
April 23, 2009

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Blitzer, Butler, Kelly to receive honorary degrees at university's Commencement

A Pittsburgh Steelers legend, CNN's longest-tenured news anchor, and a champion of spiritual and environmental causes will receive honorary degrees May 17 at St. Bonaventure University's 149th Commencement Exercises.

Buffalo native Wolf Blitzer, a CNN reporter since 1990 and anchor since 1998, will be the keynote speaker when the class of 2009 graduates. Blitzer will be joined on stage by John B. "Jack" Butler, SBU class of 1951 and an all-pro defensive back for the Steelers in the 1950s; and Marcia Marcus Kelly, a niece of renowned Olean poet Robert Lax.

Commencement activities begin Friday, May 15, with the traditional Candlelight Ceremony for graduating seniors, followed by the Baccalaureate Mass on Saturday, May 16. Graduation ceremonies begin at 10:30 a.m. on May 17.

Blitzer is the anchor of CNN's "The Situation Room," a three-hour weekday political news program. He is CNN's lead anchor for the network's political coverage and moderated several of CNN's presidential primary debates in 2007 and 2008. He led CNN's Emmy-winning "America Votes 2006" coverage and "America Votes 2004."

Among his numerous honors, Blitzer received an Emmy Award for his 1996 coverage of the Oklahoma City bombing and a Golden CableACE for coverage of the Persian Gulf War. In November 2002, the American Veteran Awards honored him with the prestigious Ernie Pyle Journalism Award for excellence in military reporting.

Blitzer earned a history degree from the University at Buffalo, and a master's in international relations from Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies in Washington, D.C.

Butler's football exploits were as legendary as Bob Lanier's in basketball. Described by former Pittsburgh Press sports editor Pat Livingston as "having the face of a choirboy and the heart of an arsonist," Butler — a former seminary student in Canada before attending St. Bonaventure — played nine seasons with the Steelers and had 52 interceptions, tied for 23rd in NFL history.

Butler was named to the 1950s All-NFL team, and only Hall of Famers Dick “Night Train” Lane and Emlen Tunnell had more interceptions when he retired in 1959. Butler never played high school football, and only tried out for St. Bonaventure’s team at the urging of Fr. Silas Rooney, a campus friar and the school’s athletic director.

Undrafted out of college, Butler was recommended by Fr. Silas to his brother, Art, the founder of the Steelers. Butler finished his career with four consecutive trips to the Pro Bowl from 1956-1959, but a devastating knee injury ended his career. He was named to the Steelers’ 75th Anniversary team in 2007.

Butler began a remarkable scouting career in the early 1960s, highlighted by his leadership of the scouting combine BLESTO (Bears, Lions, Eagles, Steelers Talent Organization), which he headed for 44 years until his retirement in 2007. More teams, including the Buffalo Bills, later joined BLESTO.

“Jack’s interpersonal skills made his tenure remarkable,” said John R. McGinley Jr., chair of the university’s Board of Trustees. “Jack was an empowering leader who gave a start to the careers of literally scores of NFL scouts.”

McGinley, SBU class of 1965 and a minority owner of the Steelers, calls Butler his “all-time favorite Steeler ... a class act. A number of individuals influenced my decision to come to St. Bonaventure; Jack was one of them.”

Kelly has worked with others on local environmental issues, including: researching the dangers of spraying pesticides for mosquito control and lawn care; the dangers of locating a landfill or industry over the local water supply; and understanding the impact of wind energy.

“When I’m in town, one of the things I’m proudest of is to be able to stand in the peace vigil with the Franciscan Sisters who have been out in the wind, snow, sleet and heat since the Iraq war began,” Kelly said.

Kelly also has been dedicated to preserving the legacy of Lax and Thomas Merton, the revered 20th century spiritual writer whom Lax befriended when Merton taught English at St. Bonaventure in the 1940s.

“On this, the 40th anniversary of Merton’s death, it is fitting for the university to honor one who continues to advance the spiritual and cultural legacy of these two soul friends and authors,” said Sr. Margaret Carney, O.S.F., university president.

Kelly and her husband, Jack, who live in New York City but maintain their family home in Olean, are writers of their own note. Over the years they have written about hundreds of monasteries and retreats, including Mt. Irenaeus, the Franciscan sanctuary in West Clarksville. The series is called “Sanctuaries: A Guide to Lodgings in Monasteries, Abbeys and Retreats of the United States.”

The Kellys’ best seller is “One Hundred Graces: Mealtime Blessings,” which includes graces from all spiritual paths and has sold more than 100,000 copies. Marcia also wrote a column for the Olean Times Herald profiling local families in need and listing local agencies that people could join with to help.

In the 1980s Kelly founded Electronic Services Unlimited, the first company to study telecommuting and location-independent work. The company was profiled by Business Week, New York Times, Wall Street Journal, “Today” show and CNN. She sold the business 20 years ago to International Data Group, allowing her to spend more time traveling and writing.

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St. Bonaventure celebrates annual Girls and Women in Sports Day

Female high school athletes from across the region will have the opportunity to hone their skills as the St. Bonaventure University Department of Athletics, Department of Physical Education and School of Education sponsors its annual National Girls and Women in Sports Day celebration Friday, May 1.

The high school students will also have the opportunity to hear from freestyle wrestler and 2012 Olympic hopeful Leigh Jaynes. Jaynes, who competes for the New York Athletic Club, is a 1st Lt. in the U.S. Army Reserves. She is training at the U.S. Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs, Colo., as she competes for a spot on the 2012 Olympic Freestyle Wrestling Team.

Jaynes began wrestling as a senior at a south Jersey high school. After placing All-American, she was recruited by Missouri Valley College. There she wrestled for four years, rising through the ranks to be the No. 1 one contender among those in her weight class on the college level. She now participates in the Army's World Class Athlete Program where she trains for national and international competitions while maintaining a professional military career.

Throughout the Sports Day Celebration, members and coaches from St. Bonaventure's varsity athletic teams, women's rugby team and ROTC program will conduct clinics for the female students from 12 area high schools. From 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., athletes and coaches will teach skills from their respective sports as well as give high school students and coaches the opportunity to talk with them. Participants can choose from softball, basketball, soccer, lacrosse, women's rugby, tennis, swimming or an Army fitness challenge. Most of the clinics will be held outside the Reilly Center, weather permitting. The Army is also supporting the event by providing rock climbing walls and Army Humvees that will be on site.

Students from the following area high schools will be attending this year's program: Allegany-Limestone, Southwestern, Bradford, Cuba-Rushford, Genesee Valley, Hinsdale, Portville, Olean, Ellicottville, Silver Creek, Salamanca, Scio, and Bolivar-Richburg.

National Girls and Women in Sports Day participants are encouraged to attend the St. Bonaventure women's softball game against St. Joseph's University at 3 p.m., after the conclusion of the event.

The National Girls and Women in Sports Coalition started this day in 1987 to remember Flo Hyman, an Olympic volleyball player. Before Hyman's death, she worked to promote equality for women's sports. Since then, the day has been celebrated to acknowledge past and present women's sports achievements, the positive influence of sports participation, and the continued promotion of equality and access for women in sports.

St. Bonaventure students who wish to help with the event can sponsor a participating high school student by donating extra guest meals, flex dollars or meals from their block plan. There are sign-up sheets at the doors in the Hickey Dining Hall, Thomas Merton Center or the Reilly Center, room 104. Students can also ask their RA or RD for a form.

To e-mail your donation or for any questions, please contact Dr. Paula Scraba of the Department of Physical Education at pscraba@sbu.edu or 375-2444.

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Dr. Barry Gan interview on Gandhi to air on Rochester television station Sunday

Dr. Barry L. Gan, professor of philosophy and director of the Center for Nonviolence at St. Bonaventure University, will discuss

the legacy of Mahatma Gandhi in an hour-long interview at 9 p.m. Sunday, April 26, on Rochester TV station WXXI.

In the interview, taped last December before a live audience, Gan talks about who Gandhi was, his life and vision, his accomplishments and failures, and his legacy – what lives on about him and what we can learn from his example.

Last year marked the 60th anniversary of the assassination of Gandhi, who advocated nonviolence and resistance to wrongdoing in leading India to independence.

Those who receive WXXI out of Rochester may view the program on digital channel 21.2 or on Time Warner Cable channel 524.

The broadcast will be aired again at 9 p.m. on June 14 and at 9 p.m. on July 15.

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Public invited to attend presentation of St. Bonaventure photography projects

Teams of photographers who created visual adaptations of books and poems will exhibit their projects at 7 p.m. Saturday, May 2, at the Regina A. Quick Center for the Arts at St. Bonaventure University.

The photographers are St. Bonaventure students, but their instructor, David H. Dubreuil, is careful not to refer to them as student-photographers.

“I would compare their work with that of most professional photographers,” said Dubreuil, a retired commercial photographer and adjunct professor at St. Bonaventure. “How good are they? The greatest compliment I can pay them is to be a bit jealous of their talent.”

This particular project was the most demanding and thought-provoking of the semester-long “Literature and The Arts” course, said Dubreuil. The photographers, working in teams of two, were asked to select a piece of poetry or prose and adapt it, or retell it, in photographs.

The works include poems by Robert Frost, Carl Sandburg, Amy Lowell, T.S. Elliot and D.H. Lawrence, the poetry and prose of Shel Silverstein, even popular songs penned by John Lennon and Ryan Adams. The students had to produce images that capture the essence of the piece they selected.

The project was much more involved than coming up with “a bunch of pretty pictures,” said Dubreuil. Each adaptation required a painstaking process of planning that involved not only deciding how and what to photograph, but a myriad other factors such as lighting, background and camera angles.

“There were lots of reshoots – maybe the lighting wasn’t quite right or the subject in the photo was too stiff,” said Dubreuil.

The hard work paid off.

“This group has created some stunning adaptations,” he said. “I am extremely proud of their work. If I wasn’t impressed, we wouldn’t be having this show.”

The presentation will take place in The Quick Center’s Rigas Family Theater. Each team will give a PowerPoint presentation of its adaptation.

The photographers are excited about sharing their work with the campus and surrounding communities, said Dubreuil, and he encourages the public to attend.

“Who knows,” he said. “Someday you may remember this very special evening and say to yourself, ‘I remember this artist’s work when he or she was at St. Bonaventure.’”

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SBU students study gossip on campus

Pssst! Did you hear what those students at St. Bonaventure are up to?

If your ears perk up when someone’s about to tell you something someone else probably doesn’t want you to hear, you may be interested in a study on gossip conducted by Dr. Charles Walker, a professor of psychology at St. Bonaventure University, and four senior psychology students.

In the fall of 2008, Jillian Coniglio of Springwater, N.Y., Catherine CuvIELLO of Amherst, N.Y., Keely Sibbald of Rochester, N. Y., and Elizabeth Thomeier of Allegany, N.Y., conducted research on “The Pervasiveness, Truthfulness, and Negativity of Slander Gossip.” The study closely examined gossip, specifically slander gossip, and its prevalence in human conversation.

“We were anxious to help with such a cool concept,” Coniglio said.

Participants in the study were asked to supply examples, and then rate five types of gossip — slander, shame, envy, sympathy and respect — on scales of truthfulness, pervasiveness and negativity. Next, the research team analyzed the content and tried to attribute each type of gossip with a social function. The most common functions found were entertainment, discernment of group norms, increasing group solidarity and hurting others.

Walker said that gossip is a “response to changes in social relationships caused by the behavior of others. It is the way we monitor and construct our social reality.” However, “slander gossip appears to be a deceitful device of individuals who use the grapevine for personal gains, not simply keeping abreast with the latest scuttlebutt.”

The results of this study showed that slander gossip occurs more frequently than these researchers expected but far less often than shame gossip.

On May 22-25 the group will present its findings at the Association for Psychology Science 21st Annual Convention in San Francisco. This will be the second time this group of researchers has had research projects accepted for presentation at this major international conference. This is a rare and exceptional accomplishment for undergraduate students, Walker said.

Last year this team of researchers presented their findings from a study on how people use Facebook to promote gossip on themselves and a second study on how good friends broaden thinking and help build resources for survival.

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SBU's American Advertising Federation to present national advertising campaign

As part of St. Bonaventure University's Extraordinary Classroom Experiences series, the St. Bonaventure chapter of the American Advertising Federation will preview its national advertising plan to the community days before heading to New York City in May for the regional competition.

The presentation of "The American Advertising Federation 2009 Competition: A Marketing Communications Campaign to Fight Binge Drinking on College Campuses" will be held at 4:30 p.m. on April 29 in the Walsh Auditorium, located in the William F. Walsh Science Center. The event is free and open to all students, faculty, staff and the local community.

This year the AAF was challenged by The Century Council, a national not-for profit organization funded by distillers dedicated to fighting drunk driving and underage drinking, to create a research-based, \$10 million integrated marketing communications campaign that will help combat dangerous overconsumption of alcohol by college students.

St. Bonaventure's AAF chapter runs under the name The Stalwart Group, which consists of more than 30 undergraduate and graduate students, a mix of journalism and mass communication, visual arts and marketing majors.

These students, under the leadership of Kimberly DeSimone, lecturer of marketing, and Br. Basil Valente, O.F.M, assistant professor of journalism and mass communication and integrated marketing communications, and St. Bonaventure AAF president and integrated marketing communications graduate student Emily Ciraolo, '09, have combined their talents in marketing, editing, journalism, advertising, public relations, broadcast communications, visual arts, graphic design, market research, management and strategic direction to ensure a multi-faceted campaign where each of the marketing communications components may be implemented, independently, on various college campuses and still remain effective.

These students, along with the talents and expertise of the Integrated Marketing Communications graduate students, have formed an extraordinary business learning community at St. Bonaventure University, rooted in the Franciscan difference in higher education.

"And this difference," said Valente, "comes from inculcating a business model that addresses the important question of what it means to be human in today's economically challenged marketplace."

"I'm very proud of the students who have worked together for the better part of the 2008-09 entire academic year to create an effective marketing campaign for The Century Council," said Valente. "Truly, our students have worked hard to address the difficult and dehumanizing problems of drunk driving and underage drinking and they've created an extraordinary campaign initiative that addresses the important question of what it means to be truly human in a dehumanizing world."

American Advertising Federation is the premier college advertising competition. It is a national organization designed to give colleges and universities the opportunity to create a working advertising agency on campus that will compete in the National Student Advertising Competition (NSAC). The AAF's college-chapter program has 226 affiliated chapters throughout the United States and abroad.

For more information about St. Bonaventure's chapter, visit www.sbu.edu/jmc.

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St. Bonaventure alumnus to discuss careers in risk management

A St. Bonaventure alumnus who has spent 30 years in the risk management industry will visit campus Monday, April 27, to discuss careers with specific emphasis on risk management and insurance.

William E. Hammond, a senior consultant with Cardinal Risk Management in Dallas, will give a presentation at 12:30 p.m. in Dresser Auditorium of the John J. Murphy Professional Building.

Hammond works specifically with enterprise risk management and measurement with clients that include past presidential candidates and Fortune 500 firms. He has served in roles as risk manager for a large construction company and insurance broker for both Alexander & Alexander (Aon) and Marsh. In his 30 years in the industry, Hammond was responsible as an account executive and senior manager for sales and service of Fortune 500 accounts in a variety of industries.

Hammond earned a bachelor's degree in sociology from St. Bonaventure in 1966 and studied law at the University of Tulsa Law School. His professional credentials include Chartered Property and Casualty Underwriter (CPCU); and Associate in Risk Management (ARM). He is a Licensed Risk Management Consultant.

In January, Hammond worked with BonaResponds, SBU's disaster relief organization, during its service trip in Bridge City. Hammond continues to volunteer his work and plans to join BonaResponds on April 24-26 for its Local Service Weekend.

For more information about Hammond's visit or the School of Business, click here: <http://sbuschoolofbusiness.blogspot.com/2009/04/speaker-on-monday-april-27th-1230-to.html>

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Newsmakers for Spring 2009

WXXI television of Rochester will air an hour-long interview with Dr. Barry L. Gan, professor of philosophy and director of the Center for Nonviolence, at 9 p.m. Sunday, April 26, at 9 p.m. The interview is titled "Gandhi's Legacy" and was taped last December before a live audience. To view the broadcast, you may tune at 9 p.m. to 21.2 on a digital converter or to the PBS

World Channel 524. The broadcast will be aired again at 9 p.m. on June 14 and again at 9 p.m. on July 15.

Darwin L. King, professor of accounting, Dr. Carl J. Case, professor of management science, and Kathleen M. Premo, lecturer of management science, presented their paper at the Allied Academies International Conference held in New Orleans, La., on April 8-11, 2009. The paper titled "Current Mission Statement Emphasis: Be Ethical and Go Global" won an Allied Academies "Distinguished Research Award" and will be published in the Academy of Strategic Management Journal. The authors each received an engraved plaque at the Awards Reception held April 9.

Constance Pierce, associate professor of painting and drawing in the visual and performing arts, opened an exhibition of her sketchbooks and illustrated journals this week hosted by the Divinity Library of Yale University. Pierce, a former research fellow and resident artist at Yale Divinity School, displays an array of her sketchbooks including those created during her years on the campus of Yale a decade ago and drawings created during her 2009 spring sabbatical. Her sketchbooks are also included in the collection of the Archives of American Art of the Smithsonian Institution, the sketchbook collection of the National Gallery of Art Library and the Yale Center for British Art, Prints and Drawings archives, among others.

Pierce has exhibited her sketchbooks twice at the National Museum of Women in the Arts in Washington, D.C. This month the National Gallery of Art Library in Washington, D.C., added another of her sketchbooks into their sketchbook collection. Her sketchbooks, drawings, prints and paintings will be exhibited in three upcoming solo exhibitions in 2010-2011. These include the Clara Fritzsche Gallery of Notre Dame College, the Yates Gallery of Siena College and the Harlan Gallery of Seton Hill University. Her oil painting "Crucifixion: Genocide in Darfur" was accepted into the religious art juried exhibition at the Wasmer Gallery of Ursuline College in Cleveland, Ohio. The exhibition will run this summer. The Yale Library Web site quotes Pierce as saying, "Through the intimacy and informality of my sketchbooks ... I am able to capture the fleeting and preserve it; and through the very process of sketching itself, I am able to offer surrendered attention — an intense awareness — to the given moment."

Dr. Carol Wittmeyer, assistant professor of management sciences, presented a session at the International Academy of Business Disciplines titled "All Donors Are Not Equal: Decision Making Strategies for Prioritizing Potential Donors." The international annual meeting was held in St. Louis. She also presented the following session at the Annual Association of Fundraising Professionals Great Lakes Regional Meeting: "Journeying from Good to Great: Executing Fundraising Strategies." The annual meeting was held in Rochester, N.Y.

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Friday Forum

All SBU faculty, staff and administrators are welcome to Friday Forums.

Date: April 23, 2009

Speaker: Mike Williams

Time: 12:20 to 1:30 p.m.

Place: University Club

Topic: "Community Engagement in Theory and Practice"

This presentation will do four things:

1. Explore a brief history of community engagement and service endeavors at St. Bonaventure University,

2. Frame a contemporary understand of community engagement as immersion in the “messiness” of life that confronts us with our radical dependence,

3. Suggest how such a reframing asks us to rethink certain trends within higher education, and

Share ideas for how community engagement will unfold in the next few years at SBU

Cost: \$3

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