



# St. Benedict's

## PREPARATORY SCHOOL



**THEN AND NOW**  
Celebrating Our Sesquicentennial Year



SPECIAL 150TH ANNIVERSARY COVERAGE



# THE MOMENT

## Let's Rejoice!

Spirits were high at the Sesquicentennial Kickoff Convocation, held on January 19 in the Dalton Gymnasium, to officially launch the 150th anniversary of St. Benedict's Prep. The moment was historic because it marked the first time 750 students in the Elementary, Middle and Upper Divisions gathered together for Convo.

Approximately 70 alumni returned for the event; many sat in the bleachers with their groups, connecting generations of Gray Bees in song, prayer and celebration. Headmaster Fr. Edwin Leahy, O.S.B. '63, called visiting alumni to the floor to emphasize that the School's many traditions and successes can only endure with love and commitment.

"Our job is to be careful about what's been entrusted to us by those who have gone before us," Fr. Edwin said. "None of our success is possible without the guys who make it happen every day. Everybody who walks through the halls each year has to re-establish it, to make sure that what's been given to us, gets passed on to the next generation."



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## GREETINGS



### Our Historic Year

It's certainly a momentous time for The Hive. The Sesquicentennial Kickoff Convocation launched our 150th anniversary in January. The Interdisciplinary Event in March was an amazing showcase of science, art and music projects connected to the School's history, while *The Play of St. Benedict's*, an original musical production by the Drama Guild, inspired everyone who attended.

These kinds of celebrations seemed unimaginable when St. Benedict's reopened in 1973. Yet, here we are, a K-13 school with three divisions and an enrollment of 750, because people bought into what we were trying to accomplish.

Parents, who had no reason to trust us in 1973, entrusted us with their sons. Gray Bees, from the 70s to today, built the Group System and made sure our traditions got passed down to the next generation. Teachers, monks and coaches, demanded 110% from the kids and themselves. Loyal alumni and friends committed generous support because everything St. Benedict's stands for and everything we do, whether it was 1948 or 2018, works.

Stepping back to allow young people to step forward, works. Tending to the emotional needs of kids in pain, works. Building bridges and community among students of different backgrounds and ethnicities, works. The monks of Newark Abbey are deeply grateful to be of service to our community, to grow with the city and to now be able to serve generations of Gray Bees. With God's grace, St. Benedict's will prosper and thrive for the next 150 years.

Peace,

Fr. Edwin D. Leahy, O.S.B. '63  
Headmaster



**On the cover:** Students gather on the front steps of St. Benedict's Prep in 1921.



**St. Benedict's**  
PREPARATORY SCHOOL

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**SESQUICENTENNIAL  
EVENTS**



**JANUARY 19**  
Sesquicentennial  
Kickoff Convocation

**MARCH 8-11**  
*The Play of*  
*St. Benedict's*  
Drama Guild  
Performance

**MARCH 11**  
Alumni Association  
Communion Breakfast

**APRIL-JUNE**  
Newark Public  
Library Display:  
"Becoming a  
St. Benedict's Man"

**APRIL 19**  
Interdisciplinary  
Projects  
Commemorating  
Our 150 Years

**MAY 10**  
Scholarship Gala

**AUGUST 19**  
Monkfest:  
Celebration of  
150 Years

**OCTOBER**  
Hall of Fame

**DECEMBER**  
Mass of Thanksgiving

## STATE CROWN FOR HOOPSTERS

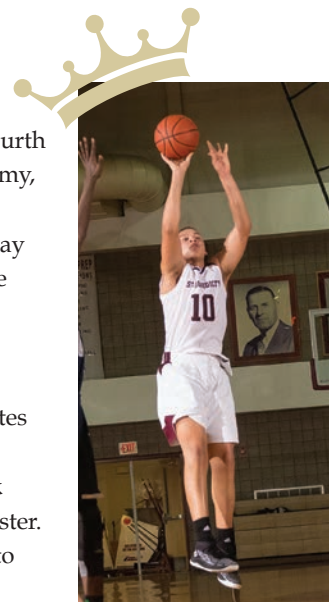
Gray Bee pride filled The Hive in February, when the basketball team clinched its fourth consecutive state crown. Led by C.J. Wilcher '20, St. Benedict's defeated Blair Academy, 59-58, to claim the State Prep A Championship yet again.

C.J. got a rare start in the championship game, pouring in 28 points to lead the Gray Bees to the one-point victory. "This wasn't just about me," C.J. said. "Everyone came together to get this victory. I was just the one who was hot. But these guys had the confidence in me to get me the ball when they did."

Double-teamed all game, Precious Achiuwu '19 dropped in a pair of free throws with 2.4 seconds left to seal the win, and Barra Nijie '20 played some valuable minutes at point guard.

This is the sixth state championship in seven years coaching at The Hive for Mark Taylor, whose team went 28-2 on the season. "I'm very proud of everyone on this roster. This team always has each other's backs. It's a pretty amazing group we have, and to come away with another state title is just icing on the cake."

This season has been a homecoming of sorts for C.J., who re-enrolled at St. Benedict's after a year's hiatus. He first came to The Hive in eighth grade, but transferred out a little over a year later. "I've wanted to come here since I was 9 years old," he recalled. "Leaving was all on me. I needed to get my head on straight and knew what I did was wrong. I'm just glad I was welcomed back."



## CONNECTING IN ISRAEL

Technology meets tourism in a student exchange program St. Benedict's Prep has established with a technical school in Israel. The goal: to build cultural awareness and collaborate on developing a new Uber-style app to connect people with community helpers.

Seeds for the partnership grew from an international soccer tournament hosted at The Hive several years ago. Representatives from St. Benedict's and the Maccabi Haifa Soccer Club discussed an exchange program that would incorporate a STEM project. Connecting via messaging apps, students at the two schools began to shape ideas for a new app matching requests for help with tasks like homework or chores with people offering assistance.

The design team finally met face to face last December, when a contingent of Israeli students visited The Hive to

begin building the app, tentatively called Go Get. In March, St. Benedict's students traveled to Haifa to continue the work. While the technical aspects of the partnership are invaluable, St. Benedict's students also benefit from their immersion into another culture. "It's fascinating for the kids, who start out thinking that people in other parts of the world are a lot different than us," said Glenn Cassidy, Ed.D., '90, Head of the Prep Division/Backpacking. "When they actually meet, they realize, 'Hey, they're just like us.' It breaks down a lot of barriers and makes us global citizens."

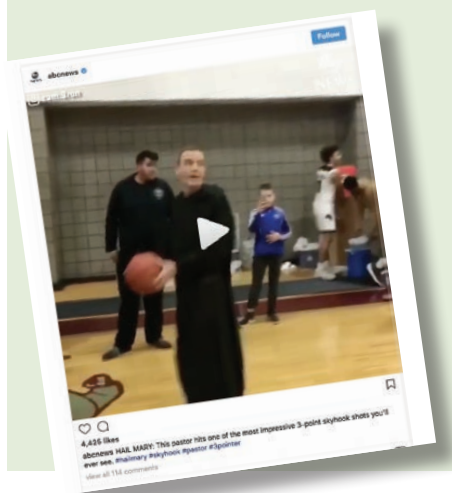
Israel also held some special opportunities to visit sites of religious importance. Dr. Cassidy added, "To be in a place so rich with Jewish and Christian history made this trip very special."





## HOLY HOOK SHOT

It's the Hail Mary seen 'round the world. Video of an impromptu hook shot by Fr. Edwin Leahy, O.S.B. '63, has generated nearly two million views on social media. The Headmaster, who was invited to repeat the feat on the *Fox & Friends* morning news show, took the random shot after a Gray Bee basketball game on February 13. Students Cameron Smith '18 and Kedar Ismel-Muhammad '21 shot and posted the video.



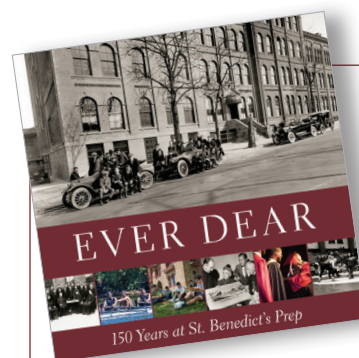
## GAME ON!

Last year, William Adedeji '18 worked hard to raise his grades. His reward: courtside seats to a Nets game at the Barclays Center in Brooklyn. "I never went to an NBA game before," said William, who attended the event with Mike Scanlan H '97, Assistant Headmaster. "It was great."

The second row seats, right behind the visitors' bench, were donated courtesy of Korean businessman Kiwook Kim. Each year, Mr. Kim provides a pair of tickets for 12 home games to recognize St. Benedict's Prep students like William who demonstrate positive behavioral or academic progress.

As a teenager in Canada, Mr. Kim dreamed of attending an NBA game. So, when he moved to New Jersey for work, he purchased a Nets season ticket. A year later, he decided to relocate to Korea, but wanted to give young basketball fans the thrill of seeing a game. Searching for a school with quality sports teams, Mr. Kim found The Hive.

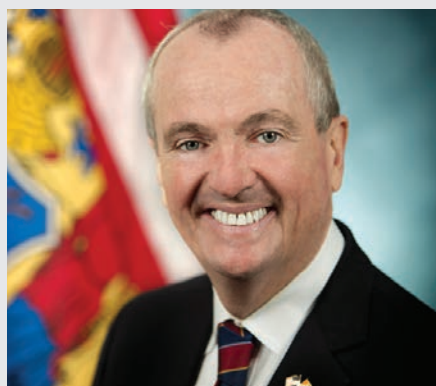
Thanks to his generosity, St. Benedict's students, through the years, have attended games at the Izod Center in East Rutherford, the Prudential Center in Newark and now the Barclays Center, enjoying the best food in the arena and, often, sitting with celebrities. The thanks Mr. Kim receives via email from grateful Gray Bees reinforces his desire to continue giving. "I was one of those kids who would have loved to go to an NBA game," he said. "I'm living through the kids who go to the games because I can't go."



## Order Your Copy Today

Sales are brisk for *Ever Dear: 150 Years at St. Benedict's Prep*, a new book published this year that chronicles the history of The Hive. Compiled by Fr. Augustine J. Curley, O.S.B. '74, Chair of the Religion Department and Archivist for St. Benedict's and Newark Abbey, and Matt Dellaguzzo, this photographic journal traces the growth in prominence of St. Benedict's, from a small school founded to serve German immigrants in 1868 to a national model for urban education today.

*Ever Dear* is already sparking fond memories among St. Benedict's alumni who have received their copies of this heirloom-quality book. At just \$44.95, it's the perfect gift for yourself or the Gray Bee in your life. To purchase your copy, go to [stbenedicts150.PictorialBook.com](http://stbenedicts150.PictorialBook.com)



## Scoop from the Governor

Student journalist Olatunji Adewole '20 scored an exclusive telephone interview with New Jersey Gov. Phil Murphy on February 3. During the interview, held 18 days after the new governor's inauguration, *The Benedict's News* staffer asked Gov. Murphy about education and his vision for the state's future. The pair first met at a freshman basketball game at The Hive, where Gov. Murphy was watching his son's Blair Academy team face the Gray Bees. Several days later, he fielded questions from Olatunji over the phone, calling The Hive "a great character-building school" and adding "(St. Benedict's) is a badge of honor, as well as a point of pride, not just in Newark, but in our state."





# MOMENTS THAT DEFINED OUR LEGACY



The Hive's college prep model is widely recognized for its success. Today, 98% of recent graduates go on to college; 87% graduate or are on track to graduate from college.

## THE EARLY YEARS

**1868**

St. Benedict's College is founded to educate Newark's growing immigrant population. The first recorded students in the German monastery school were a pair of Irish Catholic brothers, John and William McGurk. From the very beginning, St. Benedict's builds brotherhood among different ethnic groups.





# HIGHER ASPIRATIONS

In the beginning, it was St. Benedict's College. The young men who sought an education at 520 High St. in the late 19th and early 20th centuries were enrolled in one of three courses of study: classical, the traditional liberal arts to prepare students for a profession or the priesthood; commercial, more practical coursework for a skilled trade; or preparatory, a track generally geared to younger students who needed preparation before assuming classical or commercial studies.

"Immigrant Catholics and their offspring built institutions to help them remain true to their faith, but also become productive citizens in a new and often strange land," author Thomas A. McCabe, Ph.D., writes in *Miracle on High Street: The Rise, Fall and Resurrection of St. Benedict's Prep in Newark, N.J.* "The founding of St. Benedict's was part of this very American strategy, and between 1868 and 1900 the Benedictines of Newark relied on the Order's two main virtues — stability and adaptability — to successfully establish a 'day college for men.'"

These virtues proved fortuitous time and again. By 1914, St. Benedict's College was St. Benedict's College and Preparatory School, and later St. Benedict's Preparatory School. The adjustments in name reflected

reality. Though it was designated a college, St. Benedict's conferred few higher education degrees and functioned mostly as a Catholic high school. Moreover, Newark was experiencing exponential growth, society was undergoing rapid change and secondary school education expanded at an extraordinary rate.

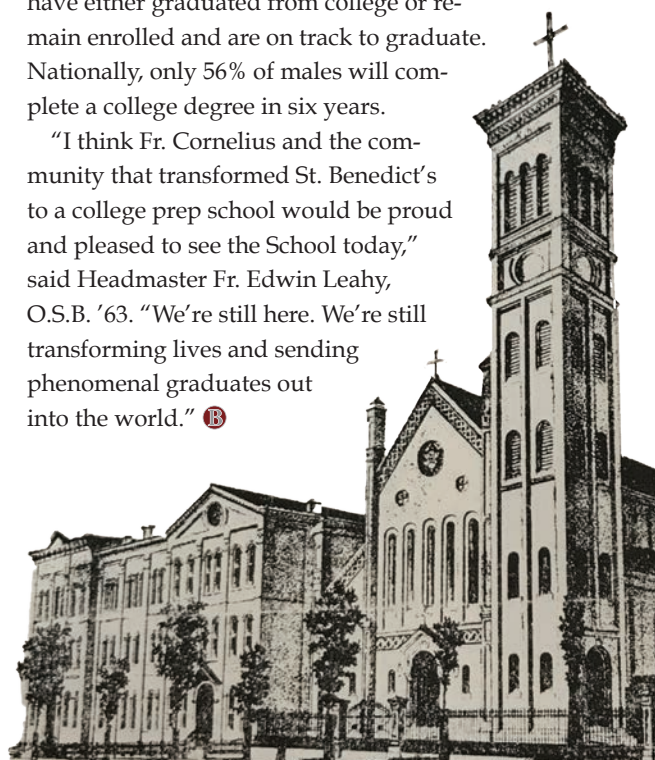
"Adaptability has always been a hallmark of St. Benedict's Prep," said Paul Thornton '63, Director of Planned Giving and Associate Headmaster. "The Benedictine monks recognized there was a need for young men to go on to college with great preparation. To make St. Benedict's stronger or more viable, they needed to make sure that the School would evolve."

Under the guidance of Headmaster Fr. Cornelius Schuber, O.S.B., the transformation to a model Catholic prep school, which stressed intellectual rigor, built modern classrooms, expanded facilities and enhanced athletics, grew the student body from 200 to 700 by 1925. The Benedictine monks continued to adapt the college prep model through two World Wars and the closing and reopening of the School in 1973. The young monks were inexperienced, but highly versatile. "No one had any experience running a school, which

was a blessing," said Fr. Albert Holtz, O.S.B. '60. "The criterion we used was, 'Is it good for the kids?'" That principle rebuilt St. Benedict's and sustained its legacy as a college preparatory school that brought young men from diverse means, backgrounds and ethnicities together.

Today, 98% of St. Benedict's graduates matriculate to college; 87% of recent alumni have either graduated from college or remain enrolled and are on track to graduate. Nationally, only 56% of males will complete a college degree in six years.

"I think Fr. Cornelius and the community that transformed St. Benedict's to a college prep school would be proud and pleased to see the School today," said Headmaster Fr. Edwin Leahy, O.S.B. '63. "We're still here. We're still transforming lives and sending phenomenal graduates out into the world." **B**



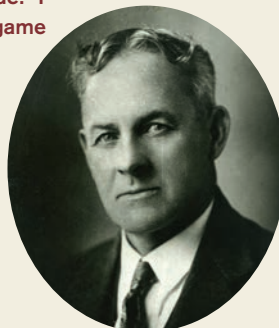
## 1924

St. Benedict's adopts the iconic Gray Bee as its official mascot. Today, more than 5,597 living alumni identify as loyal Gray Bees because of the formative experiences they shared during their days inside The Hive.



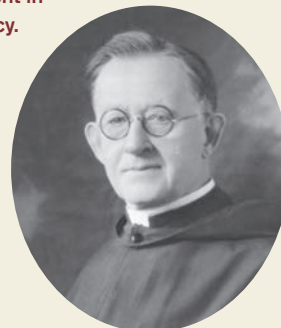
## 1925

Ernest "Prof" Blood becomes basketball coach and teaches physical education. For 24 years, the coach played an instrumental role in shaping robust athletics and sporting excellence. His code: "I train boys for the game of life — not to win basketball games. If I succeed in that, I have accomplished something worthwhile."



## 1929

The Stock Market crashes and America slumps into the Great Depression. Fr. Boniface Reger, O.S.B., Headmaster, made tuition assistance available, so students could remain at St. Benedict's. That moment in history became a legacy. Today, more than 80% of students are awarded financial aid and scholarships; the life-changing education they receive would not be possible without it.





# TRADITION AND PRIDE

In the late 1950s and early 60s, St. Benedict's Prep was at the peak of its influence. As Thomas A. McCabe, Ph.D., points out in *Miracle on High Street: The Rise, Fall and Resurrection of St. Benedict's Prep in Newark, N.J.*, "More than seven hundred students jammed into the school's classrooms and an estimated five hundred qualified applicants were turned away each year for lack of space." Even though migration from Newark to New Jersey's suburbs had been underway for decades, tradition and pride continued to define life inside The Hive.

Gray Bees may have pursued different passions and paths, but the lessons they carried had a great deal in common. "Our teachers and coaches filled a critical role," said Mike Caruso '63, the most decorated wrestler in School history, who went on to become a three-time NCAA champion at Lehigh University. Mr. Caruso still relies on the principles instilled by St. Benedict's and his wrestling coach, John Allen '54: "He didn't teach me wrestling. He taught motivation, perseverance and the belief that 'Benedict's hates a quitter.' The culture he created has lived within me to this day."

Persistence, self-reliance and the fostering of inner motivation permeated every aspect

of the School. The monks and teachers, "had you seize every opportunity you could. You didn't quit, you just continued on," recalled Robert Lahita, M.D., Ph.D., '63, Chairman of the Department of Medicine at St. Joseph's University Medical Center. That ethos was conveyed in the biology lab with Fr. Basil Zusi, O.S.B., where Dr. Lahita first thought about becoming a physician, history class with Jack Dalton '44 and glee club with Fr. Eugene Schwarz, O.S.B.


"The education was incredibly good in retrospect," said Dr. Lahita, a member of the Board of Trustees and author of numerous books on lupus and autoimmune diseases. "It was a rigorous and well-rounded experience. We did everything. That was the foundation for my academic life and future."

Michael Waldron '67 was well aware of St. Benedict's reputation for academics and athletics in 1963, but it was the burgeoning theater program that drew the freshman to The Hive. The standing of the Drama Guild stemmed from two developments, the purpose-built theater in Cawley Hall that was completed in 1959 and the hiring of Frank Torok in 1961.

"Frank was no-nonsense, he wasn't a coddler," is how Mr. Waldron remembers

the Drama Guild director. "You had to be prepared when you auditioned and you had to do well." Everyone understood that Drama Guild was a serious commitment and it showed in the quality of productions from *Guys and Dolls* (1963) to *The Miracle Worker* (1966 summer production), of which one reviewer wrote, "This is not student theater, it is not even high-grade amateur theater — it is professional theater presented with a competence that many off-Broadway audiences would welcome."

Drama Guild members, who included girls from neighboring high schools, also gleaned important life lessons. Mr. Waldron recalled one from *The Music Man*, his first production at St. Benedict's. "Right before the performance started, Frank Tortok gathered the cast together and said, 'Good show, people.' Then he walked out and we realized it's just us. We are the ones responsible for doing the show."

Mr. Caruso, founder of Caruso Benefits Group, Inc., and a recipient of the Medal of St. Benedict's, believes pride, participation and success still shape the Gray Bee experience. "St. Benedict's sets the bar high," he said. "They did it then and they do it now. The kids are learning the same lessons." 

## GROWTH AND CHANGE

1930



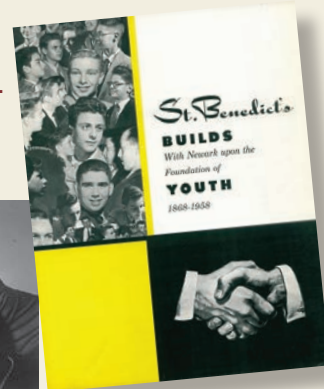
Joe Kasberger arrives at St. Benedict's Prep, and for the next 38 years, teaches Gray Bees how to win with integrity. An English teacher, football and baseball coach, Joe K may be famous for his record (200 wins in football, 593 in baseball), but is best remembered for the way he motivated student-athletes and

for coining the School motto, "Benedict's hates a quitter."

"He absolutely brought out the best in you," said Frank Cosentino '62, who went on to play football for the United States Military Academy. "You felt you had to perform. Slowly, you learned you weren't just doing it for him or for Benedict's. You were doing it for yourself because you could."

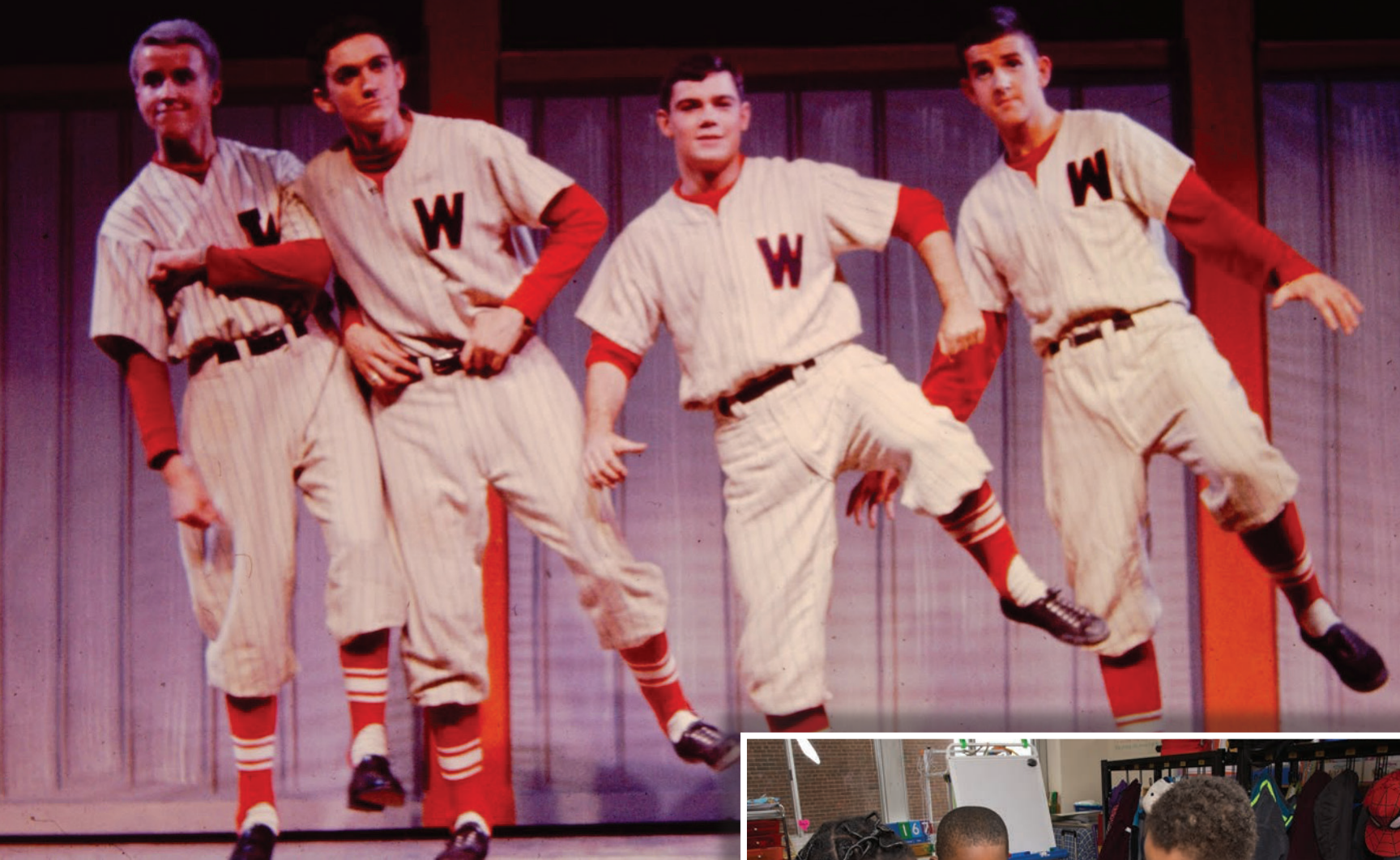
1958

90 years after its founding, St. Benedict's announces the campaign for a new building, known today as Cawley Hall. The capital project, completed in 1959, was a sign of the School's commitment to Newark and the enhancement of the arts program.





“St. Benedict’s sets the bar high. They did it then and they do it now.”



Left to right: Bob Lahita '63, Gary Hamway '64, Paul Ahr '62 and Gerry Hahn '63 in *Damn Yankees* on the Conlin stage in 1962.

#### 1967

Newark's shrinking economy, unemployment and social unrest come to a head when an African-American cab driver was beaten and arrested by the police on July 12. The event incited rioting, looting and vandalism over the next six days; the National Guard and State Police occupy Newark for four days. The riots claimed 26 lives, injured hundreds and left the city broken. While Newark Abbey was relatively untouched by the violence, the School's enrollment suffered.

#### 1968

The 100th anniversary of St. Benedict's Prep. Nearly one year after the Newark riots in 1967, Abbot Martin Burne, O.S.B., urged the monks of Newark to stay in the city and provide education for those who need it most.



St. Benedict's Prep today enrolls approximately 750 students, which encompasses girls and boys in the Elementary Division (Grades K-6), Middle Division (Grades 7-8 Male, Grades 7-8 Female) and Prep Division (Grades 9-13 Male).



# THE LONGEST, SLOWEST DAY

Peter T. Wilderotter '72 still remembers how a classmate described the devastating news to the local press: "It was the longest, slowest day of our lives." In February 1972, newspapers reported what Gray Bees learned in an all-school meeting a few days before. After 104 years of transforming kids into responsible men, St. Benedict's Prep would close its doors in June.

"It was just shocking," recalled Mr. Wilderotter '72, whose father, Arthur '36 and brother, James '62, attended St. Benedict's. "That day was an out-of-body experience for many of us. There was just this profound sense of loss."

At the time, Mr. Wilderotter and his classmates were unaware of the deep divide within the monastic community among monks who wanted to remain and serve the city of Newark and monks who thought the School should move or cease operation. "We believed what we were told, that enrollment was down," Mr. Wilderotter said. "When I learned about the struggles within the monastery later on, the decision made a bit more sense."

Fr. Augustine Curley, O.S.B. '74 was in the middle of sophomore year when the announcement was made. "It was unreal," he remembered. "The big question was, 'where

are you going to go?' (Underclassmen) had to finish the year and make a plan for next year."

By the time the semester ended, walls had been stripped and classrooms emptied of supplies. Graduation that year was bitter-sweet. Tears and heartache certainly, but Mr. Wilderotter also remembered a moving commencement. Being present for the Sesquicentennial Kickoff Convocation on January 19 held special significance, since the Class of 1972 started St. Benedict's during its centennial year. "To see the 150th year after what we went through really is a miracle," Mr. Wilderotter said. "And the magic of coming back is that the School is not that different. We had a say in the School; we changed the dress code. There's always been the feeling that kids at St. Benedict's were old enough to take on responsibility. Students today want to show you the School, they want to network with you. They want to hear the stories. There's a great sense of pride. You can't leave this Convocation without feeling hope and inspiration."

## GOD HAS ANOTHER PLAN

By October 1972, the community of 15 monks who remained at Newark Abbey decided they would reopen a high school the follow-

ing fall. The initial vision was a 120-student school and a non-traditional approach to secondary education. One of the proposed names was St. Benedict's School, but as Headmaster Fr. Edwin Leahy, O.S.B. '63 tells it, "God had another plan."

The mostly African-American parent body had questions. At a meeting, Carl Lamb, Sr., father of Carl Lamb '78, asked the Headmaster, "If it was good enough to be called St. Benedict's Prep when it was all of you, why isn't it good enough to be called St. Benedict's Prep now that it's all of us?"

"I had no answer," recalled Fr. Edwin. "Except to say, St. Benedict's Prep will be open tomorrow." The fateful encounter shaped the way the monks ran the re-established St. Benedict's. "What we learned from that was the best way for us to be of service was to take the cotton out of our ears and stick it in our mouths," Fr. Edwin continued. "Parents trusted us and then taught us how we might be of service, first to the African-American community and then the Latino community."

God's plan sparked tremendous growth over the next 45 years. The first Convocation in 1973 included 96 kids in Grades 9-11. Seven-hundred-fifty students in Grades K-12 gathered for the Sesquicentennial Kickoff Convocation on January 19. 

## STARTING OVER

1968

Amidst the upheaval and change in Newark, the Vatican granted the Benedictine monks in Newark independence from St. Mary's Abbey in 1968. Frs. Casimir Finley, O.S.B., Benedict Tyler, O.S.B. '44, Theodore Howarth, O.S.B. '41 and Boniface Treanor, O.S.B. '47 became the founding monks of Newark Abbey and were later dubbed "The Four Pillars." Their commitment to the Benedictine vow of stability was a critical source of inspiration when St. Benedict's Prep closed four years later. The example of The Four Pillars was instrumental to helping the monastic community find a way to continue to be of service to people in Newark.

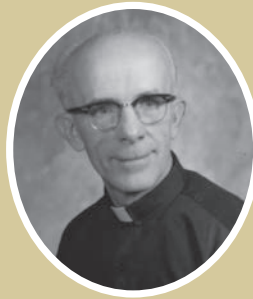
## The Four Pillars



Fr. Casimir Finley, O.S.B.



Fr. Benedict Tyler,  
O.S.B. '44



Fr. Theodore Howarth,  
O.S.B. '41



Fr. Boniface Treanor,  
O.S.B. '47

**"These guys wanted no part in leaving this place. They were the connection to what had been and what St. Benedict's could be." – Fr. Philip Waters, O.S.B. '63**





convo-  
cation

day 1

2 july 1973

st. benedict's

“To see the 150th year after what we went through really is a miracle.”

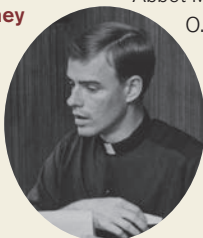


#### 1972-1973

Starting over required new leadership. In November 1972, the monks of Newark Abbey elected Fr. Edwin Leahy, O.S.B. '63 Headmaster of the school they planned to open. The following year, they elected Abbot Melvin Valvano, O.S.B. '56 their spiritual leader. Both priests have served in these leadership positions for a combined 91 years.



Abbot Melvin Valvano,  
O.S.B. '56



Fr. Edwin Leahy,  
O.S.B. '63

#### 1973

The beginning of Summer Phase of 1973 marked the return of St. Benedict's Prep. Day 1 (and the thousands that followed) began with Convocation, the daily meeting during which kids, faculty and staff gather as a community to pray, sing and truly be present with one another. "Convo," as it is affectionately known, has been described as the most important thing St. Benedict's does to build community, camaraderie and leadership.



After Convocation was featured in a *60 Minutes* segment that aired in 2016, schools and communities throughout the U.S. have looked to The Vox Institute at St. Benedict's for innovative practices on student leadership.



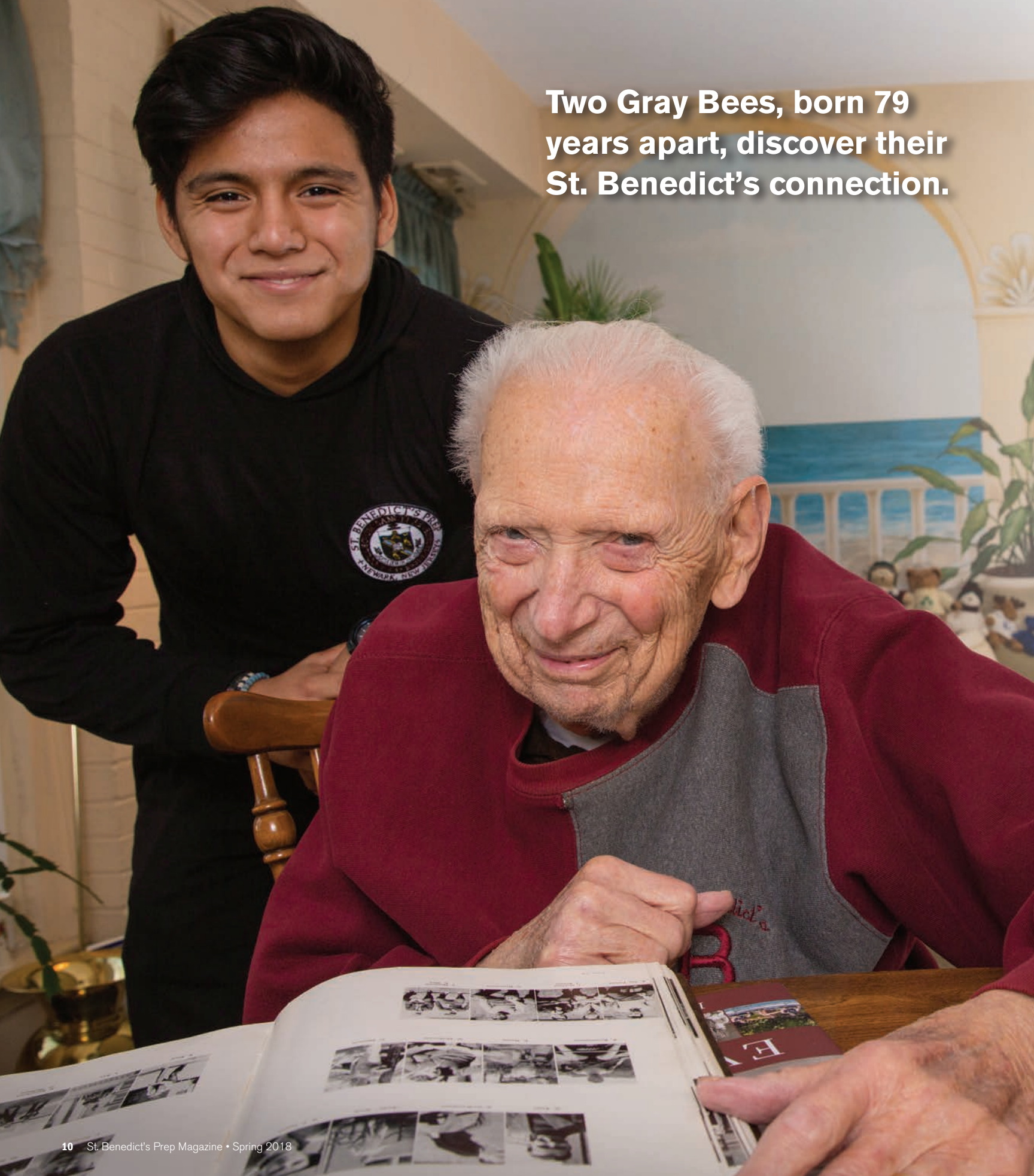
The 150-year story of St. Benedict's continues in the **SUMMER EDITION** of this magazine.



## AFTERCLASS

ED BIEN '39 AND JERRY MIRAVAL '18

**Two Gray Bees, born 79 years apart, discover their St. Benedict's connection.**





After Class brought the past and present of St. Benedict's Prep together following the kickoff of the Sesquicentennial. Edward Bien '39 is St. Benedict's oldest, most active alumnus. A retired businessman and former mayor of New Providence, N.J., his loyalty is recognized each year at the Senior Alumni Luncheon at the Breakers in Spring Lake, N.J.

Jerry Miraval '18 is Freshman Leader, the guy responsible for overseeing 18 Freshman Counselors and ensuring that every freshman makes it from the Overnight to The Trail. A member of the National Honor Society and varsity rower, he plans to study biology or chemistry in college. The two Gray Bees discussed their lives inside The Hive and how St. Benedict's has evolved and remains the same.

### **Born 79 years apart, both men started their lives in Newark.**

Mr. Bien was born at home on a former section of Belmont Avenue; his family moved to Irvington when he was 4. Jerry was born at Columbus Hospital and his family moved to Bloomfield. Both are the youngest in large families. Jerry has four older siblings. "I'm one of eight," said Mr. Bien, though he is 10 minutes older than his twin sister.

### **The Bien and Miraval families wanted something better for their sons.**

Mr. Bien was valedictorian at his Catholic grammar school in Newark. "I was signed up to go to Irvington Vocational," he recalled. "I remember at the supper table, my mom and sister saying, 'You deserve something better than vocational school.' The tuition at the time was \$180. People today might hear that and say, 'What?' But this was 1935, in the middle of the Depression. A hundred bucks was a lot of money."

After graduating from St. Francis Xavier School in Newark, Jerry thought he was headed to Bloomfield High School. "That was the plan," he said. "I was away when everyone was applying to Catholic schools. But my mom didn't want that for me and our pastor sent us to St. Benedict's."

### **History has a way of connecting Gray Bees.**

Looking through the 1939 *Telelog* they discovered shared connections. Jerry is in the Fr. Timothy Dwyer, O.S.B. Group, which he is proud to say finished in the top five among groups the last four years. "We get along really well," he said. "We trust each other and help each other out." Mr. Bien has fond memories of Fr. Timothy, who taught sophomore English when he was a student. "He

was great," he recalled. "If you were a deadbeat, he would make you stay after class."


"I am really glad I'm in that Group," Jerry added, noting that he has very strong relationships with the group's faculty advisors, Michelle Tuorto H '16 and David Rodriguez '96.

Mr. Bien, too, was greatly influenced by faculty and coaches, particularly Director of Athletics Joe Kasberger. "He never let anyone get a big head," said Mr. Bien, who managed the varsity football team. The discipline he instilled got the alumnus through some of the most challenging circumstances after St. Benedict's, including serving in the U.S. Marines during World War II. "I had a lot of respect for Kasberger. He was very demanding, you had to be where you were supposed to be and ready. He taught me a lot." The legacy of Joe K lives on in the group that bears his name. "The Joe Kasberger Group made the biggest comeback the last few years," Jerry said. "Current and previous Group Leaders worked very hard to improve their group."

**Camaraderie is everything to Gray Bees.** "I am very glad to see the 150th anniversary," said Mr. Bien. "When St. Benedict's closed in 1972, it really hurt. People don't understand why I have more feelings for St. Benedict's than I did for Rutgers. I went to night school. Ten years to get my bachelor's and master's. You just didn't get the same camaraderie with the guys."

Jerry said he didn't buy into the School motto, "Whatever hurts my brother hurts me," right away. "I wasn't the best kid and I wasn't the worst during the Overnight, and I definitely gave some attitude," he recalled. Things clicked during Summer Phase. When he was cut from the soccer team, Freshman Counselor Tristan Farinhas '16 stepped in. "He could have been like, 'whatever,' when I told him I was cut. Instead, he brought me to the crew boathouse and showed me everything. I realized right then that there were a lot of people at Benedict's who cared about me."

**Pride in St. Benedict's runs deep.** Mr. Bien invited Headmaster Fr. Edwin D. Leahy, O.S.B. '63 to speak to the Rotary Spring Lake-Brielle earlier this year. After he introduced Fr. Edwin, the alumnus belted out the Benedict's anthem, "Boola! Boola!" "The guys looked at me like I was nuts," he laughed.

Jerry smiled. "I'm glad to tell you that kids still sing it," he said. "When they come in for the Overnight and the rest of the summer, they're learning 'Boola! Boola!' and all of the songs and traditions of the School." He added that the alumni who turned out for the 150th anniversary Convocation instilled an even greater sense of pride among today's Gray Bees. "Seeing all the alumni there really opened the eyes of freshmen. They can see what we do is real," Jerry said. "It's not just learning history, it's being a part of history." 





# Inspiring Thought and Art

With the Sesquicentennial as a backdrop, this year's Interdisciplinary Projects — an academic hallmark at St. Benedict's Prep — provided meaningful connections between Gray Bees of the past and today's students. The culminating event will showcase research-based projects in art, music and science, all sparked by The Hive's rich history.

## THE PLAY'S THE THING

The School's 150th anniversary inspired *The Play of St. Benedict's*, an original musical presented by the Drama Guild from March 8 through 11. The production's roots date back to a Spring Phase course one decade ago, taught by Drama Guild Director Patricia Flynn H '95. Students developed a play about the history of St. Benedict's Prep based upon the dissertation by former St. Benedict's teacher and administrator Thomas A. McCabe, Ph.D., who went on to publish the 2011 book *Miracle on High Street*. The play caught on and was used for many years as a vehicle to introduce beginners to the history and traditions of St. Benedict's.

Fast forward to 2017, the eve of the School's Sesquicentennial. During a Summer Phase playwriting class, students revisited and

built upon the project, adapting another original student work penned to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the School's rebirth. Gray Bees crafted the script, revising throughout the fall and winter. "The fun part for our students was that, unlike other plays, they were invited to provide input on lines, with the exception of direct quotations from historical figures," explained Ms. Flynn. "The process was very much improvisational in style and kids found that it was exciting to be co-creators."

Gray Bees from different generations made important contributions, as well. Jeff Izzo '75, an entertainment attorney and Assistant Professor and Chair of Music Industry Studies at California State University, Northridge, composed the score, including the show-stopping number, "Deans of

Discipline." Drama Guild alumnus Michael Waldron '67, who directed theater programs when the School reopened in 1973, served as a consultant, and math teacher Gabe Drouet '10, one of the authors of the first history play, had the role of Headmaster Fr. Edwin Leahy, O.S.B. '63.

The monks of Newark Abbey also got into the act. Frs. Augustine Curley, O.S.B. '74, Maximilian Buonocore, O.S.B. H '15, Luke Anthony Edelen, O.S.B. '68 and Br. Simon-Peter Clayton, O.S.B. '08 volunteered to portray the monks who shepherded St. Benedict's in its early days, and Fr. Albert Holtz, O.S.B. '60 played himself. "These men, who have staked their lives in St. Benedict's, took the stage to play their predecessors," Ms. Flynn said. "It enriched the production substantially."



## HISTORY INTEGRATED WITH CURRICULUM

St. Benedict's history and the early years of its founding became rich source material for a number of academic disciplines. Throughout the year, the instrumental ensembles learned musical numbers written or composed by St. Benedict's alumni and musical artists with a special connection to the School. During Summer Phase, the Pep Band worked on arrangements and later performed an arrangement of theme music composed by Bernard Hoffer '53 (see Alumni in the Arts, page 14) for *ThunderCats* and *SilverHawks*, two 1980s animated series. Director of Music Jeremy Fletcher, D.M.A., said it was a perfect opportunity to connect students with alumni and the musical legacy of the School.

Chemistry students used the 150th anniversary to research and prepare poster presentations on discoveries that occurred in chemistry from 1868 to the present. "Teenagers have a difficult time understanding what 150 years is like," said Science Department Chair Dennis Lansang, M.D. "This project sparked a deeper connection with the 150-year history of St. Benedict's because the students could see how many discoveries in chemistry have occurred since that time. The connection was more toward understanding how 'old' this school is."

## ART IMITATES LIFE

Like their counterparts in music and on the stage, art students at The Hive used the Sesquicentennial as the creative spark that informed their own original works. There

were a myriad of projects. Each one began with an examination of history through the lens of relevant groups, ranging from the early monks of Benedict's, Irish and German immigrants who flocked to Newark in the School's early days and African-American young men.

Historical events, such as the aftermath of the Civil War, racial tensions and the School's rebirth, served as a springboard for students to explore their own place in St. Benedict's history through art. "These historical events were a source of artistic expression for students," explained Art Department Chair Pamela Wye-Hunsinger H '18. "We would peruse the archives and then work from there filling in possible details. It opened up room for the imagination to blossom."

The archives, in particular, captivated the students. Working with Fr. Augustine, kids pored through yearbooks, documents, photos and maps to explore St. Benedict's lore, from local industry that was part of the original grounds, to Gray Bees who served in wartime and even the growth of the School. Old photographs of Shanley Gymnasium, which was built in 1919, inspired one student who is also a member of the basketball team. The project became an individual mural that envisions the early days of Gray Bee basketball.


All of the artwork at the Interdisciplinary Event speaks to the concrete connections students have drawn from those who came before them. Prep Division students created graphic novels based upon historical events. Freshmen learned how to apply and customize the portrait formula using 19th century formal "gentlemen's portraits"



As part of the Interdisciplinary Projects, students created elaborate banners highlighting verses of the School's *Alma Mater*.

and photographs of World War II veterans. They also adapted the hexagonal shape of the School's iconic beehive into faux stained glass artwork.

Advanced art students created individual murals of the namesakes of St. Benedict's groups and National Art Honor Society students used pastels

to highlight some important figures in School history. "They were completely mesmerized," Ms. Wye-Hunsinger said of her students. "There's a sense of belonging to this historical, much older place." 



## Becoming a St. Benedict's Man

An exhibition of photographs, documents and artifacts from the founding of the School until the present day will appear in the Newark Public Library. Fr. Augustine J. Curley, O.S.B. '74, Chair of the Religion Department and Archivist for St. Benedict's and Newark Abbey, and Matthew Dellaguzzo, a graduate student in the museum management program at Seton Hall University, curated the exhibit.

For further information, visit <http://npl.org/programs-exhibits/current-exhibits/>

The school uniform has always been an important element of St. Benedict's Prep. Much like the hoodies our students wear today, this "beanie" cap on view at The Newark Public Library helped unite students of different backgrounds around a common school identity.



# FOSTERING THE ARTS IS A BENEDICTINE TRADITION



Nearly every day, you can find Liam Murphy Torres '18 in the art studio, drawing, painting and working on independent projects. Liam will attend art school next year, and like so many artistic and creative Gray Bees who came before him, has always found the space and support to pursue art at St. Benedict's Prep.

Alexander Elias '89 also had his own desk in the art studio, where he spent nearly every free period senior year. It was just outside the office of Fr. Maynard Nagengast, O.S.B. H '94, St. Benedict's beloved art teacher, who retired after the 2008–2009 academic year. Mr. Elias, a successful architect with his own practice in South Orange, N.J., may have learned the rudiments of technical drawing and architecture from Fr. Maynard, but he also received the freedom to explore and hone his talent. "He would let me run with whatever interested me," Mr. Elias recalled. "Fr. Maynard saw in me what I wanted and kept pointing me in the right direction. He's an artist, he understands what creative kids need."

## FIRST THE NECESSARY, THEN THE BEAUTIFUL

Benedictine tradition has always promoted the study and practice of the arts. Fr. Boniface Wimmer, O.S.B., founder of the first monastery and school in the U.S., famously said, "I will not spare expense to teach the students first the necessary, then the useful and finally the beautiful things, as long as they contribute for their refinement."

In Newark, the Benedictine monks embraced the principle. Fr. Bonaventure Ostendarp, O.S.B. taught drawing and painting at St. Benedict's before founding the Studio of Christian Art at Saint Anselm College in 1893. The Studio was operated remotely by St. Mary's Abbey in Newark, and created works for churches, institutions and private patrons; several of Fr. Bonaventure's murals and paintings can be found on the grounds of the School.

During the 20th Century, Fr. Eugene Schwarz, O.S.B., who developed a robust music program at St. Benedict's, Fr. Maynard, who guided fine arts, and Fr. Luke Moosberger, O.S.B., an artist and

## ALUMNI IN THE ARTS



### Bernard Hoffer '53

*Composer and conductor*

Bernard Hoffer '53 is best known for his work on American cartoons such as *ThunderCats* and *SilverHawks*.

A prolific composer and Emmy nominee, Mr. Hoffer penned music that can be heard regularly on *The NewsHour with Jim Lehrer*. The St. Benedict's Prep Pep Band recently celebrated Mr. Hoffer's Gray Bee legacy with an arrangement of *ThunderCats* and *SilverHawks* theme music.



### Gilbert M. Gaul '69

*Journalist and author*

A veteran investigative journalist, Gilbert M. Gaul '69 is the recipient of two Pulitzer Prizes. He has reported for *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, *The New York Times* and *The Washington Post* and was the recipient of a Nieman Fellowship at Harvard University. Mr. Gaul is the author of three books. His most recent, *Billion Dollar Ball: A Journey Through the Big Money Culture of College Football*, was published in 2016.



member of the community, took up the mantle for the arts. Fr. Eugene played a significant role in the development of the Drama Guild. When the plans for Conlin Auditorium were being drawn in the late 1950s, the Music Director insisted it be a working theater, which provided the foundation for decades of outstanding productions.

By the time St. Benedict's closed in 1972, the well of artistic inspiration had diminished. Fr. Luke passed away. Fr. Eugene was in the early stages of multiple sclerosis and moved to St. Mary's Abbey in Morristown to lessen the burden on the Newark Abbey community. Fr. Maynard was living in a monastery in the Bahamas. The monks of Newark Abbey wrote Fr. Maynard to inform him they were starting a school and asked if he would like to teach art. "We were so delighted when he said yes," said Fr. Albert Holtz, O.S.B. '60, noting that it was Fr. Maynard who kept fine arts alive when St. Benedict's reopened in 1973. "Maynard was also an important bridge because we didn't have any administrators from the previous era. The younger monks appreciated having someone around who knew what he was doing. His presence as an art teacher was a real boon to us."

## ARTS REVIVAL

Gradually, the arts were revived at The Hive. "As the School grew up enough and we had the money, arts began to rebuild and expand," Fr. Albert explained. Formal music instruction began, theater programs were offered during Summer Phase and the Drama Guild was rejuvenated. Engaging, interdisciplinary courses in music, drama and the visual arts were introduced for Spring Phase. More recently, Advanced Art and Jazz Band became part of Project Acceleration, a program in conjunction with Seton Hall University that awards Prep Division students college credit for approved coursework.

"We've been very fortunate," said Fr. Albert, who describes the Arts at 150 at St. Benedict's as "truly alive and vibrant," because every student is exposed to a rich array of the arts and kids who want to pursue art, theater and music have a creative outlet and support to do so.

Liam, in fact, recently finished a significant piece he'd been working on for some time, an oil portrait of Fr. Maynard. "It was an honor," said Liam, who painted Fr. Maynard's portrait from a photograph. "It's portraying someone who is an artist." **B**



Fr. Maynard Nagengast, O.S.B. H '94 painting at St. Benedict's Prep.

## SURROUNDED BY ART

Art is everywhere at St. Benedict's by design. An extensive collection of sacred art, religious portraits and landscapes fills the walls. Bronze sculptures cast from the original molds by Frederic Remington sit in the Radel Library for all to admire and an eclectic collection of African sculpture and carvings have a home inside St. Mary's Church and hallways throughout the School. It's part of the hidden curriculum, according to Fr. Albert Holtz, O.S.B. '60. "Kids need to be surrounded by beautiful things," he said. "It's part of teaching them that your aspirations need to include beauty and culture."



### Vincenzo Scalera '71

#### Opera Accompanist

A world-renowned opera accompanist, Vincenzo Scalera '71 has accompanied a host of celebrated vocalists, including tenor Andrea Bocelli. He has also participated in many important music festivals around the world. A graduate of the Manhattan School of Music, Mr. Scalera is an Instructor at Accademia Teatro alla Scala in Milan, Italy.



### Garry Dial '72

#### Pianist, composer, producer, teacher

Through the years, pianist Garry Dial '72 has performed in New York City and around the world with jazz greats including Red Rodney, Dick Oatts, Dizzy Gillespie, Gerry Mulligan and Hilary Kole, among many others. A faculty member at the Manhattan School of Music and the New School for Social Research, Mr. Dial has counted among his students well-known performers including Bette Midler, Mary J. Blige, Bernie Williams and Ben Stiller.





# Practicing Their ART

Jeremy Fletcher, D.M.A., Patricia Flynn H '95 and Pamela Wye-Hunsinger H '18.

Hundreds of Gray Bees know Director of Music Jeremy Fletcher, D.M.A., Drama Guild Director Patricia Flynn H '95 and Art Department Chair Pamela Wye-Hunsinger H '18 as dedicated and inspiring teachers of the arts. But the veteran faculty members are also influential artists who are making an impressive mark in their respective fields of music, theater and the visual arts.

## REIMAGINING A BROADWAY CLASSIC

When he is not leading Pep Band, Jazz Band, Drumline or conducting instrumental music lessons at The Hive, Dr. Fletcher composes and arranges music for Bobby Sanabria, the Grammy-nominated percussionist and conductor of Multiverse Big Band.

The collaboration began when Dr. Fletcher was a graduate student at Manhattan School of Music and continues to this day. He arranged songs for "Big Band Urban Folktales," "Multiverse" and the forthcoming album, "West Side Story Reimagined," a Latin jazz re-envisioning of Leonard Bernstein's classic *West Side Story*. "The broader context for redoing *West Side Story* is to tell it from a Latin perspective," said Dr. Fletcher, who contributed arrangements for five of the 13 songs on the soundtrack, including "Gee, Officer Krupke," "One Hand, One Heart" and "Somewhere."

The Afro-Cuban Jazz Orchestra at Manhattan School of Music debuted the new treatment of Bernstein's masterwork in February 2017, which coincided with the 60th anniversary of the stage musical.



### Jonathan Capehart '85

*Journalist, television personality, radio host*  
A few years after he graduated from Carleton College, Jonathan Capehart '85 became the youngest member of *The New York Daily News* editorial board. The editorial team received a Pulitzer Prize in 1999, and Mr. Capehart went on to become a member of *The Washington Post* editorial board, contributor to the *PostPartisan* blog, host of the *Cape UP* podcast and MSNBC contributor. He can also be heard on *Midday*, a weekday program produced by WNYC.



### Kevin O'Connor '86

*Television personality, host of PBS series This Old House*  
In 2003, Kevin O'Connor '86 became the third host in the history of the long-running PBS series *This Old House*. Nominated for an Emmy Award in his debut season, Mr. O'Connor also appears on *Ask This Old House* and has hosted shows for the DIY network and The History Channel's H2. His first book, *The Best Homes from This Old House*, was published in 2011.



The project found a larger audience when the Bobby Sanabria Multiverse Big Band performed “West Side Story Reimagined” for three nights last November at Dizzy’s Club Coca-Cola, Jazz at Lincoln Center. A group of St. Benedict’s students attended one of the performances and a live recording will be released later this year in celebration of the Leonard Bernstein centennial.

Future performances, including an outdoor concert in August at Lincoln Center, are also in the works. “It’s been a long process and the arrangements went through a lot of stages,” said Dr. Fletcher. “I’m very pleased with how it’s developed.” For his next project, Dr. Fletcher is reimagining the theme music for two animated series, *Jonny Quest* and *The Jetsons*, for a big band version of 1960s film and television music.

### WRITING A NEW THEATER CURRICULUM

When she was an undergraduate at Albertus Magnus College in New Haven, Conn., Ms. Flynn was in “theater heaven” because the city is home to Yale Repertory, Shubert and Long Wharf theaters. Her passion and talent took her to Catholic University in Washington D.C., where she earned an M.F.A., and a long career in the professional theater. Ms. Flynn has toured the country as an actress (playing the nurse in *Romeo and Juliet* and Guinevere in *Camelot* were two of her favorite roles) and also stage-managed productions off-Broadway, regionally and in London’s West End.

“I love acting, but when you audition for a show, you don’t control anything,” said Ms. Flynn. Stage production allowed greater flexibility, so she could work in theater and commit to teaching. “You can’t walk out on kids,” she said. “If a professional theater opportunity conflicted with St. Benedict’s, I wouldn’t do it.”

The Drama Guild Director’s connection to The Hive predates her theater career; as a student at Lacordaire Academy in Montclair, Ms. Flynn performed in many St. Benedict’s productions. When the School reopened in 1973, Fr. Albert Holtz, O.S.B. ’60 extended an invitation to teach an acting class while she was on summer break from college. Ms. Flynn returned to the School in 1983 and revived


the Drama Guild in 1986.

These days, Ms. Flynn is a teaching artist with Young Audiences New Jersey & Eastern Pennsylvania, which is part of the national arts education organization, Young Audiences Arts for Learning. She is currently in the third year of a residency with the Sussex Avenue Renew School in Newark, co-authoring a theater curriculum financed by the Dodge Foundation. She has also joined other teacher-artists to pilot a new certificate program at Teachers College, Columbia University. “It’s been very rewarding,” she said. “We’re in on the experiment for developing credentials for teaching artists in schools. I love it. It’s so stimulating.”

### FROM FINE ART TO GRAPHIC NOVELS

St. Benedict’s students know her as Mrs. “Y,” but outside of school, artist Pam Wye is making her mark in graphic novels. “Image and text have always been an important part of my work,” she said. In her years preceding *The Hive*, Ms. Wye-Hunsinger, who holds a B.F.A. from Syracuse University and M.F.A. from Vermont College of Fine Arts, showed work in galleries and museums; her paintings drew notice because they told a story. The artist’s process evolved over the years, and today she is primarily focused on graphic novels and stories.

“Water I’ve Loved” is a graphic memoir by Ms. Wye-Hunsinger serialized in *MUTHA* magazine, an online publication that explores motherhood at every stage of life. The stories are personal. In “Water I’ve Loved: Cape Cod,” the artist examines her relationship with her bipolar mother through the lens of a family vacation. Another story shares memories of bringing children to the local pool as youngsters and mixed feelings about them growing up and leaving home.

The 150th anniversary of St. Benedict’s is also a source of inspiration. Currently, Ms. Wye-Hunsinger is developing a 30-panel graphic novel on the topic, which she describes as “a slice of the St. Benedict’s story, situated in the larger story of the School.” “I’m excited,” she added. “Since I’ve been here for 15 years, my job has been to get creative outlets for the students. Now, I get to use this place as a creative outlet.” 



**A.J. Calloway '93**  
*Television personality, correspondent, co-host of Extra*  
The original host of the number one BET music countdown show, *106 & Park*, A.J. Calloway is the New York correspondent and co-host for *Extra*, the entertainment news program. Mr. Calloway and his *Extra* colleagues garnered Emmy awards in 2014 and 2016 for Outstanding Entertainment News Program.



**Cameron Jones '06**  
*Singer and actor*  
A bass-baritone, Cameron Bernard Jones '06 has appeared in stage productions across the United States, Denmark and Austria, as well as a European tour of *Porgy & Bess*. He made his United Kingdom stage debut in Cole Porter's *Out of This World* and is currently performing in the West End production of *Motown: The Musical*.





# Ties That Bind

**Meet three non-alumni who have developed strong ties with The Hive and a deep commitment to helping Gray Bees envision a bright future.**

Doan Scholars, front row, left to right: Julian Tapia '20, Seun Eisape '20, Jonathan Dulce '20, Dario Guzman '20 and Chrisley Alexis '20. Back row, left to right: Sean Sanchez '20, Richard Ohia '20, Ibrahim Stradford '20, Jahari Mitchell '20 and Brandon Rivas '20.

## THE RIGHT THING TO DO

William Doan has always found it upsetting that inner city youth face such a struggle getting ahead. His heart told him they needed access to a safe home life, three meals a day and someone who cares 24/7. But, how could he help? The answer came when the Doylestown, Pa., resident saw a *60 Minutes* story on St. Benedict's Prep. He told himself, "Oh my goodness, it's monks. We need more monks."

Soon after, Mr. Doan made an appointment to visit the School. An Eagle Scout and former Marine, he was drawn to the emphasis on discipline, as well as opportunities for students to camp and hike on The Trail. Mr. Doan was also impressed with the students he met, and the opportunity for students to live at Leahy House. He decided to pledge the funding of 12 scholarships.

"It's the right thing to do," explained Mr. Doan, retired President and Chief Executive Officer of SICOM, a technology firm he founded to serve fast casual and quick service restaurants. "To me, it's an absolute crime as Americans that we can just sit back and not take care of our kids."

In addition to the scholarships, Mr. Doan — a musician and pilot — has inquired about helping to expand the School's instrumental music program and institute a ground school to teach the principles of flight. Talented students could also receive flying lessons, opening the door to careers in aviation.

Last fall, Mr. Doan had the chance to visit The Hive again to meet the first class of Doan Scholars. One of those students is Jonathan Dulce '20 of Orange, a member of the crew team and an editor for *The Benedict's News*. "I have a heart of gratitude, because he didn't have to help us," said Jonathan, who wants to be a sports analyst someday. "There are definitely kids in my community who want to have this opportunity, but can't pay for it. I'm glad Mr. Doan has given me a chance to succeed in the future."

Mr. Doan sees great promise in the students who are benefiting through his generosity. "They're beautiful young men. All have wonderful goals and aspirations. Without this school, I don't think they would have those same dreams. They would have faced more of a survival than a future."

## ADMIRABLE BEYOND WORDS

The first time Jay Hartmann H '08 visited St. Benedict's, he couldn't believe his eyes. Guided by a spirited Headmaster and some dedicated monks, students were running Convocation. It soon became clear that those same young men were also running the School. "I had never seen anything like that," Mr. Hartmann chuckled. Another thing quickly became evident — some kids needed extra help to succeed.

Retired as Director of Corporate Communications at Midlantic Corporation, now PNC, Mr. Hartmann first encountered The Hive



when fellow parishioners at St. Rose of Lima Church in Short Hills, N.J., pitched in to send several students to St. Benedict's. One of those kids was Br. Simon-Peter Clayton, O.S.B. '08, now a monk at Newark Abbey. As an incoming freshman, the young man struggled initially, but eventually blossomed academically, musically and spiritually. Along the way, Mr. Hartmann, JoAnn and Michael Kennedy, and other parishioners attended parent-teacher conferences, choral concerts and honor roll inductions to provide moral support. They also treated the student to dinners in restaurants and tickets to cultural events, opening his eyes to life outside Newark.

Today, Mr. Hartmann's dedication to St. Benedict's continues. One recipient of his generosity attends Dartmouth College. Although the student received a scholarship and has a job on campus, Mr. Hartmann knew he would struggle with living expenses at an Ivy League college. "I worried about things like what he'd wear at Dartmouth and how he'd buy a computer," recalled Mr. Hartmann, a Dartmouth graduate. A number of friends and neighbors jumped in to provide financial support.

Mr. Hartmann's commitment to St. Benedict's extends beyond individual students. He recently decided to name the School in his will. "I've gravitated toward St. Benedict's because they do such an amazing job," he explained. "I also wanted, in some way, to establish a memorial for my parents. This was a great way to accomplish that."

In 2015, The Hive sought to recognize Mr. Hartmann with an honorary degree. He requested to become a member of the Class of 2008, Br. Simon-Peter's class. "That class was important to me," he said, before adding, "Today, I continue to be impressed by the dedication of the monks, faculty and staff of St. Benedict's. And the students — they're admirable beyond words."

### IT'S THAT SIMPLE

The McGilvray family love to make people happy. For more than four decades, their Dallas-based firm, Anne McGilvray & Company, has sold fun products that bring smiles to customers' faces. Now, they're doing the same at St. Benedict's Prep. After watching *60 Minutes*, matriarch, Anne, daughters Liesl Ludwig and Laurie McGilvray, and son, Todd, have established two scholarships in honor of Anne's late husband, Michael. "We have a lot of fun in our business," explained Mrs. McGilvray. "We're thrilled to be able to do things like this scholarship."

They spoke with Michael A. Fazio, Chief Advancement Officer, to learn more about the School, and decided to visit Newark while on business in New York. They met Headmaster Fr. Edwin Leahy, O.S.B. '63 and several students, whom Ms. Ludwig called "so well-spoken, genuine and gracious." Since then, they've returned several times. Ms. McGilvray noted, "The School speaks for itself. I just feel like once someone sees that, there's no going back."

Ms. Ludwig and Ms. McGilvray say Fr. Edwin reminds them of their father, who was a "no BS kind of guy," according to Ms. Ludwig. As a youth, Michael McGilvray was an excellent student from an economically challenged family. An education gave him the boost he needed to succeed. His early experiences growing up in Missouri echo those of many St. Benedict's students, including Carlos Presina '20, the first recipient of the Michael McGilvray Memorial Annual Scholarship. "Without this family, I wouldn't be here," said Carlos, a member of the swimming and water polo teams. "I'm very thankful for the opportunity they're giving me."

Today, the McGilvrays are part of the St. Benedict's family. They've returned to Newark several times, and have hosted Fr. Edwin and Mr. Fazio at their firm's Dallas showroom. What strikes them on each visit is the 24/7 support provided by people like Fr. Edwin. "I got the impression that all of the kids have his cell number," Mrs. McGilvray marveled. "He takes their call at any time."

They're confident that the family's late patriarch would be proud of the support his family provides to urban kids. "Not enough people, I think, are supporting education for inner city kids," Ms. Ludwig said. "The answer to getting out of poverty is education. It's that simple." **B**



Devionne Johnson '18, Carlos Presina '20, Anne McGilvray, Liesl Ludwig, Vivian Ludwig and Fr. Edwin Leahy, O.S.B. '63.

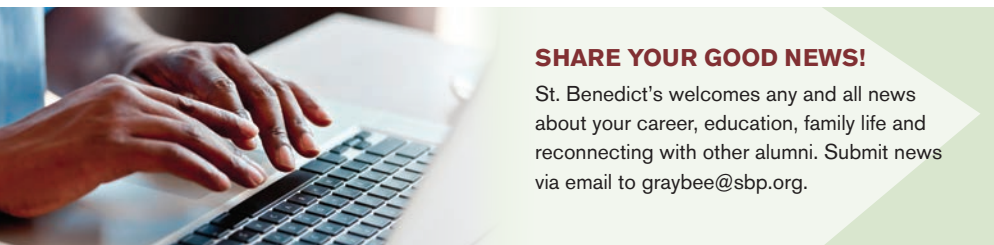


## SESQUICENTENNIAL SCHOLARSHIP CHALLENGE

Gray Bees are responding in full force to the Sesquicentennial Scholarship Challenge, a special campaign intended to raise an additional \$2 million in scholarships for St. Benedict's Prep. To date, more than \$700,000 was raised from alumni and friends who made a first-time gift or increased their annual gift in support of St. Benedict's and its 150th anniversary.

Thanks to the generosity of benefactors Mike Caruso '63 and Wayne Hockmeyer, any new gift or increased gift from an existing donor will be matched dollar for dollar until June 30, 2018. Be a part of this historic challenge! Make your gift at [sbp.org/challenge](http://sbp.org/challenge).





### SHARE YOUR GOOD NEWS!

St. Benedict's welcomes any and all news about your career, education, family life and reconnecting with other alumni. Submit news via email to [graybee@sbp.org](mailto:graybee@sbp.org).

### 1955

**James R. Coker** reports he has seven children; six are married. He has 23 grandchildren and 19 great-grandchildren. Among them are two retired Army lieutenant colonels. Eight states are represented.

### 1959

Chris and **Russell Haas** toured Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan last May. They crossed paths with their three children in Tashkent.

### 1963

**James C. Welsh** will be celebrating 50 years of marriage to Patricia in August.

### 1964

**John M. Plunkett** has been working with and riding horses since he retired from teaching.

### 1965

**Larry Froelich**, who lives in Clark, retired after 18 years of teaching at Berkeley College in Woodbridge. He celebrated by spending three weeks traveling in Spain and joined in a mini-reunion with U.S. Air Force (USAF) buddies who served with him at Torrejon Air Base near Madrid.

After graduating from St. Benedict's, Larry spent four years in the USAF, serving at K.I. Sawyer Air Force

Base in Michigan's Upper Peninsula for 18 months and then for two-and-a-half years in Spain, where he learned to speak Spanish ("I could swear like a Spanish sailor, but I couldn't read the local newspaper"). Returning to the United States, he completed his bachelor of science degree ("and took Spanish courses to learn how to read a Spanish newspaper") at Northern Michigan University in Marquette, and then moved to Florida, joining his parents, the late **Dr. Jerome '34** and Marie Froelich, in Fort Lauderdale and working in retail banking services for a few years.

Seeking to take advantage of his international living experiences and his language skills, he enrolled in the master of international business program (now called the IMBA program) at the University of South Carolina. The two-year program included a nine-month international internship, which, for Larry, meant three months living with a local family while attending a small business college in Medellin, Colombia, and then a six-month work internship with Sears de Colombia in Bogota. He completed the degree program and worked as an international banker for several years with Fleet Bank in Providence and First Union in Charlotte.

He left banking to join his brothers, **Brian '64**, **Chris**

**'72** and Joe, in their corporate travel agency, helping to grow the agency to be the fifth largest in the U.S. The agency was eventually acquired by American Express ("they couldn't beat us, so they bought us"). Larry remained with Amex for nearly 15 years before teaching at Berkeley College.

### 1967

**Robert P. Marasco** was recently knighted by the Republic of Italy for his many years of dedicated service to the consulate.

### 1968

**Alfred Tellone** wrote about his life as a musician after leaving The Hive: "At St. Benedict's Prep, I played the baritone sax in marching band, bass guitar in the indoor concert band and was chosen to play in the jazz band. After graduation, I hit the streets of New York and New Jersey with my acoustic guitar, slowly working into the world of folk music and coffeehouses. In 1970, I was hired at a now well-known teen club called The Upstage in Asbury Park. There, I got the nickname 'Albee' and met many of the now-famous and not-so-famous musicians of the Jersey Shore music scene.

"In 1971, I was hired by Bruce Springsteen for his early band, Doctor Zoom & The Sonic Boom. Bruce's

guitar-playing buddy, Steven Van Zandt, Southside Johnny and I shared an apartment. In 1973, I became equipment manager. I played baritone sax on a few songs along with regular sax man, Clarence Clemons. I played on one track on Bruce's second album."

Albee's music career took him to Austin, Texas, and Key West, Fla., where he met his former wife, also a musician, and had two sons. In 1995, a musician friend urged him to come to Mountain View, Ark., where he would fit in with the traditional music scene there. Albee moved to Mountain View permanently in 2004 and lives there today.

### 1970

**Paul Ryall's** daughter, Katie, graduated from the United States Naval Academy in May 2017 with a degree in chemistry. She is assigned to the U.S.S. Hopper at Pearl Harbor and currently deployed.

### 1971



L to R: Classmates **Don Gulbicki**, **Bill Holloran**, **Al Esposito** and **Mike Hondo Farrell**.

**Jim Waldron**, President of the County Mayo Foundation, a New York-based nonprofit organization set up to support initiatives that strengthen civic engagement and support communities across Co. Mayo, has been nominated to *Irish America Magazine's* 32nd annual Business 100 List.

### 1981

**Dave Pereles** wanted to share an experience he had at Philmont Scout Ranch in Cimarron, N.M.: "I was there with my son, Jack, 10 other scouts and three other adult advisors. We had just finished our 70-mile, 10-day trek, and a group of us went to Mass. It turns out the Catholic Chaplain is **Fr. Don Hummel '67**, whom it was my great pleasure to meet. We enjoyed some time remembering **Fr. Mark Payne, O.S.B. '69** (especially fitting, since Fr. Mark is never far from my mind when I'm backpacking).



We also reminisced about **Fr. Theodore Howarth, O.S.B. '41's** math classes, and Fr. Don spontaneously broke out into the *Alma Mater*, and I gratefully joined in, much to the embarrassment of my son. Needless to say, meeting a fellow Gray Bee was an extraordinary experience among the many extraordinary experiences we had at Philmont."

### 1990

**Glenn Cassidy, Ed.D.** is joined here by two other Gray Bees proudly serving in Emergency Medical Services.



(Left) **Evan Jenkins '15**, Dr. Cassidy and **Brent Cinberg '99**.





## 1990 Class Reunion

Front row: **Lee Herbert, Scott Bamberg, Dwain Mishoe, Al Swaqi Moore, Cedric Hill, Lamar Melton and Dustin Ackerman.** Back row: **Keymonte Crooms, Mike Anabui, Uriel Burwell, Luna Mishoe, James Stradford, Jerel Hall, Mike Skipper, Anthony DiUbaldo and Curtis Salley.** Not pictured: **Peter Elias, Glenn Cassidy, Frantz Masse and Frank Morales '91.**

**Chris Rodriguez** was elected to a three-year term as a Councilman in Fair Haven, N.J.

## 1993

**Joe Lee** was named the 2017 American Family Insurance ALL-USA Girls Track and Field Coach of the Year. He coaches at Bullis School in Potomac, Md.

## 1995

**Vincent Almeida** was named Athletic Director at Kearny High School.

## 1997

**Daouda Kante** is the Technical Director of Kansas Rush Soccer Club. He is also a national instructor for United Soccer Coaches (formerly known as the NSCAA).

## 2001

**Terrell K. Jones** received his master's in business administration and health services administration degrees from Strayer University.

**Michael Hobbs** relaunched All Jersey Radio (AJR) with a new broadcasting studio and multimedia center in Kearny. According to the AJR website, "Because the Garden State has produced some of the most talented people in the world, AJR has focused on its commitment to highlighting rising stars from Jersey and neighboring communities."

## 2003



**Daniel Debski** (right) and his friend, Peter, along with 400 other riders, biked 275 miles and a record-breaking \$1.5 million was raised to end AIDS.

## 2006

**Josiah Johnson** is the new Technology Integrator for the

Elementary Division at St. Benedict's. He helps teachers bring technology into classes and teaches computer skills to the students.

## 2009

Congratulations, **Rev. Najee Evans**, who was recently ordained and licensed to preach.



**Tamir Jackson** became engaged to Lynsey Carrier on Christmas Day.

## 2010

**Walter Jean-Jacques** won the Notre Dame law school prestigious National Lawyers Guild fellowship and has been named the Haywood Burns Fellow. This summer he will be interning with the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund in New York City.

**John Joseph** and Jordan Clinton will be married in September 2018.

## 2013

**Josh Williams**, an information technology student at New Jersey Institute of Technology, is working with **Dexter Lopina '98** in the IT department at The Hive.

## 2016

**Omari Smoak** was at the USA Fencing Summer National Championships & July Challenge, which took place July 4th weekend in Salt Lake City, Utah. It is the largest domestic competition of the year. Omari won the gold medal in the Juniors Division (under 20 years old) out of 244 competitors. He also won another medal in the Senior Division 1 (49 years old and younger) out of 121 competitors. The top eight fencers receive medals.

Dean of Faculty **Michelle Tuorto H '16** and (right to left) Annual Giving Officer **Candace Bradsher H '99**, Advancement Publications Managing Editor **Noreen Connolly H '11** and Art Department Chair **Pamela Wye-Hunsinger H '18** participated in the New York City Women's March on January 22.



## Note to all alumni:

Have you served in the military? Would you please supply your name, branch of service, rank, years of service and date you retired? We would love to track our alumni who have served our country. Please email information to [graybee@sbp.org](mailto:graybee@sbp.org). We thank you for your service.



## MARRIAGES

**Marcos Novoa '04** and his wife, Jacqueline, were married in October 2017.



## BIRTHS



**Kehinde Togun '02** and his wife, Zsuzsi, are thrilled to welcome **Ábrahám Akinola Lippai-Togun**, who came into the world November 19, 2017, at 3:35 a.m., a little ahead of schedule. Kehinde wrote, "He was 6.6 pounds and about 19 inches. He is so precious and we are beyond elated."

Jennifer and **Duarte Aguiar '05** welcomed **Lorenzo Anthony Aguiar** on February 16. Lorenzo weighed 6 pounds, 15.8 ounces.

**Frantz Soiro '12** and his wife, Mone'Kai, welcomed their daughter, **Maya Alexandria**, in October 2017, and Frantz has started a new job at Atlanta Medical Center South Campus.



# IN MEMORIAM

We have received word that these members of the St. Benedict's community or members of their families have died.

## ALUMNI

John J. Molinari, M.D. '34  
James F. Caffrey III '40  
Frank L. Farrell '45  
William C. Gauthier '43  
Thomas J. McLaughlin, Jr. '43  
John G. Butler '44  
John K. Williams '44  
Edgar B. Coffey '45  
Alfred C. Pietrangelo, M.D. '45  
Richard F. Wujciak '45  
Robert A. Coughlin '46  
Leon T. Kendall, Ph.D. '46  
Joseph S. Papp '46  
Arthur J. Sauer '46  
John M. Thompsett '46  
Richard "Horse" Haesler '47  
Michael D. Walsh, M.D. '47  
Walter F. Barber, Jr. '48  
Mitchell Makowicz '48  
Douglas Cuddy, Jr. '49  
Edward C. Roche, Jr. '50  
Peter W. Allen '51  
George S. Macor '51  
James W. Doran, Jr. '52  
Noel D. Taylor '52  
Thomas P. Coleman '53  
Roger F. Coughlin '53  
Donald A. Brennan '54  
Vincent J. Begley, M.D. '55  
William F. Hahn '56

Theodore H. Feindt '57  
Rev. Msgr. Sean Cunneen '58  
John F. Darcy '58  
Eduard O. Hahn '58  
William J. Bizink '59  
Paul M. Coon '59  
Dean R. O'Hare '59  
Robert J. Serafini '60  
William J. Rahill '61  
Robert A. Keenan '63  
Chris J. Lyons '63  
John C. "Clay" Ogorzaly '63  
Joseph A. McCarthy '64  
Charles J. D'Agostini '66  
Paul J. Jaglowski '66  
Mark W. Alexander '67  
Richard H. Heim, Sr. '67  
Robert A. Thomas, M.D. '67  
Jorge M. Cardiellos '69  
Donald M. Hanselmann '70  
Robert G. Mallon '70  
Fernand "Jay" Williams '81  
Brian Tinsley '95  
Frank Murphy H '97  
Alfahtee Huey '16

## COMMUNITY

James Stedman Aaron  
*Grandfather of Matt '10*  
Weaver Bailey  
*Mother of Skip Little '81,  
Kevin & Kenneth Little '83*

Barbara Becker  
*Spouse of Edward,  
friend of St. Benedict's*  
Andy Blanton  
*Father-in-law of  
George Miller '83*  
Bridget Brady  
*Mother-in-law of  
Eamon Harrington '72*  
June Dwyer Castano  
*Spouse of Gregory '46*  
Gail Cook  
*Spouse of William '60*  
Daryl Corprew  
*Father of Daryl '17*  
Denise Cuccolo  
*Mother of Chris '14*  
Kevin F. Cuniff  
*Father of Matt '86 and Tim '83*  
Wilhelmina Dorsey Brown  
*Mother of William '72*  
Michele Emily Drinkard  
*Mother of Nicholas '12*  
Leonora C. Ebert  
*Mother of Tom '82 & Greg '81*  
Jane D. Engel  
*Mother of William H '87*  
Margaret Elizabeth Rodrigo  
Fernando  
*Mother of Celestina Fernando*  
Maureen Galloway  
*Spouse of Michael '64*

Judith Jaeger  
*Spouse of Raymond '55*  
Maria I. James  
*Spouse of Quinton '81*  
Donna Mason Karlis  
*Daughter of  
Robert L. Mason '63*  
Pauline Lahita  
*Mother of Robert '63*  
Philome Edgar Laine  
*Father of Louie '12*  
Jozef Magiera  
*Father of Jozef '18*  
Gene Massey  
*Father-in-law of Wade  
Woodson '81*  
Steve "Burt" Mergelsberg  
Ali Fard Muhammad  
*Father of Hassan '84 and  
Sharif '92*  
Mary Neal  
*Mother of Fletcher '83*  
John J. Nolan  
*Brother of Francis '67*  
Barbara Petrick  
*Mother of Bill, St. Benedict's  
faculty*

F. Dein Rice, M.D.  
*Uncle and godfather of  
Ancin White '08*  
Eileen Ryan  
*Spouse of Peter '61*  
Noella Saunders  
*Mother of Kit '86*  
Bessie Sciortino  
*Mother-in-law of  
William Columbo '64*  
Jacqueline Seuffert  
*Spouse of Joseph '38 (RIP)*  
Adrian Velazquez  
*Son of Javier '84*  
Anne S. Waters  
*Mother of Fr. Phil '63*  
Tal Weiss  
*Father of Dillon '09*  
Mary R. White  
*Mother and Mother-in-law  
of Harold H '09 and Pat,  
grandmother of Aaron '95,  
Greg '00 and Harold '91*  
Kathleen Yudd  
*Spouse of Mike '70, sister of  
Ken Taranto '71*

A sympathy card has been sent to each bereaved family in the name of the St. Benedict's family — alumni, students, faculty, staff and monks — promising our prayers and a special remembrance at the monks' daily conventual Mass.

## Events

### FROM THE GARDEN STATE TO THE SUNSHINE STATE

Headmaster Fr. Edwin Leahy, O.S.B. '63 and Chief Advancement Officer Michael A. Fazio traveled to visit alumni supporters in Florida in February and March.



**1.** In Vero Beach, Susan and **Donald Laurie '60** hosted alumni at a luncheon on February 21, followed by a reception hosted by Marlene and **Harry Durkin '49** at John Knox Village in Pompano Beach on February 22. **2.** **Gene O'Hara '55** hosted a reception at Bonita Bay Club on March 1. **3.** On March 2, **Paul Hannan '55** hosted lunch at The Rusty Pelican in Tampa. **4.** Later that day, **Gerald Mattia '69** hosted alumni at his home in Orlando.



# Call for Nominations

A very special 2018 Hall of Fame Dinner will be held in October.

Go to [www.sbp.org/hof](http://www.sbp.org/hof) to learn more and submit your nominations.

The St. Benedict's Prep Hall of Fame recognizes members of the Benedict's community who have excelled in one or more sports or activities or those who have distinguished themselves and The Hive in their endeavors after graduation.

For more information, contact Mary Hauck at [mhauck@sbp.org](mailto:mhauck@sbp.org).



## GRAY BEES GATHER IN THE NATION'S CAPITAL

St. Benedict's alumni gathered on February 9 at McCormick and Schmick's Steakhouse in Washington, D.C.



1. Chief Advancement Officer Michael A. Fazio, Headmaster **Fr. Edwin Leahy, O.S.B. '63** and Maryanna Sheck, a former Midshipman who came to The Hive in 2010. 2. **Matthew Aaron '10** and William Treanor, the nephew of the late **Fr. Boniface Treanor, O.S.B. '47**. 3. **Omar Crespo '05**, **Br. Simon-Peter Clayton, O.S.B. '08**, **Kevin Moore '64**, **Kevin Harris '99**, **Kendell Bryant '07**, **Fr. Edwin Leahy, O.S.B. '63**, **Ivan Learmont '01**, **Jabari Henley-Edwards '07**, Advancement Officer **Farad Lowther '10**, **John Joseph '10** and **Robert Petrusak '68**. 4. **Kevin Harris '99** and **Ivan Learmont '01**. 5. **Jabari Henley-Edwards '07** and **Kendell Bryant '07**.



## WHICH GROUP WERE YOU?

Life inside The Hive would not exist as we know it without the 18 groups, each named for an important figure in St. Benedict's Prep history. Devised by Fr. Mark Payne, O.S.B. '69, the Group System has been central to the School's success by fostering camaraderie, positive peer influence and student leadership for more than 40 years.



**John Ford**



**Jim Cavanagh**



**Ernest "Prof." Blood**



**Fr. Celestine Staab, O.S.B.**



**Joe Kasberger**



**Fr. Timothy Dwyer, O.S.B.**



**Fr. Thomas Long, O.S.B.**



**Fr. Eugene Schwarz, O.S.B.**



**Fr. William Koellhoffer, O.S.B.**



**Fr. Cornelius Selhuber, O.S.B.**



**Fr. Casimir Finley, O.S.B.**





**Fr. Valerian  
Kanetski, O.S.B.**



**Fr. John Doyle,  
O.S.B.**



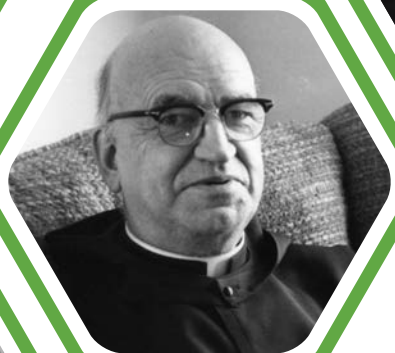
**Fr. Philip Hoover,  
O.S.B.**



**Fr. Nicholai  
Balleis, O.S.B.**



**Fr. Boniface  
Reger, O.S.B.**



**Fr. Bernard  
Peters, O.S.B.**



**Fr. Rupert  
Seidenbusch, O.S.B.**



**Fr. Joe Dunstan  
Smith, O.S.B.**



**Frank Hill**



**Sr. Philomena  
Spiegel, O.S.B.**



**Sr. Clare Christi  
Grussenmeyer, S.S.J.**

## **UP FOR A CHALLENGE?**

If your life was transformed by the Group System, consider honoring the 150th anniversary of St. Benedict's Prep with a gift to The Sesquicentennial Scholarship Challenge.

Help sustain Gray Bee traditions like the Group System for generations. Make your gift at [sbp.org/giving](http://sbp.org/giving) and note your group in the comments section. The group with the most gifts will receive a special commendation on Facebook and Instagram.

Middle Division students selected four new namesakes for their groups after much research and discussion last summer. The Benedictine monks and religious sisters were chosen for their role in establishing and expanding St. Mary Parish and St. Mary School. With the addition of the Middle Division, the Group System now numbers 22 groups.





St. Benedict's  
PREPARATORY SCHOOL

Office of Advancement  
520 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard  
Newark, NJ 07102  
[www.sbp.org](http://www.sbp.org)

For  
Indicia

# 2018 Annual Scholarship *Gala*

Join alumni and friends for  
a special celebration of  
St. Benedict's Sesquicentennial  
and the public announcement of  
*Forever Benedict's: The Campaign  
for St. Benedict's Prep.*

*Presented by*



Prudential



May 10, 2018  
6:30 p.m.

Dalton Gymnasium  
St. Benedict's Preparatory School

*Honoring*

Steven M. Grossman  
Ivan Lamourt, Psy.D. '82  
Prudential Financial