



# St. Benedict's

## PREPARATORY SCHOOL

**DYNASTY BUILT  
ON TRUST**

Soccer's Winning  
Culture





# THEMOMENT

## Champions, Once Again

Gray Bees soccer celebrated its 12th national title last fall, after defeating The Pennington School in the State A Championship game on November 1, 2018. Ranked No. 1 in the country by Top Drawer Soccer and in the *USA TODAY*/United Soccer Coaches Super 25 rankings, St. Benedict's Prep finished the season with an 18-0 record, outscoring the opposition 109-4.

When the season concluded, soccer's storied program had a 37-game winning streak, captured back-to-back national titles and won its 29th state title in the last 30 years. The complete story about the teamwork, sacrifice and trust behind the St. Benedict's soccer dynasty begins on page 4.



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## GREETINGS



### The Gift of Time

We've never done things the easy way at St. Benedict's Prep. When a group of freshmen head out on The Trail in the wrong direction, the easy thing would be to stop them and point them in the right direction.

We intentionally choose a harder route. Stepping back to allow that same group of freshmen to make the mistake and then work together to figure out the correct route, is a much richer and more empowering learning experience.

This takes a lot of time. But we're willing to put time and extraordinary effort into programs like the Group System, Leahy House, and the Steven M. Grossman Counseling Center, because it's the best way we know to accompany kids to reach their God-given potential.

The same is true for Athletics, where many teams devote as much time to building camaraderie as they do to practices and games. This issue of the magazine looks at our nationally celebrated soccer program, which owes its 30-plus years of success to guys working together toward a common goal.

So much of our success stems from the gift of time. You'll see this reflected in the story about four Gray Bees who are back at St. Benedict's, and announcements of faculty and administrators who are taking a bigger role in running The Hive. A long time ago, I figured out that I didn't have to be the smartest guy in the room, just smart enough to get the most exceptional and talented people who have propelled St. Benedict's to where it is today.

Read on. I hope you enjoy this issue as much as I do.

Peace,

*Edwin D. Leahy*

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



**St. Benedict's**  
PREPARATORY SCHOOL

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**On the cover:** Gray Bee National Champs

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### Exchange Program Continues

St. Benedict's relationships with schools across the globe deepened as 15 students departed for Castricum, The Netherlands, on February 27. Students reunited with the Dutch friends they hosted here last fall, and the Gray Bees saw what home, school and community life is like in the land of windmills. This visit represents the third exchange between St. Benedict's and the Jac P. Thijssse College in Holland.

On March 17, The Hive welcomed eight students from the Amal School in Hadera, Israel. The partnership between the schools is in its second year, and students have been working together since last fall on a joint STEM-based project. The visiting Israeli students were treated to a generous serving of American culture while making the most of the opportunity for hands-on collaboration toward project goals. In April, St. Benedict's heads to Israel for the second leg of the exchange.



### THE SPIRIT MOVES HIM

Br. Mark Martin DiLone, O.S.B., has taken the next step on his journey into religious life, professing simple vows on December 8, 2018. He arrived at Newark Abbey last April, and is continuing his theological studies at Immaculate Conception Seminary at Seton Hall University.

A Manhattan native, Br. Mark is the fourth young man to discern his calling at Newark Abbey in recent years. Before exploring a vocation, Br. Mark taught history in the Bronx for nine years. He entered into

religious life with another community. While studying theology at Saint John's University in Minnesota, he met Br. Simon Peter Clayton, O.S.B. '08 and Br. Asiel Rodriguez, O.S.B., who were visiting from Newark.

Over the next three years, Br. Mark will continue his prayerful service to Newark Abbey and the St. Benedict's Prep community before taking solemn vows as a Benedictine monk. Br. Simon Peter and Br. Asiel are currently preparing to take their solemn vows in March 2020.



### CAREER NETWORK CONNECTS GRAY BEES

Alumni from every generation at The Hive are reconnecting and expanding their professional network on [GrayBeesConnect.org](https://GrayBeesConnect.org), a networking initiative launched by the Office of Advancement in 2017. Farad Lowther '10, Advancement Officer and Director of the BIGS Career Development Center, oversees the network. "There's a lot of movement on the website," he said. "There are a ton of guys who've met, found mentors or are networking online."

Nearly 450 Gray Bees have registered for the network so far. The website was also recently updated with a sleeker look and greater functionality.



### A TEAM OF THEIR OWN

Coached by Math teacher James Andrews '97, St. Benedict's Prep's very first girls team made its mark in interschool play last winter. The seventh and eighth grade girls asked Middle Division Dean Jim F. Duffy H'16 if they could form a team. Other middle school girls are now practicing with boys teams, including swimming, water polo and fencing. Duffy said, "It's fantastic. All I do is watch and guide them. They're doing it all themselves."

## VOX INSTITUTE SHARES THE MODEL



The calls come in from around the nation, all asking, "What makes St. Benedict's Prep so successful?" The answer from Glenn Cassidy, Ed.D., '90, the recently-appointed Executive Director of The Hive's Vox Institute, surprises many school administrators: a leadership model that puts kids in charge.

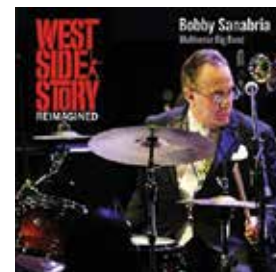
When Dr. Cassidy and Vox Institute Program Director Louis Lainé '12 visit other schools, they bring along Gray Bees to provide firsthand accounts of how things like the Group System and The Trail develop responsibility and leadership in kids. "Having

our guys there to demonstrate is really powerful," explained Dr. Cassidy.

Founded in 2016, the Institute helps schools adapt St. Benedict's best practices to their own organizations. More than 40 schools have reached out since August 2018 alone, and the Vox Institute maintains ongoing relationships with four schools — Kingdom Prep Lutheran High School in Wisconsin, Bluford Drew Jemison STEM Academy in Baltimore, Benedictine Academy in Elizabeth, N.J., and the Marion P. Thomas Charter School in Newark.

Whether it's mentoring middle school kids or advising administrators, Gray Bees take center stage. "We're such a student-centered place that it makes sense to involve our students," Dr. Cassidy added. "It really sets us apart. Other schools share models and reforms, but it's all adults doing it. We tell our students, 'All right, you guys tell us how to do this.'"

For more information, please visit [www.sbp.org/academics/the-vox-institute](http://www.sbp.org/academics/the-vox-institute).



### CAREER HIGH NOTE

St. Benedict's Prep Music Director Jeremy Fletcher, D.M.A., was part of the musical team nominated for a Grammy Award this year for *West Side Story: A Masterwork Reimagined*. The recording was cited in the Best Latin Jazz Album category.

Dr. Fletcher arranged five of the 13 songs on the album, including the "Prologue," "Gee, Officer Krupke," "One Hand, One Heart," "Somewhere" and the "Epilogue/Finale." Dr. Fletcher has worked at St. Benedict's since 2008. A graduate of Carnegie Mellon University, he holds two advanced degrees — a master of music in jazz composition and a doctor of musical arts in jazz arts advancement — from the Manhattan School of Music.

*West Side Story: A Masterwork Reimagined* celebrates the 60th anniversary of the hit Broadway musical and film, both of which featured an original score by Leonard Bernstein. Eight-time Grammy nominee Bobby Sanabria sought to rearrange Bernstein's score with a Latin jazz influence, and performs on the new recording with his 22-piece Multiverse Big Band.



# DYNASTY BUILT ON TRUST

Few were surprised when the St. Benedict's Prep varsity soccer team capped a perfect 18-0 season with its sixth national championship in eight years in November 2018. Winning is only one part of the School's celebrated reign. For more than 30 years, St. Benedict's has dominated the game by building a championship culture based on trust, perseverance and teamwork.





*This is different.* The thought kept flashing through Zemi Rodriguez's mind after he arrived at St. Benedict's Prep last fall. One of the nation's top soccer players in his age group, Zemi '21 had played for many competitive teams, but this was the first time he felt such an immediate sense of camaraderie. The amount of time the team spent working together off the field was also an eye opener. "Initially, I thought, 'what's the point?'" Zemi remembered. "But when we sat down for that first meeting, I saw everyone open up to each other. Guys weren't holding anything back because they trusted each other. That was very different from other teams."

## BACKBONE OF SUCCESS

Culture. Chemistry. Attitude. Mentality. Players, coaches and alumni have a variety of names for the underpinnings of a storied soccer program that has amassed 12 national championships and 29 state titles over the past 30 years.

"I think there's a misconception that our success is the byproduct of good players alone," said Head Coach Jim Wandling '92, who has led the entire soccer program since 2010. "We do receive great players. But there's only one ball, and you've got to get the players to buy into playing for each other and playing for something bigger than their individual cause. Quite frankly, that's been the backbone of our success for the past 30 years."

## BUILDING AND SUSTAINING A CHAMPIONSHIP CULTURE



### History

The ascent of soccer is inextricably tied to the history of St. Benedict's Prep. Faith, along with Newark Abbey's commitment to stability of place and community, provide the foundation to build the unified team with a championship mindset.



### Tradition

Soccer dates back to 1924 at The Hive. Re-introduced in the 1970s, the program aligned with many traditions like "Benedict's Hates A Quitter."



### Rituals

Started in the 1980s under Head Soccer Coach Rick Jacobs H'90, St. Benedict's soccer players inscribe a tennis ball with a meaningful message and tote it everywhere during the entire season. "Every game, the tennis ball is what I look at," said Zemi Rodriguez '21. "It motivates me to play my best."





### AN INTRODUCTION OF IMMENSE PROPORTIONS

It was 1984. “St. Benedict’s should have a great soccer team, and I’ve got the guy to coach it,” Mike Gerson told Headmaster Fr. Edwin Leahy, O.S.B. ’63. Gerson was a good friend to Fr. Ed and The Hive.

“The guy” was Rick Jacobs H’90, who went on to guide St. Benedict’s soccer to six national championships and 23 state Prep A crowns from 1985–2009.

Under Jacobs, St. Benedict’s had a 519–27–13 record and emerged as the nation’s leading soccer program.

Headmaster Fr. Edwin Leahy, O.S.B. ’63 remembers the program’s origins in the mid-1970s. Back then, a dynasty seemed unimaginable. “We were looking to add more activities for the kids,” Fr. Edwin explained. “We didn’t have the money to support an American football team, so we decided to try soccer.” The program didn’t come into its own until Tab Ramos ’84 (see sidebar page 7) enrolled at St. Benedict’s and led the team to its first state tournament in 1982. By then, the Headmaster had a vision for soccer and athletics writ large.

“You have to understand that in 1973 and 1974, I watched our basketball team get destroyed,” said Fr. Edwin. “I swore our kids wouldn’t get steamrolled like that again in any sport, because that’s what happens to them in life. If we were going to compete, we were going to have our kids compete at the highest level, given their talents.”

### HISTORY. TRADITION. RITUALS.

Enter Rick Jacobs H’90. He was up for the task, though he inherited what he calls “an amalgam of players” in 1985. The first team meeting established the tone for Jacob’s 25-year tenure: he asked the players to define their goals. “We had 20 games that first season,” Jacobs explained. “I asked each guy to write how many games they thought we could win.” Some players wrote five — the number of wins the previous season — while a few hoped to achieve 10 victories.

Jacobs wrote 20-0 on the blackboard and challenged his team to envision an undefeated season. “That set the stage for hard work, trust and raised expectations,” recalled Jacobs. The building blocks he used to create a championship culture — history, tradition and rituals — aligned perfectly with the ethos of the School.

“I thought St. Benedict’s was the perfect place to stand on the shoulders of the monks and their unbelievable faith, commitment to stability of place and living in community,” said Jacobs. “It was a natural conduit for me to deliver the message that history is important to St. Benedict’s soccer — history that was written in the past, as well as history being written today.”

Jacobs introduced traditions and rituals that continue to this day. He gave his players tennis balls on which they were to inscribe their initials and phrases or words important to them. They then had to carry the balls everywhere for the entire season. This ritual became a tradition of epic proportions.

“We had one team of 27 guys representing 16 different countries,” Jacobs said. “Guys would bring the tennis balls to each practice and game, line them up and, during the course of the warm-up, raise them in unison. This was their way of saying, ‘We’re together. We may be different, but we’re the same.’”

At the end of Jacobs’ first season, the team finished 16-3-2. St. Benedict’s won its second state championship the following year and a soccer dynasty was born.

# 125 KIDS

or 25% of the Middle Male and Prep Divisions play soccer each year

# 6 NATIONAL

titles in the last 8 years

# 18-0 SEASON

and the nation’s No. 1 ranked team in 2018



## THE REAL WORK IS OFF THE FIELD

It didn't take long for the soccer program to hit its stride, and in the 1990s and 2000s, St. Benedict's dominated the game. Jacobs guided varsity soccer to six national titles and 23 state Prep A crowns. The program also grew to five teams and 125 student-athletes, accounting for roughly 25% of enrollment in the Middle Male and Prep divisions combined. Then as now, coaches and players attributed the remarkable record to the team-first mentality.

Team captain Lui Chavez '20 said this focus starts with the tennis ball meeting in August and progresses throughout the season. "Everyone supports each other; no one lets each other down," he said. "When someone is not at his best, instead of criticizing the guy, we support him. If the person is doing something wrong, we talk to him. It's not just about playing soccer, it's about playing for a bigger purpose."

Coach Wandling, who experienced the rituals and traditions when he played for Jacobs, said they really do make a difference. "We practice these habits every day. That defines the culture of the program," he said. Since eight of the 10 coaches and assistant coaches are St. Benedict's alumni, the signature characteristics of the program — hard work, perseverance and camaraderie — are instilled and reinforced by men who went through it. "It's important that we bring alumni back and put them in charge of teams so that they're delivering the same agenda to the kids nowadays," Wandling added.

## THRIVING IN A CHANGING LANDSCAPE

Even as St. Benedict's soccer leans on its traditions, it has also adapted to a changing landscape under Wandling's leadership.

Shortly after the U.S. Soccer Federation mandated a 10-month season through its Development Academy, St. Benedict's began a partnership with Cedar Stars Academy. "Players came to St. Benedict's because they liked the School and had the opportunity to play soccer at the highest level," explained Wandling. The mandate, however, forced promising soccer players to choose between a high school team and the Development Academy.


Founded in 2011, Cedar Stars Academy at St. Benedict's has been a tremendous win for the soccer program and the School. Open to players age 7-18, the club program has introduced The Hive to many families who appreciate the School's philosophy

and subsequently enrolled their sons in the Middle Division. It also provides the opportunity for Middle and Prep division players to compete year round and has attracted international students to its Residential Soccer Program at Leahy House.

Lui Chavez '20 and his twin brother, Cao, hail from Brazil. Cao will serve as captain of next season's varsity soccer team alongside his brother and Zemi Rodriguez. He said soccer has taken on a deeper meaning since coming to St. Benedict's. "You're not just playing for yourself," he said. "You're playing for your teammates, your coaches and for your family back in Brazil. It means more."

All three team captains envision a future that involves soccer, whether it's playing for a NCAA team or professionally. "My main goal is to play professionally, if I can," said Cao. "But if not, I'm not going to be sad. I just have to keep growing as a human being and use everything I've learned here and put it toward my career and life."

Wandling estimates 75 percent to 80 percent of varsity players will play in college after they graduate. "Colleges appreciate when they land one of our guys," he said. "The team-first mentality of our players, the no-nonsense approach to getting things done, the leadership. Those are all traits they bring to the college level."

After capturing six national championships in the last eight years, and carrying a 37-game winning streak the past two seasons, there are not a lot of big-ticket items left on Wandling's bucket list. "With regards to championships, I don't know what's left for us to accomplish at this level," he said. "The special thing about the program isn't necessarily all the winning. It's seeing kids come in here as vulnerable young boys and leaving as structured young men." 



Camaraderie thrives on the soccer field.

## GRAY BEES' INFLUENCE ON THE GAME

After St. Benedict's and professional careers on the world stage, these Gray Bees make their mark on the game today:



### Tab Ramos '84

Ramos, is still New Jersey's all-time leader in goals scored (161) while a Gray Bee, who went on to represent the United States in three World Cups, was enshrined into the National Soccer Hall of Fame in 2005 and currently the coach of the U.S. Under-20 National Team, leading them to the CONCACAF title in 2017.

### Gregg

#### Berhalter '91

Berhalter, a veteran of two U.S. World Cup teams, played



overseas for 15 years before becoming the first American ever to manage a professional team in Europe when he coached Swedish club Hammarby IF. He returned stateside to coach two Major League Soccer teams before being named coach of the U.S. National Team in December 2018.



### Claudio Reyna '91

The Gray Bees went 66-0 with their superstar in the lineup and captured national title No. 1 in 1990, while garnering two-time National Player of the Year honors. He went on to win three NCAA titles at the University of Virginia, where he won the Hermann Trophy as the top player in the nation (1993) before playing professionally in Europe, while doubling as captain of the U.S. World Cup team. Reyna, who is regarded as the best-ever American player, is the current Director of Football Operations for New York City FC.



## AFTERCLASS

WITH SINCLAIR DAVIS, PSY.D.  
DEAN OF COUNSELING



“ I want these kids to realize their potential. As a kid from this city who couldn’t envision life past the age of 25, I want our kids to be able to envision themselves doing something major and have a path to get there. ”

Most lives don’t change that dramatically over the course of a decade. Sinclair Davis’s did. In 2009, he returned to Fairleigh Dickinson University to finish a bachelor’s degree. Today, he’s a Doctor of Psychology and the Dean of Counseling of the Steven M. Grossman Counseling Center. Dr. Davis recalls his journey in academia and how his own life experience mirrors the lives of the students he counsels.



### What motivated your return to FDU 10 years after you started?

Ten years ago, I was in real estate and it was not looking good. I started thinking, "What are you going to do with the rest of your life?" I began FDU in 1999, right out of high school, but wasn't ready to be a student. I was showing up and doing the bare minimum. I never really tried. I was hesitant to go back, because I was older, but thought, "Okay, no excuses. Let's work hard and see what happens."

### And what happened?

I started doing things as a student I had never done before. I paid attention and raised my hand in class. Arranged to see professors during office hours. Read more. I made a promise to myself, "Don't quit, no matter what happens." I started getting a little more comfortable. Then, I did badly on an exam in abnormal psychology. I thought I was done and wanted to quit that day.

I ran into a student who convinced me to stick around until the end of class. Sitting there, I was so angry and frustrated. But I thought, "Look, you said you weren't going to quit. Study harder." I went into this crazy study mode and long story short, ended up with an A minus in the course. Not quitting was a very big thing for me. It was a bad habit, but it was comfortable. I had to get comfortable with new habits like working my way through things.

### When did you get interested in psychology?

I was always interested in psychology. When I had the chance to go back to school, I wanted to learn why people believe the things they believe. Why are they important? Why do people have certain behaviors? What causes them? Can these behaviors be changed? I was very curious about these things.

### You first came to St. Benedict's as a graduate intern in 2014. How well did you know the school?

I didn't know anything about this school. But I had two professors who recommended St. Benedict's. I was kind of nervous when I started. Two days a week as an intern turned into doing my fifth year practicum here. And every day, I got more comfortable with the culture and how the School is run.

### You grew up in Newark. How does that shape your approach to this job?

Being from here, living through certain scenarios and conditions, gives me another level of understanding. I know exactly what some of our kids go through. I

remember being a kid walking downtown after school not knowing what was going to happen. Are the lights going to be on when I get home? Should I go to my friend's house for the weekend? I lived that for many years. I don't know what a kid may be feeling, but I understand what he's dealing with. That helps you come down to where kids are. Meet from there and move forward. That's huge.


### What do you perceive your mission as Dean of Counseling to be?

What we've always done is help kids respond to their emotions appropriately. Recognize them and respond to them appropriately. That's pretty much the basics of what we do. I definitely want to take what's been built and get it to where every kid who needs assistance — whether it's academic, social or emotional — can get what they need without having to go outside the School.

I want these kids to realize their potential. As a kid from this city who couldn't envision life past the age of 25, I want our kids to be able to envision themselves doing something major and have a path to get there.

### The center is now officially known as the Steven M. Grossman Counseling Center. How does the support of the Grossman Family Foundation impact the work being done here?

It allows us to stay current. And you have to stay current to be able to assess students efficiently, accurately and appropriately. Screenings and assessments for academic or social-emotional issues get updated all the time. These resources are not free. Our students can receive treatment, and have access to resources that everyone else has. We're able to provide top-notch services and assistance regardless of a family's situation.

Our kids have ability. They just need guidance. I want our kids to play big. Granted, there's a lot to unravel before you get to that point. But I want them to be able to experience what it's like to play big, and lose sometimes, but then get victories, as well. I would not be here today if it was not for the courage and willingness to play big. 

*Sinclair Davis, Psy.D., holds a bachelor's, a master's and a doctoral degree in psychology from Fairleigh Dickinson University (Metropolitan Campus). A New Jersey certified school psychologist, Dr. Davis joined The Hive full-time in 2016, and was appointed Dean of Counseling at the start of the 2018-19 academic year. His dissertation on the Unknown Sons counseling group at St. Benedict's contains important insights for psychologists and others who study the impact of absent fathers. Read the online story at [www.sbp.org/SpringMag/Davis](http://www.sbp.org/SpringMag/Davis).*



### NEW ASSISTANT HEADMASTERS

Longtime faculty at St. Benedict's Prep are assuming greater responsibility for leading the School. Ivan Lamourt, Psy.D., '82 was named Assistant Headmaster for Student Life and Michelle Tuorto H'16 was named Assistant Headmaster of Academics at the start of the 2018-19 academic year. Prior to the appointments, Dr. Lamourt and Mrs. Tuorto served in the respective roles of Dean of Counseling and Dean of Faculty.

The Assistant Headmaster positions are newly created; the posts are designed to advance the mission, traditions and success of St. Benedict's.

"There's this perception that the whole operation depends on me," said Headmaster Fr. Edwin Leahy, O.S.B. '63. "We're blessed with talented leaders like Ivan and Michelle who are critical to the operation and can take a greater role in running the School."



# Back at Benedict's



John Allen '54 helps David Decker '21 with his geometry homework.

**Meet four Gray Bees who contribute their time and talent to impact lives at The Hive.**

## **SUM OF HIS EXPERIENCE**

Most alumni know John Allen '54 as a legendary St. Benedict's Prep wrestling coach back in the 1950s and 60s. But to current Gray Bees, he's their after school math tutor. A career math teacher, Mr. Allen spends two afternoons each week at St. Benedict's, making the rounds in the library to help students with homework.

Mr. Allen spent 47 years — a total of 94 seasons — as a celebrated high school football, wrestling and baseball coach, including a decade at The Hive under St. Benedict's icon, Joe Kasberger. Those years of guiding young athletes reinforced the value of hard work and



persistence, skills that also apply in the classroom and in life. “When I teach a kid how to think and consider five possible ways to approach a math problem, that’s a skill he’ll use for the rest of his life,” Mr. Allen explained. “Through math, students are developing strong reasoning and analytical skills.”

When Mr. Allen approaches a table in the library, Gray Bees aren’t always aware of the rich resource standing before them. Sometimes, he’ll share stories of his coaching career. When he does, the emphasis is always on how teamwork, mental toughness and courage — the qualities he instilled in student-athletes for decades — also apply outside the sports arena: “These are things that aren’t always taught in class, and they’re vital. As Joe K used to say, ‘If it’s worth doing at all, it’s worth doing it right.’”

### TALK RADIO

A passion for amateur radio spurs Urb LeJeune, Ed.D., ’51 to travel once a month to St. Benedict’s Prep, a two-hour drive from his home in Little Egg Harbor, N.J., to work with The Hive’s Ham Radio Club. Several years ago, Dr. LeJeune assisted Science Teacher Jon Marlow to revive the organization, which has about 14 members.

As a kid, Dr. LeJeune had natural engineering talent that drew him to ham radio, and eventually, a science-based career culminating in a faculty position at Stockton University. Despite his intelligence, he wasn’t an academic superstar at St. Benedict’s; in fact, he graduated third from the bottom of his class. After graduation, Dr.

LeJeune took a job driving a pie delivery truck, but his affinity for science soon took over and led him to a successful career in technology. Proving that it’s never too late, he earned an

“St. Benedict’s is a rewarding place to spend my time.”

undergraduate degree in business administration at age 42, as well as two master’s degrees and a doctorate.

Today, communication has evolved, but ham radio still remains relevant. It’s often the only form of communication after major disasters, like Superstorm Sandy. Through the Ham Radio Club, Dr. LeJeune and Mr. Marlow encourage Gray Bees to earn their Federal Communications Commission (FCC) ham radio licenses, and club members bring handheld transmitters on The Trail, in case cell phones aren’t working. “I see my mission at St. Benedict’s as exposing the kids to a new hobby,” explains Dr. LeJeune. “Ham radio is a great way to get your hands into science and technology.”

### WEALTH OF KNOWLEDGE

As a career financial planner, Bob DiQuollo, CPA/PFS, ’65 is committed to advancing the futures of St. Benedict’s faculty and staff. He spends at least one day a month at the School, providing expert advice on a wide range of topics, from investment and tax strategies

to planning for higher education and retirement. “My goal is to give them a financial education so they can prepare for their own futures,” said Mr. DiQuollo, a Senior Wealth Advisor at Mariner Wealth Advisors.

While still a St. Benedict’s student, Mr. DiQuollo already had an interest in finance. As his career progressed, the Seton Hall University graduate often found ways to use his professional experience to support The Hive. A co-founder of Brinton Eaton Associates, Inc., which merged with Mariner Wealth Advisors six years ago, Mr. DiQuollo is currently Vice Chairman of the St. Benedict’s Board of Trustees and also serves on the School’s Finance Committee. This year, he decided to extend his help on a more individual basis to faculty and staff.


His monthly volunteer day at St. Benedict’s usually begins before Convocation, when he’ll present a workshop on a specific financial topic. Then, he’ll stay at The Hive all day to help develop strategies that address employees’ personal financial goals. “St. Benedict’s is a rewarding place to spend my time. It’s the atmosphere,” Mr. DiQuollo said. “The people here are so dedicated. It’s invigorating to work with people who are so engaged in the mission.”

### A BENEDICTINE THING

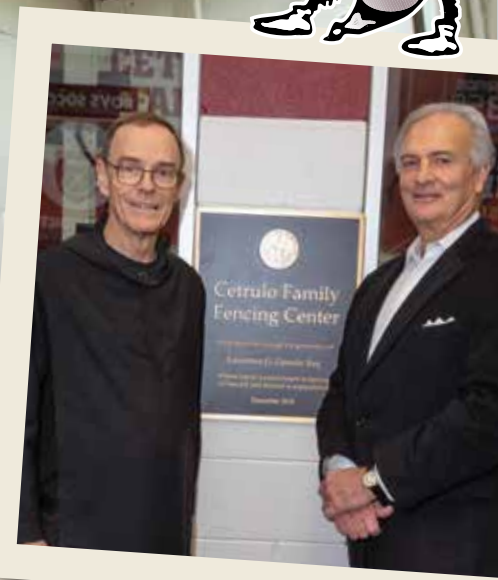
One day, Chuck Schnabel, Psy.D., ’65 got an urgent request from his old friend, Paul Thornton ’63, currently a consultant to the Advancement office. A counselor at St. Benedict’s Prep had left. Would Dr. Schnabel consider volunteering for a month to fill the void?

Fourteen years later, Dr. Schnabel still holds that volunteer position, helping to staff the Steven M. Grossman Counseling Center several days a week. The reason is simple: the kids need him. “I wouldn’t do it if I didn’t want to,” said Dr. Schnabel, who has worked in several schools, and also maintains a private practice. “Everybody at St. Benedict’s is tuned in to the kids.”

The counseling center provides 24/7 support to Gray Bees for all sorts of situations, from academics and family crises to issues unique to urban environments. Dr. Schnabel and his colleagues at The Hive run a variety of individual and group counseling sessions, and also sometimes visit students’ homes to speak with parents or guardians. “We’re a piece of the puzzle, but we’re not the whole puzzle,” he noted, adding that support for students also comes from faculty, staff, coaches and the monks of Newark Abbey.

Once a year, Dr. Schnabel gets together with 20 guys from the Class of 1965, all now successful professionals who support St. Benedict’s in their own respective ways. Sometimes, they’ll jokingly ask if he’s ready to take a step back from his volunteer work. Dr. Schnabel’s response: “We’re all there for the same purpose: to make people’s lives easier. I’m at St. Benedict’s because I want to be. It’s a Benedictine thing.” 





# BIG BOOST FOR FENCING

## Cetrulo Family Fencing Center Gives Team a Distinct Advantage

A state-of-the-art fencing room inside the Fr. Theodore Howarth, O.S.B. '41 Field House has made a world of difference to Gray Bee fencers. Officially named the Cetrulo Family Fencing Center in December 2018, the renovated space has taken practices and performance to the next level, Head Coach Rich Molina '06 said.

"It's done a lot for the program," said Mr. Molina, who also teaches physics at The Hive. Prior to the renovation, fencers used three electric strips that didn't function 100 percent of the time. Now, practices are more efficient with five new electric strips that can accommodate more fencers and a flooring layout that allows nearly every team member to run drills at the same time. The novel design of the electric strips places wires under the floor, which prevents tripping and malfunctions with equipment. The shock-absorbent floor is also designed to reduce stress on fencers' joints and prevent injuries.

Mostly, the new fencing center, made possible by a generous gift from St. Benedict's friend and benefactor Larry Cetrulo, has generated excitement and boosted the confidence of the team. "The team absolutely loves it," said Mr. Molina. "Guys have a lot of pride in their space and take ownership of the maintenance. They are trying to get as much fencing in as they can."

In February, the fencing team finished its season 13-1, which Mr. Molina attributes to the distinct advantages team members honed in the new facility. The team also took home three trophies, including a first place overall finish at the State Prep Tournament. Mr. Molina

predicts the Cetrulo Family Fencing Center will attract even more fencers to a program that has grown to a 35-member team and 16-member travel team. St. Benedict's also teaches fencing to 7th and 8th graders in the Middle Division.

That is exactly what Larry Cetrulo envisioned when he began investing in St. Benedict's fencing in 2011. The Cetrulo family has a long history with fencing in New Jersey and the City of Newark. In fact, Mr. Cetrulo, a graduate of Newark Academy and three-time All American fencer at Harvard University, recalled a time when every school in Newark had a fencing team. Wanting to revitalize the sport in the city, he generously supported the program at St. Benedict's, and last year, offered to renovate the fencing room.

His gift allowed St. Benedict's to work with Radical Fencing, an innovator in the design and manufacturing of fencing floor systems. St. Benedict's is the second school — after Columbia University — to utilize the latest in fencing technology and now boasts a facility equal to one of the best collegiate programs in the country. That's a long way from fencing's humble beginnings in 1985 when Derrick Hoff H'96 started the program with wooden sticks and strips made from rubber mats and removable tape.

Mr. Molina, too, marvels at the difference. "I'm amazed at what we're able to accomplish in the Cetrulo Family Fencing Center," he said. "It looks like a million dollars and kids want to be a part of that." **B**



## WINTER SPORTS WRAP-UP

The indoor track program rewrote the Gray Bee record book – setting new school standards in the 4x400-meter and 4x800-meter relays, 600 meters, 800 meters, 1000 meters, and the shuttle, 60 & 55 hurdles.



The basketball team, despite winning 25 games, missed a State Prep title for only the second time during the tenure of Coach Mark Taylor, who is inching closer to the 500-career-victory mark.



The wrestling team, behind first-place efforts by Ibrahim Mendheim '20 at 145 pounds and Christian Chajon '19 at 285 pounds, sent a dozen wrestlers to the National Prep Championships at Lehigh University. All 12 wrestlers finished in the top four in the national qualifier at Blair Academy to get an automatic berth into the Prep Championships.



The swimming team wrapped up its season in the Eastern States Championships and scored 36 team points, the most by a Gray Bee team since 2002 when future Olympic Gold medalist Cullen Jones '02 wore Garnet and Gray.

## ONCE AGAIN, DRAMA GUILD PROVES ITS VERSATILITY



Scenes from *Miss Evers' Boys* staged in November 2018.

The Drama Guild has never been shy about tackling challenging material. The troupe proved it once again when it staged *Miss Evers' Boys*, the well-received fall production directed by Patricia Flynn H'95. Approximately 20 students from the Middle and Prep divisions participated in the dramatic retelling of the controversial Tuskegee Study, a 40-year experiment that followed the progress of untreated syphilis in a group of African-American men.

Written by David Feldshuh, a physician and playwright, *Miss Evers' Boys* was a finalist for

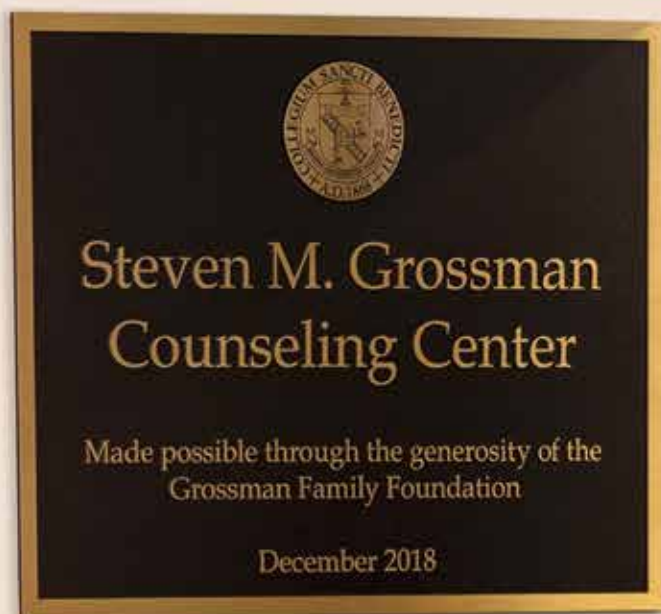
the Pulitzer Prize in 1992. The 1997 adaptation of the play for HBO was nominated for 11 Emmy Awards and two Golden Globes.

And in March, The Drama Guild turned to spooky comedy with *The Passion of Dracula*, based on the novel by Bram Stoker. In the play, Dracula has traveled from Transylvania to England in search of a bride who will provide him with an heir. He chooses the ward of a doctor who runs a sanatorium for the insane. The doctor's friend, a specialist on vampires, travels to England to pursue and ultimately defeat Dracula.



Scenes from *The Passion of Dracula* staged in March 2019.





# GIVING MORE

**Grossman Family Foundation  
ups its commitment to The Hive**

“St. Benedict’s understands that student success is more than receiving a high quality education. In addition to a solid education, they provide the guidance and social emotional resources that enable students to achieve success both academically and in life.”





Each year, the Grossman Family Foundation Endowed Fund generates annual operating funds for essential programs that define life inside The Hive. Shortly after the public launch of *Forever Benedict's: The Campaign for St. Benedict's Preparatory School* last May, the Foundation expanded its commitment and awarded the School a \$3 million grant. Chief Advancement Officer Mike Fazio said the sizable grant brings the Grossman Family Foundation's total support of St. Benedict's to \$7 million. "This gift places the Grossman Family Foundation among the top four donors in the School's 151-year history," said Mr. Fazio. "More importantly, it strengthens an endowment that will live in perpetuity, helping to ensure that Benedict's is here forever."

Headmaster Fr. Edwin Leahy, O.S.B. '63 said the School is honored and humbled by the Foundation's generosity to St. Benedict's. "The Grossman Family Foundation has been so good to us," said Fr. Edwin. "The most important thing we do is accompany kids through the most pivotal time in their lives. We're blessed to have a philanthropic partner that allows us to not only continue our work with kids, but do it more effectively."

The Grossman Family Foundation's generosity underwrites a number of initiatives including Leahy House, College Placement, need-based scholarships for families in the Elementary Division and the Counseling Center, which was recently renamed the Steven M. Grossman Counseling Center. Faculty and administrators say the Foundation's generosity has made a tangible difference for students and the School.

College Placement, for instance, was able to add a full-time College Placement Counselor, Jacob Drill, to its team because of the Grossman Family Foundation Endowed Fund. That means more manpower to help college-bound seniors find their best-fit school, which increases the likelihood that Gray Bees will succeed in higher education. Currently, nearly 100% of graduates matriculate to college and their six-year


graduation rate far exceeds national norms. Funds provided through the Grossman Family Foundation are also being utilized to track more data and create best-in-class tools for reporting college persistence.

The Grossman Family Foundation, which was founded in 2008 and made its first grant to St. Benedict's in 2010, is keen on partnering with institutions that can demonstrate impact.

"The mission of the Grossman Family Foundation is to ensure that children who are at risk of not succeeding become independent, self-sufficient adults," said Founder Steven M. Grossman, recipient of the Medal of St. Benedict's in 2018. "Our grantmaking strategy is to make significant investments in organizations that can demonstrate impact. St. Benedict's understands that student success is more than receiving a high quality education."

The Foundation was also impressed by day-to-day life inside The Hive.

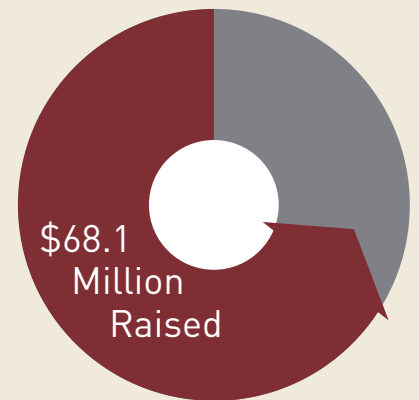
"In addition to a solid education, they provide the guidance and social emotional resources that enable students to achieve success both academically and in life," Mr. Grossman continued. "Over the years, the trustees have made several visits to St. Benedict's and we always leave the campus with a sense of admiration and respect for the leadership of the School, and are struck by the enthusiasm and commitment of the students. We have seen the impact of the School on the footprint of Newark increase over time and we are proud to be part of the School's success."

Beyond the day-to-day programs and services, the heightened partnership also has significant implications for the \$100 million *Forever Benedict's* campaign, the largest fundraising effort in the School's history. "As we're going out and talking to more people about investing in St. Benedict's, the support of the Grossman Family Foundation further strengthens our credibility in the philanthropic world," said Mr. Fazio. "Being able to show other funders that we have a track record with a foundation that has continually increased its investment in us, makes a really strong case for support." 

As of March 2019

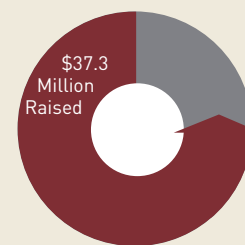
## OVERALL GOAL

### \$100 Million



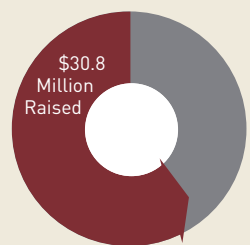
## ANNUAL FUND GOAL

\$50 Million



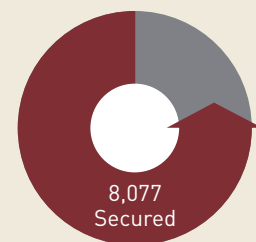
## ENDOWMENT GOAL

\$50 Million



## DONOR GOAL

11,000



For more information, visit [sbp.org/forever](http://sbp.org/forever).





### 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).

### 1949

**Richard Ragold** is still spending some time in consulting engineering, but more time playing golf, fishing and doing watercolors in beautiful northern Virginia.

### 1958

**J. Healey, Ph.D.**, of Monroe, N.J. has been selected by the Rutgers Alumni Association as a recipient of its prestigious "Loyal Son of Rutgers" award. John is one of only six recipients of the Loyal Sons & Daughters distinction in 2019. The honorees will be inducted during a "scarlet-tie" affair to be held at the Hyatt Regency in New Brunswick, Saturday, April 13. A 60-year tradition, the Loyal Sons & Daughters of Rutgers comprises individuals who have made a meaningful and long-standing contribution to the betterment of Rutgers by performing extraordinary volunteer service or by making a significant impact on university life and culture. Among his many accomplishments, John has also established a link between the Rutgers School of Engineering and St. Benedict's, providing support for current SBP students who seek to pursue an engineering career, and strengthening the STEM Program at The Hive.

### 1960

**Fr. Albert Holtz, O.S.B.**, celebrated the 50th

anniversary of his priestly ordination on March 22 with a Mass on March 23 in the Abbey church. He also marked it with the publication of his seventh book of meditations, published by Liturgical Press, entitled *Faces of Easter: Meeting the Paschal Mystery in the People Around Us*.

### 1967

**Greg Thornton** again joined the company at the Orlando Shakespeare Theater, appearing in *Hamlet* and *Gertrude and Claudius*. The season ran from February 6 to March 24, 2019.

### 1968

**Albee Tellone** reports he and Nancy spent a wonderful week at the resort town of Red River, N.M., located in the Sangre de Cristo Mountains, Taos County. There was lots and lots of snow. They also planned to attend the Tellone family cousins reunion in March at the Frisco (Dallas) Texas Pinball Festival. (The early money had Albee emerging as the Grand Pinball Wizard!)

### 1971

**Richard D'Innocenzio** was inducted into the Newark Athletic Hall of Fame.

The United States Bankruptcy Court for the District of New Jersey is dedicating the three Clerks' offices in Newark,

Trenton, and Camden in **Jim Waldron's** honor. Jim served as Clerk of the Court from 1984 to 2017. The ceremony took place February 21 at the Frank R. Lautenberg Courthouse in Newark. Below are **Darren St. Ange '11**, **Bernard Greene '73** and **Jim Waldron** at the ceremony.



### 1981

**Tim Dalton** reports that he has been caring for his brother, **Jack '72**, who had a stroke in 2016, and their mother. His son, **Jack '07**, has been busy working a federal law enforcement job and is commander of a company of New Jersey National Guard soldiers. Jack got married to Emily Dalton in January. Currently, Jack is leading a deployment of National Guard soldiers to the Horn of Africa. He is pictured below at the deployment ceremony speaking to his troops February 4 in front of Gov. Phil Murphy, Senators Cory Booker and Robert Menendez.



### 1983

**Tom Buccine** reports that he graduated *summa cum laude* with a 3.9 GPA from Kean University in May 2017 with a degree in Global Business. He writes, "I am a member of multiple honor societies. I also am enjoying my second granddaughter, Adeline, born in June 2017."

### 1986

**Tom Faulkner** is back at The Hive working in the Advancement Office. He writes, "My children are flourishing. Jacki, 30, is an Executive Chef, Kalli is graduating from Rutgers University this May, Jake will be off to one of his many college choices and Faith will finish sixth grade this year. I am living in Asbury Park. Come visit!"

### 1987

**Kevon Chisolm**, a trademark attorney in the United States Patent and Trademark Office, received the Bronze Medal Award for Superior Work Performance, including an outstanding rating in quality performance.

### 1992

**Sharif Muhammad, MBA, CPA, PFS, MST, CFP**, Founder and Managing Member of Unlimited Financial Services LLC, has added Certified Financial Planner, or CFP, certification to the services he offers clients and constituents. He writes he has been "constantly striving to improve and provide top-flight services to consumers in need of competent and dedicated professional services. I identified this

goal in 2017 as I sought to build and grow the Unlimited business. I ran into adversity with the death of my father in February 2018, but I wiped my tears, refocused my dedication to this particular goal, and saw it through. This is what being Unlimited is all about."

### 1995

Drama Guild Director **Patricia Flynn H'95** completed a teaching artist certificate at Columbia University Teachers College in May. She writes, "We studied child development, individual development, cultural responsiveness, building community and personal creativity through the lens of the arts. Most of us had been teaching artists for at least 20 years, and some of us for 40 years, so the sessions were rich in conversation and group art-making."

### 1997

**Michael O'Hara** reports that he completed a master's degree in Social Work program at Tulane University in New Orleans in December 2018. He wrote, "My son Leo turned 4 in January; my wife and I are exploring what is next."

### 2002

**Tyquan McAllister** writes, "I just wanted to send some encouraging words to my brothers at St. Benedict's. 'Action is the foundational key to all success' –Pablo Picasso. I've learned to put my thoughts and plans into action, which led me to be the owner of Savannah's Southern Belle Restaurant in



Linden, N.J. I've been in the restaurant industry for over 15 years serving southern cuisine. I invite all of you to stop by and enjoy a meal with me."

## 2006

**Kunle Samuels** announced his engagement to Isi Igbiniedion at Christmas.

## 2011

**Roberto Abrantes** and Jenny Abrantes have been married for four years; they have three children, and recently purchased their first home.

**Darren St. Ange**, a third year law student at Seton Hall Law School, is President of the Student Bar Association there.

## 2012

**Adebayo Eisape** is finishing a Ph.D. in computer engineering at Johns Hopkins University, his *alma mater*.

## 2014

**Darian Richmond-Toms** and Ashley Cradle are engaged.

## 2015

**Tiwalayo Eisape** was inducted into the Order of the Cross and Crown, the oldest and most prestigious honor society in the College of Arts and Sciences at Boston College on February 10. Only 43 out of his class of 1,500 were selected for the honor. Members of the order are "distinguished by both outstanding academic performance and by unusual service and leadership on campus throughout their undergraduate years." Photo

shows the Eisape family at the Cross and Crown induction. From left: DeeDee, **Seun '20, Tiwa '15** and **Adebayo '12**.



## MARRIAGES

**Torian Easterling '99** married Diane Easterling in November 2018.



Imani and **Naji Curry '12** got married in July 2018.



Mone'Kai and **Frantz Soiro '12** got married in August 2018.



## BIRTHS

Melissa and **Teddy Durkin '96** welcomed their son, Charles Louis Durkin, in August 2018. He was 7

pounds, 8 ounces and 20.5 inches.



Marta and **David Rodriguez '96** welcomed a son, Santiago, on January 10. Santiago joins big sister, 2-year-old Sofia.



Sharon and **David Carlo '99** welcomed their second child, Milena Mei Ye Carlo, in October 2018.



Aliyah and **Husain Gatlin '03** announce the birth of their son, Malachi Ahmad Gatlin, in September 2018. He weighed 7 pounds, 14 ounces.

Missy and **Bill Leahy '04** had their second child, daughter Scarlett Reese Leahy, on September 11, 2018. She weighed 7 pounds, 3 ounces. She joins a big brother, Jackson Dalton Leahy.

**Gabriel Leonard '04** and his wife, Alla, welcomed their second child, Zachary Ernest Leonard, in December 2018.

# IN MEMORIAM

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

## ALUMNI

John A. Mooney, Sr. '40  
John J. Gibbons '42  
George B. Meyers '44  
Joseph Ramage, M.D. '44  
John R. Lamport '45  
Charles A. Miller '45  
William G. Gilmore '47  
Paul J. Malague '47  
Thomas M. Shields, Jr. '47  
Frederick Winne, Jr. '47  
Ronald F. Soriano '48  
Herbert E. Boeckel '49  
Edward C. Lauber '49  
William J. Reuter '50  
Frank J. Scherer '51  
Joseph F. Reif '52  
John P. Bure '53  
Charles Robert Glynn '53  
John M. Hofbauer '53  
Most Rev. John M. Smith '53  
Joseph E. Sooy '54  
William E. Bellars, Jr. '56  
Anthony A. DiFlumeri, M.D. '56  
Thomas P. Heiser, Jr. '56  
Thomas R. Kennedy '56  
Andre J. Worobec '56  
Henry E. Zihlbauer '57  
Frank Vaccaro '58  
Thomas J. Morris '59  
William J. Alger '60  
Thomas P. Meola '60  
James A. Rizzolo '60  
Walter A. Zilahy '60  
John P. Mangan '61  
Arthur D. Giampolo '62  
Joseph A. Maffongelli '62  
John W. Riordan '62  
Charles J. McCabe '64  
George N. Schmidt '64  
James F. Flanagan III, Esq. '65  
James J. Hodgkiss, M.D. '65  
Richard J. Linehan '65  
James J. Farrell III '67  
Michael R. Zack '69  
James Mark Micali '70  
Andrew M. Hudson '74  
Arnold D. Peoples '80  
Thomas J. Critchley H'85

## COMMUNITY

Rev. David S. Achariam  
*Father of Matthew '07*

Carolyn M. Boring  
*Sister of Timothy '87*  
Zaid Braswell  
*Brother of Paul '84*  
Rosemary L. Cavanaugh  
*Mother of Francis '69, Peter '72, Michael '74, Spouse of F. Lee '44 (RIP)*  
Martha Corpus  
*Mother of Keith H'02*  
Veronica A. Durkin  
*Sister of Harry '49*  
Margaret "Peggy" Farrell  
*Mother of Mike Farrell '71*  
Nancy Galiher  
*Mother of John Galiher*  
T. Eleanor Grimm  
*Mother of Paul '67*  
Hazel Joan Harrison  
*Mother of Michael '85*  
Richard C. Holtz  
*Brother of Fr. Albert '60*  
Lacey Jones  
*Father of Larry '87*  
B. Michael Kennedy III  
*Mentor to Br. Simon-Peter Clayton '08*  
Sam Kurus  
*Father of William '93*  
Kiyoko McBurrows  
*Mother of Leon '82*  
Diane M. McEnery  
*Wife of John '61*  
Oscar McKenzie  
*Father of Omar '98*  
Joyce A. Reciniello  
*Wife of Frank '48*  
Anthony "Tone" Roberts  
*Father of Jabriel '12*  
Henrietta Romak  
*Mother of Ronald '69*  
Mary Sgroi  
*Grandmother of Joseph '11*  
MacArthur Shuler  
*Father-in-law of Phil Whyte '83 and Grandfather of Nigel Whyte '10*  
Gertrude M. Stanchfield  
*Friend of St. Benedict's*  
Joan V. Sutton  
*Mother of Rod '84*  
Jerry Thomas  
*Father of James '91*

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.




# Pay It Forward

For the past 20 years, Mike DiPiano Sr. H'82 has worked tirelessly to spread an important message: organ donations save lives. He should know. In 1998, the former St. Benedict's Athletic Director and Wrestling Coach received a kidney and pancreas transplant from a 21-year-old man killed in a car accident.

Since then, Mr. DiPiano has sought ways to honor his donor's memory and encourage others to consider organ donation. One of those initiatives was the ninth annual Gift of Life Wrestling Duals, held at The Hive on January 12. Each year, several area high schools face off on the mat, and the Sharing Network is on hand to provide information on organ transplants. "If organ donors weren't a thing, I wouldn't even be alive right now," Mr. DiPiano, the father of Mike DiPiano Jr. '95 and Frank DiPiano '01, told the crowd.

Two decades ago, Mr. DiPiano's condition had deteriorated so badly after a 30-year battle with diabetes that Headmaster Fr. Edwin Leahy, O.S.B. '63 had given him the Last Rites at St. Michael's Medical Center in Newark. With little hope remaining, the call came that a match had been found. At age 47, Mr. DiPiano received the double transplant — and a new lease on life.

Today, the St. Benedict's Hall of Famer and recipient of the Medal of St. Benedict's points out that 110,000 people are waiting for organ donations; of those, 25 die every day. As he celebrated the 20th anniversary of his life-saving transplant, Mr. DiPiano told a local newspaper, "I hope that I can continue to do things to honor my donor and spread the news and continue to educate people about transplantation and organ donation for the next 20 years." 



Above: Mike DiPiano Sr. H'82 speaks to the crowd.  
Left: Wrestlers prepare for a match.



## Events

### ON THE ROAD AGAIN

Headmaster **Fr. Edwin Leahy, O.S.B. '63** and Chief Advancement Officer Mike Fazio joined alumni supporters in Florida in February and March to spread good news from The Hive. With stops in Bonita Springs, Naples, Tampa, Vero Beach and Pompano Beach, Fr. Edwin said, "I love being here visiting our guys and other friends in Florida and around the country, but I hate *getting* here. I always give Fazio (Chief Advancement Officer Mike Fazio) a hard time as he drags me around from airport to airport. It's tough being away from the monastery and the kids back at School. But once I'm here, with you, it's great. It energizes me."



**Fr. Edwin Leahy, O.S.B. '63** caught up with **Bob Brennan '62** in Jupiter, Florida.



**Don Laurie '60** and his wife, Susie, hosted an alumni reception for **Fr. Edwin Leahy, O.S.B. '63** at their home in Vero Beach, Florida.



Lunch was hosted by **Paul Hannan '56** at the Rusty Pelican in Tampa, Florida.

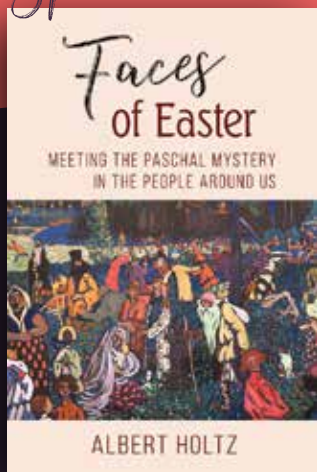


**Gene O'Hara '55** hosted the Gray Bees for an evening reception at the Bonita Bay Club in Bonita Springs, Florida.



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“Fr. Holtz encourages us to see in the faces of the people in our own lives an illumination not only of the mysteries of suffering and loss but also of spiritual connection, redemption, and hope. What a timely gift this book is.”

Elizabeth Wiegard, mother of student activist Emma González

“Fr. Holtz shines the light of Easter into the drama of the inner city and often, because he is open and hopeful, sees it shining back.”

Jerome Kodell, O.S.B.  
Subiaco Abbey

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**St. Benedict's**  
PREPARATORY SCHOOL

# Class of 1969 50th Reunion

**May 31-June 2, 2019**

For information, contact Candace Bradsher  
at (973) 792-5752 or [candaceb@sbp.org](mailto:candaceb@sbp.org).

# Senior Alumni Luncheon

**Friday, June 7, 2019**

**The Breakers**  
**Spring Lake, N.J.**

A special event for  
alumni who graduated  
50 or more years ago!

For more information and  
reservations, contact  
Mary Hauck at (973) 792-5776  
or [mhauck@spb.org](mailto:mhauck@spb.org).

## ALUMNI COMMUNION BREAKFAST

The Alumni Association's Annual Communion Breakfast was held on Sunday, March 31, beginning with a 9 a.m. Mass in St. Mary's Church and followed by the breakfast in St. Benedict's cafeteria. Honored this year were former teacher at The Hive **Richard Lorenzo '63**, Distinguished Alumnus; Director of St. Benedict's Vox Institute **Glenn Cassidy, Ed.D., '90**, Distinguished Monk/Teacher; St. Benedict's Security Staff member, Reginald Baskerville and St. Benedict's Facilities staff member James McKerry, Honorary Alumni.

# From One Gray Bee to Another

By Matthew Achariam '07

**Hon. John J. Gibbons, Esq. '42 was a legal giant. The former chief judge of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit left an indelible legacy when he passed away on December 9, 2018 at the age of 94. He recruited attorneys to represent hundreds of citizens detained during the Newark riots of 1967 as president of the New Jersey Bar Association and rendered 800 opinions during his 20-year tenure as a federal judge. After Judge Gibbons retired from the bench, he successfully argued for due process of detainees at Guantánamo Bay Naval Base before the Supreme Court, and led the effort to abolish the death penalty in New Jersey.**

**Missing from this long, distinguished record of public service is the advice, support and guidance Judge Gibbons freely gave to Gray Bees through his law firm, Gibbons P.C. Matthew Achariam '07 was one of many who benefited from the late judge's kindness. He shared this remembrance:**



Shortly before Christmas, I sat in one of the packed pews of St. Rose of Lima Church in Short Hills for the funeral Mass of Judge John J. Gibbons, learning and absorbing the full scope of the kindness and the outsized impact he had on the lives of those around him. My family and I are lucky to be counted among those whose lives he helped change for the better.


The first time we met was several months prior to my graduation from the Hive in 2007. He welcomed me to his office the moment he had heard from St. Benedict's that I had trouble getting financial aid for college due to the nature of my immigration status. I was quite nervous to attend this meeting, having heard so much about Judge Gibbons, but that nervousness was quickly dispelled by his warmth and calm demeanor. In our short meeting, he seemingly made up his mind to help me—moving mountains to get me a full scholarship to The College of Holy Cross.

Shortly after, a lawyer at his firm, Susanne Peticolas, took on the arduous task of getting my family green cards, again at no cost to us. Over the next six years, she was relentless in filling out all the tricky paperwork and forms required to get us permanent residency. Judge Gibbons had managed to surround himself and work with the people who had the same propensity for kindness and generosity.

Several of his family members shared wonderful stories that helped me understand his role as a father and grandfather. It was unsurprising to learn that many of them had been inspired by him to take on the mantle of giving back through jobs in public service, social work and law.

The last time I met him was a year after I had graduated from Holy Cross. I had reached an inflection point in my career and Judge Gibbons had unhesitatingly offered his counsel. I had been considering law school and once

again, without hesitation, he said he would help in any way he could. It's hard to forget or describe the positive impact of his unwavering belief in me when I was unsure of myself.

The passing of time has a unique way of emphasizing and muting the many memories of life. It takes a special kind of person to create beautiful memories in the lives of those around them, as Judge Gibbons did for us. Leaving the church that day I couldn't help thinking the greatest lesson from his life was the sense of duty to pay it forward—and that is how I want to honor his memory. 

*Matthew Achariam graduated from The College of Holy Cross in 2011 with bachelor's degrees in Chinese language & civilization and computer science. A product designer in the software industry, he recently co-founded the software company Clay.*





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May 9, 2019

Dalton Gymnasium  
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