



Inside Bona's

The E-Newspaper for the
St. Bonaventure University
Campus Community

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SBU pays homage to Franciscan heritage

A familiar and friendly face told St. Bonaventure University graduates Sunday to be “open, vulnerable and engaged with life” as their lives unfold.

“As you go forward, continue to listen to the reality around you,” said Fr. Dominic V. Monti, O.F.M. “Remember that what’s really important are not abstract ideas or lofty theories, but the individual.”

St. Bonaventure’s 147th Commencement focused on the great Franciscan heritage that its students share. Some 414 undergraduate and 106 graduate students participated in the graduation exercises in the Reilly Center Arena.

Fr. Dominic, vicar provincial of the Province of the Most Holy Name of Jesus, was the keynote speaker. An internationally recognized expert in the field of church history and Franciscan studies, he served as interim SBU president from 2003 to 2004 — the period during which undergraduate members of the Class of 2007 were freshmen and sophomores.

The University also honored its most senior friar, Fr. Daniel A. Hurley, O.F.M., with an honorary

degree, a Doctor of Pedagogy. Fr. Dan is a founding member of the Mt. Irenaeus community and is celebrating his 45th year of service to St. Bonaventure this year.

U.S. Sen. Chuck Schumer also made an unscheduled appearance, telling graduates that “if there was ever a time to aspire to your dreams, your time is now. ... Don’t let the fear of failure deter you.”

Fr. Dominic, a class of 1967 alum, said a woman came up to him at a church service in Baltimore last spring and told a tale that made him beam.

“She said, ‘You must be doing something right up there to have 10 percent of your students go on a relief trip to the Gulf Coast,’” Fr. Dominic said. “I was never more proud to be a Franciscan.”

In closing, he said, “You are very special people. You are Bonaventure’s best.”

Senior Elizabeth Chugg of Senecaville, Ohio, offered the student address, encouraging fellow members of the class of 2007 to “lead a life uncommon.” (Click here for a copy of the address by student speaker Elizabeth Chugg.)

St. Bonaventure University seniors Christopher Ekimoff and Erin Farrell, both from suburban Rochester, were recognized as the Ideal Bonaventure Student. Selected by a committee that receives nominations from the University community, they were recognized for exemplifying the spirit of St. Bonaventure and the ideals of St. Francis through community service and academic excellence.

Ekimoff, son of David and Pamela Ekimoff of Webster, N.Y., is an accounting major and music minor. Farrell is an elementary/special education major from Pittsford, N.Y. She is the daughter of Gregory and Mary Jo Farrell.

The University also recognized four outstanding faculty members.

Richard H. Simpson, Ph.D., professor of English, received the Award for Professional Excellence in Teaching; Jeffrey A. White, Ph.D., professor of classical languages, received the Award for Professional Excellence in Research and Publishing; Alva V. Cellini, Ph.D., professor of modern languages, received the Award for Professional Excellence in Service; and Mark A. Huddle, Ph.D., assistant professor of history, received the Junior Faculty Award for Professional Excellence.

Commencement Weekend included a Candlelight Ceremony at sunset Friday, and an Honors Luncheon and Baccalaureate Mass on Saturday, May 12.

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Ekimoff, Farrell named Ideal Bonaventure Students

St. Bonaventure University seniors Christopher Ekimoff and Erin Farrell were recognized as Ideal Bonaventure Students on Saturday, May 12, during the University's Honors Luncheon, and again Sunday during its 147th Commencement Exercises.

The Ideal Bonaventure Students, who are selected by a committee that receives nominations from the University community, are recognized as exemplifying the spirit of St. Bonaventure and the ideals of St. Francis through community service and academic excellence.

The honorable mentions were Emily Grobmyer of Charlottesville, Va., and Ryan Cleckner of Rochester.

Ekimoff, son of David and Pamela Ekimoff of Webster, N.Y., is an accounting major and music minor. Ekimoff has been a varsity student-athlete and a member of the men's swimming and diving team at SBU for four years, leading the team to the 2006 Atlantic 10 Championship and second place in 2004, 2005 and 2007. In March, he was named the Atlantic 10 Men's Swimming and Diving Student-Athlete of the Year.

Captain of the 2006-07 men's swimming and diving team, Ekimoff has also been active on the Student-Athlete Advisory Council, Honors Council and Bonaventure Accounting Association. He has served as director of The Last Second, a campus men's a cappella group, and has assisted the Office of Admissions as a Student Ambassador.

Ekimoff has participated in the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program, which brings federal and state income tax benefits to people with low and moderate incomes by providing free income tax preparation and e-filing. He also volunteers at The Warming House, the University's student-run soup kitchen.

"Chris is an outstanding young man who completely embodies the spirit of St. Francis and the values of St. Bonaventure University," said Barbara Questa, senior associate athletic director.

"As a student-athlete, he could have spent all his time focusing on his athletic pursuits. However, he chose to be involved in numerous campus social and academic organizations yet still found the time to volunteer his services to those less fortunate than himself," added Questa.

Following graduation, Ekimoff will continue his studies in St. Bonaventure's MBA program.

Erin Farrell, the 2007 Ideal Bonaventure Woman, is an elementary/special education major from Pittsford, N.Y. She is the daughter of Gregory and Mary Jo Farrell.

A Merit Scholarship recipient, Farrell has been named to the Dean's List each semester at SBU and is a

member of Kappa Delta Pi, an international honor society for education students.

Farrell has been active in various aspects of University Ministries, including Students for the Mountain, Bona Buddies and Mt. Irenaeus' Mountain on the Road events.

Robert M. Donius, vice president for University Ministries, describes Farrell as "a gracious and grace-filled leader in many places of our campus life."

"She motivates others to do well. As a leader of Mountain on the Road gatherings around the country, she makes us proud as she interacts with alums. She will continue to make us proud as an alum," Donius said.

Farrell has also served as a Eucharistic minister at Mass on campus and is on staff at the Sandra A. and William L. Richter Center. In March 2006, she was part of SBU's largest service trip in school history, joining the BonaResponds hurricane relief trip to the Gulf Coast.

Farrell will continue her education in St. Bonaventure's Childhood Literacy master's program and has received a graduate assistantship for the Office of Graduate Admissions.

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University salutes four outstanding faculty members

St. Bonaventure University recognized four outstanding faculty members Saturday, May 12, during its annual Honors Luncheon.

Richard H. Simpson, Ph.D., professor of English, received the Award for Professional Excellence in Teaching; Jeffrey A. White, Ph.D., professor of classical languages, received the Award for Professional Excellence in Research and Publishing; Alva V. Cellini, Ph.D., professor of modern languages, received the Award for Professional Excellence in Service; and Mark A. Huddle, Ph.D., assistant professor of history, received the Junior Faculty Award for Professional Excellence.

Dr. Richard Simpson teaches literature, poetry and writing at the University, has taught jazz improvisation and the history of jazz for the University's visual and performing arts program, and is a well-known regional jazz musician.

For more than 35 years at St. Bonaventure, Simpson has provided students with relentless lessons in grammar and style, introduced them to the complex structures of poetic language, and connected them with British romantics.

New York Times national columnist Dan Barry, a 1980 graduate and former student of Simpson, says that “every time I sit down to write a story ... I hear Dr. Simpson’s voice, whispering to me still about structure, and voice, and the use of words as musical notes.”

What distinguishes Simpson, Barry said, is his “passion for The Word and its meaning, its sound, its etymology.”

“He draws from his students an appreciation, even an excitement, for how the arrangement of a few letters can come to stand for emotions like love and longing and grief,” said Barry.

Simpson’s students — current and former — say he wants the best for all his students, sees the best in every one of them, and challenges each one to be the best.

“His enthusiasm for his subject matter is beyond infectious. Whether he’s talking about a John Coltrane solo, the San Francisco Giants’ pennant chances or ‘The Rime of the Ancient Mariner,’ it’s impossible not to get swept along for the ride,” said Brian Moritz, a 1999 journalism/mass communication graduate.

That enthusiasm extends to his critiques of students’ work, where he continues to teach, offering detailed and encouraging comments. A “red badge of compositional courage” would come when his comments were longer than the paper itself.

Simpson’s academic interests are in British Romantic Literature and Contemporary American Poetry. He has been commissioned for numerous readings of his own and others’ poetry as well as musical performances. He has had dozens of poems published in refereed journals and is a contributing editor to poetry journal Tar River Poetry and NEO, a bilingual American-Portuguese literary journal.

Forthcoming this year is a commissioned translation of a short story by the distinguished Norwegian fiction writer Bjarte Breiteig for the NEO journal, and a nonfiction personal essay, “Requiem — Almost,” which will appear in THE (The Human Experience).

Simpson’s saxophone solos have appeared on two commercial musical recordings and he is presently the financial producer of a jazz recording project in collaboration with composer and guitarist Tom Rizzo, ’72.

Simpson holds a bachelor’s degree and master’s degree from Brigham Young University. He earned a Ph.D. from Kent State University in 1973.

Dr. Jeffrey White, who joined the University in 1976, became a professor of classical languages in 2006. He has been chair of the Department of Classical Languages since 1987 as well as head of the Program in Irish Studies since 1999.

White researches and publishes in the areas of Greco-Roman mythology, Latin paleography and textual criticism, and Renaissance literature in Latin (history and chorography particularly).

In his nomination of White, associate professor Dr. Steven J. Brown noted that White's career has been marked by steady, meticulous and productive scholarship that has originated with and contributed to his distinguished teaching at SBU. In July 2005, Harvard University Press published Volume I of Biondo Flavio's *Italia Illuminata*, edited, translated and annotated by White.

The translation has earned scholarly praise in reviews, including the *New England Classical Journal* and the *New York Review of Books*.

He has authored articles in classics and Renaissance journals and served since 1980 as a consultant and reader for *Medieval & Renaissance Texts & Studies* and, since 1987, as associate editor of the humanities journal *Cithara*.

White received a bachelor's degree in classics from Boston College and earned his master's and doctoral degrees in classics from the State University of New York at Buffalo, where he was an NDEA Title IV fellow.

He has also been an officer and president of SBU's chapter of the American Association of University Professors, coached and moderated the University's Club Ice Hockey Program and has served on academic committees for the implementation of the Clare College core curriculum, particularly in Irish Studies.

Dr. Alva V. Cellini has been an active member of the St. Bonaventure University community, serving on numerous University committees, task forces and councils, most notably as a longtime member of the Faculty Senate.

"The number of University-wide committees she has served on or chaired is beyond impressive," said Dr. John Mulryan, Distinguished Board of Trustees Professor of English.

"Not only has she represented her department on these committees, but she has worked on issues vital to the University such as student retention, national educational standards, minority recruitment, globalization, sexual harassment, and trends in student life. In department committees Alva has worked on hiring, recruitment, course development, and the advancement of both Spanish and Italian studies."

Cellini has worked without fanfare and without publicity, Mulryan said.

"Working behind the scenes, she has done more than anyone that I can think of to make the University a welcoming place for students, a caring environment for faculty and staff, and a place of learning that promotes both intellectual excitement and rigid academic standards," added Mulryan.

Interested in furthering the cause of the Department of Modern Languages, Cellini annually plans trips for students to Spain. She has developed several courses in Latin American literature and culture. And, she is deeply concerned not only about her students' education, but their personal welfare.

"On campus ... many students seek her out for difficulties they may be having, and she follows up on their concerns giving time and effort far beyond anything required by her teaching responsibilities," wrote Fr. Allen H. Weber, O.F.M., Ph.D., in his nomination of Cellini.

"Perhaps what I value most in Dr. Cellini is her dual responsiveness to the world of books and to the world in which we live. She is equally at home whether she is discussing University business or the political situation in Latin America," added Dr. Paul J. Schafer, associate professor of education.

In 1999, Cellini received a faculty research grant allowing her to publish the first English translation and wrote an introduction to "Juan Martin El Empecinado" by Benito Pérez Galdós (1843-1920), a volume in his "Episodios nacionales," a series of novels recounting Spain's history from 1805 to the end of the century.

She has conducted professional workshops in teaching second languages to professionals, presented numerous scholarly papers, and chaired sessions at national and international conferences in the United States, Mexico, Brazil, Peru and Chile. She publishes regularly in journals, including *MultiCultural Review*.

Her most recent article, "La visión del mundo andino en la narrativa de César Vallejo" (The Vision of the Andean World in César Vallejo's Narrative), appeared in the literary journal *Cuadernos de Lazarrillo*, Winter Issue, 2007, published by *Ambos Mundos* in Salamanca, Spain.

An alumna of St. Bonaventure, Cellini earned a master's degree in romance languages and a Ph.D. in comparative literature from Binghamton University.

Dr. Mark Huddle joined the University faculty four years ago. He teaches U.S. survey courses plus a wide range of upper-level courses in U.S. history.

His colleagues in the Department of History describe him as "a popular teacher whose courses regularly oversubscribe. Dr. Huddle has a knack for not only attracting students but also for then pushing them to ask the hard questions necessary to engage history and the world. ... The popularity of his courses is not only because they address the concerns of contemporary students, but because his classes challenge students."

In addition to heavy service teaching, Huddle has introduced several new courses: *Civil Rights to Black Power, 1941-1980*; *Harlem Renaissance: African America and the Politics of Culture, 1919-1939*; and *The Politics of Pop: Popular Music and 20th Century American Culture*.

In addition to Huddle's effort and success in the classroom, he is an active and publishing scholar in the field of African-American history and race relations. Huddle has authored several scholarly and popular articles as well as many scholarly presentations and reviews.

He is in the final stages of his first book, "The Paradox of Color," which is with the University of Pennsylvania Press. He is working on a second book, "Roi Ottley's War," with the University Press of Kansas, and he also has signed a contract with Ivan Dee Publishers to write a biography of Marcus Garvey.

Out of the classroom, Huddle took a leadership role on the University's Strategic Planning Committee for Diversity and served as faculty adviser for the Bonaventure Art and Media Fair (a.k.a. BAM!).

Huddle holds a bachelor's degree in international studies from Ohio Wesleyan University, a master's degree in American history from Western Carolina University, and a Ph.D. in history from the University of Georgia.

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Seven recognized for completion of honors projects

During its Honors Luncheon Saturday, May 12, St. Bonaventure University recognized the seven members of the Class of 2007 who are candidates for an honors degree.

In addition to the two-semester honors project, students must take four honors courses, an advanced honors seminar, and achieve a minimum 3.25 grade point average to be awarded an honors degree. The Honors Degree is the highest undergraduate degree offered at St. Bonaventure University.

A description of each student's Honors Projects follows:

Vanessa Close, biology major from Coudersport, Pa.

"Odor Gene Covariance: The Relationship Between Perceived Differences and Chemical Differences of Odors"

Project Adviser: Dr. Darryl Mayeaux (Psychology)

Social interactions among mammals appear to be distributed not randomly among all possible social comparisons but rather selectively toward certain members of that individual's species. Olfaction is a key sense that many mammals use in choosing mates and in recognizing offspring and other kin. This study addresses the association between genetic relatedness of two individual hamsters and the chemical

similarity of their body odors. The hypothesis presented is that the more closely related two males are, the more similar their chemical makeup will be. A female will distinguish between two unrelated males while perceiving two siblings as the same.

Ryan Cook, history major from Edinboro, Pa.

“The Development of Allegheny National Forest Management Policy: from the mid-1950s to the Present”

Project Adviser: Dr. Phillip Payne (History)

Over the past 50 years, the Allegheny National Forest (ANF) has experienced a major shift from a strictly federal-based policy creation approach to one increasingly taking into account the desires of local citizens, organizations and special interest groups. The change from occasionally asking advice from the local community and the public to the current requirement to consider the desires and positions of many local and non-local groups and movements has been considerable. This project studies the history of the ANF and places specific emphasis on the difficulties of managing the forest to fulfill the multi-use imperative in the face of increasing involvement from environmental groups.

Amanda Juskiewicz, English major from Pittsford, N.Y.

“Life Toward Law: A Personal Essay of Progress and Self-Discovery” Project Adviser: Dr. Richard Simpson (English)

A work of creative non-fiction, this project represents one student’s personal journey of professional self-discovery while negotiating the complexities of planning out a future and applying to law school. Through a series of interviews, journal reflections, and personal conversations with family, friends and professors, Amanda takes her readers on an open and honest exploration of her developing goals and search for a career path that best meets her personality and values. The product is a text that encourages readers to ask these questions of themselves.

Hallie Steube, journalism/mass communication major from Mission Viejo, Calif.

“JourneyIN: an Online Publication for Potential St. Bonaventure Students”

Project Adviser: Br. Basil Valente, O.F.M. (J/MC)

JourneyIN is an online publication for incoming and prospective St. Bonaventure University students. It is a digital magazine intended to be viewed online with a high level of interactive components designed to help new students gain more thorough and student-centered insight into St. Bonaventure from their fellow students’ perspectives. The information contained in this publication is the direct result of a major marketing research study conducted on the university, and it seeks to fill in the gaps within the current marketing plan. The electronic delivery of JourneyIN is designed for easy updating based on changing demographics and continued improvements to the university.

Kate Tkacik, English major from Elmira

“The Absent Heroine: An Examination of Fanny Price and Mary Crawford in Jane Austen’s ‘Mansfield Park’” Project Adviser: Dr. Richard Simpson (English)

This study argues that “Mansfield Park” is without a heroine. Jane Austen’s characterization of the two central female characters does not allow for a clear classification. What separates these two characters from Austen’s other heroines is that Fanny Price and Mary Crawford do not experience a change of their core self. Most of Austen’s heroines experience an evolution that demands self-doubt and self-inspection, forcing them to confront their pre-conceived attitudes and opinions. “Mansfield Park” is a novel of social, political, sexual, religious and moral upheaval. Unlike Austen’s other novels, it extends far beyond the assumed narrative course of courtship, opposition and inevitable matrimony. Claiming that neither Fanny nor Mary functions as a heroine does not imply that either character lacks complexity or importance. In fact, it only serves to add to the importance of both characters as they function within the novel.

Michelle Torella, journalism/mass communication major from Hamburg

“A Strategic Public Relations Initiative for the Franciscan Friars of St. Bonaventure University” Project Adviser: Br. Basil Valente, O.F.M. (J/MC)

This public relations campaign is designed to provide the St. Bonaventure Friary with a variety of initiatives to increase awareness of the Friary, to educate the public on the management of the Friary, and to remind everyone of the work of the friars and their importance to the identity and mission of the university. The campaign will focus on the value and importance that the friars place on service, their faith, and their academic studies. The campaign will reach out to audiences that recognize the importance of the St. Bonaventure Friary and those who hold the friars in high regard. This public relations campaign is very important to the Friary as an organization because they are independent of St. Bonaventure University and completely self-sustaining.

Richard Zuber, computer science major from Chittenango, N.Y.

"SoundQ: Software for Playback Editing of Theatrical Cues"

Project Adviser: Dr. David Levine (Computer Science)

SoundQ is software for theatrical sound effect playback. The application is designed to aid sound technicians in maintaining precise timing and high quality audio for each production. The program allows for sound cues loaded into each show to be manipulated by the sound technician in accordance with the director’s artistic vision. SoundQ features include: play cue, set level, fade setting, bump cue, fade stop and manual cross fade. In addition to these technical features, each cue includes information about the cue ready to be played, including notes and run time. The program is written in Java due to its familiarity, support, libraries and portability.

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Sr. Suzanne Kush named director of Franciscan Center for Social Concern

Buffalo native Sr. Suzanne Kush, C.S.S.F., has been named director of the Franciscan Center for Social Concern at St. Bonaventure University.

“In announcing this appointment, I am delighted that a person with Sr. Suzanne’s gifts, knowledge and skills, personal life commitments as a Franciscan religious, as well as her professional background, has accepted this appointment,” said Br. F. Edward Coughlin, O.F.M., vice president for Franciscan mission at the University.

The center was established in 1998 to “encourage in all members of the University community a yearning for justice and peace, a greater respect for life and a deeper reverence for creation.” The Franciscan friars of Holy Name Province provided the initial endowment for the center.

Sr. Suzanne joined the Buffalo Province of the Felician Sisters in 1964. After almost of decade of teaching in Buffalo Catholic schools at both the elementary and secondary level, Sr. Suzanne became a director of religious education and served at several parishes. From 1980 to 1986, she worked at Villa Maria College, and then was assigned to vocation and formation for religious life ministry.

Sr. Suzanne holds a master’s degree in Franciscan Studies from St. Bonaventure, a master’s degree in history from the State University College of New York at Buffalo, a master’s degree in religious studies from Aquinas College in Grand Rapids, Mich., a bachelor’s degree in history from Canisius College, and an associate’s degree from Villa Maria.

Her background in Franciscan Studies and history and experience in adult education programs will allow her to enter in discussions around education, pedagogy, and how the SBU curriculum is preparing its students. Sr. Suzanne will pursue an integrated approach, stressing the educational aspects of programs, and coordinate with others on campus.

This past year, Sr. Suzanne has been working as a research assistant on the Third Order Regular Rule Project at SBU’s Franciscan Institute and as an adjunct professor at Felician College in Lodi, N.J.

The Franciscan Center for Social Concern has not had a full-time director since 2005, when Fr. Jud Weiksnar, O.F.M., was reassigned by the Holy Name Province.

In the past few years, St. Bonaventure has made significant strides in expanding a range and variety of service internships as well as significantly increasing the number of students, faculty and staff who are

involved in service projects through such initiatives as the Journey Project, BonaResponds, the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program and Students In Free Enterprise, Br. Edward said.

“The addition of Sr. Suzanne to our team will greatly enhance our readiness to root our service in our Catholic-Franciscan values and encourage each participant in these service programs to reflect on their values, their personal gifts, and their call to love and serve for the sake of others,” said Br. Edward.

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SBU inducts eight into Sigma Delta Pi

St. Bonaventure University inducted eight students into the Xi Delta Chapter of Sigma Delta Pi, the national Spanish Honor Society, during a ceremony April 13.

Membership in the honor society is open to all students who are at least a second-semester sophomore and have at least one upper-level course in Spanish culture or civilization. Additionally, they must have a least a B average in Spanish courses.

The students inducted were sophomore Meghan Whitcomb, seniors Ron Morgan and Lindsay Saternow; and juniors Carol Ann McCauley, Kimberly Trimboli, Kelsey Gorman and Allison Martino and Kelley Stoneham.

The new officers will be elected in the fall for the 2007-08 academic year.

The adviser for the chapter is Dr. Leigh A. Simone, assistant professor in the Department of Modern Languages.

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