

St. Benedict's

PREPARATORY SCHOOL





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Michael A. Fazio, Chief Advancement Officer Noreen Connolly H '11, Managing Editor Didier P. Jean-Baptiste, Esq. '86, Senior Director of Annual Giving

Ron Jandoli, Communications Officer Michael Scanlan H '97, Photographer Michael Marmora, Photographer

How to Reach Us

520 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd. Newark, NJ 07102 (973) 792-5752 www.sbp.org graybee@sbp.org

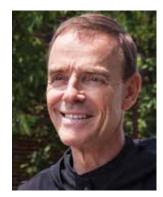
On the cover: USNA Midshipmen share a moment with students.

Follow us on





GREETINGS



From the Headmaster

When the teachers and staff of St. Benedict's Prep bid farewell to a senior class, as we did on June 8, we always do so without hesitation or regret. First, we know we will see these young men again. The ties that bind them to

each other and to The Hive will last a lifetime.

More importantly, we know we are sending leaders out into the world - leaders the world needs very badly. We have had the privilege of teaching them for a few years and now it is time for them to become role models at their colleges and workplaces, as well as in their communities.

From the first night of Freshman Orientation week, these young men learn the fundamentals of cooperation. The Group System of student leadership gives them hands-on responsibility for the shaping of their own school day. Throughout their journey at The Hive, they learn to trust each other and themselves, which will reap untold benefits in higher education and in their chosen careers.

In this issue you will learn how, thanks to our relationship with the United States Naval Academy, our students witness other young men and women, not much older than themselves, prepare to take on the mantle of leadership in the world's most powerful

After providing our young men with such powerful experiences, we say goodbye to them with hope and joy in our hearts because we know that the world needs them more than we do.

Peace.

Edwi D. Derly nt.

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

THEBUZZ NEWS FROM THE HIVE

Graduate Next Steps include College, **Naval Academy and** Seminary.

As each class of Gray Bees leaves The Hive. it's always exciting to see where the next step in their journey will lead.

This year, two of St. Benedict's newest alumni are headed for the Naval **Academy Preparatory** School, an eight-month session designed to ready young men and women for the challenges of the United States Naval Academy.

Four alumni will join the Redemptoris Mater Archdiocesan Missionary Seminary, while four will remain in the Benedictine fold at St. John's University in Minnesota.

Other schools that will welcome St. Benedict's alums this year include Boston College, Drew University, Fairfield University, George Washington University, Howard University, Lehigh University, Rider University, Rutgers University, Saint Peter's University, Swarthmore College, Union College, Villanova University and more.

LOUIS LAINÉ '12 NAMED TRUMAN SCHOLAR

When Louis Lainé visited St. Benedict's Prep in the sixth grade, he immediately felt at home. "I was looking for a school that would develop my leadership abilities, and I fell in love with the campus. St. Benedict's checked off a lot of boxes."

Yet, he said he was not

completely sold on The Hive until Fr. Edwin Leahy, O.S.B. '63 told him directly, "You have to come here, young man. You need to be here to find your future." Find it he has. Now entering his senior year at Swarthmore College, Louis has been named the sole 2015 Truman Scholar for New Jersey.

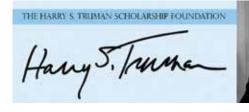
Born in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, Louis and his family moved to the United States when he was nine. "I was old enough to know who I was and to take in what was happening. I didn't know if I would always be 'that guy from Haiti' or if I would take advantage of this new place and become who I wanted to be. When I arrived, I was overwhelmed by the resources running water every day, lights turned on every day - and I decided to make the most of it."

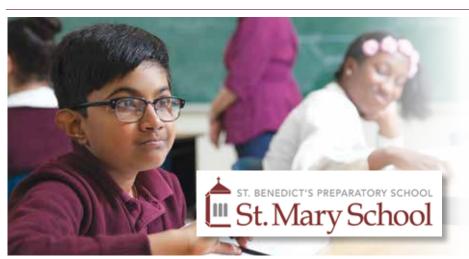
Today, he is the recipient of one of the most prestigious college scholarships in the country. The Harry S. Truman Scholarship Foundation awards \$30,000 toward graduate school. It was created by the United States Congress in 1975 to support the next generation of public service leaders and includes a range of fellowship opportunities designed to help students receive real work experience in government and public service.

By participating in the Truman Albright Fellowship, named for former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, Louis is gaining federal government work experience while advancing his education.

The former St. Benedict's Group Leader and National Honor Society member was also the firstever Swarthmore student to be accepted as a scholar to The Institute for Responsible Citizenship, an intensive leadership development program for talented African-American men. He is an executive board member of Swarthmore's Black Student Union and a member of the Tri-College Chapter of the NAACP in Pennsylvania. He helped found, and is now president of, Race to Action, an intercultural group committed to fostering inclusive spaces. Louis hopes to be a civil rights attorney and hopes one day to serve as Attorney General of New Jersey.

Louis gives credit for his success to the self-discipline he learned at St. Benedict's. "I was a guy who already knew how to read and write when I arrived," he said. "Schoolwork was not the issue for me. I needed a place to grow as a man and understand myself and my place in society. I was able to do all of that at St. Benedict's. Through the life skills I learned there, I became a better writer and felt ready for any classroom situation I might walk into."





St. Mary School is Now Part of St. Benedict's Prep

St. Mary School, the co-educational, kindergarten to eighth grade Catholic school on the grounds of Newark Abbey, has become part of St. Benedict's Prep. The change will enable two superior schools to operate as one and offer the excellent educational grounding of the Benedictine Monks to children as young as five years of age.

Founded in 1842, St. Mary is staffed by a dedicated and caring team of faculty and administrators, including laypersons, Sisters of St. Joseph and, now, Benedictine Monks. Br. Patrick Winbush, O.S.B., Director of Vocations for St. Benedict's Prep, has been named Assistant Headmaster and will oversee daily operations of St. Mary School.

Look for more information about St. Mary School in future issues and at www.sbp.org.

THE BENEDICTINE VOLUNTEER CORPS: COMMUNITY MEMBERS MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Since 2003, the Benedictine Volunteer Corps (BVC) has provided graduates of The College of Saint Benedict and Saint John's University in Minnesota with volunteer opportunities at Benedictine monasteries around the world, including Newark Abbey. Volunteers Nicholas Crowley and Charles "Chuck" Dudek have lived, prayed, taught and coached this past year.

The program offers young men an opportunity to share the spiritual vision of the Benedictine Monks, to reflect on Gospel values and the Christian meaning of life and to perform works of Christian justice and charity. In 2014, the BVC placed 22 volunteers in 11 different abbeys worldwide. In addition to Newark, BVC volunteers serve in Israel, Kenya, Tanzania, Italy, Spain, Guatemala, Colombia, India, the United States, Australia and Trinidad.

Mr. Crowley, a Minnesota native who studied English and theater at Saint John's, completed his volunteer year in 2013-14 and remained at Newark Abbey for another year to continue sharing his passion for teaching and coaching with the students of St. Benedict's Prep. During his stay, he taught science and supported the Drama Guild's production of Oedipus Rex. "At first, I wasn't sure the program was for me at all," he said. "But, staying was one of the best decisions I've ever made."

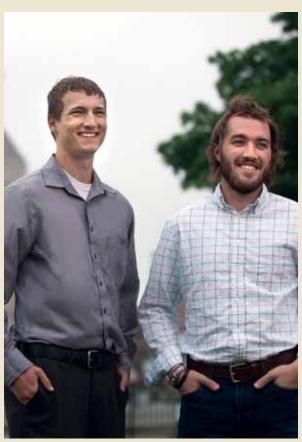
Nebraska native Mr. Dudek graduated from Saint John's in 2014 with a chemistry major and a minor in exercise science and sports. In addition to teaching and serving as an on-call substitute teacher, he's been involved with the monastic community, helped out at Leahy House, and made himself available to tutor and help students with homework.

"The Benedictine Volunteers bring youth to school," said Fr. Edwin Leahy, O.S.B. '63. "They are full of energy, very smart and very talented, all of which is great for our kids. They also give us flexibility in the curriculum. Mr. Crowley taught a theater class during the day that usually has to be held outside of regular hours, and Mr. Dudek enabled us to teach an anatomy class that we would not have had without him."

Moving from the Midwest to Newark, both men said they expected some form of culture shock. They were

pleasantly surprised by the smooth transition, made easier by the fact that they were essentially trading one Benedictine community for another. "Arriving at Newark Abbey, I knew no one," said Mr. Dudek, "but was welcomed wholeheartedly."

As both men finished their work at St. Benedict's and headed home, they shared their plans for the future. Coincidentally, both have accepted resident assistant positions — Mr. Crowley at Saint John's Prep and Mr. Dudek at his high school alma mater, Mount Michael Benedictine High School in Elkhorn, Neb. Long term, both hope to apply the Benedictine principles they learned at both Saint John's and St. Benedict's as they continue teaching and coaching - or, as Mr. Crowley puts it, "Being a member of the community that's making a difference."



Charles Dudek and Nicholas Crowley



Spirituality Corner

The spiritual heart of St. Benedict's Prep beats within the walls of Newark Abbey, where the Monks live and serve according to the Rule of St. Benedict.

Many friends of the Abbey are unaware that the teachings of the Rule can also provide spiritual direction for those who do not choose the monastic life. Benedictine Oblates, for example, are ordinary lay men and women who help fulfill their desire for a deeper relationship with God by studying the Rule of St. Benedict and applying it, where appropriate, to their daily lives.

To find out more about the Oblates of Newark Abbey or to read (or listen to) the Rule of St. Benedict, visit newarkabbeyoblates. org.

For a discussion of spirituality in modern times, check out Downtown Monks, a blog by Fr. Albert Holtz, O.S.B. '60, Newark Abbey Oblate Director, at downtownmonks. blogspot.com.





USNA Midshipmen at St. Benedict's

"Leadership and learning are indispensable to each other."

President John F. Kennedy

For a perfect example of President Kennedy's assertion, look no further than the collaboration between St. Benedict's Preparatory School and the United States Naval Academy's Department of Leadership, Ethics and Law (USNA-LEL). Since the Academy's first

internship placement in 2007, up to 15 USNA Midshipmen at a time have been placed at St. Benedict's in May and August to work with students and to hone their own leadership skills.



COVERSTORY



Fr. Edwin Leahy O.S.B. '63 and Michael Scanlan H '97

Much of our message to kids is about community and leadership. Well, the United States Naval Academy is pretty good at creating leaders.

Fr. Edwin Leahy, O.S.B. '63 identified three key benefits the relationship brings to St. Benedict's: prestige, clarity of desire and leadership. "First, to be associated with the United States Naval Academy (USNA) gives our kids a certain standing, simply because of the association. Then, the Midshipmen are unique among college-aged students. They have formed a clarity of desire earlier than you normally see. These men and women already know what they want — to become a naval officer — and are willing to do what it takes to achieve it. That inspires our kids to say, 'Maybe I can develop that kind of clarity.'" And finally, "Much of our message to kids is about community and leadership. Well, the USNA is pretty good at creating leaders, so they have a lot to say to our kids about the types of leaders they can become."

In return for this value, St. Benedict's provides what Assistant Headmaster Mike Scanlan H '97 calls "a living classroom." "The Navy is looking for meaningful placements for their Midshipmen," he said. "St. Benedict's gives the Navy something they don't have anywhere else, a place for Midshipmen to test the leadership skills they are learning in the classroom." During their debriefings, Midshipmen consistently talk about the many ways their posting at The Hive made them better leaders among the brigade. "If you're not putting your training to use," Mr. Scanlan added, "it's all theory."

CDR Kevin J. Haney, USN (Ret) of the USNA-LEL, said, "As a result of this program, Mids and students from St. Benedict's form life-long bonds that serve the greater purposes of both schools. Midshipmen return to USNA certain that learning to lead young people from such diverse backgrounds is the best leadership experience that they have had to date at the Naval Academy. The St. Benedict's students get to see highly successful men and women of color, some of whom came from similar backgrounds as them, who have overcome adversity to strive for personal excellence. In addition, having young men see and be led by bright, successful and strong women is a great side benefit."

The Midshipmen agree. "As a leader, you're responsible for motivating your people and seeing that their needs are met," said Midshipman Thomas Stone. "An experience like this exposes you to other people's needs and wants, so it helps us when we're making decisions and trying to help motivate our people."

Midshipman Joseph LaBrezzo, who accompanied St. Benedict's freshmen on the Backpacking Project, said his first day was all about establishing a workable level of trust. "We didn't know them; they didn't know us," he said. "I was leading a workout and they didn't want to do 30 push-ups, so they immediately resisted. But, once we got out in the woods, the bonds we developed with this unbelievably great group of kids really opened my eyes. I was so impressed with them."







A PROGRAM SETS SAIL

The relationship between St. Benedict's and the United States Naval Academy began in 2007, when St. Benedict's Trustee Donald Laurie '60 met Vice Admiral Mike Haskins, Director of the Naval Academy's Stockdale Center for Ethical Leadership. Mr. Laurie immediately recognized how valuable the two schools could be to each other, and he hashed

out a plan with Fr. Edwin and Assistant

Headmaster Mike Scanlan H '97 to begin sending Midshipmen to The Hive. Four Midshipmen arrived that summer, and the program has, to quote Fr. Edwin, "exploded" to include up to 30 Midshipmen a year.

For Muqkadeen Poole '15, four years of Midshipmen visits have changed his perceptions dramatically. "When I first saw them as a freshman, I was kind of scared of them. They're huge. They're athletic. They're yelling at you sometimes. But I learned a lot." This year, he was in charge of the Freshman Overnight and Freshman Backpacking Project and had the opportunity to work with the Midshipmen "as colleagues. Now I think the benefit is mutual. They learn about us, and we learn about them, too."

The connection between two groups so close in age, yet so diverse in experience, makes an indelible mark on all involved. "We're really not different from them," said Midshipman Stone. "We show them that they can do what we do. We go to one of the best institutions in the country, and that is something they can do as well."

Midshipman LaBrezzo agreed. "We're here to show the kids what's out there, and that it's OK to dream as big as they want, as long as they stay on the path, especially the path St. Benedict's shows them. The door is literally right in front of them. All they have to do is open it."

> Right: Over the years, Midshipmen have developed a trusting relationship with St. Benedict's students on backpacking trips and on the sports field.



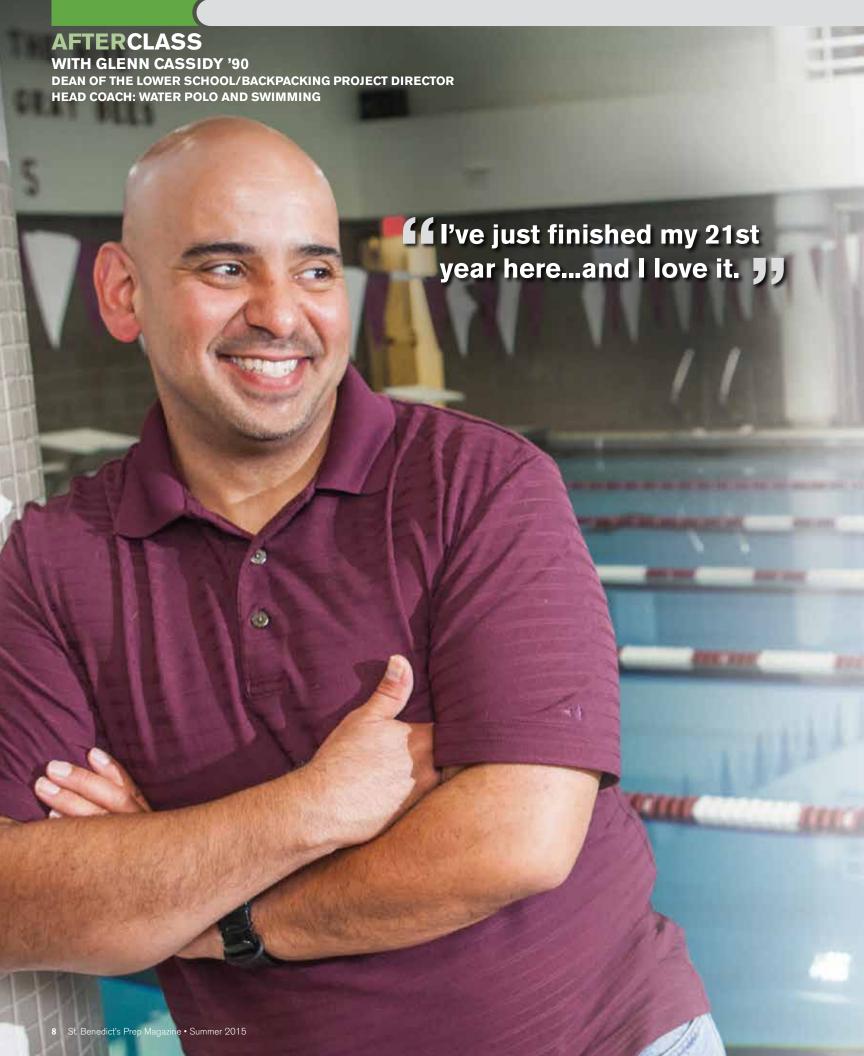


MICHAEL STEADMAN, EDUCATION WARRIOR

"Working in education is not that different from being an officer in the military," said Michael Steadman, residential housing director at Leahy House. He is in a unique position to know: As a student at the United States Naval Academy, he was one of the first Midshipmen assigned to St. Benedict's. After graduating in 2010 with a B.S. in history, Mr. Steadman accepted a commission as a Second Lieutenant in the United States Marine Corps. He served as 3rd Platoon Commander with the 1st Battalion 8th Marines in Camp Lejeune, N.C., and deployed to Afghanistan.

"When I was with my Marines, by myself, no one else was really in charge," he said. "It was simply assumed that we would be doing the right things at all times. It's the same at an institution like St. Benedict's. There's a lot of flexibility and responsibility. Everyone assumes you will do the right thing, which provides a great opportunity for leadership."

In addition to his military experience, Mr. Steadman brings years of experience as a championship boxer and certified USA Boxing Coach, USA Weightlifting Sports Performance Coach and CrossFit Level 1 Trainer. He has won three National Collegiate Boxing Association Championships at 175 lbs., three Brigade Boxing Championships, three All-American Certificates, and two Most Valuable Boxer Awards. He is also the founder of Barbells and Boxing Gloves, a non-profit dedicated to utilizing boxing and weightlifting to counter inner city violence. Mr. Steadman hopes to launch a boxing program at The Hive.



You have a very diverse range of responsibilities.

I'm Dean of the Lower School, which is seventh through ninth grade. I run the weeklong overnight Freshman Orientation program and the Backpacking Project. I also coach the swimming and water polo teams. Thankfully, I've got some help there from Spencer Vespole '09 and Cavill Henriquez. Beyond that, I oversee security and safety, as well as student services, the cafeteria, the federal lunch program and the nurse's office.

How did you become so invested in St. Benedict's Prep?

I'm Class of 1990, after which I majored in psychology at the University of Notre Dame. I came to St. Benedict's to run the pool for a year or two and became attached right away. I started thinking, 'Maybe I'll stay three or four years.' By the time I looked up again, I'd just finished my 21st year here. And I have loved it.

When did you discover water polo?

I've been a swimmer since I was nine. I came here as they broke ground on the building where the pool is housed. The pool manager at the Boy's and Girl's Club where I lifeguarded was a water polo guy, and he taught me the game. That fall, our pool opened, and the swim team coach started a water polo team to get us into the water earlier. Our first season was pretty rough — two and nine — but the successes were powerful. We lost our very first game 21-4. Three weeks later that team came back with families and friends, expecting a big, easy win. We beat them 9-8 in overtime.

The current team has run the gamut of good seasons and bad. We've competed for a few state titles, which is amazing considering most of our players couldn't swim when they got here. One of our students approached Coach Henriquez and said, 'I want to play water polo, but do I need to know how to swim to do that?'

Where else in the world could you even contemplate playing water polo when you don't know how to swim? Yet, our guys do it. By the time they're juniors and seniors, they're competing with guys who were swimming since childhood. Even if we don't have national titles, we have some significant success.

What's the significance of the Backpacking Project?

The Backpacking Project was launched in 1974 as part of an experiential learning initiative that was far ahead of its time. The first trip was to the Appalachian Trail, and nobody involved had ever been there. They had no experience. Some guys dragged their parents' luggage along the trail. But they made it. When Fr. Mark Payne, O.S.B. '69 showed up, he brought organization and expertise. He put order to it and ran it until 2009, when I took it over. This year, we took more than 100 freshmen, 16 transfers and 40 older student assistants.

Freshmen develop their ability to work with others. Throughout the project, they are in teams of eight. They do everything in those teams. They eat together, sleep together, for the whole month. Then we divide up specialties. Different kids learn navigation, first aid skills, cooking and so on, while one kid — the captain — gets specific leadership training. They learn those skills from older students, not from faculty - that's important. When the team is trained and together, they have all the resources they need. They can rely on their teammates for everything, and the older students and faculty for nothing. We call that horizontal dependence and vertical independence.

How is today's Backpacking Program different from your student experience?

It was tougher when I went through it. It's more sophisticated now. We deliver jugs of water instead of purifying it ourselves. We sleep on private property instead of the trail shelters. A lot of that has to do with new state rules. One thing hasn't changed, though - the premise we tell all the kids: Never do something for a student that he can do for himself. There's nothing wrong with getting lost; figure it out! Backpacking is one area where 98 percent is not good enough. The bus home is sitting in the parking lot of the Delaware Water Gap. Ninety-eight percent does not get you on that bus. If you go 70 percent, you're still in the woods someplace. The only thing that gets you on the bus is 100 percent.

What do you do in your limited spare time?

I'm working on my education doctorate at Rutgers. My degree will be in education, culture and society. I have two courses left and start my dissertation process soon. My master's is from Saint Peter's University in education administration and supervision. I'm also an EMT volunteer one night a week in Union. For fun, I love doing stuff around the house. Fixing stuff up. I love to travel, go to the beach and hang out with other people and my pit bull, Taylor. ®



Mr. Cassidy, with history teacher Dave Carlo '99 (left) and Director of Admissions Mario Gallo (center), is an inspiration on the Trail.

ADVANCEMENT

COUNTING OUR BLESSINGS



Jayshyn Abel '18

Grant Puts More Muscle Behind Fitness Program

Over the past six years, health and physical education instructor Tom Leahy '77 has transformed the St. Benedict's P.E. curriculum from a traditional sports-based program into a focused fitness regimen that can be tailored to any boy's abilities and needs.

"The serious athlete is sweating right next to the kid just trying to lose weight, and they're both getting a serious workout," he said. On a budget of roughly \$1,000 a year, Mr. Leahy has been tremendously successful in assembling a hodge-podge of equipment that includes beer kegs filled with sand and pull-up bars made from iron pipes. He has even used his own truck to pick up used fitness equipment from generous alumni.

Today, thanks to a \$40,000 grant from The Horizon Foundation for New Jersey, more boys than ever will have access to the crossfit-inspired regimen. "As of last year, I was only teaching freshmen," said Mr. Leahy, "and after school we had nothing, because the gym was dedicated to the athletic teams." The grant will also underwrite a new gym space. "Now we'll have something for the upperclassmen, as well as an afterschool program."

The grant will have a concrete effect on about a dozen young men in the Fit and Trim program who have, collectively, lost more than 200 pounds this year alone. "These kids got in shape. They're able to do pull ups, push ups and Olympic lifts. Since they've had some success taking control of their bodies, I can't let them go back to sitting on the couch."

"The Horizon Foundation for New Jersey proudly supports St. Benedict's," said Jonathan R. Pearson, Executive Director of Corporate Social Responsibility at Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield of New Jersey. "Our grant will help the School develop a more comprehensive obesity prevention and education program for their students to lead healthier, more fulfilling lives."

"The Horizon Foundation has supported our counseling program for a number of years," said Kevin Moriarty '63, Director of Corporate and Foundation Relations. "They have changed their direction and are now also interested in physical fitness and weight loss."



HORIZON GRANT ALSO SUPPORTS HYDROPONIC GROWING SYSTEM

Part of the Horizon Foundation grant will be used to install a small hydroponic growing table in the cafeteria. Noreen Connolly H '11, who co-directs the Garden Program, now a quarteracre urban farm behind Leahy House, foresees integrating new technology into the life of the school. In addition to making vegetable growing a year-round experience, the table will be an energy efficient source of fresh greens for the students, as well as a hands-on learning opportunity for the science curriculum.

Barkhorn Scholarship Revives a Legacy

While more than half of all Americans have Googled themselves, perhaps only Henry Barkhorn, III has discovered a scholarship in his name in the search results.

"When my grandfather, Dr. Henry Barkhorn, Class of 1901, died in 1969, my grandmother left \$10,000 to St. Benedict's Prep," said Henry Barkhorn, III. "I came across it many years later while Googling my name. I called the school and asked, 'What's up?'" That brief conversation led to an invitation from Director of Planned Giving and Associate Headmaster Paul Thornton '63 to visit Newark Abbey.

Mr. Barkhorn, a former Wall Street executive, and his family run the Henry C. & Karin J. Barkhorn Foundation. Through this family trust, the Barkhorns re-invigorated the Dr. Henry Barkhorn Scholarship Fund, which now provides an amount equal to a year's tuition. The family has put very few restrictions on the scholarship, preferring, said Mr. Barkhorn, "to let St. Benedict's use the money as effectively

"We are already leaders. So go out and earn your followers. Get involved and earn your leadership."

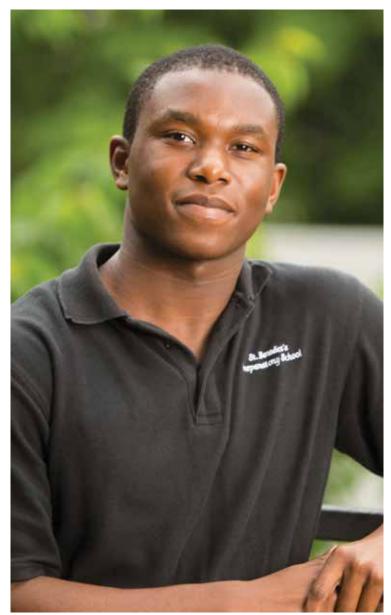
Serge Ayinou '15

as they can. When my grandfather was at the school, its role was to provide an education to the descendants of German immigrants in Newark." Now, he added, it is dedicated to educating the children not only of Newark and the surrounding area, but the children of families from around the world.

Valedictorian Serge Ayinou '15 was the most recent Barkhorn Scholarship recipient. Born in Togo, West Africa, Serge has been in the U.S. since age eight. While

at The Hive, he developed a love of math and science, competed on the swim team and earned spots on the National Honor Society and National Art Honor Society.

He will now study engineering at Lehigh University in Bethlehem, Pa. Despite his academic accomplishments, Serge said he wishes he had gotten even more involved at St. Benedict's. It is a lesson he plans to apply in college. "I want to start looking for research opportunities right away," he said, "and be a leader without a title." He encouraged all St. Benedict's students to be leaders without titles. "We are already



Dr. Henry Barkhorn scholarship recipient and Valedictorian Serge Ayinou '15

leaders," he said, because of the opportunities St. Benedict's provides. "So go out and earn your followers. Get involved and earn your leadership."

Serge expressed his deepest gratitude to the Barkhorn family for making his high school education so much easier on his family finances.

To make a scholarship gift, contact Michael Fazio, chief advancement officer, at (973) 792-5777 or mfazio@sbp.org.

GOGRAYBEES



The Gray Bee crew team wrapped up an inspiring spring season in the 50th Annual **Upper Merion Regatta** in Pennsylvania on May 31. The rowers had two first place efforts and three runner-up finishes. James Guallpa '19 (coxswain), Alex Lemus '18, Michael Okaro '18, Daniel Decker '18 and Travis Wright '18 led the Men's HS Novice 4+ to the title in the Novice 4+ race, while the team of Eric Lombeyda '15 (coxswain), Guillermo Cruz '15, Muhammad Mubasit '15, Thomas Schwartz '16, Lucas Perez '15, Malachi Hunter '15, Michael Walrond '15, Evan Jenkin '15 and Fedor Efremenko '15 paced the JV 8+ to victory.

On May 10, the team had three top-10 finishes in the Philadelphia Scholastic **Rowing Association's** Flick Regatta.



GRAY BEES EXCEL AT NON-TRADITIONAL SPORTS

Certain sports just seem a little more out of reach for city kids. It's hard to put together a neighborhood crew team when a single eight-man shell can cost up to \$40,000. It's tough to learn to swim when you can't find a pool. And, of course, golf courses are few and far between in the crowded neighborhoods of our inner cities.

Yet, St. Benedict's Prep boasts a crew team of 45 rowers — thanks, in part, to a generous donor who helped the team buy new practice shells and fields competitive water polo and swim teams. In fact, swimmer Cullen Jones '02 won the gold medal in the 4x100 relay in the 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing, China, and returned in 2012 to take a gold medal in the 4x100-meter medley relay along with silver medals in the 50-meter freestyle and the 4x100-meter freestyle relay.

Water Polo Coach Glenn Cassidy has established something of a dual track for his team. The young non-swimmers spend a season becoming strong swimmers, while the older players are training to win. "Our record has been up and down, but we have competed for state titles a number of times," he said, including the Garden State Championships in 2014.

Rowing is also a new experience for most St. Benedict's students. "It is not something you do for fun," said Head Coach Craig A. White II '04. "You really have to enjoy the passion of it almost seven days a week. The kids love it." Rowing is unique in a number of ways, Coach White said. "It's one of those rare sports where the individual doesn't exist. Your success or failure depends on everyone around you. It falls in line with everything we're trying to teach these kids: what hurts my brother hurts me. Plus, 90 percent of the people they compete against don't look like them. Our kids are pioneers of a sort. That's exhilarating."





The 2015 Gray Bee golf team, from left: Coach Tim Kistner, Nadir Dunns-Thornes '16, Damon Hart '18, Eric Conklin '17, Pedro Rodriguez '17, Tajai Davis '16 and Hunter Farinhas '18

St. Benedict's Prep has also recently reintroduced golf, thanks to two donations of \$5,000 each from the New Jersey State Golf Association and the state Professional Golf Association (PGA). St. Benedict's Athletic Director Ed Bendokas said the gifts were used for transportation and to offset the salary of Coach Tim Kistner, a Certified PGA Teaching Professional. The Gray Bee golf team has been offered free practice time at the New Jersey Golf Academy in Roseland, N.J., and the Weequahic Golf Course in Newark.

"We want to get our young men excited about the game of golf," said Fr. Edwin Leahy, O.S.B. '63. "The key in the beginning is enthusiasm. We'd like to get the program going and then help spread golf for youth throughout the City of Newark.

Bob Munch '69, who was instrumental in facilitating the donations to the golf program, says sports can teach lessons that apply well beyond the game.

"Golf is more than just a sport," he said. "You can always learn something about a person on the golf course. You see whether they follow the rules, adhere to the etiquette. It's important for kids to learn those things. Plus, a good golf game is not a bad asset to have in the business world."







Damon Hart '18

GOGRAYBEES



It seems every time we think we have an answer to that question, the 2013 St. Benedict's Prep graduate breaks another record.

While at The Hive, Edward set national sophomore records in the indoor two-mile (8:42.66) and outdoor mile (4:03.29) before claiming back-to-back national Foot Locker Cross Country Championship titles and breaking a 49-year-old St. Benedict's two-mile record with an 8:39.25 at the 2013 Millrose

Games. His senior year he was named the Gatorade 2012–2013 National Cross Country Runner of the Year.

Now entering his junior year at the University of Oregon, Edward has already captured nine NCAA titles, eight of them in individual events. Gray Bee

Cross Country Assistant Coach Marty

Hannon H '06 pointed out that even legendary Oregon runner Steve Prefontaine never accomplished that. *Running Times* has written

that Edward's accomplishments "border on the unbelievable," and *Runner's World* wrote that he "is well on his way to becoming one of the best college distance runners ever."

Raised in a mud hut in Iten, Kenya, Edward learned to run at 7,000 feet above sea level, in a region renowned for world-class runners. He was already running eight miles a day in the first grade, just to get back and forth to school. Edward's family is part of the Kalenjin tribe, which has produced 75 percent of all Olympic gold medals won by Kenyans.

Edward was brought to
St. Benedict's Prep in 2010 through
a Maryknoll Mission in Kenya.
"We had no idea how good he
was," said Coach Hannon. "Our
first clue was when we did a
workout on a very humid August
day. We ran six back-to-back
miles, and Edward clocked times

between 4:30 and 4:50. We said, 'This kid is something special.' He then sat out for six weeks because of a stress fracture, and the next time we saw him run was at the National Independent Schools Championships. He won his first race against the best runners on the East Coast."

Edward went on to set course records at the New Jersey Prep Championships and the New Jersey Catholic Track Conference Championships. Famously, the runner who came in second to him in the 5K at the Essex County Championships broke the previous course record, and still lost to Edward by 13 seconds. "He broke a course record on virtually every course he ran," said Coach Hannon. "Yet, he remains a humble kid who just enjoys running."

Edward was recently named a finalist for the Bowerman Trophy, the track equivalent of the Heisman Trophy. The winner will be announced December 17.



Edward
Cheserek '13
was raised
in a mud hut
in a region
in Kenya
known for
world-class
runners.
When not in
school, he
tended cattle.

When Edward ran for St. Benedict's, Coaches Hannon and Chelule Ngetich pushed him only as far as necessary to win, knowing that it is not wise to over-train a teenaged athlete. So, despite the titles and shattered records, neither coach has seen Edward at his fastest. He was the most highly recruited high school distance runner in the nation and, in 2013, he became the first freshman in Oregon history to win the NCAA National Cross Country Championships.

"I've spoken to his coach at Oregon," said Coach Hannon. "They haven't really maxxed him out either, and he's already broken records that future Olympians had set."

We may never know exactly how fast Edward Cheserek is, but we may find out if he's the fastest in the world. He is currently working with an immigration attorney on a path to citizenship so he can one day run for the United States against the world's best runners.

SUMMER IN PROVENCE



Imagine spending an entire month in Provence, France, immersed in the study of language, visual art, drama and filmmaking, as well as learning to cook French food from a dedicated in-house chef. For three Gray Bees, that month in paradise became a reality, thanks to the Barat Foundation's Summer in Provence program.

Faseeh Bhatti '16, Bruce Davis '16 and Emmanuel Knighton '16 joined 25 students from around the world at a country estate in sunny southeastern France, where they mingled with local artists, musicians and arts professionals in an experience designed to foster, according to the Foundation's mission, "a passion for learning and creative expression, through an interactive educational experience featuring cultural exchange, artistic immersion, humanistic values and a commitment to each individual's creative potential."

Entrepreneurs and Newark residents Gary and Chandri Barat founded the not-forprofit foundation in 1997 to expand creative opportunities through immersion programs designed to maximize artistic and intellectual achievement and personal growth.

Ideally, says Chandri Barat, the Summer in Provence students become a family of young artists.

This is the third group of St. Benedict's Prep students who have participated in the 10-year-old program. A member of the first group, Cameron Bernard Jones '06, is now a professional singer and dancer. Recent participants have been supported by the Barat Foundation and by scholarships endowed by sculptor and Newark native Willie Cole and contributions from St. Benedict's alumni.

Bruce, who is the 2015-16 Senior Group Leader, said he was "just a doodler" before taking art teacher Pamela Wye-Hunsinger's class. As a drummer and a member of the Drum Line, Bruce has taken full advantage of the spectrum of art offerings at Benedict's.

Faseeh, a lead actor in both of last year's Drama Guild productions, plans to study filmmaking. He said the scholarship was "pleasantly unexpected. I would never have thought that getting involved in art would take me places - literally, as well as figuratively."

Ms. Wye-Hunsinger, who was instrumental in bringing the program to St. Benedict's, is thrilled with the results. "Students have been ecstatic about their experiences," she said, "such as eye-opening visits to museums, cultural sites and local cafes, as well as community service teaching local youngsters



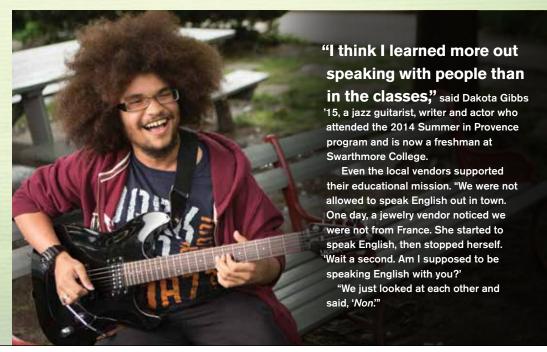
Emmanuel Knighton '16



Senior Group Leader Bruce Davis '16

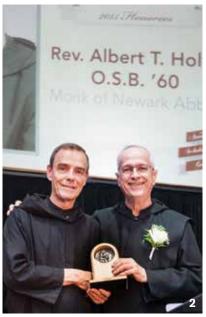
English in exchange for French conversation. Community building is a priority of the Barats, so there's tremendous bonding."

One of last year's participants, Dakota Gibbs '15, said the main requirements for the program are an open mind and good walking shoes. His advice to his brothers was simple: "Experience as much as possible," he said.



BROTHERSFOREVER





edicts



THREE "BROTHERS" HONORED AT GALA

George Coker '61, Ron Beit and Fr. Albert T. Holtz, O.S.B. '60 each received the Medal of St. Benedict's at the May 16 Scholarship Gala held in St. Benedict's HAB Building. In attendance was a capacity crowd including Newark Mayor Ras Baraka, who said, "Nobody in the city, the country or planet does it better than this school in Newark." The Gala honors those who have remained steadfast in their commitment to the boys the School serves and helps support St. Benedict's scholarship and financial aid commitments.









Events

POMPANO BEACH, FLORIDA REUNION

1. Fr. Edwin Leahy, O.S.B. '63 and Chief Advancement Officer Mike Fazio with the host of the alumni gathering in Pompano Beach, Harry Durkin '49. 2. Michael H '82 and Karen H '01 DiPiano, who have relocated to Florida, surrounded by Santiago Lago '97, Rood Beauzile '83.

Raul Davila '93

and Guerry

Nelson '94.





COMMUNION BREAKFAST



The day's honorees (front and center), Distinguished Alumnus Joe Hayden '62; Distinguished Service Award recipient Chuck Schnabel '65; and new honorary alumni Br. Maximilian Buonocore, O.S.B. H '15, and Jay Hartmann H '08.

ATLANTA REUNION



EVENING WITH LEGENDS



Kenya Moncur '91 shares a story about his time under the tutelage of the three legends, Mike DiPiano H'82, Fr. Edwin and Hank Cordeiro '72.



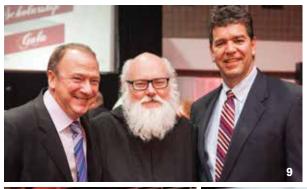
1. Lanier Walton II '94 and Pat Napoli '87 catch up. 2. Alan Bernard '93 and his wife, Cherise Jefferson, with host Jerry Froelich, Jr. '61.



















1. Honoree Ron Beit of RBH Group, LLC. 2. Honoree Fr. Albert Holtz, O.S.B. '60 (right) with Headmaster Fr. Edwin Leahy, O.S.B. '63. 3. Honoree George Coker '61. 4. Mike Pennella '67 and Board Chairman Bill Connolly, Jr. H '91 5. The student Jazz Band and their faculty moderator, **Dr. Jeremy Fletcher**, provided background music from the rafters. 6. Charles Deubel III '66 and Bill Frese '66. 7. Newark Mayor Ras Baraka addressed the crowd. 8. A view from above. 9. Brian Voynick '74, Fr. Augustine Curley, O.S.B. '74 and Kevin Schiller '74. 10. Craig Gillespie H '14, Chris Silva '04, Pat Hunter '08, Sylvers Owusu '03 and Kendall St. Ange '09. 11. Brett Haire and Neale Trangucci. 12. Student speaker Muqkadeen Poole '15 uses the traditional St. Benedict's signal for asking for everyone's attention. 13. Dan Sheehan '08 chats with Tom Lacey, one of the Naval Academy Midshipmen, who once again interned at The Hive during Spring Phase. 14. Levee Brooks '00 and Jermaine Monk '00. 15. John Huss '81, Stephanie Smith and Chris Rodriguez '90. 16. Paul Thornton '63, Brian Kennedy '87 and Tyler Gabriel '09. 17. Chris Silva '04 and Roosevelt Donat '03 with Fr. Edwin.

CLASS OF 1955 60TH REUNION



CLASS OF 1965 50TH REUNION



1. The Class of 1965 at their formal Saturday event during their reunion weekend. 2. Augie **DeRosa** wore his letterman sweater from 1965 to Commencement.

SENIOR ALUMNI LUNCHEON



The Class of 1956 was one of several represented among the over 140 alumni attendees, all of whom graduated 50 years ago or more, at the Breakers in Spring Lake.

CLASS OF 1960 55TH REUNION



Members of the Class of 1960 enjoyed an evening with their guests at the Essex and Sussex in Spring Lake.

BROTHERSFOREVER

CLASS NOTES AND EVENTS



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.

1934

John J. Molinari, M.D., celebrated his 99th birthday on July 9.

1955

Lou Van Bergen III forwarded a tribute to

Bill Powers from Msgr. Tim Shugrue, pastor of St. Michael's Church in Cranford, where Bill has served in various capacities for many years. Msgr. Shugrue concluded his praise of Bill's service with: "Bill is an outstanding example of the quiet and consistent service of so many people who, 'behind the scenes, make life at St. Michael's pleasant. Bill has indeed earned a break from his weekly supervision of the Noon Mass. Thank you, Bill, for demonstrating the kind of loyalty that sustains the life of a parish. St. Michael's is blessed to have you!"

1962

Tom Quinn participated in a competition celebrating 125 years of rowing by the New York Athletic Club. A highlight was the mention of Tom's having rowed in a four-man boat in the World Championships in 1970, leading to the boat's qualification at an Olympic event, which was attended by Jack Kelly and his sister, Princess Grace of Monaco. Tom notes, "We did this with a wooden boat and oars."

Alumnus Frederick R.

Dunne, Jr., and his son, F.R. "Chip' Dunn III, have both been made members of The National Trial Lawyers Top 100 Trial Lawyers for 2014.



1963

Ray Caprio is now Director for Municipal Government Research at the Edward Blaustein Center for Government at Rutgers University, while continuing as University Professor of Urban Studies.

Rev. Msgr. Jerry Hahn

wrote, "Our parish, St. Anthony's in Northvale, N.J., marks 125 years in 2015. I am leading a July pilgrimage to the Shrines of France -Lourdes, Lisieux, Monserrtas and Normandy."

1964

At our June Board of Trustees meeting, Brian Froelich offered this digression: In a St. Benedict's football game against New York Military Academy in Oct. 1962, one play resulted in a broken leg suffered by one Donald Trump, which, according to his autobiography, put an end to his football career.

1969

Gil Gaul has a new book. Billion-Dollar Ball, about big money in college football. Gil, a two-time Pulitzer Prize winner, takes readers on a journey through the bigmoney culture of college football.

Mike Tully is co-author of a recently published book on sports psychology, Think Better, WIN MORE!. Mike is a former international sports writer, high school coach and NCAA coach. He is also the author of The Improvement Factor: How Winners Turn Practice into Success.

Jim MacDonald has been named a 2015 Fellow of the Agricultural & Applied Economics Association. Currently Chief of the Structure, Technology and Productivity Branch at the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Economic Research Service (ERS), he builds teams and supervises ERS research on farm structure, productivity, field practices and agricultural research and innovation while co-managing USDA's Agricultural Resource Management Survey.

The second installment in Ron Felber's Madson thriller series, The Kafka Society, was issued in May by Barricade Books. Ron, who lives in Mendham, N.J., was raised in Newark and

credits his St. Benedict's education for sharpening his focus on the moral failings that help define the characters in his books.

1982

Rich Zellars is now the Chair of the Department of Radiation Oncology at Indiana University. Previously, he was Associate Professor for Radiation Oncology at Johns Hopkins.

Daniel Raymond is happy to share that his latest collection of drum solo material, published through Tapspace Publications, has been favorably reviewed by the Percussive Arts Society and Modern Drummer Magazine.

1986

The Class of 1986 travel crew, which this year included (pictured clockwise) Elliot Gwynn, John James, Dave Ricketts, Todd Barnett, Mike Thompson, Kevin

Booker, Chris Hill, Dave Whigham, Kit Saunders and Mark Zeno, chose

Mexico as the destination.



1996

Boris Moyston, who earned an MBA at the Duke University Fugua School of Business in 2011, accepted an offer to work in the Investment Management Division at Goldman Sachs and has published an early learning app on Google Play and iTunes for

tablets. The app is called "Young Brainpower" and is only available for Android and Apple tablets. Boris suggested, "Read up on us at www.youngbrainpower.com"

1998

Kyle Dargan has recently published his fourth collection of poetry. Author Keith D. Leonard wrote of *Honest* Engine, "I am awed by this book's wisdom and calm clarity and moved by its faith. I will read it again and again." Kyle is associate professor of literature and creative writing at American University.

2003

Glenn Edwards has joined Merrill Lynch as a financial advisor.

2005

Duarte Aguiar, who was married last year, wrote, "We've bought a house in Columbia, Md., and I am a grad student at Loyola University getting my Master's in Pastoral Counseling."

2011

Nick Crowley, a Benedictine Volunteer at The Hive this year, sent a photo of Saint John's University Class of 2015 graduate Yasin Williams. Yasin is shown with Saint John's President, Michael Hemesath, Ph.D.



2012

Frantz Soiro wrote that he and Matt Davis '06, an Admissions Representative at the College of Saint Benedict and Saint John's University, Minnesota, spoke to nearly 100 students and administrators at Johnson Senior High School in Minneapolis who had seen the recent documentary about St. Benedict's. The Rule. They talked about SBP's student leadership structure and ways for other schools to use it. "They are implementing a leadership structure similar to St. Benedict's for 2015-2016. It's great to see how Benedict's can not only make an impact on its own students but also students elsewhere in the nation."



Robert Vinegra '62 has two new grandchildren, Cormac Spencer, born

in Dec. 2014, who lives in London; and Andrew Vinegra, born in April, who lives in Wall Township, N.J.

Abdul-Haiyy Moore '96 and his wife, Kimberly, were blessed with a beautiful baby girl, Elle Lake Moore, on May 4. She weighed 8 pounds, 12 ounces.

Matt Rakowsky '97

wrote that his daughter, Emilia (below), was born in January. "She is a very happy baby," Matt wrote, "and we fall more in love with her every day."





Jason Glasgow '04 wrote, "I am a father of a healthy baby boy as of May 5, which is also my second wedding anniversary. His name is Aden Emmanuel Glasgow."

OCTOBER 1, 2015

Golf Outing Spring Lake Golf Club Spring Lake, N.J.

NOVEMBER 19, 2015

Hall of Fame Dinner Mayfair Farms West Orange, N.J.

For more information, please contact Mary Hauck at mhauck@sbp.org or (973) 792-5776.

INMEMORIAM

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

ALUMNI

Franklin B. Ott '39 Joseph J. Lunzer '41 John J. Wilson '44 Eugene Michael (Pete) Ryan '47 Thomas J. Walker '47 William J. Fitzsimmons '48 Paul J. Harrington, Jr. '49 Thomas J. Boyle, Ph.D. '53 Martin J. Kelly '53 Wayne T. Letwink '53 William D. Smith '53 John V. Downey '55 George R. Grochowski '55 Frederick C. Lynch '55 Robert M. Hughes '56 John Randolph Jones '58 Edmund Niedzinski '58 Timothy J. O'Connell '58 Martin O. Teevan '59 Rev. Bruno

Ugliano, O.S.B. '58 Thomas F. Farrell '60 Richard S. Bator '61 George M. Juliano '62 James R. Schleck '62 David C. Tidaback '62

Richard A. McArdle '64 Rudolph A. Cassella '65 Joseph F. Surdy, Jr. '65 Manuel H. Savatgy '68 Russell Giuliano '70 John R. Levendusky III '72 Edward Wortman '98

COMMUNITY

Hermas Brillant Father of Frantz Brillant. faculty, Grandfather of Armand '03, Phil '07, Olivier '13

Ja'Myra Brown Sister of Kevin Brown '94

Kaarin Anne Downey Wife of John '55

Patricia Dubeck Mother of John '67 and Frank '70

Maria Esmeralda Farinhas Mother of Carlos '85, Grandmother of Tristan '16. Hunter '18

Brian N. Jones II Son of Brian '60 Dominick LaMorgese Uncle of Michael '54

Maria R. "Wela" Lamourt Mother of Ivan '82, Doris (Admissions), Grandmother of Jobani Dumeng '01

Robert A. Marasco Father of Robert P. '67 and Frank J. '70

Caroline McGlynn Wife of Ned '62

Mary Jane McKechnie Wife of James '56

Claire M. Ott Wife of Franklin '39

Raymond Reddick, Sr. Father of Ray '82, Chris '85, John '88, Matt '95

Joseph Silvestri Father of Ralph '72 and Robert '73

Lorraine Wandling Grandmother of Jimmie '92

Geraldine Venskus Wife of Alphonse '58

† Rest in peace

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.



WAYNE T. LETWINK '53

The entire St. Benedict's Prep family, as well as track and field athletes and enthusiasts through-

out New Jersey, mourn the death on April 9 of St. Benedict's Hall of Fame Coach Wayne T. Letwink, Sr. A fixture in the sport of track and field in the state since the 1950s, Mr. Letwink was an athlete, coach, official, meet director, announcer and founding member of the New Jersey Catholic Track Conference.

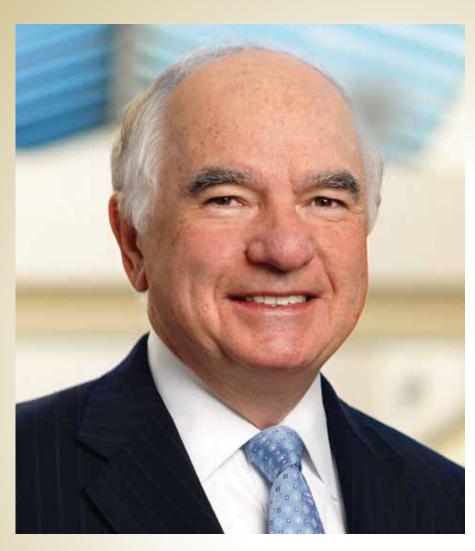
A graduate of both St. Benedict's and Seton Hall University – where he also earned a master's degree - Mr. Letwink served as a second lieutenant in the Army before a long and fruitful career as a teacher in the Newark public schools for 11 years and in Roselle Park for 25. He coached track and cross country at

The Hive for 17 years where, as head coach, his teams won numerous state titles and his Penn Relay teams won a record eight Championship of America races. He was inducted as a coach into the St. Benedict's Hall of Fame in 1982. In 2009, he received the New Jersey Track and Field Officials Association's Jay H. Dakleman Lifetime Award for excellence in track officiating.

Mr. Letwink is survived by his wife of 47 years, Judy; his son, Wayne T. Letwink, Jr., and daughter-in-law, Patricia; daughter, Susan Howell, and son-in-law, Brad; and grandchildren, Jack, Ryan, Kathryn and Sean.

His impact on local sports, and the inspiration he gave to runners and friends throughout the region, will never be forgotten. May he rest in peace.

Alumnus Elected Chairman of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey



"There was never any doubt where I would go to high school," said John J. Degnan '62.

Mr. Degnan and his three brothers all followed in their father's footsteps to St. Benedict's Prep. He credits the work ethic he gleaned from the Benedictines of Newark Abbey for a long career filled with challenges and successes. "Clearly, the work part of their values has infused my life," he said. "I have been in many meetings where people were smarter than me, but rarely where they were working harder."

Following a long career that bridged the public and

private sectors, he was recently named Chairman of the Board of Commissioners of The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey – a position he calls "the most exciting position I've yet held."

Following the much-reported George Washington Bridge lane closing scandal, Mr. Degnan called Gov. Chris Christie and volunteered to serve in the unpaid position of Chairman of the Port Authority. "This is a tremendous opportunity to have one great last act in public service," he said. "The Port Authority spends \$7 billion a year and has a tremendous impact on regional infrastructure."

Mr. Degnan has arrived at an exciting time for the agency, where construction projects include the Goethals Bridge Replacement Project, raising the Bayonne Bridge, redeveloping LaGuardia Airport, planning a new Midtown Bus Terminal and much more. The most crucial project, he notes, may be the rebuilding of morale at the agency. "That requires leadership and integrity – all things I love being involved with."

Mr. Degnan has served on the St. Benedict's Board of Trustees since 1982 and does not hesitate to credit St. Benedict's with helping set the course for his life. "I have great regard for Rev. Boniface Treanor, O.S.B. '47, who is still there, and for the other great educators. In all of the institutions that I have benefited from," he said, "St. Benedict's does not have an equal. The mission it is serving today, and what they did for my generation, merit as much commitment as we can afford to give it, both in terms of our time and our donations."

Mr. Degnan graduated from Saint Vincent College magna cum laude in 1966 and from Harvard Law School in 1969. His law career included working as a law secretary for late New Jersey Supreme Court Justice John Francis, joining the Newark-based law firm of Clapp & Eisenberg, serving as Assistant Counsel and Chief Counsel to New Jersey Governor Brendan T. Byrne and serving as Attorney General of the State of New Jersey from 1978 until 1981. He retired as Vice Chairman and Chief Operating Officer of the Chubb Corporation in 2010 and still serves as Senior Advisor to the CEO. The Chubb family's Victoria Foundation has been a principal supporter of St. Benedict's for many years.





Thomas J. Kilkenny, Sr. '22

Nearly 100 years ago, 14-year-old Thomas J. Kilkenny walked through the doors of St. Benedict's Prep. Today, Thomas J. Kilkenny, Jr. '61 is making a St. Benedict's education possible for other young men with a generous planned gift.

Passing on a 100-Year Legacy



Thomas J. Kilkenny, Jr. '6

"My father's Irish immigrant parents believed in Catholic education and sent him here," said Mr. Kilkenny. "When the time came, my parents did the same for me. Two generations of my family went out into the world with a solid intellectual and moral foundation.

"I wasn't blessed with a son to send to the Hive, but I know there are a lot of young men who want to come to St. Benedict's, and the cost is a challenge, as it was for my parents and grandparents.

"Planned giving is a way I can help ease that burden for today's Sons of St. Benedict's. It's gratifying to realize they'll have the advantage of a Benedict's education to help them go through life academically and spiritually prepared."

To learn more about making a planned gift to The Hive, contact Director of Planned Giving Paul E. Thornton '63 at (973) 792-5775 or pthornton@sbp.org or visit www.sbp.plannedgiving.org.







Office of Advancement 520 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard Newark, NJ 07102

www.sbp.org

For Indicia



