

saint francis

A Magazine for Alumni and Friends of the University of Saint Francis



LETTER FROM OUR PRESIDENT



“Shout joyfully to
God, all the earth;
sing of his glorious
name; give him
glorious praise.”

Psalm 66:2 (NABRE)

Dear Alumni and Friends,

As we conclude another academic year at the University of Saint Francis, I am reminded how blessed we are to be a part of such a wonderful institution. I continue to be amazed not only at the transformative impact of a Saint Francis education for our students but also at their deep commitment to making a difference in the world.

As we implement our Renew 2028 strategic plan—spearheaded by our sponsors, the Sisters of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration, with extensive input from our Saint Francis community—we focus on finding ways to further help our students in the years and decades to come.

The goals of Renew 2028 are to:

- Become a Midwest destination for Catholic higher education
- Form graduates committed to professional excellence, spiritual growth and service to others
- Cultivate a vibrant and relational environment that supports learning and human development
- Create a thriving workplace and institutional excellence
- Generate new philanthropic resources

Each of the five goals contains strategies and actions to achieve the desired results. Most importantly, Renew 2028 was developed to realize our renewed mission and to build upon the university’s strategic anchors and core values. The strategic anchors of Catholic Identity, the Common Good and Operational Excellence ensure that decision-making is grounded in our mission. The core values of Ceaseless Adoration, Generous Love and Franciscan Joy flow from the Franciscan charism of the university and its founding order and drive the behaviors and activities of university employees.

This is an exciting time at Saint Francis, and we are blessed by alumni and friends who share our commitment to progress and who will embrace innovation in bringing Renew 2028 to life. Thank you for your continued support.

This issue of the Saint Francis magazine highlights alumni and employees—including our Communications expert, the retiring Jane Martin—who make our extended community so special. I encourage you to take the time to learn more about our alumni in Education (Stacy Morrison), Entrepreneurship (Molly Ross), Creative Arts (Stephanie Carpenter), Marketing (Shane Starr), end-of-life healthcare (Amanda Bunn) and the delightful intersection of community service and baseball (Rev. Matt Landry). I hope you enjoy it!

God bless and have a wonderful summer,

Dr. Lance Richey

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FIELD STUDY

Friendship led to love, marriage and a vow to forever embrace adventure

IN LOVE



Love stories often blossom at the University of Saint Francis, but few are quite as fun and quirky as the tale of Jacob (BS '23) and Alaina (Ganser) Hardy (BS '22).

Their story starts with Jacob puzzled by Alaina's cooking instincts, continues with Alaina's mother predicting Jacob's husband potential before any romance started, hits a peak with a pajama-clad proposal in a fire tower and thrives today with visions of future adventures that may or may not include a 2,000-mile hike.

Jacob and Alaina first became friends on a field studies trip to Wisconsin in spring 2022, starting with simultaneously preparing some campfire meals on the first night. "She had a cast-iron griddle with a pot on the griddle that wouldn't boil, and a slab of absolutely frozen meat that burned. I thought, 'Who is this person?'" Jacob said.

"I don't know how to cook at all," Alaina said, then laughed.

"She was very smiley and different," Jacob said, looking past the cooking inexperience, "but really enjoyable to be around."

They became friends, but a love connection was not even on low boil since they were dating other people. Before fall semester, Jacob stopped by Alaina's home to pick something up and Alaina's mother, April, invited him to stay for dinner. "She said to me, 'You should really break up with that other guy and marry this guy,'" Alaina said. "I was so embarrassed—and not interested at the time. She said it again, 'I think you're going to marry him.'" (April Ganser would eventually add, "I told you so.")

Jacob and Alaina's friendship grew, and their love connection simmered. "We liked to hang out with our friends in my school bus in the Achatz parking lot," Jacob said.

Yes, Jacob Hardy owned a small school bus, which he converted into a space where six or seven friends could pile in, eat lunch and chat between classes at Achatz Hall of Science and John and Toni Murray Research Center. Or the friends could hit the road for some weekend fun. The bus carried an ample supply of friends and stories.



That November, Jacob and Alaina took a memorable trip to Chicago's Shedd Aquarium. "We went to Shedd Aquarium and the Christmas tree lighting and then stopped at a little diner on the way home and had milkshakes," Alaina said. "It was like a scene from a movie. I said, 'Are we dating now?'"

Cue the flames of love. They became a couple and eventually took another field studies trip together. Indeed, they credit Saint Francis Professor Jenny Maldonado's trips as a true love catalyst. Over Labor Day weekend in 2023, Jacob and Alaina and another friend went to Hoosier National Forest in Bedford, Indiana. Saturday morning, they woke up from camping and went to the fire tower. "He proposed while the sun was rising," Alaina said. "Very simple, but sweet."

Jacob said he proposed early in the weekend before they were dirty from hiking. "We were still in pajamas, but at least I was clean!" Alaina said.

They were married at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception on May 3, 2024. Jacob, who earned degrees in biology and environmental science, teaches at the Fort Wayne

Children's Zoo and Science Central and has his own piano tuning business. Alaina, who earned a health and exercise science degree, is a teacher's aide at St. John the Baptist Catholic School and works as an emergency medical technician. "We're still figuring it all out," Alaina said.

They hope to have children after more adventures. One lofty goal is hiking the Appalachian Trail from Maine to Georgia. "We'll see what the Lord has in store," Alaina said.

Jacob tends to be quiet and introspective while Alaina is bubbly and extroverted. Alaina admires that Jacob is "very intelligent but not a know-it-all" and said he has helped her grow in her prayer life. Jacob says Alaina always has intriguing ideas that he is excited to analyze and put into motion.

Sometimes, they simply savor how they found each other.

"After we first started dating, we went to winter formal and he actually played the piano for me in Brookside," Alaina said. "That was very magical. I could listen to him play the piano forever."

Letter *Perfect*

STEPHANIE FOUND A PASSION FOR LETTERPRESS PRINTING





**STEPHANIE (FENSTERMAKER)
CARPENTER ('08) FOUND HER
PASSION FOR LETTERPRESS PRINTING
AND NOW WORKS WITH THE WORLD'S
LARGEST COLLECTION OF WOOD
TYPE PIECES. WHEN IT COMES TO
LETTERPRESS AND GRAPHIC DESIGN,
SHE HAS THE RIGHT TOUCH.**

Stephanie (Fenstermaker) Carpenter (BA '08) deals in words and spaces, wood and metal, museums and art galleries, and just about anything in the letterpress industry she can get her hands on. Extra emphasis on “hands on.”

“I love the tactile experience, the action of being hands-on and touching the type, setting the form,” she said. “And all the spacing is very important, just as important as the words on the page.”

Carpenter became program officer at Hamilton Wood Type & Printing Museum in Two Rivers, Wisconsin, in 2019 after eight years as assistant director. The year she started at Hamilton—2011—she married her college sweetheart David (BA '06), a painter and educator; they met her freshman year at Saint Francis. Stephanie's many titles include letterpress printer, educator and graphic designer. She also plays a primary role in running the Wayzgoose conference, where national and international letterpress printing experts converge.

Hamilton Wood Type & Printing Museum houses the world's largest collection of wood type (1.5 million pieces) and Carpenter relishes her role. “The people I get to work with are lovely,” she said. “The letterpress community is all over the world and it's an amazing thing. The internet has helped letterpress stay alive because we can communicate so quickly.”

One of her favorite times of the year is her involvement in organizing the Wayzgoose conference. “It's a magical place with such wonderful people all together.”

Home sweet home

Born and raised in Fort Wayne, Carpenter assumed she would leave the city for college upon graduating from Northrop High School. A visit to Saint Francis and an engaging chat with graphic design professor Alan Nauts changed her mind. “He told me, ‘I can see you finding your place at Saint Francis,’ and he was right. I loved the campus.”

Carpenter studied graphic design, communication arts and photography at Saint Francis, interning with Tim

Brumeloe Fine Art, LaBov and Beyond Marketing and One Lucky Guitar, where she was later employed. She earned a master's degree in graphic design from Indiana University and fell further in love with letterpress printing. “I didn't know until then, but that's what I'm supposed to do.”

After Carpenter made several visits to Wisconsin for projects and work with its wood type collection, then-museum director Jim Moran offered her a full-time position. “It was a dream come true,” she said. “It is a nonprofit museum, and David could continue his painting. He's in education as an adjunct professor, as well. I thought, ‘We'll live that Bohemian lifestyle for a couple years.’ It's now been 13 years.”

As Hamilton Wood Type & Printing Museum program officer, she directs the educational mission of the museum. She also continues to do freelance work with her printing and graphic design skills. She taught as an adjunct at St. Norbert College in De Pere, Wisconsin, and online with East Carolina University in Greenville, North Carolina.

Did you say Franciscan?

The Carpenters have a 3-year-old son, Owen. “We have been teaching him that you are nice to animals, big and small. And this really sweet woman I worked with at the local Franciscan college said, ‘You're raising a little Franciscan.’ I thought, ‘This has come full circle.’ Those Franciscan values are never far away.”

Carpenter loves to demonstrate how letterpress remains a vibrant art form, how you can clean an old piece of wood and turn it into something beautiful. She enjoys interacting with other passionate letterpress printers.

“Letterpress printing is the most sharing and caring community,” she said. “What I like to do is take these historic processes and expand them and turn them on their heads.”

Carpenter started a juried exhibition called New Impressions. “Hamilton is known for preserving history and being active in the contemporary letterpress community. It's all about how we can share that with others, and it has grown over the years. I love letterpress.”



Play Ball

(and make a difference)!

For the second straight year, Rev. Matt Landry (BBA '07) played catch with different people over 30 straight days to generate awareness and money for Gleaners Food Bank of Indiana. In August 2023, he raised \$22,000. He repeated the feat — with even more success, bringing in \$34,000 — in September 2024. The third time, later this year, could be a real charm.

1st Inning

Landry felt compelled to read “A Year of Playing Catch,” by Ethan D. Bryan after discovering—or, as he suspects, being led to discover—the book at the library. With that bit of divine inspiration, Landry grabbed a baseball and some gloves and launched his fundraising home run.



2nd Inning

Landry’s sons Zeke and Luke love baseball and playing catch with their dad, so it was natural to spread the love. Landry started his odyssey with his congregation at Castleton United Methodist Church in Indianapolis. Since then, he has played catch with athletes, business professionals, politicians, friends and people of all ages and backgrounds.

3rd Inning

Conversations while playing catch often start simply. Who’s your favorite team? “That easily leads to conversations about family and memories. Before you know it, you’ve been playing for 15 minutes and you’re getting to know each other.”

4th Inning

Casual chitchat moves deeper as people relax while tossing the baseball. “People know I’m clergy, so conversations often lead to faith. Playing catch helps people feel unguarded and open to talking.”

5th Inning

Landry spent four years as Johnny Cougar while a business administration student at Saint Francis. So, naturally, he made sure to play catch with Rowdie Bear, the mascot for the Indianapolis Indians minor league baseball team.



6th Inning

Word spread during Landry's second go-round of catch last September. He played catch with Indianapolis Star columnist Gregg Doyel, who later shared the experience with his readers. Gleaners also created a short video. "After the Indy Star article, I had messages from people in churches I had served and from people in the community—we ended the month with 140 different donations."



7th Inning

The joy of playing catch—and connecting—spread to everyone, including the people who discovered Landry through his work with the church, where it hosts a Gleaners' mobile food pantry for families in need during the summer. "One person came to the food line distribution and knew about my 30 days of catch the year before. He said, 'I can't play catch, but here's 10 bucks.' It's meaningful that the people we serve also feel the call of generosity to others."



8th Inning

Landry still carries Saint Francis values with him. The late Sister Geraldine Hartke was a friend and mentor who nicknamed him the Franciscan Methodist. "That was a formational time for me in college and it continues to guide me and connect me—especially that call to serve others. I have an image of St. Francis and the San Damiano cross in my office." Landry met his wife Candace through mission work when both helped people affected by Hurricane Katrina.



9th Inning

Landry wasn't sure at first about doing a second year of 30 days of catch, but now he's headed toward his third go-round. "I didn't want it to just be my local church type of thing. With Gleaners' support, I decided to do a second year and a 'Third Annual 30 Days of Catch' sounds good—it's community-building and for a great cause."

TWO SCOOPS OF LOVE



No longer working as a bedside nurse, Molly (Johnson) Ross (BSN '04) still finds purpose and satisfaction in taking care of people. She's intent on delivering all the good vibes.

Some might be surprised to learn Molly (Johnson) Ross puts her nursing skills to work as owner, operator and ice cream connoisseur at Zesto at Coldwater Crossing, a Fort Wayne favorite for fans of sweet summer nights.

As it turns out, ice cream with family and friends is often just the right medicine.

"When you think about taking care of people, Saint Francis homed in on not only taking care of people's physical health, but also their emotional, spiritual and social health," Ross said. "With Zesto, I'm not taking care of people physically, but I'm utilizing the part of nursing that I love—taking care of people's well-being."

Ross spent a few years working as a nurse after earning her BSN, including providing care at St. Joseph Hospital. Deciding

that she "loved taking care of people, but didn't love taking care of sick people," she moved into medical sales. After a few years, she became a stay-at-home mom while assisting with aspects of husband Adam's business, Ross Restoration.

Now comes the part of her story that tends to make people say, "Aww!" Molly and Adam met while they were high school students working at Zesto, so it naturally holds a special place in their hearts. Today, one of their favorite activities on family vacations is to visit local ice cream shops. They've enjoyed it so much they often visualized owning their own ice cream shop, which was not a farfetched idea since Molly calls Adam "a serial entrepreneur."

It happened almost in an instant. While on his way to meet the family for lunch at Panera Bread one spring day in 2023, Adam stopped for gas and casually looked up "ice cream stores for sale in Fort Wayne, Indiana" on his phone. He read this description of one of the first items: "Iconic ice cream shop."

Adam sat down with the family in Panera and said to Molly, "You're never going to believe this."

"We're like, 'It has to be Zesto!'" Molly said.



“With Zesto, I’m not taking care of people physically, but I’m utilizing the part of nursing that I love—taking care of people’s well-being.”

MOLLY (JOHNSON) ROSS (BSN '04)

They shared their cute backstory with the seller, made an offer and bought Zesto at Coldwater Crossing. They started serving ice cream and fun vibes on Sept. 28, 2023. Madison, Lola and George enjoy working with their mother (and father, when he’s not tied up with a restoration gig).

“I love serving people and getting to know those regular customers,” Molly said. “I love hearing people’s stories. When we dreamed, we dreamed about owning an ice cream shop because of those reasons.”

Molly says she continues to use much of what she learned about caring for people during her time at Saint Francis and as a nurse. Her parents Dave and Rosie Johnson are nurses, and Dave is a longtime professor at Saint Francis.

“I love the University of Saint Francis,” Molly said. “I know from experience—when I was out in the community in sales or working as a nurse—Saint Francis grads are held in high esteem; they are well respected and well received.”

Molly tries to emulate the best of her mentors as she works with young people at Zesto.

“Not only am I serving customers, but I’m serving my employees,” she said. “A lot of times, Zesto is a young person’s first job, their first time making eye contact with customers, their first time dealing with somebody who’s upset and first time learning how to de-escalate that. They are learning how to create an environment where people want to come back, and that can transcend to whatever else they do later in life.”

There are some probable entrepreneurs blooming in their children, as Molly characterizes her college-aged daughters as “outgoing and business-minded.” Molly and Adam recently invested in another business that promises to be less physically demanding than restoration or even working in an ice cream shop as they enter the next phase of their lives. That business—Transworld Business Advisors of Fort Wayne—is a brokerage to help people buy and sell businesses. No matter what lies ahead, they will always have a soft spot for Zesto, which they have no plans to relinquish.

“Adam and I are in the ice cream business, not because of our relationship—that’s the icing on the cake and it is a cute story—we’re in the ice cream business because we love people,” Molly said.

After spending much of his career in the ad agency world, Shane Starr now runs his own small, independent brand studio, helping clients build compelling brands and tell their stories more effectively.

Ten years ago, Shane Starr (BA '00) stood at the crossroads of his career with a major decision to make. He knows he made the right choice, but at the time it wasn't easy.

Starr had reached an elite level in the advertising world. He was working as a creative director at GSD&M in Austin, Texas, handling national clients such as L.L.Bean, Walgreens, Chipotle and Marshalls. National agency. Coveted brands. Escalating demands.

"I've been fortunate to learn from some really, really smart people," Starr said.

After seven years in Austin, however, family ties beckoned. Starr and his wife, Erin, are both from the Fort Wayne area. They had embraced parenthood—they now have four children—and their extended families were back in Indiana. Starr could stay on the advertising track—the sky was the limit. But that would come with a cost.

"Working as a creative in a big agency of record is great. There's no better place to learn, because you're being pushed every day. You're competing with other teams who are at the top of their game," he said. "But that nonstop pace is tough to maintain with a family—nights, weekends, and lots of travel. I love advertising, but I knew it couldn't be my long-term plan."

Fortunately, Starr's skills were ample and his options extensive.

He joined One Lucky Guitar in Fort Wayne as a creative strategist and worked there for seven years before deciding to branch out on his own as an independent creative director and brand strategist. Working independently has made it possible for him to serve clients across the country while working from home. "We homeschool, so it's nice to be around when everyone is home during the day," Starr said, referring to his desire to spend time with children Eleanor, Maya, Andrew and Lucy.

Starr now works primarily with nonprofits and startups, helping organizations connect with their audiences and build brands that inspire. Some of

his clients include CatholicVote, Illinois Right to Life, Run with Saints, Last Day Music, Catholic Gigs and the National Catholic Bioethics Center.

"I take everything I've learned at places like GSD&M in helping to build these big, well-known national brands and apply that to organizations that don't necessarily have access to big agencies," he said. "I help organizations tell their story more effectively, in a way that resonates with their audience and evolves."

Starr also serves as a member of the board of Chesterton Academy of St. Scholastica, a classical high school in the Catholic tradition, where the Starrs' oldest daughter studies as one of the school's first students.

"Our diocese is already blessed with great Catholic schools," he said. "We're excited to offer families another option that's classical in nature, with small class sizes, minimal technology and a focus on critical thinking and fine arts. We launched this year with 15 students in grades 9 through 12. When fully established, the school will be limited to around 80 students."

Chesterton Academy of St. Scholastica is fully accredited, and part of a nationwide network of classical schools whose graduates are sought after by top colleges.

Starr, who grew up in DeKalb County, chose to study art at Saint Francis for two primary reasons: his mother, who also studied at Saint Francis, had inspired a love of art in him from a young age, and faculty members Rick Cartwright, Maurice "Maury" Papier and Alan Nauts drew him in with their charisma and expertise. "It was fun being around people who were driven and talented and trying to make great art," he said.

"I have found that creativity, branding and design are just things that I love doing," Starr said. "I've never tired of it, and it never feels like work. I feel like I'm doing my most important work. It's an honor to be able to make a difference for causes I believe in."

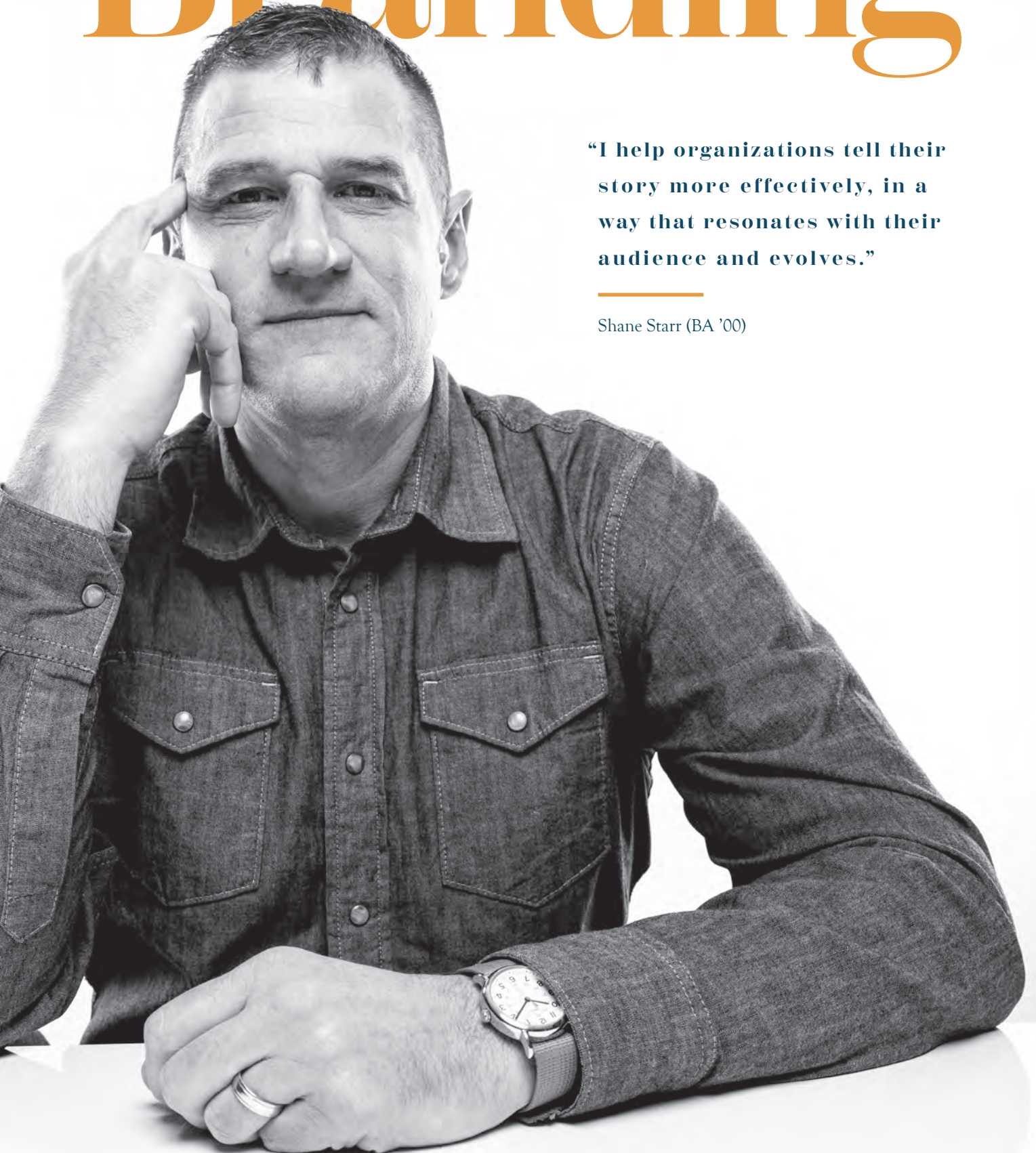


★ S T A R R ★

Branding

“I help organizations tell their story more effectively, in a way that resonates with their audience and evolves.”

Shane Starr (BA '00)



AMANDA (PEDRO) BUNN (BSN '13) WORKED AS A HOSPITAL AND TRAVEL NURSE, BUT SHE FOUND HER CALLING IN HOSPICE, HELPING FAMILIES NAVIGATE ONE OF THE TOUGHEST PARTS OF LIFE'S JOURNEY.



Straight *from the* Heart

In the eyes—and heart—of Amanda (Pedro) Bunn, hospice nurses make a difference for people far beyond physical care. She sees that impact often in the welcome sense of calm on the faces of patients and their loved ones.

“There is so much fear and sadness and unknown when a patient is facing a terminal illness,” Bunn said. “My job as a nurse is to walk alongside that person and help care for them and provide comfort and dignity. After our initial meeting, you can see the wave of relief wash over families because they know they have a trusted resource in their hospice team.”

After working as a hospital and travel nurse, Bunn found her passion as a hospice nurse, first working with larger, regional agencies. Then, in March 2024, she and husband Tyler Bunn opened Solace Hospice, located in Roanoke, Indiana. Solace Hospice became officially licensed in December and the Bunnhs hope it becomes a respected, valued hometown choice with a reputation for above-and-beyond care.

Bunn felt called to open Solace Hospice after experiencing cost-cutting and other practices within larger hospice care organizations that she felt weren't aligned with the values of dignity and respect that she cherishes. She acknowledged that healthcare is a business, but Bunn believed in a better approach for end of life through creating a local team of high-quality caregivers with a shared sense of compassion and respect.

She found the word “solace” appearing regularly in her devotional studies during a time when she was talking with spiritual mentors about her calling to hospice care.

“It just kept coming up and I was like, ‘OK, God, I hear you. You know I hear you,’” Bunn said. “Solace means comfort during times of grief or anxiety. That’s exactly what we strive to provide.”

A Fort Wayne native who excelled as a basketball player at Bishop Luers High School, Bunn spent two years at Indiana State University but found the “dreams of D1 sports weren’t all they were cracked up to be for me.” She had been recruited by Saint Francis—in fact, her father, Tim, is a former assistant coach—and transferred back home to pursue athletic and nursing goals. After her time in basketball, she spent a season playing volleyball for the Cougars.



"I'm so grateful for my time at Saint Francis and the values that were there, along with those of my parents, too," Bunn said. "I think the concepts of service and the dignity and respect for life carry over naturally to what we do in hospice. I feel so fortunate for the mentorship that I had from professors Terri Roberts, Lori Lucas and Dave Johnson and others."

Bunn also took four trips to Haiti with Dr. Amy Obringer and Formula for Life and considered moving to Haiti to serve full time. She ultimately decided to stay in Fort Wayne. That decision was fortuitous in more ways than one. After dating in high school, Amanda and Tyler went their separate ways. But they reconnected in their mid-20s and love blossomed again. They married and their family includes 3-year-old Tyler, Jr., and 10-month-old Lenore.

Within the business, Amanda handles the day-to-day operation and oversees the hospice team while Tyler covers more of the business management side. In addition to supervising her team, Amanda still provides hands-on nursing care for patients. "I never want to lose touch with patient care," she said. "There's an honor to it, and when you are attending

to end-of-life situations, those are sacred times. It reminds me why we are doing what we're doing."

Bunn remains cognizant of the importance of hospice care and the delicate nature of the business. Not every nurse is called to hospice. Bunn wants to ensure Solace Hospice gains a reputation as one of the highest quality agencies and one of the area's best places to work.

"Healthcare has high burnout, especially in hospice, so I have to make sure I'm creating a culture where my team feels valued and respected," Bunn said. "I want to make sure they can be present for their patients but also know that I have an understanding that they have families and responsibilities, too. I want to be understanding and respectful and promote a team culture. It's a calling to be in hospice."

"There's an honor to it and when you are attending to end-of-life situations, those are sacred times."

Professor Emerita Jane Martin retires this spring after more than three decades helping Saint Francis students find the narrative of their lives.

Storyteller

“Her wisdom, encouragement and kindness as a professor and advisor were invaluable to me as a student in the Film program. My time at Saint Francis would not have been the same without her impact.”

Katie Bell (BA '15)
Director of Annual Giving



“Jane not only taught me the skills I needed to succeed but inspired and challenged me creatively. She provided me with mentorship and guidance at a time when I needed it most.”

Tony Didier (BA '00), Director of Alumni Relations

Nothing stirred a young Jane Martin quite like a good story. How fitting, then, that she grew up in a place associated with a storytelling touchpoint—Mount Airy, North Carolina. Her hometown inspired the fictional Mayberry at the center of the ubiquitous 1960s sitcom, “The Andy Griffith Show.”

“Mount Airy was a quiet, small community. But one of the things that’s interesting about it is that we had a really good school system,” Martin said. “I loved school. I was very excited about school. Obviously. I never left school, right?”

Indeed, Martin invested a lifetime in education. She taught hundreds of students the power of storytelling to stir action and change lives. In 32 years as a professor at the University of Saint Francis, Martin made sure communications, public relations and film students felt welcomed and accepted, challenged and inspired. The fact so many Saint Francis alumni went on to career success is a tribute to her mentorship and friendship. “I always tell them, ‘You have me for as long as you want to keep me. If you want to continue this journey, we can,’” she said.

Martin, who announced her retirement from Saint Francis this spring, learned the value of lifelong connections from her mentor and friend Dr. Marian Love at Lenoir-Rhyne University, “an intimidating and powerful force in my life.”

Martin tells the story of her first semester at Lenoir-Rhyne. She was in a “Great Books” class where some of her peers demonstrated a more extensive vocabulary; she struggled to keep up. “They were very confident, and I was not very confident,” Martin said. Love switched her to a similar class full of senior citizens. Martin’s new classmates welcomed her, sought out her ideas and raised her confidence.

“It was cool to be in a room with people who were excited that you were there. That taught me a lot about making sure everyone is welcome in the class,” Martin said. “And I flourished in that setting. Dr. Marian Love didn’t fix it for me. She fixed it with me.”

As a professor, Martin likewise challenged her students to pursue high standards because she believed they could reach them.

“I don’t believe any teacher had more of an impact than Jane Martin. Her passion for film got me to think about filmmaking at a much deeper level, both in its process and its meaning. Her lessons enhanced my own storytelling dramatically, and she is the reason that I am a teacher,” said Assistant Professor of Animation Patrick Riggle (BA '03, MA '14).

After a stint in production and programming in cable television, Martin’s journey at Saint Francis began in 1993 as program director for Communication. It would be nearly impossible to list all the courses she taught, programs she directed, clubs she advised, innovations she championed and students she inspired. In 1997, Martin became the first non-tenured faculty and first woman to win the Saint Francis Teaching Excellence and Leadership Award. Seventeen years later, she remained just as influential, winning the LeePoxey Award for Teaching Excellence. She influenced students who became alumni, and those alumni then influenced others. And now she’s a professor emerita.

“Our students are going through a time where they are deciding who they are, who they want to be in the world, how they think about the world—it’s a lot of responsibility as a professor and a lot of joy,” Martin said. “The best thing is seeing where they go and what they do.”

Example? She has a story, of course.

“I had a young man in class who did a report on Disney’s ‘Moana,’ and he stood up in front of the class and talked about what the film meant to him,” Martin said. “He said it was the first time he saw someone like him on the screen and how powerful that was to him.”

The supervising animator on “Moana” was none other than Saint Francis alumnus—and former Martin student—Adam Green.

“It was like a whole full circle of Adam being a part of this young person’s journey to be recognized and feel seen in this world,” Martin said. “And I was like, ‘Yeah!’”

As Martin often says, “We teach people who change the world.”

SAINT FRANCIS VOLLEYBALL STANDOUT STACY
(PIPER) MORRISON (BA '95) FOUND HER HOME AWAY
FROM HOME AT BLUFFTON HIGH SCHOOL, WHERE SHE
WILL TAKE THE LEAD AS PRINCIPAL NEXT FALL.

Stacy (Piper) Morrison figured her first teaching position out of Saint Francis would be a good starter job—a launching pad into her education career. She had never heard of Bluffton, Indiana, let alone Bluffton High School, before she was hired to teach business.

“I thought I’d teach here for a couple of years, then get back to Fort Wayne or back to home in Ohio,” she said. “And then I fell in love with the community and the school.”

Instead of taking flight out of Bluffton, Morrison put down roots.

She went from teacher and volleyball coach to 16 years as assistant principal to—starting this fall—Bluffton High School principal. It has been a fulfilling journey in a place that represents everything she enjoys about guiding young people into adulthood.

“As with every job, there are highs and lows, but I really enjoy working here,” she said. “We’ve got an amazing faculty, and I love the kids. If you stay in one school for your career, that says a lot about the school and the people you work with. Our current superintendent was one of my former students, and many of our teachers were students that I had in class. That is the point of my career that I am in now, having my former students as colleagues, and I love it.”

Morrison’s journey started at Saint Francis as a talented volleyball player out of Fairlawn High School in Sidney, Ohio. Saint Francis offered the business teaching education she desired and an attractive volleyball program. Because she was a multi-sport athlete—she played five sports in high school—she also played softball at Saint Francis.

“I came from a small school and Saint Francis was not too big, but not too small,” Morrison said.

One of her high school friends, Walter Price, transferred to Saint Francis and ended up being roommates with Jason Morrison. Through their mutual friendship with Price, Stacy and Jason got to know each other. They began dating during Stacy’s junior year and married a few years after college.

The couple has two daughters, Hunter and Zoe, now studying at Purdue University Fort Wayne and the University of Cincinnati, respectively. Jason Morrison (BS '96) works as a principal of environmental strategy at SevenGen and the Morrison family lives in Ossian.

SETTING STUDENTS

UP *for* SUCCE

“The friends I made at Saint Francis are still some of my best friends,” Stacy said. “And I walked out with a husband, so I’ll put that at the top of my list.”

After student-teaching at Churubusco High School, Morrison landed at Bluffton in the fall of 1996. She immediately became the head volleyball coach—a rare role for a first-year teacher—and assistant softball coach. She loved coaching and did two six-year stints as Bluffton’s head volleyball coach. She stepped aside when she was pregnant with Hunter and returned to the sidelines when Hunter was a sophomore at Bluffton. “I said I would coach if they couldn’t find someone, which you should never say,” Morrison said, then laughed. She enjoyed her second go-round as coach, but she stepped back again because of her administrative responsibilities.

After working alongside principal Steve Baker for so many years, Morrison was the natural successor when Baker announced his plans to retire at the end of this school year. She also continues to be a student council advisor, a role she finds fulfilling, too.

“The best part of the job is working with students,” Morrison said. “I tend to see certain students repeatedly and it’s great to watch their growth from meeting them as freshmen to watching them walk across the stage and receive their diploma, ready to move on to the next phase of life.”

Bluffton, a Class 2A school with 579 students in grades 9 through 12, could be described as not too big and not too small—the type of school where Morrison feels at home.

“There’s just a good culture and a lot of people have worked here together for a while,” she said. “It’s unique and hard to describe unless you’re here. When we lose teachers, it’s usually to retirement. This is not a place where someone’s leaving just because they want to chase the next thing.”

SS

“The best part of my
job is working with
the students.”



For the love of **FOOTBALL & FAMILY**

Eric and Natalie Wagoner spent a dozen years as colleagues at the University of Saint Francis. That work-life connection continues in an even closer role now.

Eric (BBA '07, MBA '11) and Natalie Wagoner (BBA '07, MBA '09) have rarely been more than a short campus stroll away from each other. They've worked in proximity for years—Eric coaching football, Natalie advising students—and even after a vast change of scenery in 2020, they maintained their comforting workplace connection.


“With the exception of my first year, my entire professional career we’ve worked at the same place,” Natalie said. “We would do our lunch walks. If I forgot my lunch, he brought it to me because he came in later than I do. If we didn’t work together, it would be such a different life.”

Entering 2025, that work-life connection became even closer. Natalie left her position as director of admissions at Frostburg State University in Frostburg, Maryland, and joined forces with Eric, who is Frostburg State’s head football coach. She now works with Eric in his coaches’ clinics and camps business, among other areas. The longtime campus colleagues are now partners in football.

“In addition to me being able to help more with football, we know we only get this season of life with our kids once, so we want to be present for them,” Natalie said. “The family piece is so important to us and was always why we loved our time at Saint Francis.”

The Wagoners were mainstays on the Saint Francis campus for a dozen years, with Eric serving as an assistant football coach (seven years as defensive coordinator) and Natalie working in academic and career development. Many players that Eric recruited moved into careers through some counseling from Natalie. The Wagoners started their family while at Saint Francis, which includes Hadley, 16, Liam, 15, Maverick, 9, and Trey, 7.





Eric and Natalie Wagoner
with their four children

After moving to Frostburg State in 2020 as defensive coordinator, Eric was promoted to head coach in 2022. Natalie worked nearby as Frostburg's director of admissions through this past January. Once again, they often guided the athletic and academic careers of the same students.

The move from Fort Wayne to Frostburg wasn't the smoothest—at least in terms of timing. The Wagoners made their eastward trek as COVID-19 hit, changing the everyday routines of campuses nationwide and putting football seasons in a state of limbo. The Wagoners' children started their first year in a new locale dealing with the challenges of e-learning. Eric's first two football seasons at Frostburg were spring 2021 and fall 2021, an odd schedule dictated by the pandemic.

"I came out to Frostburg in 2020 in the spring and got to know all the players and everything was going well and then COVID came. Everything went sideways," Eric said.

Within a year's time, after the fall of 2021 season, the head coaching position opened, and Eric decided to pursue it. He has been the head coach for three years, compiling a 21-11 record. His staff includes two coaches who coached with him at Saint Francis—Trevor Miller and Derek Prather.

"I've been fortunate to play and coach under Coach D (Saint Francis' Kevin Donley) and to coach under a great coach here at Frostburg (DeLane Fitzgerald)," Eric said. "I also learned a lot from (former Saint Francis assistant) Warren Maloney. Those three guys I lean heavily on."

Moving to Maryland for new jobs marked a significant lifestyle change for the Wagoners. Eric is from Peru and Natalie from Fort Wayne, and they had lived in Indiana throughout their married lives. "We are now about an hour or an hour and a half away from larger civilization," Eric said. "It's been an adjustment for our kids."

They have grown to love and appreciate their small-town environment and the natural beauty inherent in Maryland and the adjacent states of Virginia, West Virginia and Pennsylvania.

"Until I lived here, I didn't know why people liked the fall season so much," Natalie said. "It stays comfortable here through the beginning of November, and the scenery itself is so pretty."


Eric lives and breathes football, which is essential to his job, and the whole family follows suit. The Frostburg State campus covers 260 acres in a small town of about 9,000 people in the Appalachian highlands of western Maryland.

"Our life is football, and it touches every thread and fabric of what we do," Natalie said. "It feels like a small community in most aspects. We have Trevor and Derek here on the staff, and we often spend time with them and their families. We've known them for 17 years. Football lends itself to being able to have those family ties."



FOUR YEARS IN FLIGHT

**PAIGE (FORTKAMP)
SCHMITMEYER HAD A
KNACK FOR FINISHING
OFF RALLIES WITH A
HIGH-FLYING KILL. SHE
CEMENTED HER LEGACY
AS AN ALL-TIME GREAT
IN HER FINAL SEASON.**



“She was the Michael Jordan of our volleyball program.”

Scott Haddix
Head Volleyball Coach

Paige (Fortkamp) Schmitmeyer (BSN '24) knew she was closing in on the University of Saint Francis 2000s-era volleyball record for kills. In fact, she was all but guaranteed to break the record on the night of Nov. 2, 2024.

She also knew she would feel at least a twinge of bittersweet emotion because the Cougars were playing at Bethel University in Mishawaka, Indiana, three hours away from her family in her hometown of Fort Recovery, Ohio.

RIGHT BEFORE WARMUPS BEGAN, HOWEVER, THE SWEET OVERWHELMED THE BITTER.

“I saw my mom walk in with my little cousin and my cousin’s friend, and that made me emotional,” Schmitmeyer said. “I started crying, I was so happy to see my mom there.”

With mom watching, the record fell—after one false alarm. Paige went up for an attack and hit a ball for the record kill. Everyone cheered, and coach Scott Haddix was ready with a timeout to celebrate. Then, the call was overturned and the ball ruled out of bounds. No record. A few minutes later, the record kill came off a set from her younger sister, Teigen.

“I didn’t think my mom was going to come because three hours there and back is a long time, and I have three other siblings, so it’s not always possible for my mom and dad to come to everything,” Schmitmeyer said. “Her being there meant a lot. They brought balloons and flowers, and it was very nice.”

Kill No. 1,473 gave Paige the record, breaking the Dakstats/PrestoSports statistical age mark set by Allison Horn from 2000 to 2004. Needing five kills to break the record, she finished with 11 that night. Her career total was 1,489. (The overall Saint Francis record is 1,706 by Katie (Butler) Schumm from 1998 through 2001.)

Haddix praises Paige for her leadership, dedication, desire to improve and ability to play despite often being less than 100% healthy. He said she was one of the most dynamic players across the NAIA landscape.

“I would never bet against that kid,” Haddix said. “She was the Michael Jordan of our volleyball program. She took the game-winning or losing swing when we needed her to. More times than not she scored, but succeed or fail she wanted that swing again and again and again. That was a lot of pressure, and she handled it very well.”

Paige was part of the basketball and swimming teams at Fort Recovery High School, but volleyball has always been her top sport. She chose Saint Francis because of its nursing program and graduated with a BSN degree in December. She is now in her “dream job” as an obstetric (OB) nurse at Adams Memorial Hospital in Decatur, Indiana, about 40 minutes from her hometown.

“I always wanted to go into nursing,” she said. “When I was a high school sophomore, my cousin had triplets, and they were preemies up in the Dayton NICU and I was over there a few times and enjoyed the nurses there. I wanted to go into nursing and NICU. Now that I’m grown, I don’t want to be in the NICU, but I still want to be in nursing. My dream was to be in OB labor and delivery, post-partum. I find everything about it fascinating.”

SCHMITMEYER LOOKS BACK ON HER TIME WITH THE VOLLEYBALL PROGRAM AND HARBORS GREAT MEMORIES.

“Every season has just been so fun with my best friends and fellow seniors. We grew up together from freshmen to seniors,” she said. “Senior Day was really nice with the way the juniors and underclassmen hosted everything and gave speeches and shared video. I enjoyed every minute of playing here. I’m ready to move on, but it was a big part of my life, and I wouldn’t change it for the world.”

CAMPUS NEWS



Saint Francis to launch Indiana's first collegiate women's flag football program

Saint Francis will launch a women's flag football program, making history as the first collegiate-level program in Indiana and the first member of the NAIA Crossroads League. With this addition, Saint Francis joins 25 NAIA schools that have established women's flag football programs.

TJ Williams, who has served as flag football coach for Traction Athletic Performance and Northrop High School in Fort Wayne, began work in December as the Cougars' head coach.

The Cougars will begin competition in spring 2026, playing at Bishop D'Arcy Stadium.

Class of 2024 records 98% career outcomes rate

Saint Francis announced that 98% of the Class of 2024 graduates are employed, enrolled in additional education or serving in the service/military. This career outcomes rate marks the second highest percentage at Saint Francis since data has been collected. The Career Outcomes study included 93% of the class, collecting responses from 547 of 587 graduates.



Parra, Gerstner named Saint Francis Scholars

Juliana Parra of Homestead High School in Fort Wayne and Charlie Gerstner of Notre Dame Academy in Green Bay, Wisconsin, were named the full-tuition Saint Francis Scholars winners. The scholarship recognizes academic commitment and excellence. Competition consists of an essay competition and group discussions with other students, moderated by faculty and staff.



Stevenson wins Pay It Forward Scholarship

Morgan Stevenson, a senior at Oak Farm Montessori School, received the 2024 Pay It Forward Scholarship. The award recognizes an incoming student who has demonstrated exceptional dedication to serving others, embodying the spirit of "paying it forward."

The scholarship covers full tuition and fees, offering Stevenson the opportunity to continue her education while maintaining her commitment to service.

Leffler Academy becomes health sciences partner

Saint Francis and Leffler Academy of Gas City, Indiana, announced a strategic partnership aimed at addressing the healthcare workforce needs across Indiana. This collaboration is set to enhance educational programs and expand healthcare initiatives in nursing and allied health, creating new opportunities for students aspiring to healthcare careers and supporting Indiana's healthcare providers in finding skilled professionals.



Tim Connors speaks on AI at Servus Omnium

Connors Foundation for Catholic Activities (CFCA) founder Tim Connors spoke on the good and bad of artificial intelligence at the annual Servus Omnium Lecture on March 4. A lifelong Catholic and native of Fort Wayne, Connors founded and is the managing partner of PivotNorth Capital, a venture capital firm investing in world-class computer scientists working to solve the world's biggest problems.



Reba Copeland becomes VP for Institutional Advancement

Reba Copeland joined Saint Francis as Vice President for Institutional Advancement on Jan. 6. She previously served as associate vice president for college advancement at the College of St. Scholastica in Duluth, Minnesota, leading development and alumni engagement efforts.



Innovative teacher lab opens for education students

The Saint Francis Division of Teacher Education launched its new "M&M Lab," a mock classroom designed to bridge the gap between theory and practice for future educators. Equipped with advanced technology, the lab provides a collaborative, hands-on experience, allowing students to refine their teaching skills before entering traditional K-12 classrooms. Formally named "Murray's Minds: Experiential Lab for Teacher Success," the lab was made possible through a generous gift from alumna Antoinette "Toni" Murray ('71, '72).

University receives \$306K for mental health program

Saint Francis received a three-year, \$306,000 grant from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) to develop its Cougars Promoting Mental Health (CPMH) program. With student-athletes making up 32% of the Saint Francis student body, the program will place a special focus on their well-being.

IN MEMORIAM

Friends of Saint Francis

Roberta Brazelton
Henry Bruggeman
Dr. Kwok-Sang Chui
Aaron Etherington
Michael France
Margaret Griffin
Brother Mark Ligett, O.F.M.
Kathryn Minnick
Daniel Shullenberger
Kevin Stayer
James Vann

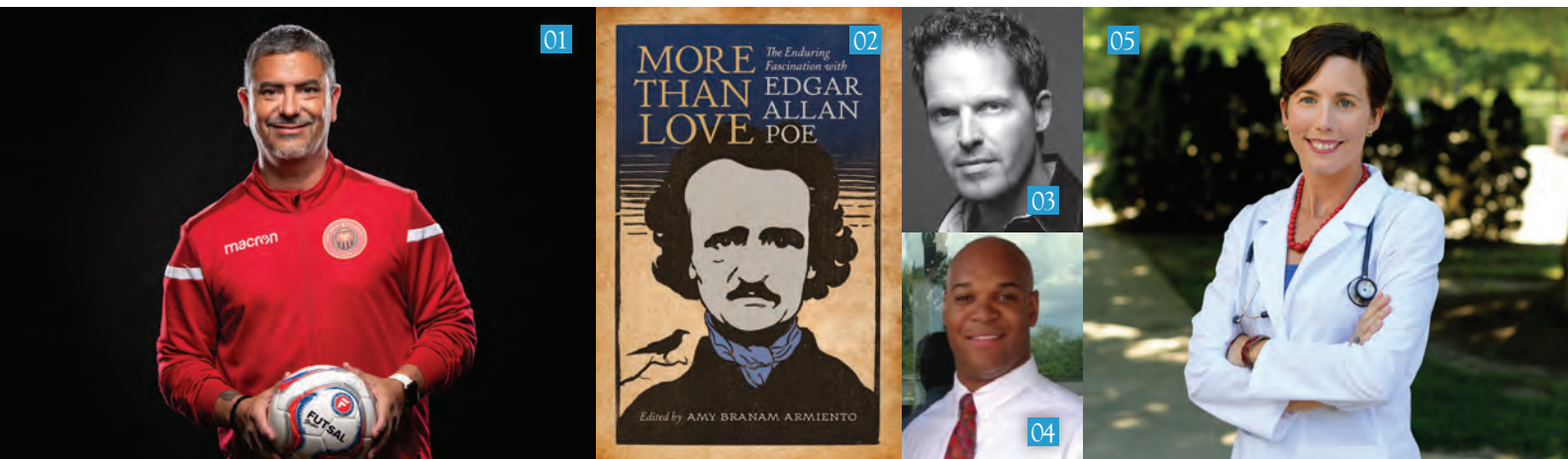
1950-1960s

Carol M. Venderley '51 *
Nancy Bruder '53
Mary Roberts '55
Elaine Bueter '57
Patricia More '57
Maryann T. Quinn '62, '67
James Joseph Gross Rinehart '63
Helen Merz '63
David Walker '63
Father James Remmerswaal '65
William Spindler '65
Joseph Braun '66
Ann Markle '67
Betty Robinson '67
Mary Josephine Bastian '68
Father Michael Cotone, O.S.C. '68
Janice Reifsnider '68
Dennis Eckerley '69, '71
Iris Holt '69
Mary Hook '69
Becky Olsen '69 *
Jan Scher '69

1970-2000s

Stanley Gilbert '70
Mary Eherenman '71
Betty Fishman '71
Sister Joan Ronning, CSC '71
Gail Bunde '72
John Field '72
Edward Koczergo '72, '79
Gene Lightner '76
Roxanne Sherburne '76
Ralph Seddelmeyer '77
Donna Henn '78
John Fitzgerald '81
William Storey '83
Ronald Fetter '85
Ruby Brower '87
Kevin Fisher '88
Cynthia Wesolowski '93
Anna Reimer '94
Debbie Turner '09

* St. Joseph School of Nursing



class notes

keeping connected with alumni and friends

1960s

Kevin Beuret (BA '67) retired in 2010 after teaching middle school English for 30 years in the Lakeland School System in LaGrange, Indiana, and 10 years in the Westview System and Howe Military Academy. He lives in Astral of Auburn in Auburn, Indiana.

1970s

Robert Yager (MS '71) was honored in 2024 when the Heritage High School football field was renamed Yager Field. He coached the football team from 1978 to 2006 and spent 25 years as track-and-field coach. He was inducted into the Indiana Football Hall of Fame in 2008.

1990s

Jim Acho (BA '93) was named Michigan's Leader in the Law by "Michigan Lawyers Weekly" in December 2024 for his impact on sports law. Acho has represented retired NFL players in the concussion lawsuit for eight years, leading to improved benefits for both NFL and MLB retirees. In 2015, he was nominated by NFL Hall of Famers to run the NFL Players Association. In October 2024, he filed a major lawsuit against the NCAA and Big Ten regarding NIL (name, image and likeness) deals. **01 Carlos Cruz (BBA '96)** began a new position as the director of coaching and player development for the Rangers Academy. **Carman Young (BA '97, MS '03)** was inducted into the Fort Wayne Black & Blue Society Mug Club with Fort Wayne Rugby Football Club. **02 Dr. Amy Branam Armiento (BA '98)** received the J. Lasley Dameron Award for Outstanding Essay Collection for her co-edited book, "Poe and Women: Recognition and Revision" (Lehigh UP, 2023). Last month, she published a second edited

collection titled "More Than Love: The Enduring Fascination with Edgar Allan Poe" (Mercer UP, 2024). **Deb Washler-Jackson (BA '98, MBA '19)** started a new position as senior director strategic program management at Transamerica.

2000s

03 Tony Didier (BA '00) released his full-band single, "Whatever Love," on Dec. 13. On Dec. 20, he released a seven-song solo acoustic EP, "Turn Off the Noise," which features a solo acoustic version of "Faceless Man" on the album. His music is available on all streaming platforms. **Eric Johnson (BBA '01)** was recognized by Best Agents as a 2025 top agent. **Robert Preston (BBA '01)** was selected for inclusion in Marquis Who's Who for his expertise in product development. He is director of service at EMCOR Services Shambaugh. **Mitch Smith (BBA '01)** earned SAFe 6 Scrum Master from Scaled Agile, Inc. **04 Virgal Johnson (BBA '02)** started a new position as a senior operational trainer at Optum. **James Bettcher (BBA '03)** started a new position with the Indianapolis Colts as linebackers coach. **05 Libby Richards (BSN '03)** was inducted into the American Academy of Nursing (AAN) Fellows, an elite group of accomplished nursing professionals. She was honored at the AAN's 2024 Health Policy Conference Induction Ceremony and Soiree on Nov. 2 in Washington, D.C. **06 Crystal (Perry) Kelly (BA '04, MS '09)** applied her Saint Francis degrees in psychology and mental health counseling to start her own practice, Uniquely You Counseling & Wellness Center, LLC. She is also raising a 3-year-old son and infant daughter. **Dr. Tyler Johnson (BS '05)** received the 2024 Daniel Award for Excellence in Pro-Life Public Policy at the Right to Life of Northeast Indiana fall banquet. The Daniel Award is presented annually to recognize a public servant who has made an extraordinary effort to take a stand for life regardless of the

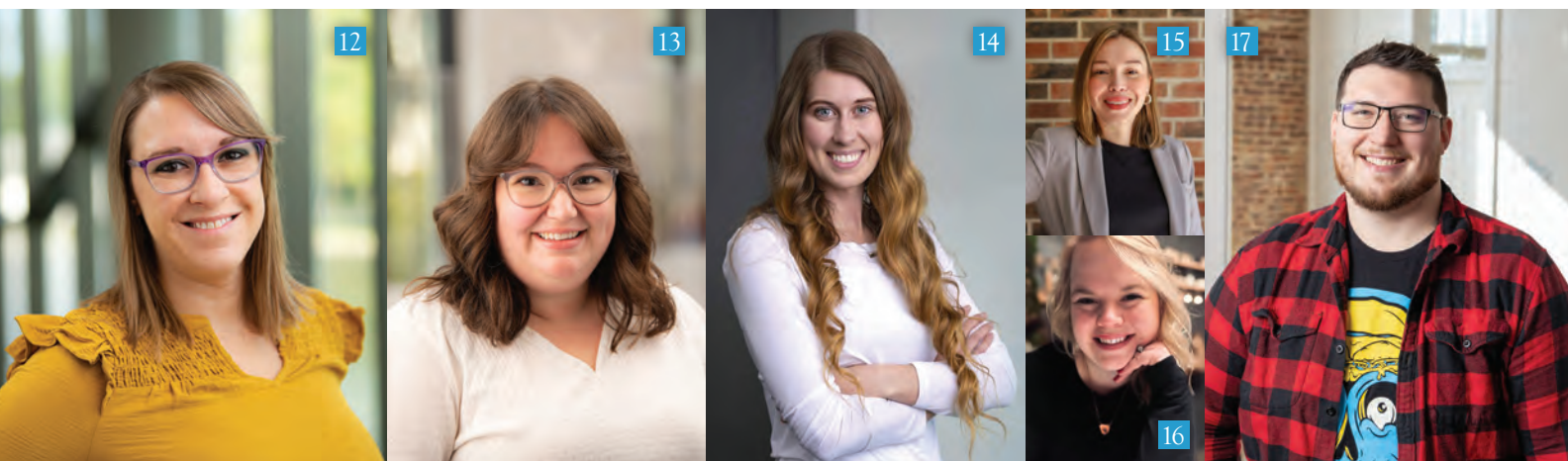


political, personal or professional cost. **07 Audra Koldyke** (AS '06, MHA '24) earned a master's degree in healthcare administration, focusing on higher education, at Saint Francis. **08 Justin Aquila** (BA '07) started a new job as an outpatient therapist at Coleman Health Services. **09 Nikki Quintana** (BBA '07) was named a 2024 Influential Woman by Fort Wayne Business Weekly. **Jamie McGrath** (MBA '09) became a business intelligence developer at Parkview Health.

2010s

Ryan Geiger (BA '10), creative marketing director at Granite Ridge Builders, is a member of the board of the American Advertising Federation of Fort Wayne. **10 Paige Adamo** (BBA '12) started a new position as senior program manager, ACUVUE Practice Engagement at Johnson & Johnson Vision. **11 Jade Haag** (BA '12) started a new position as professional development coach at Lutheran Social Services of Indiana. **Zach Comer** (BA '13) started a new position as human resources manager at Forvis Mazars US. **Nick Ferran** (BA '13) joined the marketing team at Indiana Institute of Technology. **12 Kendra Ganger** (AS '13) was promoted to physical therapist assistant program

director at the University of Saint Francis. **Jasmine (Bejar) Lobacz** (BA '15), content strategist at One Lucky Guitar, Inc., is a member of the board of the American Advertising Federation of Fort Wayne. **13 Katie Bell** (BA '15) was promoted to director of annual giving at the University of Saint Francis. **14 Rachel (Weaver) Brooks** (BA '16) was promoted to the marketing services manager at Saint Francis. **15 Nicole Coomer** (MHA '16) became the new executive director of Des Plaines, Illinois-based Center of Concern. Coomer brings a wealth of experience and knowledge to advance the agency's mission of supporting older adults, people with disabilities and those facing housing insecurity. **Jay Holladay** (BA '16) had a solo exhibition at Artlink called, "Embracing Solitude: Finding Energy in Stillness" that explores the relationship between aloneness and movement which became integral to his everyday life during the pandemic. **Chaise Kahlenbeck** (BS '16) opened a new location for his firm, Kahlenbeck CPA Group, and celebrated with a ribbon cutting on Jan. 30. **16 Raya (Henricks) Rodgers** (BBA '16) added social media manager to her role as operations manager at A&A Engineering Civil - Structural. **17 Drake DeMuyt** (BA '17) started a new position as web design and development specialist at the University of Pikeville.





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2010s, continued

18 Katie Dwyer (MOL '17) was promoted to interim vice president for marketing and enrollment at Saint Francis.

19 Ben Mauch (BBA '17) began a new role as project manager on the True Value Company Integration Team at Do it Best.

20 Cassandra Mitchell (BA '17, MBA '18) and her husband Zach welcomed Kaylyn Agnes on Aug. 18. **21** Nanette Ambrose (BA '19) started a new position as an administrative assistant to TRiO Upward Bound at Purdue Fort Wayne. **Anne Clark** (BS '19) started a new position as customer success manager with Stryker in Salt Lake City, Utah. **22** Hannah Fowerbaugh (BA '19) was promoted to the social media manager at Saint Francis. **23** Renee Garcia (BA '19) designed artwork featured in Outlet's 2025 Risograph Calendar.

2020s

24 Charles Betts (BS '20) celebrated his one-year anniversary as a health safety environment consultant at SevenGen.

25 Morgan Felkner (MOL '20) became assistant registrar with Indiana University Fort Wayne. **26** Taylor Stanchin (BS '20) is the head tennis coach at Bishop Dwenger High School.

27 Jordan Wickel (BA '20) started a new position as an IT administrative assistant at Bowen Health. **MaKenzie Barger** (BS '21) started a new position as clinical research coordinator

at Community Health Network. **28** Phoenix Keiner (BS '21) started a new position as system specialist at Revive Home Brands.

Jalen Moss (BS '21) joined the Ball State University football program as an assistant coach. **29** Jay Segal (BS '21, MBA '22) was named assistant dean of students at Saint Francis. He also serves as director of residential life.

Caitline Southern (BS '21) started a new position as founder at Prologue Consulting LLC. **30** Tess Steffen (MOL '21) became a content and communications specialist at Better Business Bureau Serving Northern Indiana.

31 Andrea Broxon (BA '22) joined the Lee and Jim Vann Library as the new reference and instruction librarian. **Crystal DeKoninck** (BS '22) began a position as a traveling certified surgical first assistant with Atlas Medgroup.

32 Libby Laker (BS '22, MBA '23) started a new position as assistant director of admissions, Brooks College of Health Professionals, at Trine University. **Jackson Long** (BS '22, MBA '23) became director of business development at NEI.

33 Elana Mann (BS '22) is in her second year of medical school at A.T. Still University-Kirksville College of Osteopathic Medicine.

Emma Bachtel (AA '23) started a position as enterprise project coordinator at Hylant. **34** Adilynn Girardot (BSW '23) is a community case manager with Westwood Behavioral Health Center and contributes to the center's partnership with Antwerp



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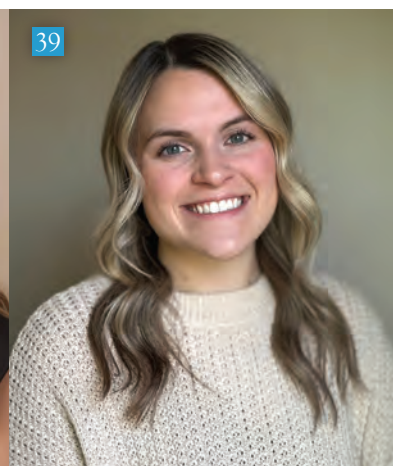
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Local Schools. **Alexis (Gregory) Painter (BS '23)** married Griffin Painter on July 19. **Noah Zimmerman (BS '23)** became a girls track and field assistant coach at Bellmont High School in Decatur, Indiana. **Natalie Bostelman (BSN '24)** works in oncology at Parkview Packnett Family Cancer Institute. **Tyson Conley (BS '24)** became a technical assistant at Swiss Re Group. **35 Leeah Fairfield (BSN '24)** works in the Parkview Regional Medical Center Emergency Department. **Lanae Gilbert (AAS '24)** works in first-year rotation at Parkview Regional Medical Center. **Ashleigh Gray (BSN '24)** works in first-year rotation at Parkview Regional Medical Center. **Bridgette Gray (BSN '24)** works in first-year rotation at Parkview Regional Medical Center. **Yesenia Haro-Rodriguez (BSN '24)** works in 6 South at Parkview Regional Medical Center. **Maddie Hughes (BA '24)** became a junior marketing assistant with Elevate Energy Partners. **Mia Kelley (BSN '24)** works in 1 South at Parkview Regional Medical Center. **Olivia Osterman (BSN '24)** works in 4 Medical Parkview Hospital Randallia. **Emily Parrett (BSN '24)** works in the Parkview Regional Medical Center Emergency Department. **36 Cristina Ramirez (BSN '24)** works in Carew Medical Surgical at Parkview Hospital Randallia. **37 Olivia (Trimbur) Reed (BSN '24)** works on

the flex team at Parkview Hospital Randallia. **Shenell Rice (AAS '24)** works in first-year rotation at Parkview Regional Medical Center. **Paige (Fortkamp) Schmitmeyer (BSN '24)** married Nathan Schmitmeyer. **38 Lynn Schwieterman (BSN '24)** works in the Parkview Heart Institute Comprehensive Heart Treatment Center. **Kiaira Simpson (AAS '24)** works in first-year rotation at Parkview Regional Medical Center. **39 Kari Zent (BSN '24)** works in the progressive unit at Parkview Hospital Randallia. **40 Kendall Close (BSN '25)** is a nurse in the 6 South unit at Parkview Regional Medical Center. **40 Bailey Cook (BSN '25)** is a nurse in the emergency department at Parkview Regional Medical Center. **40 Emily Felger (BSN '25)** is a cardiovascular intensive care nurse at the Parkview Heart Institute. **40 Alyssa Gibson (ADN '25)** joined the Parkview Hospital Randallia flex team as a nurse. **40 Catherine Louis (BSN '25)** is a nurse in the Carew Med Surg unit at Parkview Hospital Randallia. **40 Maria Maley (BSN '25)** is a surgical trauma intensive care unit nurse at Parkview Regional Medical Center. **40 Aubrey Matthias (BSN '25)** is a CHTC nurse at the Parkview Heart Institute. **40 Erica Rieke (ADN '25)** joined the Parkview Bryan Hospital emergency department as a nurse. **40 Kelsey Tackett (BSN '25)** is a nurse in progressive care at Parkview Regional Medical Center. **40 Audrey Zeigler (BSN '25)** is a nurse in progressive care at Parkview Regional Medical Center.



WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU

HAVE A CLASS NOTE? To update information, simply go to alumni.sf.edu and click on "Stay Connected" or send information to alumni@sf.edu or mail it to the University of Saint Francis Alumni Office, 2701 Spring Street, Fort Wayne, IN 46808. Thanks for keeping in touch with your alma mater!

COUGAR SPORTS

RECAP

Basketball | MEN

Sophomore guard Luke Almodovar and sophomore forward Isaiah Malone earned First-Team All-Crossroads League honors; senior guard Zane Burke earned honorable mention. The Cougars finished the season 18-13.

Basketball | WOMEN

Head Coach Jeremy Henney was named Crossroads League Coach of the Year after leading the Cougars to a 26-5 record. Freshman guard Cali Gregory earned Crossroads Freshman and Newcomer of the Year. Graduate student forward/center Cassidy Crawford and senior guard Chloe McKnight earned All-Crossroads League First Team honors and sophomore guard Isabella Gizzi was named to the Crossroads League All-Defensive Team.

Volleyball

Senior Paige Fortkamp was named to the AVCA 2024 Midcentral Region Honorable Mention team and earned First-Team All-Crossroads League. Freshman Teigen Fortkamp was named to the All-Freshman Team.

Football

Coach Kevin Donley and offensive coordinator Adam Sherman earned the Midwest League Coach and Assistant Coach of the Year honors. Senior defensive lineman Marquise Cross was named Midwest League Defensive Player of the Year and placed on the MSFA First Team, joined by graduate student offensive lineman Jared Almeida, senior linebacker Jaydin Evans, graduate student linebacker Emmanuel Davis and freshman kicker Austin Deleon. The Cougars (8-4) won their 14th conference title.

Cross Country | MEN

Freshman Alvin Keter placed 44th in the NAIA Men's Cross Country National Championship, setting a new school record with a 24:45 finish in the 8,000 meters.

Cross Country | WOMEN

Sophomore Victoria Clibon was a national qualifier and finished 141st at the NAIA Women's Cross Country National Championship.





Indoor Track and Field | MEN

Graduate student Joey Rauwerda earned All-American honors as he finished National Runner Up in pole vault at the NAIA Indoor National Championships. Rauwerda cleared a school-record height of 5.20m (17 feet, $\frac{3}{4}$ inches). Freshman Hugo Humbert placed 17th in the 3,000 meters at nationals.

Indoor Track and Field | WOMEN

Freshman Lea Kunstmann earned All-American honors, finishing sixth in the mile at the NAIA Indoor National Championships. The distance medley relay team of freshman Rileigh Baumer, senior Mariah Maley, sophomore Kiara Bahena and Kunstmann earned All-American titles after finishing sixth and setting a new school record.

Soccer | MEN

Sophomore Christian Walter and freshman Mika Leib earned Honorable Mention All-Crossroads League honors. The Cougars finished 8-9-2 overall.

Soccer | WOMEN

Junior Haley Roberson and sophomore Haley Brenner earned Honorable Mention All-Crossroads League honors. The Cougars finished the season with a record of 9-6-4.



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