



NEUMANN
UNIVERSITY

WINTER 2022
Vol. 50, No. 1

NEUMANN

Angels on Campus:

Neumann acquires Our Lady of Angels

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ALUMNI AWARDS

Tuesday, March 8

CHARTER DAY CELEBRATIONS

Friday, March 11

Rocco A. '79 and Mary F. Abessinio MANAGEMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP LECTURE

Wednesday, April 6

COMMENCEMENT

Saturday, May 14: Class of 2022

The Mirenda Center for Sport, Spirituality
and Character Development

ATHLETICS GOLF OUTING

Monday, May 23

Whitemarsh Valley Country Club
Lafayette Hill, PA

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NEUMANN UNIVERSITY
alumni, family and friends

WINTER 2022 Vol. 50, No. 1

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Accent Magazine is published
two times annually
by Neumann University,
Office of Public Relations
and Marketing,
One Neumann Drive,
Aston, PA 19014-1298
(610) 558-5549

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Accent Magazine is distributed
free of charge to alumni and
friends of Neumann University and
is printed on recycled paper.

Information in this issue was
received by 12/3/21.

**Please send change-of-address
correspondence to:**

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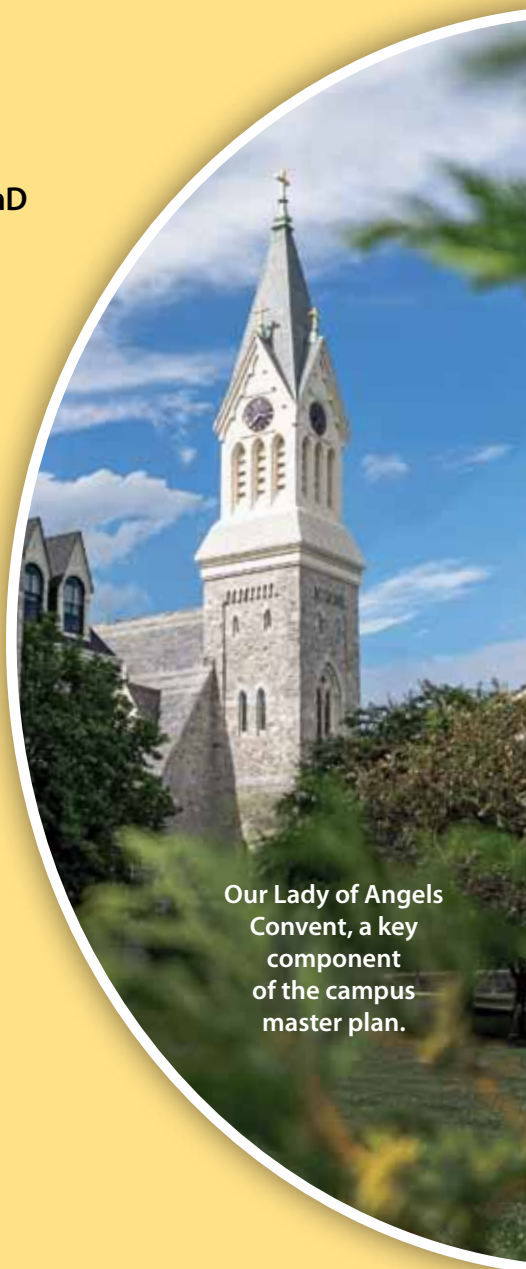
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ACCENT GOES DIGITAL!

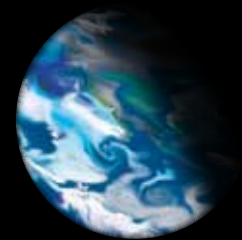
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2035

To our alumni and friends,

Neumann University is looking to the future, the year 2035 to be exact.



FROM THE
PRESIDENT

The first pivotal step in our growth-oriented vision occurred on June 30, 2021, when Sr. Kathy Dougherty and I signed an agreement that Neumann would purchase Our Lady of Angels Convent and 63 acres of land from the Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia. This critical acquisition virtually doubled the size of our campus overnight and allowed us to set in motion a campus master plan that will improve the academic, athletic and social experience for students during the next 13 years and beyond.

The agreement also fits perfectly with the Sisters' plans. According to Sr. Kathy, "Frankly, we've reached a point at which we no longer needed or could justify owning these facilities and this land. Our sisters did not join this community because of a building or a parcel of land. They came to serve. Moving forward, we wanted to make sure that we could sustain our mission and support the ministries we have established over the years."

Neumann has promised to preserve the sacred spaces on the congregation's former home and to welcome continued residence by approximately three dozen Sisters for the next several years.

With the support of the University Board of Trustees and the ongoing partnership with the Sisters of St. Francis, Neumann's master plan blueprint will transform our campus with a welcoming new entryway and additional residential spaces in the Motherhouse. Other goals of our ambitious plan call for a student union, ice rink, outdoor track, and student apartments.

Most important, the plan preserves and extends the university's commitment to a faith-based Catholic, Franciscan education. The Motherhouse, the sacred spaces on the land, and our RISES values are integral to our mission and identity.

We ask for your prayers as we embark on this exciting new journey to provide the world with leaders who embrace the Franciscan charism.

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

Dr. Chris Everett Domes
President

AROUND CAMPUS



COVID Update

With a requirement in place that students, faculty, and staff be vaccinated against COVID-19, most fall 2021 classes (67 percent) were held in person. Masks were also required in all campus buildings. The number of reported cases as of December 10 was 45 (19 resident students, 20 commuter students, and six employees).

By the end of October, 92 percent of faculty and staff and 89.4 percent of students had been vaccinated. Exemptions for medical or religious reasons were granted to 10.5 percent of students, who have been required to submit weekly coronavirus test results, and to all remaining employees.

Two \$100K Gifts Endow Scholarships

Two donors have given Neumann \$100,000 gifts to endow scholarships for students. John and Joan Mullen have endowed a scholarship in the name of Sr. Marguerite O'Beirne '70, OSF, the university's longtime vice president for mission and ministry, who retired in June of this year. This scholarship will be awarded to a student who demonstrates a commitment to the university's Catholic Franciscan values and is active in Campus Ministry.

Another \$100,000 scholarship gift came from the Society of the Friendly Sons and Daughters of St. Patrick in partnership with the Joseph P. Heenan Family Foundation. This donation will endow the Society of the Friendly Sons and Daughters of St. Patrick, Thomas Edward and Agnes Rita Heenan Memorial Nursing Studies Fund for undergraduate nursing students.



New Leadership Certificate Program

Neumann's Center for Leadership has launched a seven-week leadership certificate program for working professionals who want to enhance their ability to lead teams thoughtfully, strategically and ethically. Students discuss the specific values that are critical to success, apply them to their own leadership roles, and identify strengths and areas for improvement.

According to Judi Stanaitis '07 '13, director of the Center for Leadership, the goal is to teach young professionals and those in middle management how to distinguish themselves through their expertise and, as a result, boost their careers.

CDC Celebrates 50th

Eli Haug, son of Dr. Christopher Haug, and President Chris Domes give a thumbs-up to the university's Child Development Center (CDC) at its 50th anniversary celebration in September.

A state-licensed child-care facility, the CDC houses an educational program for children aged 3 to 5. Director John Sperduto estimates that, during its five decades, the CDC has served more than 1,200 children. Although the current building was not opened until 1973, CDC services began in 1971, the year when the university (then Our Lady of Angels College) initiated a bachelor's degree program for adult women.



Knights' Pantry Serves Students

For the first time in its history, Neumann has opened a food bank for students. The Knights' Pantry, meant to alleviate food insecurity, began operations on September 8 on the fifth floor of the Rocco Abessinio Building. It offers non-perishable food and personal hygiene items to any undergraduate or graduate student with a university ID, no questions asked.

Designed to look like a small convenience store with aisles and rows of shelving, the pantry is the brainchild of Rina Keller, professor of Social Work, and Mary Beth Davis, counselor at Neumann's Counseling Center for Wellness. Their goal is that the Knights' Pantry will evolve into a student-run organization.



9/11 Memorial Service

On the twentieth anniversary of the 2001 terrorist attack on the U.S., Dr. Yukiko Ishida led the University Concert Chorale in a performance on the steps of the Bachmann Building. Pictured here are students Emily H. Ross, Carrie L. Cattlett, and Victoria A. Maloney, and community singer James McDonough.



Mentorship Program Honors Aideen Murphy

Only weeks before Dr. Aideen Murphy passed away in mid-April, she shared an idea with Dr. Michelle Santana. Murphy wanted to establish a mentorship program for first-generation students at Neumann. As a first-generation student herself, Murphy knew the difficulties that this group of students faced in navigating the often-unfamiliar headwinds of higher education.

When Murphy died suddenly, Santana enlisted Bettsy McKlaine, director of admissions degree completion and graduate programs, to bring the concept to fruition. In August 2021, the pair launched the Aideen Murphy Mentorship Program, named in honor of the former associate professor in the School of Education and Human Services. The program matches Neumann faculty, staff, and alumni who are willing to act as mentors with students who have requested guidance.



New MS in Forensic Psychology

Neumann will offer a master's degree in Forensic Psychology starting in the fall of 2022. The program is designed for people currently working in law enforcement, corrections, social services, or psychology who want to develop skills in psychological and intelligence analysis. The 36-credit program can be completed in two years.

Kristen Acosta, a Criminal Justice professor who helped design the program, notes that a graduate "can become a juror consultant, forensic interviewer, or go on for a law degree." The master's degree can also lead to employment in homeland security, correctional systems, and social services. Some courses will introduce students to basic criminal profiling concepts.

Students to Run Sora Luna

When Sora Luna Lounge opened in October of 2019, it was meant to be a hub of student activity. Just five months later, COVID-19 stalled that plan. This year, Student Affairs and the School of Business reimaged the space as a student-run business with a graduate assistant and four student interns planning to open the eatery in the spring 2022 semester.

The interns and graduate assistant will report to Business Dean Eric Wellington. Their job responsibilities will include budgeting, accounting, marketing, managing, hiring, payroll, and numerous other business-related operations. The graduate assistant will have a managerial role, supervising the interns in the process.

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movement to go green.

PA Celebrates College Radio Day

On September 30, State Representative Leanne Krueger (District 161) read an official proclamation of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives on air at 98.5 WNUW, the radio station of Neumann University, recognizing October 1, 2021, as College Radio Day in Pennsylvania.

WNUW was one of more than 600 radio stations in 40 countries that celebrated College Radio Day and one of just two dozen stations that participated in a 24-hour marathon broadcast, led by students. The celebration unites college radio stations from around the world to generate awareness of the work and value they bring to the broadcasting medium.



New Film Studies Minor

Three faculty members have launched a Film Studies minor to help students develop the visual literacy skills that are necessary to participate in the civic community and workforce of a society in which the visual image is vital to communication.

Bill Hamilton (English), Kerry Hustwit (Communication and Digital Media), and Jim Kain (Liberal Arts) collaborated for more than two years to develop the minor in which students will choose from a wide range of theory, genre, production, and special-topics courses. The 18-credit minor offers two concentrations: Film Analysis (mainly English courses) and Film Production (mainly CDM courses).

U.S. News Ranks Neumann for Social Mobility

U.S. News & World Report has again ranked Neumann University among the Best Regional Universities in the North for social mobility in its Best Colleges 2022 issue. Neumann was also ranked among the best for social mobility last year, rising from #62 in the North in 2021 to #47 in 2022.

The ranking identifies colleges that are successful at advancing social mobility by enrolling and graduating significant proportions of economically challenged students who are eligible for Pell Grants. In the fall of 2020, nearly half of Neumann's freshmen (46 percent) were first-generation college students.

Classroom Named for Sandra Weiss

On October 26, Neumann named a classroom in honor of Dr. Sandra Weiss, who retired in June after teaching clinical laboratory science for 45 years. Weiss came to Neumann in 1976 and became director of the university's clinical laboratory science program in 1985. She is pictured here with Dr. Chris Domes in front of the plaque that names the room in her honor.



AROUND CAMPUS



Graduate Assistant Program Expands

In the fall of 2020, the first three trailblazing graduate assistants in the history of the university worked on campus. One year later, the number of GAs jumped to nine, all working in the student affairs unit. According to Dr. Chris Haug, vice president for student affairs, the nine GAs will work with his team to expand student activities, provide leadership opportunities, and offer resident students experienced counsel for navigating college life.

Graduate assistants work a set number of hours per week and, in return, receive a tuition waiver, a monthly living stipend and, in some cases, housing. The campus responsibilities that graduate assistants have must connect directly to the academic field that they study.



The Path to Sainthood for Fr. Bill Atkinson

In the 2000-year history of the Catholic Church, Bill Atkinson was the first quadriplegic to be ordained as a priest. After being paralyzed in a tragic tobogganing accident, he entered the priesthood and taught from 1975 to 2004 at Monsignor Bonner High School. Now, he might be on the path to sainthood.

In September, Stephen McWilliams presented a program on Atkinson's life and journey ahead as the church considers the case for his canonization. One of Atkinson's closest friends, McWilliams now works for the cause of sainthood for the former priest and teacher.

Civic Engagement

Neumann lived up to its name as a Voter Friendly Campus this fall, hosting a series of programs to give students the opportunity to learn about current events and engage in the democratic process. Topics ranged from the Electoral College and Catholic Perspectives on Social Justice to Understanding Facts and Truth in a Troubling World and Constitution Day Bingo.

Activities concluded with a campus-wide voter registration drive.



Deeper Commitment to Sustainability

Neumann University has joined the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE) to further campus sustainability efforts. AASHE is an association of more than 900 colleges, businesses, nonprofits and other organizations that are working to create a sustainable future.

Through membership in AASHE, Neumann will receive support through workshops, webinars, toolkits, an online community of sustainability officers, and an online resource library to advance its sustainability initiatives throughout the institution and in the community.



Nursing Students Support Community Day

Neumann nursing students and faculty continued their tradition of supporting Aston Community Day by offering free blood pressure screenings at the annual celebration, held this year on Saturday, October 2.

After a parade that stretched along Concord Road from campus to the Aston Community Center, students Alexandria Flacco, Tori Ponto, Michael Rovinski, and Hannah Strobl (daughter of faculty member Patti Strobl) took blood pressure screenings at the center. All are members of the Community Health Nursing class.

Neumann's Public Policy Expert: A Pragmatist with Imagination



Robert McMonagle, PhD, is a self-described realist. A Political Science professor, called “Doc” by his students, Dr. McMonagle believes that “politics is about how the world works.” He cites early twentieth century political scientist Harold Lasswell for the best definition of politics: “Who gets what, when and how.”

His own epitaph, he lightheartedly tells colleagues and students, should be “Life in the world is politics and bureaucracy.”

McMonagle's devotion to pragmatism, however, does not limit his imagination. He is a man of ideas who is deeply intrigued by the application of both practical and creative concepts to the political systems that govern society.

The courses he has taught in his more than 20 years at Neumann range from Political Economy and Constitutional Law & Civil Liberties to Political Philosophy and Contemporary American Political Issues. In the classroom, he emphasizes critical thinking and communication skills, both written and verbal. Former students recall the debates and business memos that he assigns with aching frequency.

In Dr. McMonagle's classes, “we wrote papers — *all the time* — and made oral presentations, too,” recalls Jamie Lenko, a law student in Delaware who appreciated the classroom rigor. “One day, I'm going to have to stand in a court room and get my argument across.”

Doc McMonagle is also known for his teaching and research on energy and the environment, two issues that he believes are inseparably intertwined. At one time, he admits that he was “relatively neutral on the environment” but cites two influences that altered his thinking. Before beginning his teaching career, McMonagle served as a deputy legislative director on Capitol Hill for Oregon Congressman Bob Smith, who represented several sparsely populated counties near the border with Idaho. McMonagle recalls that Smith always used to say that he “served people who make their living off the land.” He was an early influence in McMonagle's environmental awareness, especially given his visits to Oregon's Second Congressional District to meet with constituents.

“The best way to measure outcomes is by the success of our students.”

The other major influence in the professor's environmental evolution is Catholic social teaching and Neumann's Franciscan values. “I do empirical research,” says McMonagle with a measure of pride in his voice. “Others, like the Sisters of St. Francis, can use the research to inform their normative advocacy, and I've become an advocate myself.” He also notes living in Colorado with his family for a year solidified those values.

McMonagle arranged a campus presentation by Maya von Rossum, environmental activist and author of The Green Amendment.

He expanded his Temple University doctoral dissertation into a book, *Caribou and Conoco*, which explains the political and social variables that drive important public policy debates on energy and the environment.

McMonagle is also a proponent of civic engagement, working with other faculty members on campus to support voter registration drives, visits to campus by public officials of both parties, and events to celebrate the service of veterans. He's known for his Pizza and Politics debate-watching parties, which are regularly followed by some lively discussion of the issues by students.

Several years ago, the professor successfully negotiated an agreement to allow Neumann students to participate in Temple's Harrisburg Capitol Semester program and use credits toward a Neumann Political Science degree. Neumann's participants have advanced to law school and consulting work. He believes that internships in Washington, D.C., would also provide valuable experience for students and has discussed with President Chris Domes his support for gaining this experiential learning for Political Science majors.

An admitted political junkie, McMonagle has twice thrown his hat into the ring as an independent Republican candidate. He ran for Congress in 1996 and for Delaware County Council in 1997, both times without official party endorsement or funding. He lost both races but broke 12,000 votes in 1997 on a “reform” platform and supports recent successes including the creation of a Delaware County Health Department in the age of COVID-19. “It is long overdue.”

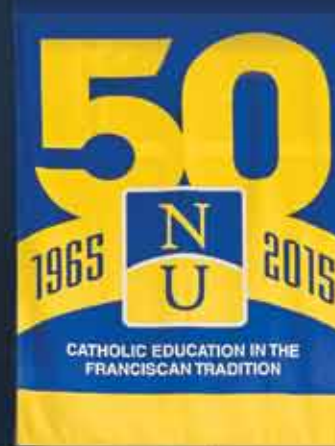
When asked how he evaluates success in the classroom, McMonagle doesn't hesitate. “The best way to measure outcomes is by the success of our students. We may be a small program, but the quality of our alumni is stellar, given the breadth of their careers in law, education, business, and the non-profit sectors.”

Doc holds a PhD in Political Science from Temple University and a master's degree in Public Policy Studies from the University of Chicago. He first started teaching at Neumann in 1996 as an adjunct and became a member of the full-time faculty in 2002.

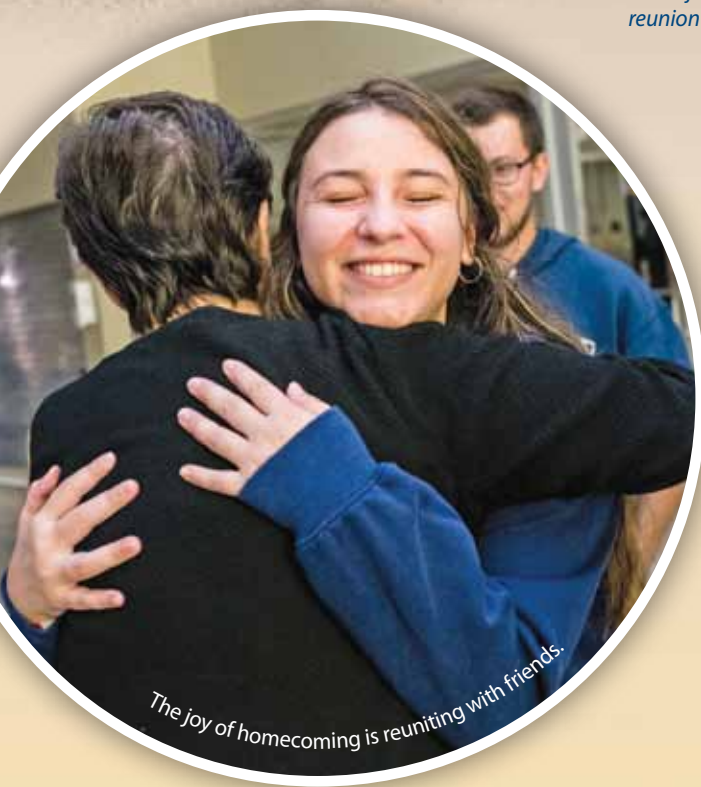


Alumni Re-U-Knight at

After a 2020 homecoming that was largely virtual, Neumann alumni returned to campus on October 15 – 17 to participate in some traditional festivities and experience new events that were designed to please young and old.



Alumni join Dr. Chris and Mary Domes at the all-class reunion to give a thumbs-up to Homecoming 2021.



The joy of homecoming is reuniting with friends.

Students kicked off the celebration during the week with a banner contest, Neumann trivia game, homecoming pageant, silent dance party, and CANstruction contest (using cans of food to design structures and then donating the food to the Knights' Pantry).

On Friday afternoon, Dr. Chris and Mary Domes hosted a reunion brunch for alumni of Our Lady of Angels College, and Angel Smedley '90 hosted virtual Designer Bag Bingo that evening.

Saturday activities began with a home run derby and the popular Philadelphia General Hospital Endowed Nursing Lecture. This year's topic was Home Health Care, presented by Steven Landers MD, MPH, president & CEO of VNA Health Group.

In addition to Saturday's picnic lunch, the youngest Knights enjoyed outdoor activity, led by Arendelle sisters Elsa and Anna, the stars of *Frozen*. There was also a visit from Captain America, who did his own "hero training." The characters led sing-a-longs on the CDC lawn.

Homecoming's signature event, the Knight Under the Stars all-year reunion, featured music, an open bar, hors d'oeuvres, and prizes.

The 2021 celebration concluded on Sunday with Breakfast with the President. Parents of current and prospective students dined with their children at the Crossroads Café Dining Hall with Dr. and Mrs. Domes.

HOMECOMING 2021



Saturday's celebration kicked off with a home run derby at the Bruder Athletic Fields.



Sisters Patricia Hutchison, Patricia Smith, and Linda DeCero toast Our Lady of Angels graduates, who returned to campus for a special brunch.



Students proudly display their Homecoming 2021 tee shirts.



Dr. Chris and Mrs. Mary Domes hosted a Sunday breakfast for prospective students and their parents.



Vincent Taddei shows off his entry in the CANstruction contest. All food was donated to the Knights' Pantry.



Elsa and Anna, the stars of Frozen, entertained youngsters at Saturday's picnic.

ATHLETICS ROUND UP



FALL

Cross country runners gave 100 percent for their new coach.

Cross Country

The Neumann cross country team was able to adapt well to a new coaching environment this season. The team demonstrated an excellent work ethic and gave 100% at each practice and meet.

The big wins for the cross country team this year came from freshman standout athlete Andrew Konieczny, who won the Dan Talbot Open in Neumann's backyard at Rose Tree Park in Media and then placed ninth at the University of Delaware Invitational.

In the off-season, the team plans to work on gaining more self-confidence and focus. According to head coach Chris Simpson, "Overthinking and running do not mix very well."

Women's Volleyball

The women's volleyball team finished the 2021 season with a 4-2 record in the Atlantic East Conference and 13-18 record overall.

The Knights entered conference post-season play as the three seed. In the first round of the playoffs, the Knights defeated Immaculata 3-0, but the Knights' season ended in the semifinal round as they were defeated by Marymount.

During the season, the Knights had a very balanced attack lead by Ariana Pena, Breanna Hickey, Maria Brown, Dani Smith and Catie Esslinger. Regan Hickey, Lauren Garvey, Anna Mansel and Jules Dill all played key offensive roles. Tori Burgess and Reagan Walker anchored a stellar defensive unit.

Ariana Pena was named to the Atlantic East First Team All Conference while Bre Hickey and Dani Smith were named to the Second Team All-Conference.

Women's Soccer

The women's soccer team had a successful season that included post-season play. The team achieved a 2-0 first-round playoff victory

against Immaculata University, which led to an appearance in the conference semi-final for the first time since 2013. The squad finished with a record of 7-10 (3-3 conference).

Standouts included all-conference players Jordan Bard, Emily Cooper and Chloe Britton. Jordan Bard qualified for all-region consideration and Emily Cooper qualified for Scholar All-American consideration.

The team is already looking forward to next season and is eager to get back onto the turf.

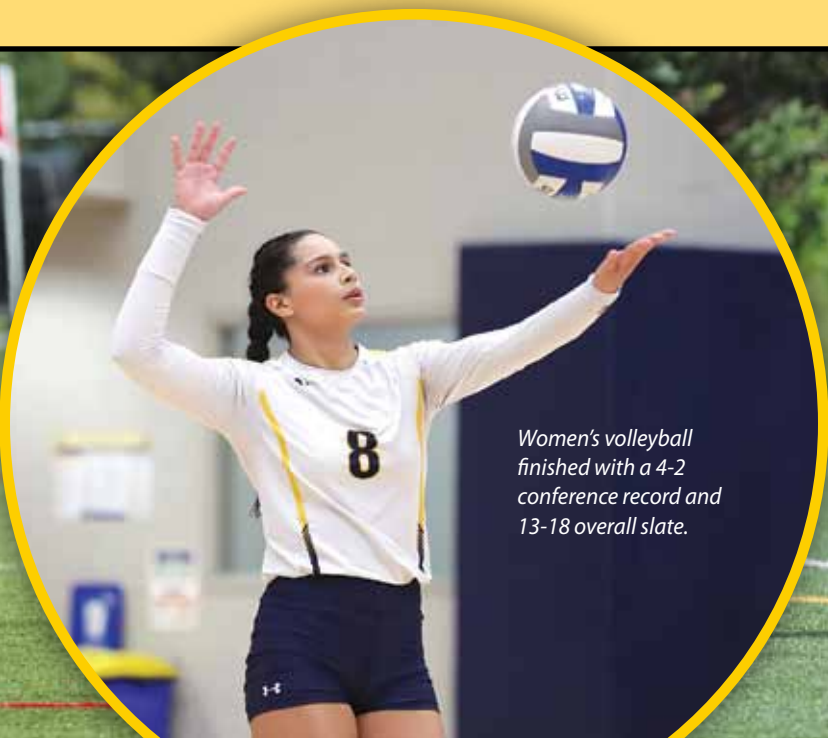
Men's Soccer

The Neumann men's soccer team had a successful season, making it all the way to the Atlantic East Conference Championship game before falling to Cabrini University.

The team's biggest win of the season came in the Atlantic East semifinals at Immaculata. Trailing by a goal at halftime, an inspired group



Women's soccer made it to the Atlantic East Conference semi-finals.



Women's volleyball finished with a 4-2 conference record and 13-18 overall slate.



The men's soccer team advanced to the conference title game.

2021

of Knights fought back in the second half with goals from Chris Siemien and Eddie Proud to send Neumann to their second conference final in three years.

Standout players include Marlon Trejo (first team all-conference), Sam Clavijo (first team all-conference), Alex Duopu (first team all-conference) and Jon Yinger (second team all-conference). The team finished 8-11-1 (3-2-1 conference).

Field Hockey

First year coach Erik Enters and his assistant, Jillian Tutak (DeFina '15), took over just two days before the start of preseason.

Captains, juniors Rachel Koerner and Lizzie Frame, were leaders on the pitch and started every game for the Knights.

Other key players who made significant progress and who will be a force for the league to reckon with are sophomores Hailey Craft and Ronnie Johnson along with freshmen Lexi Stouffer, Gi Guido, Elle Smith, and Kaitlin Smith.

The field hockey team finished 3-14 in the regular season and lost their first-round Atlantic East Conference Tournament game, 2-0, to Gwynedd Mercy.



Field hockey developed some young talent in 2021.

Men's lacrosse coaches Connor Betts '16, Evan Zielinski '14 '20, Kyle Gardner '11, Bryan Capone '10, Tyler Schlimme '17, and Adam Fagan '18.



Men's Lacrosse: Coaches of the Year

The men's lacrosse coaching staff was named Coaching Staff of the Year by the Atlantic East Conference for the 2021 season.

The Knights went 6-4 overall for the season and 4-2 in the conference, advancing to their first conference championship game since 1999.

One element that makes this coaching staff unique among its peers is that each coach is an alumnus of Neumann University.

Sixth-year head coach, Kyle Gardner, graduated in 2011 and captained the men's lacrosse team during his sophomore, junior and senior seasons. He was joined by Bryan Capone, a 2010 graduate and senior year captain; Evan Zielinski, a 2014 and 2020 graduate and sophomore, junior, and senior year captain; Connor Betts, a 2016 graduate and senior captain; Tyler Schlimme, a 2017 graduate and senior captain; and Adam Fagan, a 2018 graduate and junior and senior captain.

"When we were given the opportunity to help rebuild the men's lacrosse program, we identified team culture and player experience as being the two main focal points that we believed would help us to rebuild a competitive and sustainable program," Gardner said of the lacrosse program's rebuilding.

From year one, they tried to recruit diligently, looking for the right people for their program as opposed to looking only for the best lacrosse players they could find. Next, they invested in student athletes who invested in them, as a coaching staff, and Neumann University as their collegiate community.

Their recruiting process has always been a bit "organic" in the sense that each recruiting class takes shape at its own pace.

"Once we had begun to yield the right people, it was 90% about developing our student-athletes to believe in our program's cultural philosophies and 10% about developing them as individual lacrosse players," Gardner adds.

The coaches describe their style as "player-centric" in that their barometer of success is not solely wins and losses but, more importantly, the experience of the players who choose to invest their collegiate lacrosse experience in Neumann University and the alumni coaching staff.

The coaching staff and team are eager to get back on the field this season and not only return to the conference championship game but bring home the title.

Live Nativity Returns to Campus

After a year without Greccio because of COVID-19, the Neumann community and its Aston neighbors were able to capture the Christmas spirit again as the annual Live Nativity re-enactment returned to campus on December 1.

Students, faculty, and staff re-enacted the Franciscan tradition of the crib, performing the live nativity scene and the scripture narration on the front lawn of the Mirenda Center. The program also featured the sounds of sacred Christmas music, presented by a community choir of university students and parishioners from St. Joseph's Church in Aston.

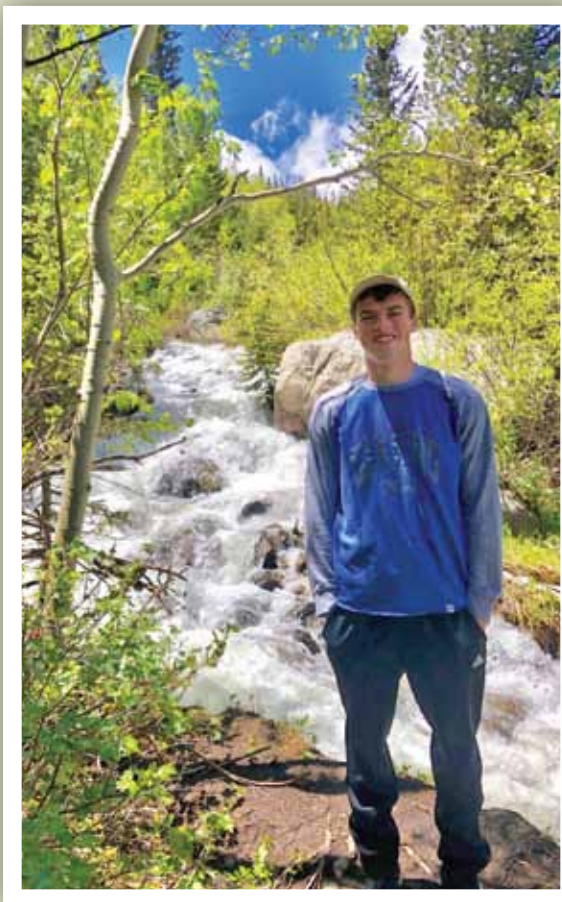
St. Francis of Assisi created the first live nativity scene in Greccio, Italy, in 1223. Now a traditional element of Christmas celebrations around the world, the ritual has been celebrated ever since.

A petting zoo of manger animals was on site for the young and the young at heart, and after the re-enactment, children enjoyed refreshments and a special visit from Santa.

Bridget McTiernan and Bryan Pham played the roles of Mary and Joseph at the Greccio celebration.



An Intern's Dream Experience: *You're Hired*



Thomas Andruszko

Thomas Andruszko's internship had a storybook ending. On the last day of his two-month stint with J.P. Morgan last summer, the firm offered him a full-time job.

It didn't matter that Andruszko still had to complete his senior year at Neumann. He had impressed his managers so thoroughly that they made the commitment to bring him on board.

"I felt like I did a good job," says Andruszko. "I tried to take on responsibility, communicate well, and take work off my manager's plate."

Andruszko's experience was technically with the J.P. Morgan office in Newark, Delaware, but the entire internship was remote. He worked with the team that handles financial control for corporate investment. His assignments were primarily focused on fact checking financial records and researching financial statements.

"I also did a lot of investigative work on an important balance sheet project," he recalls. "I think that was one reason for my positive reviews."

A Business Administration major with a minor in Finance, Andruszko found the internship through Handshake, the software that Neumann's Career and Personal Development Office uses to connect students with prospective employers. He's set to begin his career in July 2022 in a rotational program, changing teams from year to year to give him a broad overview of the J.P. Morgan operation.

"I'm really grateful," he says about the job offer. "I feel like they made an investment in me."

He believes that his Neumann education prepared him for the marketplace and gushed about some good counsel from Dr. Jeff Graber. "Some of the best advice I got came from Dr. Graber to take an Accounting class. That class was really valuable for my internship, and I'm taking another one this semester."

Sr. Kathy Dougherty Named VP for Mission and Ministry

Neumann University has named Sister Mary Kathryn Dougherty, OSF, as its vice president for mission and ministry. Sr. Kathy assumed her new role on December 1, 2021, following Sr. Marguerite O'Beirne '70, OSF, who had held the post for more than 20 years.

"As a Sister of St. Francis, I have always been proud of Neumann University and the RISES values that are pervasive throughout the institution," said Sr. Kathy. "I have met so many wonderful faculty, staff, students, administrators and board members who embrace the mission and live our Franciscan values daily. I feel blessed and excited to have this opportunity, being a part of NU, to build on our strengths and seek new ways to further the mission. As Neumann plans for the future, I am energized by its potential growth and the many possibilities to promote our values."

Dr. Chris Domes is especially pleased to welcome such a seasoned administrator to the university's executive team. "Sr. Kathy has extensive experience in educational leadership and administration," he noted. "In fact, she served as director of university ministries at St. Bonaventure University for four years. Her intellect and commitment to our Franciscan mission will be valuable assets as we look to the future and begin to implement the campus master plan."

Sr. Kathy was elected as congregational minister of the Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia in June 2014 and finished her term in July 2021. She has been a professed member of the congregation for 40 years, taking her final vows in 1981. Born in Baltimore, Maryland, Sister Kathy holds a B.A. in Psychology from Notre Dame of Maryland University and an M.A. in Systematic Theology from the University of Notre Dame in South Bend, Indiana.

Sr. Kathy's ministry has primarily focused around education on all levels. She taught at the Catholic High School of Baltimore, St. Peter Claver School, St. Anthony of Padua School, and St. Francis-Charles Hall High School, Baltimore. She was the director of university ministries at St. Bonaventure University in St. Bonaventure, New York, from 1997-2001. Her formation ministry was as director of candidates during that same time, after which she became director of the congregation's novitiate program. From 2005-2010, Sister Kathy was an adjunct professor at Neumann University.

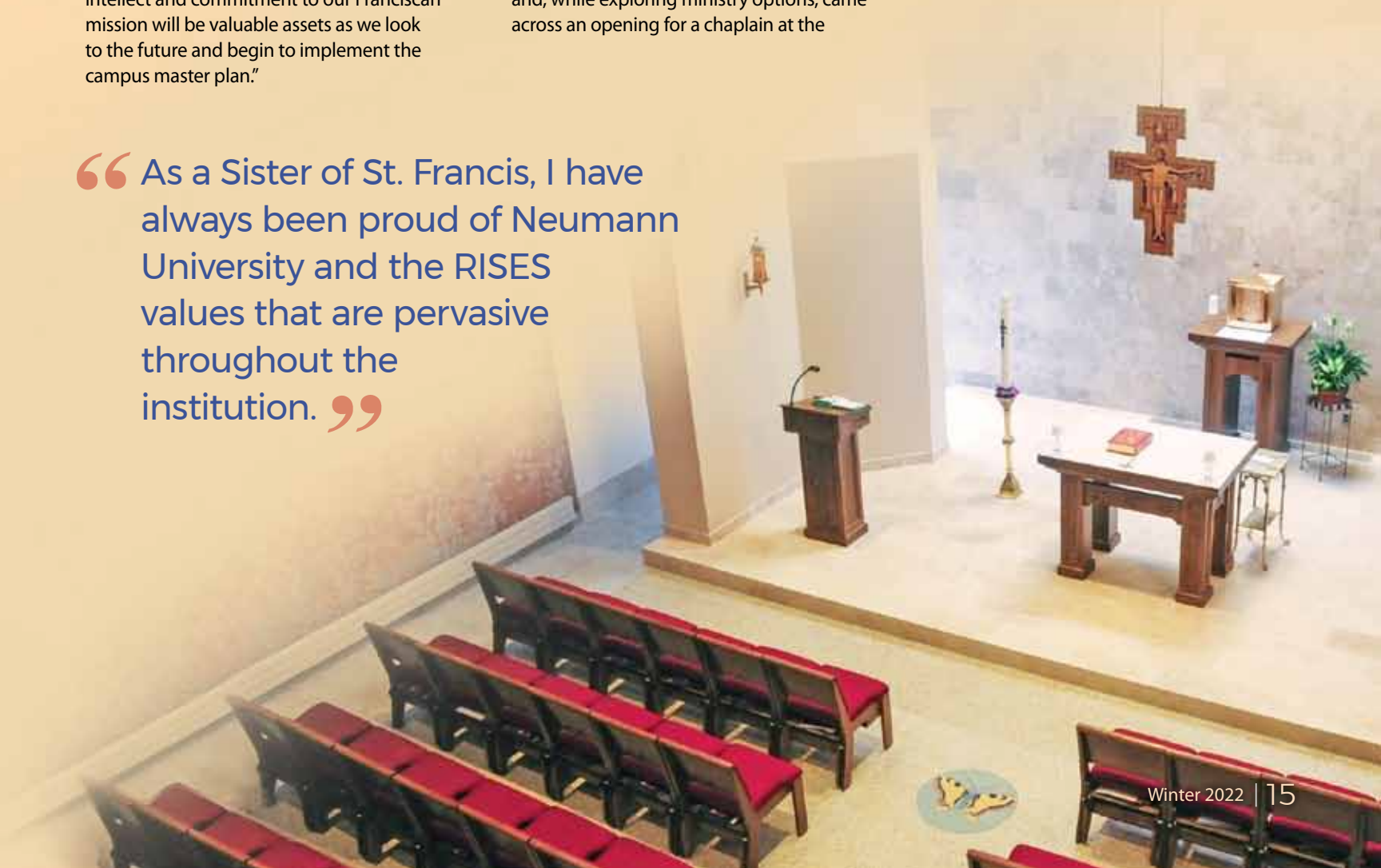
In 2010 Sister Kathy returned from renewal and, while exploring ministry options, came across an opening for a chaplain at the

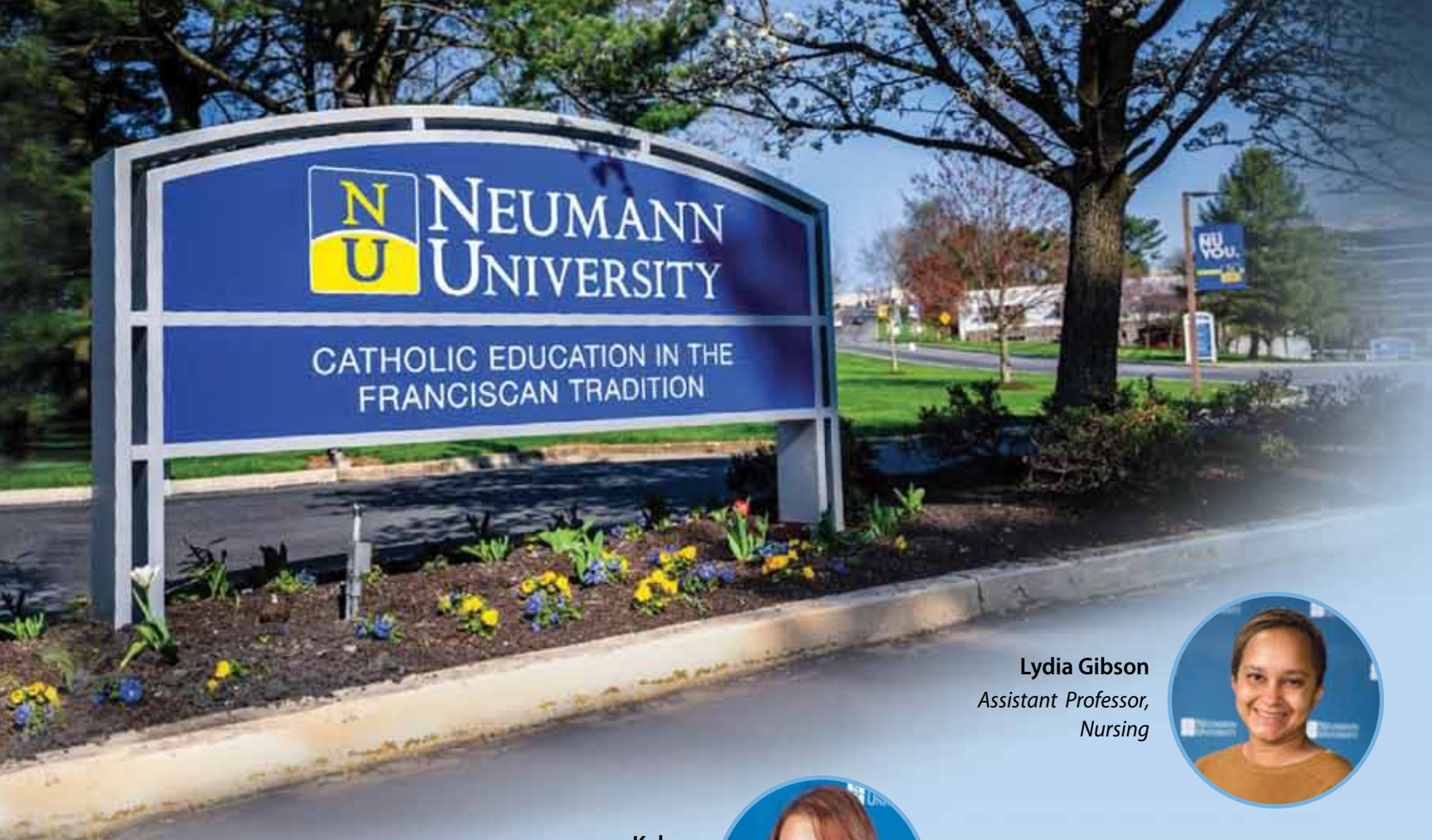


Baltimore City Women's Detention Center. She visited the center and knew that was where she had to be. Sister Kathy served as chaplain of the center from 2010-2014. She was also living out the Franciscan commitment to responsible stewardship of the Earth at this time by trying to live as self-sustaining as possible on a farm in White Hall, Maryland, for a few years.

Over the years Sister Mary Kathryn has served on numerous committees and boards including the Catholic High School of Baltimore, St. Joseph Medical Center, and the Province Peace and Justice Committee. During her time as congregational minister, Sr. Kathy served as the congregational liaison for many additional boards and committees.

“As a Sister of St. Francis, I have always been proud of Neumann University and the RISES values that are pervasive throughout the institution.”





Lydia Gibson
*Assistant Professor,
Nursing*



**Kelsey
De Los Santos**
*Scheduling and
Events Assistant*



Richard Hartwell
*CIO and
Associate VP
for Institutional
Research and
Planning*



Rose Adamo
*Counselor,
Counseling Center
for Wellness*



Erik Enters
*Head Field Hockey
Coach and
Student-Athlete
Welfare Coordinator*



Tasha Hillery
*Director of
Advancement
Communications*



Haley Budnick
*Library Systems
Technician*



Courtney Fedena
*Director of Donor
Relations and
Stewardship*



Stephanie Jones
Dean of Students



Brandi Burgess
*Director of
Donor Impact*



Matthew Fullmer
*Director of Student
Engagement and
Leadership*



Rosie Kays
*Head Women's
Soccer Coach and
Game Day Manager*

New Faces on Campus

In the spring and fall of 2021, the university welcomed a host of new staff members and faculty.

Let us introduce you to ...

Dara Law
*Advancement
Services Assistant*



Melissa Paone
*Executive Director,
Marketing and
Communications*



**Elizabeth
Singewald**
*Assistant Professor,
Chemistry*



Alex Liska
*Coordinator
for Student
Affairs Strategic
Initiatives and
Programs*



Emily Park
*Certification
Specialist and
Testing
Coordinator*



Rene Springer
*Networking Support
Technician*



**Jacqueline
Marciano**
*Director of Alumni
and Parent
Engagement*



Robert Paynter
*Campus Store/
Mailroom
Associate*



**Tahira
Stevens-Gaillard**
*Coordinator for
Student Leadership
and Inclusion*



Melissa McIlroy
*Assistant Professor,
Nursing*



Susan Pegan
*Academic Coach,
Title III*



Mara Williams
*Director, Clinical
Laboratory Science
Program*



**Kathleen
McLaughlin**
*Assistant Professor,
Nursing*



Marie Ranselle
*Assistant Professor,
Nursing*



Joshua Yearwood
*Physical
Arrangements
Coordinator*



Michael Pace
Reference Librarian




Not pictured:

Matthew D'Almeida *Academic Advisor*
Jonathan Logan *Assistant Facilities Coordinator, Athletics*
Robert Malone *Shuttle Driver*
Chelsea Minsky *Counselor*
Patrick Murray *Theater and Event Specialist*
Shannon Padula *Head Softball Coach*
Daniel Remmes *TRIO/SSS coordinator*

Neumann Buys Our Lady of Angels and 63 Acres

Neumann University and the Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia officially signed a purchase agreement on June 30 to formalize the sale of several historic properties and contiguous land to the university.



*Dr. Chris Domes and Sr. Kathy Dougherty, OSF,
signed the purchase agreement
on June 30, 2021.*

Under the agreement, Neumann, at what both parties described as fair market value, will acquire the Our Lady of Angels Motherhouse Convent owned by the Sisters of St. Francis. The convent, built in late 1800s, is considered one of the most recognized, historic, and beloved buildings in the Aston area.

The transaction also includes the purchase of St. Elizabeth House, a two-story residential facility and office building, two residential homes, and nearly 63 acres of land.

The land acquisition includes sacred spaces — most notably Our Lady of Angels Cemetery — and iconic statues and symbols. The university has vowed to preserve these spaces, statues, and symbols in keeping with its long-time commitment to the Catholic, Franciscan intellectual tradition and Neumann's ongoing partnership with the Sisters of St. Francis.

The sale positions Neumann to nearly double its campus footprint to accommodate future growth and enhance all aspects of its mission.

The university's ambitious new master plan calls for the transformation of its campus over a 15-year period. Highlights of the buildout include a welcoming entryway and lively pedestrian-only zone at the heart of campus. With support from a variety of stakeholders, plans also call for a student union, ice rink, outdoor track, and new student residences.

As many as 60 students are expected to move into one wing of the convent by the fall of 2022, with the total reaching 100 – 120 within three years.

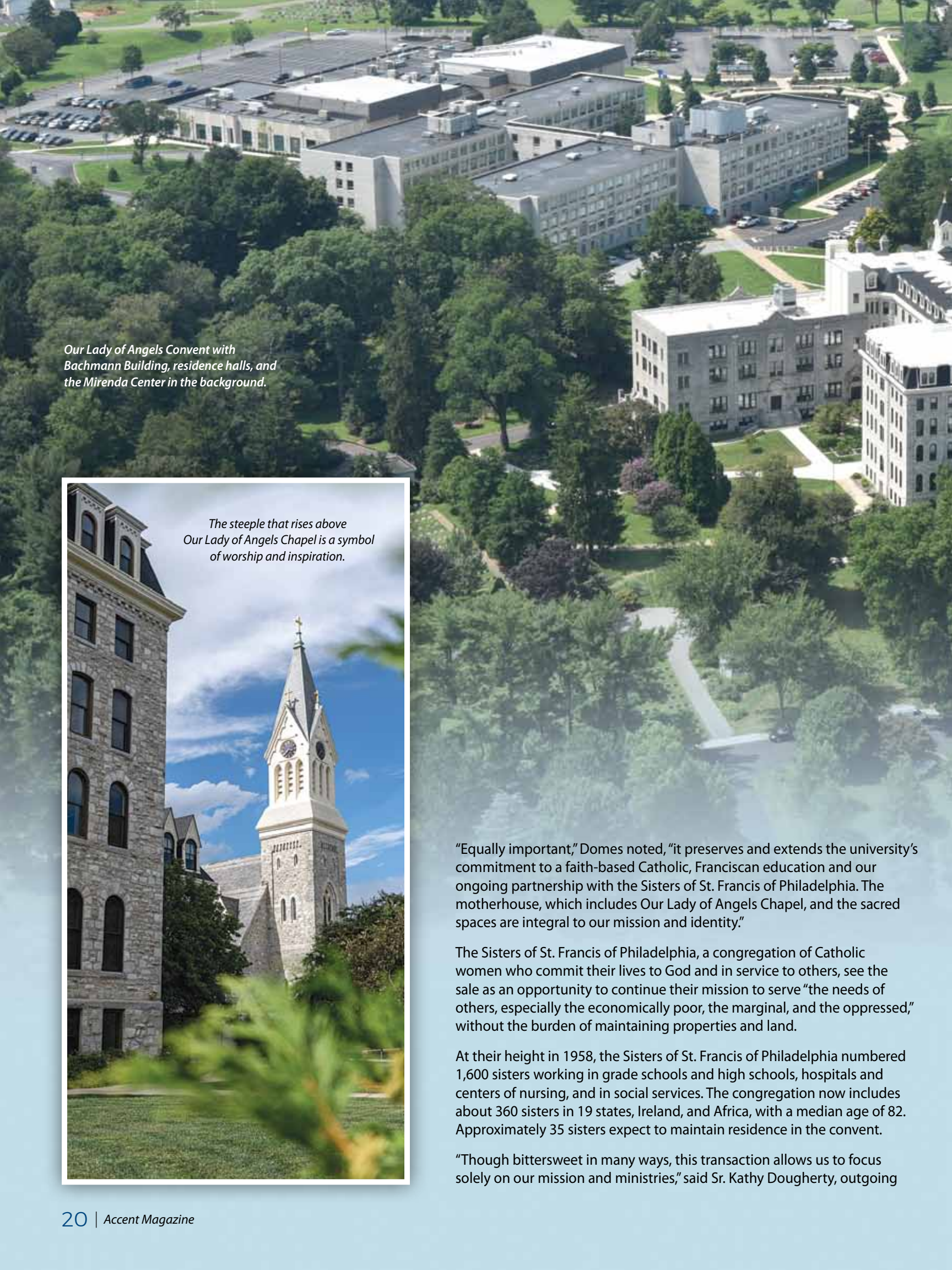
"This acquisition works on so many levels," said Neumann President Chris Domes. "This is a great win-win, and the sisters feel the same way. It positions us to strengthen the residential experience for our students and supports our desire for expanded extracurricular programs and athletics."

“
This acquisition works
on so many levels.
”

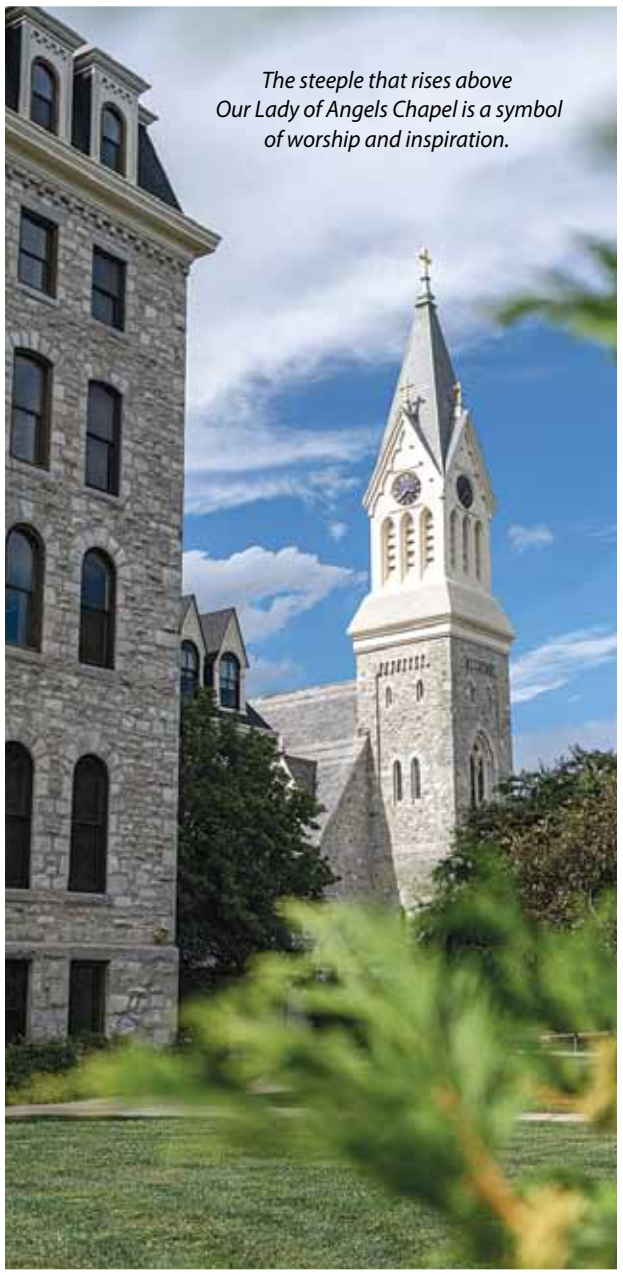
The convent dome and clock tower are local landmarks and can be seen from miles away.

The university will preserve the sacred spaces on the 63 acres adjacent to the convent.





Our Lady of Angels Convent with Bachmann Building, residence halls, and the Mirenda Center in the background.



The steeple that rises above Our Lady of Angels Chapel is a symbol of worship and inspiration.

"Equally important," Domes noted, "it preserves and extends the university's commitment to a faith-based Catholic, Franciscan education and our ongoing partnership with the Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia. The motherhouse, which includes Our Lady of Angels Chapel, and the sacred spaces are integral to our mission and identity."

The Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia, a congregation of Catholic women who commit their lives to God and in service to others, see the sale as an opportunity to continue their mission to serve "the needs of others, especially the economically poor, the marginal, and the oppressed," without the burden of maintaining properties and land.

At their height in 1958, the Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia numbered 1,600 sisters working in grade schools and high schools, hospitals and centers of nursing, and in social services. The congregation now includes about 360 sisters in 19 states, Ireland, and Africa, with a median age of 82. Approximately 35 sisters expect to maintain residence in the convent.

"Though bittersweet in many ways, this transaction allows us to focus solely on our mission and ministries," said Sr. Kathy Dougherty, outgoing



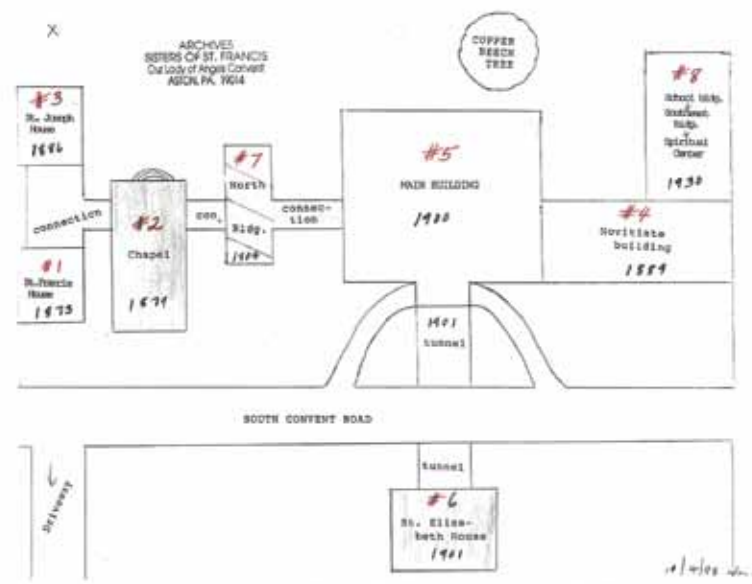
congregational minister for the Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia. “Frankly, we’ve reached a point at which we no longer needed or could justify owning these facilities and this land.”

“Our sisters,” she added, “did not join this community because of a building or a parcel of land. They came to serve. Moving forward, we wanted to make sure that we could sustain our mission and support the ministries we have established over the years.”

“Neumann,” Dougherty said, “is the perfect fit to carry our legacy forward. We are thrilled about that. It’s a true blessing.”

As part of the agreement, the acquisition of property will take place incrementally over time. The Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia will lease space in the convent for resident Sisters and offices for the next several years. The Sisters of St. Francis will maintain ownership of Assisi House, Red Hill Farm, Clare House, and the Hermitages.

This hand-drawn diagram, with dates of construction, illustrates the growth of the convent over the years.



SAVE THE DATE!



Dr. Chris Everett Domes is coming to a city near you!

Join him and other Neumann community members for an evening of cocktails and hors d'oeuvres.

Visit www.neumann.edu/ontheroad
for information on
upcoming dates and locations!

Flyers Warriors Partner with Neumann

Devon Richio '16, a captain in the Philadelphia Fire Department, is a graduate of the Public Safety Administration degree program. He is also a member of the Flyers Warriors ice hockey team, where his teammates are all veterans with some form of emotional or physical disability.

Thanks to a Neumann-Warriors partnership initiated by Richio, his teammates can now follow in his footsteps and earn an undergraduate or graduate degree.

The Flyers Warriors team is one of 37 military ice hockey teams in the country. Men and women train and compete on the ice in three different tiers: Advanced, Intermediate, and Learning to Play. The Warriors players are coached by Flyers alums Brad Marsh, Bob Kelly, and Rob Baer.

"Our role is to help facilitate the education piece of the incredible holistic program that has been built for their players," explained Jil Donnelly, executive director of adult and continuing education.

"They are an extraordinary group of people. I was honored to be in the same room with all of them. This program fulfills a part of our mission. It's totally a Franciscan outreach."

William Duffy, president of the Warriors and the team's goalie, is thrilled to partner with Neumann.

"This is a great opportunity and a unique one at that. It's something that hasn't been offered to a Warriors program. We are the envy of the Warriors program in the U.S. with Neumann University coming on board and the support we get from the Flyers," said Duffy.



Devon Richio '16



Johnson '12 is Counseling's Best in Pennsylvania

The Pennsylvania Counseling Association (PCA) selected Lewis Johnson to receive its 2021 Outstanding Graduate Student Award. Johnson, coordinator of academic services in the John C. Ford Student Success Center, will earn his second Neumann degree in May 2022 with an MS in Pastoral Clinical Mental Health Counseling.



The PCA is the state branch of the American Counseling Association. The association's mission is to promote and support the competent, ethical, and culturally inclusive practice of professional counseling in Pennsylvania. In addition, the association works to protect and advocate for all counselors and their clients.

The PCA's Outstanding Graduate Student Award is given to an individual who is currently a graduate student in professional counseling within the state and who shows excellent potential and professionalism.

In April, Johnson received a scholarship from the organization, intended to support BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, People of Color) members of the group. He also represented the PCA as the graduate student member for PASERVIC, the Pennsylvania Association for Spiritual, Ethical, and Religious Values in Counseling.

Johnson has been juggling his full-time position at Neumann with his grad school studies for the past three years. He also counsels clients through an internship at the Phoenix Trauma Center in Media, Pennsylvania, where he was just hired as a counselor-in-training by another alumnus, Dr. Scott Giacomucci '13, the founder and director of the Center.

Bernhardt '16 is Upper Darby's Top Cop

In Tim Bernhardt's new position, he deals with people from 65 different countries who speak over 50 languages. While it may sound like he is employed by the United Nations, he actually works in law enforcement in Delaware County. Bernhardt was sworn in as the new Upper Darby Township Police Department Superintendent on September 23, 2021.

Bernhardt brings a long history of law enforcement to his new position. He has worked in the field for 22 years, 17 years with Upper Darby Township. Having grown up in the Drexel Hill section of the township, he is proud to have the opportunity to give back and support the residents.

He remembers hearing the phrase, "one world, many cultures," in a class he had with Dr. Sam Lemon at Neumann. The phrase stayed with him, and he uses it as a mantra in his current position.

“One world,
many cultures.”

"That seemed to be true in Upper Darby. We have to be understanding and show empathy to the people that we serve every day," he said. "If you get involved with the community, the community will be involved with you."

Bernhardt is a champion of change and innovation. He spearheaded the department's Racial Intelligence Program, which provided training and certification for all 133 officers and has taken the lead to install body cameras on all his officers by January 2022.



Neumann Welcomes Two New Trustees

Neumann University welcomed two new members to its Board of Trustees this year.



Florence M. Hee, OSF, PhD

Florence M. Hee '84, OSF, PhD, is a Sister of St. Francis of Philadelphia and lives and ministers in Wilmington, DE. She holds a bachelor's degree in religious studies, a master's degree in administration and supervision, and a PhD in industrial/organizational psychology.

Over the years Sr. Florence has ministered in the field of education as a teacher and principal in elementary Catholic schools and as an adjunct instructor for the strategic leadership graduate program at Neumann University. She also ministered as director of mission at the congregation's sponsored high school in Baltimore, MD, and as coordinator of Incorporated Province Ministries for the U.S.-Ontario Province of the Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary, located in Maylhurst, Oregon.

Prior to her role as a member of the congregation's leadership team, she was charism coordinator for her congregation and responsible for initial and ongoing formation. Occasionally, she facilitates meetings and gatherings for women religious congregations in various locations.

In addition to Neumann University's board, she is a member of the Board of Directors and Secretary for the African Sisters Education Collaborative (ASEC) located in Scranton, PA, which coordinates educational programs for women religious sisters in 10 African English-speaking countries.



Maggie Gannon, OSF, EdD

Maggie Gannon, OSF, EdD, is a Sister of St. Francis of Philadelphia and ministers in Chester, PA. She holds a bachelor of science degree and master's degree in education from Chestnut Hill College. She earned her EdD in educational leadership from Immaculata University in 2006.

Sr. Maggie has been instrumental in the educating of young children for over 15 years. She was the principal of Our Lady of Perpetual Help in Morton, PA, and the president of Drexel Neumann Academic in Chester, PA. Drexel Neumann Academy was founded with the unique structure of an extended school day and extended school year. This model provides the children with a safe place to be and opportunities for additional instructional time and recreation.

Sr. Maggie is currently the co-director of Anna's Place, where she works collaboratively with staff to provide food relief to the people of Chester. In addition, she is also the co-director of the ACCESS Community Center, which will be the only community center in the city of Chester when it opens in the fall of 2022. Services will include medical, legal, and housing assistance services as well as food relief and a daily meal. ACCESS was created with input from community members and seeks to meet the needs of the people of Chester.

In addition to Neumann University's board, she sits on the Board of Joseph's House in Camden, NJ, and the ACCESS Community Center in Chester, PA.



Alumni Office Welcomes New Director

The existence of a solid and supportive alumni base is crucial to the success of any university. In order to strengthen Neumann's alumni connection, the University Advancement team has appointed a new alumni director and tapped a veteran staffer to focus on young alumni engagement.

In October, **Jacqueline (Jackie) Marciano** joined the UA staff as director of alumni and parent engagement. She comes to Neumann from Cabrini University, where she was the director of alumni engagement and development. In addition to working with alumni, Marciano also created engagement programs for parents. She will report to Judi Stanaitis '07 '13, assistant vice president for alumni and community outreach.

Marciano plans on increasing parental engagement and involvement at Neumann. She is reviewing the programs and events that are currently in place with plans to ramp up activity. In addition, she looks forward to collaborating with other departments, such as athletics, admissions, and career development, to build engagement opportunities.

"I'm excited to make a program with various events on campus to increase parent engagement and to work with different offices to really see how we can service the community and build upon the great framework already in place at Neumann," Marciano said.

Other changes in the alumni office include the promotion of **Colleen Graf '15 '20** to associate director of student and young alumni programs. Graf, who joined the advancement office in 2018, will report to Marciano.

Graf will develop programs and engagement strategies in this new position, beginning with first-year students through their first ten years as alumni. The goal is to increase participation, foster a lifelong connection with NU, and develop a causeway to philanthropic investment.

"I am now going to be the synergy between students and the advancement office. I will be the first line of engagement that students have with advancement," Graf explained.

Graf will now run the Presidential Ambassador program. She plans on getting students more involved in alumni networking events and mentorship programs with alums.

“

I will be the first line of engagement that students have with advancement.

”



Jacqueline Marciano



Colleen Graf '15 '20



Conner Kolek, Sharon Kelly, and Rick Kern under the Brendan Kelly banner in the Mirenda Center.

Kelly Family, Friends Honored at the

Thanksgiving Reception

Dozens of donors filled the Bayada Atrium on the evening of November 18 for the President's Thanksgiving Reception, Neumann's annual event that recognizes supporters for their continued generosity and commitment to the university.

Special honorees at the 2021 event were the Brendan P. Kelly '87 Committee and the Kelly family.

Brendan Kelly, a member of the Neumann University class of 1987, died in December 1988. Two years after his death, his friends and family launched the Brendan P. Kelly '87 Memorial Scholarship with the blessing of Sharon Kelly, Brendan's mother. In the past 31 years, the fund has grown to more than \$425,000 and has supported 90 Neumann students.

According to President Chris Domes, "Fundraising in Brendan's name began after his passing with grassroots efforts, including basketball tournaments, beef and beers, personal donations, t-shirt sales, golf outings, and social events to cement Brendan's legacy in an institution that embraced him wholeheartedly."

Conner Kolek, senior marketing major and a recipient of the Kelly Scholarship, spoke to the crowd about what the financial assistance has meant to him.

"This scholarship, along with working jobs throughout my college experience, has made it possible for me to graduate with no student loans," Kolek told the crowd, eliciting enthusiastic applause. "I am so grateful to the Kelly family and the Brendan P. Kelly Scholarship Committee for this humbling award. My college career would not have been the same without you."

Later in the program, Richard Kern '86, a founding member of the Kelly Committee and now an administrator at Neumann, shared his memories of Brendan Kelly and his experience as a founding member of the Kelly Committee.

"I would like to thank Mrs. Kelly and the entire Kelly Family for sharing Brendan with us while he attended Neumann," Kern said. "Brendan was a good friend and teammate to all of us, and we loved him very much. His personality was larger than life."

Because of their love for Brendan Kelly, his family and friends have forever etched his presence in Neumann's history by assisting scores of students in achieving their dream of a college education.

Turning Personal Loss into a Lifeline for Others

The birth of a baby is truly a miracle and cause for a joyous celebration. Mike Forrest '17 and his fiancé Kerri Klatcher '17 experienced this joy when Klatcher's sister, Lauren, gave birth to a girl, Harper Taylor, on January 29, 2020.

Tragically, Harper's life ended only five days after she was born. This seemingly healthy baby developed a cough ten hours after birth and lost her battle to a blood infection despite heroic effort by the NICU staff at Nemours Children's Hospital.

Forrest and Klatcher spent many days in the hospital, supporting Lauren and her husband Ryan during Harper's short life. During this time, the two alumni noticed that other parents in similar situations did not have the emotional or financial support they needed while caring for a sick child in the NICU.

Forrest recounted a story about sharing pizza with a mom whose son was in the NICU at the same time as Harper. They watched the woman eat half of the slice and save the rest for her next meal.

"It really opened our eyes," said Klatcher. "There are people who are single moms who have to do this all by themselves."

Amidst their heartbreak and sorrow, they saw a need and knew what Harper's legacy would be. The family's goal became the formation of a non-profit with the mission to help other families with babies in the NICU. The non-profit, known as Harp's Hope, was formed on July 20, 2020.

"There's a lot of great peripheral services that hospitals offer but we fill in that niche for the in-between costs," Forrest explained.

According to the non-profit, 10 to 15 percent of babies born in the United States spend time in the NICU. These families incur indirect costs such as transportation, parking, and food which average \$60 to \$80 a day.

Harp's Hope raised \$10,000 last year. Forrest volunteers as the non-profit's director of finance, and Klatcher serves as the social media manager. When they're not focused on their family cause, Forrest is a project manager for Daniel J. Keating Company, and Klatcher is a kindergarten/special ed teacher at the Philadelphia Performing Arts Charter School.

Forrest and Klatcher welcomed Harper's brother Reid to the family in February 2021. In addition to spending time with baby Reid, these two alums are also getting ready for their wedding on March 12, 2022.

To learn more or to donate, visit [Harp's-Hope.org](https://harpshope.org) and Facebook [@harpshopeorg](https://www.facebook.com/harpshopeorg).

“ There are people who are single moms who have to do this all by themselves. ”



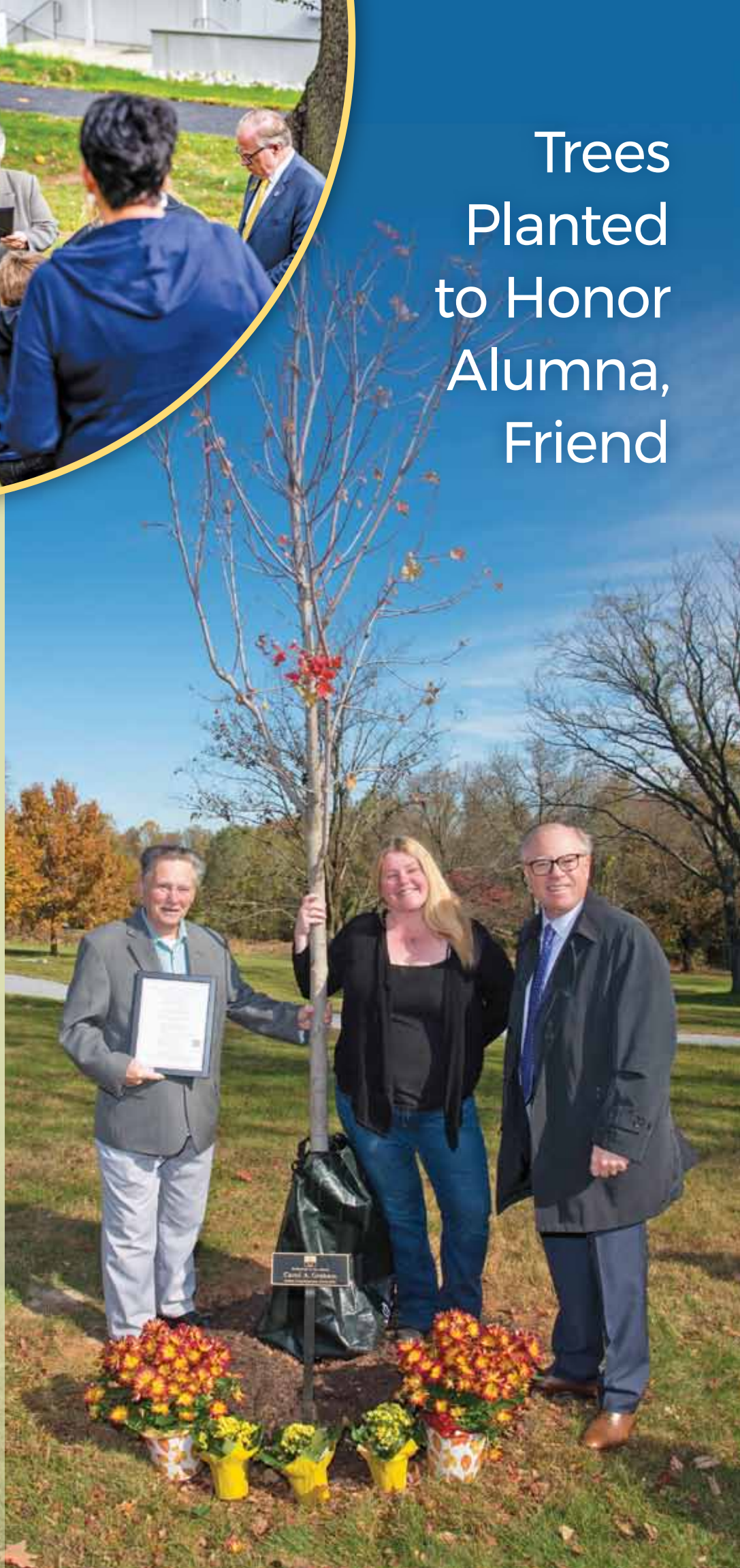
Trees Planted to Honor Alumna, Friend



Trees were planted on campus this fall to honor the memories of Jennifer Drucker '08 and former Aston Township Commissioner Carol Graham. The trees are on the Reflection Path that leads from the Abessinio Building to the Child Development Center.

Above: Sr. Linda DeCero, interim vice president for mission and ministry, leads the family and friends of Jennifer Drucker '08 in a prayer at the planting of a tree in her honor on October 17. An alumna of the Nursing program and mother of five, she passed away on December 11, 2020.

Right: On November 7, Neumann University planted a tree on campus to honor former Aston Township Commissioner Carol Graham, who died on January 12, 2021. The university is in the Second Ward, which Graham represented for 11 years. Pictured are Graham's husband, James Graham; daughter, Kit Spayd; and Dr. Chris Domes, Neumann's president.





Alumna Orchestrates Operations at Unique Philadelphia Museum

R. Scott Stephenson, president and CEO of the Museum of the American Revolution, has set an ambitious goal for his institution. He wants the museum to be “a movie you can walk through, a dramatic, immersive experience.”

The manager of operations and events at this non-traditional museum is Lauren Fisher, a 2015 Communications and Media Arts major. She has been with the museum since it opened in the spring of 2017 and, despite the suspension of events for 16 months because of COVID-19, has earned a key managerial role at the organization.

She handles daily operations, donor and benefactor-related events, educational programs and private events. “We host meetings, corporate events, weddings, educational tours, galas — and the list goes on. I oversee every single thing that happens in the museum. It’s a boatload of responsibility, but I welcome the challenge,” she says.

In fact, Fisher created the events department at the museum. She and her team have managed more than 3,000 events for the institution, sometimes as many as five per day. She stayed the course during COVID because “the museum really felt like home to me, and I wanted to be there long term.”

Managing events can be a very fluid operation with last-minute adjustments coming at a fast pace. “It’s all about rolling with the punches in the events industry,” says Fisher. “We had a luncheon scheduled one day and had to cancel because the building next door had a massive fire, so we moved the food downstairs and housed the people who just lost their home. We fed them and were a shoulder to lean on during a stressful time.”

Fisher remembers Neumann fondly and believes her undergraduate experience helped her develop the skills that she uses today.

“It takes a lot of focus, drive, and organization to be successful,” she admits. “I was really able to apply myself at Neumann. I was close to so many teachers, and they were hands-on. Being in a small classroom with teachers who actually care helped me and drove me into my career.”

The museum, located at 3rd and Chestnut Streets in Philadelphia, houses original artifacts, manuscripts, rare books and works of art. The signature exhibit is General George Washington’s Revolutionary War tent, restored to its original glory. Yes, the real war tent, which served as the field headquarters of the Continental Army.

The galleries within the museum are organized chronologically to take visitors on a journey from the beginning of the conflict in the 1760s through the creation of the nation. It includes theaters, interactive screens, and exhibits.

The museum also presents a diverse picture of the Revolutionary War, including stories of enslaved and free African Americans, Native Americans and women — in addition to those of the Founding Fathers and soldiers — through immersive displays and fascinating artifacts that create a modern storytelling experience.

CLASS *Notes*

BIRTHS & ADOPTIONS



◀ **Jennifer '04 and Richard '04 Boulay** welcomed Weston Jack Boulay into the world on June 9, 2021.

Christine Davis '12 and husband Jim welcomed their first child, a daughter, into the world amidst the pandemic. She was a beacon of joy and hope in an uncertain time. Margaret Rose Davis (aka Maggie) was born on December 3, 2020

CAREERS

John Allen '18 ▶ has been named General Manager of NBA Programs at ESF Camps.



Mark Bennett '16 has recently become an adjunct faculty member at Neumann University, teaching a graduate course in Financial Management in Sport Business. Mark is currently the Assistant Athletics Director for Compliance and Internal Relations at Lincoln University of PA.

Celeste Crine '71, OSF, became a Congregational Council Member for the Sisters of Saint Francis of Philadelphia in July 2021.

In summer 2021, **Michael Criscuolo '00** accepted the position of Executive Director of Development at Bryn Mawr Rehabilitation Hospital in Malvern, PA. Michael will also continue to serve as Executive Director of Development at Bryn Mawr Hospital in Bryn Mawr, PA, a title he has held for nine years.

Courtney Curcio '18 was promoted to Foundation Director for PGA Reach Philadelphia.

Ashley Dabb '10 has joined the Odds of Compliance team as Director of Marketing & Business Development.

Allana Deitz '05 has joined CopyPro Inc Sales Team.

Matt Dopp '21 has accepted a position as Account Manager of Business Alliance at the NASCAR Technical Institute and UTI.

Kristen (Snyder) Gallagher '03' '05' was named the founding Executive Director of Development and Strategic Engagement for the Kummer Institute of Research, Student Success, and Economic Development at Missouri S&T. Gallagher oversees the development portfolio and capital projects for a \$300M newly formed institute made possible by generous donors Fred and June Kummer.

Adrian Gonzalez '21 landed his dream job as a neuro-trauma nurse one month prior to graduating from Neumann University. Now Gonzalez is checking off another life goal by enlisting in the United States Navy Reserve. He was sworn in on September 20, 2021, as a medical officer.

Lynn Baker Grande '02 and her husband Rob recently moved to Florida to expand their event company, GrandEvents.

Patrick Graham '17 is now an associate attorney at Capehart Scatchard, one of the oldest law firms in New Jersey.

Matt Grael '11 is currently writing for The Hockey Writers, covering the Philadelphia Flyers and the Pittsburgh Penguins. Matt has been writing for various online publications since 2012 and now lives in Salt Lake City, Nevada.

Alexandria Barnett Hannan '16 was promoted to her current position as Quality Assurance IT Assistant at Camden County Partnership for Children.

Florence Hee '84, OSF, PhD became a Congregational Council Member for the Sisters of Saint Francis of Philadelphia in July 2021.

Theresa Higgins '20 has been named a Sales Associate for Philadelphia Phillies

Corey Jackson '17 is the Vice President for Facilities at Bancroft. Corey was awarded the International Facilities Management Association Top 40 under 40 in 2020.

Jose Jimenez '16 is now the Sponsorship Activation Manager at Nerd Street Gamers.



▶ **Rosie Kays '14** has returned home to Neumann University as the Head Women's Soccer coach.

Steven Kunsman '97 '98 is an Executive Director at Mount Sinai Rehabilitation Hospital.

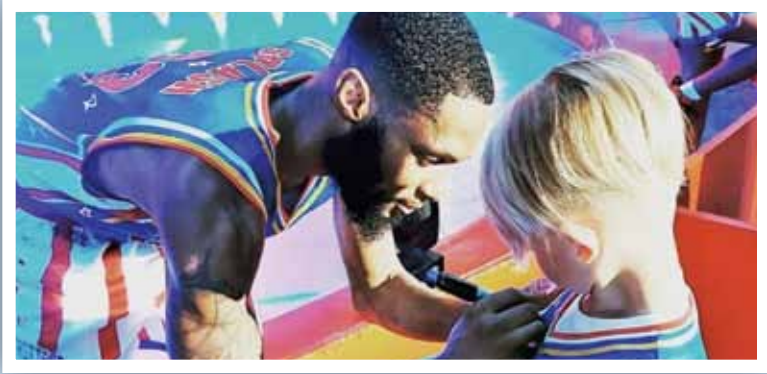
Andrew LaRosa '20 '21 joins the front office as a Sales Associate of the New Jersey Devils.

Dara Law '18 has recently returned home to Neumann as the Advancement Services Assistant.

Marian Leaf '77, OSF, became a Congregational Council Member for the Sisters of Saint Francis of Philadelphia in July 2021.

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



◀ Mark Blount '15

It seems like the premise for a feature film: a North Philadelphia kid plays basketball for a Division III university and earns a spot with the larger-than-life Harlem Globetrotters. For Mark Blount, this is his new reality, and he still pinches himself daily to make sure it's not a dream.

For the past six years, Blount played for the Globetrotters' opponents, the All-Stars (formerly the Washington Generals). On June 6, 2021, he was promoted to the Globetrotter roster, joining a list of legendary players like Meadowlark Lemon, Curly Neal and Wilt Chamberlain.

Koula Gregor '14 and Kat Sullivan '14 ▶

At the ABC Network, Neumann University is well represented by Kiriakoula (Koula) Gregor '14 and Katherine (Kat) Sullivan '14, who work behind the scenes. Gregor is a content prep specialist at ABC Network Operations in Los Angeles, California. Sullivan is a content prep specialist for the network in the New York City office.

Content prep specialists review television shows prior to airing. They are responsible for the graphics that appear on the TV screen during the shows and for quality control, which involves verifying schedules and confirming the timing of show segments. Gregor equates the work to putting together a giant puzzle on a daily basis.



◀ Donna DeFilippis '90

Donna DeFilippis leads the case management program in the cardiac center at Nemours Children's Hospital in Wilmington, Delaware. Case managers help patients and their families navigate health care issues. They interact with medical professionals, insurance companies, therapy providers, and other health-related professionals.

Her young patients range in medical needs from open-heart surgeries to heart transplants. They often experience extended hospital stays, sometimes as long as a year.

Maureen Breslin '19 ▶

Maureen Breslin recently earned a graduate degree in Journalism at NUI Galway. The 12-month program required an internship, and Breslin landed a stellar one, interning last summer for *Politico*, a journalism company that covers politics and policy in the U.S. and internationally.

Breslin was assigned to *Politico's* Brussels office in Belgium. She published her first article, titled "European Countries Condemn Violence Against Tbilisi Pride March" in July. Since her debut story, Breslin has also written about other European countries violating human rights and worked on the digital side of the business, producing social media content.





▲ Elizabeth Del Re '11

Elizabeth (Liz) Del Re '11 is the athletic trainer at Emmaus High School in the Lehigh Valley region of Pennsylvania, but her love of wrestling has taken her across the globe.

After a high school coach urged her to connect with Olympic wrestling programs, Del Re found herself in Mexico, volunteering at the Pan American Championships for student wrestlers. She impressed the United States Olympic & Paralympic Committee and was invited to the Dave Schultz Memorial Tournament in Colorado Springs. In 2019, she traveled to Bulgaria for the Cadet World Championships and recently traveled to Budapest, Hungary, with this same group.

Melody Roehsler '18 ▼

Melody is a loan support associate for Marlette Funding, a financial technology and online lending firm in Wilmington, Delaware, and runs a part-time photography business, specializing in weddings.

She attributes her newfound success and happiness to her liberal arts experience. In an email to Professor James Kain, she wrote: "Your class inspired me to pursue my passion in photography and at the same time encouraged me to check other opportunities that were outside my comfort zone. Math is definitely not my forte, yet here I am loving my job in finance. I am forever grateful."



CLASS Notes

Kimberly Masterson '12 has started a new position as Catering Sales Manager at PM Hotel Group.

Regina Meighan '18 is the new Senior Coordinator for Partnership Marketing at the Philadelphia Union.

Casey Mongillo '17 '18 has accepted a position as a Beverage Operations Manager at Aramark.

Tamika Nealy-Farmbry '09 was promoted as the first Manager of Diversity, Culture and Service at Elfant Wissahickon Realtors. In her new role, Ms. Farmbry will help EWR to cultivate a more diverse, equitable, and inclusive environment for its agents, staff, and clients. She will serve as the leader of its Diversity Committee and oversee training and programming for EWR's agent base, acting as an advocate for real estate agents and team leaders, advancing the company's public service programs, and working with internal leadership to develop opportunities for engagement, including special events, presentations, and community outreach.

Jake O'Loughlin '21 joined Whitemarsh Township as Recreation Assistant.

Jaffir Abdul Rice '06 has accepted a position as Assistant Dean for Seniors at Fordham University.

Alex Rucci '20 '21 is an Account Executive at the Philadelphia 76ers.

Gabriella Siligrini '12 has started her own virtual tutoring business, Guided By Gabby. ▶

Gabriella Smith '21 has accepted her first full time job at First Philadelphia Charter School as a 1st Grade Special Education Teacher. ▶

Tahirah Stevens '12 '16 has returned home to Neumann as Coordinator of Student Leadership and Inclusion.

Matthew Stratton '18 '19 is the Director of Digital Media and Communications at the Lehigh Valley Iron Pigs.

Sirelle Torres '17 has started a new position as a Billing Specialist at Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP.

Tom Van Horn '20 has joined Rush Street Interactive as a Player Support Agent.

Dianna Ortiz Wanex '16 was promoted into a leadership position as an HR Answers Team Lead at JP Morgan Chase & Company.

Lizzie Yu '21 was recently hired by Orthopedic Associates of Lancaster as an Athletic Trainer.

EDUCATION

Melissa Dill '14 graduated from La Salle University in January 2017 with MS in Human Capital Development and was certified as a Professional in Human Resources (PHR) through HRCI in September 2021.

Dr. Hannah Hawthorne '03 received her Doctor of Nursing Practice from Holy Family University 2021, FNP-BC 2021. She is now an Assistant Professor of Nursing at Gwynedd Mercy University.

Clarissa Hayes '15 recently graduated from Rowan School of Medicine. She is currently a doctor at Lehigh Valley Hospital.

◀ **Dr. Caleb Mezzy '18** successfully defended his dissertation on August 30, 2021, at Drexel University. His dissertation was titled "A Delphi Study: Developing a Career Transition Model for Professional Baseball Players."

Lauren Mills '14 MSN, RNC-MNN received her Master's in Nursing Leadership/Education and is a certified nurse in Maternal Newborn Nursing.



ENGAGEMENT

Nikki Collevecchio '17 ▶
and **Billy Cassidy '18** were
engaged on October 29, 2021.

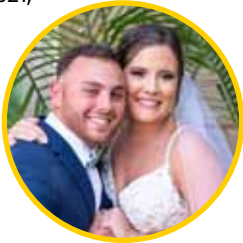


Bryan DeFoney, Jr. '13 got engaged
in October 2021.

Alexandria Barnett Hannan '16 ▶
was married to husband Matthew
on August 28, 2021.



Ashley McNabb '20 married
her love, Justin Geduldick on July 23, 2021,
after two postponements due to
COVID. "Thankful and blessed that
we had an amazing day full of family
and love. Here's a new journey!" ▶



◀ **TJ Monaghan '15** and **Chelsea
Wegfahrt '15** celebrated their
wedding reception on July 24, 2021,
after being married in August 2020.

John Semonich '21 was married in
the summer of 2021 and is expecting
a baby, due April 26, 2022.



◀ **Tahirah Stevens '12 '16** and
Marc Gaillard '13 were married on
September 5, 2020.

Lauren Walker '14 and **Alex
Ruxton '15** were married on July 17, 2021.

IN THE NEWS

Dr. Antija Allen '02 ▶
of Pellissippi State Community
College is among 21 faculty and staff
from colleges and universities across
Tennessee who have been selected to
participate in a year-long leadership program.
The Maxine Smith Fellows program provides professional
development, training and advancement opportunities for
participants from traditionally underrepresented groups
at the community and technical colleges governed by the
Tennessee Board of Regents, as well as those working at
Tennessee locally governed public universities.



Jo'Nelle Grant '21, who is attending Widener University's
MSW program, received the Student Leadership Award from
Phi Alpha Honor Society for Social Work.

Emma Phillips '16 was listed as one of *Main Line Today*
Magazine's Top Nurses in May 2021.

In Memoriam



Mr. Thomas J. Belmont, Sr.

Mr. Francis J. Blee '88

Mr. Otis Evans '84

Mr. Jasper Fitzgerald '82

Dr. Mac F. Given

Ms. Colleen Joan McCabe '94

Mr. Martin F. McKernan, Jr., Esq.

Ms. Doris Jane Mical '87

Sr. Elizabeth Patricia Murphy '71, OSF

Ms. Genevieve Neely '77

Ms. Andrea K. Szozda '03

Ms. Eleanor R. Tyndall



Otis Evans '84

*Mr. Otis Evans '84 held an impressive title
at Neumann University: oldest alumni.
He turned 100 years old in January 2021.*

According to Evans's son, Michael, his father was
thrilled to celebrate this milestone and was
equally thrilled to be a Neumann alumnus.

Evans enrolled at NU at the age of 60
and completed his BA in Liberal Studies.

"Neumann University was the one place that gave my
dad a chance. He wasn't the typical student. They had
a program that was flexible and would work for him,"
Michael said of his father. "Wherever you are in your life,
there's a place at Neumann University for you."

Neumann always held a special spot in
Mr. Evans's heart. He continued to be involved
with the University even after he graduated.
While in his 90s, Mr. Evans would still come to campus
to volunteer in the alumni office.

Sadly, Mr. Evans passed away in August.



KUDOS

Janis Chakars, PhD, associate professor, communications and digital media, was the moderator and panel organizer for *Information Wars in the Baltic States: Russia's Long Shadow* at the annual conference (virtual) of the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication in August 2021.

Gail Corso, professor English and humanities, gave the presentation *The Silent Presence of Lady Giacomina (Jacoba) dei Settesoli Frangipane (née Normanni): Friend to Francis of Assisi (aka Giovanni di Peitro di Bernardone)*, and had three publications: *John Patrick Shanley's Play, Doubt*; *Alice McDermott's Fiction*; and *Magic Friend, Beggar Maid, and the Fair Princess, Method Actress and Loving Mother: Fantasies of Love, Loss, and Desire in Joyce Carol Oates's Fictional Account of Norma Jeane's Reality*.

Mary Beth Davis, counselor in the Counseling Center for Wellness, and **Rina Keller**, assistant professor and director of Field Placement for Social Work, co-chaired the development and implementation of the Knights' Pantry which seeks to alleviate resource insecurity and improve the health and wellbeing of students while reducing waste and promoting sustainability on campus.

David DiMarco, PhD, professor, mathematics, along with **Ryan Savitz, PhD**, professor, mathematics, published the article *On the Sexual Assault of Men in Sexuality & Culture* and hosted a mathematics colloquium on Neumann's campus. They also gave two presentations: a manuscript titled *How a River's Length and Discharge Relate to the Precipitation in its Basin* and another, along with **John Mizzoni, PhD**, professor, philosophy, titled *On the Sexual Assault of Men*. Dr. Savitz

reviewed a paper for the Journal of International Business and Economics, gave two talks with student Olivia DiDonato on "Predicting the Outcome of Shotokan Karate Matches" and mentored two Clare Booth Luce scholars, Olivia DiDonato and Maria Ramunno. Dr. Mizzoni, through CD Baby, released a new album of original music (his tenth album) called Wordified Excursion.

Timothy S. Hanna, PhD, associate professor, pastoral clinical mental health counseling, gave two presentations: *Coping with Systemic Injustice: Applying the Religious/Spiritual "Value Sort" Tool* and *PCA Committee for Anti-Racism and Inclusive Action (CARIA): Origins, Purpose, and Future Directions* at the Pennsylvania Counseling Association (PCA) Conference.

Nathan Hardy, DBA, assistant professor, marketing, published a commentary on how people use rewards credit cards for good and bad and ways to select the best ones in response to a media inquiry for an expert opinion on the subject from WalletHub.com, an outlet that covers the personal finance industry. The *Delaware County Daily Times* published his essay on Juneteenth.

Leanne Havis, PhD, professor, criminal justice, presented *Servant First, Warrior Second: Teaching Criminal Justice with a Franciscan Focus* at the Association of Franciscan Colleges and Universities (AFCU) Franciscan Friday Series in July 2021.

Amy Hoyle, PhD, dean of the School of Education and Human Services, published the chapter, *Courageous conversations about race in an online education course*, in *Teaching and Learning for Social Justice and Equity in Higher Education: Content Areas*.

Chris Haug, EdD, vice president for student affairs, presented on a panel discussion titled, *Vaccine Equity: A Catholic Response to COVID-19*, offered through the Catholic Cares Coalition in June 2021. He also recently served as chairperson for the 2021 Senior Student Affairs Officers Conference at DePaul University in Chicago, IL, for the Association of Student Affairs at Catholic Colleges & Universities.

Sr. Patricia Hutchison '70, OSF, PhD, director of the Neumann Institute for Franciscan Studies, gave the presentation, *St. Francis of Assisi and the Canticle of the Creatures: Inspiration and Invitation*, as part of the St. Francis Month Celebration at St. Francis Hospital, Wilmington, DE, October 2021.

Julie Lanzillo, EdD, program director and associate professor sport management/sport business was named to Pennsylvania State Athletic Directors' Association (PSADA) Executive Council and gave a presentation on Personal Branding.

Christina LaVecchia, PhD, director of Writing Across the Curriculum and associate professor, English, signed a contract with Utah State University Press for her co-edited collection *Revising Moves: Sharing and Narrating Revision in Action*, published the paper, *Impact of Cost Conversation on Decision-Making Outcomes*, presented a poster, *Experiences living with, addressing, and supporting those with undercared-for chronic suffering: A qualitative systematic review and thematic analysis*, presented a roundtable, *Blurred Boundaries: Sussing Out Thresholds between WAC and WPA in Administrative Professionalization*, and joined the editorial review board of *Composition Studies* journal.



Faculty Publications, Conferences and Awards

Laura McLaughlin, EdD, associate professor, education, co-published the following quick reference guides: *Increasing Engagement in Online Learning*, *Faculty must bend to students' needs in virtual learning environments*, *Six Tips for a Zoom Fatigue Fix*, *Five Strategies to support in person, virtual, and dual engagement learning*, and *Assessing in a Virtual Environment: You don't need that lockdown browser* as well as these articles: *Framing the innovation mindset* and *Virtual instruction support for faculty* in *Issues in Informing Science and Information Technology*.

Andrew Miller, MA, associate professor, history, led a student field trip to Gettysburg National Military Park and Gettysburg Borough and hosted Ralph Galati, a Vietnam War POW, for a presentation.

Marissa Rauscher, PhD, professor, educational psychology, gave a talk titled *When in doubt, DRAW it out* at a workshop conducted by Philadelphia Council for Writing Program Administrators at Temple University.

Sr. Linda Marie Sariego, OSF, PhD, associate professor, Spanish, published two articles, *Reflexiones serias sobre el tema de humor* and *La autoría del humor en los espacios de Los siete libros de La Diana de Montemayor* in the *Boletín Humorsapiens* and gave a paper/presentation titled *Scandal, Solidarity and Synergy: Social Networks in Los siete libros de la Diana* by Jorge de Montemayor.

Maria Traub, associate professor, French and Italian, presented a paper for the 2021 conference of the South Atlantic Modern Language Association (SAML) titled *Victimes de piègeage: les femmes sous domination pour survivre* and presented a paper online for the Pacific Ancient and Modern Language Association (PAMLA) titled *La jeune fille abimée*.

Diane Walsh, PhD, associate professor and program director of pastoral clinical mental health counseling, gave two presentations titled *Exploring social class in counseling* and *Spirituality, religion, and local culture: Considerations for counselor educators*.



Mizzoni Releases Tenth Album

For the past 21 years, Dr. John Mizzoni has given the Neumann University community a taste of his musical talents. He has performed at the university's Faculty Follies and for his students during class, but the depth of his musical achievements can best be measured by his catalog on Spotify. The music streaming site contains all ten of his albums.

A Philosophy professor, Mizzoni classifies his music as eclectic or folk-rock. His musical style was heavily influenced by bands from the 1960s and early 1970s, particularly the Beatles. "I've been in cover bands ever since high school. But it is mostly me on these albums," he said.

In 1987, Mizzoni released his first album, called *Originations 1*, which contains 19 original songs. Since then, he has produced nine other albums with his most recent, *Wordified Excursion*, being released in July of 2021. This album took four years to complete, and he is already working on his 11th album. Currently, Mizzoni has 156 original songs listed on his Spotify page.

Link to Radio Giant Creates Internships, Jobs

Through the past 14 years, Neumann University students have benefited from a relationship formed with one of the top broadcasting companies in the world — Beasley Media Group. This partnership was not developed by top NU officials meeting with the Beasley brass. It began with one very eager student looking to land an internship.

That student, now director of Neumann Media, is Sean McDonald '09 '12. When he was a student at Neumann, McDonald was looking for an internship. He stumbled upon one while picking up a prize he won from radio station WMGK 102.9FM.

As McDonald tells the story, he won \$100 from the radio station and went to their office in Bala Cynwyd to collect it. A note was posted at the receptionist's desk that listed an opening for a radio intern. McDonald, who was a computer information management major at the time, needed an internship and applied.

Fortunately, all the pieces fell into place, and McDonald began interning with Rodney Byrd, a station engineer. He soon began working on various projects like developing website streaming and

building the transmitter site for another company station. Two months into the internship, McDonald was offered a remote broadcasting job. He also became a board operator for WMGK and WMMR.

Coincidentally, Neumann had just built an internet radio station and needed someone to run it. Enter McDonald.

“Through this partnership, students are getting exposed to the type of work they want to pursue.”

Shortly after, he started bringing NU students with him to live radio events that he was working throughout the Delaware Valley.

But the big break for Neumann University, and NU students, came in 2015 when Byrd asked McDonald to video stream one of the most legendary events in Philly radio history — Preston and Steve's Camp Out for Hunger

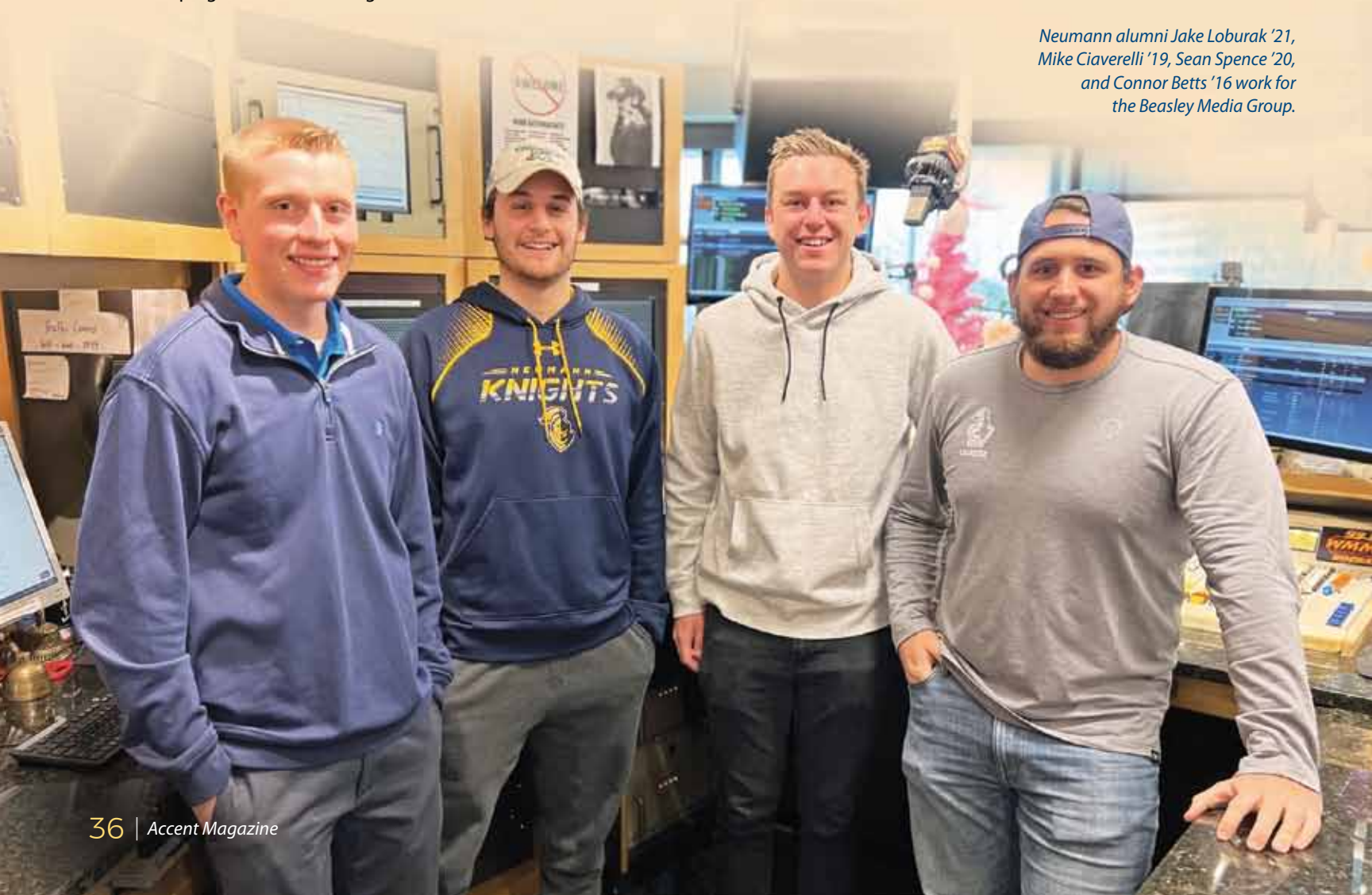
on WMMR. The event, which began in 1997, had never been live-streamed before.

“We showed up with about seven cameras. About 10 students put together a full on-video production, including recaps during commercial breaks of what (they) just saw so the audience had something to watch,” said McDonald. “Each year, it's grown bigger and bigger. And through this partnership, students are getting exposed to the type of work they want to pursue.”

And pursue they did. Several NU students are currently working for Beasley. Connor Betts '16 is an assistant producer for the Preston and Steve show. Jake Loburak '21 is a part-time videographer and Sean Spence '20 works in the engineering department. Mike Ciaverelli '19 produces streaming video for 97.5 The Fanatic, and senior Amanda Cunningham was just hired as a part-time remote engineer.

This partnership, created and cultivated by NU staff and students, has resulted in the university becoming the official sponsor of the Preston and Steve's show live stream. The stream is posted every weekday to the station's YouTube channel.

Neumann alumni Jake Loburak '21, Mike Ciaverelli '19, Sean Spence '20, and Connor Betts '16 work for the Beasley Media Group.





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38 years to Neumann University.



To honor the impact that Coach Schuler had on so many at Neumann,
Coach Schuler's family, friends, and Neumann alumni want to create a scholarship in his name.

To do so we need to raise \$25,000 by Charter Day, March 11, 2022.

Help us establish the Len Schuler Endowed Scholarship Fund
so Coach Schuler's legacy lives on and supports students long into the future.

Go to www.neumann.edu/schuler and make a gift today!