



St. Benedict's

PREPARATORY SCHOOL



**A SCIENTIFIC
METHOD:**
How The Hive
Produces Generations
of Scientists

THE MOMENT

Nothing Stops St. Benedict's

The weekend-long Blizzard of 2016 dumped a record-breaking 28 inches of snow on Newark and brought the city to a standstill. All it brought to St. Benedict's was a good shoulder and back workout for the dedicated facilities team and hard-working students of the 520 Corporation (inset). While city schools remained closed for two full days, St. Benedict's was open Monday morning, proving, once again, that Benedict's Hates a Quitter.

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The Magazine for Alumni, Parents and Friends of St. Benedict's Prep

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GREETINGS



From the Headmaster

No student has ever succeeded at St. Benedict's on his own.

Behind every scientist, there stood a teacher who sparked his imagination and challenged his intellect. Every athlete had a coach driving him to

get back up when he thought he had reached his limit. Every businessman learned to work in a team and accept responsibility at the side of his St. Benedict's brothers. Most of all, every St. Benedict's student has benefited from the generosity of alumni and friends.

Consider what that tradition of brotherhood has accomplished. In this issue, you will read how alumni are confronting the threat of cancer, leading a cultural renaissance in our home town of Newark and probing the depths of outer space. Each gives due credit to the mentors who shaped his path here at Newark Abbey.

Sadly, you'll also read of the passing of two of St. Benedict's best: Jack Dalton '44 and Charlie Cawley '58. Both of these great sons of St. Benedict's Prep embraced the motto, "What helps my brother helps me." They gave their time, their skills and, frankly, their money, to the students at The Hive. Most importantly, they gave their hearts. Without them, St. Benedict's would be a very different place. In fact, it might not be here at all.

Not everyone can follow in the path of one of the most successful basketball coaches in New Jersey history, or launch a multi-billion-dollar credit card company. But you may be able to follow the example of Steven Wright '83 and Carlos Farinhas '85. Both sent their sons here, to share in the brotherhood and revitalize the legacy of St. Benedict's Prep.

Every alumnus has someone he should thank, because at St. Benedict's, no one goes it alone.

Peace,

Edwin D. Leahy

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



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PREPARATORY SCHOOL

Magazine • Spring 2016 • Issue 4

St. Benedict's Preparatory School Magazine is published three times a year by the Office of Advancement.

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On the cover: Kenneth Skinner '07 and Santiago Naranjo '09 are pursuing advanced degrees in the sciences at Harvard and MIT.

Follow us on     

WORK ETHIC IN ACTION



Nardele DaSilva '16 contributes to his household budget by working for the 520 Corporation.

"My mom would never tell me that she was giving me her last \$20," said Hakeyh Watkins '16, who works four evenings a week giving tours at the Newark Museum and teaching swimming at Deep End Aquatics. "Parents won't tell their kids about the sacrifices they make

for us." He described his commitment to work as, "making your parent's sacrifice part of your sacrifice."

Ahmet Hammad '16, who also works after school and on weekends while managing a challenging St. Benedict's workload, does not draw a paycheck as he preps, cooks and serves breakfast, lunch and dinner from the window of his mother's food truck, Good Morning, Newark! The truck is the primary source of income for his family. "This business is my mom's dream," he said. "If it helps my Mom, I'll do it. She gave birth to me!"

Nardele DaSilva '16 puts in two hours each school day with the 520 Corporation, a student-run maintenance company, helping to keep St. Benedict's spotless. "It takes the expenses off my Mom's back. Before I was working, all my expenses came from the household budget. Now I help out a bit with tuition, and have some to be self-sufficient," he said.

For these young breadwinners, self-sufficiency and learning to budget are prime motivators. Hakeyh uses his own money for personal needs like clothes and toiletries. "I was never given an allowance," he said. Covering his own expenses has given him an appreciation for the demands of a household budget. "I have to focus on what I need rather than what I want."

None of the young men sees himself in the same industries post-college. Yet, each clearly sees how the skills he is mastering today will make him more successful in the future.

Plus, said Ahmet, "Everyone loves to cook. You can take cooking with you anywhere!"

Charles Hayden Foundation Helps Students Reach for the Stars

When people hear the name of American banker, businessman, financier and philanthropist Charles Hayden, they often think of the magnificent planetariums in New York and Boston. Few are aware that the philanthropic efforts of the Charles Hayden Foundation have helped at-risk youth — including countless St. Benedict's students spanning four decades — reach for the stars and achieve their full potential.

Since 1976, the Foundation has made 23 grants to St. Benedict's, and has underwritten extraordinary opportunities for students to expand their educational and leadership horizons. For the past two years, the Foundation has provided full scholarships for students to attend

the Syracuse University Summer College. This summer, three St. Benedict's students will attend the six-week program and earn six college credits before graduating high school. In addition to the educational head start it offers, the monetary value of the program alone is more than \$8,000 per student.

For the past three years, groups of students and two faculty members, Glenn Cassidy '90 and Mike Steadman, have attended the West Point Leadership and Ethics Conference, a one-day workshop at the American Museum of Natural History, sponsored by the Foundation. At the workshop, West Point cadets mentor local high school students in ethics-based exercises to help

develop important ethical leadership skills. Eric Conklin '17 was honored as the top participant this past fall.

Sonni Holland, Senior Program Officer for the Foundation, described St. Benedict's as a perfect candidate for the mission of the Foundation. "We are in the business of supporting organizations that help kids in areas of high need, that are actually in the trenches doing the hard work," he said. "St. Benedict's has fit that profile for a long time. It does an outstanding job. They have been able to help young men of color become successful in all walks of life. Frankly, the opportunity to partner with St. Benedict's Prep and continue to achieve that kind of success is a no-brainer for the Foundation."

THEIR FATHER'S FOOTSTEPS. THEIR OWN JOURNEYS.

Legacies in the Halls of The Hive



Damon Wright '19, Steven Wright '83 and Travis Wright '17

"I have a sense of pride when I walk through these halls," said Steven Wright '83. These young men "hold their heads high and represent what's on their chests instead of what's on their backs." That pride has doubled since seeing his own sons, Travis '17 and Damon '19, follow in his footsteps through the halls of The Hive.

Carlos Farinhas '85 has three sons attending St. Benedict's Prep: Tristan '16, Hunter '18 and Dean '19, but if not for Tristan's single-mindedness, they might all be studying elsewhere. Tristan was already enrolled at Union Catholic, and the first check had been sent, when he visited The Hive for the first time. "He got in the car at the end of the visit, looked me in the eye, and said, 'This is where I'm going to school,'" said Mr. Farinhas. "St. Benedict's accepted him right away, and we canceled Union Catholic."

"My boys saw how members of my class still share e-mails, jokes and stories; how we stay in touch," said Mr. Wright. "They grew up seeing that brotherhood."

Committing to sending multiple sons to St. Benedict's requires a degree of sacrifice, from the sons, as well as the parents. "They are all troopers," said Mr. Farinhas. "They get up at 5:15 in the morning to be in school by 6 a.m."

While the younger sons have chosen to follow not just their fathers, but their brothers as well, each has found his own niche. Travis rows and fences, and has managed the wrestling team. His brother, Damon, wrestles for the Gray Bees. Tristan is a Section Leader, wrestles, is on the crew team and is helping open a new bookstore at The Hive. Hunter participates in the NJLEP pre-law program at Seton Hall University and Dean is on both the water polo and swim teams.

In all, there are 19 legacies at St. Benedict's Prep, each finding his own path at his father's *alma mater*. "We encourage fathers to pass the traditions of St. Benedict's on to their sons," said Fr. Edwin Leahy, O.S.B. '63. "We all become brothers here. It certainly does not hurt to start out that way."



From left: Hunter Farinhas '18, Carlos Farinhas '85, Dean Farinhas '19 and Tristan Farinhas '16

PROMINENT HIVE ALUMNUS LEADS NEWARK CELEBRATION 350



John W. Johnson, Jr., Ph.D. '93 has been named Executive Director of Newark Celebration 350 (NC350) — a coalition of Newark-based arts, community, academic, business and government organizations that have come together to celebrate the City of Newark's 350th anniversary.

"NC350 seeks to retell the story of Newark," said Dr. Johnson. "We want to change the narrative. We want to show the resiliency in the city. Newark remains a gateway for a diverse population of people."

Dr. Johnson, who received his doctorate in American Studies from Rutgers University-Newark, sees a direct connection between the role of Newark and

St. Benedict's Prep in the immigrant experience.

"Newark in the 19th century was an immigrant entrance point to the United States. St. Benedict's became the working man's prep school. It offered opportunities to get a great education and to improve the lives of lots of families."

Even after the turmoil of 1967, St. Benedict's continued to challenge the popular narrative of a city without opportunity. Dr. Johnson, who fenced during his years at The Hive, said, "A lot of our competitors formed assumptions based on what we looked like and where we were from. Yet we were able to excel at a sport that was not necessarily made for us. St. Benedict's continues to provide a quality education, a sense of brotherhood, to young men of color in the city of Newark."



Fast-Tracking College Credit

Thanks to Project Acceleration, a concurrent enrollment program at Seton Hall University, 10 students have begun courses at St. Benedict's for which they will receive college credit.

"This program gives advanced students the opportunity to walk away from high school with a college transcript," said Dean of Faculty Michelle Tuorto. "These earned credits from a good college are far more valuable than taking an AP course."

St. Benedict's connected with Project Acceleration through the Donald M. Payne, Sr. Global Foundation, which works to eradicate social, educational and health disparities worldwide. Seven participating students are Payne Scholars whose tuition is covered by the Foundation. Three others pay their own tuition.

Four courses have been approved: African-American History with Marc Riley '79, Evolution with Chris Cogswell, Meteorology with Michelle Tuorto and Spanish IV with David Rodriguez '96. Chemistry teacher Dennis Lansang, M.D., has been personally approved, and awaits course approval. Ms. Tuorto has submitted Advanced Art and Jazz Band for approval this term.

COVERSTORY

A photograph of three students in a science laboratory. Two male students are leaning over a table, looking intently at a small object being held by a female student. The female student is wearing blue nitrile gloves and is focused on the task. The male student on the right is also wearing blue nitrile gloves. They are all wearing black t-shirts. The background shows a typical science lab setting with various equipment and papers.

SCIENCE

IS ALIVE AT THE HIVE

Centuries before Charles Darwin set foot on the Beagle or Galileo angered Pope Urban VIII, Catholic luminaries like St. Augustine, Albertus Magnus, St. Thomas Aquinas and Gregor Mendel set the standard for open-minded scientific inquiry in the Western world. Today, that tradition thrives at St. Benedict's Prep, which has inspired multiple generations of scientists to push the boundaries of our understanding and capabilities.

St. Benedict's alumni can be found at the forefront of virtually every field of scientific research, from nanoengineering to interplanetary communications to cancer research and more. While a rigorous science and math curriculum made them scientists, alumni across more than six decades agree that it was the character of the school itself that made them leaders.

EVOLUTION OF THE STUDENT

Henry I. Smith '54, Founder and Director of the Nanostructures Laboratory at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, holds more than 30 U.S. patents, and has published more than 400 technical articles. The nanotechnology visionary credited the humility of the Benedictines for welcoming him into the world of scientific inquiry. "There is an aura, among some teachers, of having the answers already," he said. "That is not what I got at St. Benedict's. I eagerly debated intellectual topics and found the monks always willing to engage. It was in Sophomore Biology," he continued, "that a light bulb went on in my head, and I understood Darwin's evolution via natural selection and survival of the fittest. It was a life-changing event. I had interesting, but not contentious, debates about evolution with one of the monks, Fr. Martin Byrne, O.S.B. Fr. Martin was a traditionalist and presented the watchmaker theory. I was able to discount that theory in my head, but could not properly articulate my view. We ended the debate with mutual respect."

Fifty years later, another class on evolution triggered a similar epiphany in Santiago Naranjo '09, who is currently studying the genetics of cancer at MIT. Santiago arrived at The Hive as an undocumented immigrant from Colombia. "I come from a very religious family," he said, "so the whole idea of a Catholic school teaching evolution intrigued me." He began reading about the theory on his own time and pursued his interest further as he earned a biology degree from Stanford University. "My lab uses genetically engineered mouse models of cancer to see how genetic lesions and mutations contribute to the disease," he said. "By understanding the disease at this level, maybe we can find a targetable vulnerability and, hopefully, cure the disease."

Harvard University Ph.D. candidate in Chemical Biology, Ken Skinner '07, who also caught the fever for scientific research at St.

Benedict's, found the manner of teaching as inspirational as the subject matter taught. "From the classroom through the college application process, St. Benedict's taught me to be an independent thinker," he said. "We were taught to make our own decisions, use the knowledge we've acquired and put the pieces together." He was also motivated by the caliber of teacher at The Hive. "My chemistry teacher had a Ph.D. from the University of California, Berkeley! Growing up in Newark — I'm the first generation to go to college — you don't see that kind of role model on a regular basis. Having exposure to people who have gone down that academic road paints a picture that says, 'Hey, maybe I can do that, too.'" Indeed he did, matriculating at Morehouse College in Atlanta before pursuing his Ph.D. at Harvard.

Today, Ken is studying how anesthetics block nerve transmission to pain centers by inhibiting the function of ion channels in the nerve cell membrane. "Millions of procedures a year are possible because of anesthetics," he says. "But they have draw-backs. We are studying the mechanisms of how general anesthetics cause pain upon injection in order to develop more patient-friendly anesthetics."

THE UNSPOKEN CURRICULUM

"Nothing I have ever done worked the first time," said Mike Gormally '07, who is working on his Ph.D. in Chemical Oncology as part of the National Institutes of Health Oxford-Cambridge Scholars Program. He graduated with a degree in Chemistry from Pomona College, where he was honored with the Dale N. Robertson distinction for excellence in the sciences. He was also named a Churchill

“From the classroom through the college application process, St. Benedict's taught me to be an independent thinker.”

— Ken Skinner '07

Scholar and funded to pursue a Master of Philosophy at Cambridge University. His memories of St. Benedict's include blowing up jet fuel after hours in the Chemistry lab. Another course that helped greatly, he said, was Latin. "Becoming competent in Latin sent me away on a free program to Rome," he said, "and paid back in spades when I was learning chemistry. At St. Benedict's, you get an education tailored to you. Overall, the Benedictine tradition is associated with inquiry and rational thought. There's a certain ethos as part of the Benedictine code and the moral code. The perseverance we were taught has been critical and key to any success I've had."

Fr. Edwin Leahy, O.S.B. '63, calls the perseverance that is built into the foundation of St. Benedict's Prep part of "the unspoken curriculum." He said, "It's in the way we approach success in the classroom — we believe the answer is not nearly as important as the question."

From left, William Dukevicz '18, Fabian Rojas '18 and Nomar Rodriguez '17 study the anatomy of a pigeon as part of the Secret Lives of Birds summer science program.



Santiago Naranjo '09 earned a biology degree from Stanford University and is currently studying the genetics of cancer at MIT. Kenneth Skinner '07 graduated from Morehouse College and is now pursuing his Ph.D. in Chemical Biology at Harvard University.

He cited legendary football coach Joe Kasberger's phrase "Benedict's hates a quitter" as part of the lore that drives The Hive and gives young scientists the strength to make mistakes, get up and keep on going. "There is no such thing as not showing up, not getting the job done," he said. "Our young men grow up breathing that air."

"'Benedict's hates a quitter' is part of my DNA," said Richard C. Zellars, M.D. '82, Professor and Chairman of the Department of Radiation Oncology at the Indiana University School of Medicine. When working in the scientific method, he said, "your hypotheses may not pan out, but that's not a reason to give up the search. The great people in medicine kept digging. They never gave up. St. Benedict's teaches you to get back up. Any time I have a difficult situation in life, I always go back to that. I think, 'We get back up. We'll get through this.' It's my mantra."

In addition to discipline and perseverance, Santiago also lauds the open-mindedness of St. Benedict's teaching philosophy, and credits it

with preparing him for the rigors of scientific research. "Fr. Augustine Curley taught a class called Religion III, in which we talked about controversial topics like abortion. He said, 'Let's think about it. What are the arguments for and against these differing positions?'"

That openness to new ideas spurred 13-year-old Bill Weber — now William Weber, Ph.D. '61 — to choose the career in electrical engineering that culminated with his role as director of NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory's Interplanetary Network Directorate. The Directorate's mission is to "enable telescience and telepresence throughout the Solar System and beyond.... bringing the sensors to the scientist and the planets to the public." In other words, Dr. Weber was in charge of all communications between Earth and our farthest deep space vehicles, from the rovers on Mars to the probes sailing beyond our solar system. Of his scientific journey, he said, "I can trace a direct line back to Fr. Antony." Fr. Antony Kovacs, O.S.B., was a physics teacher at St. Benedict's. "I told him we should start a radio club. So he did. I was the first president." And the rest is history.

Robert J. Stanley, M.D. '55, professor *emeritus* and former Chair of the Department of Radiology at the University of Alabama at Birmingham Medical School, transferred to St. Benedict's from Regis High School during his sophomore year. The Saint Peter's University graduate became part of the team that evaluated the first whole-body CT scanners in the United States, has served as editor-in-chief of the *American Journal of Roentgenology*, and has authored more than 180 scientific publications, including the definitive CT textbook, *Computed Body Tomography with MRI Correlation*, now in its fourth edition. Although he spent but two years at The Hive, his teachers left a lasting impression. "St. Benedict's really got me started," he said. "I feel tremendously indebted to them."

Perhaps none of the illustrious scientific minds that have passed through St. Benedict's credits the school quite as heartily as Trustee Robert Lahita M.D., Ph.D. '63. "I had no intention of being a doctor



Henry I. Smith, Ph.D. '54

Founder and Director of the Nanostructures Laboratory at MIT. BS degree from College of the Holy Cross in 1958; MS and Ph.D. degrees from Boston College in 1960 and 1966.



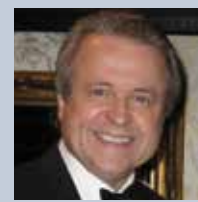
Mike Gormally '07

Chemistry degree from Pomona College; Churchill Scholar currently working on his Ph.D. in Chemical Oncology as part of the NIH Oxford-Cambridge Scholars Program.



Richard C. Zellars, M.D. '82

Professor and Chairman of the Department of Radiation Oncology at Indiana University School of Medicine. Graduate of the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine; residency in Radiation Oncology at University of Michigan.



Robert G. Lahita, M.D., Ph.D., FACP, MACR, FRCP '63


Professor of Medicine at Rutgers New Jersey Medical School and Chairman of Medicine and Vice President of the Newark Beth Israel Medical Center. Author of more than 16 books and 150 scientific publications. Medal of Saint Benedict's recipient and St. Benedict's Trustee.

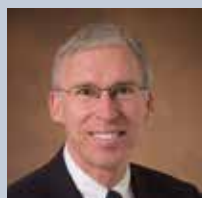
until second year Biology," he said. "Fr. Basil nailed it on the head! Holy cow! Suddenly I was interested and fascinated by everything." Fr. Basil Zusi, O.S.B, he recalled, raised mice, which inspired the budding young scientist to pursue work with the Rahway, N.J.-based pharmaceutical company Merck, where

“The great people in medicine kept digging. They never gave up. St. Benedict’s teaches you to get back up.”

– Richard C. Zellars, M.D. '82

he tended to the laboratory animals over summer breaks, first as an attendant, then as a full-fledged technician. Among the many scientific visionaries he assisted was a young biologist and parasitologist named William C. Campbell, who recently shared the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine for the discovery of a class of medicines called avermectins, used in fighting river blindness and lymphatic filariasis, among other parasitic diseases. He also worked with Selman Waksman, who received the Nobel Prize for his discovery of streptomycin, the first antibiotic effective against tuberculosis.

Dr. Lahita has a message for the future scientists studying today at St. Benedict’s Prep. “Science is critical today. We educate 4,000 science teachers each year, yet children are undereducated in science. Technology jobs are going unfilled in America, yet it is critical to the development of our country and our workforce. Treat your education at St. Benedict’s like a seed for a big tree. Let that seed develop into something and – boom! – you’ll have a great, exciting career!” 



William Weber, Ph.D. '61

Director of NASA’s Jet Propulsion Laboratory’s Interplanetary Network Directorate (Ret.), B.S. and master’s degree in electrical engineering from Cornell University and Ph.D. in Electrical Engineering from the University of Southern California.



Robert J. Stanley, M.D. '55

Professor *emeritus* and former Chair of the Department of Radiology at the University of Alabama at Birmingham Medical School. Recipient of the Gold Medal for Distinguished Service to Radiology from the American Roentgen Ray Society.

CREATING CITIZEN SCIENTISTS

“Teaching science at St. Benedict’s Prep is liberating,” said Chemistry and Biochemistry teacher Dennis Lansang, M.D. “There’s no specific syllabus passed to me.” A faculty member since 2007, Dr. Lansang relishes the opportunity to follow a subject as deeply as his students wish. “At my previous school, topics were covered a mile wide and an inch deep. I believe a thorough discussion of a particular topic prepares students better than a cursory introduction to multiple topics,” he said.

Chris Cogswell teaches Biology, Evolution and Species Interaction. He also finds the freedom to shape his own curriculum an exciting aspect of life at The Hive. “The pruning process of deciding what topics to expand on, and which to omit, forces you to consider what’s best for your students,” he said. “We find ourselves choosing the areas students can get direct experience with.”

For example, Dr. Lansang’s class explores plastic recycling in depth over the course of two weeks, giving his students real experience in shaping their own environment, and omits standard lessons on radioactivity because, he said, “It would be purely theoretical.”

“We need citizens who are science-aware – conversant and literate.”

This approach helps produce what Michelle Tuorto, Science Department Chair and Dean of Faculty, calls “citizen scientists.”

She related the story of a former meteorology student who texted her over Christmas break. “What’s up with this weather? Does El Niño have something to do with this?” That kind of question excites me even more than producing scientists,” she said. “We need citizens who are science-aware – conversant and literate. Too many people are debating whether we should ‘believe’ in climate change. This isn’t religion! We’re talking about analyzing data and reaching a conclusion.”

Earth Science and Engineering teacher Jon Marlow described scientific literacy as a civic responsibility. “The young men we teach are within a few years of voting age,” he said. “They need to be responsible adults, and that includes understanding how the world works. I want educated people voting for the policies that will affect me in my old age.”



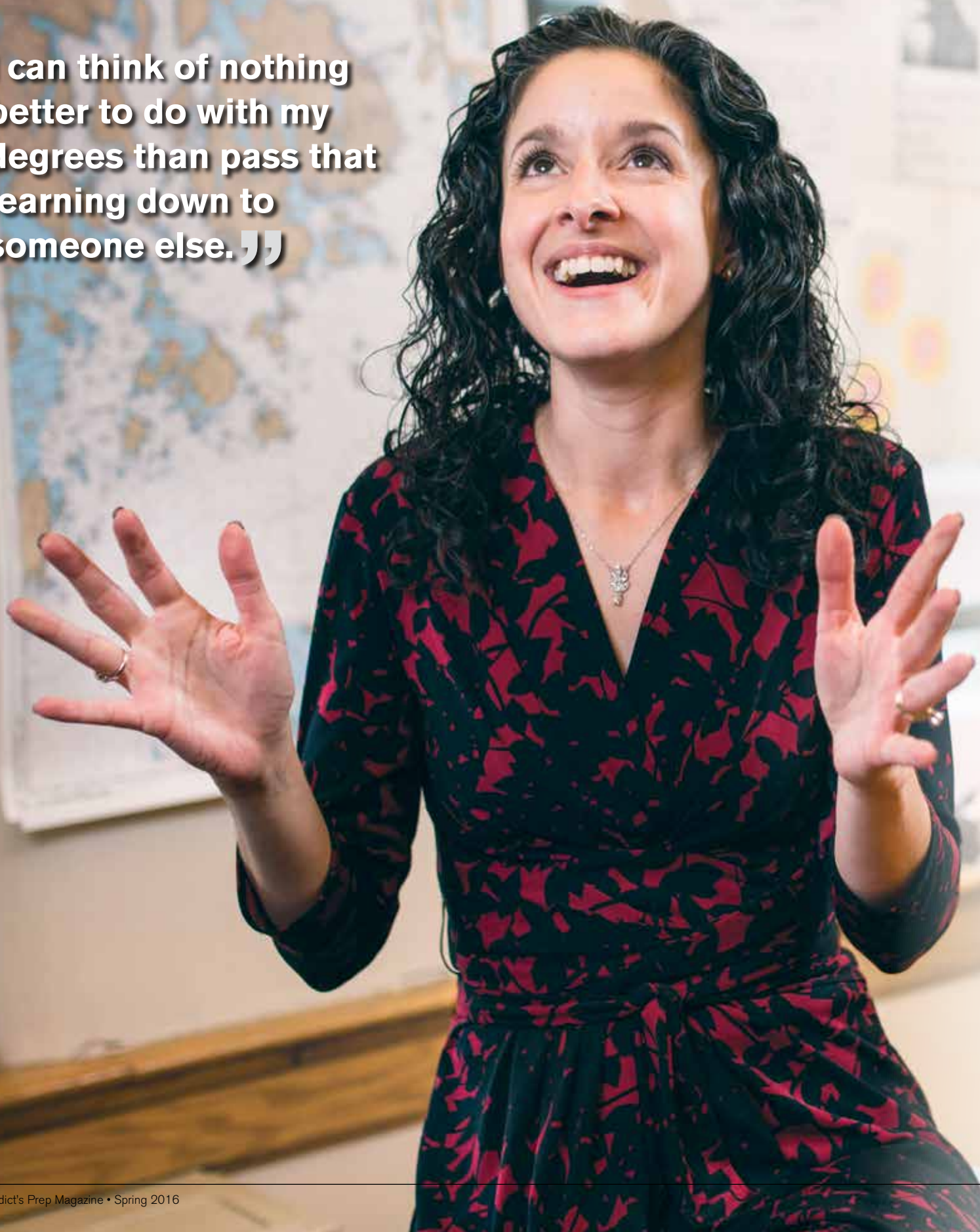
From left, Dennis Lansang, M.D., Michelle Tuorto, Jon Marlow and Chris Cogswell.

AFTERCLASS

WITH MICHELLE TUORTO

SCIENCE TEACHER AND DEAN OF FACULTY

“I can think of nothing better to do with my degrees than pass that learning down to someone else.”



Where did your love of science come from?

My aunt always took me to the Museum of Natural History and the Hayden Planetarium and I decided, "Saturn's my thing!" That was the 5-year-old me. When I was 12, my dad said, "There's a new channel on cable." It was the Weather Channel. That was it. A switch clicked in me. I fell in love. I used to keep records of the hurricanes in the summer. I still watch the Weather Channel.

What motivated you to choose a teaching path?

In high school, I was in "the nerd herd." About 30 of us took advanced placement and honors classes — Chem 1, Chem 2, Physics 1 and Physics 2. I had teachers challenging me and encouraging me, keeping me on track. They taught me how to be a student, how to be persistent. At Cornell University, my mentor, Professor Mark Wysocki, planted the seed in my head about being a teacher. I had been a teaching assistant for him and I liked the way I felt in a classroom. So when I went to graduate school, I asked for a teaching assistantship rather than a research assistantship. I got to teach in a 400-person, stadium-seating lecture hall, as well as the smaller, higher-level dynamics classes, and when I was finishing grad school, I only applied for teaching jobs. I can think of nothing better to do with my degrees than pass that learning down to someone else.

What connects you to St. Benedict's Prep?

The talent in this building, the creativity. This is year 16 for me; I came here right out of grad school and became Dean of Faculty in January 2011. Now I have the privilege of watching everybody teach. I'm blown away by what people do here — not just the talent they have, but the way they parlay that talent into getting students excited, motivated and working. They awaken things in students, help students discover talents that they didn't know they had. The amount of time that people put into this, the level of dedication, is incredible.

And, obviously, this place is nothing without the students. I have students as my colleagues. I have a student I trust enough to get our paperwork together to submit to the state to get us \$30,000 that we absolutely need for textbooks. Where else does that happen?

In the science world, the Gaia theory says that Earth is all one organism with all of its parts working together. I kind of view this school like that.

How do you perceive your mission as Dean of Faculty?

First, it is not my job to make someone a better teacher; everyone in this building is already a talented teacher. It is my job to give them the tools, the time, the resources and the support for them to cultivate those talents.

When Fr. Edwin offered me this position, I think he assumed I would stop teaching. Well, I love to teach. Period. I ditched research meteorology to be a teacher. It's not something I wanted to give up. I also felt it would be disingenuous to not be teaching, yet be responsible for helping teachers cultivate their talents.

What are your priority projects as Dean?

One program I value very much is working with guys to get collegiate experience and credits before they graduate. My colleague, Jim Duffy, in his role as Academic Dean, arranged an agreement with Rutgers-Newark to send really gifted seniors down the street to take college courses like advanced calculus, psychology and economics. And now Project Acceleration with Seton Hall allows our students to get college credits for course they take here. We have 10 students in the program this first semester, but that number will grow (see page 3).

Something else that's very important is the reading and writing initiative. Critical reading and writing affect everything you do in life. Taking a mortgage out? You had better be able to read and understand the fine print. Vocabulary is the underpinning of everything, so the more robust we can make our vocabulary instruction, the more we encourage teachers to use the normal vocabulary that reflects their level of education and then work on it with kids, the more comprehension will grow.

How does a busy Dean of Faculty relax?

I'm a woodwind player, primarily the bassoon. I still play about six or seven concerts a year for my high school band director, in the Clifton, N.J., community band. Band has always been a social aspect of my life. I met my husband in the marching band when I was 14. Brian is a Local 1 stagehand at *The Lion King* on Broadway. He started his career with *Fiddler on the Roof*, did *Spamalot*, landed at *Lion King*, and has been there for eight years. He is a big hiker, so he started hiking the Freshman Backpacking Project several years ago.

I'm also the co-chair of the Clifton High School Mustang Marching Band alumni scholarship committee, so I get to help put scholarships in the hands of kids.

It's said that your office is virtually a community space. Why?

The only time my office door is shut is if I'm having a private meeting with somebody that other people shouldn't be privy to. Otherwise, it's open. I think that sends a message to students: "Come in, sit

down, go to sleep in the chair, do your homework.

If you just want to sit and chill, sit and chill. Just spend time together."

Presence is important. **B**



Ms. Tuorto helps a student dissect in Ornithology lab.



Coach Omar Feliciano '97 (left) and Assistant Coaches Patrick Hunter '08 (middle) and Charlie Miseo '03 (right)

ALUMNI PAY THEIR SKILLS FORWARD TO A NEW GENERATION

Wrestling pits muscle against muscle with almost no padding, inside a circle. Fencing sets “armored” swordsmen into battle with electronic weaponry on a long combat strip. To the outside eye, wrestling and fencing appear to be about as different as two sports can be.

Yet, at St. Benedict's, they have two very important factors in common. Both teach young men that there is nowhere to hide on a team; everyone's success depends on each individual's effort. And each is coached by St. Benedict's alumni who have returned to The Hive to pass their experience and skill to the next generation.

Richard Molina, Jr. '06 fenced épée for the Gray Bees for four years before heading to the University of Notre Dame, where he earned a degree in Film, Television and Theater. After a year producing broadcast footage for Indiana NBC affiliate WNDU, he returned to St. Benedict's as a graduate assistant, living in Turell House, teaching film classes and

helping coach the Fencing team. A year after moving to Florida to work in his family's business, he received a call from Jeff Austin '96, then Head Fencing Coach. Mr. Austin was leaving, and wanted to put the team into Mr. Molina's capable hands. Today, Mr. Molina is Head Coach and a dorm parent. Until recently, he also taught 7th and 8th grade English. “I live with 64 young men. In that position you're more than a teacher. You're a mentor, big brother and parent all in one.” Assistant Fencing Coach Idris Mitchell graduated in 2011.

Omar Feliciano '97 wrestled and played soccer all four of his St. Benedict's years. He was offered a scholarship to play soccer at Bradley University in Peoria, Illinois, where he earned a degree in Public Relations, with a Marketing minor. His journey back to The Hive passed through a local wrestling club, where one of the young wrestlers he coached enrolled in St. Benedict's and reconnected him with his *alma mater*. In addition to Head

Wrestling Coach, Mr. Feliciano is in charge of the cafeteria and manages attendance. Two assistant coaches, Charlie Miseo '03 and Patrick Hunter '08, are also alumni.

“It became a goal and a dream of mine to coach this team,” said Mr. Feliciano, “and it is everything I thought it would be.” His job, he says, involves more responsibility than a public school coach would have. “Here, we are responsible for the lives of the kids. Academically. Personally. We really get involved and help them learn to live their lives correctly. I have not stopped learning, yet,” he added. “Every group of students is different. The wrestling part never changes, but dealing with them on a personal level — that's a challenge.”

Personal character and motivation also play a crucial part on Mr. Molino's fencing team. “This is a team sport based on individual performance. The whole team is required for the win, but you are out there by yourself. These men develop a strong sense

A GRAY BEE SNAPSHOT Here's a end-of-season update on St. Benedict's student-athletes.

BASKETBALL The basketball team won its second straight State Prep A Championship and reached the 30-win mark for the fourth time in coach Mark Taylor's five years at the helm. The team primed for another berth in the National High School Invitational. The Gray Bees have been led by Arnaldo Toro, David Beatty, Bourama Sidibe and James Scott.

TRACK The Gray Bees' 4x400-meter relay team established a school record at the Millrose

Games. Byron Simmons, Stephen Valvano, Magnum Phelps and Jared Lampley won the Suburban Division race with a school-record time of 3:20.68, shaving almost four seconds off the old record (3:24.2) of 1996 by Nii Darko, Ruhn Turner, Edmond Akwei and Arif Welcher.

WRESTLING The wrestling season ended with Enkhbold Sukhbaatar and Alfred Daniel earning All-America honors at the National Prep Championships at Lehigh University. Sukhbaatar

placed third at 138 pounds and Daniel placed eighth at 160 pounds. During the regular season the Gray Bees defeated Seton Hall Prep for the first time in five years.

FENCING The Fencing team placed second in the team standings in the State Prep Tournament. Coach Rich Molina saw his team finish first in épée with Omari Smoak winning individual honors. Noah Acevedo was the spark all season at sabre.

of individual accountability to the team. You have to perform.”

Wrestling, said Mr. Feliciano, also teaches athletes that they are in control of whether they become champions. After tough workouts, cutting weight and battling through tournaments, they emerge able to say, to virtually any challenge, “I’m a wrestler. I can handle this.”

Mr. Molina and Mr. Feliciano both expressed gratitude to the great coaches they learned under at The Hive, fellow alumni Jim Wandling ’92 (fencing) and Mike DiPiano H ’82 (wrestling).

“Jimmy Wandling was excellent at letting captains own the process,” said Mr. Molina. “That is something I have tried to carry on. ‘This is your program,’ he would say. ‘These are your four years.’”

“Mike DiPiano brought this wrestling program from nothing to a team greatly respected in New Jersey and throughout the country,” said Mr. Feliciano. “It is an honor and a privilege to coach his team.” **B**



Coach Richard Molina, Jr. '06 and Assistant Coach Idris Mitchell '11

SWIMMING The swimming team concluded its season, after a 4–4 mark in dual meets, in the Eastern States Championships in Philadelphia. Ameen King, Aidan Rodgers, Daryl Corprew, Emerson Vera, Lamar Williams all posted times that were equal to or better than their best times in the meet.



BERNIE WILLIAMS AND GARRY DIAL '72 PLAY WITH GRAY BEE JAZZ ENSEMBLE

Grammy-nominated jazz guitarist, retired New York Yankee and four-time World Series champion Bernie Williams joined renowned Jazz teacher, pianist and St. Benedict’s alumnus Garry Dial ’72 for a once-in-a-lifetime concert with the St. Benedict’s Jazz Ensemble on December 3, 2015. Mr. Dial, an instructor at the Manhattan School of Music, works with both Mr. Williams and St. Benedict’s

own music director Jeremy Fletcher, who conducted the show and was featured on saxophone.

After remaining for photos and signing copies of his CDs for students, Mr. Williams commented, “What an amazing place. It was truly an honor to be here.”

The concert, held in Conlin Auditorium, was free to the public.

AN OBSESSION FOR DRAMATIC LIGHTING

Thanks to a suggestion from Local 1 electrician Brian Collins, husband of Dean of Faculty Michelle Tuorto, Disney Theatrical Group (DTG) has donated a Broadway-quality OBSESSION II programmable lighting board to the St. Benedict’s Prep Drama Guild. The new system allows the lighting designer to program all of the cues for a show in advance, then run the show with the push of a button. It can even store cues for multiple shows.

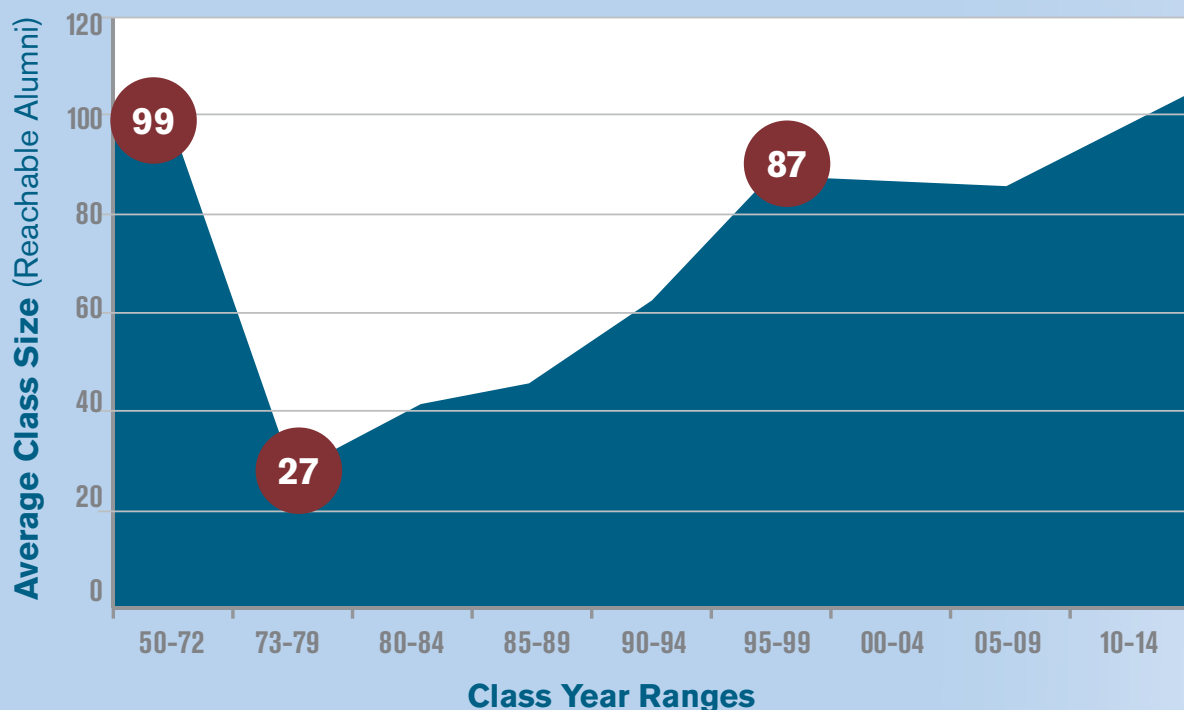
The new OBSESSION II replaces a two-scene preset board that is older than any of the students at The Hive. In keeping with its distinguished pedigree, the board, which was previously used in the *Hamlet* adaptation *The Lion King*, was put immediately to work on the Drama Guild’s production of *Othello*.



Carlos Almeida '16 as Iago and Farrad Williams '16 as Othello

Bridging the Alumni Gap

St. Benedict's Prep's closing in 1972 and subsequent reopening a year later changed the dynamics of alumni support for the next four decades.



The mottos “Whatever hurts my brother hurts me” and “Whatever helps my brother helps me” embody a tradition of loyalty that thrives in the hearts of alumni. On average, 30 percent of alumni, reaching back to the 1930s, contribute to the Annual Fund or financially invest in the school in some other way. As a result, in 2015, St. Benedict’s Preparatory School was the grateful recipient of record-breaking philanthropy. More than 2,500 individual donors supported the school with gifts and, of those donors, 65 percent had studied in the classrooms of St. Benedict’s Prep.

For many other schools, a 30 percent alumni participation level would be reason to pop the champagne. St. Benedict’s Prep’s unique history, however, presents a fundraising challenge that calls for the generosity of an even larger percentage of our alumni.

For most of the 1970s and early ‘80s, St. Benedict’s class size was drastically reduced by the temporary closure of the School. At its enrollment peak in 1967, The Hive graduated 170 students. The Class of 1976 was 25 students. Not until the late 1990s did the class size again approach the triple digits.

“We now find ourselves with fewer alumni,” said Headmaster Fr. Edwin Leahy, O.S.B. ‘63. “Since we re-opened the School, we have been serving a population that had, because of racism, among other factors, not been permitted to participate in the markets. The ability to grow wealth is a relatively recent phenomenon for people of color in this country. As a result, we are counting on support from fewer men with less discretionary income.”

Today’s college students are entering a job market that is struggling with depressed wages, and they are saddled with the largest student loan debt in history. Across the education landscape, private schools and universities are witnessing a troublesome phenomenon: Giving has increased while participation has decreased. A shrinking number of individuals are giving larger individual amounts of money. That makes the future of schools like St. Benedict’s Prep more dependent upon the vagaries of the stock market and other volatile economic indicators. It also leaves the school exposed to the inevitable aging of the alumni population. Soon, the most established alumni will be those who graduated from our smallest classes, greatly reducing the pool of philanthropy.

“Many of our recent alumni have been very successful,” said Fr. Edwin, “and from my generation we have millions of dollars in bequest expectancies out there. The fact is, we can’t pay teachers, run a theater program or field athletic teams with expectancies. We need to increase donors.”



“Rather than megadonors, we simply need donors. Some people may think their gift is insignificant. I want to assure them, to these kids, no gift is insignificant.”

– Fr. Edwin Leahy, O.S.B. '63


“There is a strength in numbers,” he continued. “Rather than megadonors, we simply need donors. Some people may think their gift is insignificant. I want to assure them, to these kids, no gift is insignificant.”

Fr. Edwin would like to see the 30 percent alumni participation rate raised substantially. “Based on the education each alumnus received, and the level of help he had when he was here, I want to see 100 percent participation. For the sake of the kids.”

HOW ALUMNI CAN HELP

As Athletic Director Tom Leahy '77 often says, “Every problem has a solution. Unless you have brought a solution, you do not have a problem.” The solution lies in the spirit of brotherhood that motivates every St. Benedict’s alumnus.

Today the School is calling on alumni from all generations, especially the newest, to help build a bridge across the alumni gap by giving to the Annual Fund. Broadening the base of participating alumni will create a steadier source of funds that can withstand shifts in the economy and the aging of the most senior alumni. It will also send an important message to institutional donors that Benedict’s students recognize the quality of a St. Benedict’s Prep education.

To make an investment, or to find out more about how you can support St. Benedict’s Prep, contact Candace Bradsher, annual giving officer, at (973) 792-5752, or email her at candaceb@sbp.org. 

HONORING ONE LIFE BY IMPROVING ANOTHER’S

The John C. Lobo Memorial Scholarship

John C. Lobo '52 was one of five children, three of whom attended St. Benedict’s Prep. From The Hive, he went on to Cornell University under the ROTC program and became a U.S. Navy officer. He and his wife, Esther, had seven children before his untimely passing from a heart infection at age 48.

Today, John Lobo’s name and commitment to family live on in the John C. Lobo '52 Memorial Scholarship, awarded to two deserving St. Benedict’s students each year.

Paul Lobo '46 and his brother, Walter '47, had been going to St. Benedict’s reunion events for many years when the scholarship idea hit them. “As we attended the St. Benedict’s Dinner each year,” said Paul, “we became more and more impressed by the young men who went to the school and the great job the Monks of Newark Abbey were doing.” The Lobo brothers agreed that they should do more for the current generation of St. Benedict’s students, and decided to fund a scholarship.

Initially, only John’s four siblings participated, but as time went by, Paul and Walter brought more of their extended family to see St. Benedict’s and the pool of support steadily grew. Now between 15 and 20 family members invest in the scholarship in any given year.

In addition to The Hive, the Lobo family supports Catholic education by providing two scholarships at La Pontificia Universidad Javeriana, a Jesuit college in Cali, Colombia.

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



A family photograph taken on the day of John’s wedding in 1958. Front row: mother Kathleen Lobo, sister Kathleen Lobo Magill and father Walter Lobo, with dog Peter. Back row: Paul Lobo '46, Walter “Wally” Lobo '47, John Lobo '52 and Philip Lobo.

Basketball Legend, Inspiration to Generations



Legendary St. Benedict's Prep basketball coach and educator John F. "Jack" Dalton graduated from The Hive in 1944 and came back to his *alma mater* nine years later to become one of the most successful basketball coaches in New Jersey history.

Jack Dalton passed away on October 31, 2015. An all-city and all-state basketball player at St. Benedict's, Mr. Dalton enlisted in the Navy before enrolling in St. John's University, where he played college basketball. He returned to teach and coach at The Hive in 1953 and went

on to win five state championships and 446 games — the most in school history. He coached for more than three decades at The Hive, achieving an all-time record of 446–263. In addition to five state titles, his teams claimed three New Jersey Catholic League Championships.

"Jack Dalton was the heart of this place," said Fr. Edwin Leahy, O.S.B. '63. When St. Benedict's closed temporarily in 1972, Mr. Dalton said, "You just killed Camelot," and accepted a teaching and coaching position at another New Jersey high school. Five years later, his son, Tim Dalton '81, reached high school age and the Dalton family chose to send him to the still-struggling St. Benedict's.

"We knew that if this legend wanted to send his son here, that meant a lot," said Fr. Edwin. The Headmaster called Joan Dalton to

confirm the decision and was advised to reach even further.

"She told me to ask Jack to come back to St. Benedict's. Jack was already a tenured teacher at a public school. She said, 'Just ask him.' So I did. He said, 'Absolutely!'"

"When a man like Jack Dalton gives up a tenured position to give your school his stamp of approval, you know you're driving on a whole new lane of the highway. We thought, 'Maybe this is going to work after all.'"

Mr. Dalton coached St. Benedict's basketball well into his seventies, and taught into his eighties.

"Without Jack Dalton," said Fr. Edwin, "There might not even be a St. Benedict's Prep."

Mr. Dalton is survived by his wife Joan; his sister, Helen; daughters, Louise Huebschman, Susan Marshall and Carol Farrell; sons, John F. III, Michael and Timothy; 16 grandchildren; one great-granddaughter; and many nieces and nephews. **B**



Clockwise from top left: Jack Dalton in 1960; Mr. Dalton with the 1980 Gray Bee basketball team; Mr. Dalton (left) receiving the inaugural Hall of Fame Award from Fr. Edwin Leahy, O.S.B. '63 and Abbott Melvin Volvano, O.S.B. '56; Jack Dalton in 1979.

Alumnus, Benefactor and Friend



Charles "Charlie" M. Cawley '58 was a friend, benefactor and pillar of strength to St. Benedict's Prep, whose vision helped shape both the lives of students and the structure of the school itself.

Mr. Cawley died on November 18, 2015, at his home at age 75.

Mr. Cawley founded MBNA Corporation in 1982. Within two decades, he had grown it into the world's largest independent credit card issuer and sold it to Bank of America for more than \$35 billion.

Headmaster Fr. Edwin Leahy, O.S.B. '63 described the day St. Benedict's reconnected with its successful scion.

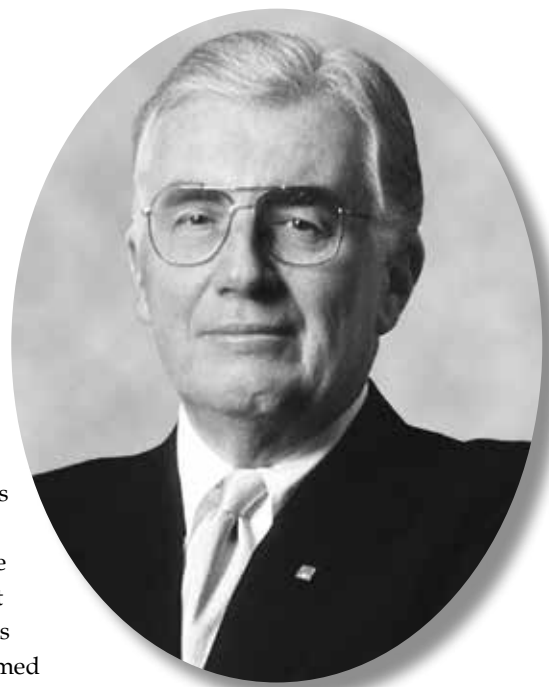
"We were running a phone-a-thon," he said, "when Charlie Cawley's name came up as someone we should call because he was 'doing alright.' On a night of \$100 commitments, Charlie pledged \$25,000 on the phone. When the check showed up, it had turned into \$50,000."

A short while later, Mr. Cawley called Fr. Edwin and said he would like to stop in to see his *alma mater*. "We started walking around when he stopped me. In his own unique way, he said, 'I didn't come here for a tour. I am prepared to give this school \$1.25 million over the next five years.' And that is the beginning of our relationship with Charlie Cawley."

Over the years, Mr. Cawley became a part of the fabric of St. Benedict's Prep, attending soccer games, developing relationships with students, and helping, wherever possible, to turn dreams into possibilities at The Hive.



Julie and Charlie Cawley '58 at the Class of 1958 50th Reunion




As one of St. Benedict's most generous benefactors, Mr. Cawley paid the college tuitions of a great number of Gray Bees. His concern for students seemed to know no bounds. "The residence hall has private bathrooms because of Charlie," said Fr. Edwin with a smile. "The building was already framed out when Charlie learned we planned to include group bathrooms. He wouldn't hear of it. The next thing you know, a helicopter had landed and Charlie was climbing through the construction site with his architect. Together they figured out a way for each kid to have his own bathroom."

"I have always thought if there's a place that I know where God's work can be seen, it's this spot."

— Charlie Cawley '58

Both Mr. Cawley and his wife, Julie, received the school's highest honor — the Medal of St. Benedict's — in 2002 and 2013, respectively. A month after the old freshman building was renamed "Cawley Hall" in his honor, he delivered the 2008 Commencement Address. "I have always thought if there's a place that I know where God's work can be seen, it's this spot," he said. "Anything I've been able to do [for Saint Benedict's Prep], which is certainly not enough, has been such a joy for our family."

Mr. Cawley is survived by his wife, a son, Dr. Michael, and a daughter, Maureen Rhodes, along with four grandchildren. 

"When people think of Charlie and Jack, they think 'philanthropist' and 'teacher and coach.' The word that comes to my mind is 'caretaker.' They took care of our young men and never once thought of themselves. All of our alumni are called to be caretakers. What's that mean? Come to our events. Champion St. Benedict's in your community. Support the Annual Fund. Encourage a young man to apply. Take care of The Hive, just like Charlie and Jack did."

— Michael Fazio, Chief Advancement Officer

Hall of Fame Dinner

ST. BENEDICT'S 'FAMILY' HONORS ITS OWN

St. Benedict's prides itself on building a community based around brotherhood, loyalty and trust. That family atmosphere was evident time and again by every man who spoke about their *alma mater* at St. Benedict's Hall of Fame Dinner on Nov. 19, 2015, at Mayfair Farms in West Orange, N.J.

More than 250 alumni and friends attended the biennial event, which honored the latest inductees into the Hall of Fame.

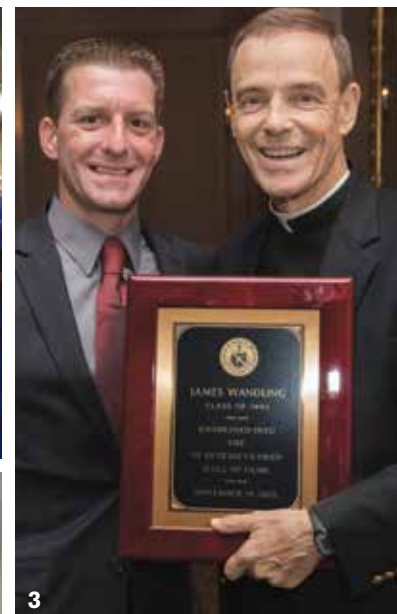
Enshrined this year were Vincent Almeida '95, Gregg Berhalter '91, Pedro Lopes '90, Peter Mocco '60, Patrick Napoli '87, Justo Rosario '92, Rauhn Turner '96, Jim Wandling '92, Arif Welcher '96 and the 1969-70 Track Team.



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Events



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RECENT GRADUATE CAREER & NETWORKING DAY

Young St. Benedict's Prep alumni returned to The Hive on Jan. 7 to receive valuable career advice from older alums at the Recent Graduate Career & Networking Day. They were treated to a special bonus: author Ben Carpenter was keynote speaker, offering job-seeking and career selection advice, as featured in his book, *THE BIGS: The Secrets Nobody Tells Students and Young Professionals*. After lunch, the recent grads shared their knowledge of what the current St. Benedict's Class of 2016 students should expect in the coming years.

1. Zakee Conte-Smith '13 speaks to upperclassmen. To his right are Dakota Gibbs '15, Isaac Tucker-Rasbury '14 and Malachi Hunter '15. 2. Leo Smith '16 (center left) and Jared Pietz '09 (center right) joined in a discussion of banking and finance. 3. Presentations on careers in science and engineering were very popular with students. 4. Author and keynote speaker Ben Carpenter.



3



4



1. Fr. Edwin Leahy, O.S.B. '63 with Peter M. Mocco '60. 2. Vincent Almeida '95 and his family. 3. James Wandling '92 with Fr. Edwin. 4. Justo Rosario '92 and family. 5. Fr. Edwin with Ellen Scanlon, mother of Thomas Scanlon '70, receiving posthumous award for her son. 6. Alexis Nimbona '19, Pat Napoli '87 and James Wandling '92. 7. Justinio Rosario '92, Sharif Muhammad '92, A.J. Calloway '93, Luther Roberson '83, Fred Davis '83 and Stan Frankowski, Jr. '73; 8. Ruhn Turner '96 and family. 9. Jeff Austin '96, A.J. Calloway '93, John Johnson '93, Derrick Hoff H '96, Tim Peter '87, Justo Rosario '92, Jerome Fernandes '91 and Bobby Morales '93. 10. Members of the 1969-70 track team.

PULITZER PRIZE-WINNING ALUMNUS SPEAKS

Jonathan Capehart, a 1985 graduate of St. Benedict's who went on to become a Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist, gave a talk at the Newark Public Library on Feb. 6. St. Benedict's students, alumni and friends came together before Mr. Capehart's presentation for a reception in Centennial Hall. The event was presented by The Newark Public Library as part of the Black History Month and is also offered as part of the Newark's 350th Anniversary Celebration.



Jonathan Capehart '85 (left); Students, alumni and friends with Mr. Capehart at Newark Public Library (right).



THE RULE PLAYS IN NATION'S CAPITAL

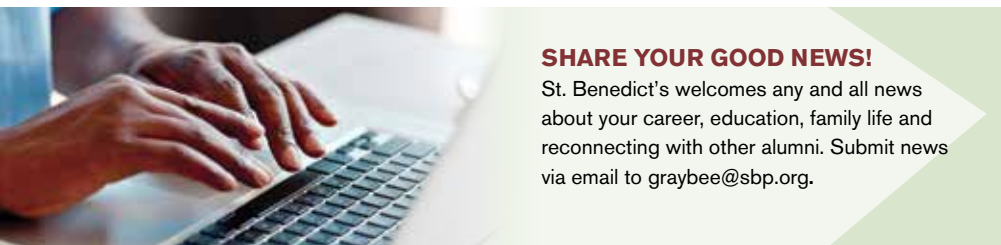
The Rule, the documentary about St. Benedict's, was featured as part of the White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for African Americans on Feb. 8 in Washington, D.C. The film was followed by a question and answer session with filmmakers and a reception at the Hyatt Place Hotel.

ATLANTA ALUMNI RECEPTION

Alumni gathered on Jan. 21 at Brio Tuscan Grille in Atlanta. The event was hosted by Jerome Froelich '61.



From Left: David Johns, executive director of the White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for African Americans with Marylou and Jerome Bongiorno, *The Rule* filmmakers.



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.

1939

Edward M. Bien celebrated his 95th birthday in January with family and friends. From left, **Jack Desch '67**, Barbara Henelt, Susan Bien, Ed Bien, Peggy Desch and **Bob Desch '70**.



1956

Bill Mealia and **Vinnie Lorenzo** gathered a group of classmates and other St. Benedict's friends at Bella Italia in Orange, N.J., on the first Friday in December for the 60th annual Christmas reunion of the class. **Jim Kelly**, now retired from teaching at Fordham University, writes occasional book reviews for *America*, the Jesuit magazine. Jean and **Ray Perkins** are thrilled to follow the Notre Dame career of their "adopted" Union High School student. Both their "homegrown" sons are Notre Dame grads.

1961

Joe Donohue retired last summer from his 40-plus year legal career with Donohue and Donohue in New York. The firm, which specialized in customs law, was begun by his late father, and run for many years by

Joe and his brother, **John Donohue '62**.

Jerry Froelich was elected President of the American Board of Criminal Lawyers for the 2016 term.

1962

Bill Ehrhardt will soon join the growing number of his classmates who may be found in Florida. He'll be moving to Venice early this year, but promises to remain as staunch a Gray Bee basketball fan as may be found anywhere.

1963

Fregoli Delusion, a psychological thriller by **Brian Rogers**, was recently published by Moonshine Cove Publishing, LLC. The novel, which deals with extreme personality disorders in adults stemming from prolonged child abuse, is set in Newark, Morris County, Maine and Long Beach Island. Find more at <http://advisoryteam37.com>.

1964

Art San Filippo reports that **Ralph Lilore** had bypass surgery last August. He had been having trouble breathing after performing the simplest task, and the doctors found that his previous triple bypass, done 20-plus years ago, had become totally clogged and could not be repaired. So they replaced it with a brand

new set of pipes. "My heart is strong, but the plumbing is shot," Ralph said.

Mike Bertelli, resident sculptor, shared his latest sculpture with us (below). It is based on the Robert Burns poem "To a Mouse."



Robert Ghegan has had a re-occurrence of cancer and is again receiving chemo. Bob, who resides in Franklin, Mass., is maintaining a positive attitude and both he and his wife, Bette Jo, want to thank everyone for their prayers and notes of encouragement.

Vic Mason has successfully completed chemo regimens for leukemia, with which he was diagnosed in the summer of 2015. Vic and his wife, Pat, are looking forward to returning to their home at The Villages in Florida.

John Zieser had successful knee replacement surgery and returned to his Bremerton, Wash., home two days later. He will now undergo three months of rehab to strengthen the knee.

1965

Bank of Louisiana named **A. Glenn Geddis** president and placed him on its board

of directors, the first change of leadership at the bank in a decade.

Members of the 1965 Reunion Committee had a mini-reunion on Feb. 3 over dinner at the Edison Ale House in Newark to celebrate the recent retirement of **Dan Meehan** after more than 40 years as an accounting professional. Dan, **Joe Gervasi**, **Vinnie Menzel** and **Larry Froelich** then walked across the street to the Prudential Center to enjoy the Seton Hall University men's basketball team's 17-point win over Marquette. Larry was overheard saying, "Dan has been counting other people's money for a long time, and now he gets to sit back and count his own."

1967

Greg Thornton recently retired as Artistic Director of the Cloverdale Playhouse in Montgomery, Al. He is now playing the part of Prospero in Shakespeare's *The Tempest* at the Orlando Shakespeare Theater, where he last appeared in *Nicholas Nickleby* in 2014. The production runs from Feb. 10 to Mar. 27.

1968

Ernie Vespole reports he and his wife, Jennifer, are the very proud parents of six children and now the grandparents of three girls and three boys. Ernie, a graduate of Fairfield University, and Jennifer now live in Sergeantsville, N.J. Ernie is Senior Vice President of Acosta Sales and marketing, a sales and Marketing agency for consumer packaged goods.

1969

Bob Munch was elected to serve on the Board of NuStar Energy L.P. of San Antonio, Texas. Bob spent 40 years in senior executive positions in the financial services industry before he retired in 2013 after serving as General Manager and Head of Corporate & Investment Banking for a subsidiary of Mizuho Financial Group, a global banking company.

1971

Jim Waldron, clerk of the United States Bankruptcy Court for the District of New Jersey since 1984, was inducted as a Fellow of the American College of Bankruptcy on March 18 at the Smithsonian's Donald W. Reynolds Center for American Art and Portraiture in Washington, D.C. The 31 inductees are honored for professional excellence and exceptional contributions to the bankruptcy and insolvency practice. Below, Jim with Ian Gyan '11, Darran St. Ange '11 and Saahir Web'10.



1982

Mark Wilderotter has been named Managing Director of Sales at the Cranbury, N.J., office of F and G Insurance Agency, LLC.

1985

Jonathan Capehart, a Pulitzer Prize-winning opinion writer for the *Washington*

Post and an MSNBC contributor, was the main speaker at a Newark Public Library "Black History Month" discussion on Feb. 6 in the library's Centennial Hall.

2000

Jermaine Monk, M.S.W., a lecturer in the Department of Social Work at Lehman College, City University of New York, wrote that he passed his dissertation defense at Rutgers. The topic was "Male Identity and Academic Engagement: Case Studies of Black Male Collegians at an Urban University."

2004

Josh Thompson has thrown his hat into the ring as a candidate for New York City Council. He is Executive Director of New Leaders for New Schools in New York and New Jersey.

2008

Brandon Blackwell, son of **Adrian Blackwell '89** and grandson of the late **Regina Blackwell H '10**, is pursuing his dream as a live show production sound engineer. In 2015, he worked on major tours with high-profile recording artists including TLC, Tori Kelly, A\$AP Rocky, Ne-Yo and Ciara. However, the highlight of the year was the 2015 China State Dinner at the White House, where he met President Barack Obama, First Lady Michelle Obama, Chinese President Xi Jinping and First Lady of China Madame Peng Liyuan.

Simon Clayton joined Newark Abbey as a postulant in October 2015 and has begun his year of novitiate.

Following graduation from St. Vincent College in 2012, he worked in banking and finance in the Washington, D.C., area before coming to the monastery.

2010

Joshua Ajamu, a 2014 graduate of Bates College, worked last summer in Cambridge, Mass. for an education organization, Bridges International Academies. He wrote, "I'm working on our Nigeria team writing teacher curriculums for schools we are building here. After my time here in Cambridge, I will be moving to South Africa to continue my work in education, as well as my interest in public health with the Peace Corps."

2013

Last fall, **Edward Cheserek** now a student at the University of Oregon, became the first runner to ever win three straight NCAA Cross Country Championships. He now has nine individual NCAA crowns and 10 overall with this year's indoor and outdoor championships still looming before his junior year is completed.

2014

Jared Boone's connection to St. Benedict's and College of the Holy Cross became even more distinctive, since he is now the recipient of the **John T. (Chuck) Dolan '48** Scholarship at Holy Cross. Jared and the two former recipients, **Matthew Achariam '07** and **Seun Oke '11** were able to join Naddy Dolan (Mrs. John Dolan) at a "thank you" lunch late last summer.



BIRTHS

Lora and **Matthew Heady '93** welcomed their third child, William Matthew, on February 2. His siblings, Benjamin and Samantha, are thrilled.

Christiaan Mamczak '94 and his wife, Debbie, welcomed twin daughters, Nadia and Sophia. They also have a son, Zac, and a daughter, Alexandra. They reside in Granger, Ind., where Christiaan practices orthopedic trauma surgery and teaches at Indiana University School of Medicine.



MARRIAGES

David Lusane '01 married Christian Martinez-LuSane in California in September 2015. The couple have moved to Recife, Brazil, where she is in the foreign service.

Michael Malinowski '04 married his long-time sweetheart, Lindsey, at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church in the Ironbound section of Newark in July 2015. Mike grew up on Van Buren Street and the couple met as Honors English majors at Rutgers-Newark. They now live in Mahwah, N.J., and both teach in Demarest, N.J.



IN MEMORIAM

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

ALUMNI

Thomas J. Briskey, Jr. '43
Peter S. Rubas '54
Richard F. Gilligan '56
Joseph E. Quinn '56
Charles M. Cawley '58
James V. O'Donnell '58
Thomas J. Simmons '60
James J. Brady III '62
Frederick J. Mazur '63
William A. Walsh '66
William J. Robrecht '67
Ronald W. Bogle '68
Richard R. Fuller, Jr. '69
Patrick E. Loftus '71
Waverly Joseph Whittle '81
Richard S. Hester '82
Mustafa N. Terry '00

COMMUNITY

Michelle Boone
Mother of Jared '13
Dorothy E. Brooks H '05,
mother of Ricky '78 and grandmother of Justin Copeland '11
Patricia A. Brothers
Wife of Thomas '60
Judy Cecere
Sister of Rev. Martin Mager, O.S.B. '53
Luciano Marcus Cintron
Father of Marc '09

Mary A. Fackelman
Mother of Dennis and James '65

Owen J. Hudson
Former St. Benedict's Faculty

Agatha Illuminati
Mother of Mark '73

Arthur G. Lang
Father of Chris '79

Shirley R. Mason
Mother of Victor '64 and Robert '63

Michelle McNany
Wife of Dennis '67

Toih Moncur
Brother of Kenya '91 and Adrien '97; Uncle of Kenya '15

Telmo G. Nunes
Father of Telmo '90 and Paulo '91

Josephine Pepe
Mother of Pat '64

Thomas M. Voynick
Brother of Jack '71

Walter S. Wasowski
Father of Walter '63

Alberta Wright
Great-Grandmother of Najee Evans '15

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.



(Above) Budding scientists at St. Benedict's "delve into the mysteries of chemistry," as described in the yearbook for 1921. (Below) Today, in the same, now thoroughly modernized classroom, Dennis Lansang, M.D., teaches Chemistry with the help of a digital interactive whiteboard.





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St. Benedict's

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