Award (1999) from Villanova University. In 2005, Dr. Mirenda was awarded an honorary degree from Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary.

Dr. Mirenda earned her Ph.D. from Widener University, her MSN from the University of Pennsylvania, and her B. S. in Nursing from Villanova University. She is survived by Anthony D. Mirenda, her husband of 62 years, three children and five grandchildren.

Camden Social Justice Hero Counsels Class of 2023



*Kristin Prinn urged
Neumann University graduates
to lead with love.*

A self-described “free spirit” and “rule breaker,” Kristin Prinn urged Neumann’s graduates not to stress about the future in her May 13 commencement address.

**“Your way will find you,” she said.
“Look for opportunity, and remain open,
brave and willing to take risks.
Get comfortable being uncomfortable.
And above all else, lead with love.”**



*Valedictorian Sophia
Parrish advised
classmates to move
forward with courage.*

A social worker and advocate for social justice, Prinn has helped teenagers in Camden for 16 years as the founder and executive director of LUCY Outreach (Lifting Up Camden’s Youth), a nonprofit youth development center. She started the organization in 2007 when she was just 25 years old.

Ninety four percent of LUCY participants live at or below the poverty line, and 74 percent are from immigrant families.

*Dr. Chris and
Mrs. Mary Domes
toast the class of 2023.*





A student blows a kiss to her family during Neumann's graduation.



Students move their tassels and celebrate the moment.

The mission of LUCY is to empower the city's youngsters to form healthy relationships, make good choices, and develop into compassionate and socially responsible adults who make a positive difference in their community.

“So many here at Neumann have seen potential in you,” she told the class of 2023. “Now is the time to see it in yourself and in someone else. Every single one of us can and will have an impact.”

Each year, LUCY serves about 500 children and teens, most between 7 and 19, who participate in an Afterschool Program, College and Career Academy, Summer Program, Haven LGBTQ+ Support Group, and more.

After earning a bachelor's degree at Saint Joseph's University, where she studied sociology and criminal justice, Prinn obtained her master's degree in social work from New Mexico State University. During her graduate studies, she worked with youngsters in gangs and immigrant families and became fluent in Spanish.

Sophia Parrish, the valedictorian of the class of 2023, also spoke at graduation. Parrish is a pre-physical therapy major (with minors in strength and conditioning and Spanish). According to Hubert Lee, the Health Sciences program director, she is the first student in the 20-year history of the department to earn a perfect GPA.

“Hop on the highway of life, but never forget to open the windows and belt your heart out,” she told her classmates. “Take the detour you've been thinking of . . . Stop as many times as you need to. Get out of the car, stretch your legs, breathe in the fresh air . . . and move forward with courage, with uniqueness, with everything that makes you, YOU.”

During her years at Neumann, she was a presidential ambassador and served as a member of the Student Government Association, wellness educator, peer tutor, and president of the Honors Association. She was captain of the cross country and track and field teams and was instrumental in creating the plan for a fall 2023 wellness support group for injured athletes.

Neumann awarded one associate degree, 223 bachelor's degrees, 53 master's degrees, and 40 doctoral degrees at the ceremonies.

Faculty Awards



Julie Lanzillo, PhD
Lindback Foundation Award for Distinguished Teaching



Ryan Savitz, PhD
Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching



Jude Okoyeh, PhD
Excellence in Scholarship



Denis Anastasia, JD
Part-Time Faculty Excellence in Teaching

New Academic Plan Embraces Student Goals,



The Communication and Digital Media program teaches on-air and behind-the-scenes skills.

During the last several years, the university's Executive Team has closely monitored changes in the expectations that prospective college students and their families have about the results of earning a bachelor's degree. These new suppositions about outcomes reflect marketplace demand and are based on hard data about the college search process and enrollment in specific fields of study.

In an April 27, 2023, article, titled "The 7 Trends Shaping Small Colleges," published in *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, Mary Marcy wrote: "Students are increasingly interested in disciplines like computer science, data analytics, nursing, education, criminal justice, and exercise science — fields that offer a linear path to employment. Most of these disciplines are not in the traditional liberal arts."

Diego Nunez, a writer for *The Valencia Voice*, noticed the same trend last year. "In the 2020-21 school year, Humanities majors experienced a drop across the United States. This marks the thirteenth consecutive year that the field has steadily declined in numbers ... As of late, the dramatic shift in numbers has become more blatant ... steadily decreasing by the tens of thousands since 2010."

With a reorganization of academic offerings that took effect on July 1, 2023, Neumann has done more than simply shift into a new, pragmatic approach. It has planted the seeds of synergy and innovation for multi-disciplinary programs that will develop students' critical thinking skills and make them valuable team members for corporate or nonprofit employers.

"The reassignment of programs from Arts and Sciences to other academic schools will generate insights, collaboration, and innovation among our faculty," says Dr. Chris Domes. "The result will be creative and cross-disciplinary courses that will blend the intellectual depth of traditional liberal arts with the talents that students need for leadership in their chosen careers."

According to Interim Provost Katie Barnes, "The academic realignment will help position us for the future by allowing us to repackage what we

AT A GLANCE: Academic Majors by School

School of Business

Accounting (BS)
Accounting/MS in Accounting (4+1 BS/MS)
Business Administration/Finance (BS)
Business Administration/Human Resources (BS)
Business Administration/International Business (BS)
Communication and Digital Media (BA)
Computer Information Systems (BS)
Computer Programming (BS)
Cybersecurity (BS)
Degree Completion Programs (bachelor's degrees)
Finance (BS)
Mathematics (BA)
Pre-Engineering (BS)
Sport Management (BS)
Sport Management/MS in Sport Business (4+1 BS/MS)
MS in Accounting
MS in Business and Organizational Leadership
MS in Cybersecurity
MS in Sport Business

School of Nursing and Health Sciences

Biology (BS)

- Pre-Chiropractic/Pre-Podiatric
- Pre-Med
- Pre-Pharmacy

Biology/Medical Laboratory Science (BS)
Biology/Secondary Teacher Certification (BA)
Health Sciences (BS)
Health Science/Exercise Physiology (BS)
Health Science/Health Educator (BS)
Health Science/Pre-Athletic Training (BS)
Health Science/Pre-Occupational Therapy (BS)
Health Science/Pre-Physical Therapy (BS)
Health Science/Strength and Conditioning (BS)
Nursing (BS)
MS in Athletic Training
MS in Medical Laboratory Science
MS in Nursing
Doctor of Physical Therapy

Promotes Innovation

have in more innovative and entrepreneurial ways that will allow Gen Z students to find a field of study that is applicable to them. It will break down silos and promote collaboration.”

Affirming the trends noted in *The Chronicle*, she adds, “Students want to graduate and have tangible skills, so that they can make a living and support their extended families.”

The new academic structure maintains three of Neumann’s four schools and redistributes programs and faculty previously housed in the School of Arts and Sciences into the other three.

Communication and Digital Media, Mathematics, and Pre-Engineering are now in the School of Business as are general education programs in art, languages, music, and theater. English, Criminal Justice, Liberal Arts, Political Science, Pre-Law, and Psychology are part of the newly re-named School of Social Science, Humanities, and Education. Biology, Medical Laboratory Science (formerly Clinical Laboratory Science), Pre-Chiropractic, Pre-Med, and Pre-Pharmacy are housed in the School of Nursing and Health Sciences. **(See the chart below for a full list of academic majors in each school.)**

Three majors have been discontinued but will reappear in the curriculum in other forms: Arts Performance and Production, Data Science and Analytics, and Marketing.

The Core Curriculum is undergoing a review in the coming year.

Eric Wellington, dean of the School of Business, sees potential matches for the art, theater, and music programs in his discipline. Although these areas are not majors at Neumann, “What they align with in the School of Business are students who want to be in the business of art or the business of music. It’s similar to our Sport Management program for students who want to be in the business of sports.”

“We want our artists to be good but not starving,” he jokes, “and that’s an exciting prospect for me.”

The university’s Data Lab supports students in the Cybersecurity program.



He is eager to work with Communication and Digital Media, too, because of the myriad technology programs in his school. “It’s a perfect marriage with the stellar amenities we have in the Mullen Communication Center. We can really ramp up the CDM program.”

He envisions new majors, minors and general education courses that offer more tangible, practical, technical, hands-on skills.

Amy Hoyle, dean of the School of Social Science, Humanities, and Education, agrees with the approach. “I am looking forward to incorporating the new programs in social sciences and the humanities into our school,” she says. “Faculty are already seeing great opportunities to collaborate across programs.”

The School of Nursing and Health Sciences is ready to incorporate the science programs. “This restructuring, along with faculty expertise, will lend itself to new opportunities for student and faculty collaboration and growth,” says Dean Theresa Pietsch. “We welcome the sciences programs, which provide a solid foundation for students with an intended career in the health sciences.”

Look for future issues of *Accent* to report on new interdisciplinary courses, programs, and majors that faculty have launched because of the reorganization of schools.

School of Social Science, Humanities, and Education

- English (BA)
- Criminal Justice (BA)
- Criminal Justice/MS in Accounting (4+1 BA/MS)
- Criminal Justice/Police Academy Option (BA)
- Early Elementary/Special Education (BA)
- Educational Studies (BA)
- Liberal Arts (BA)
- Political Science (BA)
- Political Science/Police Academy Option (BA)
- Pre-Law (3+3 BA)
- Psychology (BA)
- Secondary Education (BA)
- Social Work (BSW)
- MS in Clinical Mental Health Counseling
- MS in Education
- MS in Forensic Psychology
- Doctor of Education: Educational Leadership

Neumann’s Medical Laboratory Science major consistently prepares students for professional employment and graduate school.





Roller Hockey Wins National Title

Neumann won the Division III national championship in roller hockey on April 23 with a convincing 9-1 victory over Quinnipiac University at the sport's annual tournament in Irvine, California.

The Knights were led by Zachary Deemer, a senior forward, who had a hand in eight of Neumann's scores. The Business major notched six goals and two assists in the title game.

Neumann finished the season with a record of 24-1, sweeping through the National Collegiate Roller Hockey Association (NCRHA) competition with seven victories in five days. In the preliminary round to determine tournament seeding, the Knights defeated Hofstra University 7-4, San Jose State University 19-3, and the University of Florida 7-3.

The 2023 roller hockey national champions

In the single-elimination tournament, Neumann bested California State Polytechnic-Pomona 12-6, Missouri University of Science and Technology 9-6, and the University of Florida 6-5 before crushing Quinnipiac in the championship game.

In beating the Bobcats, Neumann avenged its only blemish in an otherwise perfect season, a 7-2 loss to Quinnipiac on February 18.

The win solidifies Neumann's reputation as a national roller hockey powerhouse. The Knights also won national championships in 2006, 2008, 2015, and 2016. Lee Strofe has been the coach for 13 years, guiding the team to its last three titles.

Klieber among Country's Top Scorers

Lauren Klieber, the Knights' standout 5'9" guard, finished the season tied for sixth in the country in Division III women's basketball scoring with 22.3 points per game. She also pulled down 9.9 rebounds per contest, nearly averaging a double-double during the 33-game schedule.

Klieber was named to the Atlantic East Conference First Team, finishing first in the conference in scoring and second in rebounding.

Her .436 field goal percentage was third in the conference, her free throw percentage of .784 was fifth, and she made 2.3 three-pointers per game, which was second. She also played the most minutes in the Atlantic East, averaging 35.9 per game.

In just her sophomore year, the Malvern, PA native was honored with Atlantic East Conference weekly awards nine times: Player of the Week five times and Weekly Honor Roll four times. Klieber was also named to the 2022-23 College Sports Communicators Academic All-District Basketball team.

Neumann finished with an overall record of 16-17.



Lauren Klieber averaged 22.3 points per game.

Putting Hockey's Gender Tradition on Ice

"Hockey is hockey," says Alyssa Gagliardi, deftly downplaying her unique role as the first female coach for the Neumann University men's ice hockey team.

Gagliardi is one of two assistant coaches who helped Head Coach Kyle Mountain guide the Knights through the 2022-23 season. She is also in a rare position, one of the only women in the country coaching an NCAA men's ice hockey squad.

With a goal of working in the National Hockey League someday, she considers her job at Neumann, which began in the fall of 2022, another step in her career trajectory.

Gagliardi certainly has the credentials for the job. She played at Shattuck St. Mary's, a Minnesota prep school noted for its hockey programs, before going to Cornell University, where her team made the Women's Frozen Four twice. After graduating, she moved to Boston and played professional ice hockey in a women's league for five years.

"Any new coach has to earn the team's trust and show that you're invested in their development and the team's success," she says, "but I don't think that has anything to do with gender. It was nice that it didn't seem like a big deal here."



Alyssa Gagliardi
on the ice at practice



Jaylen Vaughns,
All-American

Jalen Vaughns Named an All-American

Junior Jalen Vaughns, a star on the men's basketball team, is an All-American. He was named to the National Association of Basketball Coaches' (NABC) Division III All-America Third Team.

The All-American honor capped an outstanding year for Vaughns. For the second straight season, he was the Atlantic East Conference (AEC) Player of the Year and earned a spot on the AEC First Team. He notched Atlantic East Player of the Week honors five times and was the Defensive Player of the Week twice.

His superb play also earned him slots on the NABC All-District First Team, the ECAC Division III First Team, and the D3hoops.com All-Region Five First Team. During the season, he passed the 1,000-point plateau for his career.

Vaughns led the Knights to a 21-8 record, averaging a double-double and leading the AEC in scoring (22.8 points per game) and rebounding, (10.5 boards per game). He also had the top field goal percentage in the conference, sinking a remarkable 59.2 percent of his shots.

Reaching Their Potential: First-Generation Magic

by Stephen Bell



Students who are among the first in their families to attend college regularly deal with financial stress, a significant part-time work schedule, a lack of knowledge about how higher education works, and even the pressure of well-meaning family expectations.

With its Franciscan mission, small classes, and faculty who thoroughly enjoy teaching, Neumann provides a fertile environment for these students to grow, learn, and succeed. Here are the stories of three such students who have achieved their college dream, evidence that Neumann has more than its share of first-generation magic.

During the last five years at Neumann, 51.9 percent of freshmen (1,037 of 1,998) have been first-generation students.



Jayana Murray with her Grad Squad after getting her degree.

Jayana Murray

Jayana Murray is only 20, but she already has her college degree in hand thanks to her intellect and an extraordinary work ethic.

As a student at Collingswood High School, she took seven Advanced Placement courses, earned college credit for all of them, and banked almost a year's worth of courses before she set foot on campus.

A first-generation college student from a large family (she has seven siblings), she set her sights on graduating early and, on May 13, walked across the Miranda Center stage to receive her Criminal Justice degree from Dr. Chris Domes after just three years.

During her time at Neumann, Jayana spread her wings and experienced more than academic life. She played women's lacrosse and, during her final year, joined the Air Force National Guard and earned a spot on the Philadelphia 76ers dance team.

"My dad was my biggest inspiration in joining the military," she explains. Her father is a former Marine, but she chose the Air Force National Guard "because it sounded like a better work-life balance." She signed up on August 30, 2022, and since then, has spent one weekend a month at McGuire Air Force base in Atlantic City.

She has a six-year military commitment (plus two years of being on call) that started immediately after graduation with basic training in San Antonio, Texas, and continues with tech school in neighboring Wichita Falls.

"I enlisted to be an aircraft mechanic, but my ultimate goal is to fly the aircraft. I want to be a pilot," she says.

Her flight plan doesn't stop there, however. "Eventually, I want to work for a three-letter agency, hopefully the FBI."

She confesses that she always wanted to go to a big, Division I school and was originally looking at Penn State. "Then one of my high school lacrosse coaches [Liz Martin] was hired by Neumann. We chatted, and I decided to play lacrosse at Neumann."

She has no regrets. "I'm happy with the way it worked out. I got to stay close to home, and my coach is awesome."

“
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”

Continues on page 20

Omar Bruton

When Omar Bruton was a senior at Chichester High School, he knew that he wanted to continue his education, but he had modest goals.

"I was determined to go to technical school," he admits. "I wanted to work with my hands." In 2019, he even completed one semester at Pennsylvania Institute of Technology.

During this time, he developed an interest in investments and began researching the field. His grandfather learned of Omar's curiosity about finance and paid his fee for an Online Training Academy course in King of Prussia. Omar's instructor was a financial analyst, and the class intensified the young man's focus on business and finance.

With a Business Administration degree now in mind, he applied to Neumann and Widener University and received scholarship offers from both institutions. "In the end, it came down to cost, and Neumann was the more affordable option."

At Neumann, Omar hit his stride. Dr. Jeffrey Graber recognized his talent and suggested that he switch majors from Business Administration to Accounting.

*Omar Bruton with
Dr. Jeffrey Graber.*

"I first met Omar in my Financial Accounting (ACT 103) class during the pandemic in fall 2020," said Graber. "I suggested that he consider accounting as a major for several reasons. For example, he was bright and eager to learn, and he wasn't afraid to ask questions. Sometimes, he was the only student to attend class in person [during COVID hybrid classes]. Now that's a dedicated student."

Omar began researching internships and discovered a paid, six-week summer fellowship program offered by JPMorgan Chase. He received guidance in crafting a professional resume from Preeti Singh, the director of Neumann's Career and Personal Development office. Singh even connected him with an alumna working at the company so that he could learn more about the company's culture.

Omar got the fellowship, which he completed in 2022. He and his teammates developed a customer relationship management tool for minorities, which they presented to bank executives.

He performed so well that he was invited back to take a full-summer internship position in 2023. He will work in the Global Finance Business Management division, gaining experience in the controller's office and financial analysis unit.

"It's been a good journey," he says, "and I've learned a lot. I love Neumann because it gave me a lot of opportunities."

Omar will graduate in December of 2023 with a recalibrated career path. "My main goal is to secure a full-time offer from JPMorgan Chase."

“
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because it
gave me a lot of
opportunities.
”



Heather Beard

Two weeks before graduating from Monsignor Bonner-Archbishop Prendergast High School in 2013, Heather Beard discovered that she was pregnant.

She had been planning to attend college, eager to begin her studies that fall at Immaculata University. Her pregnancy, however, altered her plans. She knew that she could “no longer take the traditional college route.”

Now 27 and a decade removed from her high school commencement, Heather joyously walked across the Mirinda Center stage on May 13 to accept her Business Administration degree from Neumann. “I’ve been yearning for this moment for ten years,” she confessed.

The journey was not easy. “My high school counselor encouraged me to start an associate degree program at Delaware County Community College,” she recalls. “From 2013 to 2021, I took one class here, one class there, two classes in the summer.”

To pay for tuition, she worked at McDonald’s and as a sacristan, first at St. Cyril’s of Alexandria, which closed in 2013, and then at St. Philomena’s. Her son, Timothy, arrived in 2014.

Heather is a first-generation student and the first in her large family to attempt college. She has two brothers (31 and 20) and three sisters (30, 25, and 22). “We’re a Beard sandwich,” she jokes, “with the boys as the bread and the girls in the middle.”

After starting as a teller 25 years ago, her mother is now a loan servicing coordinator for Franklin Mint Federal Credit Union. Her father suffered an aneurism in 1996 and is disabled.

Heather received her associate degree in August 2021.

“I met with my advisor at DCCC and expressed a desire to finish my degree. What pushed me is that it was my dad’s one and only dream that one of his kids graduate from college.”

She wanted to take classes online at a college that provided the most aid. “Neumann was able to offer me a first-generation scholarship that blew me out of the park.”

She also felt a sense of community at Neumann. “The professors were great when I met them. Neumann just stood out.”

Heather was especially impressed with Dr. Debbi Bromley. “She is so inspiring. I want to be just like her because she’s a very professional woman in a man’s world. She’s proving that women can do just as much. Neumann is lucky to have her.”

Heather began the last leg of her odyssey to a degree in August 2021 and took five or six classes each semester for the past two years.

What’s next? “A mommy-and-me year with my son.”

Heather Beard with her son, Tim, at graduation.

“
I’ve been
yearning for
this moment
for ten years.
”





Alumni Association Honors 12 at Awards Ceremony

Neumann's Alumni Association presented awards to 10 alumni, a student, and one longtime friend of the university at its annual awards ceremony on March 7.



Gabriel Angemi '16
Recognition Award

Gabriel Angemi is the captain and second-generation member of the City of Camden Fire Department, leading emergency services personnel and supervising five firefighters, company quarters, and fire apparatus. He is also a member of the department's Special Operations Companies. Angemi has been recognized with mayoral proclamations, two Class 2 Meritorious Awards, numerous citations, recognition for valor, and a Distinguished Service Award from the Camden County Hero Scholarship Fund. He is currently pursuing a doctorate in education.



Sr. Rose Raymond Barba, OSF '78
*School of Nursing and Health
Sciences Distinguished Alumni Award*

After graduating with a degree in nursing, Sr. Rose worked at St. Agnes Medical Center, first in the Burn Center as a staff nurse and assistant head nurse and later in utilization review and management, cardiac rehab, and home care. She has also served on the provincial and general leadership teams for the Sisters of St. Francis. For the past 13 years, Sr. Rose has been employed at the Assisi House, recently transitioning from assistant administrator to staff in the pastoral service department where she collaborates closely with the director of nursing.



Dr. Kevin Copeland '00
*School of Arts and Sciences
Distinguished Alumni Award*

Dr. Kevin Copeland has been a member of Cardiology Physicians, P.A. since July of 2014. He is board certified in general and interventional cardiology from the American Board of Internal Medicine and a fellow of the American College of Cardiology. He attended Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine and completed his postgraduate training in internal medicine at Christiana Care Health Systems, where he served as the chief resident for the medicine program. By 2019, Dr. Copeland was recognized in *Delaware Today* as one of Delaware's Top Doctors.



Courtney Curcio '18
Volunteer of the Year Award

Since she graduated in 2018, Courtney Curcio has helped to create a sport management affinity group, educated Neumann students as a guest speaker, and volunteered in many roles for Neumann's annual fundraising golf event. She currently serves as the foundation director of the non-profit Professional Golfers Association (PGA) Reach Philadelphia. The organization aims to impact communities and enrich lives through the game of golf by supporting and delivering programs that focus on personal development and sportsmanship.



John C. Ford
Honorary Alumni Award

John Ford is the founder and principal of John C. Ford Associates, a consulting firm that specializes in management, leadership, sales, and organizational communications. His corporate career included senior positions in broadcasting (CBS, ABC, the HBO division of Time Warner) and financial services (American Stock Exchange, Merrill Lynch & Co.). At Neumann, he served on the board of trustees for more than 40 years and as board chair for two terms. With his wife, Sandra Poster, he funded the John C. Ford Academic Resource Center, a dance studio in the Miranda Center, and scholarships for students with a particular interest in visual communications.



Sr. Clare Andrew D'Auria,
OSF '72
John Neumann Award

After earning her bachelor's degree in English in 1972, Sr. Clare also studied at Duquesne University and Washington Theological University, preparing her for roles in secondary and collegiate education and as a congregational and provincial administrator. She now travels across the country and abroad, leading retreats that are often booked years in advance on the topics of women's spirituality and the spirituality of aging.



Dr. Kimberly LaCoste '91
School of Education and
Human Services Distinguished
Alumni Award

In addition to her bachelor's degree in education, Kimberly LaCoste earned a doctoral degree in educational leadership from Neumann. She currently works for the Rose Tree Media School District as a supervisor of special education after working for 22 years in the Upper Darby School District. Her lifelong commitment to service includes volunteering for the Special Olympics Bocce program and the Eagles Autism Foundation.



Patricia Demiranda '14
Spirit of Francis and Clare
of Assisi Award

Patricia Demiranda is co-founder of the William Trippley Youth Development Foundation, created to honor the memory of her son. The foundation offers at-risk youth a year-round program focusing on education and soccer. She also founded Camp Encouragement, a week-long grief camp for children who lost loved ones. The camp allows children to participate in counseling sessions and meet youngsters going through similar issues. In addition, she advocates for legislation to increase resources for crime victims and improve access to rehabilitation for those incarcerated.



Regina Black Lennox '77
President's Distinguished
Alumni Award

Regina Black Lennox is a life-long educator, former teacher, administrator, and consultant dedicated to improving the lives of children and building awareness of and action around social responsibility in the business sector. She currently serves as executive vice president and chief of staff for the Satell Institute, an organization of CEOs who are committed to corporate social responsibility. Prior to her time at Satell, she served for almost twenty years at Progressive Business Publications as the director of philanthropy and corporate citizenship.

Continued on page 24



Dontae Phillips '10
Young Alumni Achievement Award

Dontae Phillips is currently assigned to the Joint Staff at the National Guard Bureau in Arlington, Virginia, as a commissioned officer for Exceptional Family Member Program actions, issues, and initiatives. He previously served as a chaplain (captain) for the Department of Defense. He holds a degree in political science from Neumann University, a master's degree in public administration from Villanova, and a master's degree in divinity from Princeton's Theological Seminary. He is currently pursuing a doctorate in philosophy from the University of Maryland.



Denada Ramnishta '04
School of Business Distinguished Alumni Award

Denada Ramnishta is CEO of iCount/Klyme, a SaaS (software as a service) platform for managing small and mid-sized businesses. iCount's mission is to elevate entrepreneurship and empower communities where entrepreneurs live and work. Her previous position was chief growth officer and general manager at Lendio, a small business financing marketplace, where she advocated for inclusive lending practices for businesses operated by immigrants, low-income entrepreneurs, women, and people of color. She holds an MBA, is an expert contributor to *Forbes*, and regularly speaks at industry conferences.



Dariana Troilo
Outstanding Senior Award

Dariana Troilo graduated in May 2023 with a bachelor's degree in health science/certified exercise physiology athletic trainer. While thriving academically, she took advantage of other opportunities to make the most of her college career. Troilo served as a Mass sacristan, a Presidential Ambassador, the captain of the women's soccer team, and a member of the tennis team and the Health Science Club. She volunteers for Philabundance and plans to attend Neumann for her master's degree in athletic training.



Nominate Alumni

The Alumni Association is seeking nominations for the **2024 Alumni Awards.**

Nominate a worthy alum by sending a brief statement about the person's accomplishments to alumni@neumann.edu or by calling 610-558-5544.

Clean Water for Kenya

Clean water, a daily staple that so many take for granted, is a precious commodity in many parts of the world. Aaron Lemma '22 has witnessed this dire need in his travels to Kenya and is working to rectify the clean water shortage for thousands of Kenyans.

Lemma is the outreach and operations manager for a non-profit called Water is Life Kenya. The organization is based in Newark, Delaware, but its focus is on the people of Kenya, a country in East Africa with a population of more than 47.6 million.

Water is Life Kenya was established by Joyce Tannian in 2007. As a resident of New York City during September 11, Tannian was touched by the immense love and support her city received after the terrorist attacks. She was inspired to volunteer, leading her to southern Kenya in 2005. While there, Tannian experienced the country's drought firsthand and heard the phrase "water is life" from her Kenyan friends.

In the organization's 16 years of operation, 27 water projects have been completed, translating into 80,000 having access to clean water. These projects include drilling wells to provide clean water for drinking, cooking, washing, and livestock. The cost per well ranges from \$80,000 to \$100,000.

"Primarily, we do deep borehole wells, which go anywhere from 200 to 300 meters down. We realized that in order to keep these wells functioning, we had to make sure people had incomes. So, we started a livestock business for the Maasai people (the indigenous group

they serve). We teach them how to manage their livestock better, which has increased incomes around the wells," Lemma explained.

Not only is clean water vital to healthy living and survival for Kenyans, but it also has educational implications. According to Lemma, girls in Kenya cannot attend schools because they spend six to eight hours a day carrying water from community lakes and rivers to their homes.

He learned about the organization while teaching Biology at Neumann Goretta High School in Philadelphia, where he became intrigued with the natural world and realized that he wanted to work to combat climate change. He saw the opening at Water is Life and applied.

With a Neumann master's degree in Business and Organizational Leadership, he has worked for the organization since the summer of 2022, cultivating donors and enhancing fundraising opportunities.

In February of 2023, Lemma traveled to Kenya and saw the good that Water for Life is doing in that country.

"It's impressive to be able to do the kind of work that we do from Newark, Delaware, because all of our projects are in Southern Kenya," he said. "My job is to tell that story and build relationships so we can continue doing this work because there's a lot of need."

"Sometimes doors open, and I'm fortunate that I recognized that. This is emotionally challenging work, but it's such a privilege, too," he said. "This is what I wanted to be doing."



Aaron Lemma with drill operator Philip Zaghi (left) and three young members of the Nooriro community during the drilling of their new borehole, February 2023.



Lemma with Water is Life: Kenya's co-founder, Maasai elder Joseph Larasha, in Kajiado County.

WE are the MAGIC



Samantha DiCarlo works as a children's activities director at three Disney resorts. She is responsible for entertainment and can often be found poolside, organizing games and activities for the resort guests.

Recently she was given a Memory Maker Award from Disney. This honor is presented to employees who excel in several areas. She was recognized for being a guest favorite, someone other employees look up to, and for going above and beyond her typical job responsibilities during a recent hurricane.

Samantha DiCarlo '21



▲ Welyne Jargbah '17

Welyne Jargbah is a vice president at JP Morgan Chase, a multinational financial service company and the largest bank in the United States. She manages two Custody Operation teams within the corporate and investment bank. Her responsibilities include oversight of domestic trade settlement, serving as a subject matter expert for internal and external partners as well as key escalation contact.

Prior to this role, Welyne managed another team within Broker Dealer Operations. In this role, she provided oversight for a team that specializes in the processing of cash dividends across the Latin and Domestic markets as well as bond and interest payments supporting institutional clients of the Investment Bank. While at the firm she has attained FINRA Licenses and is currently an MBA candidate.



Sharon Williams '91 ▲

Sharon Williams, an eighth grade language arts teacher at Springton Lake Middle School, is one of 12 finalists for 2024 Pennsylvania Teacher of the Year. She is the only finalist from Delaware County.

The Pennsylvania Teacher of the Year Program recognizes classroom excellence by honoring K-12 public school teachers who have made outstanding academic contributions to students in the state. In addition to being an English teacher, Williams is also the communications coordinator and Newspaper Club sponsor at Springton Lake.

The winner of the Pennsylvania Department of Education award will be announced in December.

Tom Lamont '09 ▶

Tom Lamont has joined the family business, Lamont Coffee & Tea Company, which was established in 1956 by his grandfather. What started in a warehouse in Glenolden, Pennsylvania, has grown into a full-service coffee and tea company located in West Chester. Today, the company has over 300 customers, primarily restaurants and small businesses.

Last June, Lamont and his brothers, Andrew and Mike, opened Turks Head Café on Church Street in West Chester, the company's first storefront operation. In March, they brought their blends to select locations on campus.



◀ Malcolm Yates '16

Malcolm J. Yates is the first director of government relations for the Public Health Management Corporation (PHMC), a nonprofit public health institute that creates and sustains healthier communities in the Delaware Valley. In this role, he has already secured \$6 million in state funding for capital projects and improved local health care access through a partnership with Penn Medicine.

He was recently named by City & State PA, a news organization that covers state and local government, to the 2023 Power of Diversity: Black 100, a list of the most influential Black leaders in Pennsylvania politics and beyond.

ALUMNI UPDATES

CLASS Notes

BIRTHS & ADOPTIONS

Devon Albertson (Morris) '17 ▶ and her husband welcomed their first child, Evelyn, in January 2023.



Ryan '11 and **Ellyn Jones Bushbeck '13**, first met at Neumann University and proudly welcomed a beautiful baby boy on March 15, 2023. ▼



▼ **Teresa Smith '15** and her husband **Kyle Rotan '14** welcomed the newest member of their family, Madison Grace, in October 2022.



EDUCATION

Adrianna Butterline graduated from Neumann in 2022 with a degree in early elementary and special education. Immediately following her graduation, she accepted a position as a teacher at Saint George Independent Catholic School.

Tara Convery received her master's degree in pastoral counseling in 2022 and started a new position in January 2023 as an FF Family Based Therapist at Child Guidance Resource Center.

Just after welcoming a second child in February, **Brittany Kelly (Yarnall) '11** received her certification as a project management professional in April.

Leon Emmanuel Payano-Frias '95, '21 had a lot to celebrate in May 2023, earning two graduate degrees: A Master of Professional Studies in Community Leadership, and a Master of Science in Higher Education Policy, Research &

Administration. He was selected to address the graduating class at the Goucher College Commencement.

EMPLOYMENT

Stephen Andrews '79 has retired from his job of 16 years as an information technology compliance manager from AmerisourceBergen Corp.

Lisa Cadorette (Roberts) '89, '16 has been the founder and president of Cadorette Communications LLC since 2020.

Tykisha Church-Brown '92 received her 20 years of service award at Bayada Home Health Care last summer.

Mike Ciaverelli '19 started a new position with his alma mater, as Neumann University's video and multimedia producer.



▲ **Andrew Cikanovich '18** was sworn into the Upper Gwynedd Police Department in January 2023, and proudly wears his badge as Officer Cikanovich.

Taylor Colgan '21 started working as a procurement agent at the Boeing Company.

Bobby Cook '02 was selected as an honorary commander for the United States Joint Base, McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, located in Burlington County, NJ, in March 2022.

Michael Criscuolo '00 ▶ joined The Wistar Institute as vice president of development in January 2023.



AmerisourceBergen welcomed new team member, **John Crowley '22** as a coordinator in June 2022.

Adam Gillespie '21 ▶ achieved 19 years of service with the Harrington Police Department and was sworn in as the new chief of police in February 2023.



Stephanie Grundy '19 was hired in January 2023 as a communications advisor on the national communications services team with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

Steve Herman '07, an adjunct professor in the sport business program at Neumann University, has started a new position as an account director with Octagon.

Chief Howard Holland '20 has retired from the Chester County Police Department after 25 years of service.

In January of 2023, **Bill Keenan '10** was promoted to IT senior project manager-multi cloud at Vanguard.

Ryan Lee '17 started a position as a sales manager at the Club at Weston Hills in Florida.

Joanmarie (Curtis) Meyers '09 ▶ recently reunited with her alma mater as director of advancement communications at Neumann University and celebrated her wedding with a reception at our Mirenda Center in April 2023, alongside of family, friends, and fellow alumni.



Continues on page 28

WHERE are you and **WHAT** are you doing?

Let us know of any changes in your life that you would like to share at

www.neumann.edu/alumni/classnotes

Trimboli & Prusinowski LLC. welcomed **Britt Naimoli '18** ▶ in September 2022 as an associate attorney.



Meaghan Crawford O'Gara '05 joined the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton, New Jersey, as associate director of donor relations and stewardship.

Dr. Bill O'Hanlon, Ed.D. '10, assistant principal at Brandywine High School, was recognized by Marquis Who's Who of Top Educators for his dedication, achievements, and leadership in education administration.



Tower Behavioral Health, a provider of mental health services in southeastern Pennsylvania, named **Jenna Pacini '07** as chief executive officer.

Jacqueline Stanback '05 started a new position as chief executive officer at Finance 4 Success, Inc.

The School District of Philadelphia welcomed **Ryan Stokeling '15** as their new assistant principal in September 2023.

Brian Wagner '19 will be returning to Neumann University this fall as an adjunct professor in the sport business master's degree program.

MaryAnn Wallen '03 was welcomed as the director of the office of religious education in August 2022 by the Catholic Diocese of Wilmington.

Neumann University welcomed **Andrew Wilbraham '19 '23** as he started a new position as associate director of student engagement and leadership.

ENGAGEMENTS & MARRIAGES

Halle Crane '21 got engaged to her partner, Roy Aharonovich, in February with their dog, Reef, by their side.



◀ **Lilian Escobar-Alfaro '17** said "Yes!" to her fiancé, Joshua Thomas, in September 2022.

Congratulations to **Lena Farrell '19** ▶ and her fiancé, who got engaged last June. They are set to be married in July 2023.



◀ NU graduates **Nayeli Garcia '18** and **Paul Mitsky '18**, former Mr. Neumann, exchanged vows in September 2022!



▲ **Jake Loburak '22** former valedictorian and presidential ambassador, met **Madison Taylor '22** at Neumann. They were later engaged at Neumann and tied the knot in April 2023.

Christine Swanson '16, '19 and **Joseph Evans '19** exchanged vows on Christmas Eve 2022.



Carolyn Wilf '21 and **Jared Christmann '21** got engaged in December 2022, giving thanks to their university for their introduction: "Thank you Neumann for bringing us together" ~ Carolyn Wilf. ▼



IN THE NEWS

Rasheena Bowen '13, '15 published her first book in support of the Clinical Mental Health Counseling field. She is currently fulfilling her calling in that field.

Nicole Cogdell '20 was named one of Chester's Women Change Makers of 2023.



▲ **Joseph German '04, '15** was ordained in December 2022 at the Philadelphia Episcopal Cathedral.

Stephanie Harrington '15, an ambassador for Our Daily Bread Ministries, loves distributing literature in the Church and to her community.

Chantelle Iacone '07 donated her hair for the second time to a non-profit, Wigs and Wishes. Located in South Jersey. It is dedicated to providing wigs & granting wishes to courageous individuals battling cancer. ▶



Whitley Kels '14, a business teacher at the Mercy Career & Technical High School, helps students to become entrepreneurs. One of her students, pictured above, created his own clothing line and has been featured on CBS and received an award by a councilman at City Hall.

Betsy McKlaine '11, '15, director of degree completion and graduate admissions at Neumann University, was honored by the National Association of Graduate Admissions Professionals (NAGAP) with the 2023 Future Leader Award at the annual conference on April 13, 2023, in New York City. ▼



In Memoriam



Frank Janton

Mr. Frank Janton, one of the university's prominent supporters, passed away on February 15, 2023, at the age of 85. His relationship with Neumann began in the early 1980s, and he served on the Board of Trustees for more than 20 years. He was chair of the board's development committee and received the university's Presidential Humanitarian Award in 2015. He and his wife Marie attended numerous university events through the years and often expressed their love for the university's values, students, and mission.

Iris M. Alleyne '04

Sr. Barbara A. Beck, OSF '70

Karen Billops-Dalie '75

Sr. Jacinta Brazil

Maureen F. Charnitski '85

Sr. Joan Cooper, OSF

Sr. Nancy Crossen, OSF

Sr. Joan Dreisbach, OSF

John J. George '04

Sr. Elizabeth Ellen Kane, OSF '71

Sr. Alice Klein, OSF '70

Jeanne M. Lane '80

Sr. Anne Mancini, OSF '71

Rosalie Mirenda, PhD

Sr. Elizabeth M. Murphy, OSF '71

Sr. Assunta Prunty, OSF '73

Sr. Marie Patricia Real, OSF '68

Lisa M. Scarano '02

Samuel J. Shiels '81

Andrea K. Van Horn

Sr. Christopher Marie Wagner, OSF '69



KUDOS

Faculty Publications, Conferences and Awards

Etsuko Hoshino-Browne, PhD, professor of psychology, published the review essay, "Nature versus nurture of warmongers and pacifists: How regal or kungic societies are made," on *Warlike and Peaceful Societies: The Interaction of Genes and Culture* by Agner Fog in *Peace and Conflict: Journal of Peace Psychology* in November 2023.

Janis Chakars, PhD, associate professor of communications and digital media, presented the papers, "Echoes of the Past: Information wars in the Baltic States" at the Joint Journalism Historians Conference in April 2023, and "Information Wars, Nationhood, and Sovereignty in the Baltic States" at *Visuality 2023: Media and Communication in the Age of (Dis)information* in April 2023.

David DiMarco, PhD, professor of mathematics, along with **Ryan Savitz, PhD**, professor of mathematics, gave a peer-reviewed presentation of a manuscript titled "A Simple Introduction to Partial Differential Equations" at the Mathematical Association of America, EPaDel Section at the Spring 2023 Conference at Penn State, Brandywine. The two also published "A simple introduction to partial differential equations" in the *Journal of Multidisciplinary Research*, Vol. 14, No. 2 in fall 2022.

Erik Enters, head field hockey coach, is the USA junior men's field hockey coach. The team won a CanAM series in Toronto in March 2023, two games to one.

Kristin Evans, PhD, assistant professor nursing, gave the presentation "The Essence of Meaningful Recognition and Its Impact on Burnout" at the Sigma Theta Tau International Society of Nursing (SIGMA) Creating Healthy Work Environments (CHWE) conference in February 2023. Her dissertation, *The Essence of Meaningful Recognition and Its Relationship to Burnout Among Nurses* was published in May 2023.

Sr. Patricia Hutchison, OSF, EdD, director, Neumann Institute for Franciscan Studies, gave an online presentation at the AFCU Franciscan Friday on February 24, 2023.

Julie Lanzillo, EdD, associate professor and program director for sport management and sport business, published the article, "Athletic Conference Consideration for Adding New Sports Post-COVID" in the *Journal of Intercollegiate Sport*. She gave the following presentations: "How to Create a Successful Internship Program" at the 2023 Pennsylvania State Athletic Directors Association (PSADA) Conference in Hershey, PA in March 2023; "Who Wants to Work in Sports?" and "Leveraging LinkedIn to start your career prep NOW" at the 2023 College and Career Fair, School Lane Charter School in Bensalem, PA, in March 2023. Dr. Lanzillo also gave the presentation "Experiential Learning in Sport Tourism" at the Commission on Sport Management Accreditation (COSMA) Annual Conference in Tampa, FL, in February 2023 and with Caleb Mezzy, EdD, assistant professor sport management and business, "Building a Career Focused Community: Taking our teaching outside of the classroom" at the Commission on Sport Management Accreditation (COSMA) Annual Conference.

Amy Luckowski, RN PhD CCRN CNE, associate professor of nursing, gave a poster presentation titled "Let's Huddle: An engaging clinical teaching strategy," at the Fitzpatrick College of Nursing Annual Research Symposium at Villanova University in March 2023; at the Delta Tau at-large chapter of Sigma Theta Tau at the National Honor Society for Nursing Research Day at Neumann University in April 2023; and at the NED Talk at Virtual Spring Conference: Nursing Education: Thriving in Challenging Times for the Institute for Educators at University of Maryland in April 2023. Dr. Luckowski also gave a presentation, "Cultural Immersion Mission Trip," with students at the Sigma Theta Tau National Honor Society of Nursing Induction at Alvernia University in March 2023.

Sr. Suzanne Mayer, ihm, PhD, professor emeritus clinical mental health counseling, has just been invited to serve for an unusual third term on the Editorial Board of two different publications: the *Journal of Counseling, Leadership and Advocacy*, the quarterly publication of Chi Sigma Iota Counseling Academic and Professional Honor Society International, and the *PA Journal of Counseling*.

Laura McLaughlin, EdD, professor of education, published a chapter, titled "Moving beyond the innovation mindset," in the J. Tang & W. O. Lee (Eds.) book, *Making employee driven innovation achievable: Approaches and practices for workplace learning*. She was a keynote speaker for the Arab Bureau of Education for the Gulf States, presenting "Nurturing Learners as Innovators: Fostering Design-thinking, an Entrepreneurial Mindset, and Digital Fluency" in May 2023. She also presented "Facilitating an Engaging Virtual Classroom: Building Teacher Presence from Day One" at the Peirce College Spring 2023 Professional Development Series and for a Stylus Publishing webinar. Dr. McLaughlin also recorded two podcasts, "Lecture Breakers Podcast: Joanne Ricevuto & Laura McLaughlin" and "Think UDL Podcast with host Lillian Nave."

Mary Ann McLaughlin EdD, MSN, RN, associate dean, undergraduate nursing, gave the podium presentation "Incorporating a Model of Ethics into the Undergraduate Nursing Curriculum" at the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) Transform 2022 Conference in December 2022. She also published a book revision as a clinical editor for *Cardiovascular Care Made Incredibly Easy*.



Robert McMonagle, PhD, professor of political science, and **Ryan Savitz, PhD**, professor of mathematics published the article, "Active Learning: Beyond Structured Debates in Political Science Pedagogy," in the *Journal of Political Science Education* in November 2022.

Jason M. Mensinger MEd, LAT, ATC, PES, CES, instructor athletic training, presented "Performance-Based Rehabilitation and Injury Prevention" at the National Strength & Conditioning Association Mid-Atlantic Regional Conference in December 2022.

Andrew Miller, MA, assistant professor of history, organized and led Pre-Law students on a visit to Widener University Delaware Law School, in Wilmington, Delaware in March 2023, and delivered an address at Williamson College of the Trades about his book on the school, which was published in 2017. In April 2023, he organized and hosted a visit to Neumann by Jeffrey Zavrotny, Esq, associate dean for law admissions at Wilmington University School of Law. Also in April 2023, he organized and led a community service trip to the Marine Corps League, Delaware County Detachment #288.

John Mizzone, PhD, professor of philosophy, published "The Catholic Theistic Evolution in Philotheos" in the *International Journal for Philosophy and Theology*.

Rebecca Mueller, PhD, RN, FNP-BC, professor of nursing, gave the podium presentation, "Bringing gender-affirming care to primary care: use of a multimodal curriculum to educate nurse practitioners and nurse practitioner students" at the Sigma Theta Tau International, Delta Tau-at large Virtual Research Evening in April 2023 and gave the poster presentation, "Critical Appraisal of Transgender Health in Nursing Education" at the M. Louise Fitzpatrick College of Nursing Annual Research Symposium, Reimaging Practice, Teaching and Learning: The New Learning Encounter in Villanova, PA in March 2023. Dr. Mueller also published *Bring gender-affirming care to primary care: Use of a multimodal curriculum to educate nurse practitioners and nurse practitioner students in Nurse Educator*.

Marisa A. Rauscher, PhD, professor of educational psychology, presented "Inclusive learning gatherings: Reflecting on our own journeys" at the workshop Making

Connections: Inclusive Excellence in Higher Education in March 2023. She also participated in the roundtable conversation, "Navigating renewal: Sabbatical, sojourn, and service" at the Association of Teacher Educators (ATE) 2023 Annual Meeting in March 2023. Dr. Rauscher was also interviewed by Jennifer Lewis-Hall from PHL 17 for a piece titled "PA Teacher Shortage" in March 2023.

Francesca Reed, MA, vice president for enrollment management and marketing, participated in a panel at the Executive Panel Series Hanover Research-Private Colleges and Universities, "Using Lessons Learned from 2022 to Plan and Implement in 2023," presented in four separate panels at the NAGAP Summit in April 2023, and served on a panel for the webinar, "Leadership Exchange-Death of Recruitment Travel and other Musings."

Sister Linda Marie Sariego, OSF, PhD, associate professor Spanish, presented "Una meditación sobre el adviento at Retiro de Cursillistas" in Norristown, PA in December 2022.

Father Stephen Thorne, MS, EdD, adjunct faculty education, successfully defended his dissertation at Bowie State University.



35 Years at Neumann

As **Dr. Janet Massey** tells it, she found her home 35 years ago when she said goodbye to the CPA world and stepped into the world of higher education at Neumann College. Throughout the next three decades, Massey watched a small college evolve into a thriving university, and she couldn't be prouder of the part she has played in this transformation.

The year was 1988, and Massey was working as a CPA in an accounting firm while raising her four-year-old daughter with her husband, Joe. Each year around tax season, Massey remembers the struggles she would encounter being a mom and a tax accountant.

Massey knew she needed to make a career change, and so did her husband. He was the one who saw an advertisement in the newspaper for an Accounting professor at Neumann and sent in her resume. She continually thanks him for pointing her in the direction of a university that would become her second home.

From the Alumni Executive Board

Dear Alumni,

Over the past seven years, I have had the honor and pleasure to serve you as a member of the Neumann University Alumni Executive Board (AEB). During my time as board president, I strived to uphold the values of Neumann in all aspects of our work. My intention was always to serve with excellence and proudly represent our alumni community.

I am incredibly proud of the accomplishments made by this board over the past few years. The AEB focused on growing the Alumni Awards program, increasing our board membership, and creating an all-encompassing volunteer program. All of these efforts have assisted Neumann University in identifying and honoring distinguished alumni in the exceptional work they do to serve others.

As Bryan Defoney '13, begins his term as president, he will share some exciting initiatives that highlight ways in which Neumann alumni can become involved with our ever-growing campus community. This fall, the AEB will be launching a campus-wide volunteer program through which alumni and parents can give back to Neumann and interact with current students. Under Bryan's leadership, the AEB will increase our visibility with faculty and students by working collaboratively to identify engagement opportunities. From organized speaking engagements to alumni and student partnerships, these events will offer value to our students' educational experience and provide them with additional professional support and resources throughout their life journey.

The future is incredibly bright for our beloved institution, and I challenge each of you to purposefully find new ways in this upcoming year to give back your time, talent, and treasure to Neumann University. I am excited for the future of our Alumni Executive Board under the leadership of Bryan, and I am confident he will continue to strengthen the board and the alumni community.

Thank you for allowing me to serve as your Alumni Association President.

FOREVER A KNIGHT,

Lori Smith '99 '05

Former Alumni Executive Board President



Lori Smith and Bryan DeFoney

First-Generation Alumnus Named President of MCS Group, Inc.

Anyone who knew Frank Altamuro III '14 '15 while he was a student at Neumann University expected him to do well after graduation. Becoming president of a national company by age 30, however, may have exceeded those expectations.

The MCS Group, Inc. (MCS) recently named Altamuro president. His career with MCS began in 2017 as an accounting manager, and he soon moved to director of finance and human resources. In 2020, he was promoted to chief financial officer.

MCS, founded in 1979 by Rosemary Esposito and David Bean, is a certified Women's Business Enterprise. The company is a nationally recognized outsourcing provider for services such as records and reporting, management, and technology solutions. Their clients include law firms, insurance companies, corporations, government agencies, and educational institutions. MCS is headquartered in Philadelphia.

Altamuro's career trajectory with MCS escalated when COVID hit. Among the many other services that MCS offers its clients is onsite services, and the need for front-line workers drastically increased during the pandemic. Altamuro, as the leader of the MCS HR department, implemented new safety protocols and transitioned half of the employees to remote work. The company's founders noticed and appreciated his efforts in this new role and the one that followed (CFO).

"Frank's leadership as CFO during times of uncertainty made it clear that he has the expertise and instincts that we see as integral for this position," said Esposito.

Altamuro certainly has a long and successful history of engagement. At Neumann, he served as president of the Student Government Association, president of the Mock Trial Club, resident assistant, and presidential ambassador. He also endowed the Riley Scholarship by raising money for cancer research. Embracing the university's RISES values and service-learning philosophy, he carried these with him as he began his career.

"The leadership and service opportunities at Neumann contributed to the success in my career. I'm grateful to the university and felt equipped when I hit the workforce."

When Altamuro first started with the MCS, he was required to watch a video about servant leadership. He quickly realized that this company had an uncanny parallel to his alma mater's values. MCS has "Pillars of Success" that Altamuro compares to Neumann's core values.

"I tell the story often about my leadership roles at Neumann because the company and Neumann are very similar and have certain values they hold close. The leadership style here is servant leadership. The reason I'm successful at MCS is because it aligns with me personally," he explained.

"I have new energy and motivation going into the next few years. The challenge excites me. The people excite me," he said. "We learn from each other. We listen to each other. We're ready to accelerate."

“The leadership and service opportunities at Neumann contributed to the success in my career.”

Frank Altamuro III



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Come Home!

2023 Homecoming Weekend

Celebrating All Knights:
Alumni, Students, Faculty, Staff, And Families!

OCTOBER 13 – 15, 2023

Fun for Knights of all ages!



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at neumann.edu/homecoming.