

SUMMER 2021
Vol. 49, No. 2

THE NEW ACC

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Use Words:
ALUMNI WHO SERVE**



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A magazine for
NEUMANN UNIVERSITY
alumni, family and friends

SUMMER 2021 Vol. 49, No. 2

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**NEUMANN
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CATHOLIC EDUCATION IN THE FRANCISCAN TRADITION



FROM THE PRESIDENT

To our alumni and friends,

Those of us in the Neumann family are well aware of the university's commitment to our mission and RISES values: Reverence, Integrity, Service, Excellence, and Stewardship. We speak of them openly at college events and in daily interactions with each other.

In this issue of *Accent* magazine, we shine the spotlight on a host of our alumni who are living that mission. In the cover story (pages 14-19), you will meet graduates who have embraced the Franciscan tradition in a variety of fields: social work, art, education, immigration, and community service. Their stories are inspirational and embody the counsel that Catholics attribute to St. Francis of Assisi — *Preach the Gospel at all times. If necessary, use words.*

You will also read about the President's Advisory Council, a group of alumni who have agreed to devote their time and talents to open career pathways for students of color, first-generation students, and those with challenging socio-economic backgrounds. The Council's efforts will identify opportunities for internships, networking and mentoring to generate connections that will prepare these students for professional livelihood and enhance their social mobility.

Finally, you will learn of the contributions of Dr. Sandra Weiss, who dedicated 45 years to teaching students Biology and Clinical Laboratory Science, and Ann and Mark Baiada, who recently donated \$1 million to Neumann. They are not alumni, but their service to this university has been remarkable and critical to our success.

**This edition is truly a collection
of stories about members of the Neumann
community who live Gospel values.**

We are fortunate to have them carry the torch of Franciscan charism, and I am deeply grateful to them all.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Chris Domes".

Dr. Chris Everett Domes
President

AROUND CAMPUS



Students Bury COVID Time Capsule

At the university's inaugural First Fest on April 9, Neumann freshmen raised a flag and buried a time capsule in the residential quad to signal their transition to a sophomore year that everyone hopes will be COVID-free.

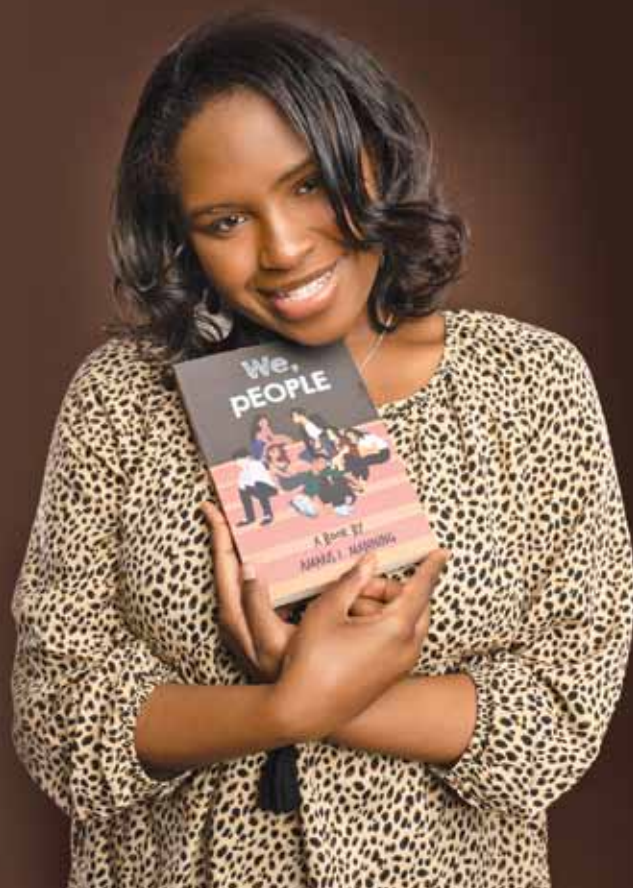
The time capsule includes a mask, hand sanitizer, a St. Francis figurine, a Sir Francis stress ball, a printed copy of the daily health check form, pandemic-era photos and marketing materials, and messages to the future from first-year students. The notes offer personal beliefs, humor, and hopes for the years ahead.

Senior Publishes Book

Amaris Manning checked one thing off her bucket list before she graduated in May — writing and publishing a book. *We, pEOPLE* tells the story of a diverse group of teens going through everyday struggles.

Meagan, the protagonist, is faced with her best friend moving away. A new family moves into her friend's house, and Meagan is not happy at first about the new neighbors. The theme of the 239-page book, however, is that

“despite hard times, people can be united, regardless of race, gender, religion, or orientation.”



We're Transfer Friendly

For the second consecutive year, Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society has named Neumann to its transfer honor roll, a list that recognizes the highest-rated colleges in the country for creating systems and processes that support transfer students. The 2021 honor roll includes 150 colleges. Only 13 are in Pennsylvania.

Colleges were selected based on their transfer friendliness rating, which includes cost, scholarships, admissions practices, and peer reviews.



Fall Plans: Return to the Classroom

In an email to the university community on March 25, Dr. Chris Domes wrote: "With wide distribution of vaccines and progress toward achieving herd immunity, we are planning for a fully in-person semester this fall. The University will remain vigilant and cautious as always, follow all the best public health guidance, and continue to take care of those who remain at risk."

He tempered his optimism with a note of caution. "The pandemic isn't over," he reminded everyone. "While our numbers remain very low compared to other universities, we know how quickly things can change."

Food Pantry Set for Fall Launch

Neumann will open the Knight's Pantry to address student food insecurity in the fall. Located on the fifth floor of the Abessinio Building, the pantry will provide free food and personal hygiene items to undergraduate and graduate students.

Five community partners have committed to support this project with donations: Mount Hope Church, Red Hill Farm, Saint Thomas the Apostle Church, Sodexo, and Loaves of Love, a group of five churches in the Garnet Valley area.

Manjit Minhas: Cultivate Your Inner Champion

Manjit Minhas, a brewery owner and celebrity judge on Canada's *Dragons' Den*, offered some sage advice to students about how to become successful entrepreneurs in the fifth annual Rocco A. '79 and Mary F. Abessinio Lecture in Management and Entrepreneurship on March 18.

She told students to practice their pitch, cultivate their inner champion to overcome fear, get out of their comfort zones, and learn from their mistakes. "Pitching is the transfer of passion," she told the students during her virtual address. When young entrepreneurs are not perfecting their pitch, they should "listen to understand, not to reply."

Bond Issue Saves \$\$\$\$

Neumann has successfully closed on a \$26.6 million bond issue. This financial transaction saved approximately \$1.3 million in interest expense and provided \$5 million for capital expansion without negatively affecting the university's Standard & Poor's bond rating. These additional funds are earmarked to help fund the acquisition of land and property.

The 2020 bond refinanced the 2010 Bond Series and the 2018 Health Sciences Center bank loan at lower interest rates. The Finance Department, led by VP Gene McWilliams, worked on the details of the transaction.

Dr. Hoover Named "Nursing Legend"

Main Line Today magazine has named Dr. Kathleen Hoover a Legend of Nursing. Hoover, dean of Nursing and Health Sciences, is one of six nursing professionals in the region selected for this honor, which recognizes their contributions to the healthcare field.

MLT polled over 1,000 local nurses, asking them to nominate their peers in various specialties for the award. Dr. Hoover was one of two educational professionals named Legends of Nursing.



Dr. Robert Till Retires

Dr. Robert Till, who has taught in the School of Business for 15 years, retired this spring. A professor of Management, Dr. Till came to Neumann after 22 years with JPMorgan Chase and guided several senior seminar teams to top 100 rankings in The Business Strategy Game, an international management competition.



Dr. Santana to Coordinate Diversity Initiatives

Dr. Michelle Santana, assistant professor of Nursing, has been appointed the coordinator of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Initiatives. Santana had already served as chairperson of the University Council for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (UCDEI) for a year when Dr. Domes selected her for this new, part-time position. Her role as coordinator is to effectively orchestrate all of the work being done through a variety of on-campus DEI initiatives.



Stay Woke

Are you woke? Shanice Boyd is, and she's on a mission to make others as aware of injustice as she is. The junior hosts *Stay Woke*, a weekly 98.5 WNUW radio program to educate listeners about instances of bigotry and racism. "I want people to be aware of what the Black community goes through," says Boyd, a Communication and Digital Media major.

The Oxford English Dictionary defines "woke" as "alert to injustice in society, especially racism." Its popularity has increased in the last decade, sparked by a sequence of incidents that brought attention to the treatment of young Black Americans by police.

Boyd's show applies the dictionary definition to actual events. "Every Monday I dedicate my show to a different Black American who was wrongfully accused, wrongfully convicted, or wrongfully murdered by law enforcement."

“I want people to be aware of what the Black community goes through.”

Racial Insult Fuels Winning Essay

Kelsey Robinson, a third-year DPT student, won a national essay contest sponsored by the American Council of Academic Physical Therapy. The instructions asked students to describe an experience that significantly impacted their professional growth and identity with respect to the public health crises of racism and/or COVID-19.

In her essay, Robinson confronted an uncomfortable personal experience that had haunted her for months. She described the steps she took to turn the effects of a crippling racist remark by a student at another college into a positive force for self-discovery. Rather than repressing her pain and self-doubt, she used the incident to become an advocate for diversity.



Virus Testing for Resident Students

With the assistance of a mobile testing lab, Neumann screened 331 students for COVID-19 in the Mirenda Center parking lot before they moved into residence halls on January 15 and 16. Only two students tested positive.

Neumann covered the costs of the tests, processed within 90 minutes in the lab that was developed by FlowMetric Life Sciences. Neumann graduate nursing students were on hand to assist the undergraduates.



Student-Athletes Show Dedication, Resilience

Pods. Phases. Bubbles. Virus testing. Social distancing. Sanitizing.

These are words and phrases that coaches and student-athletes rarely use in the course of a normal season. Of course, the 2020-21 academic year was far from normal. The COVID-19 pandemic caused the cancellation of fall sports, an extremely abbreviated winter season, and a shortened spring schedule.

University athletics committed to make the health and safety of students, coaches, and fans the top priority from the moment that virus mitigation required extraordinary public health measures in March 2020. This decision necessitated

that teams either abandon or reinvent practices, conditioning, coaching strategy, team building and, of course, games.

"Things we took for granted for all of these years, now we have to rethink them," said Charles Sack, university director of athletics and recreation, in October.

As with many other new restrictions in their lives, NU student-athletes made the most of this unorthodox way of playing the sport they love. Most were simply thankful to be with their teammates as often as they could.

After almost a full year without games, Kyle Mountain, men's ice hockey head coach, summed up the student-athlete attitude before the first 2021 match: "We're all incredibly grateful for the opportunity to compete again. Our student-athletes have worked extremely hard and remained patient through a frustrating set of circumstances."

Throughout a long and challenging year, student-athletes have demonstrated dedication and resilience to play the sport they love as Neumann Knights.



CATHOLIC EDUCATION IN THE
FRANCISCAN TRADITION

New Signs on Campus

The 12-year-old campus signs, originally installed when Neumann became a university in 2009, were replaced this spring by Aerial Signs, a local company. The new structures include entrance, building and directional signs as well as campus maps.

US News: NU Tops for Veterans

U.S. News & World Report has ranked Neumann's online bachelor's degree for veterans among the top 100 in the country. In rankings released in January, the magazine named Neumann's program as #73 nationwide and #4 in Pennsylvania. Rankings were based on a program's effectiveness at awarding affordable degrees in a reasonable amount of time.

Neumann offers online bachelor's degree programs in Business and Organizational Studies and Public Safety Administration. Both programs offer courses in an accelerated format and provide veterans flexibility in completing the degree.

Class Gives Back to Local Businesses

A Sport Management senior seminar class asks local businesses every year to support its spring networking event. This year, however, because of the pandemic, students turned the tables and launched a Give Back campaign, raising money for small businesses in Aston.

The class collected more than \$500 and presented its first donation to Taste Budz, a popular Aston restaurant. They also delivered checks to Aston Pizza, Slowdown Grill, Cocco's Pizzeria & Pub, Zac's Hamburgers, Applebee's Grill & Bar, and others.

Drive to 30

For first-year students who didn't complete 30 credits in 2020-21, Neumann has come to the rescue with the *Drive to 30* program. It provides freshmen the opportunity to stay on track to graduation by enrolling in two free summer courses.

Students have the option to take two of five courses offered during Summer Session II or retake a class that they failed. *Drive to 30* is based on research indicating that when students complete 30 credits during their first year, they are more likely to persist to graduation.

DRIVE TO 30

ENG 102
THEO 104
MUS 104
PSYCH 101
HIST 102

STAY ON TRACK TO GRADUATE.

Complete **30 CREDITS** with **FREE** summer courses.

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Faculty Profile: Etsuko Hoshino-Browne, PhD

Dr. Etsuko Hoshino-Browne can pinpoint precisely the origin of her fascination with psychology. She was in elementary school in her native Japan, a youngster who was not widely accepted into the social circles of her classmates. She felt ostracized. One day, she tripped in the schoolyard and cut her chin. Blood gushed from the wound as she was led to the infirmary for treatment.

When she returned to school the next day, the other students suddenly began to include her in conversations and activities. Even as a young girl, Dr. Hoshino-Browne was stunned by the fact that one seemingly insignificant incident could change the behavior of her classmates so radically, and her love of social psychology was born.

Now a PhD with 17 years of experience as a college professor, she continues to share this story with her students today.

With her upbringing in Japan, education in Canada, and professorial experience in the U.S., Dr. Hoshino-Browne has a unique cultural and ethnic background with extensive experiential insight into the inner workings of three cultures. She has a passionate interest in examining cultural influences on social psychological processes. And because she is an Asian American, she is fascinated by the psychological processes of stereotyping and prejudice.

"To reduce prejudice, we have to understand each other," she says.

She has been on the Neumann faculty for only eight years, yet in an alumni survey conducted in the fall of 2020, she was named by several graduates as the person who was the greatest influence on their undergraduate experience. This recognition surprised and pleased the professor.

“To reduce prejudice,
we have to understand
each other.”

"I think most students consider me demanding," she admits. "In the classroom, I emphasize professionalism, critical thinking, and good writing. In the Japanese culture, we think about things in the long term, and those qualities will be important to students toward being successful in their future careers. I just hope to play a small role in assisting them to achieve their goals."

Dr. Hoshino-Browne took a circuitous route to Neumann. Early in her life, she held a job in Tokyo with a Canadian provincial government and was transferred to its Toronto office in Ontario. There she met her late husband and stayed to earn an Honors BA and PhD in Psychology at the University of Waterloo. Her husband passed away during her doctoral studies, and she came to

America, completely without a social network, to take a job at Swarthmore College, where she taught for eight years.

"Losing my husband, and my time at Swarthmore, which was a very competitive environment, made me a better and more compassionate teacher," she explains. "I enjoy my time in the classroom and enjoy even more my interactions with students during office hours. I like to get to know them and learn about their experiences and their hopes for the future. My curiosity about people is why I like psychology and teaching."

Recipient of the Lindback Distinguished Teaching Award for 2020-21, Dr. Hoshino-Browne has dozens of published articles and conference presentations about social psychology and cross-cultural psychology to her credit. She has taught a variety of courses at Neumann and Swarthmore, including Critical Thinking in Psychology (an honors seminar), Senior Seminar, Organizational Psychology, Research Methods, Cross-Cultural Psychology, and Social Psychology.

When she is not teaching or researching, she enjoys a daily walk with her husband. She also enjoys reading Japanese books, gardening, and cooking. Both she and her American husband are vegetarians.

*Dr. Etsuko Hoshino-Browne receives
the 2020-21 Lindback Distinguished Teaching Award
from Dr. Chris Domes and Dr. Lawrence DiPaolo.*



A Joy-Filled Weekend of Graduations

With the pandemic still a worrisome factor in daily life, Neumann took a creative approach to host in-person graduations, scheduling three for Saturday, May 15, and another three on Sunday, May 16.



Valedictorian

Amanda DeCarolis is valedictorian of the class of 2021. Her academic credentials include a summa cum laude GPA, the Excellence in Business Administration award, two minors, an Honors Program certificate, and membership in three national honor societies.

DeCarolis was also active on campus, participating in Neumann Media and the University Jazz Band, and serving as a Neumann Navigator, Presidential Ambassador, retreat leader for Campus Ministry, and volunteer at St. Francis Inn and for the University Advancement phone-a-thon.



Irish Ambassador:

Daniel Mulhall, Irish Ambassador to the U.S., addressed the graduates.



Students graduated in groups of fewer than 100, each permitted to have only two guests at the event. The six commencement exercises were held under a tent on the front lawn of the Mirenda Center. Guests were seated in pods to observe social distancing guidelines.

The three ceremonies on May 15 (held at 10 a.m., 1 p.m., and 4 p.m.) were for the Class of 2021. The Class of 2020, for which there was no in-person event last year, returned to campus for its commencement on May 16 for ceremonies held at the same three times.

Approximately eight hundred degrees were awarded during the two days although about half of the Class of 2020 chose not to attend the delayed ceremony.

Daniel Mulhall, Ireland's ambassador to the United States, spoke at the 1 p.m. ceremony on Saturday. He and his wife Greta received honorary degrees from the university.

"The world that you are entering may be a less dangerous one, without the threat of nuclear conflict between East and West, than the world of 1980 when I entered the foreign service," said Ambassador Mulhall, "but you will be living in a far more complex world with complex challenges: the changing environment, pandemics, cyber attacks."

He advised the graduates not to be complacent. "With dedication, determination, and a continued commitment to learning, the sky is the limit."



NU a Perfect Match for Twins

Halle and Jillian Crane came to campus from Canada in 2016, and their college careers have been as similar as they are. Both played ice hockey and golf. Both graduated with degrees in Nursing, and both landed jobs at Christiana Hospital where they start on the same day, July 12.

In her commencement address, Valedictorian Amanda DeCarolis reminded her classmates of the obstacles that they had overcome: "This year [of COVID] taught us through its challenges that while not every day is a good day, there is good in every day. We learned new ways to communicate, learn online, and work, all while striving to gain real-world work experience in an everchanging and challenging job market."





Neumann Names Classroom after Dr. Sandra Weiss

Neumann has named a laboratory classroom in honor of Dr. Sandra Weiss, who is retiring after teaching Clinical Laboratory Science for 45 years.

A Chadds Ford resident, Weiss has spent countless hours on the third floor of the Bachmann Building in the laboratory that now bears her name. She came to Neumann in 1976 to teach medical technology and became director of the university's Clinical Laboratory Science (CLS) Department in 1985.

Under Weiss's leadership, the Biology/CLS program became one of Neumann's most successful in terms of career preparation. More than half of her students have had job offers in hand before they graduate, and they have been hired by A.I. Dupont Hospital, Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, Christiana Medical Laboratories, Einstein Medical Center, and the University of Pennsylvania Medical Laboratories, among others. Many immediately pursue advanced degrees.

According to Weiss, clinical laboratory scientists are experts who perform highly complex testing, such as tests for COVID-19, to assist physicians in patient diagnosis and treatment. They use sophisticated biomedical instrumentation and technology to perform laboratory testing on blood and body fluids.

Weiss describes her retirement as bittersweet and remembers her students fondly. "Most of the students who go into our program are the cream of the crop," she explained. "The program is extremely rigorous, and they have to have a lot of self-discipline and motivation to keep up and see the light at the end of the tunnel."

During her decades at Neumann, she has taught biology, immunology, human anatomy and physiology, medical science, and hematology. She has authored publications and presentations that deal with academic performance, learning style and student satisfaction; curriculum development for information literacy standards; and assessment of cognitive ability.

Weiss has won the Lindback Distinguished Teaching Award, Neumann's Faculty Award for Growth in Scholarship, an Outstanding Research Award from the Pennsylvania Research Association, faculty development grants, and math and science grants from the Southeastern Pennsylvania Consortium for Higher Education. She also participated in a National Science Foundation grant to study teaching excellence in STEM secondary education and was selected for inclusion in the Trademark Women of Distinction 2020 Honors Edition.

Now a professor emeritus, she holds an EdD from Widener University, an MA from West Chester University, and a BS from Drexel University.

Ann and Mark Baiada Give Neumann University \$1 Million

Mark and Ann Baiada, founders of Bayada Home Health Care, have given a \$1 million gift to Neumann University.

The donation will be used to support facilities for nursing and health sciences programs, fund scholarships, and implement the launch of a new, expansive campus master plan.

"We have always supported Catholic education," says Ann Baiada, "and Mark and I embrace the Franciscan values that Neumann University instills in its students. Because of our life's work in healthcare, we have always been advocates for nurses, too, and Neumann has an outstanding nursing program."

Because of her family background, Baiada also identifies with the students who attend Neumann, many of whom are the first generation in their family to pursue a college degree.

The campus master plan, recently approved by the Board of Trustees and the focus of the largest portion of the Baiada gift, looks ahead to an expanded campus footprint in 2035. Adding space for 60-100 resident students, renovating Bachmann Building to accommodate the university's academic schools, and building a stand-alone student center are the first priorities, set for completion by 2025. Later projects include the creation of a new main entrance to campus, the expansion of event space and conference facilities, and building town homes for students.

The Baiadas have been friends of Neumann since 2006, giving generously to the Scholarship Gala and fund-raising events to support the arts on campus. They have also been the primary donors to initiate the financing of many facilities on campus, including the Bayada Atrium in the Mirenda Center and the Bayada Teaching Auditorium in the Health Sciences Center. The current gift brings their total philanthropic support for Neumann to \$3.6 million.

“They embody the Franciscan values upon which the university was founded, and we are blessed by their generosity, kindness and leadership.”

The couple have also dedicated their leadership expertise to the university. Ann served on the Board of Trustees from 2007 to 2020, including a term as board chairperson from 2018-2020. Mark is a key member of the President's Advisory Board and has delivered

the keynote address at Neumann's Academic Awards Convocation. Together, they have endowed a scholarship for deserving nursing students and established an annual home healthcare lecture.

"Mark and Ann Baiada are true philanthropists with a long and impressive history of helping others," says Dr. Chris Domes, Neumann University president. "They embody the Franciscan values upon which the university was founded, and we are blessed by their generosity, kindness and leadership. Their extraordinary gift will provide immediate support for deserving undergraduates and ignite a campus expansion so that we can serve even more students in the coming decades."

It is no coincidence that Neumann University's strong nursing and health sciences programs struck a chord with the Baiadas. In 1975, Mark invested his life savings and founded Bayada Home Health Care, an international, nonprofit home health care provider, which is headquartered in Moorestown, New Jersey. The company is based on a belief that people deserve a safe home life with comfort, independence, and dignity.

Today, Bayada employs more than 28,000 people who provide a full range of clinical care and support services at home for children and adults of all ages. The company has a presence in 23 states and six countries.

Ann has a personal connection to the nursing profession. She grew up in the Germantown section of Philadelphia where her mother worked as nurse. Inspired by her family role model, Ann graduated from Abington Memorial Hospital's School of Nursing and worked actively as a nurse for 48 years.

The Baiadas have five children and 11 grandchildren. The children, four sisters and one brother, are involved with the business. The family's motto appears on a wall of every family member's home: "Think big. Work hard. Show love."

"With this extraordinarily generous gift," says Dr. Domes, "Mark and Ann have definitively shown their love for Franciscan higher education and have solidified the success of Neumann University for generations to come."



If Necessary, Use

ALUMNI WHO SERVE

Preach the Gospel at all times. If necessary, use words. Catholic lore attributes this concept to St. Francis of Assisi, and the meaning is clear — let Gospel values guide your actions.

Many Neumann University alumni have taken this advice to heart and dedicated their talents to the service of others. Meet five of these alumni, who represent thousands of others for whom the Franciscan tradition is a calling. They embody the university mission that “knowledge, while valuable in itself, is best used in the service of others.”

Stephanie Vogelmann '19

Stephanie Vogelmann doesn't sit around, waiting for things to happen. Immediately after graduating with a degree in Social Work, she volunteered for the FrancisCorps in Syracuse and spent 11 months there. When she finished her service in upstate New York, she took a whole week off before starting her MSW program at the University of Pennsylvania.

Her commitment to serve, she says, began on campus. “The sense of community at Neumann was what got me so involved, feeling like I was part of something.”

During her senior year at Neumann, torn between the pressure to get a job and her desire to do a year of service, she remembered the service immersion trips to Wyoming and Guatemala that she took through Campus Ministry. “That's where my passion for social work came from, and I really wanted to continue in the tradition of the Franciscan charism,” she recalls.

“Franciscan values are ingrained in me. They're part of my identity.”

In Syracuse, she volunteered at Cathedral Emergency Services, a satellite of Catholic Charities, where she wore many different hats. She worked with the food pantry and helped sort clothing donations. Stephanie spent most of her time, however, with the housing and relocation

program, working with individuals and families who were at risk of being homeless. She screened clients for eligibility, went on housing inspections, and helped people move into their new homes.

The toughest part of her job was not being able to help everyone who needed assistance. “That was hard to come to terms with, but I learned to pour my heart into what I could do, connect my experience to my faith, and value the relationships that I was forming with the people in my community.”

The year with FrancisCorps inspired her to pursue an MSW “to learn how to make those relationships really meaningful and help people see the dignity and worth that they have as human beings.”

She chose Penn for her graduate studies because “I felt called to do clinical work related to hospice, palliative care, grief and loss. Penn has a health care and social work specialization.”

With advanced standing because of her BSW from Neumann, Stephanie earned her MSW in May 2021.

She hopes to land a job in a hospital, working with care givers for patients who suffer from Alzheimer's or dementia.

Words:



“

Franciscan
values
are ingrained
in me.

They're part
of my identity.

”

Brian Dolbow '99

Brian Dolbow, a communications major, has always had a passion for helping those who are in need. He attributes this to his time spent with Neumann's Ministry Center, doing outreach work for the homeless community with Sr. Marguerite O'Beirne, OSF '70 and Sr. Linda DeCero, OSF. Brian has done community outreach in Philadelphia, Baltimore, Washington DC, and Albuquerque, New Mexico.

In fact, Brian was selected to receive the first Alumni Association Spirit of Francis and Clare award. This award was created to acknowledge alumni who develop an initiative that makes a significant impact with the underserved, supports the environment, advances peacemaking, or develops intercultural understanding.

In addition to being a security professional, Brian is the founder of B and Dee's Baltimore Love, Inc, in Baltimore, Maryland, whose mission is to provide life-sustaining resources to the most vulnerable residents of Baltimore City and inspire others to give back as well. What started out as tribute to his dear friend, Demetrius Mallisham, community activist, blossomed into a career for Brian.

The organization began serving the homeless in Baltimore in 2013 as a small group of volunteers who would come together a few times per year. With a current volunteer base of 1,500 individuals, B & Dee's, under Brian's leadership, now has a monthly Lunch Patrol program, larger quarterly events, and feeds approximately 1,300 people in need every month.

According to Brian, the Lunch Patrol is the staple of the organization. The last Sunday of every month, volunteers distribute brown bag lunches to those in need throughout Baltimore City. "If hungry people don't come to us, we head out into the city and find them," he said.

The quarterly events include an Annual Black History Month Celebration, Annual Easter Celebration, Mother's Day and Father's Day Tributes, a Back-to-School Block Party, and Annual Thanksgiving Dinner.

In addition to events and individual outreach, they provide health resources, clothing, and hygiene items. Brian believes that Baltimore City will be a better place when people join forces as one team to make a difference.

“
If hungry
people don't
come to us,
we head out
into the city and
find them.
”



Alloyius McIlwaine '04

"If you have a platform, you should use it to make things better," says Alloyius McIlwaine, an artist, businessman, and multicultural advocate. Whether he's painting an abstract portrait, managing Cultures Clothing, or creating a massive public mural, the desire to "make things better" is always front and center for him.

A self-taught artist, Alloyius traces the origins of his multifaceted career to his early days on campus in 2020. After designing hand-painted tee shirts for members of the men's basketball and baseball teams, he was deluged with requests for more, and the concept for Cultures Clothing was born. Today, the company has a mission that's in keeping with Alloyius's philosophy — to highlight the beauty of a variety of cultures in its clothing designs.



“
We are
more
alike than
we are
different.
”

"We're in 2021 and we still have these outdated standards to represent what American beauty is," he explains. "Beauty comes in different forms and appreciating the artistic richness of other cultures can bring us all closer together. Educating people about the beauty of other communities can lead to understanding and healing."

Alloyius has been influenced by Haitian, Asian, Native American, and African culture in creating his clothing designs. "Education is a big part of bringing people closer together. I'd like to see college curricula that educate people about these cultures."

As his company evolved, so did he. Alloyius began selling fine art on canvas in 2008 (his style became popular after Shepard Fairey's Obama poster) and launched his professional mural career in 2012. In the spring of 2021, despite the pandemic, he was busier than ever, working on commissioned murals for Netflix, the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, Miller Lite, Villanova University, and SEPTA.

He estimates that he has painted 300 murals overseas (Paris, London, Madrid, Casablanca, Tokyo, and Costa Rica) and in America (Los Angeles, New York City, Chicago, Detroit, Salt Lake City, Miami, New Orleans, Atlanta, and Portland). About half of his murals are in the Philadelphia area.

His style is abstract and colorful, and he incorporates aspects of graffiti, street art, comic book art, and traditional art into his murals and paintings. His latest project, a coffee table book entitled *Muses*, captures images of women that Alloyius has drawn or photographed during the last five years.

In all of his work, however, he draws on the Quaker philosophies he learned at Friends Select and the Franciscan values he experienced at Neumann to celebrate and share the beauty of diversity.

"We are more alike than we are different," he believes, and that's the message of his art.



Kellie Waters '18

When Kellie Waters graduated from Neumann University in 2018, she knew she wanted to do a year of service. She just wasn't sure what type of service she wanted to do. After all, while she was at Neumann, she was involved in just about every imaginable kind of service.

"I felt very inspired at Neumann from my freshman year. I was guided into service work," said the Communications and Digital Media major. Kellie became heavily involved with the Ministry Center almost immediately after she moved onto campus and remained a steadfast presence there until graduation.

She began as a lector and Eucharistic minister and eventually became a student minister. In this position, she would create programs and encourage attendance at ministry events that fostered growth of a student's character and spirituality.

Kellie also went on a service immersion trip to St. Lucia, where she volunteered for the Cardinal Kelvin Felix Archdiocesan Pastoral Centre and the Gros Islet community.

After her freshman year, Kellie became a resident assistant, and in her senior year, she was an Assisi Living Community Resident Assistant. In this position, she led student-centered programs to promote service and spirituality, guiding resident students to live Franciscan values.

When she graduated, Kellie applied to the Jesuit Volunteer Corp. "Neumann put that spirit into me, I know I had to hone in on that passion."

Kellie was accepted into the program and spent a full-time year of service at the Loyola Early Learning Center, a low-income preschool in Baltimore City, as a teacher. During this time, she also committed to living by and participating in the organization's four inter-related values of the Jesuit tradition: Ignatian (Jesuit) spirituality, social justice, community, and simple living.

In August 2020, Kellie enrolled at Boston College to earn a dual master's degree in Social Work and Theology and Ministry. She is active in BC's Campus Ministry and is a graduate assistant for Appa Volunteers. Here she facilitates leader and participant formation through weekly meetings, daylong workshops, and retreats focused on social justice, Ignatian spirituality, and faith formation.

Asked what her perfect job would be after graduation, she replied, "I can't see myself doing just one thing. There are too many options!" But she would like to focus on working with young women, perhaps at a women's center or hosting a spirituality and prayer group.

"I'm just trying to contribute to society in the best way I can." That's Maria Sotomayor-Giacomucci's modest assessment of her eight years of extraordinary public service since she graduated. A Psychology major, she now manages the Phoenix Center for Experiential Trauma Therapy, a psychotherapy practice specializing in trauma, grief, loss, and addiction, located in Media, PA. In this new role, she collaborates with her husband, Dr. Scott Giacomucci '13, the psychotherapist who founded the Phoenix Trauma Center.

For almost eight years after graduation, however, Maria devoted her energy and professional skills to the Pennsylvania Immigration and Citizenship Coalition (PICC), an organization that supports immigrants' rights and promotes immigrants' full integration into society by advocating for greater public understanding and welcoming public policies throughout Pennsylvania.

"I had almost every job there that you could have," she jokes. She coordinated the Philadelphia program for DACA recipients and worked in civic engagement efforts. She became PICC's youth organizer and taught leadership development. Eventually, she was promoted to deputy director.

The cause was personal for Maria. She came to the United States as a child from Ecuador and had to navigate her way to a college degree and career through a complex and challenging American immigration system. As soon as she earned her degree, she joined PICC to help others who were in situations similar to hers.

"I fell in love with advocacy and community organizing, and I found my voice there," Maria admits.

She plans to keep using her voice, too. She became a U.S. citizen in May and is eager to vote in the future. She is also enrolled in a master's degree program in Social Work at Bryn Mawr College, set to graduate in 2022. She likens her new academic pursuit to lessons she learned at Neumann.

"The Franciscan RISES values are similar to the social work code of ethics," she recalls. "It's a perfect fit for me."

“
I fell in love
with advocacy
and community
organizing.
”

**Maria Sotomayor-
Giacomucci '13**



DAY OF GIVING

Day of Giving Raises \$46,000+

Under the leadership of Mike Webster '11, director of annual giving, the University Advancement team raised \$46,648 during the university's annual Day of Giving on March 18. The event surpassed the goal of 100 donors with a total of 134 people making charitable contributions to Neumann. These funds help support student scholarships, technology upgrades, new facilities, and more.

The 2021 Day of Giving kicked off a two-day celebration of Charter Day to mark the 56th anniversary of Neumann's founding.

Other Charter Day events were the fifth annual Rocco A. '79 and Mary F. Abessinio Lecture in Management and Entrepreneurship, Mass, and the annual Alumni Awards.

Reverend Stephen Thorne '15 *President's Distinguished Alumni Award*

Father Stephen Thorne serves as pastor of St. Martin de Porres Catholic Church in North Philadelphia. He is also Neumann University chaplain and an adjunct faculty member in the School of Education and Human Services.



Since his ordination in 1998, Fr. Thorne has served as parochial vicar and parochial administrator for Saint Katharine Drexel Catholic Church, Chester, PA; theology faculty member and moderator of the community service corps at Saint John Neumann High School, South Philadelphia; executive director of the Office for Black Catholics, Archdiocese of Philadelphia; pastor at Saint Therese Catholic Church, Philadelphia; and administrator of the Daniel Rudd Fund of the National Black Catholic Congress, Baltimore, MD.

He has also volunteered his time and expertise to assist Gesu School, an independent Catholic school in Philadelphia.

Fr. Thorne received the 2017 *Lead, Learn, Proclaim Award* from the National Catholic Education Association for his demonstrated Catholic educational philosophy, exceptional ability, dedication, and results. He was one of just 42 educators in the country chosen to receive the award.

He has a special interest in urban education and has presented research at the Pennsylvania chapter of the National Association for Multicultural Education and the Pennsylvania Association of Colleges and Teacher Educators. He is the author of *"Walk Like You Have Somewhere to Go": A Literature Review of the Academic, Social and Cultural Needs of African American Adolescent Males in Urban Schools*, published in CATALYST, spring 2016.

He earned a Bachelor of Arts in philosophy, Master of Divinity, and Master of Arts in systematic theology at St. Charles Borromeo Seminary. In 2015, he earned a Master of Science in education from Neumann University.



ALUMNI AWARDS

G. Stephen Williams '09

John Neumann Award

George Stephen Williams is currently a United States House of Representative professional staff member for the Committee on Homeland Security. He manages issues related to the nation's transportation and maritime security, the United States Coast Guard, the Transportation Security Administration, biometrics, unmanned aerial vehicles, and technologies critical to the national security infrastructure.

After graduating from Neumann, he served as a staff assistant to Senator Tom Carper of Delaware, followed by a position as assistant to the chief of staff and then external affairs manager for the mayor of Wilmington, Delaware.

He has also served as the vice president of the Business Banking Group for Wells Fargo and was the founding partner of the Bonoman Group, an advocacy firm specializing in policy analysis and political strategy.

He is one of the founding members of the Neumann University Black Alumni Chapter, a member of the Congressional Black Association, and serves on the Neumann University President's Advisory Council for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. He is a member of Union Lodge #21, Nexters Political Action Committee, Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People



Williams has been awarded the NAACP Branch Appreciation Award and the Kappa Alpha Psi Alumni Chapter Achievement Award. He was a *Delaware Business Times* 40 under 40 honoree and listed in Delaware State's top 40 under 40.

He is a 2009 graduate of the School of Business who earned his MBA from Villanova University in 2015.

Dr. Scott Giacomucci '13

Alumni Association Recognition Award

Dr. Scott Giacomucci is the director, founder, and director of training/continuing education of the Phoenix Center for Experiential Trauma Therapy, director of trauma services at Mirmont Treatment Center, and adjunct professor and research associate at Bryn Mawr College.



Dr. Giacomucci also collaborates with and provides training for the Neumann University Counseling Center for Wellness and supervises student field placement for the university's graduate counseling program.

A self-described "rebel for goodness and social justice," he has received many professional accolades. He frequently presents training workshops at local, national, and international events and has published articles on using experiential therapy, sociometry, and psychodrama with trauma and addiction.

The American Academy of Experts in Traumatic Stress has recognized him as a Fellow, the highest status in the academy. He is board-certified as a diplomate in clinical social work and serves on the executive council of the American Society of Group Psychotherapy & Psychodrama (ASGPP). He is also a board member of the International Society of Experiential Professionals, co-chairs the ASGPP Research Committee, and is a founding member of the new Sociatry & Social Justice Committee.

At Mirmont, he serves a variety of populations including young adults and emergency responders in both individual therapy and group sessions. He played an instrumental role in the development of Mirmont's trauma and experiential programming.

In 2020, Dr. Giacomucci was given the Emerging Social Work Leader Award from the National Association of Social Workers, and in 2019, the Group Work Practice Award from the Association of Group Work Specialists.

His textbook, *Social Work, Sociometry and Psychodrama: Experiential Approaches for Group Therapists, Community Leaders, and Social Workers*, was published in 2021.

2021 ALUMNI AWARDS

Frank Altamuro III '14 '15

Young Alumni Achievement Award

Frank Altamuro graduated from the School of Business in 2014 with a BS in accounting and in 2015 with his master's degree in accounting.

After graduation, he began his career as an accountant for Chatham Financial. Within a short time, he became a senior accountant at MRP, Market Resource Partners. His talent and ambition soon led him to the MCS Group, Inc., a nationally recognized provider of outsourcing services to law firms, insurance companies, corporations, government agencies, and educational institutions.

AT MCS he rose in the ranks from accounting manager to director of finance and human resources to his current position as chief financial officer. He is responsible for accounting, payroll, human resources, strategic planning, and compliance.

Altamuro's achievement in his career was completely predictable to those who knew him as a student. His committed involvement on campus included serving as president of the Student Government Association, founding the Riley Scholarship, and raising money for cancer research. His dedication and work ethic left an indelible mark on campus.

His employer writes of him that "In his years of service, Frank has proven to be a visionary with a record of execution and a strong communicator with deep leadership qualities."

He is an active member of the Pennsylvania Institute of Certified Public Accountants and the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants.



Tiffany Connelly '14

Young Alumni Achievement Award

Tiffany Connelly is a 2014 graduate of the School of Arts and Sciences who majored in Biology. In 2017 she graduated from Temple University with a master's degree in Quality Assurance and Regulatory Affairs.

Immediately after graduation, she began her career as an analytical scientist for QS Pharma and a few years later acquired a position in compliance, quality assurance and regulatory affairs for Teligent, a pharmaceutical company.

She is currently employed by Synchrogenix, a Certara company. She began as a regulatory writer and then advanced to her current position as a regulatory project manager where she supervises projects to support both internal and client-focused initiatives.

She has served as a professor of biology for Cumberland County College and is a member of the Association for Women in Science.

In each step of her journey, she has remained connected to Neumann and its students: arranging internships, recruiting graduates for entry-level employment, speaking in science classes, and serving as an advocate for the admission office.

Maureen Tracy Irving '83

Volunteer of the Year Award

Maureen Tracy Irving, who teaches the first grade in the Penn Delco School District, gives her time to improve the lives of others. She is the type of volunteer who needs no recognition and often puts others' needs ahead of her own.

She supports Neumann University by sending handwritten postcard greetings to newly accepted incoming freshmen, by working with School of Education students in their student-teacher assignments, and by attending Neumann alumni events and activities.

Maureen has received the Excellence In Teaching Award from the Penn Delco School District, along with many accolades and awards for her patient and kind style with first graders and other students at Parkside Elementary.



“ These awards celebrate the Sisters of St. Francis without whom there would not be a Neumann University.”

Lori Smith '99 '05, President of the Alumni Association



Kevin Barr '79

Spirit of Francis and Clare of Assisi Award

Kevin Barr cites the Franciscan religious studies courses at Our Lady of Angels and Neumann College as the impetus for him to pursue a graduate degree in religious studies from St. Charles Borromeo Seminary.

After a weeklong rite of passage with Franciscan priest Richard Rohr and 110 other men from around the world, Barr left the business world and, for the past 20 years, has worked for Catholic Social Services in Philadelphia.

He has been an advocate for the poor and vulnerable in Chester County, a voice for homeless men in Philadelphia, and volunteer for women and men with intellectual disabilities in the Don Guanella and Divine Providence communities.

He has served as an adjunct instructor in religious studies at Neumann University and has made presentations at the Franciscan Spiritual Center and other local universities and retreat centers.



Scott Bogard

Honorary Alumni Award

Scott Bogard is a senior admissions counselor at Neumann University. He began his career nearly 25 years ago as the director of admissions at Neumann, and his main priority ever since has been to bring students to campus.

From a conversation sparked by his Neumann tie at a convenience store to an admissions event in Maryland, and everywhere in between, Bogard's passion is to introduce Neumann to students and their families. He relentlessly educates students about the value of a Franciscan education and experience.

In a previous role as the director of external affairs, Bogard assisted in raising scholarship money through the Celebrity Golf and Brendan P. Kelly events. He has secured financial sponsorships for scholarships and built relationships with university benefactors, all while maintaining his passion for supporting enrollment efforts.

He's an avid NU basketball supporter, and he makes it his mission to know the names of the players, their stories, their stats, and their educational progress.



Ciani Hodges '21

Outstanding Senior Award

During her career as a Neumann University student, Ciani Hodges has been a member of the Gospel Choir and president of the Sigma Tau Delta English Honor Society. Her service projects include working with the university phonathon, distributing Giving Tree Donations in Center City Philadelphia, and volunteering at St. Katharine Drexel Food Pantry and Clothing Cupboard, Mount Pleasant RISES, and Martin Luther King Day events in Chester.

Hodges is a member of three groups at Mount Pleasant Baptist Church: the Performing Arts Ministry, Junior Ushers and the In-Between Ministry.

She attributes her ability to make a difference to her core values of faith, humility, determination, and growth. As an alumna, Ciani hopes to create a scholarship for English Majors or for students who are aspiring to go law school.

The Outstanding Senior award recognizes a student who has maintained a grade point average above 3.5, performed community service, shown excellent leadership skills, and demonstrated a search for truth and respect for all of creation.



2021 ALUMNI AWARDS

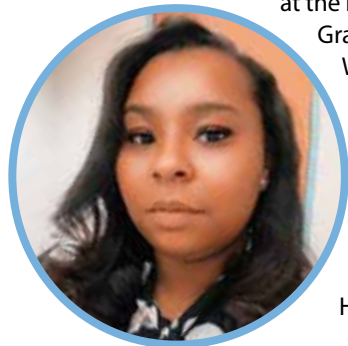
Adjani Jenkins '19

Education and Human Services Distinguished Alumni Award

Adjani Jenkins earned her Bachelor of Social Work degree in 2019. She was inducted into the Phi Alpha Honor Society for Social Work and was presented with the Social Work Award for Excellence, given to a BSW student for demonstrated excellence in academic coursework, distinction in field placement, and a commitment to the values and profession of social work.

Following graduation from Neumann, she earned her Master of Social Service degree via full-time advanced standing in an accelerated program at the Bryn Mawr College Graduate School of Social Work & Social Research.

Jenkins passed her social work licensure exam and is now a practicing medical social worker at Abington Jefferson Hospital.



Saje Knight '18 '19

School of Business Distinguished Alumni Award

Saje Knight is a double alumnus, having received his undergraduate degree in Accounting and then a master's degree in Forensic Accounting in 2019. He is currently on the audit staff at Albergo Kupferman & Associates, a tax, accounting and business consulting firm located in Wilmington, DE.

Knight is a first-generation college graduate and the oldest of ten siblings. While a student, he made the Dean's list and was inducted into two honor societies. He is an active participant in and basketball coach at a local recreation center, helping youngsters who grow up in poverty-stricken neighborhoods.



Katherine Sullivan '14

Arts and Sciences Distinguished Alumni Award

Katherine J. Sullivan is ABC's acquisition and ingest manager at Walt Disney Television. Her responsibilities include content preparation, quality control, and creating metadata for dynamic ad insertion for Video on Demand. She has also been a network release supervisor and digital monitor for ABC where she has worked for six years.

Together with a fellow alumna, Sullivan created *Behind the Scenes*, a program aimed at Neumann University and Bennett College Communication students, to share insights about the world of entertainment and the potential opportunities within a network.

Sullivan is a volunteer for NYCares, the largest volunteer effort in New York City, and she is also a member of New York Women in Film and Television.

While a student, she was lead cantor at all of the university Masses conducted through Mission and Ministry and served as president of the Neumann Media Club and director of the Neumann Sports Network.

She holds an executive certificate in Technology Operations and Value Chain Management from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology/Sloan School of Management.

Dr. Jillian Fontana '13

Nursing and Health Sciences Distinguished Alumni Award

Dr. Jillian Fontana is a lead out-patient physical therapist at Grand View Health with a focus on vertigo, vestibular and concussion patients. She is also an aqua Zumba instructor and graduate teaching assistant in Neumann's doctoral of physical therapy program,

She received her undergraduate degree from the University of Iowa and her doctorate in physical therapy from Neumann University. She also holds a balance vestibular certificate from the American Institute and cervical headache vestibular certification from Strategic Orthopedics.



“
Our 2021
Alumni Awards
recognize
the best and
brightest of our
alumni body.

Lori Smith '99 '05,
President of the Alumni Association

”

Young Alumni Spotlight: Stephanie Grundy '19

When Stephanie Grundy '19 landed her first job in communications, she didn't know it would become a baptism of fire.

Several months after graduation, the Project Management Institute (PMI), based in Newtown Square, hired Grundy as a communications specialist. PMI is a global not-for-profit association that offers certification, online courses, and digital publications for project management professionals.

She began work with PMI's internal communications team in October 2019. The "team" consisted of two people, Grundy and her supervisor, who was also an adjunct professor for the Communications and Digital Media major at Neumann. A few months later, Grundy's supervisor left. Suddenly, the newly minted graduate inherited the internal communications responsibility for a worldwide organization.

The entry-level writer was juggling a host of projects. "I was researching and writing articles, publishing news on the website, coding emails to employees who worked in multiple time zones, creating graphics, and even producing videos," Grundy recalls.

She used her Neumann education to meet the challenge. "I learned a little bit of everything about communication as a CDM major. I got experience in writing, radio, and television. That mix and the blend of theory and practice at Neumann was critical to my success at PMI."

Then the pandemic hit, creating even more complications for her. A native of Canada, Grundy left her Aston apartment and headed home to Ottawa, Ontario, working at PMI's Canadian site.

The move was fortuitous. After almost a year and a half with PMI, Grundy survived her baptism of fire, emerged unscathed (and with a ton of experience), and secured a job with Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) in Ottawa, Ontario.

Now a government employee, she is a communications advisor for one of IRCC's four internal communications teams. She works with the accessibility team to promote a barrier-free environment for people with disabilities and the IDOL project (inclusion, diversity and official languages) to combat discrimination and promote inclusion.

She has embraced her new role, expressing gratitude for being engaged in "work that is important **and** important to me" and for the creativity that internal communications provides.

She urges current students to trust the process. "You may not see the connections when you're in the middle of a certain course, but experiences and networking can lead to great opportunities."

Longterm, Grundy hopes to gain broad experience in her field and eventually use her creative talents to write a series of children's books.



Alumni to Lead Diversity, Social Mobility Initiatives

Neumann has instituted a two-pronged program to support diversity and equity on campus and to enhance social mobility opportunities for all students who face barriers to success.

The social mobility initiative is led by alumni who began contacting University President Dr. Chris Domes throughout 2020, asking how they could assist with diversity and equity efforts at Neumann and offering ideas about how to help students make successful transitions to professional careers. The alumni were particularly interested in assisting students of color, first-generation students, and those with challenging socio-economic backgrounds.

As a result of these conversations, Dr. Domes formed the **President's Advisory Council on Diversity and Inclusion (PAC)** to see how an objective, external group might help to advance Neumann's commitment to diversity and equity. He charged the group to "help build students' capacity for professional development and career success." The PAC responded by recommending mentoring programs, summer internship opportunities, and networking partnerships.

Initially comprised of eight Black alumni, the PAC has begun work to identify internships in the private and public sectors. Members include Ethelind Baylor '14, health education and training specialist with the City of Philadelphia; Mark Blount '15, Harlem Globetrotters professional basketball player; Carolyn Clayton '05, senior learning consultant with Vanguard; Nicole Cogdell '20, advocate for and liaison to urban communities; Welyne Jargbah '17, associate at JPMorgan Chase & Co.; Alloyius McIlwaine '04, CEO/Founder of Cultures Clothing and international mural artist; Jason Peterson '03 '12, sales representative at Origlio Beverage; and G. Stephen Williams '09, professional staff member of the Homeland Security Committee, U.S. House of Representatives.

In addition to these initial members of the PAC, five new members joined the group in March of 2021: Eric Bowman '15, Chrisheena Boyd '10, Andrea Harris '05, Kenneth D. Waters, EdD '08 '15, and Brandon Webster '13.


"There will be separate business plans for mentoring, internships and networking," says Dr. Domes. "These initiatives are part of Neumann's strategic plan and will impact student retention, graduation rates, and professional preparation."

The second group to promote DEI on campus is internal. **The University Council on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion** is chaired by Nursing Professor Dr. Michelle Santana and has 22 members.

Based on its early work, the council created working groups to address five topics: listening sessions and measuring campus climate; dialogue and engagement through programs and speakers; professional development, training and bias reporting; communication, video testimonials and a diversity webpage; and leadership development.

“ Help build students' capacity for professional development and career success. ”

Pictured from top to bottom:
Ethelind Baylor '14, Mark Blount '15,
Carolyn Clayton '05, Nicole Cogdell '20,
Welyne Jargbah '17,
Alloyius McIlwaine '04,
Jason Peterson '03 '12, and
G. Stephen Williams '09.



Alumnus Serves with National Guard at Presidential Inauguration

Neumann University was well represented at President Biden's January 20 inauguration thanks to Dontae Phillips '10 a Maryland National Guard member. Phillips, a chaplain, was deployed to Washington, D.C., for inauguration day and spent several weeks serving the 25,000 troops who were protecting the capital city during and after the ceremony.

It was a day he will not soon forget.

"It was a very peaceful transfer of power," he said. "I was actually able to see President Biden sworn in, and I was moved by his speech. I was awestruck to witness this historic moment. It was a humbling experience for me."

A Political Science graduate, he serves as chaplain for the 175th Battalion of the Maryland National Guard. While in Washington, Phillips, who does not carry a weapon, joined more than 50 National Guard chaplains from across the country offering support and guidance to the troops. He is the youngest National Guard chaplain in the state of Maryland.

"As a chaplain, I cannot bear arms. We don't want to seem hostile, but we have religious affairs specialists accompanying us and they carry a weapon to protect us from hurt, harm, or danger," he explained.

Phillips experienced much gratitude from elected officials, including senators and representatives, for providing protection during the inaugural festivities. The events of the January 6 insurrection were still very fresh in the minds of these officials.

"I thought I would be home on my couch watching the inauguration. I would have never imagined that I would actually be there," said Phillips, who got a wave from President Biden as his motorcade drove past.

Phillips' most recent assignment has been to support the state of Maryland's COVID-19 vaccination efforts. He and his fellow soldiers are manning sites in Bowie, Maryland, to assist medical professionals administering the shots.

Phillips, who received his MS in Public Administration from Villanova University and his master of Divinity degree from Princeton Theological Seminary, is currently working on his doctorate in Language, Literacy & Culture from the University of Maryland. He plans on transitioning from his religious ministry to the political arena. In addition, he has completed phase one of the Captain's Career Course program which will enable him to become a major after completing phase two.

"I love the ministry, but I also like being outside of the pulpit when the decisions are being made. My ultimate goal is to run for political office in Maryland," said Phillips, who has his sights set on the governor's office.

While at Neumann University, Phillips was student body president for two terms. He credits that experience with sparking his interest in public service.

CLASS *Notes*

BIRTHS & ADOPTIONS



◀ **Samantha Rhein-Bertoncini '11, BA** was married August 31, 2020, to Michael Bertoncini. Samantha welcomed her son Chase Michael on December 4, 2020.

Katelyn Smith '14, MS ▶ and her husband Joe met freshman year at Neumann. They never had the chance to share the news that they had a BEAUTIFUL baby girl back in December 2019. They are thankful for Neumann bringing them together.



◀ **Fran Walmsley '06 '09, MS** welcomed his fifth child, Hannah, on Jan 28, 2021.

Carly Zaremski '15 ▶ and her husband, Jason, welcomed their baby girl Rosie on August 23, 2020.



CAREERS

Kevin Conroy '07, BA started a position in federal law enforcement at the United States Department of Justice.



◀ **Rebecca Cruice '20, BA** started a new job at the East Greenwich School District in New Jersey as a 3rd grade Special Education teacher.

Kennae Gladney '16, BA ▶ has been promoted to assistant director for Sylvan Learning Center and also owns a successful and completely virtual boutique for men and women.



Meredith Harrison '17, BA has been promoted to a certified server trainer and service professional at Olive Garden in Talleyville, DE, and has been there for 5 years.

Annmarie Kelly '01, BS was recently a guest on ▶ *The Tamron Hall Show*, a nationally syndicated talk show. Annmarie was invited to talk about her most recent book, *The Five-Year Marriage, Shifting the Marriage Paradigm*. She and her spouse, Joseph Eagle, were one of three couples talking about the challenges couples face in love and marriage.



Alexis McClennen '16, BS passed her ASCP exam to officially become a certified medical laboratory scientist.

Amanda Miller '19, BSW has accepted a job at Congreso De Latinos Unidos in North Philadelphia, working as an operations specialist with the Health and Wellness Department.

Katie Orr '12, BA is an executive administrator at Lincoln Financial Group.

Autumn Passarello '20, BA has been welcomed back by Chester Community Charter School to teach 7th grade Science for another year.



◀ Captain **Rosemary Perdue '92, BS** Nurse Corps, United States Navy (USN), retired after 30 years of service on June 1, after completing three successful years as the director of nursing for the Fort Belvoir Community Hospital in Fort Belvoir, VA. She extended her original retirement date to serve as lead on many activities in support the COVID-19 pandemic public health emergency.

Jennifer Sieminski, '20, BSW proudly accepted a job working for the State of Delaware as a management analyst for the Office of the Child Advocate. It was a previous internship placement during her senior year at Neumann.

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.alumni.neumann.edu/classnotes

Continued on page 31

Alumni Updates

Sara Ropski '20 ▶

Sara Ropski, a CDM graduate and Pennsylvania National Guard member since 2016, served in a public affairs and administration role at brigade headquarters during President Joe Biden's inauguration. She took photos of and conducted interviews with the troops for press releases.



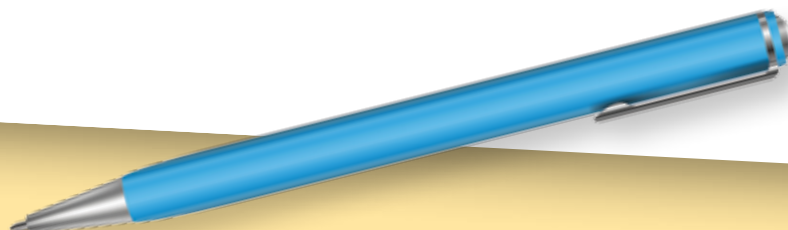
◀ Marisa Rizzo '15

Cumberland Regional High School's Marisa Rizzo, the assistant athletic trainer, was recently named the Educational Service Professional of the Year by the Cumberland Regional School District Board of Education. She is also a health science teacher and coordinator of student activities for the school.



Lauren Hume '16 ▶

Lauren Hume, a nurse at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital, has adopted the Mama-Tee Community Fridge Project, which provides healthy food for people in need in Philadelphia by stocking public yellow refrigerators throughout the city. After filling one fridge, she posted about them on social media. Soon friends and strangers started sending her money to cover the cost of food.





Alumni Updates



▶ Patricia Demiranda '14

After Pat Demiranda lost her 20-year-old son to gun violence in Chester, she found a way to honor him. After receiving her master's degree in Organizational and Strategic Leadership, she opened Camp Encouragement, which gives children opportunities to develop their cognitive intelligence, learn new skills, and rediscover hope after experiencing grief.

Mare Draper '19 ▶

Mare Draper has opened Beans Coffee House in Newark, Delaware. The café serves as a safe place for teens and young adults who are suffering from anxiety, depression, and suicidal intentions to gain work experience. She credits the Business and Organizational Leadership program for teaching many of the skills she needed to launch the business.



MORE

CLASS Notes

Olivia Speakman '13, BA spent the last 4.5 years at Fort Drum, NY, working with soldiers to enhance their mental performance and resiliency. She recently transferred to Fort Belvoir, VA, to get a change of scenery and to continue working with the Army community.

Walter Thompson '17, BS has started a new job as an accountant at Penn Medicine: University of Pennsylvania as of May 2021.

Joseph Marano '11, BA has been a police officer for the University of Pennsylvania Police Department since May 2019.

EDUCATION

Dara Law '18, BA recently received her master's degree in Higher Education Administration from Rowan University.

Jennifer O'Connor '13, BA graduated from Vermont Law School (VLS), South Royalton, VT, Juris Doctor in May 2019. Jennifer is a recipient of the Lex Pro Urbe et Orbe Award 2019 for Contribution to VLS, selected by the alumni association and president. Jennifer is currently working as an ambassador for the Law School Admission Council (LSAC) in Newtown, PA.

Kevin Oleszewski '12, BS obtained a master's degree in taxation from Villanova.

ENGAGEMENTS & MARRIAGES

Melissa Bond '17, BA got engaged to **Charles Trentler Jr. '18, BA** in November of 2020. Melissa was also recently accepted into North Carolina Central University Law School for 2021.

Alexa D'Alessandro '15, BS recently got engaged to her hometown sweetheart Ryan Fisher.

Eric Dowrick '15, BS and **Samantha Rochester '15, BS** were married in February 2021.

Amanda Miller '19, BSW will marry **Kevin Blumenstein '18, BA** on September 18, 2021.

Victoria Pierson '17, BA and **Macie Amoriello '20, BA** got engaged in April of 2021.

IN THE NEWS

Bill Keenan '11, BS and his wife welcomed their third child, Connor, to their family on January 17, 2020. Bill has also started a new job as a technical project manager-cloud modernization lead at The Vanguard Company. Along with starting a new job, Bill is the head varsity ice hockey coach at Malvern Prep and this year won the AAA Flyers Cup Championship and the AAA PA State Championship.

IN MEMORIAM



Mrs. Jane Baserga

Ms. Leslie Conlon

Dr. Dennis DePerro

Mrs. Jayne Garrison

Ms. Carol A. Graham

Sr. Hildegard Grogan, OSF

Dr. Aileen H. Murphy

Ms. Elizabeth Strittmatter

Ms. Roseann M. Tranchitella



KUDOS

Faculty Publications, Conferences and Awards

Heather Anderson, associate professor of physical therapy, co-presented "Relationship Between Cervical Joint Position Error and Postural Control in Normal Subjects" at the Physical Therapy Combined Sections meeting held virtually in February 2021 and published the manuscript "Mobilization for Persons With Acute Stroke: A Survey of Current Physical Therapy Clinical Practice" in the *Journal of Acute Care Physical Therapy*.

Amanda Breen, assistant professor of psychology, published the article *Asian LGBTQ + sexual health: An overview of the literature from the past 5 years* in *Current Sexual Health Reports* in December 2020.

David DiMarco and **Ryan Savitz**, professors of mathematics, presented "How a River's Length and Discharge Relate to the Precipitation in its Basin" at the New Jersey section of the Mathematical Association of America Meeting (virtual) in April 2021 and have continued to host the series of math colloquia at Neumann University.

Cynthia Ferraro and **Tammy Feil**, associate professors of education, co-presented "Suddenly On-Line" virtually for the Delta Gamma Society International in March 2021.

Timothy Hanna, assistant professor of pastoral clinical mental health counseling, co-presented a virtual panel workshop on "Mental and Spiritual Coping in COVID" with colleagues Sr. Suzanne Mayer and Dr. Diane Walsh, advertised to the local community as a Neumann University webinar in February 2021 and was interviewed as part of an expert panel on current job trends in mental health and spiritual counseling in March 2021.

Nathan Hardy, assistant professor of marketing, published commentaries on automobile insurance in response to a media inquiry for an expert opinion on the subject from MoneyGeek.com, and an article on his new course, Black Americans in Business and Society, in the *Delaware County Daily Times*.

Leanne Havis, professor of criminal justice, received the Innovative Design Award from the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences Teaching, Learning, and Scholarship Section for her exam autopsy methodology. She also presented "How Can We Promote Self-Regulated Learning in First-Year Experience

Programs?" to the American Association of Colleges and Universities Virtual Conference on General Education, Pedagogy, and Assessment (February 2021) and "Rebuilding Classroom Community in a FYE Course" to the 19th Annual Faculty Conference on Teaching Excellence (January 2021).

Glenn Holmstrom, professor of art, was invited to have his work included in the exhibition, *Educate*, at The Duke Gallery at The Community Arts Center in Wallingford, PA from March 2021 through April 2021.

Julie Lanzillo, associate professor and program director of sport management and sport business, was named the recipient of the ACBSP (Accreditation Council for Business Schools and Programs) Teaching Excellence Award for Region 2 in April 2021.

Christina M. LaVecchi, associate professor of English and program director of Writing Across the Curriculum, was cited in the article, "Long Covid isn't as unique as we thought" from *Vox* in March 2021 and her previously published article "Undercared-for chronic suffering: Experiences with medically unexplained and contested illnesses and symptoms" from *Minimally Disruptive Medicine* was published in *Vox* in April 2021.

Dara Law, advancement services assistant, published the article, "Campus Resources," as part of her thesis for her master's in higher education administration in April 2021.

Abby Marie Leibrand, associate professor of physical therapy, virtually gave the poster presentation, "Effects of Text Messaging on Spatial-Temporal Gait Parameters While Walking," at the Physical Therapy Combined Sections Meeting in Feb 2021.

Sean McDonald, director of Neumann Media, was interviewed and published in *Radio World* in January 2021 and presented a webinar entitled "In-Studio Safety Update for College Broadcasters Incorporated" in April 2021.

Laura McLaughlin and **Stephanie Budhai**, associate professors of education, are publishing a Quick Reference Guide titled "Increasing Engagement in Online Learning" to be published June 2021. Dr. McLaughlin is co-chairing a track, "Practical, quick tools & strategies to enhance teaching & learning in virtual settings to improve learning" at the Informing Science Conference in July 2021. She is also publishing and presenting the

following papers at the conference: "Virtual Instruction Support for Faculty" and "Framing the Innovation Mindset."

Jason M. Mensinger, instructor of athletic training, presented "Weighted Carries, Kettlebells, and Sleds: Exercise Applications in Rehabilitation" at the Pennsylvania Athletic Trainers' Society Annual Meeting & Clinical Symposium.

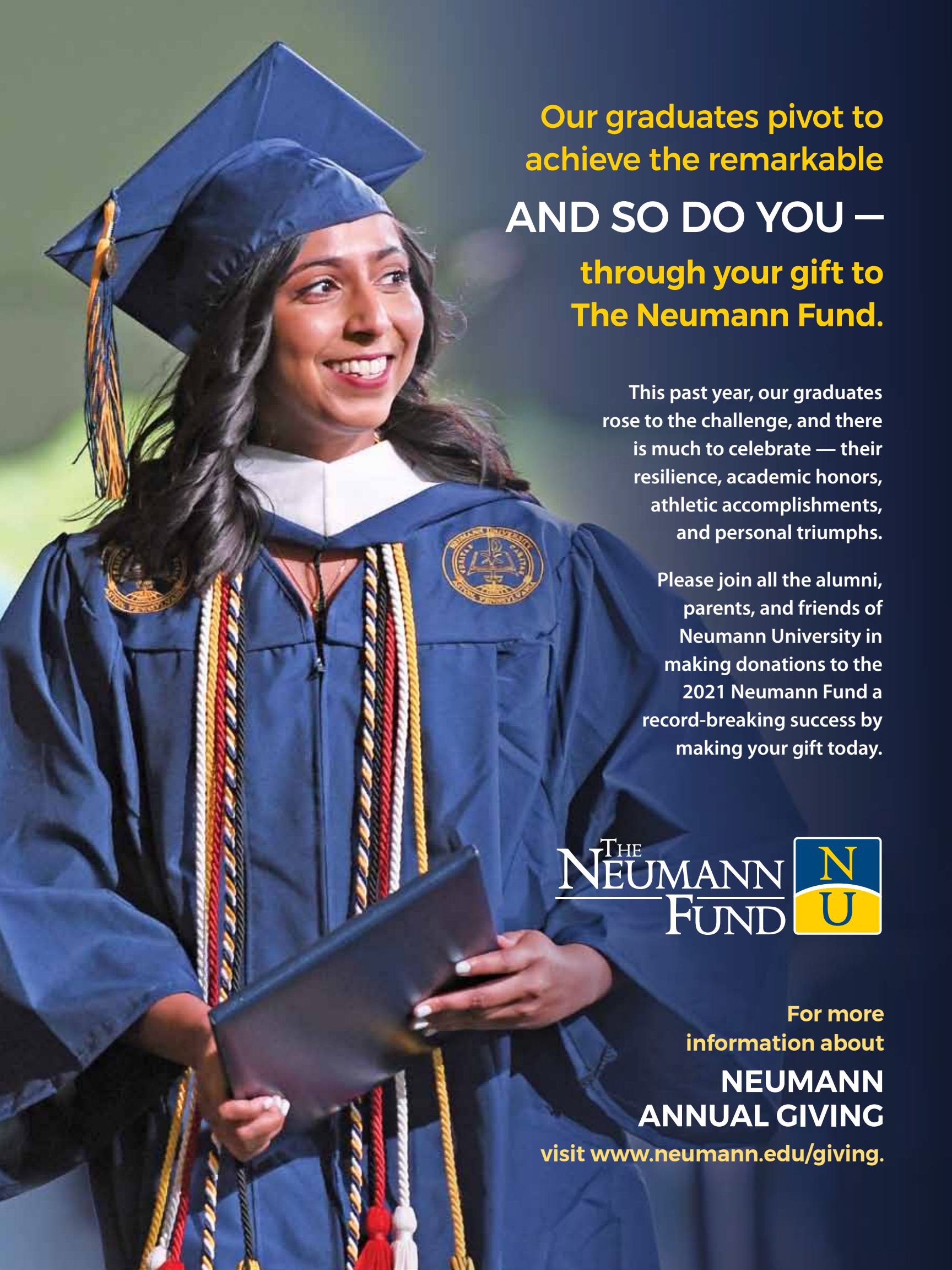
Joseph Okolowski, bursar, and **Gene McWilliams**, vice president for finance and administration, presented "A Customer Service Approach to Collections — Cold Calling vs Warm Calling" at the Professional Development Group Bursars SFS 2021 Conference in April 2021.

Theresa Pietsch, associate professor of nursing, had two chapters, "Home Care Teaching" and "Using Evidence in Nursing Practice" published in the new textbook, *Clinical Nursing Skills & Techniques 10th ed.*

Francesca A. Reed, vice president for enrollment management and marketing, presented the following topics: "Problems of Practice: Creating Innovative and Collaborative Solutions to Pressing Challenges," "The New Rules for Marketing and Recruitment in GEM," "Stressed, Tired, and Overwhelmed: How to Manage Change at Your Institution" and "Advanced Professionals Roundtable: Leadership and Change Management — Special Interest Forum" at NAGAP, The Association for Graduate Enrollment Management in April 2021.

Maria Traub, associate professor of French and Italian, collaborated on an article about Gabriel Marcel's play *The Emissary* and provided an English translation of Act III of the French play which inspired the article. The article and translation were published in the *Australian Journal of Continental Philosophy* in February 2021.

Diane Walsh, assistant professor of pastoral clinical mental health counseling, published the article, "Addressing religion and spirituality in counseling in rural Iowa," in the *Journal of Mental Health* and the article, "The death of an academic department: Sense-losing and sacred loss," in *The Journal of Catholic Education*. She also presented "Building community in online classes" and "Mental and Spiritual Coping in COVID" at Neumann University.



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