

# New Heights

Summer 2025



The Magazine of Le Moyne College



Dolphins • Serving • Others

# We Stand Together

Le Moyne is grateful to maintain a special connection to the Onondaga Nation, on whose land the College now stands. In recognition of that relationship, Le Moyne recently unveiled a display honoring the nation on the second floor of Reilly Hall. The dedication ceremony included remarks by Freida Jacques, Onondaga Clan Mother (Turtle Clan), who has served as a leader of the Onondaga Nation and within the Haudenosaunee Confederacy for more than 40 years. Following the ceremony, there was a talk by Rebecca Pelky, Ph.D., a citizen of the Brothertown Indian Nation and a newly appointed assistant professor in the Department of English and Communication, who read from her collection of poetry.



We honor the



Onondaga Nation, the original people on whose land Le Moyne College stands.



Greatness Meets Goodness	4
Faculty Angle	5
Face to Face	7
Students Shine	9
Good Sports	17
Stories In Space	18
<b>Dolphin Stories: News &amp; Notes</b>	<b>32</b>
Where Are They Now?	33
Kenney-Lee Athletic Scholarship	38
In Memoriam	39
Alumni Events	42
Philanthropy Q-and-A	43

## FEATURES



### Dolphins Serving Others

by Liz McCaffery '06, M.S. '12

**Cover:** Step by step, and home by home, Andrew Lunetta '12 works to ensure that everyone has a safe place to call their own through his organization, A Tiny Home For Good. Story, page 24

(Back cover) Jeanette Epps '92, Ph.D., shows her Le Moyne pride aboard the International Space Station, which she called home for eight months.



[lemoyne.edu/alumni](http://lemoyne.edu/alumni)

**Sharing your story can make a big difference in other people's lives.** Le Moyne graduates have compelling, thought-provoking and entertaining stories to share. To share your story, contact our editor at [mccartmk@lemoyne.edu](mailto:mccartmk@lemoyne.edu). To submit a class note, go to [lemoyne.edu/alumni](http://lemoyne.edu/alumni). Click the + sign next to Connect on the right column, then click Submit Class Notes.

The magazine submission deadline for the next issue is **Sept. 1, 2025. Thank you for sharing your story!**

### Real-world Practices

by Molly K. McCarthy



### The Legacy of Pope Francis

by David McCallum, S.J. '90



### Feeling Seen, Valued and Heard

by Molly K. McCarthy

Le Moyne College is a diverse learning community that strives for academic excellence in the Catholic and Jesuit tradition through its comprehensive programs rooted in the liberal arts and sciences. Its emphasis is on education of the whole person and on the search for meaning and value as integral parts of the intellectual life. Le Moyne College seeks to prepare its members for leadership and service in their personal and professional lives to promote a more just society.

# LE MOYNE

*New Heights* is published twice a year by the Office of Marketing and Communications. Opinions expressed in the magazine do not necessarily reflect those of Le Moyne College.

We welcome your opinions, suggestions and feedback on everything in our magazine. You may email them to [mccartmk@lemoyne.edu](mailto:mccartmk@lemoyne.edu) or mail to:

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## THE DOER AND THE DREAMER

*Paul Edwards, S.J., an English Jesuit, wrote that one of the few things he kept with him – no matter where he was assigned – was a copy of Picasso's "Don Quixote."*



It is a black-and-white sketch, with its name-sake in the foreground and windmills dotting the horizon. For Father Edwards, the drawing was a reminder that St. Ignatius did not abandon the romantic ideas of his youth; he redirected them. Comparing Ignatius and Quixote may seem odd, but it actually highlights the saint's genius. Saint Ignatius left behind the trappings of chivalry, but he kept a knight's fearlessness, tenacity and lofty purpose. Our Ignatius and Cervantes' Quixote were both fired by idealistic notions, but Quixote's dreams remained only dreams, while Ignatius and his legacy are still changing the world after 500 years.

This single image could generate thousands upon thousands of ideas, questions and connections. Dreaming and doing are not opposites; they're partners. The first step in any great undertaking is the leap of faith to believe amazing things can happen. In this issue of *New Heights*, you will read about individuals who model what it means to put ideas into action. They include students in the Doctor of Executive Leadership Program who partnered with AIDS Community Resources Health to help members of our community battling addiction, medical professionals who donate their time to help train our physician assistant studies

students, and alumni who dedicate their professional lives to ensure that their neighbors have food and housing. Each in his or her way models Ignatius and Quixote, offering a poetic vision in a pragmatic world. They know that ideas and actions cannot be separated, and that if we limited ourselves to what is known – or safe, or provable – we would never build cathedrals or temples or bridges.

As I write this message, millions of people around the world are remembering with love and gratitude Pope Francis. They are also praying for his successor, Pope Leo XIV, the first American to lead the Church. As has been noted in countless news stories, both of these men chose to devote their lives to a religious order, for Pope Francis, the Jesuits, for Pope Leo, the Augustinians. They were committed to serving others, particularly those living at society's margins. Let us honor that through our own work. As religion scholar Karma Ben Johanan wrote in a tribute to Pope Francis in *Vatican News*, "May our mourning for Pope Francis be translated into concrete actions. Let us build, step by step, gesture by gesture, that fraternal society he spoke of."

President Linda M. LeMura, Ph.D.



**WHEN READING TAKES ROOT, IT'S MAGICAL** | I must have been in second or third grade when I read Frances Hodgson Burnett's children's novel, *The Secret Garden* (1911). I remember it was the longest book I had ever tried to read; the teacher let me set it aside since I couldn't finish it in one day. It was the first novel to transport me to a different world and to places, characters and experiences that were unfamiliar – and magical.



When I met [literacy advocate] Ruth Colvin and her colleagues, I was stunned to hear the statistics on how many adults struggle with basic literacy. It pained me on a visceral level to imagine being deprived of the joy of reading – not to mention the practical benefits we so often take for granted (understanding street signs, mailings, prescription bottles ... the list goes on). So much of what we do in our daily lives

depends on this ability – a skill so fundamental that it feels like a given. Yet it is not that for everyone. Working with ProLiteracy feels, to me, like a continuation of my vocation as an English professor. Reading enables critical thinking, tolerance of ambiguity, empathy with other people and cultures ... but these more advanced benefits grow from the kernel of basic

literacy and the access it provides.

Really, Mary's time in the garden in Burnett's novel is not unlike gaining literacy. ProLiteracy creates the space and plants the seeds, but it is the learners themselves who water and tend the fragile blossoms their efforts yield. I'm humbled to have the chance to watch them flourish, and to witness the wonder and power of reading as it takes root. 📖



Kate Costello-Sullivan, Ph.D. (above, top right), is a professor in the Department of English and Communication at Le Moyne College, where she also serves as the founding director of the Irish Studies Program. Costello-Sullivan teaches courses in 19th-20th century English and Irish literature, post-colonial literature and writing. She is also a dedicated, thoughtful and appreciative reader. Costello-Sullivan shares her love of the written word with others in our community as the chair of the board of directors of ProLiteracy International, a global nonprofit organization that works to alleviate low literacy in adults.

Teaching, the act of imparting valuable and often hard-earned knowledge on another person, is a striking form of generosity. It made us wonder: What is the greatest act of generosity our faculty members have ever witnessed? Here is what four of them said.

# Faculty Angle

**CECEILIA PARNTER, PH.D.**

Associate Professor of Executive Leadership

I witness and appreciate countless acts of generosity, but never fully grasped its sacred nature until it became part of my lived experience. Over the last year, an unexpected cancer diagnosis shook me to my core. I felt frozen, navigating a series of treatments and surgeries that would change my life forever. Generosity appeared through notes, text, physical gifts and monetary donations. Care came from the most unexpected places. I remain deeply grateful. In conversations I've learned that this generosity extends far beyond material items and tokens; it reflects who we are as a greater community. This is the greatest act of generosity I have ever experienced. I have consistently benefited from the generosity of time, talent, meal preparation, and, most importantly, genuine care and concern.

I now serve online support communities to connect patients to resources and help facilitate community. I've learned that the most incredible displays of generosity are authentic, freely given and without performance.

They go beyond the requests of the recipient and speak to the soul.

**JOSEPH SPINO, PH.D.**

McNeil Assistant Professor of Applied Ethics

At an academic conference years ago, I met someone who had recently become a foster parent. Learning about how much they rearranged their life, from living spaces to their work schedule, compromising personal interests, relationships and pursuits, all to bring a young person from difficult circumstances into their life, was truly inspiring. This was not a one-off event, but a complete transformation and reprioritization entirely for the sake of someone else. It's an effort that will likely never get the praise it deserves, especially given that the systems that support fostering are underfunded and understaffed.

As a parent myself, and as I think most any parent would echo, I know that having children rearranges your life. In becoming a foster parent, this person embraced a change that asked for even more patience, effort and time. I spend a lot of time in my academic research thinking about the nature of character and virtue. To embrace and commit fully to becoming a foster parent to a young person, as this individual did, is as good an exemplar of being generous as just about any I could invent in my mind.

**ASYA ATIK, PH.D.**

Assistant Professor of Business Analytics

When I was teaching at North Carolina State University as a grad student, I watched a former student spend nearly every weekend tutoring a classmate who was on the verge of failing a class they were taking together. There was no credit involved, no recognition, just one student quietly showing up for another. What moved me wasn't just the time or effort, but the patience. The way they refused to give up, even when progress was slow. It reminded me that generosity isn't always about big gestures; sometimes it's the willingness to walk alongside someone when they feel stuck or lost. That kind of generosity, the kind rooted in time, presence and belief in another person, has a lasting impact. I think about it often when I reflect on the kind of educator and human being I want to be.



**BIBHUDUTTA PANDA, PH.D.**

Associate Professor of Finance

In India, where poverty is widespread, financial challenges often stand in the way of a child's education and dreams. My high school math teacher often supported students who were at risk of dropping out due to such hardships. This act of generosity left a lifelong impression on me. The teacher, who came from a very poor background himself, understood how much education could shape a child's future. He didn't expect anything in return. He simply wanted to help. He believed that everyone deserves the right to education and a fair chance to pursue their dreams and succeed. His actions showed me that generosity is about caring and making a real difference in someone's life. He taught me the true value of education and how it can open doors to a better future. His example inspired me to be kinder, more helpful, and always ready to support others.



# Thinking Like a Leader

Pol Solanelles, Ph.D., arrived in the United States from Barcelona, Spain, 10 years ago, having earned a scholarship to run track and field and cross country for East Carolina University (ECU). It turned out to be a formative experience for him. As an undergraduate, Solanelles uncovered a deep affinity for learning, research and discovery. He earned both a bachelor's degree in communications and a master's degree in business administration from ECU, as well as a doctorate in business management from the University of Mississippi. Most important, he unlocked a passion for academia and for guiding other young people through their own journeys of discovery.

Today Solanelles serves as an assistant professor of management and leadership at the Madden College of Business and Economics, where he teaches courses on leadership, group dynamics, organizational behavior and human resource management. Solanelles was drawn to the College's Jesuit mission to educate the whole person – mind, body and spirit. To that end, he works to build a classroom that is rigorous, interdisciplinary and student-centered. It is rooted in rich discussion of the issues that leaders face today, for example how to build a sense of trust and community within their organizations. Rather than simply providing his students with answers, Solanelles prompts them to think critically and come

up with their own solutions to a variety of challenges.

"My goal is not to shape my students' thinking, but to help them learn to think more broadly," he says. "By the time they graduate from Le Moyne, I hope that they will be able to look at a single issue from a variety of perspectives. I hope that they will be conscientious about listening and asking good questions so that they can facilitate the progress of the people around them, rather than simply telling them what to do."

Most recently Solanelles has been conducting research into how humanity can apply social network analysis and social network theory to better understand organizations. That means, for example, looking past a company's formal structure and into its informal one by asking: Who is friends with whom? Who seeks advice from whom? Who trusts whom? It also means finding structural patterns in those behaviors and relationships. Solanelles believes that is a better way to understand the dynamic, complex reality that organizations face today. He hopes that by the time his students graduate from Le Moyne, they will be able to apply these skills to benefit their communities and their employers.

"I can't teach them exactly what they'll need to do in every situation," he says. "But I can give them tools that will be useful, wherever they are."

## Taking A Leading Role



Abolitionist Thomas Wentworth Higginson earned cameos, but not prominent roles, in two books written by Professor of History Douglas Egerton, Ph.D. An interesting thing happened, though. The more Egerton read about Higginson, the more fascinating the 19th century figure became to him. Egerton realized that more than 50 years had passed since a biography had been written addressing Higginson's "many-faceted life and career." (He was, among other things, a teacher, minister, elected official and Civil War veteran.) Egerton decided that the time had come "to reintroduce him to the reading public."

He did just that in his most recent book, *A Man on Fire: The Worlds of Thomas Wentworth Higginson*. It explores a life spent fighting on behalf of abolitionism, women's rights, physical health to all, and freedom of religion with unflinching optimism. In researching the book, Egerton made use of a generous National Endowment for the Humanities grant he'd been awarded. He explored the digital archives at Higginson's alma mater, Harvard University, as well as the Library of Congress's historic newspapers and Cornell University's volumes of Civil War records. Egerton also benefited from Higginson's own writing. He was the author of two autobiographies and maintained a lengthy correspondence with poet Emily Dickinson. After that, Egerton said it was "simply a matter of sitting down and writing," a process he always finds enjoyable.

As *A Man on Fire* makes clear, more than a century after his death, Higginson continues to remind us what it means to lead a whole life, to develop all of our powers and talents, and do whatever comes our way as well as we can.

"[He once remarked that] history can go backward," Egerton said. "We should not let it do so."

A Baby Boomer and a member of Gen Z reflect on the importance of giving.  
Here's what they have to say.

# Face to Face



## JANA DAY '25

### The Value of Time

I first became aware of the idea of giving back when I was 10 years old. Instead of asking for gifts for my birthday, I asked if everyone could bring nonperishable goods so that I could give back to the local food pantry in my hometown. I had learned about the world's enduring issues in school and wanted to take action as soon as possible. My mom and dad helped me organize the birthday party, and I am sure my relatives found the request quite strange, but all I knew was that I had resources to make a difference, so why wouldn't I use them?

As I got older, I joined every service club in high school that I could, and now that I'm at Le Moyne, I have been able to further my passion for giving back through the Student Government Association. From a very young age, I wanted to serve my local and global community. Every part of me feels so whole when I am able to help someone else. The best part about giving back is that the resource people need most is time, which almost everyone has.

**Jana Day '25** is a Bloomfield, New York, native and majored in management and leadership, human resource management and marketing at Le Moyne.



## LOIS (DE SORRO) FITZPATRICK '75

### The Importance of a Quality Education

I grew up in a small town not far from Le Moyne. We all pitched in to help each other. That environment instilled in me the idea of giving back. When it came time to look at colleges, I wanted a smaller school with similar values; that attracted me to Le Moyne. The atmosphere at the College and the education I received there reinforced the values instilled in me as a child.

After graduation, I went on to earn my master's degree and enjoyed a successful 28-year career in teaching. Le Moyne taught me not only academics, but also how to think critically and to value a person's worth. Between my formal college education and the values modeled for me, there was no question in my mind that giving back was important.

Through his career, my husband and I became involved in the university where he received his master's degree. That's when I saw the chance to give in a different way. We were at a point in our lives where we could afford to establish student scholarships and donate to the school. It led us to think about our undergraduate work as well, and we decided to also give back to Le Moyne.

Giving back for me means helping others have a chance at a quality education and, hopefully, to be in a place where they can then "pay it forward." It's financial, but it's also social and emotional.

**Lois Fitzpatrick '75** is a retired educator who resides in The Woodlands, Texas.

## Overheard on campus ...

👋 We are part of the community. People know we are here ... and who we are. 🧑 As a parent, I think I want to attend Le Moyne now. 🌊 Build up the community and rise the tide. ✍️ This is a place where technical expertise is taught alongside poetic vision. It is a place where the humanities nourish the soul, the social sciences explore the heart, and the technical disciplines guide the hands. 🐳 I'm re-reading *Moby Dick*, and truly hearing the amazing intricacy of the prose; it's so funny, and so beautiful. 🖥️ Remember: Data doesn't have feelings. 🎤 We are a nation built on the idea – the messy, contentious, self-evident principle – that every human being has not only value but voice. ❤️ Green looks good on us year-round. 🌱 A kind word can ignite big change. Le Moyne will challenge you, grow you and push you to excellence. 🦊 What we do here is we teach, we coach, we invent and we build. ⌚ It's OK not to have everything figured out ... With time, things reveal themselves. 🦎 'Phins up!

## Your Perspective



Kyree Boatman participated in the Dolphin Tank, where he won funding to grow his street clothing venture.

### Building Businesses That Give Back

At the Keenan Center for Entrepreneurship, Innovation and Creativity, we believe that entrepreneurship is more than just a means to make a profit. It's a pathway to purpose. As entrepreneur-in-residence, my mission is to help students fuse innovation with impact, ensuring that service and community remain front and center as they build the businesses of tomorrow.

Our partnership with the Good Life Youth Foundation creates tangible bridges between inner-city youth and higher education. These young people gain exposure to college life, pitch competitions and the Keenan Center's innovative programming, through which they sharpen STEM skills and awaken their creative potential.

We encourage students to become involved in the community, offering them opportunities to shadow people in fields of interest to them and connecting them with ways to volunteer with local agencies. We also shape ventures that reflect the spirit of B-Corps, which are known for their high social and environmental standards. Our Entrepreneurial Summer Bootcamp furthers this commitment by allowing inner-city youth to become exposed to pathways that are not traditionally available to them. While increasing the density of entrepreneurs in Central New York, we seek to create an ecosystem of learning where real-life issues inspire the innovative ideas of tomorrow.

By embedding philanthropy into the DNA of entrepreneurship, we're not just creating business leaders. We're creating changemakers.

**Hasan Stephens** is the entrepreneur-in-residence at the Keenan Center for Entrepreneurship, Innovation and Creativity.



**LIVES ON FIRE** | John “J.T.” Ryan ’88, MBA ’05, Ed.D. ’24, jokes that when the time came to apply to colleges, he chose the big three: Harvard, Yale and Le Moyne. In the end, though, going to Le Moyne was “the most natural thing in the world” for him. It was part of his family’s history. His sisters – Ann ’85, Kitty ’79 and Melanie ’78 – all graduated from the College. As familiar as Le Moyne was, though, Ryan found that his own experience on the Heights changed his life.



(left)  
J.T. Ryan ’88, MBA ’05, Ed.D. ’24, in his current position teaching accounting at Onondaga Community College.  
(top) J.T. Ryan with his wife, Monique, “back where it all began.” Ryan was participating in the 2025 graduate ceremony, where he received his doctorate in executive leadership.

The Syracuse native majored in accounting, but he also cultivated his lifelong love for the humanities and liberal arts as an undergraduate. Ryan was challenged and encouraged by the Le Moyne faculty, whom he recalls fondly. He met his wife, Monique (Levasseur) Ryan ’88, on his first day of classes.

Ryan’s time at Le Moyne taught him to think, learn and adapt in ways he hadn’t before. Looking back, he says that kind of personal and intellectual growth “is hard to put on a résumé or job application, but it is imperative.” Ryan’s experiences at the College prepared him for everything that has come since – from piloting a boat along the Erie Canal, to managing a resort in the Adirondacks, to running a business with two friends, to his current role teaching accounting at Onondaga Community College. In addition to a bachelor’s degree in accounting (with a history minor) and master’s degree in business administration, he recently earned a doctorate in

executive leadership. Ryan’s first day of classes at Le Moyne was Sept. 5, 1984; he defended his doctoral dissertation almost 40 years to the day later, on Sept. 6, 2024.

Ryan’s dissertation is titled *Lives on Fire: A Narrative Study of the Transformative Power of Jesuit Higher Education, as Experienced by the Le Moyne College Class of 1988*. The study was prompted by Ryan’s own reflections on how the Le Moyne experience shaped the course of his life, reflections made possible only by the passage of the intervening decades. In it, Ryan asked participants – classmates – about their time at Le Moyne and its impact on their lives. Each person’s story was unique, but Ryan says the similarities among them were striking. Participants recalled friendships that have endured to this day, and the guidance and high expectations of their professors. They represented a variety of academic majors, but all remembered the impact of the humanities and liberal arts. They spoke of being encouraged

to question everything, thus developing habits of critical thinking that fostered a sense of agency, empowerment and intellectual autonomy throughout their lives.

Ryan’s teaching today is informed by these same ideals. He hopes that by the time his students graduate, they are able to think critically, to communicate effectively, and to remember their role in a larger world.

“That is what Le Moyne did for me years ago as an undergrad, and again much more recently when I returned for my doctorate,” he said. “Le Moyne welcomed my crazy mix of interests – accounting, history, literature, business, philosophy, religion, everything – and asked me to pursue all of them. We had a lot of very specific content to cover in the accounting major but, even so, Le Moyne never asked me to narrow my interests. Quite the reverse. Le Moyne encouraged me to be restlessly and relentlessly curious. I guess that’s why I’ve been a Le Moyne student for 40 years.”

by Molly K. McCarthy

**“Le Moyne welcomed my crazy mix of interests – accounting, history, literature, business, philosophy, religion, everything – and asked me to pursue all of them.”**

–J.T. Ryan

# Exploring the Last Frontier



Irwing Vielma '24, M.S. '25 did not expect that his time at Le Moyne would include visiting one of the largest Iñupiaq settlements in Alaska, or that he would explore glaciers in the nation's 49th state and search its skies for the snowy owl. Vielma earned a bachelor's degree in computer science and a master's degree in information systems on the Heights; his long-term goal is to pursue a doctoral degree in industrial engineering and to study human-robot interactions. Still, he is grateful for the time he spent in what is known as The Last Frontier. It was formative, teaching him how disciplines like computer science, information systems and industrial engineering intersect to address global challenges, from conserving the environment to developing infrastructure to supporting communities in need.

A New York City native, Vielma took part in the 2024 Arctic Summer Internship Program (ASIP). The initiative, which is affiliated with the University of Alaska's Applied Environmental Research Center, brings students to Anchorage for 10 weeks of hands-

on research. ASIP fellows engage with projects that support the mission of ADAC-ARCTIC, a Department of Homeland Security Center of Excellence that leverages technology, innovation and education to improve the nation's capacity to respond effectively to emerging challenges in the Arctic. He learned about the opportunity through Martha Grabowski, Ph.D., who recently retired as the McDevitt Chair for Information Systems and who encouraged him to apply.

"I was immediately drawn to the unique opportunity to travel to Alaska," he said. "This experience aligned perfectly with my long-term goal of contributing to innovative solutions for emerging global issues. The chance to immerse myself in Alaska's culture and environment firsthand was something I couldn't pass up. It felt like a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to broaden my horizons and gain a deeper understanding of the world's pressing challenges."

Vielma and the other fellows learned from researchers from around the world who spoke about their work as it relates to the

preservation of the environment. They heard from experts like Craig Tweedie, Ph.D., who studied subantarctic climate change biology before transitioning to Arctic terrestrial ecology. They toured Prince William Sound, where they experienced the stunning natural beauty and ecological diversity of the area. They observed diverse wildlife, including sea otters and migratory birds, while learning about the balance of the region's ecosystems and the ongoing efforts to protect them from environmental threats. In short, they immersed themselves in Alaskan life, exposing themselves to new people, places and ideas.

"This experience has strengthened my ability to think critically and approach problem-solving with an open mindset – both crucial skills for a researcher," Vielma said. "Beyond technical skills, this journey reinforced the value of adaptability and cultural awareness in research. As I [one day] pursue my Ph.D., these experiences will shape how I contribute to innovative solutions in my field."



**“This experience aligned perfectly with my long-term goal of contributing to innovative solutions for emerging global issues.”**

—Irwing Vielma



(Page 10) This stream-side team at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson in Anchorage is ready to monitor, sample and explore Alaska's freshwater ecosystems.

(Above) As they ride ATVs across the Barrow tundra, participants in the Arctic Summer Internship Program keep a respectful distance from a polar bear in the area.

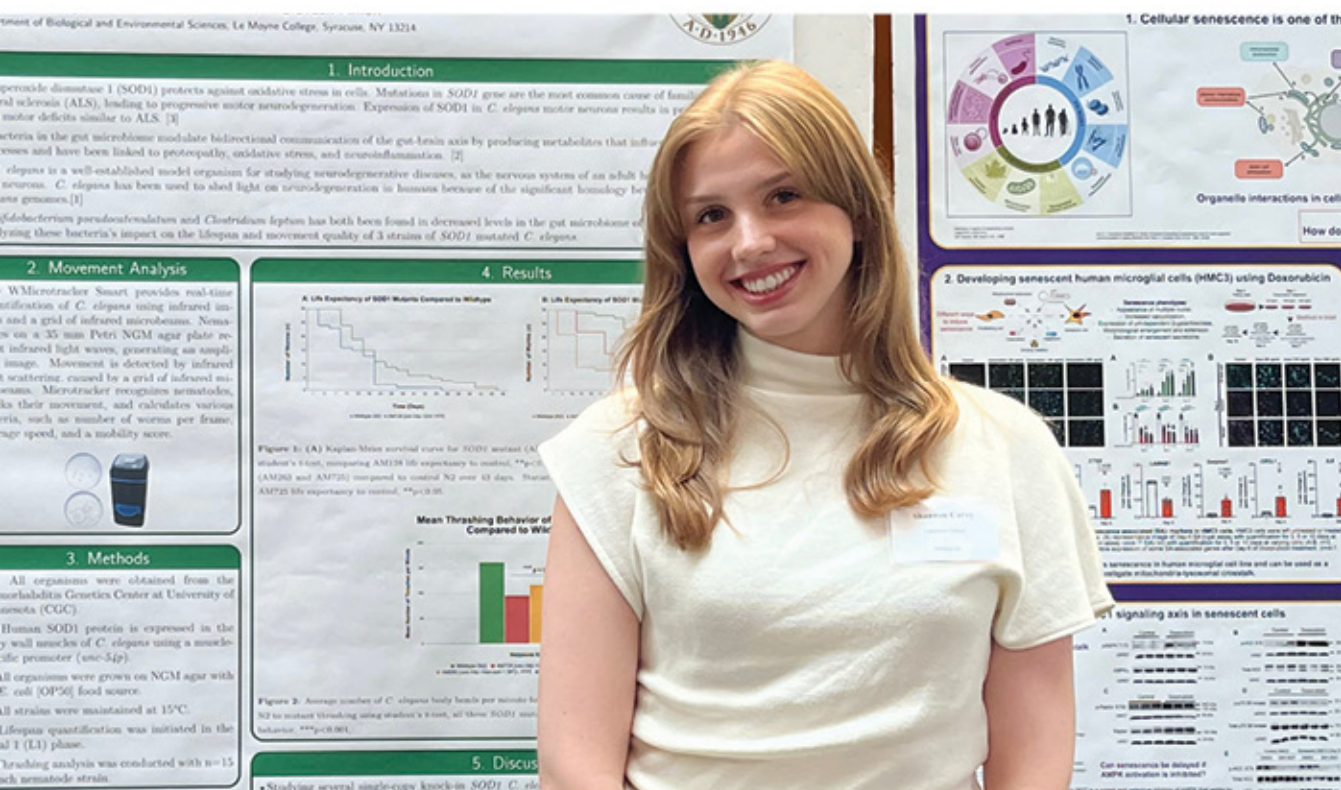
(Left) Irwing Vielma '24, M.S. '25 examines a freshly extracted ice core sample on the Arctic Sea ice in Barrow, Alaska.

(Below) ASIP participants hold their ice core samples, celebrating a successful field day in the stark white Arctic landscape.





**AN ART AND A SCIENCE** | Shannon Carey '25 has discovered that art and science are not mutually exclusive. A native of Liverpool, New York, Carey has long had a passion for dance and an affinity for anatomy, physiology and biology. Each of these disciplines intersected seamlessly in her thesis project for the College's Integral Honors Program (IHP), "Brain, Gut and Body: Understanding the Impact of Gut Microbiome Composition and Dance/Movement Therapy on ALS Progression." She hopes that her work will help shed light on how both dance and gut microbiome composition impact neurodegeneration and symptoms associated with neurodegenerative diseases like ALS.



**"The important thing is not to get discouraged and to keep working toward your goal. It requires some creativity – like dance."**

—Shannon Carey

Carey conducted her research in the lab of Siavash Amon, Ph.D., of the Department of Biological and Environmental Sciences. She worked with a model organism commonly known as *C. elegans* and conducted an extensive literature review on the effects of dance on people living with ALS. It was a transformative experience for her, allowing her to see the experiment she designed come to life. The project also reinforced for Carey what makes a good scientist, namely

dedication, repetition and creativity. In the future, Carey plans to attend medical school. She is considering studying neurology, or perhaps physical medicine or psychiatry. Her overarching aim, as a scientist with a love for dance, is to better understand how the brain controls the body, and to give her future patients the opportunity to live fuller, more independent lives. Her experiences at Le Moyne and in the community of scholars that form the IHP have helped to prepare her

to do just that. They taught her that research is not a linear process, but one that requires patience and the willingness to try again.

"The biggest lesson I took away from this experience is that science takes time," she said. "The important thing is not to get discouraged and to keep working toward your goal. It requires some creativity – like dance." 🌟

by Molly K. McCarthy

(above) In recognition of her research, Shannon Carey '25 was presented with the James C. Finlay, S.J., Award for Outstanding Integral Honors Thesis.



## THE ORDINARY AND EXTRAORDINARY

When **Gabriel McManus '25** enrolled in guitar classes with award-winning performer and songwriter Todd Hobin, he expected to perfect his technique, from proper hand positioning to strumming patterns. McManus did not anticipate that he would come away from the experience with a greater appreciation than ever before for music, history and storytelling. However, that's exactly what happened. What's more, McManus also learned how those seemingly disparate disciplines intersected. His experiences served as the foundation for his thesis for the College's Integral Honors Program, a 45-minute documentary on Hobin's life called *Keepin' the Dream Alive*.

A history major, McManus is interested in using public media to share stories. He has always been creative. His work with Hobin, who has been a mentor to him, filled him with the inspiration he needed to envision this project, while his time at Le Moyne and work as an intern at a PBS affiliate in his hometown of Binghamton, New York, provided him with the technical skills needed to undertake this task. He oversaw the project from beginning to end, from research to filming to editing. He even used a scholarship he received at Le Moyne to purchase the camera he used to make the documentary.

McManus plans to screen the film publicly. He hopes that it will provide people with a greater appreciation for Hobin's long career and impact on the upstate New York music scene. McManus also hopes that this will be the first of many documentaries he will create. After he completes his master's degree in business administration from Le Moyne, he plans to launch his own production company. His aim is to tell stories that help people better understand each other and the world around them.

"I believe that there is great value in showcasing the stories and experiences of people in the community, both ordinary and extraordinary," he says. "The very basis of my project which seeks to provide a platform and voice for those individuals who are typically overlooked by history. Every one of us deserves to have our stories told, recognized and appreciated, and I hope that my work in public history will contribute to this in some way."



**PAYING IT FORWARD** | Mark Pisik '86, M.D., manages a busy family medicine practice, caring for a wide range of patients, from newborns to centenarians. It is demanding work that requires Pisik to maximize his energy and expertise. Still, the Le Moyne graduate makes it a priority to give back to his community and his profession. For nearly 30 years, he has served as a preceptor for Le Moyne's Physician Assistant Studies Program, helping to train dozens of health care providers. Those professionals will go on to see an estimated 15 to 30 patients a day over the course of their careers, expanding the breadth of Pisik's reach exponentially.



Professionals like Pisik play a crucial role in training competent, caring PAs, bridging the gap between classroom learning and real-world practice. These medical professionals supervise students as they observe, interview and examine patients in a clinical setting, acting as mentors, educators and role models for them. As Beth Mercer, MPAS, PA-C director of the Physician Assistant Studies Program, puts it, they "guide students through patient care experiences and help them to think beyond the textbook and to consider the human being in front of them." Preceptors help students develop strong communication skills, model ethical and professional behavior, and bring them into the health care team.

"A strong foundation in medical knowledge is important in

providing excellent, patient-centered care," Mercer says. "However it is just as important that students gain the practical skills needed to care for people through observation and practice in the clinical setting."

Both Mercer and Katie Compagni, MPAS, PA-C, associate director of the program, stress that it is also important for preceptors to model the Jesuit value of *cura personalis*, or care for the whole person, in their interactions with patients.

"Early on we emphasize that patients are more than just diagnoses. With the aid of our clinical preceptors, students can learn to appreciate how each patient is treated as an individual," Compagni says. "No patient is the same as another."

Katrina Garrigan MPAS, PA-C '17,

director of behavioral health at East Hill Medical Center in Auburn, New York, knows firsthand how critical that training is. It was key to preparing her for the work she does today, caring for people living with substance abuse disorder or mental illness. Now Garrigan serves as a preceptor for Le Moyne PA students. It has been incredibly rewarding, she says, to watch them grow their confidence in interacting with patients and caring for them with expertise, patience and empathy. She is proud that some of the students she has worked with have chosen to specialize in mental health.

"We want the best-trained health care providers possible, so we let them do and see as much as we can," she says of her experience as a preceptor. "We drop them in the thick of things, but we are always





**“We can’t continue on in the profession and expect to have great PAs if we’re not willing to step up and be a part of preparing them to enter this field.”**

Lauren Siy-Keane, MPAS-PA-C '11

(opposite page, left) Students in Le Moyne’s Physician Assistant Studies Program brainstorm solutions for various ailments.

(right) Students learn hands-on procedures in the state-of-the-art labs.

(top) Mark Pisik '86, M.D., works with students in the lab.

(bottom) Beth Mercer MPAS, PA-C, collaborates with students in the lab.

If you would like to learn more about serving as a preceptor for Le Moyne’s Physician Assistant Studies Program, visit [lemoyne.edu/preceptors](http://lemoyne.edu/preceptors).



here to support them. That is important. After all, if we don’t teach them, who will?”

In fact, finding and retaining high quality clinical training opportunities is challenging. First there is the sheer volume of support that is needed. Each one of the College’s 75 physician assistant studies students must complete nine clinical rotations. That is approximately 675 placements annually. Second, many other PA programs are affiliated with teaching hospitals where they have built in clinical placements; others are located in health care hubs. Third and finally, New York state has a large number of PA programs (31) with whom Le Moyne must compete for preceptors.

What’s more, the need for PAs is growing as the country ages and more medical professionals retire and more people need care. The

American Hospital Association (AHA) estimates that there will be a shortage of about 100,000 health care workers around the country by 2028, with New York being one of states expected to face what the AHA calls an “acute scarcity.”

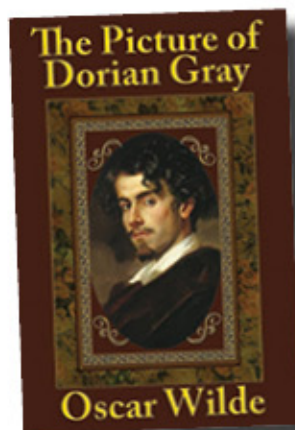
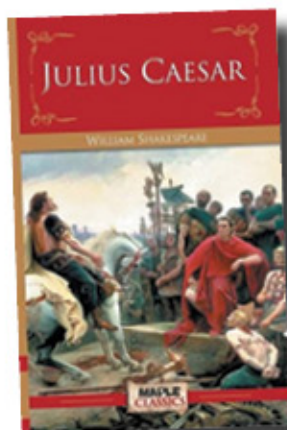
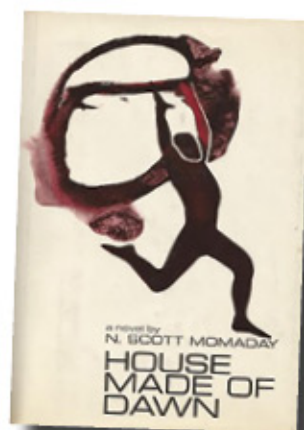
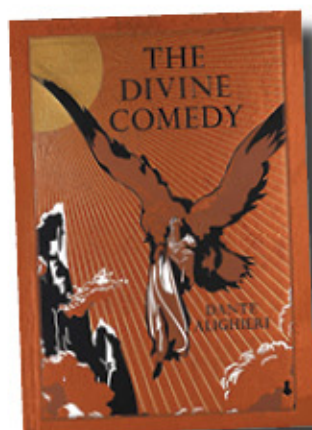
Fortunately there are people like Pisik, Garrigan and Lauren Siy-Keane, MPAS, PA-C '17, who not only volunteer to mentor and train PA students, but embrace the opportunity to do so. Siy-Keane began her career as a physician assistant in a primary care setting before beginning work at ENT and Allergy Services in Albany, New York, where she regularly works with Le Moyne PA students. It is an opportunity for her to connect with the next generation of physician assistants and to help them grow confident and empowered to care for their patients.

“I really see precepting as a way to give back,” Siy-Keane says. “We can’t continue on in the profession and expect to have great PAs if we’re not willing to step up and be a part of preparing them to enter this field.”

For Pisik, making the transition from treating a patient to interacting with a PA student comes naturally. He believes that it has also made him a better physician.

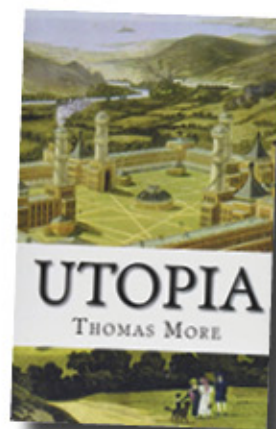
“Being a doctor is already a lot like being a teacher because you’re teaching your patients every day,” he says. “As a preceptor, there is an added layer of being able to explain what you are doing to someone else so that person can use that knowledge to help others. That definitely keeps you sharp.”

by Molly K. McCarthy



## WE ARE NOT ALONE

Author and theologian CS Lewis believed that "we read to know that we are not alone." The faculty members in Le Moyne's Department of English and Communication appear to agree with Lewis' assessment. Each semester they carefully curate lists of works for their students to unpack, books that introduce them to unforgettable characters and places and push the limits of their imaginations. Within these pages, Le Moyne students make important discoveries about themselves and the world around them.



**Don't get bitter.  
Get better.**



In sports, setbacks are inevitable. Whether it's a missed shot in a crucial game, an unexpected loss, or the struggle to balance rigorous training with academic demands, these moments test our resolve. Instead of letting frustration and disappointment weigh us down, we have the power to transform these experiences into valuable lessons that drive our improvement.

Embracing the **'Be The Change'** mindset means pushing ourselves and our team to learn from every practice, every competition and every challenge we encounter. It's about reviewing film not just to critique mistakes, but to identify areas for growth and development. It's about encouraging teammates after a tough loss, celebrating small victories and finding ways to improve as a unit.

In the heat of competition, maintaining a positive mindset is crucial. When we face obstacles, our attitude shapes our performance. By choosing to focus on improvement, we not only enhance our skills, but we also inspire our teammates to do the same.

The standard is to be fully present during practices, to give our all in every drill, and to support one other. By embracing every opportunity for growth and transformation, we turn adversity into strength. Every effort counts, and collectively we can truly **'Be The Change'** we wish to see in our team and in ourselves.

**Matthew Frisa '25**  
Men's Track and Field



## Dolphin Joins the Cubs

Le Moyne's Jordan Goldmann '24 recently kicked off his Major League Baseball (MLB) rookie season with the Chicago Cubs. A right-handed pitcher from Encinitas, California, Goldmann made 27 appearances, including 22 starts, over the course of two seasons with the Dolphins. He tallied a combined 96 strikeouts in 127 innings and compiled seven victories, including five wins against Northeast Conference opponents in 2024. Goldmann is the third Le Moyne

player under head coach Scott Cassidy '98 to sign with an MLB team, following Josiah Gray '24 and Ryan Murphy, who were selected in the 2018 and 2020 MLB drafts respectively. Overall, Goldmann is the 51st player in program history to sign a professional contract with an MLB team. Following the 2024 season with Le Moyne, Goldmann began his professional baseball journey as a member of the Tucson Saguaros in the independent Pecos League.



## For the Love of the Sport

Horseback riding may very well be in Delaney Barrigar's blood. A member of the Class of 2027, Barrigar first learned to ride at the age of 2, spending much of her childhood at her family's business, Brookfield Stables in Jordan, New York. Caring for horses became an integral part of her life, and there was no doubt that she would continue riding when she arrived at Le Moyne. Barrigar joined Le Moyne's equestrian team, and this spring she competed in the Zone Finals at West Virginia University. While Barrigar did not make it to the nationals as she had hoped, she is proud of what she and her teammates accomplished over the course of the season, with a fifth place overall finish at a regional show at Saint Lawrence University in Canton, New York. Barrigar loves the sport and the lessons it has taught her about hard work, diligence and caring for a creature that is dependent upon you for so much. One day, she hopes to take over Brookfield Stables, which has been in her family for three generations, and to continue to share her love of all things equestrian with others.



# From Orbiting Earth to Home on the Heights

It was a busy few days for Jeanette Epps '92, Ph.D., as she returned to the Heights for the first time since her eight-month odyssey on the International Space Station during 2024. The centerpiece of her visit to Le Moyne was a public talk titled "Stories in Space," the spring 2025 Carroll College of Arts and Sciences Distinguished Alumni Lecture. The talk about her space experience was facilitated by Sharon Kinsman Salmon '78, a former chair of Le Moyne's board of trustees. While on campus she met with several classes, had lunch with the members of the women's basketball team (who presented her with a commemorative basketball), and conducted an interview for Channel 9's *Newsmaker* show. She also spent time at Corcoran High School, her other Syracuse alma mater. Epps recently announced her retirement from NASA after 16 years of service.



## by Molly K. McCarthy

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A view of inside the ACR van, stocked with supplies to help community members' health.



Ed.D. candidates Patrick Witmer and Jennifer Martin Tse at the Scholars Day celebration, where they presented their project, "Pathways to Harm Reduction: Implications for and Impacts of Action Research."

Le Moyne's Jesuit mission of "service to others" and ACR's charge to "create healthy communities by opening doors to services that enhance the well-being of all" are closely aligned. Community engagement has been a central pillar of Le Moyne's Ed.D. program since its founding in 2019, distinguishing it from other leadership and management programs.

Damiani has worked tirelessly to develop community-outreach opportunities for students in his courses related to cultural proficiency, leadership and research. Partnering with ACR to increase access to harm-reduction services for people who use illicit drugs was a logical extension of those service-minded initiatives.

The Ed.D. candidates spent time interviewing the people who visited ACR's van for supplies or simply a caring ear. Through these conversations, they came to know them as human beings. Those one-on-one interactions served as the heart of their work and their experience. Ed.D. candidate Martin Tse recalled that the nerves she felt at the beginning of the project melted away as she came to know ACR's clients for who they were, as human beings of worth and deserving of compassion. Martin Tse credits the experience with teaching her lessons about humility, compassion and the importance of simply meeting people where they are.

"There was such a wonderful sense of community among the

people we met," she said. "I will carry this experience with me for the rest of my life."

The Ed.D. candidates discovered that, while most of the people they interacted with had engaged with treatment services, they faced significant barriers to recovery. Some of those barriers were logistical, including financial constraints and limited access to transportation. Others were more deeply rooted, such as fear of the stigma that is too often associated with addiction. Given that, they recommended what they called "a more holistic approach to harm reduction – one that encompasses both practical interventions and emotional support systems." Chief among these was a peer leader system in which individuals who are already familiar with the services would serve as trusted sources of information on harm reduction, treatment options and other vital resources. Their unique and trusted position within the community would allow them to reach those who might not otherwise seek help due to distrust or lack of knowledge about available services. These peer leaders could be trained in harm reduction practices, motivational interviewing and essential outreach, giving them the skills to support their peers effectively.


Martin Tse and Witmer presented their findings at the College's annual Scholars Day in April. In addition,



*"There was such a wonderful sense of community among the people we met. I will carry this experience with me for the rest of my life."*

Jennifer Martin Tse

Damiani and Ed.D. candidate Witmer presented Cohort IV's collaborative research paper at the Action Research Network of the Americas' Annual Conference in May. The work he and his classmates did reaffirmed Witmer's conviction that doctoral programs that place a strong emphasis on community engagement will produce exceptional leaders in their communities. He hopes that their work will positively impact other people's lives.

"This project provided us with an opportunity to put what we learned in the classroom into practice by working with an organization that makes a tangible difference in the community," Witmer said. "It was also a tremendous learning experience. We discovered that leadership is an individual's ability to facilitate change in response to the needs of their group, and that giving back, listening and growing comfortable putting yourself in unfamiliar situations are critical parts of leadership." 



After a busy semester collaborating with the Refugee and Immigrant Self Empowerment (RISE) Agency, Jonathan Damiani (second to the left), Patrick Witmer (center) and Jennifer Martin Tse (right) enjoyed the chance to support RISE colleagues at the Annual Night of Nations Gala at the National Veterans Resource Center at Syracuse University. Also pictured are RISE's Anna Zoodsma (left), and recently minted Le Moyne Doctorate Erin Moore (second to the right).

# The Legacy of Pope Francis

“Everyday encounters with ordinary people.”

by David McCallum, S.J. '90

Pope Francis has died. For those of us on the Discerning Leadership Team, this is a very personal loss. Over the past five years of our existence, Pope Francis has been a constant inspiration, a catalytic point of reference in our work of leadership development and organizational regeneration. Through our various roles in the Synod on Synodality, Pope Francis even served as our “boss,” presiding over the gathering of this assembly of the People of God to discern the future together at this moment in the Church’s long history.

For me personally, he has felt not only like a (much) older Jesuit brother, but also like a distant-yet-beloved grandfather who has so many children and grandchildren, a grandfather who wants, nearly impossibly, to give his attention to each one with his full presence and affection. Clearly, until his last day, this is what brought him to life – the everyday encounters with ordinary people.

During the last day of the Synod on Synodality, my colleague Sandra Chaoul and I had the opportunity to share with him about our program, and in particular about an event we were hosting on building, or rebuilding, trust within the Church. He was interested, appreciative and, as usual, personable and funny. He conveyed to us that same encouragement he offered so many times throughout his papacy – “*sempre avanti*, or always forward. Have hope, and keep going!”

When we prayerfully contemplate the scene that the Gospel of John 20:19-31 describes, despite the joy and celebration of the

other disciples, how can our attention not be drawn to Thomas, who sits dejected, hopeless, perhaps even despairing in his grief? Obviously this is where the risen Jesus’ attention is focused as well. Just as we focused on the way the resurrected Messiah goes to console his friends, so now he comes directly to one of his loyal yet conflicted apostles.

For those of us who know the stinging pain and aching emptiness of grief in the wake of losing a loved one, how can we not sympathize with Thomas? How can we reconcile what it feels like to know and love someone as a relative or friend in our lives with the experience of death? How can we not juxtapose existence with nonexistence, as if when one dies, there is an absolute finality that precludes the possibility of anything else? And yet, and yet ... God gives us hope for more.

The Risen Christ invites Thomas to use his physical senses to learn what his rational mind cannot comprehend. Christ bears the wounds of his torture and execution, and directs Thomas to touch and feel these marks of his passion. He wants Thomas to understand the continuity of his existence from one state to another, and to discover that the love that Thomas experienced in his relationship with Jesus never ended. It transcended Jesus’ physical death. Love does not end, because life changes, but does not end.

While Christ allows Thomas to use his sight and his other physical senses to learn this truth in order to believe, he declares that those of us who believe and have hope even



David McCallum, S.J. '90 with Pope Francis and colleague Sandra Chaoul at the Synod of Synodality in 2024.

without sight are even more blessed. This is because belief and hope have an intrinsic power to them that is qualitatively different and greater than the confidence that comes from evidence alone. Belief and hope lift us beyond the present moment, with all of its limits and trails, and carry us forward into the future.

Pope Francis had this belief, this hope, and urged us to have it as well. With all the uncertainty we face, and the natural fears and worries that come with “not knowing,” we believe that God redeems us, gives our lives and our love a future. This future is one worth laboring for just as Jesus did in his earthly life, and as the Risen Christ continues to work for us and through us in the power of the Holy Spirit.

As leaders, our belief, our hope, made even more powerful through grace, encourages and lifts others. It creates the space for an imagination of the future that is Kingdom oriented rather than catastrophic. Let us live this belief, this hope in the life we have in Christ, sharing it with others in the same spirit of consolation and love that he showed to Thomas.

With gratitude for the life and witness of Pope Francis, we pray now, “Go, good and faithful servant, to your eternal reward!”

*David McCallum, S.J. '90 is the director of the Discerning Leadership Program and the former vice president for mission integration at Le Moyne College.*

“Many of those commenting on the death of Pope Francis note that he was the first Jesuit to be elected pope and therefore wondered if his training as a Jesuit made a difference to his leadership and style of governance. As president of Le Moyne, an academic community rooted and grounded in the intellectual and spiritual traditions of the Society of Jesus, I can strongly affirm that Francis’ ministry as pope was a clear manifestation of the rich Jesuit formation he received in his youth and throughout his life. We see in Francis a profound commitment to the Jesuit desire to ‘find God in all things.’”

Le Moyne President Linda LeMura

# Dolphins • Serving •



“People for others” is a pillar of Le Moyne’s Jesuit values, inspiring service-based experiences from the moment students set foot on campus. Time and time again, Le Moyne alumni cite group service projects, Campus Ministry, religion classes and the support of the broader campus community as formative parts of their time as Dolphins. But how does the commitment to others continue once students leave the Heights? From combating food insecurity to housing the unhoused to careers spent serving others, Le Moyne graduates’ commitment to connection, community and each other only strengthens as time goes by.

# Others

by Liz McCaffery '06, M.S. '12



In 2010, Christine (Makhuli) Cotton '87 was living in Chapel Hill, North Carolina, when her son asked her to pack extra sandwiches in his lunch under the guise that he wanted to bulk up. Cotton obliged but soon noticed no change in her son's appearance.

"The extra sandwiches kept going in, but he kept looking the same," Cotton said.

When confronted, Cotton's son admitted his best buddy at the lunch table didn't have enough to eat. If he brought in extra sandwiches, his friend could take them home.

"It changed everything for me," Cotton says. "I had to do something."

Around the same time, Cotton's friends were collecting cans of tuna to stock a local food pantry. Cotton, who has an MBA, quickly put on her business hat.

"We wanted to remove barriers to help. People wanted to help, but they were busy and didn't always know how to," says Cotton. "So, we asked people to leave the donations on their porches, and we picked them up."

That idea soon grew into the early days of PORCH Communities, Cotton's repeatable model of monthly neighborhood food drives and fresh produce distribution, supplying food pantries, schools and community programs across the country. Today, PORCH's volunteer network of 50 chapters has contributed more than \$12 million in hunger relief. The volunteer networks collaborate with local pantries to identify specific needs, so that people are able to shop from a list and pantries get what they need. It is a win-win.



## Consider starting a PORCH. It's as easy as 1, 2, 3!

- 1 Once a month ask your neighbors to leave a bag of non-perishable food on their front porches.
- 2 Grab a friend and collect all of those amazing donations.
- 3 Deliver the bags to a local food pantry. (We'll help you find one.)

Can't start a PORCH right now? You can still make a difference by making a financial contribution to help sustain our mission.

To learn more or get involved, visit [porchcommunities.org/start-a-porch](http://porchcommunities.org/start-a-porch).

[Start a PORCH or Make a Donation](#) ▶



For **Jane Brown '77**, the Syracuse regional director of Ignatian Volunteer Corps, the organization's tagline said it all: "Experience Making a Difference."

With 16 chapters nationwide, IVC provides people mostly over the age of 50 with the opportunity to serve others. IVC participants – service corps members – are connected with local community organizations in need of help. Service corps members commit to one to two days a week of their time for 10 months of the year. Many times, they are connected with organizations that can benefit from their skills. Once a month, IVC holds a spiritual meeting so that participants can reflect on their experiences and build fellowship.

As Brown, who holds a master's degree in developmental psychology, points out, "In positive psychology research, there are three things that lead to physical and emotional well-being: Relationships, giving back and being involved in meaningful work. IVC checks all three."

As an alumna and former Le Moyne employee, Brown says, "It just feels like the right place to be." She knows the Le Moyne network and the Jesuit school network and is already hoping to expand IVC Syracuse's reach to the broader Central New York region.

"Le Moyne made me the person I am," says Brown. "I spent my life in higher education and nonprofits because of that call to serve."

According to Associate Professor of Psychology Rachel Dinero, Ph.D., who teaches social psychology at Le Moyne, the first step in engaging with your community – whether it's through service, philanthropy or volunteering – is noticing that help is needed.

"A lot of times there's a lack of awareness that something is happening that needs help or there's a sense that someone's individual help isn't going to make a difference," she says.

Cotton credits her ability to identify that help was needed to her Jesuit education.

"We learn at Le Moyne: Don't just take things at face value," she says. "Be a critical thinker and be compassionate."

This is at the core of Jesuit education.

"Our system of education is predicated on the fact that the human person is the image of God and therefore is owed temperance and respect," Acting Vice President for Mission Integration Brian Linnane, S.J., says. "We have an obligation as persons who recognize the inherent dignity of human persons to make communities better."

Like Cotton, Andrew Lunetta '12 was able to identify a specific need and remove barriers to make help more accessible. To date, Lunetta's Tiny Homes for Good has combated homelessness in Syracuse by building 40 tiny homes, with a dozen more under construction in 2025. Spending almost a decade side-by-side with unhoused community members at the Oxford Street Inn and riding bicycles side-by-side with them weekly through his Pedal 2 Possibilities program, Lunetta learned what help was most needed. After graduating from Le Moyne, he also rented a house on Syracuse's south side that he shared with men he knew from the shelter and Pedal program.



**"We have an obligation as persons who recognize the inherent dignity of human persons to make communities better."**

Brian Linnane, S.J.

(above)  
Andrew Lunetta '12 dons his toolbelt while working on one of the Tiny Homes for Good houses. (below)  
A volunteer crew lifts the framing of a wall into place.





(above) Meg (Barry) George '12 is interviewed on *CBS Morning* about her book.  
(below) George reads her book to a group of children.



**Meg (Barry) George '12**, co-founder and president of George Philanthropy Group, published a children's book, *What's Philanthropy to Philomena*, in 2023 to help children understand the impact of giving time, things or money to others.

"With time, which can be the best introduction for kids to philanthropy, we can expose kids to the challenges that exist in the world," George says. "That then leads to compassion and gratitude."

An honors student at Le Moyne, George majored in French and launched her career in the Le Moyne advancement office post-graduation. George went on to work in health care fundraising before starting her own philanthropy consulting business with her husband, Phil.

"When I help families give meaningful gifts, they feel it deeply," says George. "Organizations come back to them and say, 'Here's tangible outcomes of your gift.'"

In their West Palm Beach, Florida, community, George involves her two kids in providing meals for a community center as well as their annual giving. George solicits their input on who will be the recipient as well as a small monetary contribution from them.

To learn more about George's work or to order her book, visit [megtgeorge.com](https://megtgeorge.com).



(top) Kofi Addai '04 speaks at the opening of a middle school just built in Worawora, built by PACE Ghana. (bottom) PACE Ghana provides educational resources, such as school materials and computer labs, for under-resourced communities.

"As I talked to these guys, the concept of not having a roommate continued to come up, as many were in really messy roommate situations," Lunetta says. "It made me think about a housing model that wouldn't require a roommate. I also listened to the simplicity of what people actually wanted."

"The more we are connected to people, the more likely we are to help," says Professor Dinero. "Literature suggests people in small towns are more likely to get help because they are more likely to know the people around them. Small-town people aren't necessarily nicer; they just encounter people they know more often."

Dolphins across the globe spend their time in formal and informal ways building communities and fostering connection. They include Kofi Addai '04, who has sought to aid the people of Ghana through his organization, People in Action for Cultural Enrichment (PACE) Ghana, and Beth Scanlon '78, who has spent her career counseling and supporting the underserved.

"My mom was very service-oriented, and then my Le Moyne classes opened my mind to social justice," Addai says.

He and Mel Stellrecht '04 founded PACE while they were students and established the Okyeame Dankwa Memorial Community

Library in Addai's home, Worawora, Ghana, as their first project. Soon PACE will be completing and opening a community center in Bompaso, Ghana. Addai has also helped Le Moyne's Department of Nursing plan annual service trips to Ghana since 2010.

For Addai, his call to serve is faith-based. When he was in Bompaso after PACE had completed another project, he had an experience that showed him what was next.

"I just had a vision of purpose in Bompaso of something bigger," says Addai, and he got to work.

When Scanlon graduated from Le Moyne, she joined the Jesuit Volunteer Corps (JVC) as a means to gain more experience. She spent two years as a JVC volunteer in Webster, Massachusetts, and then went to work for the JVC staff in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. In this role, she helped establish the Syracuse JVC site in 1980, which remained active until 2022.

"I learned so much about myself, Ignatian principles and how to incorporate them in my life," she says.

When Scanlon returned to Syracuse, her service work continued at Vincent House and Catholic Charities. In 2004, she joined the Le Moyne Campus Ministry team. During her tenure, Scanlon counseled countless students, established a food pantry on campus as well as the Phins Share Meals program, and cooked for Campus Ministry retreats.

Recently retired, Scanlon is now looking for what's next.



"It's important to find things that feed you and to be open to the movement of the spirit in your life," she says. "And then, do something about it."

Professor Dinero says that because of constant distraction and lingering post-pandemic disconnection, it's more important than ever that we encourage students to engage in any kind of service. After all, she says, "If you don't do it, you don't realize how rewarding it is."

Nathan Hanzalik '28 is trying to inspire that. A management and leadership student who arrived on campus with 10 years of service work through his home parish of Church of the Holy Family in Endwell, New York, Hanzalik is the Le Moyne Way program coordinator. The mission-driven initiative started in the athletic department and focuses on whole-person development. Hanzalik hopes to expand it to the broader campus community.

"I want to start things like faith groups in the residence halls again," he says. "For me, service is something you do to bring you closer to the faith."

Last year, Hanzalik lost his brother, who was 22. He credits his commitment to service with helping him through grief. What started as serving 1,800 Lenten fish dinners every Friday at his parish has grown into him now serving as the communications director for the church. He also works with the Put God First Foundation.

"The work of service and philanthropy is a work of grace," Father Linnane says. "It's a profound Christian truth and a profound human truth that we find ourselves, by giving ourselves by surrendering to something more."

From a can of tuna to a community center in Ghana, Le Moyne alumni continue to find opportunities to embrace their Jesuit education, inspired by faith or a neighbor or the simple yearning for something more. 📌



(left) A young boy in Ghana crawls into the lap of Beth Scanlon '78. The child was being raised by his brothers, who were just 6 and 4 years old themselves. "It was such a powerful moment for me," Scanlon would later recall. (right) Le Moyne students and Beth Scanlon at Nazareth Farm in the rural Salem, West Virginia, where they did home repair for residents.



**"It's important to find things that feed you and to be open to the movement of the spirit in your life. And then, do something about it."**

Beth Scanlon '78

Learn more about service organizations powered by Le Moyne alumni.

PORCH Communities:  
[porchcommunities.org/start-a-porch](https://porchcommunities.org/start-a-porch)

IVC:  
[lvcusa.org/lvc-offices](https://lvcusa.org/lvc-offices)

Tiny Home for Good:  
[atinyhomeforgood.org](https://atinyhomeforgood.org)

PACE Ghana:  
[paceghana.org](https://paceghana.org)

# Feeling Seen, Valued and Heard

by Molly K. McCarthy



Anne Kearney (front, right) gathers with students enrolled in Dolphins Changing Minds, which has become a popular course on the Le Moyne campus.

When Nicholas Conforti '27 arrived at Le Moyne as a first-year student in the fall of 2023, he knew that he wanted to forge close connections within the Le Moyne community. Conforti was also eager to play a role in the promotion of mental health on campus. It was a topic that he and his peers had been speaking out about more frequently, and which had been garnering increasing national attention. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported that 20 percent of American adults exhibited signs of anxiety and depression that year. That reflected a growing trend in mental health challenges exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. And so, as Conforti settled into life on campus, he also spent time reflecting on the importance of mental health, and what he might be able to do to “brighten someone else’s day” in a small but meaningful way.

Conforti went on to enroll in AVS 102: Dolphins Changing Minds. The interdisciplinary course prepares students to utilize 14 evidence-based interventions that support resiliency, positive mental health and holistic wellness. The interventions include cultivating a growth mindset, habit formation, mindfulness, emotional regulation and self-compassion. The course also covers other critical topics such as the importance of sleep, activity and good nutrition. The class was small, with only about a dozen students per section, which allowed Conforti and his classmates to engage in rich discussion. They spent a great deal of time addressing how to integrate and apply the concepts they studied. Upon completion of the class, the students became eligible to serve as wellness ambassador fellows, helping to lead mental health and suicide prevention initiatives on campus and at local high schools.

Today, over 306 students have completed Dolphins Changing Minds and there are more than 30 active wellness ambassador fellows working across campus.

**“I love seeing students get excited when learning about growth mindset.”**

—Anne Kearney



# You've got this.

The ambassadors, all of whom have advanced training in suicide awareness and prevention, help to promote a culture where it is OK to ask for help. Some of the ambassadors even speak to local high school students about promoting mental health; they partner with the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention to help high school students learn about warning signs and what resources are available. Whether on campus or off, the ambassadors are helping to promote resilience and healthy coping with the myriad life stressors that we all face. The ambassadors host speakers and programs, post on social media, support the Wellness Center initiatives, and plaster campus walkways with messages of support, some as succinct as: "You've got this."

It is a program of which Anne Kearney, who was the original project director, is extremely proud. Kearney noted that across the country college students, while more connected by social media than ever before, are reporting higher levels of loneliness and isolation. Given that, she is particularly happy with the ways students have developed real connections with each other by embracing these important topics in the classroom.

"They have shown a willingness to have meaningful conversations with their peers about some of the common challenges that they face," she said. "I love seeing students get excited when learning about growth mindset, as well as learning about and practicing mindfulness. Their willingness to practice and reflect on a variety of resiliency-building strategies is remarkable."

The program has proven to be extremely popular. Students have reported that the AVS class improved their academic performance, emotional well-being and interpersonal relationships. A total of 96 percent of students surveyed said they would highly recommend the course to their friends.

Among those is Shayesta Baqaakhail '24, who participated in the program as a student and who now serves as the

coordinator for wellness ambassadors. Baqaakhail's responsibilities include fostering connection and growth among the ambassadors and the Le Moyne community. She guides and mentors the wellness ambassadors, ensuring they feel supported in their roles. She also collaborates with different departments to design programs and initiatives that resonate with students, and helps organize workshops and events that spark important conversations about wellness.

"My greatest hope is that students walk away from this program feeling seen, heard and valued," she said. "I want them to understand that prioritizing their mental health isn't a sign of weakness; it's a testament to their strength. I hope they leave with the confidence to be kind to themselves, to support others, and to create change in their own unique ways. Ultimately, I want them to know that they are not alone and that they have the power to build a brighter, healthier future for themselves and their communities."

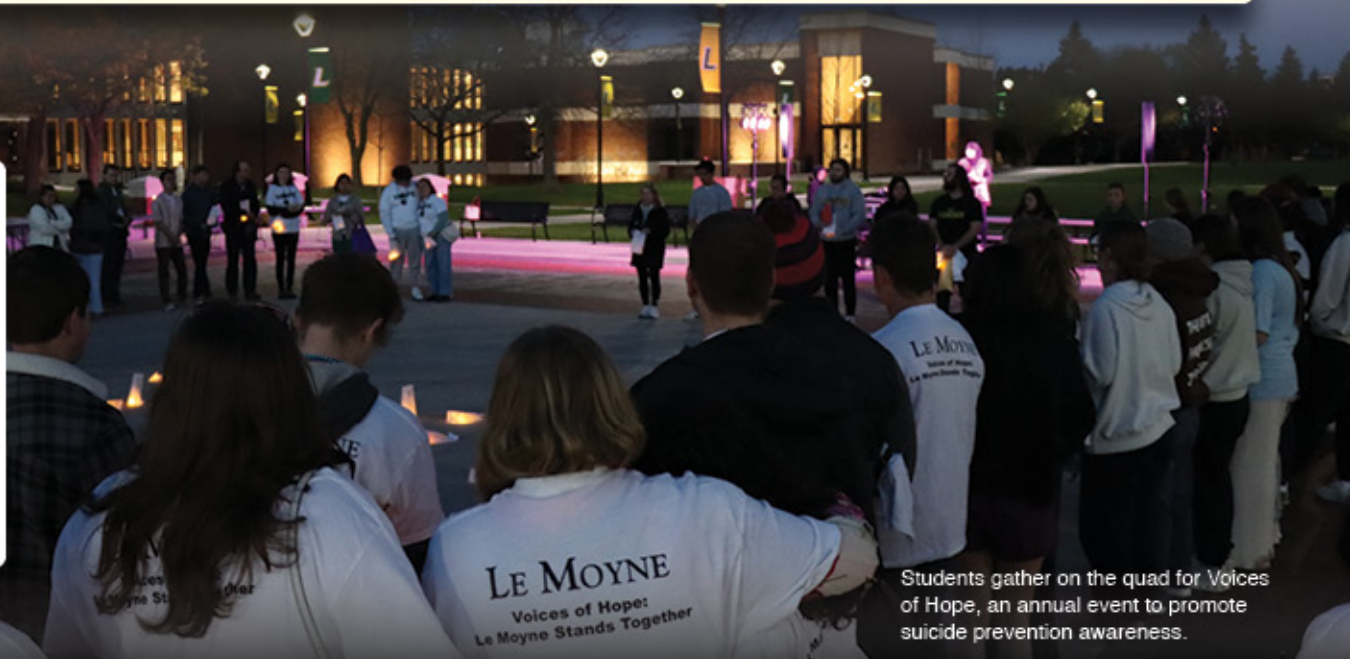
Destany Martinez '27, a dual major in psychology and education, said that she hopes to use her role as a wellness ambassador to change people's point of view as it relates to their own mental health. She hopes people learn that they are not alone, and that they should share their feelings with others.

"I have learned that the happiest people can sometimes carry the biggest burdens on the inside," she said. "It sounds cliché to say, but it's true. Through this program I have found that wonderful people, people I want to advocate for, protect and aid in their mental health, have struggled the most with their own well-being. I plan on carrying this through my life ... We should all advocate for one another, whether it is someone's best day or worst." 📸

*The AVS 102 Dolphins Changing Minds class and the Wellness Ambassador Fellowship are made possible thanks to a two-year Booth Ferris Grant of \$300,000 and an Excellus Innovation Award.*

## Measuring the Effectiveness of AVS

The Brief Resiliency Scale (BRS) measures the ability to cope with stress in an adaptive manner. The BRS was administered to students as a pre-post measure, and students who have taken the course show a statistically significant increase in their resilience.



Students gather on the quad for Voices of Hope, an annual event to promote suicide prevention awareness.

# Dolphin Stories

## CELEBRATING A FULL-CIRCLE MOMENT |

On a brisk night last November, Archbishop of Paris Laurent Ulrich used a large staff to knock firmly on the entryway of the Cathedral of Notre Dame. In response, the doors to the sacred space opened for the first time in five years. It captured the attention and imagination of people around the world. For Jared Crawford '96, it was a full-circle moment. In April of 2019, Crawford found himself standing on a bridge in the French capital, taking in the damage a fire had done to the 861-year-old cathedral in his capacity as a producer for NBC's *Today* show. Five years later, Crawford had returned to the City of Light to help tell the story of the restoration of the iconic landmark as part of the morning program's team.



(above) Jared Crawford '96 stands before the Cathedral of Notre Dame. (right) Crawford stands in the majestic, newly restored interior of the Cathedral.

It was an event that captured global attention, and which called on Crawford and his colleagues to be thoughtful, creative and enterprising. Among the questions they had to answer were: What would they cover? Which voices would they amplify? When and where would the stories air? Over the course of five days, they had the opportunity to interview religious leaders, including Archbishop of New York Cardinal Timothy Dolan, and craftsmen like Hank Silver, one of 40 Americans who helped to restore the cathedral, about what Notre Dame means to them. They also took viewers on a tour of the cathedral. Notre Dame is home to what Crawford calls "beautiful imperfections." One of those was pointed out during

a broadcast by host Craig Melvin; it was a stain on the right hand of a statue of Christ, caused when the cathedral's lead roof melted and dripped down onto the sanctuary below.

For Crawford, exploring and collaborating with his colleagues, and witnessing history and relating it to others, has been the honor of his professional life.

"A lot of times in my line of work you visit people on their worst days," he says. "Thankfully no one was killed [at Notre Dame], but it was a cultural tragedy that shook the world whether you're Catholic or not. I was in awe that they were able to come together in a world that is so divisive ... It was a beautiful human achievement."

## 1972

**Alan Hoxie** of Phoenix, Ariz., is an author, songwriter and performer. Hoxie has seven books available on Amazon and multiple songs available on Amazon, Spotify and iTunes. He is a drummer and guitarist and has performed with several bands, drawing on his experiences of performing with Hoxie, Fitzgerald and Haines, a Crosby, Stills and Nash-style group he helped found at Le Moyne. In addition to his work as an artist and creator, he serves as a yoga instructor at the senior golf resort where he resides.



## 1971

**William Latrelle, M.D.**, of Malone, N.Y., was presented with the Henry I. Fineberg Award from the Medical Society of the State of New York (MSSNY) this spring. Latrelle is board certified in internal medicine and has practiced his specialty in Malone since 1980 and at the Saint Regis Mohawk Health Center in Hogsburg (Akwasasne), N.Y., since 1982. He served for many years as the director of outpatient medical practice at Alice Hyde Medical Center and as chief medical officer for several years before the hospital became part of the University of Vermont Health Network.

Latreille held numerous leadership positions with the MSSNY. Most recently, he served a five-year term as the chair of its House of Delegates.

## 1975

**Leonard Cisternino** of Syracuse, N.Y., retired from AT&T as an area sales manager.

## 1977

**John Lillis** of Old Chatham, N.Y., was elected president of the Crandell Theatre, the oldest and largest single-screen movie theater in Columbia County, N.Y.

## 1978

**Denise (Missigman) Quinn** of Mason, Ohio, was named area council liaison of the year and board member of the year for the Midwest region at the annual Boys & Girls Clubs of America's Midwest Conference.

## 1981

**John Brennan, M.D.**, of Dallas, Texas, joined the alumni board at the Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health.

## 1985

**Robert Dukat** of Tampa, Fla., retired after 39 years of service to the federal government. Dukat spent 21 years on active duty in the United States Air Force and 18 years as a civilian employee in the Defense Intelligence Agency. His professional assignments brought him around the world, with posts in Japan, the Philippines, Hawaii, Saudi Arabia, Iraq and Florida.

**John Douglas Thompson** of Brooklyn, N.Y., portrayed the titular character in the Royal Shakespeare Company's recent production of *Othello*. It is a role that Thompson knows intimately, and for which he has previously been honored with an Obie Award and Lucille Lortel Award. In an interview with Folger Shakespeare Library, Thompson recalled being introduced to the Bard by his mother, who would sometimes recite passages from *Julius Caesar* to him. He said that it was "the poetry that kept me at Shakespeare's doorstep ... so profound, so in tune with the best of our intellectual and emotional selves."

## 1986

**Paul Alteri** of Watertown, N.Y., retired as an associate professor of criminal justice at Jefferson Community College on Jan. 1.

**Bryan Hartin** of Daniel Island, S.C., retired as

executive vice president, sales and marketing at Iridium Communications Inc.

**Catherine (Spendley) O'Brien, Ed.D.**, of Houston, Texas, has been named a member of Silver Fox Advisors of Houston.

**Paul Tonnesen** of Southlake, Tex., was appointed chief executive officer of Petmate, a global provider of pet supplies.

## 1987

**Christine (Makhull) Cotton** of Chapel Hill, N.C., was appointed chief executive officer of PORCH Communities and has stepped down from her position as chair of the organization's board of directors. Founded in 2010, PORCH helps fight food insecurity. (story, page 24)

**Christopher Sasso** of Kingwood, Texas, was named chief development officer for Milestone Funeral Partners.

## 1992

**Scott Landers, CPA**, of North Andover, Mass., was named chief executive officer of Achievers Solutions Inc., a Toronto-based employee engagement and recognition software company.

**Richard Sheffer** of Victor, N.Y., was named executive vice president and chief information technology office at Canandaigua National Bank.

## 1994

**Christopher Connelly** of Arlington, Mass., is the owner and landscape designer at Green Dad Landscape Designs.

*Continued on page 36*



# Scenic Vows

Katie Hogan '17 and Tyler DeVore share a commitment to helping others that, fortunately, led them to one another. Katie and Tyler met in January of 2020, when they were both working as registered nurses at Strong Memorial Hospital in Rochester, New York. Shortly after, the COVID-19 pandemic struck, and they were on the front lines, caring for people during a frightening and uncertain time. They quickly forged a friendship, relying on one another in an intense environment, but it wasn't until 2021 that their relationship blossomed. The pair went out for a drink after work one evening and a man sent a round to their table in appreciation for all they had done during the pandemic. As he was leaving, he thanked them and commented that they were "a cute couple." That got Katie and Tyler thinking.

The pair's first official date was at Letchworth State Park in Castile, New York. It turns out that, in addition to their devotion to their work, Katie and Tyler both share a love of the outdoors, so much so that, when Tyler decided to propose to Katie, he knew that he wanted the location to be scenic and memorable. After two sites he initially chose did not work out, he popped the question at a Rochester-area park, Cobbs Hill, with the help of two close friends. It

was a magical moment. In fact, Katie and Tyler were both so elated that they nearly forgot to put the ring on the bride-to-be's finger.

Katie and Tyler were married at the Hiland Park Country Club in Queensbury, New York, surrounded by their family and friends, which included several Le Moyne graduates. Katie's father, Timothy Hogan, is a member of the Class of 1985; her grandfather, the late Tom Hogan, was a member of the College's inaugural Class of 1951 and taught on The Heights for nearly 40 years; and multiple other loved ones are also Dolphins.

Katie says that in Tyler she has found someone who is "loyal, humble and supports me no matter what." She admires his "honesty, gentle spirit and resilience." Tyler was born with profound hearing loss and eventually underwent surgery for bilateral cochlear implants. In an appropriate twist of fate, Katie took an American Sign Language class at Le Moyne – and she thinks she impressed him when she was able to sign to patients. Meanwhile, Tyler is grateful for Katie's "loyalty, love, patience and attentiveness." They are a team, and as the challenges present at the beginning of their relationship taught them, together they "can get through anything."

## STILL THE ONE



It did not take Sarah Harmatuk '17 and Willie Walker long to realize that they wanted to walk through life together. They began dating as juniors at two Syracuse area high schools. They remained a team throughout their college years, with Sarah at Le Moyne and Willie at Onondaga Community College and later Florida A&M University. The couple briefly lived in the Sunshine State before returning to Central New York and becoming engaged during a party at their new home, surrounded by their family and friends. They were married last summer at Hendricks Chapel on the Syracuse University campus, approximately 13 years after they first met.

Their wedding day was full of moments Sarah and Willie will cherish forever, but two in particular stand out for them. The first was during their ceremony, when they jumped the broom. It is a tradition in the African-American community that symbolizes the sweeping away of the past and the start of a new life together, and it also honors the couple's ancestors. The second was when they had their first dance as a married couple to Teddy Swims' version of the Shania Twain song, *You're Still the One*. It seemed appropriate to them given that their relationship has grown and thrived from adolescence to adulthood.

"Being friends first creates longevity because you have a foundation that's initially built on similarities and like interests, and those are rarely things that change negatively," Sarah says. "As your friendship grows, your relationship grows as well, so you always have that place you can tap into when things get hard that can be a reminder for why you're together in the first place."

## Where Are They Now



## Values-Based Care

A combination of faith and fate brought Steven Siano '15, M.D., to Le Moyne in the fall of 2011. A Liverpool, New York, native with a passion for science, Siano initially envisioned leaving Central New York to attend college, but the close-knit community he found on campus ultimately drew him to the Heights. Siano studied biology as an undergraduate. He also served as a resident adviser in Dablon Hall, member of the Student Government Association and intern in the Office of Admission. He accepted an invitation to speak at Le Moyne President Linda LeMura's 2014 inauguration. The intangible lessons he learned about persistence, accountability and empathy through experiences like these most inform the work he does today at the Raleigh-based Carolina Spine Center. Siano is board certified in the growing

field of physical medicine and rehabilitation. Put simply, he specializes in nonsurgical treatment of painful musculoskeletal disorders. His specialty reflects what Siano sees as a move in medicine toward "value-based care," or care that is more efficient and focused on prevention of illness. The patients he works with aren't fixated on what the results of a particular blood test are; they simply want to know that they can climb stairs or pick up their children or grandchildren without pain. In that respect, Siano's role aligns closely with the Jesuit ideal of *cura personalis*, or care for the whole person.

His work has taught Siano that well-rounded people are better doctors. He takes pride in the fact that, thanks to his broad-based liberal arts education, he can talk to his patients about one of Shakespeare's plays (if they so choose) as well as the injection he may

be administering to them. He also deeply values the Jesuit commitment to service. In fact, it led him back to Le Moyne when he was a student at SUNY Upstate Medical University to teach two courses — an anatomy lab for undergraduate students and a population-based pharmacology course for graduate students in the Physician Assistant Studies Program. One of his greatest joys today is traveling to Rockingham, North Carolina, a medically underserved area about 100 miles southwest of Raleigh, every month to treat patients there.

A decade after graduating from Le Moyne, Siano draws on the lessons he learned at the College every day.

"I don't think I would be the person I am today without having had the experiences I had at Le Moyne," he says. "It's shaped me forever, and I'm immensely grateful for that."

Continued from page 33

**Daniel Corrou, S.J.**, of Beirut, Lebanon, was recognized for his work in the nation in an article in *The New York Times* titled "The Discarded Women on Lebanon."

### 1995

**David Bartell** of Baldwinsville, N.Y., joined the Upstate Foundation as assistant vice president for development.

### 1996

**Kathleen O'Brien** of Shelburn, Vt., was named chief executive officer of Seventh Generation, a Unilever company.

### 1998

**William Derschang, G'07** of Fayetteville, N.Y., was promoted to senior director of advancement information services at Le Moyne.

**Lauren (Petrigala) Smythe** of Leesburg, Va., is a human capital consultant at Deloitte.

### 1999

**Michael Miller** of Ballston Spa, N.Y., was appointed superintendent of the Galway Central School District.



### 2000

**Brian Schneider** of Unionville, Tenn., was named Commander of Commodore Task Force 67 during a change of command ceremony at Naval Air Station Sigonella, Italy, in August 2024.

### 2001

**Julle (Gulnn) Mann** of Syracuse, N.Y., is chair of

the board of directors of the YMCA of Central New York.

**Ann (Snyderman) McGowan** of Rome, N.Y., is the associate vice president, budget, auxiliary services and risk management at Le Moyne College.

### 2002

**Meggan (Freytag) Alt** of New Hartford, N.Y., has been named elementary school principal for the Clinton Central School District.

**Erin Shaffer-Beadle** of Murrells Inlet, S.C., was promoted to executive vice president and chief financial officer of Tideland Health.

### 2003

**Erin (Schmidtka) Craig, G'08** of Ada, Mich., joined Transylvania University as senior vice president, enrollment management.

**Jeremy Doran** of Camillus, N.Y., was named president of the Home Builders and Remodelers of Central New York.

**Nancy (Hoover) Sheftic, G'09** of Baldwinsville, N.Y., was promoted to vice president - financial planning director at Morgan Stanley after receiving the company's certified financial planner designation.

### 2004

**Caitlin McVey** of Clearwater, Fla., was named communications manager for the City of Dunedin, Fla.

**Carlissa (Barillaro) Miles, G'09** of Gansevoort, N.Y., was promoted to development associate at Skidmore College.

### 2006

**John Ramus** of Point Pleasant, N.Y., is the district manager the Social Security Administration.

**Carrle Rood, Ph.D.**, of Jamesville, N.Y., was among 11 educators selected across the SUNY system for the

yearlong SUNY Accessibility Advocates and Allies Faculty Fellowship Program.

**Elizabeth Elacqua, Ph.D.**, of State College, Pa., has received tenure as a chemistry professor at Penn State.

### 2007

**Sarah (Griffith) Pavla** of Rochester, N.Y., opened a new storefront for her specialty boutique consignment shop and style consulting business, Second Look Styling.

### 2009

**Amanda (Miles) Delaney** of Syracuse, N.Y., was named senior director of community and social impact programs at Le Moyne College.

**Alexander Vanderpool** of Auburn, N.Y., was promoted to principal at DiMarco, Abiusi & Pascarella CPAs PC.

**Markus Fallico** of Canton, Ga., was promoted to vice president of sales of North America for NSI Industries.

### 2010

**Staci Dennis-Taylor** of Syracuse, N.Y., was elected a Syracuse City Court judge.

**Cyle Farwell** of Manlius, N.Y., joined Chimera Integrations, LLC as a business development manager.

**Aleah Forell, R.N.**, of Baldwinsville, N.Y., is a registered nurse in pediatrics at SUNY Upstate Medical Center.

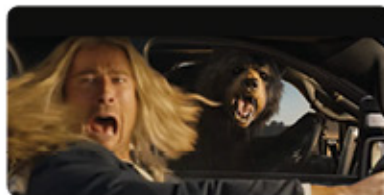
**Andrey Makarchuk, G'11** of Camillus, N.Y., was promoted to principal at DiMarco, Abiusi & Pascarella CPAs PC.

**Daniel Rosenbaum** of Schenectady, N.Y., was named chief executive officer of NextGen Label Group.

### 2011

**Matthew Chadderdon** of Auburn, N.Y., is an account executive at Becton Dickinson.

## Alumni Achievements



### BRAND MAGIC

**1990 ▶ John McAdorey** of Richmond, Va., showcased his creative expertise on one of the world's largest advertising stages, producing an ad for Ram Trucks featuring Glen Powell that aired during Super Bowl LIX. It was the seventh Super Bowl commercial McAdorey has produced. The Le Moyne graduate is the head of production/Texas at Omnicom Productions. In that role, he continues to lead innovative content creation for major brands, demonstrating his industry leadership and passion for high-impact storytelling. An English major at Le Moyne, McAdorey closely studies the ways in which advertising has evolved since he was an undergraduate. As he put it: "What was once primarily focused on traditional broadcast has splintered into a diverse mix of social channels, digital activations, and other platforms alongside traditional media. Today, brands have more ways than ever to deliver their message."

**Megan (Andolina) DiDomenico** of Liverpool, N.Y., was named executive director, alumni engagement and volunteer programs in the Office of Alumni Engagement and Annual Giving at Syracuse University.

**Elliott Goodness** of Rochester, N.Y., was named to *Rochester Business Journal's* 2025 Health Care Heroes list. Goodness is a program manager at Rochester Regional Health's Pinewild Mental Health Clinic.

## 2012

**Kylee (Kleehle) McGrath** of Philadelphia, N.Y., is chief executive officer of Watertown Local Development Corporation.

## 2013

**Erin (Trombley) Brown, G'14** of Camillus, N.Y., was promoted to vice president of finance at Pinckney Hugo Group.

## 2014

**Hanna Krizman** of Manlius, N.Y., is a senior account manager at Pinckney Hugo Group.

## 2015

**Samantha (Fraser) Hallenbeck** of Tribes Hill, N.Y., is a coordinator of special education within the Amsterdam City School District.

## 2017

**Timothy Buff** of Niskayuna, N.Y., was promoted to vice president, executive wealth at Goldman Sachs Ayco.

## 2019

**Lauren Devlin** of New Hartford, N.Y., joined the Manufacturers Association of Central New York as a marketing and communications specialist.

**Ayuen Gal, G'22** of Yonkers, N.Y., has joined The Agency, a global boutique real estate brokerage, as a real estate broker.

## 2020

**Miranda Aldrich** of Rome, N.Y.,

is a licensed master social worker employed at Mohawk Valley Health Systems Wynn.

**Mia Franko, G'21** of Johnstown, N.Y., is an admissions counselor at SUNY Fulton-Montgomery Community College.

**Ana Martinez** of Liverpool, N.Y., is a senior technician employer at National Grid.

**Michael Songer** of Liverpool, N.Y., is a pastoral associate for administration at All Saints Parish and a spiritual facilitator with the Ignatian Volunteer Corps.

**Haley Stuart, G'21** of Cicero, N.Y., is an adjunct professor of dance at Le Moyne College.

**Alex Zwierzynski, G'21**, of Syracuse, N.Y., recently gained a Certification of Advanced Qualifications in Dermatology. Zwierzynski is one of the first physician assistants in New York state to earn this credential. He was also invited to Atlanta, Ga., by the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants to assist in test development for dermatology-related content in the upcoming national board exams.

## 2021

**Daniel Bonsangue** of Albany, N.Y., is an enforcement investigative auditor at New York State Public Campaign Finance Board.

**Jake Lutz** of Hamburg, N.Y., is a lead program manager, AMI at National Grid.

**Zachary Revette, G'24** of Mexico, N.Y., was hired by Oswego Health Medical Practice as a physician assistant for Lakeshore ENT.

**Irene Surapine** of Norwalk, Conn. is a human resources analyst at AQR Capital Management.

## 2022

**Christian Daley** of Skaneateles, N.Y., is an account executive at Mohawk Global.

**Ethan Fish** of Bethel, Vt., is a registered nurse at Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center in Hanover, N.H., working

in the center's Critical Care Cardiovascular Unit.

**Nathan Harker** of Johnson City, N.Y., was promoted to full-time editor and master control board operator with Nexstar Media Group, Inc.

**Schylar Kurth** of Westport, N.Y., was promoted to senior accountant at DiMarco, Abiusi & Pascarella CPAs PC.

**Shannon Nye, G'24** of Wellsville, N.Y., was hired by Jones Memorial Hospital as a physician assistant.

**Paul Stannard** of Syracuse, N.Y., was hired by Visit Syracuse as a marketing and design specialist.

## 2023

**Nicholas Bove, G'24** of Camillus, N.Y., is a tax staff accountant for Darnible & McKee, L.L.P.

**Alliya Clark** of Syracuse, N.Y., is an art teacher at the Syracuse City School District.

**Benjamin Mousseau** of West Sand Lake, N.Y., is a financial analyst on the financial planning and analysis team at Equitable.

## 2024

**Tyler Blanco** of Liverpool, N.Y., is a special education teacher at Corcoran High School.

**Matthew Davis** of Albany, N.Y., has been hired as a physician assistant for Bassett Healthcare as part of its Emergency Medicine Team.

**Ryan Jantsch** of Overland Park, Kan., is a physician assistant at Newman Regional Health.

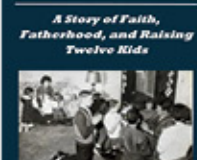
**Caleb Schwarz** of Binghamton, N.Y., is a case manager at Refugee and Immigrant Self-Empowerment.

### CALLING MR. MAYS



Paul Kocak  
Illustrations by Dan Wilentz

### In the Name of the Father...



Robert F. McAllister

### What's Philanthropy to Philomena?



written by  
Meg George  
Illustrated by  
LAWREN SIDER

## Alumni Bookshelf

**1970 ▶ Paul Kocak** of Syracuse, N.Y., is the author of *Calling Mr. Mays*. In it, Kocak recounts different eras of his life from the 1950s to the present through the lens of baseball and his hero, Willie Mays.

**1978 ▶ Robert McAllister** of Woodstock, Md., is the author of *In the Name of the Father... A Story of Faith, Fatherhood, and Raising Twelve Kids*. McAllister reflects upon his childhood in East Syracuse N.Y., as one of 12 children, and the lessons learned from his parents, especially his father, about faith and supporting a large family. McAllister hopes that readers will be able to relate to some of the memories he shares as they recall their childhood experiences or raising their own children.

**2012 ▶ Meg George** of West Palm Beach, Florida, is the author of *What's Philanthropy to Philomena*, a book that teaches children about the value of giving to others, whether time or money. George spoke about the book during a segment on CBS Morning Plus. (story, page 27)



## PHILANTHROPY STRENGTHENS THE “CASTLE” |

Phil Kenney '73, M.D., grew up within walking distance of Le Moyne and remembers as a young child that the College “seemed almost like a castle to me.” The son of long-time economics Professor James Kenney, Phil attended Christian Brothers Academy and when the time came to choose a college, his comfort and familiarity with Le Moyne (along with the free tuition) led him to the Heights.



(left) Phil Kenney and his wife Jeannette Lee, on right, with son Keith and his wife Marisa, on left, son Brian and his wife Vanessa, center, and their grandchildren during a recent visit to campus.

“One aspect of being a student at Le Moyne in my time, and I suspect is still the case, was the close relationship with faculty,” said Phil. He recalls that James F. O’Brien, S.J., a biology professor, served as his mentor. Knowing that Phil was interested in going to medical school, Father O’Brien told him about an opportunity at a local hospital, where Phil got a part-time job as a phlebotomist. That allowed him to see every part of the hospital “from the emergency room to the operating room and everything in between.”

After graduating from Le Moyne, Phil was accepted to Johns Hopkins Medical School, where he met Jeannette Lee, who was earning her doctorate in biostatistics there. Married in 1977, they both enjoyed long careers in academia, Phil as professor and chair of the Department of Radiology at the University of

Arkansas in Little Rock and Jeannette as an esteemed professor in the Department of Biostatistics at University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences.

Their work allowed the couple to travel in the U.S. and abroad to lecture and teach. He grew comfortable travelling when his father took the family on work trips, including a sabbatical in Cambridge, England, during his junior year in high school when they visited a number of places in Great Britain as well as Ireland, France, Germany and Brussels.

His lifelong appreciation for Le Moyne is shown by how he has given back to his alma mater, including endowing an economics scholarship in 2012 in memory of his father (who passed away in 2009), the purchase in 2020 of a new permanent magnet 90 MHz NMR for the departments of chemistry, biology and physics, and, in 2024, the

endowment of the Drs. Kenney- Lee Science Scholarship for Athletics.

“We both believe in using some of our money to support causes, and concluded that rather than giving many small donations, we wanted to make bigger donations,” said Phil.

While not an athlete at the college level, Phil said he values athletics for young people for the life lessons it teaches.

“Science degrees are a bit tougher for student athletes, due to their other time commitments,” he said. “The scholarship is also tied with the College’s move to Division I, as I figured there would be a need to recruit a more competitive level of athletes, and this might attract some who might otherwise have gone elsewhere.” ☺

By Joe Della Posta

**“In my career, I learned to work and study hard but to enjoy it.”**

Phil Kenney '73, M.D.

## In Memoriam

## Love &amp; Marriage

Sarah Harmatuk-Walker '17 to  
Willie Walker

Inez Timberger '17 married Elias  
Cerussi



## Share Your Story

Do you have a story about an achievement, an interesting journey, or a cool place you visited? We would love to share your photo and short story!

Submit stories to  
Molly McCarthy at  
[mccartmk@lemoyne.edu](mailto:mccartmk@lemoyne.edu).

Submit class notes  
to [lemoyne.edu/alumni](mailto:lemoyne.edu/alumni).

The magazine submission  
deadline for the next issue is  
**Sept. 1, 2025.**

The editorial staff reserves the right to edit  
for content, accuracy and length. Publication  
of achievements of our alumni in the  
magazine does not constitute endorsement  
by Le Moyne College.

## A Long Life, Well Lived



Andrew L. Szebenyi, S.J., who spent 48 years at Le Moyne – 38 years teaching biology and 10 years as “Jesuit scientist in residence” – passed away at the age of 96 on Tuesday, April 15.

Born in Szeged, Hungary, in 1928, Father Szebenyi and his family were traumatized by the events of World War II, whose brutality they experienced at their doorstep. In early 1947, his plans were to go to medical school when he was first struck with an unexpected but strong desire to become a priest. In August of 1947 he entered the Jesuit novitiate, Manréza, in Budapest.

During his novitiate, an anti-religion communist regime controlled the government, and it became clear that Father Szebenyi (and his fellow novices) would never be able to become priests in Hungary. Organized by the novice master, he was one of 12 novices who endured a harrowing, danger-filled escape from Hungary to Vienna in Austria, through the Iron Curtain, and on to the American zone in Mariazell. They were lucky. Another group of novices who tried to escape at the same time were apprehended and imprisoned.

After the novitiate, Father Szebenyi moved to Germany for Juniorate studies and then to Belgium for philosophy. Next came eight years in England, at Oxford University and then Heythrop College, where he finished his theological studies and was ordained to the priesthood on the feast of St. Ignatius in 1961. He later moved on to doctoral studies at Syracuse University, where he earned a Ph.D. in biology.

He joined the faculty at Le Moyne in 1963. In addition to his academic duties at Le Moyne, Father Szebenyi looked forward to his parish calls for Masses and especially enjoyed regularly saying Mass in Le Moyne’s chapel for Hungarian Catholics in Syracuse.

In 2017, he was close to 90 years old when he moved to Murray-Weigel Hall Jesuit Community at Fordham, where he endeared himself to all. He referred to his time at Murray-Weigel as his final “semester in the school of life. When this is done, there is the time of graduation, when I can take my hat and throw it in the air as high as I can. Then comes real life, a life that does not know death.”

\*This text was based on an obituary that appeared on the Jesuits USA East website.

Daniel Brown '51  
Robert C. Kane '51  
William McCarthy '51  
Rocco Cappuccilli '52  
Alfred Del Prato '52  
Thomas Murphy '52  
John Ferris '53  
Joan Headd '53  
Richard Sheehan '54  
Joan (Giordano) Cullen '56  
Sally (Boyle) Hutt '56  
Edward Lundy '56  
Joseph Rufa '56  
Daniel Carfagno '57  
Edward Griffith '57  
Stanley Hapanowicz '57  
Patricia (McEntee)

Hartung '57  
Jack O'Neil '57  
James Connors '58  
Rosemary (Swartz)  
Keegan '59  
Malcolm Mullen '59  
John Touchette '59  
Mary Lou (Walsh) Cahill '60  
Anne (Dooher) Lynn '60  
Joanne (Powell) Speech '60  
Daniel Carpenter '61  
Mary (Stengle) Czirr '61  
Richard Fazio '61  
Michael Cogswell '62  
Thomas DeLany '62  
Victor Pietrafesa '62  
Mary (Glass) Rovall '63

Richard Jachim '64  
Harry McCullough '64  
Sandra Murphy '64  
Robert Venner '64  
Robert F. Wilson '64  
Francis A. Sacco '65  
Georganne (Indick)  
Speech '65  
Donna (Monica) Bartlett '66  
John James '66  
Charles Hoyt '67  
Henrya Tomanio '67  
William Warriner '68  
Mark Tremont '69  
Charles Domick '70  
Kim (Toner) Dollard '71  
Kevin J. Freer '71

Geraldine (Giaquint)  
Grady '71  
James Lowe '71  
Colleen Hulbert '72  
Paul Theis '72  
John Thorpe '72  
Thomas Kinane '73  
Raymond Szczec '73  
Edward Cupoli '74  
Stephen Fleury '75  
Gary H. Gapski '75  
Ellen (Karnisky)  
O'Connor '75  
Albert Schmeiser '75  
Ronald Kulba '77  
Daniel Chini '80  
Timothy Lynch '81

Paula (Pabst) Lubas '82  
Elisabeth Toole '85  
Cheryl Abrams '86  
Martin Sweeney '86  
Brian Coughlin '87  
William Smolinski '87  
Scott Klaben '89  
Brian Sexton '89  
Brian Canavan '90  
Michael Donoghue '92  
Jennifer (Proteau)  
Scutari '92  
Patrick Breen '05  
Timothy Kallfelz '06  
Amy (Fortnam) Pine G '08  
Kathleen Creenan '11  
Sara Urciuoli '11



Tom Niland and team celebrate his 200th win as head coach of the Dolphins.

# Thank You, Coach

**2004** ▶ Members of the Le Moyne community mourned the loss and celebrated the life of Thomas Niland Jr., the College's first athletic director, who died following a long illness. Niland spent more than 45 years on the Heights, earning legendary status. When he first arrived on campus in 1947, there were no athletic fields or facilities. Today the College's athletic complex is named after the decorated World War II veteran. Niland was inducted into the Gold Wave Hall of Fame at Le Moyne and was awarded similar honors at Syracuse University and Canisius University.

## Opposing Apartheid

**1986** ▶ Le Moyne students rightly turned their attention to the cause of human rights during South Africa Week. In particular, members of the campus community sat in a mock prison in front of Nelligan Hall in order to show their solidarity with those who had been unjustly imprisoned for protesting apartheid in South Africa, a system of laws that restricted where people could work and go to school, and who they could associate with. They also signed a petition expressing their opposition to apartheid.



## Dolphin History

### RUNNERS TAKE YOUR MARK



**2014** ▶ Approximately 100 alumni and friends of the College laced up their sneakers, warmed up their muscles and set off on the inaugural Dolphin Dash, a 5-K race that wove its way around the Le Moyne campus during Reunion Weekend. It has become a Reunion staple, growing every year since its inception. What's more, the Dolphin Dash is also a chance for participants, from speedsters to casual joggers, to give back. Funds raised from the race are used to support scholarships at Le Moyne.

### HOME SWEET HALL



**1963** ▶ Dablon Hall was completed at an estimated cost of \$841,000. It was set to house 200 men, making it larger than Nelligan Hall, which housed 175 men.

# D

## DOLPHIN HISTORY

**1948 ▶ A Celebratory Move.** The very first 'Phins celebrated the move from the College's initial home on James Street to its current home on the Heights with a festive motorcade. Once they arrived on campus, the students were addressed by Bishop Walter Foery, who led the Diocese of Syracuse, and William Schlaerth, S.J., who would go on to become the second president of the College.

**1958 ▶ Come on In, the Water's Fine.** A brief item in the Feb. 27, 1958, issue of *The Dolphin* recruited community members for a Polar Bear plunge. Bottlenose dolphins are said to prefer temperatures ranging from 50 to 90 degrees Fahrenheit. (It is not clear how many of the Le Moyne variety took up this particular challenge.)

**1973 ▶ DayHops Unite.** After taking something of a hiatus, the so-called Day-Hop Council was revamped in order to represent the interests and needs of Le Moyne's commuter student population. Among the council's primary goals was to ensure that these students were fully part of the Le Moyne community. Today Le Moyne is proud to count more than 800 commuter students among the 'Phin family. Commuters are involved on campus in everything from athletics to student government to the performing arts, and the College has a chapter of Tau Sigma, the National Honor Society for Commuter Students.

**1997 ▶ A Glimpse of the Future.** There is nothing out of the ordinary about an online class today, but it wasn't yet the norm in 1997. One member of Le Moyne's Jesuit community saw the potential of virtual learning. Raymond Bucko, S.J., taught two classes to Le Moyne students remotely from Fairfield University. Father Bucko called it "the most exciting experiment in teaching I have ever undertaken." His students seemed to agree. An article in *The Dolphin* quoted Amy (Begier) Shaver '98 as saying, "The course on the web is very enjoyable and a very interesting idea."



## Service with Honor

Daniel McNeil III '77 and Barbara Maylone Karper, HA '07 were honored for their service to the College at the 2025 Le Moyne in New York Gala, which was held in April at Current at Pier 59. McNeil is the founder, chief executive officer and chairman of the board of McNeil and Company Inc., which provides specialized product design, risk management, underwriting and claims services. He is the namesake and chief supporter of the College's McNeil Institute for Risk and Uncertainty. Karper is the associate provost for equity, diversity, inclusion and belonging. She was named an honorary alumna of Le Moyne in 2007.

## HOLISTIC ROOTS

Anthony "Tony" Dwyer '87 is the CFO of Prompt Therapy Solutions, a leading national health-tech software company co-founded by his sons, Mike and Tim, and family friends. Tony joined Prompt Therapy in June 2024 following a 37-year career on Wall Street as an analyst, market strategist and macroeconomist. Tony is a member of the College's board of trustees and chair of its Investment Committee. He and his wife, Patty, have generously agreed to support the creation of a new fitness and wellness facility at Le Moyne, which will be named the Dwyer Center for Health and Wellness in honor of Tony's mother, Ellen (O'Shea) Dwyer '58. Tony credited his mother and her dear friend, longtime Le Moyne administrator Gen Saya, with making it possible for him to benefit from a holistic education that encompasses the mind, body and soul. He hopes to provide a similar opportunity for the next generation of Le Moyne students.

(left to right) The Dwyer family, Tim, Patty, Mike and Tony.



### What is your idea of perfect happiness?

I think I'm in it. Living in Ramsey, New Jersey, with my wife, Patty, and dog, and working with my sons, Mike and Tim, in their software business. That is perfect happiness – living and working and loving my family.

### Do you have a personal motto?

When I was growing up, there were two things in particular that my dad emphasized to me: Do your best and tell the truth. When my wife and I started our own family, we carried on those lessons and added one more: Believe in yourself. We call them "the three things."

### What characteristic do you most admire in other people?

I call it confident humility. It isn't about being better or worse than anyone else, but knowing our strengths and weaknesses and asking for help.

**Who do you most admire?** My wife and children. They embody a deep sense of

integrity, a love of adventure, and pushing through adversity while employing "the three things."

### What is something that you wish more people understood about what it means to be generous?

How happy it can make you. Sometimes people fall into the trap of thinking that having the most wealth brings you fulfillment, but I find that being able to give back makes me the happiest. God has blessed me with wonderful friends and family, and has put me in a position to be able to give back. That has been one of the greatest gifts of my life.

**What do you treasure most?** My family, my friends and my spirituality. All three allow for peace when life's challenges arrive.

**What is your most marked characteristic?** I would rather have others answer that question because how I act in life is so much more important than what I believe I am.

My hope is that those that know me would say I am fun to be around, but also someone they can count on during their most challenging times.

### What is something you do for fun?

Other than work at the company my eldest son, Mike, founded with his best friend, my family has an all-season place in the Adirondacks and I learned how to fly. To date we've probably spent over 1,000 hours in an airplane traveling around the country as a family. When we're on a plane, there are no distractions and we can just talk to each other. I find it to be so much fun. Apart from that, I play golf, ski, scuba dive, skydive – really anything that boosts the adrenaline and allows me to find peace in the great outdoors.

**What is the best piece of advice you have ever received?** Do the next right thing and leave the results up to God.

# Alumni Events

You won't know ...  
unless we know!

The only way we get the word out about great events is by mail or email, so please email [alumni@lemoyne.edu](mailto:alumni@lemoyne.edu) with your updated contact information.

Visit [lemoyne.edu/alumni](http://lemoyne.edu/alumni) to stay in touch with your Dolphin Family.



REUNION WEEKEND 2026

MAY 29 - 31, 2026

In addition to celebrating those whose class years end in "1" and "6," we will host special affinity reunions. Golden Reunion for the class of 1976, will be held May 15-17, 2026.



INSIGHTS FROM  
THE HEIGHTS

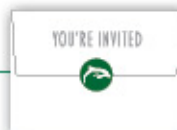
New webinars are being planned for fall 2025. They are designed to educate, inspire and enlighten members of our Le Moyne community. Email [alumni@lemoyne.edu](mailto:alumni@lemoyne.edu) to get on our mailing list for new webinars.



FAMILY WEEKEND AND  
'DOC' JOINER HOMECOMING

SEPT. 19-21, 2025

Enjoy some quality time with your 'Phin and learn about what his life is like on the Heights. Keep up with activities at [lemoyne.edu/familyweekend](http://lemoyne.edu/familyweekend) for details about the weekend.



## Don't get left out.

Do we have your current mailing address? Does your mail still go to your parents' address? Even though most of the College's communication is via email, we need to know where you live to invite you to events in your area.



## You've got mail ... or do you?

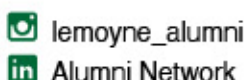
Have you received email from your alma mater? If not, we probably don't have your current address. **This is our primary means of communication**, so don't miss important announcements and invitations.



## Share the joy.

Do you have a new job or promotion? Did you get married? Have a baby? Award, achievement, honor? Let us know about it. Share your accomplishment with us to be added in future editions.

**Update your information** with the Office of Alumni and Parent Engagement  
315-445-4563 | [alumni@lemoyne.edu](mailto:alumni@lemoyne.edu)



Follow us on Instagram and join our LinkedIn group to stay aware of upcoming events and to keep in touch with fellow Dolphins.



# 75 Years of Pride

Nearly 300 graduate students and more than 580 undergraduate students received their degrees from Le Moyne this spring in ceremonies held on the College's campus and at the New York State Fairgrounds' Expo Center respectively. In her remarks to the undergraduate students, President Linda LeMura, Ph.D., expressed her confidence in them, saying, "I know the kinds of lives you lead because I've watched you live at Le Moyne. I've seen your compassion and generosity ... I've seen your grace and courage, win or lose ... I've seen your intellect and tenacity challenging the known and wrestling with the unknown ... I've seen your hope and faith, your laughter, your energy and your optimism, your idealism and humanity in so many different ways and places." This was the 75th class of students to graduate from Le Moyne.

[See photos and video from commencement at ►](#)



# Le Moyne College Fund

The Le Moyne College Fund supports every aspect of the College – students, academic programs, faculty, athletics, facilities and more.

The fund helps to advance the following key priorities to enable students to enjoy a rich, diverse educational experience:

- Student Aid
- Student Services
- Instruction and Academic Support

Every gift to the Le Moyne College Fund goes to work immediately to shape rich, intellectual experiences for all students that will prepare them to be ethical, resilient leaders.

## Give Securely Online

Should you prefer to make a secure gift, set up scheduled pledge payments, or make a perpetual gift by credit card, visit [lemoyne.edu/give](https://lemoyne.edu/give) or scan the QR code.

You can also contact us at 315-445-4632.



SCAN TO MAKE YOUR GIFT!

# Thank you.

## LE MOYNE

Advancement & Innovation



"In these four years, we've grown to become the people we were meant to be in this moment. In these four years, we've been four different people, each year bettering ourselves one lesson learned at a time. Our growth is eternal and we will continue to grow to be extraordinary people."

Samara Roy Chowdhury

a biology major, the 2025 student commencement speaker

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When I was looking out at our planet, I thought: 'We have to take care of it. We have to take care of each other, too.' That became really important to me on orbit."

Jeanette Epps, Ph.D. '92

