

a magazine for NEUMANN UNIVERSITY  
alumni, family and friends

# ACCENT

Vol. 48, No. 2 • Summer 2020

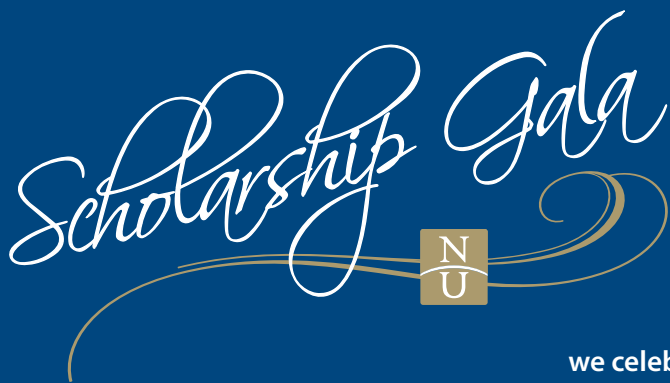


## NEUMANN STRONG

NU responds to the pandemic







## Meet the 2020 Presidential Humanitarian Award Recipients

Each year at the Neumann University Scholarship Gala, we celebrate individuals who merit, through their professional and personal life, the Presidential Humanitarian Award. This year, we celebrate two unique people, who not only display the standards and integrity of the award but are also alumni of the university.

**THOMAS M. CULOTTA** Class of 2018  
*Founder, The Community School, Baltimore, MD*



A graduate of Neumann University's adult program, Tom Culotta is the founder of The Community School in Baltimore, an academic and mentoring program that has worked with hundreds of students since its founding. Tom helps students stabilize their lives, advance their education, and progress to college.

Begun as a community youth organization in 1977, The Community School started as a neighborhood-based effort in Remington to lower the area's high school dropout rate. In 1982, a one-room schoolhouse was launched in the basement of Guardian Angel Church. Using supplies donated from the community, the effort had a single, unpaid teacher. The need for a full school program was soon evident.

In 1997, The Community School took over the building of the former Remington People's Food Co-Op, a double storefront rowhouse, where it remains today. Under Tom's leadership, the program has grown from basic education, to a GED program and then a college prep program. In July 2013, after operating for 30 years, the program became a full, four-year, state-certified, non-public high school program.

**EDWARD R. GLASSMAN** Class of 2017  
*Deputy Chief, Camden Fire Department, Camden, NJ*



Ed Glassman, a 2017 graduate of the Public Safety Administration program, has not only served in the Fire Service, but also works as a First Responder, an Emergency Medical Technician and a Police Officer. All of his 35 years have been spent serving the City of Camden, New Jersey, one of the most violent and poverty-ridden cities in our nation.

Ed began his career in 1983 as an EMT for Certified Ambulance Service.

In January 1985, he entered the City of Camden Police Academy as a patrolman until January 1991. He left the police department to enter the Camden Fire Department.

Now in his 29th year with the Camden Fire Department, Deputy Chief Glassman has served in every capacity and rank except Chief. Ed spent many years as a firefighter in Rescue 1, a highly skilled and elite unit, until his promotion in 2001, when he became Captain. In May 2008, he was promoted to Battalion Chief and assigned to Battalion 2 which covers all of East and North Camden. In October 2010, he was promoted to Deputy Chief and assigned to City Wide Tour Commander. Currently assigned to Fire Administration, he leads the Training Division, Special Operations, Fire Boat Operations, and also serves as the Deputy Emergency Management Coordinator responsible for management of the Hazardous Material Annex, and the Search and Rescue Annex.

Ed's colleagues and friends describe him as the "best example of the senior man," a huge compliment in fire service. It means he is always giving — giving his time to mentor, his knowledge to others, and his wonderful spirit and dedication to everything he does. He often holds "unofficial" coaching sessions to help other firefighters prepare and study for their own promotional exams. Active in his community, he is very well-respected. In his spare time, he and his wife rescue animals. He is simply "that guy" — the one who just gives and gives.

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## FEATURES

4

Neumann Responds to  
the Pandemic



### On the Cover:

The university responded to the  
pandemic by being Neumann Strong.

11

Celebration of Seniors

14

Alumni Awards

21

BIO/CLS Alumna Battles  
COVID-19

## DEPARTMENTS

3

From the President

10

Around Campus

18

Class Notes

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# THANK YOU

## Alumni, Friends, Donors and Neumann Community!

The generosity of alumni, friends and donors and the increased faculty and staff pandemic giving have allowed Neumann to continue to deliver a quality education to students during unprecedented times.

Their generosity is inspiring and instrumental in helping Neumann pivot to increased online learning and afford the addition of new technology and software to better serve student needs during this pandemic.

### #neumannstrong

Learn more about giving at  
**[www.neumann.edu/giving](http://www.neumann.edu/giving)**

Or contact Michael Webster '11,  
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610-558-5836 or email at [websterm@neumann.edu](mailto:websterm@neumann.edu).

THE  
NEUMANN  
FUND



*From the  
President*



To our alumni and friends,

**We have just completed one of the most challenging years in the history of American higher education. Thanks to you, we have proven ourselves **NEUMANN STRONG**.**

The university community has responded to the global pandemic with an extraordinary level of creativity, flexibility, and resilience over these last months. It has been impressive to witness the commitment of faculty, staff and alumni to our students and our mission. We have received high marks from both parents and students for our ability to pivot quickly and seamlessly to online learning and for our personal attention and outreach. Our actions to ensure health and safety, maintain academic quality, and sustain expressions of our Franciscan values reflect our strength as a caring, educational community.

Several stories of perseverance and courage offer all of us signs of hope. Some highly motivated students and one dedicated employee began to record and broadcast on WNUW 98.5 the stories and experiences of people during this moment in history. The Campus Ministry team organized and facilitated a virtual retreat for the Class of 2020. The staff was determined, despite social distancing and quarantine restrictions, that our students would experience this important mission-centered tradition. The admissions office hosted hundreds of prospective students in a series of virtual enrollment events, and more than thirty faculty opened their virtual classrooms to prospective students. Alumni, friends and faculty gave generously to an Emergency Relief Fund for our students.

On March 13, I formed a COVID-19 Response Team and this group has met several times a week to make key recommendations on our response, coordinate communication, and implement operational plans. The Response Team will continue to track and follow government and public health guidance and provide on-going support throughout the summer. In addition, the Executive Team is developing plans for reopening in the fall.

Neumann University is rising to the occasion. Please stay safe, be well and remain **NEUMANN STRONG**.

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

Dr. Chris Everett Domes  
President



# NEUMANN

## NU Responds to the Pandemic

The shift had to be quick and seamless. On March 12, the university announced that all classes would be online starting March 16. Four days. That's how long students had to wrap their minds around remote learning and how long faculty had to make the transition from a physical classroom to a digital screen.

The initial plan was to remain online for two weeks, but as the coronavirus spread and as questions about its transmission and impact morphed by the hour, Neumann soon extended online instruction through the spring semester. Almost all American colleges made the same decision.

Despite the disruptions (and there were many), Neumann made the switch successfully, thanks in large part to the flexibility and commitment of its faculty and students. Part of the Neumann Strong webpage that the university created [www.neumann.edu/neumannstrong](http://www.neumann.edu/neumannstrong) is devoted to the response of students and faculty to the pandemic-induced change.

### Faculty and Student Voices

Laura McLaughlin, professor of education, wrote: "Adjusting to online learning/teaching was easy for me. In all of my classes, I already utilize technology and have students listen and respond to lectures outside of our class time using VoiceThread. This allows me to be able to flip the classroom and spend more time in class doing activities and having discussions."

Geoff Karabin, philosophy professor, explained that "The adjustment has been relatively easy from my end because I consistently teach in an online environment and the infrastructure to transition my current classes to an online format was already in place."

As a mother with young children at home, Leanne Havis, professor of criminal justice, identified a common challenge with the new normal: "On a lighter note, I've also learned that my limit for the number of Power Rangers episodes I can tolerate in the background (to keep my five-year-olds occupied while I grade) is seven."

Ryan Savitz, professor of mathematics admitted: "I've learned a lot about myself during this time. First, I learned that I'm more technologically competent than I

thought I was. More importantly, I learned how great my students and colleagues are. I really miss them."

Erica D'Mello, a communication and digital media major who misses classroom interaction, offered a cultural insight: "My generation specifically is criticized constantly for being too invested in technology. However, I think this (experience) proves that we value much more than our screens. We value our relationships with others and face-to-face communication possibly more than our social media accounts."

Taylor Colgan, a business administration major, agrees: "We need to appreciate the simple and little things in our lives. Technology is a huge part of our lives. It is a blessing and a curse. We always tend to abuse it when we are with friends and loved ones."

### Pandemic Logistics

In addition to the individual adjustments made by students and faculty, the university had to be nimble in making significant administrative decisions as a result of coronavirus. With public gatherings identified as a prime source of transmission, Neumann canceled all spring semester events.



Above: Resident students donned masks and used hand sanitizer to move out of the dorms.  
Left: Signs about public health guidelines filled campus during move-out days.

# STRONG



These cancellations cut short the seasons of all athletic teams and performances by arts organizations. The pandemic also canceled the annual Scholarship Gala and postponed Commencement Exercises. Thanks to generous donors, contributions for scholarships remained very high, and Neumann will reschedule graduation for a future, yet-to-be-determined date.

Residential halls were closed and resident students sent home. Neumann's Executive Team quickly devised a credit-refund policy for residents whose spring on-campus semester was cut in half.

Student Affairs staff executed a meticulously organized plan to allow students to return to campus and gather their belongings in accordance with public health guidelines. The move-out was spread over a two-week period. Masks and hand sanitizer were available, and signs about social distancing norms filled the campus. Maintenance crews disinfected handrails, door handles, elevators, and other surfaces multiple times each day.

At the same time, a host of critical student services was professionally and efficiently maintained: library access, IT support, campus ministry retreats and spiritual engagement activities, wellness counseling, academic advising, summer and fall registration, a virtual housing lottery, and many others.

## Planning for the Future

Despite these sudden changes, the university continued recruiting for future semesters and instituting policy changes to support families facing financial hardship caused by coronavirus.

The undergraduate and adult/graduate admissions teams quickly created a host of virtual events, classroom visits, chats, information



Erica D'Mello: "We value our relationships ... more than our social media accounts."



Ryan Savitz: "I learned how great my students and colleagues are. I really miss them."



Leanne Havis: "I've learned that my limit for the number of Power Rangers episodes I can tolerate is seven."

sessions, instructive videos, and an aerial tour of campus to keep prospective students engaged and up to date. Communication with interested students was non-stop on social media platforms like Twitter, Facebook, Snapchat, and Instagram.

The Executive Team acted promptly to move to test optional for admission requirements, reduce tuition for three summer 2020 terms, and freeze tuition for fall 2020. For both new and returning students in undergraduate, graduate and degree-completion programs, the fall 2020 tuition rates will remain at fall 2019 levels.

According to Dr. Chris Domes, university president, "We have frozen tuition for the fall to do our part in providing a measure of financial relief to the families who have been adversely affected by the global pandemic. Neumann University is committed to providing affordable higher education, and we trust that this decision offers our families

some predictability as they plan budgets for the rest of the year."

Neumann has also launched two funds to support students who are facing financial hardship because of the impact of coronavirus. The Student Emergency Support Fund is designed for one-time assistance to ensure that students can continue their education despite acute financial impact. The Pathway to Graduation Fund assists juniors and seniors whose road to graduation has become more difficult because of the pandemic.

On May 26, Dr. Domes appointed a Campus Reopening Team to "guide our approach as we implement the best health and safety practices — ensuring a smooth and successful start to the next academic year. The post COVID-19 world will require us to develop new procedures, protocols, and operational norms." The team will develop an action plan by July 1, 2020.



**Admissions staff communicated with prospective students via TWITTER, FACEBOOK, SNAPCHAT, and INSTAGRAM.**



# Innovative Ideas, Heartwarming

After the scramble caused by the initial impact of coronavirus, stories of creativity, generosity and compassion began to emerge.

## Corona Diaries

Neumann's radio station found a way to connect people across the globe and document history in the process. WNUW FM 98.5 is airing "corona diaries," also called "coronacasts." In these audio recordings, people document their personal experiences during the coronavirus pandemic. Anyone can submit a corona diary. Participants



WNUW collected and broadcast corona diaries, hundreds of reflections on the pandemic.

simply record their stories on a voice memo app and email it to the radio station or call in and leave a voicemail.

The diaries can be short or long, funny or serious, scripted or ad-libbed, according to a Neumann Media Instagram post by Sean McDonald '08 '11, director of Neumann Media. They are airing live on WNUW 98.5 each quarter past the hour and are also posted on social media.

While many corona diaries come from local people, submissions have come from around the country and the world, including Latvia, Spain, Germany, Scotland and Estonia.

More than 100 corona diaries have been collected so far, according to Janis Chakars, associate professor of communication and digital media, who partnered with McDonald to create the concept.

"Airing the diaries gives ordinary people a voice in the media during the pandemic," said Chakars. "Sharing them helps inform our community about the coronavirus experience in ways that they can relate to while making them feel less alone as they live in isolation."

## Food for DNA

We had food that we would not be using, and they had families who needed to eat. It was a simple problem to solve.

Drexel Neumann Academy (DNA), a Catholic elementary school located in Chester, has always had a close and supportive relationship with Neumann University. Dr. Chris Domes, a DNA board member, knew that our cafeteria had food that was not being used because most of our students were no longer on campus. He reached out to DNA President Alice Sylvester, asking if her school community could use this excess. She welcomed the offer with open arms and her open car trunk.

The average annual family income of the population served by DNA is \$25,000 and the majority are single-parent families. Some children are in foster care and others live with their grandparents.

During the typical school year, DNA students receive free breakfast, free lunch and two free snacks a day. These meals are still provided to the school from the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, but the need for food has extended into the community. "The tricky part for us became how to feed the whole family," Sylvester explained.

Neumann University stepped in and provided eggs, cheese, vegetables, fruit and other perishable items. Rita Webster, general manager of dining, Paul Reid, executive chef, and Jason Scott, retail manager, were key players in the food distribution.

According to Webster, there was plenty of food surplus that she wanted to get to people who really needed it. DNA representatives were able to come to campus for food pickups.

"There is such a need out there. If we had anything we can't use, I wanted to give it to a good charity," Webster said. "I'm so happy this happened."



Neumann donated food to help feed families of Drexel Neumann Academy students.



# Stories



The softball team sent food to alumni nurses.



## Softball Team Thanks Nursing Alums

When the spring semester began, the softball team had visions of defending its 2019 Atlantic East Conference championship. The coronavirus had different ideas though, halting the team's season just 12 games into their 2020 campaign and ending the careers for many of the nine seniors on this year's team.

Despite the misfortune of losing out on a season with such promise, the Knights rallied together over the past few weeks to fight for another cause — their former teammates who are on the front lines of the pandemic as nurses in hospitals all over the region.

Leaders on the team pitched an idea to head coach George White to identify Neumann softball alumni working in the nursing field to help support them in this stressful time by providing food for them and their coworkers in their respective hospitals. Seniors Brooke Figiel and Kate Korte each played a role in helping organize the effort, citing how the program is about much more than playing softball together.

"Being able to give back during these trying times felt amazing", said Figiel. "Our coaches always emphasize that our team is a family and that we should always be there for one another. Giving back to our alumni who are putting themselves on the front line was such a privilege."

The team sent food to six recent alumni at four hospitals across the region: Christiana Hospital in Newark, DE; JFK Hospital in Newark, NJ; Lancaster General Hospital in Lancaster, PA; and Jefferson Hospital in Philadelphia, PA.

The Knights may not have gotten the chance to defend their Atlantic East crown this year, but they have remained champions by helping their softball sisters during the pandemic.

*Continued on page 8*



Now the most famous doctor in America, Anthony Fauci received a NU honorary degree in 1990. He is pictured here with Sr. Catherine, Richard Kradjel, and Dr. Hechenberger.

## Dr. Fauci on Campus in 1990

It appears that we knew Dr. Anthony (Tony) Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), well before his face became a daily fixture on our TV screens.

Fauci, a physician and immunologist, accepted an honorary Doctor of Science degree from Neumann University (then Neumann College) in 1990. Even 30 years ago, he was the director of NIAID, a position he has held since 1984.

As a physician with the National Institutes of Health (NIH), Fauci has served the nation's public health in various capacities for more than 50 years. The son of Italian immigrants, he has made contributions to HIV/AIDS research and other immunodeficiencies, both as a scientist and as the head of the NIAID at the NIH.

The following excerpt is from the 1990 Neumann College commencement program: "As a researcher, author, coauthor and editor of more than 650 scientific publications, including textbooks . . . Neumann College is proud to acknowledge your contributions to the field of science and good health by conferring on you the degree of Doctor of Science, Honoris Causa."

Continued from page 7

## DPT Alums Deal with COVID-19

The coronavirus has permeated all areas of health care and affected everyone working in the field, including Neumann University DPT (Doctor of Physical Therapy) alumni. This dedicated group of health care professionals are still showing up every day working in hospitals, nursing homes, and rehabilitation centers.

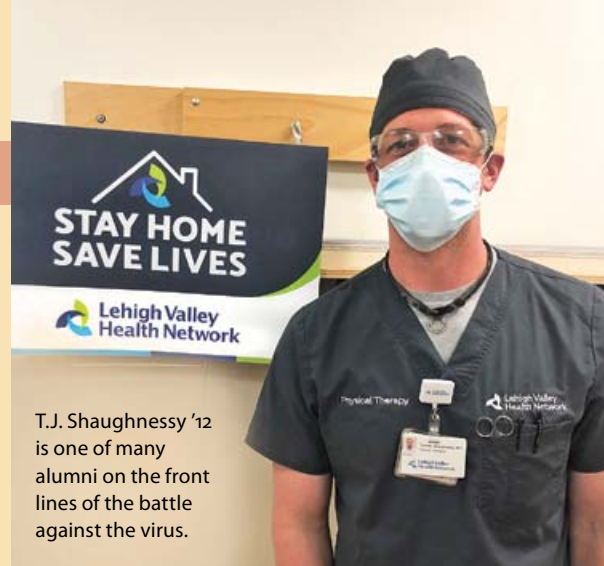
T.J. Shaughnessy '12 works as a wound care therapist at Lehigh Valley Health Network's main hospital at the Cedar Crest Campus in Allentown, PA. In addition to working with patients needing wound care, Shaughnessy also assists in the burn, trauma ICU and med/surg units when needed.

He sees COVID-19 patients for "proning" protocol which he and his team have implemented for all COVID-positive patients. This requires getting the patient prone (lying flat, face down) to improve breathing and oxygen saturation on a schedule during the day. This protocol is showing great success with the patients.

"The biggest challenges that we are facing during this pandemic is obviously a shortage of PPE on the acute care side. Another challenge that we have to navigate is the constant barrage of new information and new guidelines on how to properly protect yourself while still conserving PPE that we do have," he explained in mid-April.

"On one hand, I am lucky to continue to have a job and paycheck through all of this; however, it is a job that constantly exposes me to illness. I am constantly worried about bringing this virus home to my wife and daughter," said Shaughnessy.

Rob Morris '04 is working at a skilled nursing/long-term care facility in Warminster, PA. He finds social distancing to be the biggest challenge in treating patients during the pandemic.



"Social distancing in this type of facility is highly difficult, really impossible, because so many of the folks need physical assistance. Also, many of our long-term care residents are used to walking around the hallways and throughout the building," Morris said. "It is difficult to find ways to explain to them that they cannot walk around freely now as they are used to."

Morris is finding solace in the way his fellow co-workers have come together during the pandemic. Much of his typical therapy services have been put on hold so that the therapists can assist the nursing staff with patient care. Now he regularly delivers meal trays, feeding those who cannot feed themselves and helping the residents with personal care needs.

"These are trying times to say the least, but I try to follow all the necessary precautions as best I can, wearing PPE, hand washing, and social distancing. I think keeping in mind the reason we are here, to try to provide the best care we can for as long as we can, and to do the best we can for people's safety and well-being, was a driving factor for me in facing the challenges."

## Mock NFL Draft

Here's a riddle for you: What do you get when you take a sport management professor, who misses his students and is a huge sports fan, add in Zoom capabilities, eager NU students and the NFL draft? Answer: The creation of the first ever Neumann University Sport Management NFL Draft!

Professor Caleb Mezzy oversaw this mock draft which took place on April 13. It was patterned after the NFL Draft which was held on April 23-25. Twenty-nine Neumann University students (plus a few alums and friends) participated in the draft and acted as NFL team owners.

"It was birthed in the fact that I miss my students and miss the conversations in my office about specific industry happenings (like the draft). I floated it to a few students and there was genuine interest," Mezzy explained.

He sent an email to approximately 60 students who had been students in his SM101 class over the last four years.

Mezzy was able to fill 32 NFL teams with NU students and a few outsiders to ensure all teams had a representative.

From there, Mezzy created a Google sheet with the teams, the "general managers," the pick selections, and email addresses. This Google sheet was the hub for all details, rules, trades, and the draft board. The participants also used GroupMe, which became the platform for some good-natured trash talk and trade discussions.

"We conducted the draft on Zoom from 7:30 p.m. to 12:00 a.m. It was nice to see the students and talk about how everyone is doing. It was also a beautiful distraction that was secretly competitive and entertaining," said Mezzy.

The first-round pick in the mock draft was Ohio State defensive end Chase Young who went to the Arizona Cardinals. The Cardinals had previously traded up to get the overall first-round pick from the Cincinnati Bengals.



## Wired Generation Misses People

Millennials and Gen Z'ers have long been the target of criticism for always having their heads buried in their phones. Remember the video of the girl who was so busy texting that she tripped into a water fountain? Or ads that made fun of youngsters texting each other when they were sitting in the same room?

Social distancing has emphasized a dependence on technology and generated some heartwarming insights by Neumann students.

Erica D'Mello: "I think it has made me realize how important social interaction is. My generation specifically is criticized constantly for being too invested in technology; however, I think this proves that we value much more than our screens. We value our relationships with others and face-to-face communication possibly more than our social media accounts."

Alex Rucci: "One thing I've learned from this is to enjoy the moment. Never take the relationships and moments you have with your professors and classmates for granted."

Taylor Colgan: "Being stuck at home has forced me to realize all the simple things I have taken for granted: in-class lectures, lunch with my friends, late night study groups, sporting events, and just hanging out as a group. When all of this is taken away in a blink of an eye, it really does put things into perspective. Technology is a huge part of our lives. It is a blessing and a curse. We always tend to abuse it when we are with friends and loved ones."

Desiree Naugle: "I am disappointed that we had to move online because I actually really love coming to campus and seeing my professors and other students . . . The things that have really been bothering me the most are just being forced to stay inside and feeling like I'm not getting as much of out of the classes as I could if I was physically in the classroom."

## Sport Management Seminar Goes Virtual

For the last five years, the Sport Management senior seminar class has held a sports industry networking event for alumni, current students and industry professionals in the Philadelphia region. When coronavirus made in-person networking impossible, the seniors created a virtual sport industry conference with more than 50 speakers participating in 12 panel discussions over three days in April.

Virtual Conversations: Sports Management Careers & Current Topics in 2020, was organized and hosted by 14 seniors. The class took on the role of running a business to sharpen their skills in creativity, professionalism, accountability, initiative and constant effective communication in preparation for their careers.

Julie Lanzillo, sport marketing associate professor, acted as CEO of the firm. Students are assigned various leadership roles, including president, director of marketing and communications, director of events and facilities, and executives for fundraising and industry relations.

"They have really done a heck of a job and I'm really proud of them," Lanzillo said. "These kids picked this up and ran with it fast."

Panel presenters include representatives from the Philadelphia Union, Miami Dolphins, New York Liberty, Indiana University, the University of Delaware, Valley Forge Casino, Nerd Street Gamers, MetLife Stadium, Prodigy Sports, and the Philadelphia PGA.



Alumnus Andrew Millard '14 shared how coronavirus has affected law enforcement.

## Andrew Millard '14: COVID Law Enforcement

Being a part of and working for a small law enforcement agency during the COVID-19 pandemic has brought on new experiences and challenges, not just for federal and state agencies but local (municipal) agencies as well. The dynamics of the public interacting with local enforcement has changed to a certain degree. For the agency I am a part of, new directives and policies have been put in place to safeguard everyone.

The experience has opened my eyes to how fast a pandemic can change what I normally do on a typical workday . . . I am constantly answering questions and educating people on social distancing, clarifying the Governor's orders of shelter in place, and other measures to help deter the spread or contracting the virus.

For the most part, I work twelve-hour shifts. Twelve-hour shifts used to fly by normally for me, but now it seems like they drag on forever. Prior to COVID-19, there was always the opportunity to engage in pro-active details such as foot patrols, traffic details, and assisting disabled motorists.

Now with the spread of COVID-19 becoming more prevalent, I am required to only have direct contact with the public on a necessary basis. I am thankful that the department I work for has done a great job in supplying us with the proper sanitation equipment, along with masks, eye protection, and gowns.

Every day, I know I run the chance of coming into contact with someone who has the virus and risk contracting it myself. As a first responder, the risk to me and my fellow brothers and sisters increases each day. That does not deter me from doing my job, nor does it for any other police officer working in this great country.

I always go into work with the same mentality and energy that I am going to go home at the end of the day, and I am going to do the best I can in the most professional manner I can.

# 2020 ACADEMIC AWARDS

## HONORS PROGRAM CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION

Megan C. Bates  
Helen Catherine Cooney  
Rachel E. Cray  
Tanasia Shy'Ree Evans  
Meghan Teresa Glass  
Dasha Gorokhova  
Bethany Harrell  
Julia Marie Howell  
Jennifer Leinheiser  
Brianna Justine Lynch  
Gabrielle Alexis McCauley  
Thania M. Orozco  
Ashley Renning  
Marti Marie Stamper  
Lauren Ashley Vitale  
Rachel A. Wolters

## STUDENT AWARDS

### School of Arts and Sciences

**Camin Award for Excellence in Biology**  
Amanda Metzler

**John Facenda Award for Excellence  
in Communication and Digital Media**  
Meghan Teresa Glass

**Presidential Award for Excellence  
in Mathematics**  
Helen Catherine Cooney

**Psychology Award for Outstanding  
Senior Student**  
Ashley Renning

**Sister Jeanette Clare McDonnell, OSF,  
Award for Excellence in English**  
Tanasia Shy'Ree Evans

**Sister Clare Immaculate McDonnell,  
OSF, Award for Excellence  
in Liberal Arts**  
Nicolette Retallick

**Sister Helen Prejean, CSJ,  
Criminal Justice Award**  
Thania M. Orozco

**Sister Margaret Lewis, OSF  
Award for Excellence in Clinical  
Laboratory Science**  
Megan C. Bates

### School of Business

**Award for Excellence in Business  
Administration**  
Thomas J. Dunn

**Dr. Ardeshtir Shahmaei Award for Excellence  
in Graduate Business**  
Scott Enright

**Pennsylvania Institute of Certified  
Public Accountants Award**  
Dillon Joseph Prendergast

**Presidential Award for Excellence  
in Computer Information Sciences**  
Cory J. Azeff

**Presidential Award for Excellence  
in Marketing**  
Alyssa Gwynneth Cuesta

**Presidential Award for Excellence  
in Sport Management**  
Cory Christopher Ruggiero

**Tau Award for Outstanding  
Accelerated Degree Program Graduate**  
Richard Stengel  
Jeffrey Yeager

### School of Education and Human Services

**The Kelly Vaughan Chase Memorial  
Academic Award for Excellence  
in Early Childhood Education**  
Caitlyn Rose Johnson  
Alyssa Nicole Harris

**Presidential Award for Excellence  
in Social Work**  
Jennifer Claire Sieminski

**The Madison Chase Williams Award  
for Excellence in Special Education**  
Samantha Nicole Iannuzzi

**Sister M. Everlida Flynn, OSF,  
Award for Excellence in Master's Level  
of Graduate Education**  
Audra Lynn Rival

**Sister Theodore Klingseisen, OSF, Award  
for Excellence in Secondary Education**  
Melanie Frances Malseed

**St. Francis of Assisi Award for the  
Outstanding Graduate in Pastoral Clinical  
Mental Health Counseling**  
Jason Dobrzynski

### School of Nursing and Health Sciences

**Edward Brock Price '99 Award  
for Excellence in Physical Therapy**  
Kyle L. Jones

**Hubert Lee Award for Excellence  
in Athletic Training**  
Samantha Lynn Gatti

**Sister M. Margarella O'Neill, OSF, Award  
for Excellence in Undergraduate Nursing**  
Sandra Lee Wilz

**Sister Margaret Bonner, OSF - Sister Kathleen  
Cronin, OSF, Award for Excellence in the  
Graduate Nursing Program**  
Kelly Lee Henzler

## SPECIAL AWARDS

**Sister Jordan Marie Goeke, OSF,  
Presidential Award**  
Jennifer Claire Sieminski  
Nicole Mortimer

**The Bachmann Valedictory Medal**  
*The Valedictory medal is presented to a full-time undergraduate student who earned the highest GPA in the graduating class and who consistently demonstrated significant involvement in leadership activities and community service congruent with the university's Mission and Core Values. In 2020, the university honors two students as co-valedictorians.*  
Meghan Teresa Glass  
Marisa Marie Meglino

## FACULTY AWARDS

**The Faculty Award for Excellence  
in Undergraduate Teaching**  
William J. Hamilton, PhD  
Associate Professor, English

**The Faculty Award for Excellence  
in Graduate Teaching**  
Timothy Hanna, PhD  
Assistant Professor, Pastoral Counseling

**The Faculty Award for Growth in Scholarship**  
Leanne R. Havis, PhD  
Professor, Criminal Justice

**The Part-Time Faculty Award  
for Excellence in Teaching**  
Daniel McKee, EdD  
Associate Professor, Education



# Coronavirus Postpones **GRADUATION** but not the *Celebration*

**Neumann's 2020 graduation was postponed, but the celebration of graduates found a home on the university website.**

Dr. Chris Domes explained the university's plans in a video message to seniors in early May: "Congratulations, Class of 2020. Your resilience and perseverance have been amazing. We were scheduled to recognize you on May 16, but we can't welcome crowds to campus at this time. We will gather together in the future, at a date yet to be determined, to celebrate your accomplishments and achievements."

From May 15 through May 19, however, Neumann celebrated its graduates by completely devoting the website homepage to the Class of 2020. The prominent video — usually a mix of campus scenes, academic experiences and athletic contests — gave way to an energetic, animated video that offered congratulations amid a sea of splashing blue and gold spirit.

A Commencement Cheers video appeared on a banner at the top of the page. It opened with a toast by Dr. Chris and Mrs. Mary Domes and included a collection of congratulatory messages from Neumann's faculty and staff.

In addition, seniors recorded videos reflecting on their Neumann journey, acknowledging inspirational people they had met along the way, and delivering messages to their classmates and to the Class of 2024.

A collection of 18 virtual mortarboard messages that seniors created also received featured placement on the page as did a list of 2020 academic award recipients and videos from co-valedictorians Marisa Meglino and Meghan Glass.

More than 300 photos were shared on Neumann's social media platforms during the weekend.

In addition to the digital celebration, the Alumni Association sent every graduate a "NU Class of 2020" window cling to welcome them as members.



DaQwon Ray designed his own magazine cover.



Autumn Pasarello '20 created a powerful message for Neumann's mortarboard video.



Neumann posted graduation signs for families to download.

# Around campus

## Students Win Broadcast Pioneers Scholarships

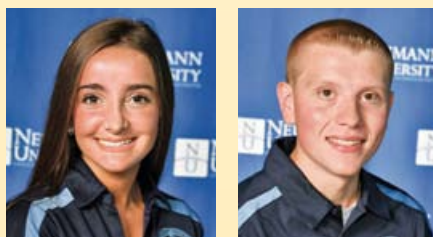
Jake Loburak and Ria Troilo, communication and digital media majors, have been selected to receive \$1,000 scholarships from the Broadcast Pioneers of Philadelphia. They are two of only 20 college students in the Delaware Valley chosen for the 2020 Broadcast Pioneers awards.

The scholarships are given to current college sophomores and juniors (for use in their junior and senior years) who have demonstrated academic excellence and professional potential. To qualify, students must be studying radio, TV, film production, or associated fields and have a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher.

Loburak is active in Neumann Media, Neumann Update, WNUW, campus ministry, and Neumann's roller hockey team. Troilo is a sports and weather anchor for Neumann Update, a presidential ambassador, and works as an NHL cheerleader for the Philadelphia Flyers.

Founded in 1962, the Broadcast Pioneers of Philadelphia is a non-profit organization devoted to collecting information about and promoting cultural

work related to broadcasting and communications throughout the Delaware Valley.



Ria Troilo and Jake Loburak received scholarships from the Broadcast Pioneers of Philadelphia.

## Freshman Gets Grant to Identify Martial Arts Skill with Math

Olivia DiDonato, freshman mathematics/pre-engineering major, was recently awarded the Clare Boothe Luce Undergraduate Research Scholar Award to investigate how mathematics might identify martial arts skill.

The grant stipulates that the awardee must devote 150 hours over the summer to research, collect data and write the findings in a paper on a topic of their choice. Awardees receive \$5,000.

DiDonato has always had intense interest in mathematics and martial arts. "I started martial arts when I was ten years old. I am a first-degree black belt," she said.

The aim of the research proposed involves creating a new statistic that will assess the ability level of martial artists. The statistic will have the potential to succinctly summarize the ability of a martial artist and may be used in both competition and practice.

The Clare Boothe Luce Scholar Award supports undergraduate summer research projects undertaken by female US citizens and permanent residents.

Olivia DiDonato got a grant to identify martial arts skills using mathematics.



## Neumann Named to Phi Theta Kappa Honor Roll

Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society (PTK) has named Neumann University to its 2020 Transfer Honor Roll. The society recognizes the highest-rated 25 percent of colleges for creating systems and processes that support transfer students.

The 2020 honor roll includes 122 colleges. Only eight are in Pennsylvania.

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

"Making the transfer honor roll is evidence of the welcoming environment that Neumann University has created for transfer students," said Francesca Reed, university vice president for enrollment management and marketing. "This award is given to four-year colleges with proven outcomes for transfer success. They are the best at providing a supportive and smooth transition from community college and high rates of bachelor's degree attainment for transfer students."

Each year more than one hundred students come to Neumann from community, state, and private colleges and universities to continue their education.

Neumann's merit scholarships for transfer students, based on cumulative GPA, range from \$10,000 to \$15,000 per year. In addition, transfer students who are members of Phi Theta Kappa may be eligible for an additional \$3,000 scholarship.





Front row: Sandy Lipstein, CFO, Comcast-Spectacor (retired) and Snider Hockey Board of Directors; Bill Whitmore, chairman, Allied Universal Security Services and chairman of Snider Hockey Board of Directors; Dr. Chris Domes, university president; Ann Baiada, chair of the Neumann Board of Trustees; Scott Sharp, president/CEO, Ed Snider Youth Hockey Foundation and Snider Hockey Board of Directors. Back row: Georgia Wunder, Jalen Smith and KiJana Anderson.

## Snider Hockey Gives NU \$500,000 for Scholarships

The Ed Snider Youth Hockey Foundation and Goals & Assists Scholarship Fund presented a check for \$500,000 to Neumann on January 30. The gift will support 100 full-scholarship years — including tuition, room and board — for freshman and transfer students who participated in Snider Hockey programming as youngsters.

The 100 scholarship years will assist a minimum of 25 students (25 freshmen x 4 years each); however, the program has the potential to help more than 25 students. The scholarships apply for a maximum of four years per student and only to the pursuit of an undergraduate degree.

“This generous gift from Snider Hockey will ensure that dozens of young women and men have the opportunity to earn Neumann University degrees and launch their careers without student loan debt,” said Dr. Chris Domes, Neumann’s president.

The essentially debt-free education is supported by the \$500,000 scholarship gift, by Neumann University, and by applicable federal and state grants. All students must meet the university’s admission criteria to be eligible.

The partnership will begin with freshman and transfer students who are admitted for fall 2020.

Snider Hockey was created by the late Philadelphia Flyers Chairman Ed Snider in 2005 as his personal commitment to teach children important life lessons. Programs are provided at no cost to underserved girls and boys who otherwise would not have the opportunity to play.

## Students Finish in Top 100 of



## GLOBAL BUSINESS STRATEGY GAME

Two teams of business students cracked the top 100 in an international Business Strategy Game that involved 5,649 teams from 269 colleges. The management skill of the teams, based on the performance of fictitious footwear companies that they operated, placed them in the top two percent of teams that entered the competition.

The Business Strategy Game (BSG) casts students in the role of company managers, who are responsible for production, shipping and inventory, corporate social responsibility, pricing and marketing, financing, worker compensation, and other aspects of management. Teams from Europe, Africa, North America, Asia and Latin America entered the 2020 competition.

“Having students run a company in head-to-head competition with companies managed by other students provides a truly powerful learning experience that places students in active, hands-on managerial roles,” explained Dr. Robert Till, professor of business, whose senior seminar class produced both top-100 teams.

The Fab Four team finished second worldwide in earnings per share and 18th in stock price performance in results announced by BSG on April 19. The company was managed by Cheyenne Bown-Evans, Kacie Miller Marti Stamper, and Krista Zampitelletta.

The Big Dawgs finished 19th in earnings per share and 71st in stock price. Team members are Sean Havink, Ainsley Reid, Kyle St. John and Nick Testa.

Prior to receiving his Ph.D., Till was a managing director in the Investment Banking Division of JP Morgan Chase where he was employed for more than 20 years.

The Neumann University Alumni Association and the office of alumni relations were adding the final touches on the Alumni Awards ceremony and reception planned for March 17th when the news hit that COVID-19 would prevent any large events. The event was strategically planned on Charter Day as the university and the Alumni Awards committee decided that recognizing alumni success was fitting for a day celebrating the charter of the university and the sponsorship of the Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia.



**In lieu of a ceremony, the university acknowledges the 2020 alumni award recipients below.**  
***Nominations for the 2021 Awards will be accepted beginning in September.***

## President's Distinguished Alumni Award

**Dr. Ronaldo I. Tello-Marzol '08 '10 '19**



Dr. Ronaldo Tello is a three-time graduate of Neumann University, earning his bachelor and master's degrees and his doctorate in Pastoral Counseling. Dr. Tello's passion for providing an education

is evident in his profession, in his volunteerism and in his ethos.

He shares his faith while providing presentations in Catholic churches to Hispanic parents and young people. His Facebook page, where he shares faith-based inspirational content in Spanish, has more than 140,000 followers. He shares knowledge and resources to create cultural understanding.

Dr. Tello is the owner and director of the *Del Hispano Magazine*, a community family publication, and he founded the Hispanic American Association of Delaware to support Hispanic immigrants and their needs. The group supports intercultural understanding and provides services for the underserved.

Dr. Tello started a support group for Hispanic immigrant mothers that includes free counseling sessions, an accessible ESL program, a GED program, and a weekly cultural workshop for Hispanic children. The group sponsors Hispanic folkloric dance classes for kids of all backgrounds and informational events on health, education, and immigration for Hispanic immigrant families. He welcomes the undocumented.

Many immigrants are finding a path to improve their life prospects thanks to these programs. Because of his work, Dr. Tello won the Hispanic Choice Award in Philadelphia and the Social Entrepreneur Award. He was also recognized by the City of Wilmington and by the Delaware House of Representatives.

This award recognizes the importance of Dr. Tello's work in bridging the mainstream community with the Hispanic community through mutual informational and cultural events creating a better life for all.

## Alumni Association's John Neumann Award

**Kathleen M. Afkhami-Ardekani '88**



Kathy's nomination for this award read like a wish list from the founders of our university. It reads, "Long before the values of RISES were adopted at Neumann University, Kathy was exemplifying them in the workplace. Kathy studied behavioral science with a concentration in psychology. Her passion

for serving others and treating everyone she encounters with reverence and integrity led her to a master's degree in Social Work. A longtime advocate for the underserved, Kathy has lived out the mission of St. Francis and Neumann University by being a servant leader to the poor, the sick, and the elderly. Kathy embodies excellence and stewardship through her work as an executive director for a senior living community, as well as in her volunteer work as vice president of VOICE, a non-profit advocacy group dedicated to empowering older adults and their care partners as they transition to new living arrangements."

Kathy was awarded the 2019 Executive Director of the Year by the Pennsylvania Health Care Association and continues to support the advancement of Neumann University.

## Alumni Association's Recognition Award

**Vincent P. Cipollone, Jr. '04**



As the director of Retail Fuels, Vince provides leadership and strategic direction over 657 fuel stores across the company with budgetary responsibility for delivering over a half billion dollars of annual gross profit dollars and three billion gallons of liquid fuels. In addition, Wawa presented Vince

with the Wings of Excellence award for his development of an in-house app to manage pricing at Wawa stores.

Beyond his leadership success at Wawa, Vince has stayed connected to Neumann and advocates for Neumann graduates. Vince serves on the Advancement and Visibility Committee, a subcommittee of the Board of Trustees, where he oversees advancement and marketing programming. Vince has been instrumental in arranging the first "Breakfast with President Domes" on Wawa's campus that was open to the one hundred Neumann alumni who work at Wawa.

Vince and his wife Imelga, have supported the Scholarship Gala on many occasions and Imelga recently joined the Scholarship Gala Committee.



## Honorary Alumni Award

### Cultural Arts Forum

Not all of those who advance Neumann are alumni, faculty, or staff. In some instances, they are grassroots volunteers who have a passion for Neumann's success and student success. This year's Honorary Alumni Award celebrates sixteen individuals of the Cultural Arts Forum Board.

The Cultural Arts Forum was founded by Dr. Margaret Mary Kearney, a former broadcast personality and friend of Neumann University. The Cultural Arts Forum hosts six lectures each year and a variety of events to foster cultural programming and enrich the educational experiences of the university and the larger community. Proceeds from these events benefit the Dr. Margaret Mary Kearney student scholarship which assists non-traditional students.

With the consistency and ability to adapt to changing times, the board has set the bar high for all volunteer committees at Neumann. It introduced Bag Bingo to replace its traditional Fashion Show and raised more than \$14,000 in one day. This adaptability reflects a team that works well, respects one another, and has the good of Neumann always in the forefront.

In recognition for their love of Neumann and their work to make this forum a success, the Alumni Association officially recognizes the following individuals as Honorary Alumni: Nick Di Marino, coordinator; Janet Mancuso, chair; and members, Anne Barlow, Patricia Bruggeman, Mary Domes, Diane DiMarino, Splendora DiMarino, Diane Fleck, Marie Luke, Mary Mascioli, Mary Militello, Vickie Pasternack, Lula Grace Smart, Leona Swiacki, Patricia A. Thomas and Theresa Venello.

## Spirit of Francis and Clare Award

### Brian M. Dolbow '99



Brian Dolbow, a communications major of the class of 1999, was selected to receive the first Alumni Association Spirit of Francis and Clare award. This award was created to acknowledge alumni who develop an initiative that makes a significant impact with the underserved, support of the environment, peacemaking or development of intercultural understanding.

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

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

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

## Alumni Association's Outstanding Senior Award

### Megan C. Bates '20



Megan is a biology and clinical laboratory science major with an impressive collegiate resume. While maintaining a 3.92 GPA, Megan was the president of the Neumann University Honors Association, president of the Sigma Zeta Honor Society, president of the Delta Pi Honor Society, a peer and class mentor, and a Biochemistry supplemental instructor.

The core values of RISES run deep within Megan and her academic success is only part of the story. Megan organized a series of donation drives on campus for the Ronald McDonald House, Stockings for Soldiers and the Safe House at the Domestic Violence Center of Chester County. She also took part in a variety of service opportunities at Neumann.

Megan humbly says, "I have followed the RISES core values to the best of my ability."

Her journey is even more inspirational considering that 12 days before her college journey, Megan gave birth to her daughter. Megan lived up to the core values, participated fully in professional growth opportunities, and maintained a stellar grade point average while raising her daughter.

## Young Alumni Achievement Award

### Christina L. Summa '12



Christina is a graduate from the class of 2012 and started her career in banking as WSFS after graduation, first as a trainee and then Commercial Real Estate Credit Analyst I, and II.

By 2018 with a track record of advancement in position each year, she earned the post of assistant vice president of Commercial Real Estate Manager and in less than one year was promoted yet again to vice president of Commercial Real estate. Christina now manages a \$135 million portfolio and participated in the acquisition team for Alliance Bank and Penn Liberty Bank.

Christina is one of the first female relationship managers and the first relationship manager under 30 years old at WSFS.

In addition to her professional accomplishments, Christina volunteers over 125 hours per year in the local community for Paws for People and as a Development Committee member of the Mental Health Association of Delaware.

Christina still supports the Neumann University Honors Program and participates in the mock interviews held by the School of Business.

*Continued on page 16*

## School of Arts and Sciences Distinguished Alumni

### Mary Ann Melisi '73



The School of Arts and Sciences bestowed its Distinguished Alumni Award upon Mary Ann Melisi, Social Science and Psychology graduate of the class of 1973. A nurse, a nun or a teacher. Those were the career choices presented to Mary Ann when she graduated from Archbishop Prendergast High School in 1969. She opted for teaching and came to Neumann University (then Our Lady of Angels College) to begin her studies, and she stayed. After calling Neumann home for the past 50 years, Mary Ann retired in 2019.

As the director of Neumann University's Child Development Center (CDC), Mary Ann has touched the lives of countless pre-school children and college students. She has done this from a small octagonal-shaped building located on the side of Neumann's campus, a building that has remained virtually unchanged throughout the years. The CDC has a long, cherished history with Neumann University. As a state licensed child-care facility, the CDC enrolls children of Neumann University students, faculty, administration, staff, and families from the surrounding community.

She became the third director of the CDC in 1982. At this time, the decision was made to keep the CDC open year-round and offer a full-day program. Looking back, it's hard for her to believe that she has spent most of her life at the CDC; however, it has been an experience that she would not change.

## School of Business Distinguished Alumni

### Ryan M. Hammond '00



Ryan is a born fundraiser and influencer. Ryan started her career with the Philadelphia Eagles in 1998 and served as the manager of Premium Services and events for over ten years. From an eagle to a hawk, Ryan next served at her other alma mater, St. Joseph's University, as the director of Major Gifts and Special Programs.

In this role, Ryan lead fundraising efforts for the Kinney Center for Autism Education and Support which lead to her next role as the Kinney Center's director of Business Development and Strategic Initiatives. She then advanced to the executive director of the Kinney Center. She managed a complex operating budget of \$2 million and was able to steer both fundraising efforts and collaboration with other community organizational leaders in the field of autism.

Ryan now serves as the executive director of the Eagles Autism Challenge. She brings awareness and much needed funds for innovative research and programs to help unlock the mystery of autism. Her work is significantly paired with our mission of using her education in service of others.

## School of Education and Human Services Distinguished Alumni

### Dr. Cassandra Pistorius '18



Dr. Cassandra Pistorius, graduate of the PhD in Counselor Education and Supervision program in 2018, was selected to receive this award for her dedication to education and commitment to using her education in service to others.

Dr. Pistorius earned her bachelor's degree at Temple University, a Reading Specialist Certification from University of Pennsylvania and her master's degree in student Personnel Services from Rider University. She is currently an Intensive "in community" mental health licensed therapist through Perform Care Providers of New Jersey.

From 1975 until her retirement in 2011, Dr. Pistorius worked in the School District of Philadelphia as an English and Reading Education teacher. Her role consisted of teaching homebound students, educating adult learners, providing mental health counseling, helping others discern career choices and supervising a Summer Training Education Program.

Dr. Pistorius is a member of the Ladies Auxiliary of the Knights of Peter Claver, the Continental Societies, Inc, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, and the South Jersey Chapter of the Links, Inc.

For her dedication to education, public service and the art of learning, Dr. Pistorius has been awarded the prestigious Lillian Parks Thomas Award, the Delta Dear of the year Award, citations from the New Jersey State Assembly and the Pennsylvania House of Representatives, and a Community Service Award from the Afro One Dance Drum Company.

## School of Nursing and Health Science Distinguished Alumni

### Annette Frawley RN, MSN '92



Annette began her career, like many others, as a staff nurse at a hospital. She progressed quickly and in eight short years was the nurse manager for a 32-bed cardiac and surgical stepdown unit at Lankenau Hospital. Within three years she was nurse manager of Surgical Services with direct clinical and financial oversight for 14 main OR suites; pre-op and PACU phases

of care for Level II trauma; cardiac surgery, a hybrid operating room, advanced orthopedics; spine, neurosurgery, robotic surgery; and advanced laparoscopic surgery suites performing averaging 8,000 cases annually.

Annette also had direct clinical and financial oversight for four ambulatory OR suites, pre-op and PACU phases of care for general surgery, ENT, GYN, plastics, orthopedics, ophthalmology, and pain services averaging 5,000 cases annually.

She has served as chairperson, co-chair and committee members for production launches and steering committees that kept advancing the care that patients receive at Lankenau.

Annette is currently the system director of sterile processing across the four Main Line Health entities. Her accomplishments are great, and she is a role model for current Neumann nursing students. Annette is distinguished in her roles at Main Line Health and has brought enduring honor to her alma mater.

In addition, Annette is currently on the board of the Nursing Alumni Chapter and served six years as a member of the alumni association's executive board.



# 2020 Scholarship Gala



## SPONSORS

Because our April 4  
**SCHOLARSHIP GALA**  
was canceled to adhere  
to social distancing  
protocols during  
the coronavirus pandemic,  
we didn't have the opportunity  
to thank our generous  
sponsors at the event.

Here is the list of donors to whom  
we are extremely grateful.

### St. Francis of Assisi Sponsors

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*John & Fay L. '84 McManus*  
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SCHOLARSHIPS CHANGE LIVES

# Class Notes

**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](http://www.alumni.neumann.edu/classnotes)

## Births and Adoptions



**Vincent Cucunato '12**  
welcomed a son, Trevor  
Joseph Cucunato on  
November 29, 2019.

**Andrew Luskin '15** and his wife Kristina,  
welcomed twin daughters, Olivia and Sophia,  
on January 2, 2020.



**Nicole (Thomas) Draper '14**  
'17 and husband, Dominick,  
welcomed their son Dominick  
Marcel Draper Jr. aka "D.J."  
on March 8th, 2020.

**Dominique (Cheeseborough)  
Betts '12** and husband Quinton  
announce the birth of their son,  
Levi Quinton Betts. He was  
born March 27, 2020. Levi was 8  
pounds and 21 inches long. He is  
the first grandchild in the family.



## Careers



**Jessica Adams '18**  
recently celebrated her  
first year as the Senior  
Marketing Assistant for  
Aramark at University of  
Delaware.

**Lilian Escobar-Alfaro '17** received a new position  
as the Human Resources Administrator at  
Always Bagels Inc.

**Joyce Foresman Capuzzi '84** was named a  
winner of the 2019 Nightingale Awards of  
Pennsylvania in the Nursing Educational Staff  
Development category.

**Jennifer Furniss '05** recently started a new  
position as a Special Education Teacher at  
Pottstown School District.

The National Association of Social Workers  
announced that **Dr. Scott Giacomucci '13** is the  
first recipient of its Emerging Social Work Leader  
Award for his impressive accomplishments in  
trauma treatment, group work, social work  
education and research, and work as an advocate  
for people in prison and youth detention centers.

**Stephanie Grundy '19** is now a  
Communications Specialist at the Project  
Management Institute.

**Gabby Guerrero-Santillo '13** recently started  
a new position as Marketing Operations  
Specialist at SAP.



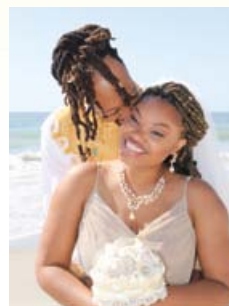
**Tyler Herbetko '18** has  
acquired an Account  
Representative position at  
Edward Don and Company.

**Kyle Montgomery '19** was  
Appointed as Chief of Police  
for the Magnolia Police  
Department in Texas in  
December, 2019.

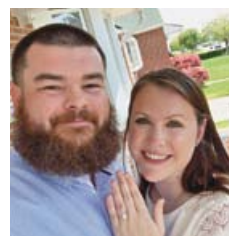


**Sharon Williams '91** was a 2020 PA Teacher  
of the Year Semifinalist.

## Engagements and Marriages



**Sherae Dinkins '11**  
married husband  
Damont in Myrtle  
Beach, South  
Carolina in  
September 2019.



**Colleen Graf '15** and  
**Thomas Prendergast**  
'15, '17 got engaged on  
May 15, 2020.



**TJ Monaghan '15** and  
**Chelsea Wegfahrt**  
'15 announced their  
engagement and set  
the date of August  
1st, 2020 for their  
wedding.





**Tiffany Martorana '16** became engaged to Kevin Rzasa on Christmas Morning, 2018 with a July 24, 2020 date in the works.

**Catherine (Marsh) Maratea '19** was married on a beautiful day in June 2019.



**Kasey Seltner '16 '18** was married on October 12, 2019 to Ben Baker.



## Education

Congratulations to **Dr. Jamie Willis '13** for successfully defending her dissertation. As COVID-19 disrupted her planned defense, she quickly adapted and presented online to her advisors, one of them being Dr. Marisa Rauscher, Neumann professor. She now holds a Doctor of Education in educational leadership from Wilmington University and currently practices as a self-contained special education teacher.

### Adjani Jenkins '19

completed her Master of Social Service degree (MSW equivalent) via full-time Advanced Standing at Bryn Mawr College's Graduate School of Social Work & Social Research. She also recently passed her social work licensure exam (LSW) and is looking for a medical social work position.



**Amirah Guerrero '17** completed her Master of Social Work degree via part-time Advanced Standing at Widener University.

### Kirstin Hillard '17

completed her Master of Social Work degree via part-time Advanced Standing at Widener University.



**Michelle Wilson '17** graduated with her MSW from Delaware State University.

## In the News

**Peter Postiglione '93** recently opened The Actor's Co-op in Swarthmore, a gathering place for local actors and filmmakers. Postiglione has been a professional actor for 20 years.

**Denada Ramnishta '04** was recognized by the Electronic Transactions Association (ETA) as a member of the 2020 Forty Under 40, which recognizes young leaders and gamechangers in the payments technology industry. The ETA Forty Under 40, includes people whose actions and leadership are driving the industry forward and moving the world towards smart, secure and frictionless commerce.

**Regina Tracy '88**, Head of North America Communications and Senior Manager of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), was named one of PR News Top Women in PR for 2019.

## Brendan P. Kelly '87 Memorial Reaches Milestones

The Brendan P. Kelly '87 Memorial Scholarship Committee and the Kelly family reached two milestones this year: thirty years of fundraising in Brendan's name and \$250,000 in scholarships awarded to deserving Neumann students as a result.

Brendan P. Kelly embraced Neumann and his life on campus so much that his nickname became, "Mr. Neumann." Sadly, just one year after graduating, Brendan passed away due to a cardiac anomaly leaving those who knew him bereft. The gentle giant with a wicked humor left his indelible mark, and family and friends rallied to use his legacy for good. For thirty years the Kelly family, close friends, colleagues, students, alumni and the BPK committee gathered for events such as beef-n-beers, basketball marathons and golf outings to form the Brendan P. Kelly '87 Memorial scholarship.

Neumann University is grateful for the Kelly family, the charter members and all subsequent members of the BPK committee, members of Kelly Cardiac Group, and faithful supporters to the

scholarship for their part in keeping Brendan's legacy alive and building a scholarship [alumni.neumann.edu/bpk](http://alumni.neumann.edu/bpk) that will live in perpetuity.



Paul MacCrory '86, Thomas P. Tague '87, Kelley (Robinson) Stenger '90, Joseph M. Dugan, Jr. '88, Diane (Fisher) T. Kern '86, Richard R. Kern '86, and James S. Kern '87. Not pictured are Christopher B. Tague '91 and Joanne (Brady) Nicholas '87.



## *In Memoriam*



Jean Bascome  
Judith Borden '86  
Mary Ciarrocchi  
Louise Derven  
Bernice DiQuinzio  
Edward Fenning  
Frances Maguire  
Gabrielle Noto '12  
Emma O'Donnell  
Ellen Pietro  
William Radcliffe  
Anita Rauscher  
Sr. William Roman, OSF  
Jennifer Santore '14  
Stephen K. Williams

## FAS Giving Increases Despite Unprecedented Economic Challenges

Despite the uncertainty and struggles created by the unprecedented economic impact of Covid-19, the Neumann University Faculty, Administration and Staff (FAS) have rallied and responded by increasing their investment in our mission and students with several FAS even making multiple gifts. In a time when institutions, businesses and families are all struggling to pay their bills and remain afloat, our faculty and staff community has displayed its steadfast faith in the Neumann mission and invested in Neumann's future and in ensuring that students' dreams of a college degree come true.

This year, FAS giving has increased 5% from last year, ending the year at an impressive \$44,325. We have 44% participation and, in fact, 53% of the gifts received in the most recent Emerging Needs Appeal launched in early April were from this group, with 50% representing multiple donations.

"It's been said that it's the way we respond to the hardships we face that help define who we are. Neumann's family — faculty, administration and staff — have answered these challenging times through generosity to provide students the opportunity to afford a college degree and experience a Neumann education in the Franciscan tradition," said Dr. Chris Domes, university president. "When this outpouring of support comes in such unprecedented economic hard times, from such a devoted community who already gives so much through teaching, hard work and more, I am inspired and want to broadcast my pride and immeasurable appreciation everywhere. We are definitely #neumannstrong and #neumannproud."

Sr. Pat Hutchison, OSF, Neumann Institute for Franciscan Studies, a donor and staunch mission supporter, said, "When I witness the transformation in students as they approach graduation at both the undergraduate and graduate levels, it is evident that Neumann has had a profound impact on their lives. The Class of 2020 graduating seniors' sentiments expressed in their website graduation videos were concrete evidence of the power of a Neumann education."

Many donors have voiced their need to feel they can help in a small way to make students dreams come true. "I wanted to help the fund in the hopes that it will help students to be able to complete their studies at Neumann University," said Beth Mullen, Academic Affairs secretary and multiple gift donor.

With support and faith from our faculty and staff, the Neumann University mission will continue to thrive allowing us to remain steadfast in our ability to provide an affordable education to those who would otherwise be unable to achieve their dream of a college degree.



## Alumna Battles COVID-19 at Jefferson

Life for Neumann University alumna Krista McAndress '15 is quite different these days as a medical laboratory scientist at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital in Philadelphia.

She works with point-of-care testing, using hand-held lab devices to detect the COVID-19 virus through nasal swabbing. Jefferson Hospital uses the Abbott ID NOW™ point-of-care testing system, which provides molecular results in just minutes, allowing a healthcare provider to make effective clinical decisions sooner.

McAndress' department makes sure the devices are running accurately, troubleshooting when issues arise.

Of course, work at Jefferson has changed. "When I go in, it's definitely very different. I'm not a nurse or a doctor, but I can feel the change. The pandemic has affected almost every role in the hospital. It doesn't matter how small or large the role is, and it's an eerie feeling," she says.

She's working the same number of hours but she's much busier and her routine has changed. To cut down on exposure to the COVID-19 virus, she no longer takes the train into the city. She drives.

"Being in the city is strange. There are way less people and only healthcare workers," McAndress says.

Once at the hospital, she is given a mask and hand sanitizer. She wears the mask for the entire day. As she walks the floors of the hospital, she sees COVID-19-positive patients on multiple floors.

When she gets home, she washes her hands, strips off her clothes and takes a shower. "You treat every floor, every person, everything as infectious," she says.

Before coming to Jefferson, she worked at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia and completed an internship at the Philadelphia VA Medical Center.

McAndress majored in Biology/Clinical Laboratory Science, a program that has a 100% job/graduate school placement rate over the last 10 years.

"The classes at Neumann that I took were hard but being able to develop relationships with professors and feeling comfortable to go to their office hours helped me succeed."



Krista McAndress '15 works in point-of-care testing at Jefferson Hospital.

# Faculty Publications, Conferences and

**Stephanie Budhai**, associate professor of teacher education, published *Online and Engaged: Innovative Student Affairs Practices for Online Learner Success*. She gave the paper presentations *Stoking the Flames: How One Parent Empowerment Group Promoted the Transformation of Urban Parents into Educational Activists* at the Pennsylvania National Association of Multicultural Education in 2020 and *Counterstories of Black Parent Activists in Urban Schools* at the National Association of Multicultural Education in 2019. She also published the blog *5 Ways to Engage and Support Students Online During COVID-19 and Beyond*.

**Janis Chakars**, professor of communications digital media, gave the presentation, *George Eliot and Madame de Sablé: Communication and Change* at the Northeast Modern Languages Association in March 2020. He released an LP, self-titled, with the group Grey C.E.L.L. on King of the Monsters Records in January 2020. He published an op-ed piece titled, *On King's day, respecting lessons of the past*, present in the Delaware County Daily Times in January 2020.

**David DiMarco**, professor of mathematics, along with **Ryan Savitz**, professor of mathematics, published *The M-tile Means as a Statistics Project and Pedagogical Aid* in *Primus* and *Math Races and Jeopardy Games* in Proceedings of the joint statistical meetings. They have also created a series of math colloquia hosted at Neumann University. Speakers and attendees are invited from colleges throughout the area, including all SEPCHE colleges. Savitz, along with two students, published *An Analysis of Weak Goals as an Additional Tool for Evaluating Ice Hockey Goalies* in Proceedings of the joint statistical meetings.

**Christopher Haug**, vice president of student affairs, published a chapter, *The evolution of the student conduct profession* in *Student Conduct Practice: The complete guide for student affairs professionals*.

**Leanne Havis**, professor of criminal justice, published *The Hannibalization of America: The cannibal gourmet as Promethean gift giver* in *Becoming: Genre, queerness, and transformation* in NBC's *Hannibal* and *Promoting intercultural competence among criminal justice students using interview-based signature assignments* in *Transformative Dialogues: Teaching and Learning Journal*.

**Sr. Patricia Hutchison, OSF**, director of the Neumann Institute for Franciscan Studies, made the presentation, *Franciscan resources in the workplace*, at the Padua Program in September 2019.

**Erin Kaplan**, specialist for student conduct and community standards, present *Student Conduct Sanctioning: One Size Does Not Fit All* at the Delaware Valley Student Affairs Conference and *Educational Programming at Small Schools* at the annual Association for Student Conduct Administration in Washington, DC, in February 2020.

**Julie D. Lanzillo**, associate professor and program director of sport management and sport business, presented *Engaging Partners and Managing a Large-Scale Research Project* at the North American Society of Sport Management Conference in San Diego, CA.

**Christina M. LaVecchia**, director of writing across the curriculum and assistant professor of English, published *Using shared decision-making tools and patient-clinician conversations about costs* in the Mayo Clinic Proceedings: Innovations, Quality & Outcomes. She also published *Recoveries and reconsiderations: Writing groups as feminist practice* in *Peitho* and the article, *Connecting*, in *The Journal of the Assembly for Expanded Perspectives on Learning*.

**Amy Luckowski**, assistant professor of nursing, published a chapter, *Diagnostic Procedures* in the ebook, *Nursing interventions and clinical skills* in 2020. She also presented the poster, *The Medical Mission Trip: Community Health Course Clinical Option* at the Neumann University Faculty Convivium in October 2019, gave the keynote address for the Delta Pi chapter of Delta Epsilon Sigma National Catholic Honor Society Induction at Neumann University, and received the Lifetime Achievement Award Delta Pi, Delta Epsilon Sigma, National Catholic Honor Society at Neumann University in November 2019.



# Awards *Kudos*

**Sean McDonald**, director of Neumann Media, gave the presentation, *Remote Broadcasting is the New Normal* to the Philadelphia chapter of the Society of Motion Picture and Television Engineers in April 2020.

**Laura McLaughlin**, associate professor of education, published with her husband, *Do we innovate as we believe we do?* in the Journal of Research in Innovative Teaching and Learning in 2020.

**Rebecca Mueller**, assistant professor of nursing, published her dissertation study, *Exploring Family Nurse Practitioners' Practices in Recommending Health Apps to Patients*, in February 2020.

**Je'Nai Righter**, assistant dean of students and director of student engagement and leadership, presented the poster presentation, *The Impact of Trauma on the Leadership of Racial and Ethnic Minority Administrators in Higher Education* at the annual Interdisciplinary Doctor of Education Program for Educational Leaders Conference at St. Joseph's University in March 2020.

**Sr. Linda Sariego, OSF**, associate professor of Spanish, presented the paper *Deceptive truth or truthful deception in Los siete libros de La Diana by Jorge de Montemayor* at the South Atlantic Modern Languages Association Conference (SAML 91) in November 2019. She was also the Chair of Sessions A and B, Spanish I Peninsular: (Renaissance to 1700) at the Southeast Atlantic Modern Languages Association (SAML 91) in November 2019.

**Lisa Selby Silverstein**, professor of physical therapy, published the article *Physical Therapy Management of Congenital Muscular Torticollis: A 2018 Evidence-Based Clinical Practice Guideline* in the APTA Academy of Pediatric Physical Therapy (CPG+). She delivered the lectures *Assessment of Infants with Congenital Muscular Torticollis and/or Cranial Deformation* and *EBP 2020 - Part 1: Current Implementation Strategies for Therapists* at the Combined Sections Meeting of the American Physical Therapy Association in 2020. She also presented *Orthosis Prescription for Children with Cerebral Palsy* at the Medical Mission International Peru in November 2019.

## Operation Reach Out and Touch

Between March 23 and April 6, sixty-five Neumann employees reached out to all undergraduate students in an effort to answer questions and provide guidance during a time of online learning and quarantine.

According to Dr. Larry DiPaolo, vice president for academic affairs, it was University President Dr. Chris Domes who initially raised the issue of concern for students. He sought to maintain "what makes Neumann, Neumann" during a challenging time. The goal was to keep Neumann's uniquely personal approach alive and well, even in the face of COVID-19 concerns. Dr. Domes suggested a simple phone call.

"The purpose of the Reach Out and Touch project is to call every undergraduate student at the university for a simple check in," said DiPaolo. "The goal was to have a representative from the university call each student, see how they are doing and direct them to the multitude of support services NU has to offer during these challenging times."

The one who created the methodology was Melissa Thorpe, assistant vice president for institutional research and effectiveness. She worked tirelessly over a 48-hour period, poring over the data and generating the call list that volunteers from across the university used.

Callers were given a FAQ sheet to guide them through the process. Topics covered included anxiety about online learning, specific class questions, spiritual guidance, registration for fall 2020, mental and physical health issues, library services, tuition payment issues, IT help, and more.

"As students continue to transition to online delivery, they have been making full use of all the support Neumann University has to offer, ranging from the ARC to the Wellness Center to the Library and beyond. They have also been able to experience some new aspects of the online environment, such as Blackboard Collaborate, which allows teachers to connect with their students through face-to-face instruction via their laptop/tablet cameras," DiPaolo explained.

**In total, the volunteers called more than 1,600 undergraduates (about 25 calls each) and were able to check in personally with 627 students.**



# Gifts ANNOUNCEMENT Can Afford

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You can support Neumann University's mission without worrying about the financial impact to you or your family.

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- Life Insurance
- Appreciated Securities
- Real Property
- Tangible Personal Property
- Life Estate
- Business Interests, Closely Held Stock and Partnerships



To learn more about these types of charitable gifts, benefits of making a charitable bequest, and how you can make a strong commitment to help further our mission, please contact Fran Walmsley, Director of Major Gifts & Planned Giving at 610-579-6288 or [walmslef@neumann.edu](mailto:walmslef@neumann.edu)



# Senior Helps Shelter with Legacy Project

When Allyson Nocito '20, a senior in the Educational Studies program, began her internship at Family Promise, a shelter in Chester that supports families staying together, neither Allyson nor Family Promise realized the impact she would have on the shelter.

Allyson began the semester at Family Promise providing after school support and tutoring for the children, who make up about 40% of the shelter's population. She quickly formed a bond with a young boy who was nonverbal and diagnosed with autism. The boy was three years old and like most boys, just wanted to run around and play. Unfortunately, there was no place for him to do so.

One of the requirements of the internship is to create a legacy project. Students use their knowledge and skills to give something back to the place where they intern.

Allyson recognized the need for a space devoted to kids and decided to create an after-school room. "I knew there was a room vacant from when I first got there and took a tour of the shelter." She got the approval of her supervisor to use the space and she got to work.

"I wanted the room to be for everyone," Allyson said. She found resources, furniture, and supplies to create a comfortable location for the kids that would support homework, reading, and just allowing the kids to hang out together.

Allyson solicited donations and received books, decorations, school supplies and even a flat screen TV for the room. "I have a lot of friends and family in education. They really came through."

After completing her project, Family Promise used her pictures and ideas to apply for a grant to get books and other supplies for the room. She helped Family Promise be awarded two grants valuing around \$14,800.00.

Family Promise plans to use the grant money to create three different rooms, a library, a classroom and a hang-out room for older kids. They have asked Allyson for help in designing the rooms.

The Bristol, PA, native was supposed to graduate on May 16 but looks forward to celebrating at a later date. And once the quarantine is over, she plans to head back to Family Promise and put the finishing touches on the room.

"I am so proud of the work she did there," said Jenelle Abnett, assistant professor of Education.

Allyson Nocito '20



One corner of the after-school room that Allyson Nocito created for Family Promise.







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