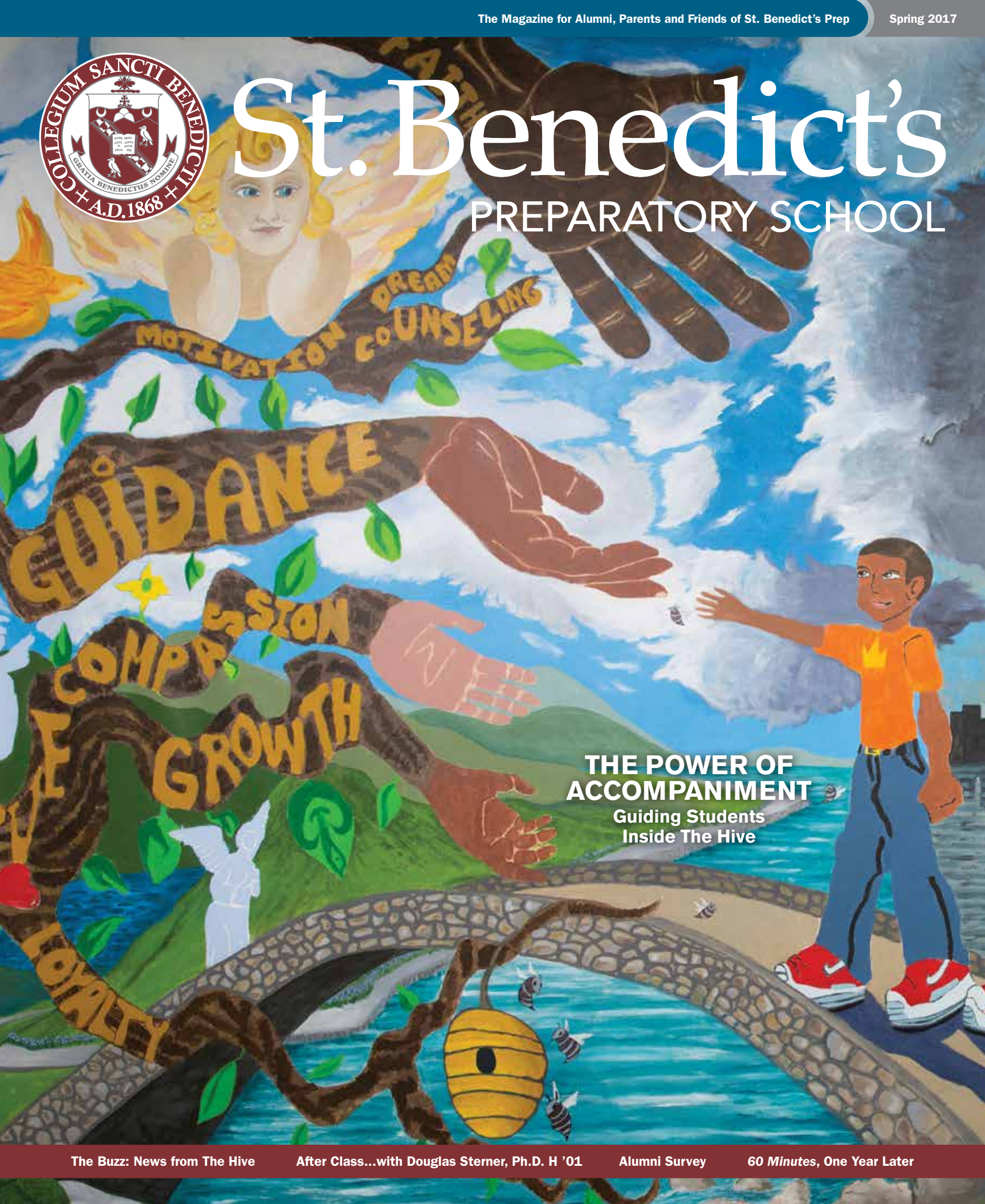




St. Benedict's

PREPARATORY SCHOOL



THE POWER OF ACCOMPANIMENT

Guiding Students
Inside The Hive

THEMOMENT

Harlem Takes a Bow

The sights and sounds of 1930s Harlem took center stage when the St. Benedict's Prep Drama Guild presented the musical "Little Ham" in March. In the wings were two New York theater pros, who stepped up to support the production.

New York producer Eric Krebs loaned costumes and props from the musical's original off-Broadway production, stipulating only that a professional take charge of fitting and handling the pieces. Enter Judy McFarland, mother of St. Benedict's math teacher Elliott McFarland '12 and wardrobe supervisor for the New York Shakespeare Festival/Public Theater/Shakespeare in the Park, who volunteered her expertise.

With so many costume changes, "Little Ham" would have been difficult for the School to present without help, according to Patricia Flynn H '95, St. Benedict's Drama Guild Director, who once worked for Mr. Krebs. The musical fit well with the Harlem Renaissance theme guiding interdisciplinary projects at St. Benedict's this year.

"Little Ham" credits: Book by Dan Owens; music by Judd Woldin; lyrics by Richard Engquist and Judd Woldin; based on a Langston Hughes play, from a concept by Eric Krebs.



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GREETINGS



From the Headmaster

The most important thing we do at St. Benedict's Prep is accompany kids through the most pivotal time in their lives. Under the best of circumstances, the high school years are tough to navigate.

Here at The Hive, we help by providing layers of accompaniment — from teachers, coaches, counselors, monks and others — to give students the support they need to mature into successful young men who feel confident and loved.

This issue of the magazine shines a light on the visible ways St. Benedict's builds up students. Some, like the Counseling Center and the Velvet Rope program in Leahy House, are very deliberately structured to catch kids who are falling through the cracks at school, at home or in society. Others are more informal, but just as effective. Theater and arts programs encourage self-reflection and expression, while our new CrossFit gym builds better health and self-esteem. When you consider alumni like Tyrone Heggins '02, featured in the Advancement section (page 14), you begin to understand the powerful ripple effect accompaniment has on the many lives touched by St. Benedict's graduates.

Our important work would be impossible without your support. I am deeply grateful that so many of our alumni value the guidance they received during their years here. In fact, in a recent survey we asked alumni, "What is the most meaningful thing St. Benedict's can do for you in the next 5 to 10 years?" Their response was simple, yet profound: "Continue."

So, that's what we plan to do. Continue to teach. Continue to love. And continue to raise up leaders who are, in turn, raising up society.

Peace,

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



St. Benedict's
PREPARATORY SCHOOL

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On the cover: A mural by Angel Cruz '14 illustrates the power of accompaniment.

Follow us on     



How the Gray Bees Came to Be

Ever wonder about the origin of the Gray Bees, the longtime nickname for St. Benedict's Prep?

This archival image hanging inside the rare books and manuscript collection at the Radel Library offers a clue.

St. Benedict's student-athletes sported a gray "B" on their uniforms in the early 20th century and the Gray Bees moniker caught on. According to *Miracle on High Street: The Rise, Fall and Resurrection of St. Benedict's Prep in Newark, N.J.* by Thomas A. McCabe, Athletic Director Fr. Jerome Flanagan drew new meaning from the nickname.

"A bee, with all its concentrated activity, just about symbolized the St. Benedict's spirit," he said. Fr. Flanagan requested "a decidedly aggressive and business-like bee" for the 1924 baseball uniform and the Gray Bees were born.



GRAY BEES GO GREEN

A new garden slated for planting this spring at St. Benedict's Prep will be more than just a pretty space. Located at the corner of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard and Springfield Avenue, the rainwater garden is designed to capture the runoff from Cawley Hall. It's the latest in a series of environmental measures Gray Bees are taking to go green.

"We'll be planting native plants to make the landscaping more sustainable," said Michelle Tuorto H '16, science teacher and Dean of Faculty who founded

the School's Sustainability Committee. Students enrolled in a gardening class taught by Ms. Tuorto will handle the planting in partnership with the Rutgers Cooperative Extension. "In our curriculum, we talk a lot about invasive species and the importance of native plants to the preservation of our ecosystem."

Across The Hive's 13-acre campus, Gray Bees are studying the environment, recycling and educating their classmates to promote greener habits. This year, a new club called the Green Bees even sprang into action when hauling issues threatened to cancel the School's on campus recycling efforts. The club's membership numbers around 15 young men who volunteer their time to bring recyclables to a processing center. In addition, Leahy House resident Michael Okaro '17 serves on the Sustainability Committee to boost recycling efforts among resident students.

Gray Bees are sometimes surprised at the diversity of birds that call the St. Benedict's campus home, Ms. Tuorto said. Many aren't aware that simple actions like recycling can make a big difference. "It's a lifestyle you have to cultivate, because many of our students are not recycling at home. These guys are concerned about climate change. They're getting the message."

The rainwater garden is a collaborative effort between St. Benedict's and several partners. Covanta, which operates the Essex County Resource Recovery Facility in Newark, donated funding for the plants, while Cali Carting Inc. contributed signage and the Rutgers Cooperative Extension provided the hardscape and infrastructure.



PRESIDENTIAL COIN TOSS

Ammon Moore, Jr. '20 got the thrill of a lifetime last fall, when President Barack Obama unexpectedly dropped into a White House ceremony where Ammon's father, SGM Ammon Moore, Sr., was receiving the President's Volunteer Service Award.

A member of the National Guard for 24 years, SGM Moore was recognized for his 2015 deployment to Guantánamo Bay, where he went above and beyond the call of duty to volunteer in the local community. President Obama surprised the award recipients and their guests as they took a group photo. Ammon and his father confidently shook the President's hand and shared that Ammon attends St. Benedict's and is a member of the swimming and water polo teams.

Then, Ammon "coined" the President, presenting the commander in chief with a coin showing his father's rank. To the freshman's surprise, President Obama coined him back. Ammon says of the keepsake, "I'll be saving it in a special place."



Show Your Spirit – Shop at The Hive!

It's easier than ever to shop for Gray Bee gear, thanks to a new student-staffed store. The Gray Bee Store stocks all kinds of St. Benedict's spirit wear including hats, t-shirts and sweaters, as well as school supplies. Four volunteer student interns – Aaron Sanz '18, Erick Badillo '19, Jacob Aamaro '19 and Gabriel Cardona '19 – staff the store, gaining practical business and interpersonal skills they can put to use in the job market. The store is open every day after school from 3:20 to 5 p.m., except Wednesdays, when it opens at 2:20 p.m. Stop by to pick up some gear and show your St. Benedict's spirit!



SHE'S IN THE MONEY

When Donna Chahal, CPA, arrived at St. Benedict's Prep for a job interview last fall, she understood immediately how deeply invested people become in the School's success. "I was struck with how everybody really cares for this school," said Ms.

Chahal, who began her position as Director of Finance on January 3. "From the staff to the trustees to the alumni, it's impressive how devoted they are."

A graduate of Hofstra University, Ms. Chahal is a veteran of the independent educational sector, with more than 17 years at Far Brook School in Short Hills, N.J. She has a self-described "passion for independent education," and plans to institute best

practices from her position as Far Brook's Chief Financial Officer and Business Manager.

As she sets to work guiding St. Benedict's bottom line, Ms. Chahal plans to reach out to representatives of other independent schools through professional associations to form valuable partnerships for The Hive. Getting to know St. Benedict's students at a luncheon with Group Leaders and in the hallways has strengthened her resolve to reinforce the School's firm financial foundation.

"The students here are impressive young men – animated, articulate and polite. They always say hello to me in the hallways," she said. "I admire the St. Benedict's mission. It's really exciting to be a part of that."

St. Benedict's would like to thank Paul Barnas, the outgoing Director of Finance, who will retire this spring, for his many years of service.



The late Charlie Cawley '58 enjoyed hosting Gray Bees each year at his house in Maine. Today, his wife, Julie, and Judy Wolf, wife of the late Bob Wolf '58, continue the tradition.

Back Row L-R: Carlos Acosta '18, Dalyn Woody '17, Sebastian Granizo '18, Kobe Hurtado '18, Dennis Lamsang and Michael Scanlan '18. Front Row L-R: Mrs. Cawley and Mrs. Wolf.



ST. BENEDICT'S PREP
GRAY BEES

The Official St. Benedict's Preparatory School Apparel and Merchandise Store for Gray Bee Fans, Parents and Alumni.



sbp.org/GrayBeeStore



Same URL. Brand New Site.

St. Benedict's Prep will launch a redesigned website later this year at www.sbp.org. The overhaul is being designed with all St. Benedict's constituencies in mind (students, parents, faculty, staff and alumni) and will encompass enhanced features and navigation.

The new website is expected to launch early to mid-summer.



THE POWER OF ACCOMPANIMENT

No one goes it alone at St. Benedict's Prep. The School's longstanding tradition of accompanying students through the best and worst of times has never been more vibrant or alive.

Monday morning, 7:40 a.m. and Freshman Leader Eric Conklin '17 is already on the job. Before Convocation, Eric and the 18 freshman counselors will get a read on how the entire 134-member freshman class is doing — as a group and individually. Having mentored, pushed and supported first-year students since Summer Phase, it is the freshman counselors who recognize the student who needs a pep talk and those experiencing something more serious. “They are the ones who are really on the ground with the guys,” said Eric. “They know what they look like at their best moments and they also know when it’s going to be a bad day for someone.”

“To accompany students doesn’t mean that we’re with them only during the good times. It means that even when they’re failing, we’re with them.”

– Ivan Lamourt, Psy.D. '82, Director of Counseling

This peer-to-peer support is a very important part of the commitment to accompaniment at St. Benedict’s Prep. From the moment ninth graders arrive for the Freshman Overnight to graduation — and often beyond — they receive extensive help from the St. Benedict’s community navigating the rocky waters of their teenage years. The key: without exception, every student has someone to turn to when the going gets tough.

LISTEN WITH THE EAR OF YOUR HEART

In fact, the School’s culture of accompaniment is a centuries-old Benedictine tradition, according to Br. Maximilian Buonocore, O.S.B., L.P.C. H '15, who tutors students in math. “It’s a tradition of work, prayer and hospitality that includes tending to the special needs and growth of others,” he explained. “We are not their parents, but we are helping students any way we can in their development.” Like his fellow brothers in Newark Abbey, much of Br. Max’s work with students

is informed by The Rule of St. Benedict, “Listen with the ear of your heart.” The monk describes it as a two-way street, because it’s listening and responding to whatever a student might be going through at a particular moment.

For Director of Counseling Ivan Lamourt, Psy.D. '82, the work of accompaniment is all about connectedness. “To accompany students doesn’t mean that we’re with them only during the good times,” he said. “It means that even when they’re failing, we’re with them.”

A mural in the Counseling Center (opposite page) painted by Angel Cruz '14 depicts the journey students take as they come of age in an era when so many of life’s pressures can derail their best efforts. At the base are two key foundations: love and support. Young men find both in the layers of accompaniment found at St. Benedict’s in the form of teachers, coaches, counselors, their peers and others. Having someone they can trust encourages kids to open up and share their vulnerabilities with others, the first step in working through issues.

Some things that crop up are what you’d typically expect from teenage males: testing authority or slacking off on studies. But others deal with deeper life difficulties like violence, the influence of gangs or family dysfunction. All can impact a kid’s behavior and academic performance. Dr. Lamourt points out that none of it is new, or unique to St. Benedict’s. “Every school in the country faces these issues. People think it wasn’t always like this at St. Benedict’s. I tell them, ‘Yeah, it was. You just didn’t see it.’”

WE DON’T SAY NO

Each year, the Counseling Center sees about 200 kids, nearly one-third of the student body, and no one is turned away. Ever.

“That is one of our weaknesses, that we don’t say no,” laughed Dr. Lamourt. “So you may end up with a caseload of 20 or 25 students and you just have to make it work.” Since the Center only employs two full-time staff members, Dr. Lamourt and Biana Kasoun, L.P.C., whose position was made possible by a grant from The Healthcare Foundation of NJ, it relies on a cadre of dedicated professionals including doctoral candidates Sinclair Davis and Dominic Canova, volunteer therapists Gerard Figurelli, Ph.D. and Robert “Chuck” Schnabel, Psy.D. '65, as well as student interns from New York University, Rutgers, Fordham, Fairleigh Dickinson and New Jersey City University.



Angel Cruz '14

BEHIND THE MURAL

When Angel Cruz '14 proposed creating a large mural as part of a Spring Phase art class several years ago, he never thought about leaving a legacy at St. Benedict’s. The avid art student recalled, “I was going through a lot at the time, and I used painting as a coping skill.”

He and a team of 20 students under the direction of Art Department Chair Pamela Wye-Hunsinger devised the theme, mirroring the experiences of many St. Benedict’s students.

A resident of Leahy House while attending St. Benedict’s, Angel later created another mural for a meeting room used by the Velvet Rope.

Today, Angel is an aspiring art therapist living in San Diego, Calif. He hopes to bring his passion for art back to St. Benedict’s someday to help students work through their own difficulties. “What they do at the School is really life changing,” he said. “Without St. Benedict’s, I probably wouldn’t be where I am today. I’m glad that every day, kids are inspired by my murals.”



Pictured L-R: Freshman Leader Eric Conklin '17 (far right) and students; mural by Angel Cruz '14 that hangs in the Counseling Center.



Ivan Lamourt, Psy.D., '82, Director of Counseling

Adults and Group Leaders keep an eye out for young men who may be struggling, and the Counseling Center team is a constant, approachable presence in the hallways. This outwardly relaxed style ensures that there's no stigma in asking for help.

At St. Benedict's, teachers are the first line of defense in recognizing issues. Mr. Davis said, "If a teacher has a good rapport with a student, they will probe a little. And in most cases, the students feel comfortable enough to open up. A kid might say, 'Well, right now the lights are off in my house. I wasn't able to finish my homework.' And then the teacher may bring him over to us."

IT'S NOT PEER PRESSURE. IT'S PEER INFLUENCE.

Group sessions on campus such as Alateen, Anger Management, Dreamers Without Borders, Unknown Sons and the Blue Man Group for depression target specific concerns and show kids that they're not alone. While the groups are facilitated by counselors, the students take ownership for running the sessions and for their peers, an extension of the St. Benedict's motto, "Whatever hurts my brother hurts me."

"You can't beat it because it's a lot more powerful for students to hear from each other than us," said Dr.

Schnabel. "It's not peer pressure, it's peer influence."

Last year's *60 Minutes* story about St. Benedict's profiling the School's approach to accompaniment has gained lots of attention from educators and others, including counseling interns who want to learn more about the process. "When I watched the broadcast, I knew this is where I wanted to be," said Dana Criscuolo, a Rutgers-Newark undergraduate interning at the Counseling Center this semester. "In my high school we had guidance counselors and teachers you could talk to, but it wasn't anything like what I see here. It is very inspiring to be at St. Benedict's and I feel fortunate to experience this."

A YEAR OF SELF-DISCOVERY

The accompaniment students encounter at The Hive isn't limited to challenges and struggles in life. Many times, it's guiding students to push themselves further or discover new talents.

While Br. Max has certainly helped students who require extra support in math, he has also been available to the School's advanced mathematicians. One year, he formulated an applied engineering class for a small group of juniors involving plenty of challenging calculus



Jill Hall H '13

CONQUERING CHALLENGES

Every year, Jill Hall H '13 selects a special coin for each graduate of the Velvet Rope, an intensive counseling and support program available to Leahy House residents. The messages on the coins are a testament to the young men's perseverance: Courage. Determination. Strength.

A licensed school counselor in Union Township, N.J., Ms. Hall volunteers her time as a Residence Counselor at Leahy House. It's her way of giving back to the School that shaped the lives of her three sons, Michael '04, Kevin '08 and Br. Thomas Aquinas '06, a monk at Newark Abbey.

Through the Velvet Rope, many St. Benedict's students and graduates also think of Ms. Hall as a surrogate mom who has helped them over life's rough spots. Ms. Hall spends two or three nights a week in Leahy House listening, guiding and inspiring the students to work toward their futures.

Ms. Hall's reward: seeing graduates of the Velvet Rope return to visit and share their stories with current students. One alumnus, Luis Cruz '08, joined Leahy House this year as a full-time House Parent. "The best feeling is when a graduate comes back to talk with the guys in the Rope. Eight years later, some of them still have the coins from their completion ceremony. It's a very emotional experience."

problems, but also lots of discussions about the students' future aspirations in engineering. "It was a year of self-discovery for them," Br. Max recalled. "And self-discovery is such an important part of development."

“Accompaniment doesn't stop when you graduate. Once you join the St. Benedict's family, you are a member for life.”

— Br. Maximilian Buonocore, O.S.B., L.P.C. H '15

The bonds St. Benedict's students form with the adults who stand with them under the best and worst of circumstances is an enduring one. "We have to be willing to keep the connection alive," said Dr. Lamourt. That may involve helping a student set up mental health services when they go off to college or being available to alumni when they're home on extended breaks.

"Accompaniment doesn't stop when you graduate," said Br. Max. "Once you join the St. Benedict's family, you are a member for life."

CARRYING PRIDE ON MY SHOULDERS

For Eric and the other freshman counselors who will graduate this year, life beyond St. Benedict's is about to begin so it's a natural time to reflect on the parallels between their own high school experience and the first-year students they accompany. From the Overnight in July to the Backpacking Project the following May, "You see the transition as guys buy into the community," said Eric. "Guys carry themselves differently when they finish the Trail. They have this sense of integrity that comes from being able to succeed under pressure as a community, which makes you feel better individually."

Perhaps that accounts for the universal appeal of the Counseling Center mural: it speaks to every St. Benedict's student and graduate, whether he is starting the journey to his better self or has ultimately been transformed by it.

Like the thousands of Gray Bees who came before him, Eric, who hopes to attend the U.S. Naval Academy or West Point next year, understands the seeds for his future were planted freshman year. Much like the boy depicted in the first part of the mural, "I walked into the Overnight my freshman year like I was dead inside," he recalled. "When I came off the Trail, I was carrying pride on my shoulders." **B**

AFTERCLASS

WITH DOUGLAS STERNER, PH.D. H '01
HISTORY TEACHER AND RECIPIENT OF
THE 2017 MEDAL OF ST. BENEDICT'S

“...what I have done,
I have put my
heart into.”

Thousands of St. Benedict's Prep graduates share an academic experience referred to as “Sterner,” the U.S. History II course that prepares students for the intellectual rigor of college. Doc Sterner, the history teacher responsible for the seminal class, will be honored with the Medal of St. Benedict's at the 2017 Annual Scholarship Gala in May. He sat down with *St. Benedict's Prep Magazine* to talk about the recent honor and his 32 years of teaching at The Hive.

Where did your passion for history originate?

I became interested in politics at a young age and had an acute sense that the world was not the way it ought to be. My early ambition was to enter politics and change it. As I got older and wiser, I realized I wasn't suited for that, but I still wanted to make sense of the world as I found it around me.

What wrongs did you see in the world that you wanted to put right?

It was things like reading about the Hungarian Uprising of 1956: Soviet tanks coming in, crushing the Hungarian rebellion and slaughtering people. That was outrageous. I think a lot of young people have that sense of outrage; they are aware that the world is not the way it ought to be. I was motivated by the same feelings. History seemed to be the discipline that offered the widest opening to explore and figure out why things were the way they were.

When did you become interested in teaching?

By the time I left Amherst College, I knew I wanted to teach. I don't think it was motivated by any specific event. It was a gradual transition of realizing that I loved reading, writing and thinking about ideas. It was in the academic world that I could do that, and so I entered graduate school at Rutgers.

When you came to St. Benedict's in 1985, you initially thought you would teach a few years and then move on. What happened?

What happened is, I think, two things: One, I discovered within a relatively short period of time, a comfort level in dealing with the students that I wasn't sure I was going to have in the beginning. I found that I was effective with the students; they responded to me, they respected me. The other thing that happened was the flexibility of the school year that left me with time to pursue my interests, and the freedom to teach to my strengths. I did, at times, look at other schools. I sat in on classes and found it incredibly dull. I knew I would miss the human energy that students bring here.

How did you make your flagship course, U.S. History II, your own?

In the beginning, I think I was more conventional

and the course wasn't that good. But eventually, I wrote two booklets to challenge the students. The booklets presented the material in a way that I wanted to present it in class, and are written at a college level to stretch all the students in the course.


How do you get the most out of each student in your classes?

I give everyone the same content, but I adapt the way I present it in class. I will not race on and leave people to their own devices to try and understand the material. I will go after students who I feel are struggling to try and work with it and get to some level of understanding. There was a time I felt I was being unfair to those who didn't have the same skill set that the advanced students did, so I went to a simpler text. And I found that the students who struggled did worse. So I think there is something to raising the bar and raising performance across the board.

The Medal of St. Benedict's is the School's highest honor. What does it mean to you to be one of three honorees at this year's Scholarship Gala?

I am very conscious that in many ways I'm out of my element as a teacher here. The expectation for most people who come to teach at St. Benedict's is to take on some activity or to coach in order to interact with students outside of the classroom. For the most part, that has not been my role. I have been a full-time, committed classroom teacher and I put all my energy into what I do in the classroom. That's where I primarily relate to the students. So, I am honored that this specialty of mine is being recognized, because I have not done what teachers are normally asked to do here. But what I have done, I have put my heart into.

In your 32 years of teaching at St. Benedict's, what makes you proudest?

There are moments when students come back and acknowledge that what I was doing for them as they headed off to college worked. But the most rewarding experiences have been with the students who struggled. There are times when I've seen a student grow significantly, from that struggling starting position to actually move up. And I find that really wonderful to witness. I still tell this to my students today: "You start where you are and you move up from there." That's what education is. 



James E. Delany '66

HONORING OUR OWN

The 2017 Annual Scholarship Gala will honor three members of the St. Benedict's community, James E. Delany '66, Jason Scarpone '85 and Douglas Sterner, Ph.D. H '01.

Commissioner of the Big Ten Conference since 1989, Mr. Delany oversaw its expansion and helped create the Big Ten Network. The Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame presented him with its Lifetime Achievement Award last year. St. Benedict's was a tradition for Mr. Delany's family, including his grandfather, Ed 1907, father, Francis Delany '36, and brother, Frank Delany '62.

Mr. Scarpone is President and Chief Executive Officer of the African Fertilizer and Agribusiness Partnership. He is the son of James Scarpone '58 and brother of Justin Scarpone '87.

The Gala will be held on May 11 at 6:30 p.m. in Dalton Gymnasium. For ticket information, please contact Mary Hauck, Alumni and Donor Relations Officer, at (973) 792-5776.



Jason Scarpone '85



INSIDE THE BOX

Just after dawn every morning, the box comes alive. St. Benedict's

Prep student-athletes are already pumping iron, making the most of the opportunity to work out in The Hive's new CrossFit training center.

They're not alone. Joining them are a host of Gray Bees — other students, faculty, staff and even some alumni and parents — who regularly show up for the early morning group workout. Two afternoon sessions are also well attended. "There's a real sense of camaraderie you get working out with other people," said Athletic Director Tom Leahy '77, a certified CrossFit trainer. "When you're sweating, suffering and hurting together, it goes a long way toward building bonds."

The box, as CrossFit gyms are called, was funded through a grant from The Horizon Foundation to improve the health of St. Benedict's students, many of whom don't have access to proper workout equipment at home or in the community. With all gym classes from seventh to 12th grades now doing CrossFit, Mr. Leahy has seen a marked improvement in fitness levels across the board. Workouts are free to anyone in the St. Benedict's community who shows up. "They pay in sweat," he quipped.

While some student-athletes use the box to stay in shape during the off season, others double up on workouts in the competition season. Soccer coach Jim Wandling '92, for instance, requires his players to attend CrossFit sessions four mornings a week to

supplement afternoon practices. Gray Bee rowers are regulars during the winter, in between their fall and spring seasons.

Soccer player David Rahaman '20 arrives at the box early each morning to stay in shape. "I can see the muscle gain, and I feel a lot stronger." Rower Oliver De Leon '19, a box regular in the afternoons, agreed. "Every week I get home, I know that my cardiovascular endurance has improved, alongside my strength."

Since CrossFit incorporates gymnastics, weight lifting, running, rowing and other activities, the flexible workouts help student-athletes to exercise muscle groups they may not use much in their sport, according to Mr. Leahy. "I think it prevents overuse injuries and gives student-athletes a chance to develop themselves outside of their sport. It promotes functional movements they'll use long after they stop doing that sport."

The box now accommodates approximately 200 participants, counting gym classes. With that much volume, Mr. Leahy gets help from a few experienced trainers to run the program: St. Benedict's English teacher Brian Delaney '02, a Level 1 CrossFit trainer, math teacher Matt Milone, a CrossFit competitor, and Steve Smith '04.

For non-athletes, the benefits of CrossFit are just as strong as those found in student-athletes. Mr. Leahy has observed the transformation firsthand as kids devote the time and effort to improve their health. "It's something anybody can

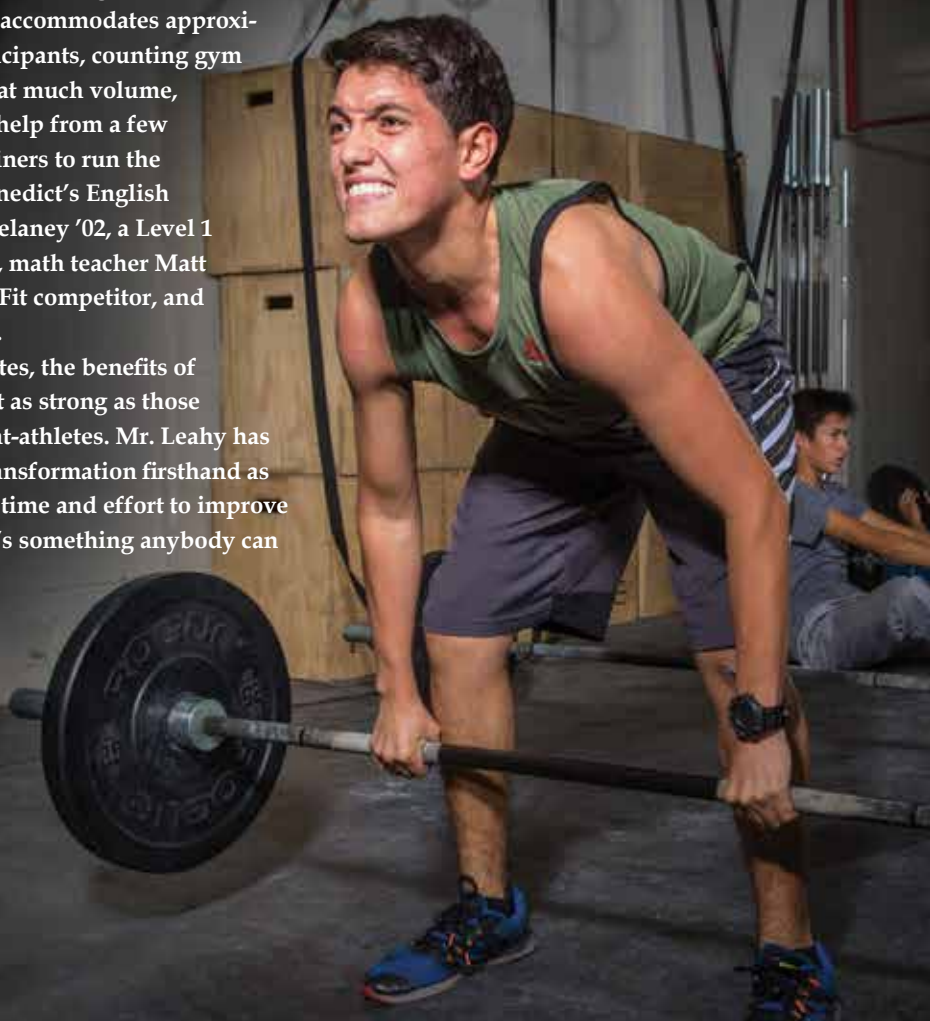
do," he explained. "It's amazing, especially in the younger kids. They really have to do the work, but you can see their bodies change over the semester."

When the going gets tough, the students can look to others for inspiration, including Mr. Leahy's brother, St. Benedict's Headmaster Fr. Edwin Leahy, O.S.B. '63. The 71-year-old is a regular at the box, and is part of an elite group known as The Wolfpack for working out 28 straight days.

The CrossFit program has taken off so quickly that the Athletic Director faces a tough time finding the space to accommodate everyone who wants to participate. Still, it's a nice problem to have. "I want to reach as many people as possible, and the challenge is that we don't have the room. But a bigger challenge would be if the kids weren't interested in doing it." **B**



The box was funded through a grant from The Horizon Foundation.





On the Diamond: Heart and Passion

Seasoned baseball coach Eric Puzio has taken the reigns of the Gray Bee program this season. Mr. Puzio has racked up more than 200 wins in his high school baseball coaching career. His goals for St. Benedict's: to restore a strong baseball tradition at the School and to honor baseball alumni. "I was attracted to the St. Benedict's mission, how they raise young men here," the coach said. "My players have a lot of heart and passion. With the core guys we have, I'm excited."

State Champs x 2

It was a banner year for The Hive's fencers and hoopsters. Both teams emerged from their seasons as state Prep A champs. The basketball team captured its third straight state title with a 47-44 victory over Blair Academy. Earlier in the season, the young squad defeated two national powerhouses — Montverde Academy of Florida and Virginia's Oak Hill Academy — and successfully defended their title in the St. James Invitational in Maryland.

Gray Bee fencers earned their first state title in six years. For the third consecutive season, the St. Benedict's Epee contingent took first place overall, with the Foil squad placing second and the Sabre team in fourth. A trio of alumni, including Head Coach Rich Molina '06, guided the team to its championship season. Assisting Molina were Elliot McFarland '12 and Idris Mitchell '11, both of whom were on The Hive's last state title team in 2011.

On to Nationals!

Gray Bee wrestlers were well represented at the National Prep Championships held at Lehigh University in Pennsylvania in February. Thirteen St. Benedict's grapplers, in all but one of the 14 weight classes, qualified for the prestigious competition. Darwin Pena '17, DeShawn Herbert '19, Michael Okara '17 and Wilfred Gil PG were named All-Americans.

Top Time in the Nation

St. Benedict's runners showed they are a force to be reckoned with, posting the top indoor time in the nation to date in the 4x800-meter relay at the Millrose Games held in the New York Armory in February. Alfred Chawonza '19 anchored the foursome — which also included Adrian Ceballos '17, Ronald Kigen '19 and Byron Simmons '17 — on the way to a 7:52.71 victory.

THE ARTS

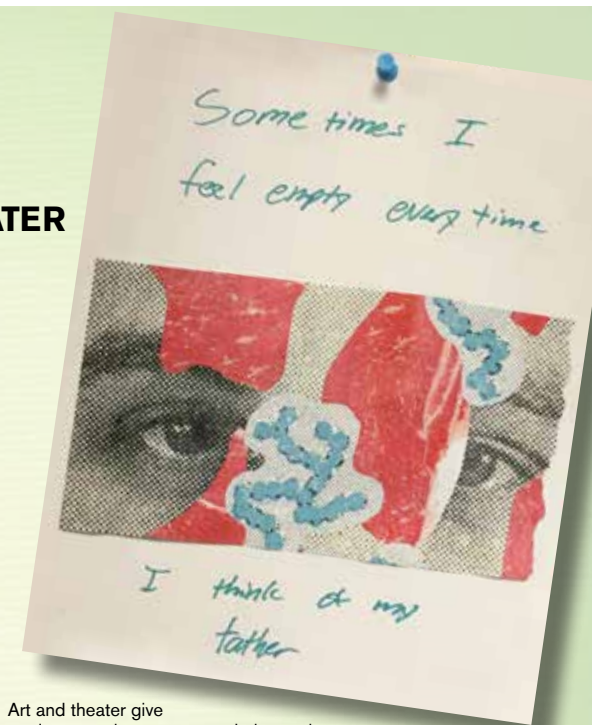
THE HEALING POWER OF THEATER

Theater changes lives. For proof, look no further than Stage Rage, a theater-based program at St. Benedict's Prep that shares the moving real-life experiences of Gray Bees with middle school students to spark self-reflection and healing.

Theater Director Patricia Flynn H '95 and Director of Counseling Ivan Lamourt, Psy.D. '82 teamed up to present the Spring Phase program this year, which was originally funded in 2015 through an Arts Horizons grant. With guidance, Gray Bees explore tough experiences in their lives, write an original play based on their discussions and stage the production at St. Benedict's and several urban middle schools.

"This is pretty heavy stuff these kids are encountering in their lives," Ms. Flynn said, adding that two years ago, topics such as bullying, alcoholic and absentee fathers, and incarcerated parents surfaced in the play. "I tell them to write to their 12-year-old self. We ask, 'If you could have gotten help at 12, how would it have changed your life?'"

After each middle school performance, Gray Bees hold a Q&A session to encourage the



Art and theater give students a voice to express their emotions.

younger students to explore their own lives and feelings. Middle schoolers facing circumstances similar to those of the students onstage often share their own struggles, opening the door for middle school counselors to step in and help. That builds a sense of pride and accomplishment in the St. Benedict's students, according to Ms. Flynn. "Having the opportunity to help somebody else gives them purpose."

CURTAIN CALL FOR THEATER ALUMNI



Students and alumni teamed up to present *Incident at Vichy* last fall.

The Drama Guild's fall production of *Incident at Vichy* was a homecoming for nearly 50 St. Benedict's Prep theater alumni who returned to The Hive last November. Graduates joined current Gray Bee thespians onstage to present Arthur Miller's World War II-era play.

The weekend also included a talkback session on diversity and intolerance, along with a

seminar on careers in the arts. Former Drama Guild members Greg Thornton '67, Dan Quinn '70, Matt Jenifer '03, Jason Simmons '05, Elliott Hyppolite '09 and Erby Beauvil '12 shared their experiences as arts professionals.

The weekend's events celebrated the 30th anniversary of the revival of the St. Benedict's Drama Guild by Patricia Flynn H '95.



Gray Bees Spoke We Listened

Nearly 800 St. Benedict's Prep alumni responded to an online survey from the Office of Advancement last fall. Graduates, representing a wide spectrum of the alumni community, weighed in on school communication, their perceptions of The Hive and philanthropy that supports the next generation of Gray Bees. Here is a snapshot of the survey results:



High Marks

91% of alumni describe their experience at The Hive as good or excellent.

95% of alumni describe their current opinion of St. Benedict's Prep as good or excellent.

90% of alumni report that they have graduated college or are still attending college.



Rating Communication

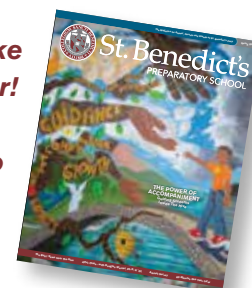
Overall communication **85% say** excellent or good with alumni

E-Buzz **83% say** excellent or good

St. Benedict's Prep magazine **80% say** excellent or good

And we're working to make the magazine even better!

Send your ideas to nconnolly@sbp.org.



Connections Endure

74% of alumni surveyed say they feel connected to The Hive.

St. Benedict's wants all alumni to feel connected to their *alma mater*. Attend alumni events, keep up with school news online or through this magazine, or become a Class Agent. To learn about the Class Agent Program, contact Candace Bradsher at candaceb@sbp.org.

#1 source for news and information from St. Benedict's Prep is email. If you are not receiving emails from The Hive, and would like to, sign up at www.sbp.org/maillinglist.

Rave Reviews for Events

93% of graduates who attended alumni events in the last three years rate the experience as excellent or good.

Top events alumni want to attend:

1. Class reunions
2. Get-togethers at local bars and restaurants
3. Athletic events and games

“Events are always well organized. Everything is done first class and Fr. Ed and others always thank us for what we do for SBP.”

Shout Out!

Top three groups that participated in the survey:



Joe Kasberger



Ernest “Prof.” Blood



Jim Cavanaugh

Giving to St. Benedict's Prep

81% of alumni have financially supported the School, will continue and plan to increase their support in the future.

81% of alumni say they will support St. Benedict's Prep this year. To learn about the impact your gift will make on St. Benedict's, go to www.sbp.org/WhySupportSBP.

We asked:

What is the most meaningful thing St. Benedict's can do for you in the next 5 to 10 years?

You responded:



Top 2 Giving Priorities

1. Providing financial aid and scholarships to students
2. Recruiting and retaining excellent faculty

Legacy Gifts

70% of alumni have not included St. Benedict's Prep in their estate plans. To learn more about including St. Benedict's in your estate plan, go to www.sbp.org/plannedgiving.

For alumni, continuity of the St. Benedict's mission is of utmost importance. The Hive is able to sustain its course, thanks to the annual generosity of alumni and friends like you.



Following His Moral Compass

With each promotion in his career, Tyrone Heggins '02 has received valuable training. But, nothing in life can compare to the instruction he got while attending St. Benedict's Prep.

"No training, I think, weighs more heavily than the training I received at St. Benedict's," said Mr. Heggins, a Security Analyst for BD (Becton, Dickinson and Company), a global medical technology firm. "Time, talent and treasure: I try to give all three."

Mr. Heggins is grateful for how St. Benedict's enriched his life. Today, he has become a significant contributor to the School and returns periodically to inspire current students, including serving as graduation speaker for the Class of 2016.

"I'm 33 and I haven't been a St. Benedict's student since I was 18," he said. "But I still remember a lot of the lessons I learned there." No matter where he goes in life, the lessons have become a part of him.

“No training, I think, weighs more heavily than the training I received at St. Benedict's.”

— Tyrone Heggins '02

Mr. Heggins recalls leadership positions that were invaluable learning experiences, such as serving as Captain of the Backpacking Project and being a Section Leader. Still, at times, he has disappointed himself, not living up to his values. One particular incident came soon after leaving St. Benedict's, when Mr. Heggins attended the

University of Delaware and became involved with the wrong crowd. Wanting to impress his new friends, he took part in an armed robbery that eventually resulted in a three-year prison term.

"I did what I did knowing it was wrong," he explained. "It wasn't because I was misguided. I placed the opinions of other kids over everything I learned."

His firm moral foundation led Mr. Heggins to find a way to turn this experience around. He used his leadership skills to become an inmate representative, teaching others to read, as well as teaching economics. "It was probably the best prison experience that anyone could ever have. In prison, all of the things I learned at St. Benedict's came back into play."

After he was released from prison, the court expunged his criminal record.

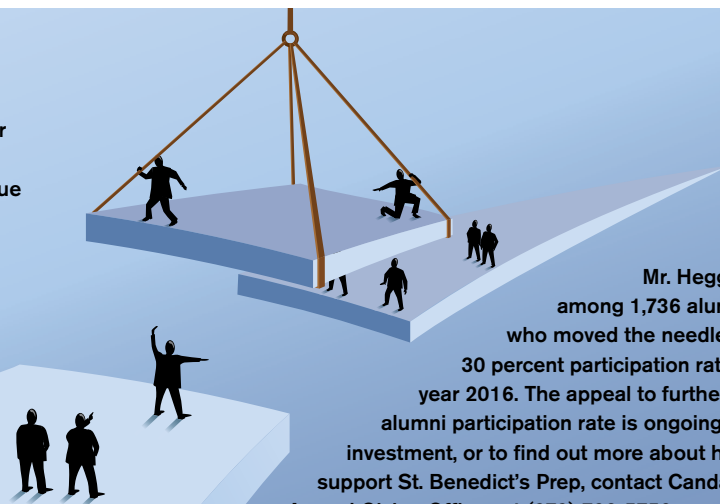
Doing the right thing despite being in a tough situation is a lesson he now shares with current Gray Bees. He tells them, "Your actions might not align or be congruent 100 percent of the time. St. Benedict's gives you a moral compass that will guide you." **B**



BRIDGING THE GAP

The Annual Fund commitment from Tyrone Heggins '02 and other recent graduates goes a long way toward "Bridging the Alumni Gap," the fundraising challenge presented in the Spring 2016 issue of *St. Benedict's Prep Magazine*.

The article detailed how the School's closing in 1972, and subsequent reopening a year later, changed the dynamics of alumni support for decades. A broader base of participation is required to sustain St. Benedict's into the future, especially among younger generations of alumni. "Rather than megadonors, we simply need donors," stressed Fr. Edwin Leahy, O.S.B. '63. "Some people think their gift is insignificant. I want to assure them, to these kids, no gift is insignificant."



Mr. Heggins was among 1,736 alumni donors who moved the needle beyond the 30 percent participation rate in fiscal year 2016. The appeal to further increase the alumni participation rate is ongoing. 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.



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.

1941

Rev. Clarence Sickles wrote, "Despite the usual aches and pains that accompany me at the age of 95 and Jean at the age of 91, we are doing reasonably well living in our hotel-type, two-room apartment in Heath House, where all of our basic needs are met and help is there when required. In October, Heath Village celebrated its 50th anniversary with an elaborate ceremony and an invocation given by me, followed by a festive meal...in honor of my role as founder of Heath Village, the present nursing unit is called The Clarence W. Sickles Healthcare Center. I think that Heath Village might grow to be the best and largest retirement and nursing community in the country. Thanks be to God, and for all who have worked so hard to bring this to pass."

1955

Robert Stanley, M.D., will receive the Gold Medal of the Radiological Society of North America, the organization's highest honor. It is awarded annually by the Board of Directors to those who, in the judgment of the Board, have rendered unusual service to the science of radiology. Typically, three medals are awarded each year by the organization. Unanimous vote of the Board is required.

1959

Al Reinoso was inducted into the National Wrestling Hall of Fame, which is located in Stillwater, Okla.



1963

Rev. Msgr. Jerry Hahn wrote, "Our parish's 14th annual 'Music for a Summer Night' featured songs and costumes of the Greatest Generation: WWII, beginning with the anthems of all of our military branches, 'Anchors Aweigh,' 'Over There,' 'Off We Go into the Wild Blue Yonder,' etc. Plans are going forward for the July 15 production of 'Christmas in July.' For information, call St. Anthony's Parish in Northvale, N.J., at (201) 768-1177 or email stanthonychurch@optonline.net."

Brian Rogers sent book reviews for his latest novel, *Fregoli Delusion*, a mystery thriller exploring the possible ramifications of extreme personality disorders in adults stemming from prolonged child abuse. Ten percent of gross royalties from the book, which are paid by the publisher, will be donated equally to the Raise Hope Foundation and St. Benedict's Prep. *Fregoli Delusion* is available on Amazon.

Henry E. Rzemieniewski

was elected to the Mantoloking, N.J., borough council.

1964

Mike Bertelli wrote about his latest work based on Bob Dylan's "All Along the Watchtower," saying, "Always a fan of Bob Dylan, I considered 'All Along the Watchtower' a profound work. Of course, this is my interpretation and I have no idea if it coincides with Mr. Dylan's or anyone else's. By creating this bas-relief, I hope to get my interpretation across."



Fifty years ago, Joan Shiel and **Art San Filippo** were married in the Newark Abbey Church by Rev. Jerome Fitzpatrick, O.S.B., aka "The Goober." Now, Art writes, "Two children and five grandkids later, we are still together and going strong."

1966

Jim Caffrey wrote that he has just visited Helsinki, Finland, again (his third time in 15 months). Now, if he can only get a little work (but "not too much") in the area, then he can stay for longer periods. As a retired civil engineer, he's looking to get involved with the Helsinki to

Tallinn, Estonia, Tunnel, which is in preliminary studies, or maybe sell his photographic artwork. Have a look: www.jfcphotoarts.com

1967

In March, **James Farrell** will mark his 25th year of service to the Superior Court of New Jersey as a Spanish language court interpreter.

1968

Chris Allgeier reports that he travels to the Boston area on business and sometimes manages to get together with **Dave Tarrant** and **Joe Moore**. Dave started, and is running, a nonprofit whose mission is to help other nonprofits use technology more effectively. His initial goal was to stay busy, but he has now more than overshot that mark. Dave also manages to play squash and golf on a regular basis. Joe concluded his career in higher education, retiring as President of Lesley University in Cambridge, Mass., last summer, and lives with his wife, Beth, on Orr's Island, Maine.

Many members of the Class of '68 participated in the fall golf outing. The outing was preceded by several weeks of "spirited" email exchanges among **Rick Miceli**, **Pete Landers**, **Buz Keenan**, **Joe Candio**, **Jim Hundley**, **Tom Matthews**, **Ernie Vespole**, **Ted Martens** and **Ross Eilbacher**. These exchanges were a mere practice round for next year's 50th reunion!

Marc Shea, who was commissioned as a U.S. Army Armor Officer in 1972 after graduating from Saint Peter's College, has had a fascinating professional trajectory since

leaving the Army. In 1983, he took a position with Zebra Company Limited of Tokyo and established the United States division, Zebra Pen Corporation, in Edison, N.J. In 1987, he established his own firm, Ibis International Inc., a screen printing company for the advertising specialty industry in Frenchtown, N.J. When the company relocated to Alabama, it expanded into the heat foil coating of pen parts for the same industry. In 2004, Ibis International was liquidated and Ibis Technologies was formed, in partnership as a service company, providing computer network creation and management for small and medium sized companies. Shortly after that, Marc, the father of three and grandfather of seven, entered the beef cattle industry with the formation of Clover Hill Cattle Company, which raises Black Hereford cattle for the consumer and seed stock markets.

1971

James Waldron retired from federal service on January 3 after 41 years, with 32 as the Clerk of the Court at the United States Bankruptcy Court. An office of the Clerk of the Court will be named after him.

1973

Bob Silvestri, owner of Romarsi Pesto, now has his products sold through the Home Shopping Network and looks to have his products featured on air soon. He is making a commitment to St. Benedict's that, if this new venture rises to the next level, the School's alumni fund will be a strong beneficiary of his good fortune.

Continued on page 18

Legends Dinner

REMEMBERING A LEGEND

More than 100 people turned out for St. Benedict's inaugural Backpacking Legends Dinner, which honored the late **Fr. Mark Payne, O.S.B. '69**, who passed away last summer. Fondly called "Big Bee" by generations of alumni, Fr. Mark founded the annual 55-mile trek along the Appalachian Trail that has become a hallmark of the freshman experience.

Tales of Fr. Mark and The Trail abounded, with **Glenn Cassidy '96**, who took over the Backpacking Project from Fr. Mark, and longtime Backpacking Commanders **Dave Carlo '99** and **Jim Duffy H '16** sharing stories about the venerable physics teacher. St. Benedict's has established The Rev. Mark M. Payne, O.S.B. '69 Memorial Scholarship Fund to memorialize Big Bee's many contributions to The Hive. To contribute, go to www.sbp.org/frmark/scholarshipfund.



1



2



3



4



5



6

1. Glenn Cassidy '90;
2. Raheem Drayton '90, James Stradford '90 and Fr. Augustine Curley, O.S.B.;
3. Abdul-Haiyy Moore '96, Didier Jean-Baptiste '86 and Steve Cordova '99;
4. Backpackers from the '00 era;
5. Current student backpackers listened to the project's history;
6. Thomas '72 and Ann Marie Argentieri.

Events

HOOPS AND HORS D'OEUVRES

St. Benedict's alumni turned out in Atlanta on January 19 to watch the Gray Bee hoopsters crush Covenant Christian Ministries, 70-36, at the Atlanta International School. **Jerome**

Froelich '61 hosted a pre-game reception at Brio Tuscan Grille in Atlanta, where Headmaster **Fr. Edwin Leahy, O.S.B. '63** made an appearance. Some jubilant alumni

wrapped up the evening at the home of **Pat Napoli '87**. The night before the game, Fr. Ed attended another reception Mr. Froelich held at his home.



1



2

1. Tyrone Webb '04, Fr. Edwin Leahy, O.S.B. '63, Chris Plunkett '03, Tyquan McAllister '02, Sahir Webb '10, Mitch Majette '11 and Farad Lowther '10;
2. Robert Stanley, M.D. '55, Maurice McCullough '77 and Fr. Edwin Leahy, O.S.B. '63

Young Nobles

Frantz Soiro '12 was so inspired after speaking about St. Benedict's at the Nobel Peace Prize Forum in Minneapolis last spring, he decided to write a book.

Young Nobles: The Untold Stories of Today's Young Leaders, a collection of memoirs by young people who overcame adversity to lead successful lives, will be published this June.

"I never imagined I would have the opportunity to attend the Nobel Peace Prize Forum, let alone speak at it," said Frantz, who presented alongside Akeem Miller '12 in a dialogue session titled "Patron Saints of Education." "Participating in that session gave us the time to talk about St. Benedict's Prep, what it did for us and what it could do for others."

Young Nobles was born soon after. The book features 16 stories from young people in Frantz's life and how they overcame personal challenges that range from sexual assault to bullying and homelessness. The stories are not simplistic and don't always have neat, uncomplicated endings. Some of the struggles are ongoing, and the St. Benedict's alumnus believes the book is a springboard for a larger movement focused on youth. "The idea is to empower emerging young leaders to achieve their aspirations in life," he said.

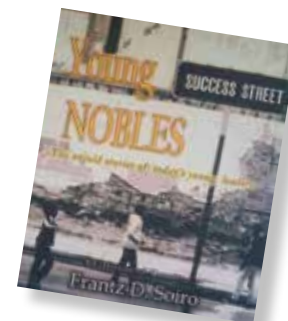
Currently, Frantz is doing just that as a member of the 2016 Benedictine Volunteer Corps. He graduated from Saint John's University (MN) last May with a bachelor's degree in chemistry and is devoting a year of service to the Hanga, Tanzania monastery.



Frantz Soiro '12 is devoting a year of service to the Benedictine Volunteer Corps in Tanzania.

Frantz works as a medical assistant in the village hospital and teaches chemistry to secondary school students. He laughed when asked if he has a newfound appreciation for his St. Benedict's teachers. "I'm able to take what I learned from my teachers at St. Benedict's and Saint John's and use all of that and apply it in one classroom," he said.

Frantz returns to the U.S. in May and will begin a master's degree in public health at the Morehouse School of Medicine in August. *Young Nobles* will be available at amazon.com and barnesandnoble.com. Learn more about the forthcoming book on Twitter @Young_Nobles. **B**



1. Fr. Edwin Leahy, O.S.B. '63 with Harry Durkin '49 and his wife Marlene; 2. In Vero Beach, Don Laurie '60 (third from the right) and his wife, Susan, hosted a gathering at their home. Other alumni pictured (left to right) are Paul Lobo '46, Tom Bach '58, Fred Braun '47, Dan McLaughlin '70 and Fr. Edwin Leahy, O.S.B. '63.

VISITING ALUMNI IN THE SUNSHINE STATE

Headmaster **Fr. Edwin Leahy, O.S.B. '63**, Chief Advancement Officer Mike Fazio and Assistant Headmaster Mike Scanlan joined alumni supporters in Florida in February. **Gene O'Hara '55** hosted cocktails at Bonita Bay Club on February 7. **Paul Hannan '55** hosted lunch at The Rusty Pelican in Tampa. In Orlando, **Gerald Mattia '69** hosted alumni at his home on February 9. And in Pompano Beach, **Harry Durkin '49** and his recent bride, Marlene, hosted dinner at John Knox Village.

1985

Jonathan Capehart married Nick Schmitt on January 7 at the Jefferson Hotel in Washington, D.C. Former Attorney General Eric Holder performed the ceremony. Jonathan is a Pulitzer Prize-winning opinion writer for *The Washington Post* and a frequent contributor on MSNBC.

1986

The Class of '86 is still tight after 30 years (L to R): **Chris Hill, Kevin Booker, Dave Ricketts, Charles Whigham, Elliott Gwynn, Mike Thompson, Kit Saunders, Mark Zeno** and **Todd Barnet**.



1990

Chris Rodriguez was appointed to Councilman on February 27 by the Fair Haven, N.J. borough council. The newly appointed Councilman brings a record of town service

and volunteering, which includes involvement in the recreation soccer program, the Shade Tree Commission, coordination with the Fair Haven Fields Natural Area Committee, and work with Cub Scout Pack 127. Councilman Rodriguez plans to continue to focus on environmental issues, working with Fair Haven seniors, and getting more involved with borough infrastructure.



Photo Credit: Robert Samuels

1993

Darryl Scipio was sworn in to the New Jersey State Bar on November 29, 2016.



1995

Matthew Reddick married Catalina Londono on

November 7, 2016. They honeymooned in Santa Marta, Colombia.

1996

Devon Carroll and **Bahir Jessie** at Bahir's wedding to S. Princess.



1998

Marta and **David Rodriguez** celebrated the birth of their first child, Sofia, on February 4, 7 lbs., 1 oz. and 20 inches long.

2001

Sean Terry, Mike Hobbs and **Darnell Arnold**, along with **Levee Brooks '00**, stopped by to give encouragement to our current students.



Nick Sheehan wrote, "Rhiannon and I are very happy to introduce Breandán Nathaniel O'Leary Sheehan, born September 9, 2016, in Oakland, Calif., weighing 6 lbs., 7 oz., measuring 19 inches. Breandán is pronounced like Brendan. We just spelled it as if he was born in 15th century Ireland (or 21st century Berkeley). Depending on who you ask, Breandán either means 'brave' or 'prince.' We think they both fit." Other proud Gray Bee family members are grandmother **Noreen Connolly H '11**, uncle **Dan Sheehan '08** and great-uncle **William H. Connolly, Jr. '91**.

2002

After almost a decade in Washington, D.C., **Kehinde Togun** and his wife moved back to Newark. He now works for The Arkin Group, a business intelligence and risk analysis firm in New York.

2003

Husain Gatlin proposed to Aliyah Aaron in Paris last summer. Aliyah is the sister of **Matt Aaron '10**.



2004

Bill Leahy and his wife, Melissa, had a baby boy, Jackson Dalton Leahy, on September 28, 2016.

JR Smith and his wife, Jewel, on their wedding day. They recently celebrated

the birth of their daughter, Dakota.



2005

Duarte Aguiar will graduate from Loyola University in May with a master of science in clinical mental health counseling. He just passed the NCE, which certifies him as a board certified counselor.

2006

Cameron Bernard Jones made his West End debut in *Motown the Musical*. West End is London's equivalent to Broadway. He will be in the ensemble, most notably playing Melvin Thompson of The Temptations. Cameron joined the cast early this spring in its second season. The first show was March 7 and he will perform for at least an entire year until March 3, 2018. Visit www.motownthemusical.co.uk.

2007

Kendell Bryant will marry Amanda on April 22.

Congratulations to **Chris Beltran** and Danielle Williams on their marriage.



2008

Samardo Samuels married Anna Isaeva on August 27, 2016.



St. Benedict's
PREPARATORY SCHOOL

It's Time.

You've worked hard to achieve what you have – whether it's a little or a lot or somewhere in between – and you deserve the right to say what happens to it.

A will gives you the control you deserve.

St. Benedict's Prep has put together a couple of simple tools that give you everything you need to begin crafting your estate plan.

Visit sbp.org/plannedgiving to get these free tools, and get something else in the process – peace of mind.



2010

Saahir Webb and his wife, Najah, are expecting a boy.

2012

Frantz Soiro is on a year of service in Hanga, Tanzania, East Africa. "After graduating from Saint John's University (Minnesota) in May 2016 with a bachelor of arts degree in chemistry, I embarked on this journey before I head to Morehouse School of Medicine for my master's of public health in August 2017."

2013

Zakee Conte Smith was recently accepted into the clinical laboratory science program at Rutgers University – Newark.

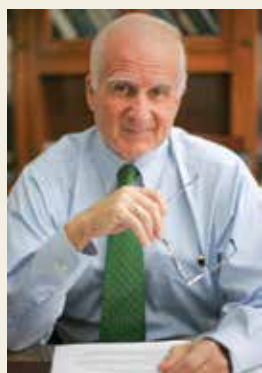
2015

Evan Jenkins is at Villanova NROTC (above right, center). He and the rest of the candidates conduct India

Company PT on Mendel Field from 0600 to 0700. They are progressing in their physical readiness as they prepare to become midshipmen at the unit's Fall Review ceremony.



Home is where your brothers are! St. Benedict's Prep Classes of '89, '90 and '91 at the 90s 25th Reunion. Front row: **Lamar Melton '90, Raheem Drayton '90, Marc Hunt '91, Pete Elias '90, Cliff Proven '90, Dustin Ackerman '90.** Second row: **Glenn Cassidy '96, Mike Lowery '91, Mike Skipper '90, Sherman Roberts '91, Uriel Burwell '90, Dwain Mishoe '90, Luna Mishoe '91, Lou Pointer '90, Lee Herbert '90.** Third Row: **James Porter '89, Scott Bamberg '90, James Stradford '90, Adrian Blackwell '89, Cedric Hill '90, Michael Anabui '90, Jerel Hall '90.** Not pictured: **Vernon Gatling '90, Frank Torres '90, Chris Malden '93** and Eric Walker.



REMEMBERING ALFRED C. KOEPPÉ, ESQ.

Alfred C. Koeppe, Esq., a member of the St. Benedict's Prep Board of Trustees, passed away on December 6, 2016. A noted New Jersey civic and business leader, Mr. Koeppe dedicated his philanthropic efforts to advancing jobs and education initiatives in the state's urban centers, including Newark.

Fr. Edwin Leahy, O.S.B. '63, Headmaster of St. Benedict's, said of Mr. Koeppe, "He was always concerned for the neighborhoods. Making sure that he understood what people needed was always important for him."

Mr. Koeppe was a graduate of Rutgers University – Newark and earned his law degree from Seton Hall University. He began his career as a lineman with New Jersey Bell, eventually being elected President and Chief Executive Officer of the firm's successor, Bell Atlantic – New Jersey, Inc. He also served as President and Chief Operating Officer of Public Service Electric & Gas.

At St. Benedict's, Mr. Koeppe was a devoted board member for more than 12 years. He leaves his wife of 47 years, Ann; son Adam and his wife, Kristine Anderson Koeppe; daughter Allison and her husband, Brad Carlson; and five grandchildren. The family has requested donations in Mr. Koeppe's memory to St. Benedict's or the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

IN MEMORIAM

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

ALUMNI

John H. Doolin '45
Thomas E. Leonhardt, D.D.S. '49
Thomas A. Grall, Sr. '52
Ralph W. Pellicchia '52
James E. Tierney, Ph.D. '52
Richard S. Hester, Sr. '53
Dr. Arthur G. Mohan '53
Rev. John S. Peterson, O.P. '53
Andrew T. Purcell '53
Peter E. Clark '54
Andrew H. Holl '54
John McCabe '54
A. Desmond Robinson '54
Robert F. Brown '55
Thomas E. Johnson '56
Robert A. Marose '56
Harry Dellane '57
Peter J. Amlicke '59
Thomas J. McGowan '59
John A. Brogan '60
John R. Valerio '61
Anthony J. Valle '61
Joseph D. Ward '62
Frederick J. Mazur '63
Michael S. Sassone '63
Robert A. Dennin, Jr. '69
Rev. Mark M. Payne, O.S.B. '69
Victor E. Raimo '71
Corey Puryear '90
Phillip Laurel '94
Michael F. Silva '08

COMMUNITY

Egon Behrmann
Father of Robert '03 and Michael '05
Jude Buccine
Brother of Tom '83
Maria Da Luz Correia
Mother of Mario '94
Michelle L. Doherty
Sister of Kevin '64
Carol Endl
Mother of Francis '89

The Most Rev. Peter L. Gerety, D.D.
Archbishop Emeritus of Newark
William M. Heady
Father of Matthew '93, Justin '95, Jared '00 and Joshua '03
Marie Heinle
Mother of Norman '61, Bill '63, Bob '64 and Kevin
Reginald Jackson
Father of Paul '83
Ruthine James-Hill
Mother of Cedric '90
Alfred C. Koeppe, Esq.
St. Benedict's Prep Board of Trustees
Rosemary Marsden
Wife of David '58
Donald L. McCabe
Father of Tom H '02
Carol McGrath
Wife of Jack '59
Jose Morales
Father of Frank '91 and Robert '98
Jeffrey Oakley
Grandson of Blanche Mosley H '89, nephew of Michael Mosley '75 and Theodore Mosley '80

Frank M. Prout
Father of Thomas '68 and Robert '74
Dr. Berman O. Saunders
Father of Kit '86
Jacqueline Tautz
Mother/mother-in-law of Jen and Jim Duffy H '16
Mary L. Wilson
Former St. Benedict's Prep Advisory Board member

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.

60 Minutes, One Year Later

One year after CBS News aired “The Resurrection of St. Benedict’s,” the positive effects of the national broadcast continue to raise the visibility of the School and impact life inside The Hive.



“Our goal is not to get people to do what St. Benedict’s does. We want to inspire people to take what we do and create their own organic version of it.”

– Louis Lainé '12

RAISING OUR VOICE

In the days and weeks following the *60 Minutes* broadcast, scores of schools of all kinds, public, private and charter, reached out to St. Benedict’s Prep to learn more about the School’s leadership model. By September 2016, the Vox Institute was established as a resource for educational institutions seeking to adapt St. Benedict’s practices within their own schools and communities.

Vox is Latin for voice, and the Institute’s director, Louis Lainé '12, says its purpose is to provide information, training and support for leadership education and community building in ways that are scalable for individual schools. “Our goal is not to get people to do what St. Benedict’s does,” explained Mr. Lainé, a 2016 graduate of Swarthmore College. “We want to inspire people to take what we do and create their own organic version of it.”

To date, nearly 40 schools and educational programs have contacted the Vox Institute, including schools in Newark, Irvington and Woodbridge, as well as Connecticut, Oklahoma, Philadelphia and Washington, D.C. Mr. Lainé recently worked with a school in Baltimore that devised its own ceremony modeled on the Freshman Overnight. “[The School] has its own interests and goals, but they created their program with the heart of St. Benedict’s in mind. The spirit of St. Benedict’s was there. That’s what we want.”

ST. BENEDICT’S GOES ON TOUR


After *60 Minutes*, the speaking invitations poured in as an increasing number of national organizations look to St. Benedict’s Prep for guidance and inspiration. Headmaster Fr. Edwin Leahy, O.S.B. '63 crisscrossed the country in the past year, addressing conferences and leadership summits in California, Minnesota, Georgia, Indiana and Texas.

“The most important announcement we can make as Church leaders is, ‘God loves you the way you are,’” Fr. Ed told thousands of Christian leaders who attended the Catalyst Conference in Atlanta. His address there and the CHRISTUS Health Forum in Dallas drew standing ovations. When Fr. Ed was unable to leave Newark, alumni stepped in as ambassadors. Frantz Soiro '12 and Akeem Miller '12 represented St. Benedict’s at the Nobel Peace Prize Forum in Minneapolis last June.

The message of St. Benedict’s success has also reached thousands via podcast interviews. The Headmaster spoke to “Let the Music Play with Ashton Gustafson” last April and “Real Men Connect” with Dr. Joe Martin in November 2016. Both programs are available on iTunes. Later this spring, Fr. Ed is scheduled to speak at Catalyst Conferences in Irvine, Calif., and Cincinnati, Ohio.

RISING ADMISSIONS AT THE HIVE

A record number of prospective students and parents attended the St. Benedict’s Open House on December 10, 2016. The rising interest in admission to The Hive is attributed to exposure from the *60 Minutes* broadcast. “We are still benefiting from the ripple effects of exposure from *60 Minutes*,” said Dean of Admissions Mario Gallo. The Spring Open House and digital marketing will continue to capitalize on the student leadership showcased in “The Resurrection of St. Benedict’s.”

Mr. Gallo added, “The students and families applying to St. Benedict’s have a deeper understanding of and appreciation for the School as a result of the broadcast.” 





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