

SETON HALL

Spring 2020

Ready for Liftoff

Esports teams advance to
the next level at Seton Hall

THE MOVEMENT TO PROVIDE
SPIRITUAL SUPPORT TO PEOPLE
IN RECOVERY FROM ADDICTION

A MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT
NYRE ABOUT THE CORONAVIRUS



SETON HALL

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Cover: Victor Gomez '17 and students on the esports team in their dedicated space in Jubilee Hall. Photo by Michael Paras

Facing page: South Orange campus in springtime. Photo by Bob Handelman



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features

18 Leaving It All on the (Digital) Field

Seton Hall's video game teams are emerging as conference-leading competitors in the growing world of esports.

26 A Voice to Serve in Recovery

Keaton Douglas has taken her talents for entertaining and created a program to help people heal from addiction.

departments

2 From Presidents Hall

4 HALLmarks

10 Possibilities

Houssam Eddine Beggas left a broadcast career in Algeria to study at Seton Hall and deepen his understanding of international affairs.

12 Roaming the Hall

Professor Paul Christiansen helps voters understand the power of music in political ads.

14 Profile

The president of Morristown Medical Center, Trish O'Keefe, M.S.N. '94/Ph.D. '14 is known for her compassion and dedication.

16 Profile

A gift from Pat Burgh House, Ed.D. '01 to the Stetar-Finkelstein Fund recognizes her lifelong commitment to learning.

30 Sports at the Hall

34 Alumni News & Notes

44 Last Word





Deep Roots at Seton Hall

As you can imagine, this is not the message I expected to write three months ago. Yet much has happened — and continues to happen — as our nation rallies to beat back the deadly coronavirus in our midst.

Like many colleges and universities, Seton Hall transitioned to distance learning in March and is providing online instruction for the rest of the semester. Students were sent home and events, including Commencement, were canceled or postponed. These measures, and all of our decisions, are expressions of the University's deep commitment to our community's health, safety and well-being.

With the coronavirus not yet eradicated, many of us — including my family — have relied on our Catholic faith for comfort and much-needed perspective. Indeed, we are instructed to:

"Pray without ceasing. In all circumstances give thanks, for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus." — 1 Thessalonians 5:17-18

In recent days, I have been reminded of all for which I am thankful, even in these challenging times.

I am thankful for our faculty. When it became clear that academic instruction would move online, our faculty members committed themselves to the effort immediately and totally. On very short notice, they mastered the technological aspects of presenting information online,

adapted their courses and instructional materials, and adjusted their teaching methods for the benefit of our students.

I am thankful for our priest community. They remind us that faith and kindness are hallmarks of the Seton Hall experience. Since Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin, C.Ss.R., rightly canceled the celebration of public Masses in the Newark Archdiocese, our clergy have ministered to the Setonian community individually and online, helping us understand each new development in the context of Christ's ceaseless love for His creation. Seton Hall's first hour-long prayer livestream, which was presented by Campus Ministry on March 19, was viewed on Facebook by more than 3,000 Pirates from all over the nation.

I am thankful for the administrators and staff members who are exhibiting extraordinary dedication to our students, faculty, clergy and each other. In working around the clock to diligently and purposefully address the challenges we face, they have shown the true heart of the University. And in facilitating a rapid transition from on-campus to distance learning, they have achieved new levels of excellence.

And I extend my special thanks to our students and their families, especially our graduating seniors. They have adapted to these unexpected changes with uncommon grace and cooperation. As the president of Seton Hall and the parent of a college student, I understand how disruptive this semester has been for them. Yet they are forging ahead, as many of them



have shared with me over the past weeks. And I am impressed and encouraged by their spirit to persevere in these uncertain days.

Finally, I give thanks for Seton Hall's strength and stability. Even before the coronavirus began decimating the communal aspects of our society, many colleges and universities found themselves on precarious financial footing. Smaller institutions were closing at a slow but steady pace. COVID-19 is accelerating that pace and — barring outsized federal or state intervention — the disease will transform higher education just as it is reshaping myriad aspects of the American cultural landscape.

Yet Seton Hall is well-positioned to ride out this storm. We have been blessed by the exceptional community members I mentioned above. And most importantly, we have strong roots. They are strong because you and many generations of Setonians traversed our campus on your way to creating better lives for yourselves and your families. They are strong because you have never forgotten where you come from. And they are strong because you and more than 100,000 graduates have worked to safeguard Seton Hall's bright future.

Before the Civil War, there was a Seton Hall. Before the Spanish-American War, World War I, the Influenza Pandemic of 1918, the Great Depression, World War II and a host of other national and world crises — there was a Seton Hall.

Before the Civil War, there was a Seton Hall. Before the Spanish-American War, World War I, the Influenza Pandemic of 1918, the Great Depression, World War II and a host of other national and world crises — there was a Seton Hall. Since 1856 our community has come together to show the world our best when times were at their worst.

When you support the University, connect on social media, mentor a student or promote your alma mater to neighbors and friends, you are building a better Seton Hall in the immediate sense. But more than that, you are extending our University's roots ever deeper. So when the next storm cuts a path through our society — as it most certainly will — your University will have the strength to stand unbowed against it.

As it has for nearly 164 years.

As it is now.

And as it will in the centuries to come.

Thank you for all you have done to ready Seton Hall for this moment. No matter where you find yourself in these extraordinary times, I pray the Lord continues to fortify you and your loved ones with His strength and comfort you with His peace — today and always. ■

In Brief

- **The Institute for Communication and Religion** in the College of Communication and the Arts hosted an interfaith panel about the contested region of Kashmir featuring Ashok Kaul from India and Amrita Ghosh from Sweden.
- **The Stillman School's** on-campus M.B.A. program was named to The Princeton Review's list of "Best Business Schools" for the 13th consecutive year.
- *U.S. News & World Report* has ranked **Seton Hall University** No. 17 in the nation and No. 1 in New Jersey for Best Online Graduate Nursing programs.
- *U.S. News* also ranked the **College of Nursing's** M.S.N. and Doctor of Nursing D.N.P. programs at No. 56 and No. 50, respectively.
- **Martin Edwards**, department chair in the School of Diplomacy and International Relations, was awarded a research fellowship with the University of Southern California's Center on Public Diplomacy to look at the International Monetary Fund's use of digital diplomacy.
- **Mark Maben**, WSOU's general manager, was named by *Radio Ink* magazine as one of "The Best Managers in Radio For 2019."
- **Peggy Brady-Amoon**, associate professor in the College of Education and Human Services, was elected as a fellow of the American Psychology Association, a national honor society recognizing exceptional contributions to the field of psychology.

An Official Welcome

Joseph E. Nyre, Ph.D., was officially welcomed as Seton Hall University's 21st president with an investiture ceremony on November 15.

Nyre, who took office on August 1, used his address to reaffirm the University's commitment to fostering great minds. He also spoke about the launch of a new strategic planning process.

"We must turn shared planning into shared action. Embrace innovation. Adapt in a way that makes Seton Hall more nimble and advances the health of the University as a whole," Nyre said. "As our strategic plan takes shape and ultimately takes flight, Seton Hall will rise to new heights."

The Board of Regents appointed Nyre in February 2019.

"It has become clear that Joe Nyre was not just the best, but the perfect choice to lead us into a new era of achievement," said Patrick M. Murray '64/M.B.A. '72, chair of the Board of Regents, who presided over the ceremony.

"He brings to Seton Hall impeccable credentials as an

eminent scholar and foremost academic leader. He possesses a deep understanding of the ideals of our founder, Bishop James Roosevelt Bayley, to create a home for the mind, heart and spirit and to show the world what great minds can do to advance the cause of servant leadership," said Murray.

Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin, C.Ss.R., chair of Seton Hall's Board of Trustees, president of its Board of Regents and Archbishop of Newark, also spoke.

"On behalf of the archdiocese, I welcome President Nyre and his wonderful family to our community of faith," said Cardinal Tobin. "I look forward to working with him to advance Seton Hall among the nation's leading Catholic universities, and to create an ever-greater vibrancy within our Church."

The ceremony ended a week-long celebration of events, including the launch of the Great Minds Dialogue series, academic symposia, lectures, service projects and receptions.



CELEBRATING SAINT ALBERT THE GREAT

The Office of Campus Ministry hosted a community Gold Mass, a new annual liturgical tradition at Seton Hall, on November 14 in conjunction with the official investiture of new President Joseph E. Nyre, Ph.D.

Gold Mass celebrates Saint Albert the Great, patron saint of scientists, and seeks to promote spiritual fellowship among science educators, researchers and students. The color gold signifies the color of the hoods worn by those graduating with a doctoral degree in science, and is also the color associated with Saint Albert.

This follows in the tradition of special Masses for members of particular professions, including the Red Mass for lawyers and lawmakers, the White Mass for healthcare professionals and the Blue Mass for law-enforcement personnel.

According to the Society of Catholic Scientists, the aim of Gold Masses is to help foster the development of local communities and networks of Catholics involved with science in order to increase collaboration in the field.



SHU IN THE NEWS

“The CIA even arranged for his cremation in the event he died, assuring what they hoped would be his silence even beyond the grave. But with this report, he is silent no more.”

Mark Denbeaux, School of Law, in *USA Today*, on the subject of The Center for Policy and Research’s report “How America Tortures,” featured in *The New York Times*, CNN, BBC and NPR among others.

“We have to create more culturally relevant STEM opportunities in K-12 and opportunities that allow young people of color to see themselves as part of the content.”

Edmund Adjapong, College of Education and Human Services, in *Diverse Issues in Higher Education*, on the importance of innovation to attract underserved students to the science, technology, engineering and math fields.

“When politics and sports coincide, I believe we have to report it.”

Bob Costas, as quoted in *Forbes* coverage of “The Changing Face of Sports Media: A Conversation between Bob Costas and Bob Ley at Seton Hall.”

“It shouldn’t be a surprise that many men care more about the outcome of a baseball or a football season than the political future of the country – but it is alarming.”

Rick Gentile, director of the Seton Hall Sports Poll, in the *New York Post* on results that show 28 percent of men would rather “their team” win a championship than their preferred candidate win the presidency.

“The additional proof calls into serious question whether defendants’ guilt was established beyond a reasonable doubt.”

New Jersey Court of Appeals (as quoted in *The Star-Ledger*) overturning the verdict appealed by the Law School’s Last Resort Exoneration Project against two men wrongfully convicted of murder almost 25 years ago.

“It’s like a sleeping giant awakened. Museums will never be the same.”

Gregory Stevens, director of the Institute of Museum Ethics, in the *Christian Science Monitor*, on the impact of the Museum of Modern Art’s decision to feature a wide-ranging selection of art and artists.

If You Build It ...

The campus baseball field will reopen this spring with a new look and a new name.

The renovated park will be called Mike Sheppard Sr. Stadium at Owen T. Carroll Field, honoring two of the most important names in Seton Hall and collegiate baseball history, and it is expected be one of the top baseball facilities in the Northeast.

Sheppard ’58, a Seton Hall University student-athlete, coach and professor for more than 60 years who passed away in April 2019, was a catcher for Carroll’s teams in the late 1950s.

“It’s going to be an honor to play in a facility that bears the name of two Seton Hall baseball legends,” said Pirates head coach Rob Sheppard, one of Sheppard’s three baseball-coach sons. “The program and our players have earned

the right to have a first-class facility like this one.”

The renovations, which started in March 2019, include revamped chairback seating, permanent restrooms, an enclosed press box, new artificial field turf and professional-level dugouts. The facility also will have a greater “stadium” feel, with a stone façade enclosing the seating areas, and highly visible Seton Hall logos and branding.

Sheppard Sr. served as the University’s head coach from 1973 to 2003, recording 28 winning seasons and 15 BIG EAST Tournament appearances and the conference tournament title in 1987. He was inducted into the American Baseball Coaches Association’s Hall of Fame in 2011.

Carroll coached the Pirates from 1948 to 1972, compiling a record of 341-185-6 and leading the Pirates to the College World



Series in 1964 and 1971. In 1965 he guided the team to the program’s first 25-win season, and he was inducted into the National College Baseball Hall of Fame in 2008.

Fighting the Opioid Crisis Through Education

Last summer more than 160 students and faculty attended the first event in Seton Hall’s new federally funded training program for the treatment of opioid addiction.

The presentation led by Laura Leahy, D.N.P., an expert addictions specialist, provided an overview of the opioid epidemic, followed by discussions of federal legislation, pharmacology and office-based treatment. Students reported that the case studies and personal stories of patients under Leahy’s care were engaging and helped them understand the issue better.

In 2018, the University’s College of Nursing, School of Health and Medical Sciences and the Hackensack Meridian School of Medicine at Seton Hall were awarded a three-year grant of more than \$400,000 by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to train nurse practitioner, physician assistant and medical students on medication-assisted treatment (MAT) for opioid use disorders.

While MAT has been found to support recovery from opioid addiction, it remains underutilized and there aren’t enough trained and authorized practitioners,

both nationally and in New Jersey. By 2021, it is anticipated that more than 400 students will have completed the program, making them eligible to obtain the authorization needed to prescribe medication for treatment of the problem.

Topics to be addressed in the training include opioid maintenance and detoxification, patient assessments, individualized treatment planning, counseling and support services, staff roles, control of diversion as well as additional best practices.

BY THE NUMBERS

Pirates Pitch

Annual venture fund competition

10

Years competition has been held at Seton Hall

150

Students who have pitched their business ideas

\$100,000

Amount of money awarded to student-entrepreneurs

50

Number of alumni who have judged the competition

25

Contestants who have gone on to participate in regional/national competitions

30

Number of competitors who became working entrepreneurs

5

Average number of hours students spend practicing their pitches

Administration Updates

Katia Passerini, Ph.D., has been appointed provost and executive vice president, and will begin her position on July 1. As the chief academic officer, she will work with faculty and staff to develop a solid research agenda; build partnerships across disciplines; recruit, retain and develop faculty; and strengthen support for academic programs. She also will work with President Joseph E. Nyre, Ph.D., on the University’s new strategic plan and a comprehensive fundraising campaign. Passerini has been serving as dean of professional studies at St. John’s University, responsible for planning, recruitment, academic program development, and fundraising. She previously served as dean of the honors college at the New Jersey Institute of Technology.

Matthew Borowick '89/M.B.A. '94 has been named vice president to lead the new Division of University Relations, which includes the Departments of Government Relations and Public Relations and Marketing. The new division will focus on developing compelling communications to share the Seton Hall story on and off campus.

Borowick will continue to serve as interim vice president of the Division of University Advancement as a search to fill that position is completed. The Departments of Advancement Services, Alumni Engagement and Philanthropy, and Development will remain within that division to connect with alumni and others as the University prepares for its next capital campaign.

Lori A. Brown, J.D., has been named Seton Hall’s first chief equity, diversity and compliance officer.

Brown began working in the University’s compliance office in 2006 and has served as director of Equality Employment Opportunity compliance and Title IX officer since 2015. In her new position, she is responsible for ensuring a safe and welcoming learning, living and working environment for everyone at Seton Hall.

SPORTS ICONS TALK SHOP

An on-campus discussion between sports broadcasting giants Bob Costas and Bob Ley ’76 in November became a hands-on experience for students working on the Pirate Sports Network, who digitally recorded the session and broadcast it live from a state-of-the-art production truck.

“The Changing Face of Sports Media” event featured the two icons discussing the evolution and future of the industry, and was covered by *Forbes*, *Sports Business Daily*, *The Miami Herald* and *Ad Age*. The program was part of the College of Communication and the Arts’ Sports Media Speaker Series and was co-sponsored by the Stillman School of Business.

Ley, who was inducted into the National Sports Media Association Hall of Fame last year, got his start in broadcasting as a sportscaster and program director at WSOU, and spent nearly 40 years at ESPN.

Costas, now working for the MLB Network, spent more than 35 years with NBC Sports, working as the host for 11 Olympic Games. He advised students studying sports broadcasting and journalism to “dedicate yourself in the classroom,” although he acknowledged that the profession is “a knack as much as anything else,” and that “the way you learn to do it is by doing it.”



A video retrospective of his career that preceded the talk was created by Keith Egan, a student majoring in Visual and Sound Media.

Two student-athletes, Ryan McNeilly and Lizzie Win, shared the stage, asking questions and offering commentary; two other students, Michael Daly and Ronald Castaneda, competed for and won the chance to interview Costas and Ley before the live audience; student reporters from *The Setonian*, the school’s award-winning newspaper, covered the event.

Bigger and Better

Universities throughout the country are struggling to maintain their enrollment figures, but such is not the case at Seton Hall, as applications to the University continue to surge.

“Students from throughout New Jersey and around the country are attracted to our outstanding academic reputation, our Catholic values and our warm and nurturing community where they can thrive as exemplary servant leaders and global citizens,” explains Alyssa McCloud, Ph.D.,

senior vice president of Enrollment Management.

“We are a university continually on the rise, with the largest classes coming to us in our history during the last three years, with the highest SAT averages and many impressive distinctions.”

USA Today Money reported Seton Hall is among the top 100 universities in the nation experiencing a five-year percentage increase in applications, with the University achieving 64.2 percent growth. The results come from a 24/7 Wall St.,

LLC, study analyzing National Center for Education statistics for nearly 600 colleges and universities where applications climbed the most.

Seton Hall has broken its own record of applications for the last five years, attaining its largest classes in history for three years in a row as well as the highest average SAT and ACT scores in its history. More than 23,000 students applied for the Class of 2023, which enrolled 1,630 freshmen.

GLOBAL EXCHANGE

Houssam Eddine Beggas left a broadcast career in Algeria to study at Seton Hall and deepen his understanding of international affairs.



The serpentine path Houssam Eddine Beggas traveled to get to Seton Hall's School of Diplomacy and International Relations began in 2011 when as a college senior in his native Algeria, he watched with wonder as a sweep of countries across Northern Africa and the Middle East convulsed into conflict wrought by the anti-government movement known as the Arab Spring.

After graduating with a degree in translation and interpretation (in Arabic, French and English), Beggas began his professional career as a translator. But he wanted to become a journalist. He enrolled in a master's program in journalism, where a mentor suggested he'd be well suited to political reporting. Beggas agreed. The Arab Spring, its impact still unspooling across the region, had captured his attention, and he remained intensely interested in the affairs of state. "How could you not be?" he muses. "Politics was always around."

And so Beggas became a daily news anchor on Algerian national television, where he created and hosted two politically minded shows. On "Pulse of the World," he discussed international affairs with on-air guests. On "At Home with an Ambassador," he interviewed diplomats about the state of relations between their countries and Algeria.

Still, Beggas wanted to sharpen his understanding of international affairs. "I needed to have a better grasp of politics," he says, "a better grasp of how deals are made." His wish to enroll in a graduate program in international relations was granted when he won a Fulbright Scholarship, which covered his expenses. He entered North Carolina State University but found himself seeking a stronger emphasis on Middle East Studies, and that's where his path turned to Seton Hall.

Beggas was impressed by the scope of the University's curriculum, the potential to engage with the student community, and the friendly nature of the campus. With help from his academic adviser, Daniel Kristo, assistant dean for graduate enrollment management at the School of Diplomacy and International Relations, Beggas enrolled, resettled in South Orange, and dove in.

The school paired Beggas with Professor David Wood to conduct mediation and peacebuilding research in the Middle Eastern and North African region. And Beggas took part in the school's annual fall conference, "All Conflict is Local: Personal Experience, Reflection, and Conflict Resolution," offering his perspective on the Algerian Civil War, which unfolded during his childhood and cost as many as 200,000 lives. He also joined the *Journal of Diplomacy* staff as an associate editor, recently analyzing the prospects for democratic reform under Algerian President Abdelmadjid Tebboune.

Beggas, who is specializing in international security and Middle East and North Africa studies, has embraced the diversity of Seton Hall's student body and the world of perspectives it has afforded him. "What I love about Seton Hall is the exposure to outside institutions," he says. "Being close to New York opens a lot of doors in matters of international relations and diplomacy work."

Kristo says he's been especially impressed by Beggas' ability to adapt quickly to his new environs. "It's been a great match for Houssam to be fully immersed in the diplomacy program, to create a niche profile through his specialized research and extracurricular engagements," Kristo says. "It's a good example of what the Fulbright program is all about — creating a mutually enriching experience, both for us, as a host institution, and for students to take back to their home country."

Beggas is scheduled to complete his master's program later this year, after which he plans to return to Algeria and resume his career as a political journalist — but with a twist. Inspired by the politically oriented comedy of Jon Stewart, Stephen Colbert and Trevor Noah, he wants to inject humor into his work.

"Comedy makes hard truths easier to absorb, you know?" he says. "We have a strong tradition of humor in news in Algeria, through our comic artists whose drawings give the snapshot of the news in really hard-hitting ways. I want to build on that by looking at ways to bring humor onscreen, drawing from examples around the region and the United States." ■

Christopher Hann is a freelance writer and editor in New Jersey.

MUSIC LESSONS

Professor Paul Christiansen helps voters understand the power of music in political ads.

With the 2020 presidential campaign in full swing, American voters are being faced with video ads carefully designed to influence their views of the candidates. Set to music that suggests authority or instills fear, these campaign ads sway viewers without their knowledge.

Professor Paul Christiansen wants to change that by giving voters the tools to spot potential manipulation through music.

“It feels like a public service,” Christiansen said about his research. Music isn’t a systematic part of an American education, he says, noting that as a result, voters are underinformed by how influenced they can be on a deep, emotional level by nonverbal appeals.

An associate professor of music in the College of Communication and the Arts, Christiansen is the author of the 2018 book, *Orchestrating Public Opinion: How Music Persuades in Television Political Ads for U.S. Presidential Campaigns, 1952-2016*. Also an expert on Czech music, Christiansen has appeared on NPR and BBC Radio 3, sharing his expert analysis of the history of presidential political ads and providing context for the election cycle.

“Music is most powerful when [listeners] are not paying attention to it. When attention isn’t focused on music, in a political context that leaves an opening for an emotional appeal,” he said.

Christiansen’s research on political advertisements

— which grew from a seminar he taught earlier in his career on music in TV commercials — allows him to tap into his undergraduate studies in communications and his graduate degree in musicology.

In his book, Christiansen traces every presidential campaign from the 1952 matchup between Dwight D. Eisenhower and Adlai Stevenson to Donald J. Trump’s victory over Hillary Clinton in 2016. He shows how they use music to instill confidence or provoke fear, to emphasize a candidate’s wisdom and authority or to make an opponent appear incompetent or foolish.

Christiansen demonstrates how an ad’s choice of instrument or well-timed key changes can influence listeners. For example, he writes that a twangy country guitar was used by Jimmy Carter’s campaign in 1976 to make the Georgia Democrat — a Naval Academy graduate and former governor — seem folksy and down to earth. Two decades later, President George H. W. Bush’s re-election campaign chose a country guitar track to portray opponent Bill Clinton of Arkansas as a country bumpkin, a hick who was not prepared for the Oval Office.

Christiansen also discusses pop-culture references — from hit songs to TV commercials — and highlights the game-changers that had lasting influence on the field. Throughout, he expresses concern about the manipulative nature of these ads.

“As I write in the book, I would love to see music completely removed,” he said, adding that he knows that is unrealistic. “I love music and I don’t like to see it used



SOUND ADVICE
Professor Paul Christiansen wrote the book on musical persuasion.

to distract voters from focusing on the candidates’ policies and records.”

Dana Gorzelany-Mostak, an assistant professor of music at Georgia College and creator and co-editor of Trax on the Trail, an interactive campaign music website, said Christiansen is making an important contribution to the field.

“He’s one of the first to look at the history of political advertisements in a creative and unique way,” she said. “He’s coming at the topic from a specific scholarly lens, bringing a musicologist’s perspective, but he’s engaging, and his work is not alienating. He’s providing the public with a toolbox for what they are viewing.”

The expanding media landscape and special interest groups that now produce issue ads make Christiansen’s work more crucial, she said. “There’s all this information and no system that filters it, so it’s all the more vital to have a toolbox and to be more critical.”

As the 2020 campaign peaks, Christiansen believes the ads that exploit the electorate’s fear and anxiety will continue. In fact, there will be more than ever.

The number and cost of political advertising are growing rapidly. One prominent ad agency estimates spending this year will eclipse \$10 billion, up dramatically from the estimated \$6.5 billion spent in 2016 (on presidential and congressional campaigns).

“Long ago we left behind the era when campaigns strictly controlled their television messages,” he said, noting the growth of YouTube and other online platforms. A little knowledge will go a long way toward arming voters against undue influence. “It’s OK if you don’t understand how they are trying to manipulate you. Just be aware, focus on it and the minute you do, you’ll see what they’re trying to do,” he said. ■

Peggy McGlone ’87 covers local arts for The Washington Post.

Photo by Michael Parras on location at SOPAC in South Orange, N.J.

The president of Morristown Medical Center, Trish O’Keefe, M.S.N. ’94/Ph.D. ’14 is known for her compassion and dedication.

A GUARDIAN ANGEL

Photo by Michael Paras

It may be an exaggeration to say that nursing is in Trish O’Keefe’s DNA, but not much of one. Her mother, her aunts and her cousins were nurses. Her long career in nursing administration also has a family genesis: Her mother was a nursing home administrator. But O’Keefe’s rise to the presidency of Morristown Medical Center can also be attributed to her dedication, acumen and a generosity of spirit that earned her a reputation as the hospital’s “guardian angel.”

O’Keefe, who worked as a nurse’s aide as an undergraduate at Wilkes College in Pennsylvania (now Wilkes University), started as a bedside nurse on an orthopedic unit in Morristown Medical Center. She was drawn to nursing, she says, “because I enjoyed caring for people.”

As her responsibilities broadened, she discovered something else she enjoyed. “I liked being part of the decision-making process,” she reflects, “as well as advancing the nursing profession.” As a supervisor on the orthopedic unit, she recognized a need to develop her administrative skills, so she applied to Seton Hall’s College of Nursing, receiving an M.S.N. in 1994. Later in her career, she returned to get her doctorate, graduating in 2014.

“She was always driven,” recalls Marie Foley, dean of the College of Nursing, who notes that it took great “fortitude and persistence” for O’Keefe to complete her doctoral degree “while working full-time in huge leadership roles at the hospital.” Those roles included chief nursing officer and later, chief experience officer, overseeing patient care departments and services. Under her leadership, the hospital was designated an American Nurses Credentialing Center Magnet Hospital for Nursing Excellence four times — a testament to her dedication to the Seton Hall philosophy of “servant leadership.”

She sees herself as serving a community comprising patients and their families, as well as the hospital’s staff and volunteers. When, for instance, it became clear two decades ago that patients in northern New Jersey didn’t want to travel to New York City for cancer care, she focused on developing the hospital’s Carol G. Simon

Cancer Center. Recently, the medical center and its parent company, Atlantic Health, partnered with TGen, a national pipeline for clinical trials, so it could offer the same kind of cutting-edge trials available at New York’s top medical institutions.

O’Keefe was named interim president in 2015, becoming president in 2016. Unusual for the time, she rose to the position from the ranks of nursing and patient care administration. “But times are changing,” O’Keefe says, noting another nurse-president in New Jersey, Mary Ellen Clyne ’87/M.S.N.’93/Ph.D.’12, who heads up Clara Maass Medical Center in Belleville and also received her Ph.D. from Seton Hall.

Thanks to her nursing background, O’Keefe is hands-on in a way that many in her position might not be. William Bruen Jr., a hospital trustee and volunteer, notes that “she’s always willing to get up in front of a luncheon of volunteers or a group of doctors or nurses.” That intimate sense of connection, Bruen says, “has translated into extremely high patient satisfaction, especially with the quality of the nursing staff.”

O’Keefe continues to integrate nurses more actively into the hospital’s decision-making process. Allowing the staff who spend the most face time with patients to also help shape policy is part of the reason Morristown Medical Center was named both “Best Hospital in New Jersey” by *U.S. News & World Report* and “One of the World’s Best Hospitals” by *Newsweek* in 2019 and 2020.

O’Keefe is also loyal to the university that helped shape her. She routinely facilitates clinical experiences at the medical center for Seton Hall’s nursing students, and she was a member of the President’s Advisory Committee. “If ever we call on Trish for assistance,” says Foley, “she always gives willingly of her time.”

That generosity is emblematic of O’Keefe’s leadership and her ability to maintain, in Bruen’s words, “the feeling of a community hospital in what’s become a large, sprawling medical center. To have a nurse running the hospital,” he adds, “gives the hospital heart.” ■

Leslie Garisto Pfaff writes widely on medicine and health care.

HIGHER CAUSE

A gift from Pat Burgh House, Ed.D. '01 to the Stetar-Finkelstein Fund recognizes her lifelong commitment to learning.



It was PSAT day for 16-year-old Pat Burgh, a high school junior living outside New Haven, Connecticut. Her No. 2 pencil in hand, she filled out a form that asked, among other questions, which academic degree she would ultimately like to earn. Bachelor’s? Master’s? Doctorate? She checked doctorate.

Decades later, former Seton Hall administrator Pat Burgh House, Ed.D. '01 recalls that simple gesture “clear as day,” for it foreshadowed a lifelong love of learning and a particular commitment to higher education. House recently fortified that commitment with a generous gift to the Stetar-Finkelstein Fund, which supports the University’s higher education doctoral program within the Department of Education Leadership, Management and Policy at the College of Education and Human Services.

Mary J. Meehan '72/M.A. '74/Ph.D. '01 launched the fund while serving as interim president of Seton Hall, and she insisted on naming it after professors Joseph Stetar and Martin Finkelstein to recognize their contributions to the program and its students over many years. Those students have included both Meehan and House.

“People like Joe Stetar and Marty Finkelstein were inspirational examples to me of scholars who made teaching and mentoring just as important as their research and scholarship,” House says. “They were

teachers, and they found that to be just as important as any professional achievement in the field.” By the time House earned her master’s degree in educational administration at Fairfield University in Connecticut, where she began as an admissions counselor shortly after graduating from Boston College, she had already determined to chart a career course as a college administrator. “The power of education to me, there’s nothing else with that power,” House says. “It’s what can make the world a better place. Every individual has a right to that opportunity, and I believe strongly the profession is a very noble one.”

House arrived at Seton Hall in 1986 as the dean of enrollment services, admissions, and financial aid. (Stetar, then the associate provost, was her boss.) While still working as an administrator, she began the long process to earn a doctoral degree in higher education administration, taking classes with both Finkelstein and Stetar, her doctoral adviser, and learning firsthand the profound influence the professors have left on countless Seton Hall students. “It was for me the manifestation of what higher education is about and what it can accomplish,” she says.

During her 15 years in South Orange, House also served as associate vice president of enrollment management and director of Seton Hall’s image campaign. They



“The power of education ... It’s what can make the world a better place.”

were formative years, during which she forged lifelong friendships and an abiding fidelity to the University, in particular its mission to produce servant leaders. (Today House is an executive vice president at Graham-Pelton, a global fundraising management consulting firm for nonprofit organizations.) House says her doctoral experience, highlighted by the mentorship she received from Stetar and Finkelstein, led directly to her donation to their namesake fund. “It was important to me to join Mary Meehan and others in tribute to them,” she says.

Maureen Gillette, dean of the College of Education and Human Services, says such gifts will enable Seton Hall’s higher education program to enhance both the student and faculty experience by bringing guest speakers to campus and providing critical research funding. “Pat’s gift is important,” Gillette says, “because it is yet another generous donation that recognizes the significance of research and scholarship in the field of higher education right now.”

It was also at Seton Hall that Pat Burgh met a rising young science faculty star named Steven House. They were married in 2000, and both left Seton Hall a year later, but Pat House says their respective tenures at the University remain highlights of their college careers. (Steven House is now executive vice president at Elon University in North Carolina.) In fact, the Houses recently made another major donation, creating the Patricia Burgh House and Steven House Endowed Discretionary Fund for use by the Seton Hall president.

As Pat House tells it, their recent gifts were not difficult decisions. “We have higher education administration in our blood, obviously,” she says. “You add it all up — the impact of Seton Hall on our lives, the emotional ties, the proven need for an endowed unrestricted president’s fund, the benefits of philanthropic planning — it was, quite frankly, a very rewarding decision to make.” ■

Christopher Hann is a freelance writer and editor in New Jersey.

Photo by Andrew Krech

LEAVING IT ALL ON THE (DIGITAL) FIELD



Seton Hall’s video game teams are emerging as conference-leading competitors in the growing world of esports — and thanks to a new facility in Jubilee Hall, they now have a well-equipped home on campus.



WHERE IT ALL HAPPENS
Victor Gomez '17 in Seton Hall's new gaming lab designed specifically for esports.

Photography by Michael Paras

The undefeated Pirates had already stomped Xavier University in the semifinals, shutting them out 4-0. Now the BIG EAST championship title rode on a final best-of-seven-games showdown against DePaul. Six games in, the schools were tied. Well into the seventh game, they were tied again. It would all come down to the final few seconds.

It’s the classic sports moment — a nail-biting final, the result of hours of training, and a last-second goal (in this case, DePaul’s) to win the game. But there was an added twist to this particular matchup: the players were sitting at computers inside a New York City gaming lounge, and their sport was a video game called “Rocket League.”

Between dedicated club members, the recent launch of BIG EAST esports tournaments, and the University’s new computer lab/esports facility in Jubilee Hall, Seton Hall has officially entered the world of competitive video gaming — and its teams are emerging as serious, conference-leading competitors.

While video games and competitions around them date back to the 1970s, esports — team-based competitive video gaming that mirrors traditional sports competitions — have risen to prominence in the past decade. And it’s been a rocketing ascent. The global esports market was expected to generate \$1.1 billion in revenue last year, more than double from just three years ago, according to the analytics company Newzoo.

In 2018, more people watched the “League of Legends” World Championship than the 2019 Super Bowl. And in July 2019, a 16-year-old from Pennsylvania took home \$3 million for winning the Fortnite World Cup Finals.

“This is no longer a trend,” notes Paul Fisher, Seton Hall’s associate chief information officer. “It’s now an industry — and we need to look at it as such from an educational perspective, from a management perspective,

and certainly from a business perspective.” “We have an opportunity here at Seton Hall to harness what’s happening,” he adds.

From Fledging Club to BIG EAST Champs

When he wasn’t in class or studying for exams, Victor Gomez ’17 spent most of his time at Seton Hall either managing the school’s first esports team or trying to help others understand why competitive video gaming belonged on campus.

“Basically anyone who would listen would get a miniature presentation on Seton Hall esports,” he says now.

Aside from turning himself into a walking Wikipedia entry on the history and statistics behind esports, Gomez personally understood their broad appeal. He’d gotten hooked on playing competitive “World of Warcraft” in high school and discovered the game “League of Legends” at Seton Hall.

“It was like when I was playing volleyball or running track or playing soccer — that feeling of, I want to improve because I know I could win if I just fix this one thing,” he says. He also loved the camaraderie among teammates and the way winning relied on strong communication.

The Seton Hall Gaming Sector club was less than a year old when Gomez joined in 2013 — the same year that the United States officially recognized esports



players as professional athletes. Esports were beginning to explode on campuses around the country, and Seton Hall’s teams started training to compete and entering regional tournaments.

A high point for Gomez came in 2015, when Riot Games flew him and Joshua Caruso ’16 out to Santa Monica for a “League of Legends” Collegiate Summit. Gomez offered the company his opinions, talked about the gaming scene on campus, and “played a lot of video games,” he remembers. He says Seton Hall was one of just 75 schools selected to attend the summit, and the only one from New Jersey.

Still, the Seton Hall esports teams ebbed and flowed. Some years they were highly competitive. Others, more lax. And while the gaming club itself grew to 250 members in 2015, with up to 70 students playing “League of

Legends” alone, “there was definitely a population we weren’t reaching,” Gomez says.

When Christian Ciardiello, now a senior, joined the club in 2016, he set out to strengthen the teams — not as a player, but by managing them. A former varsity athlete in soccer and track and longtime video game enthusiast, Ciardiello counts himself among the hundreds of millions of people who don’t compete in esports, but love to watch them.

“Professional players in the NFL, NBA, MLB — they’re not simply good at what they do, but in a way they’re also entertainers,” he says. “People love watching people who are really good at things they’re passionate about. It’s the same with esports.”

As esports manager, Ciardiello devoted himself to assembling strong player rosters, scheduling practice



The National Association of Collegiate Esports counts more than 170 schools as members — a number that’s already double what it was just two years ago.

scrimmages with other schools, and placing the teams into leagues and tournaments.

Today the Seton Hall esports teams practice together eight hours a week. A student coach doles out training assignments. The players review videos of their past matchups to spot mistakes and areas for improvement.

The result has been a growing list of achievements — including, in 2018, when Seton Hall won the inaugural Electronic Sports League (ESL) BIG EAST Esports Invitational for the game “Rocket League.”

Fisher says that the pilot BIG EAST season in 2018 showed that the conference was starting to take competitive video gaming seriously. And in March 2019, the commitment further crystallized when leaders invited Fisher and other CIOs from BIG EAST schools to conference headquarters to talk about collegiate esports.

“I came back from that meeting and started digging in, asking, ‘What is this all about?’” Fisher remembers. He met with Ciardiello and talked to Gomez, who had returned to campus in 2018 as both adviser of the Seton Hall gaming club and an assistant director of scheduling/operations for the student life department.

Fisher surveyed the Seton Hall campus about esports and was shocked by the results: 67 percent of undergraduates said they wouldn’t go to a traditional sporting event, but they would go to an esports event.

“How do we leave that kind of engagement on the table?” he says. “Why wouldn’t we start investing in getting that 67 percent of students engaged in a University-supported program — getting out of their rooms, getting them in leadership roles and social roles, and playing the games as part of a team?”

IT had plans to renovate a computer lab in Jubilee Hall, and Fisher pitched the idea of designing it specifically for esports. With input from Gomez and Ciardiello, the space has become the first official esports facility on campus, with high-power PCs, gaming chairs, and consoles including Microsoft Xbox One and Nintendo Switch. Though open to all students, the gaming lab is now the teams’ home base for practices and matches.

Gomez’s reaction to the new spot? “In a word? Amaz-

ing,” he says. “I see it as a victory not only for myself and my current students, but for anyone who’s been a part of [Seton Hall esports] since day one — and even those who are only recently discovering our existence.”

More Than Games

Seton Hall isn’t the only university embracing esports right now. The National Association of Collegiate Esports counts more than 170 schools as members — a number that’s already double what it was just two years ago. (And that doesn’t include the dozens of club teams, like Seton Hall’s, which are not yet varsity teams as NACE requires, but still practice, compete and win.)

The Ohio State University and several other schools have rolled out undergraduate majors in esports. The University of California, Irvine unveiled a 3,500-square-foot UCI Esports Arena. And in 2018, Harrisburg University in Pennsylvania became the first college esports program to award full scholarships to its entire 16-player roster.

Collegiate esports players can also land scholarship money through tournaments. Ciardiello says the Seton Hall “Rocket League” team is already on track to earn “a little bit of money” this spring through competitive play. He’s hopeful that those numbers will grow in the future.

“Most students get scholarships through academics or through athletics,” he notes. “A lot of players on our teams — the thing they’re really good at is video games. They know the games as well as someone knows a specific subject or an athlete knows how to play their sport. There are more than enough opportunities in the collegiate esports world for these students to earn scholarship money to help pay for college.”

There are nonfinancial benefits, too. Gomez sees the Seton Hall esports teams as a potential source of both student recruitment and retention. He says they’re a place where game lovers can find a sense of community. “There’s also a lot of space for diversity,” he adds. “In a video game, it’s only about what’s on the screen and how good you are. If you don’t want to, you don’t even have to speak. No one’s looking at you directly. A lot of times, people can find it to be very liberating.”



As competitive video gaming continues to sweep through the sports world, Fisher also sees its potential to expand further at Seton Hall. In early 2020, he plans to bring together students, faculty and administrative leaders to explore how esports might grow at Seton Hall.



And as the new degree programs illustrate, collegiate esports is a passion that can flow straight into a career. According to Indeed.com, job postings for esports roles increased by 11 percent in 2019. “Just think of all the careers around this billion-dollar industry that’s coming to fruition,” Fisher says, listing jobs like event planning, marketing, social media direction, sports management, and even athletic training for gaming injuries — not to mention professional gamer careers.

The Seton Hall teams offer “a huge opportunity to engage our students and get them into careers they have a passion for,” he adds.

Bryan D’Imperio ’16 started playing “Super Smash Bros.” his freshman year at Seton Hall, when Hurricane Sandy swept through the state and confined students to their dorms. He eventually joined the Seton Hall Gaming Sector and developed a zeal for competition.

“I felt this drive to keep getting better and better,” he says. “Anytime a new person would come in and beat me, it would light a fire under me. I loved being able to push myself farther and farther.”

Today D’Imperio works as the director of social media and brand content for Will2Win Gaming, a team founded by fellow Seton Hall graduate Brien Latumbo ’15. A career in esports is “never something I imagined when I started playing,” D’Imperio says, “but now there are so many opportunities to get into a team or even make your own.”

Esports experience can translate in subtler ways, too. Though he has never played with the team, Ciardiello says he refined his leadership skills as esports manager and president of the gaming club. After he graduates with a bachelor’s degree in accounting and a certificate in information technology management this spring, he’ll begin an internship with PricewaterhouseCoopers.

“Every single time I had an interview with any firm, I’d talk briefly about my academics and classes,” he says, “but most of the time, it was focused on esports.”

Leveling Up

Esports show no signs of fading anytime soon. A report from Business Insider Intelligence predicts that by 2023, 600 million people will be watching esports. In Philadelphia, Comcast is building a \$50 million esports arena, set to open in early 2021.

As competitive video gaming continues to sweep through the sports world, Fisher also sees its potential to expand further at Seton Hall. In early 2020, he plans to bring together students, faculty and administrative leaders to explore how esports might grow at the University.

As the winter tournament season wrapped up, Gomez, Ciardiello and the Pirate esports athletes were already looking toward their next matchups — including games through the ESL Collegiate BIG EAST “League of Legends” Invitational and the Collegiate Rocket League.

“At the end of the day, this is very new not only to the University, but to every university both domestically and abroad,” Gomez says. “And we’re excited to see how far our Seton Hall teams can go.” ■



Keaton Douglas has taken her talents for entertaining and created a program to help people heal from addiction. A class at the Immaculate Conception Seminary School of Theology changed her life — and the lives of those in recovery.

A Voice to Serve in Recovery

Keaton Douglas had already changed careers once. She ran the marketing department of a Wall Street investment firm before changing focus to her original love: music and theater. “I had a journeyman’s career as a singer,” says Douglas. “I’m the great singer that no one heard of.” For 25 years, she sang at huge galas and worked with some of the finest musicians in the country.

But somewhere along the way, Douglas began suffering: her marriage fell apart while her son was very young. She was extremely hurt, but eventually she found healing — and regained her faith. The process of forgiveness brought her slowly back into the Church, she says. “And once I forgave, my heart changed. God had done for me something I couldn’t do myself: I was unburdened and unchained from resentment and self-doubt.”

She began to explore her Catholic faith and started to use her background as a performer to speak to groups of people about her devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary.

That’s when she saw an advertisement in *The Beacon* newspaper for a one-day class at Seton Hall called “Spirituality and Public Speaking.” It sounded like it was created just for her, but her heart fell when she saw the schedule: the class was to be held on a Saturday, when she taught private voice lessons. Still, she decided to go and speak with the school anyway.

Dianne Traflet, associate dean of graduate studies at Seton Hall’s Immaculate Conception Seminary School of

Theology, remembers the day Douglas walked into her office in 2012. “When she came in thinking she’d take a class, I saw not just a musician, but someone who is so enthusiastic about learning her faith,” Traflet recalls. As their conversation started, Traflet began to think: “Maybe this woman could use her vocal talents to inspire people through Christian music.”

But then she realized there was much more to Douglas. “She’s self-confident, enthusiastic, prayerful, so I just sat back and let her talk,” Traflet says. “I was seeing someone so ready to put her life in God’s hands, and so willing to wait on God for the next step she would be called to take.”

Douglas said she felt God was calling her to do something — though she didn’t know what yet. Traflet advised her to enroll as a student, take things one day at a time and see where the path led. “I said, it’s going to be fun to see what God has in mind for you,” she remembers.

That’s how Douglas enrolled as a master’s student in theology. As it happened, her son was headed to Seton Hall as a student that fall, and when his friends discovered her presence on campus, they told him how cool it was that his mom attended the same college.

Douglas found herself a bit out of sorts when she started taking classes at the seminary. After all, the last time she had written a paper, it was in the pre-computer era. On her second day, she was waiting outside a classroom when a young seminarian came up to her. “You look like you could use a friend,” he said.

Photo by Michael Parras

That seminarian was a student named Aro from a community of priests and brothers — Missionary Servants of the Most Holy Trinity — at the Shrine of Saint Joseph in Stirling, New Jersey. He’s now Father Aro Varnabas, S.T., and he remembers the day well. “She looked very simple and very friendly — that’s why I approached her,” he says.

Soon, a fast friendship was formed, and he invited Douglas to a retreat at the shrine to speak to a group of women in recovery from heroin addiction. Douglas couldn’t understand why they wanted to hear from her, but she went anyway, asking herself, ‘What can I learn from these women?’

“I have sung in front of 17,000 people, but I was nervous in front of these women,” she remembers. “I told them how my life was put together by faith. I was crying, they cried. When I laughed, they laughed.” Douglas left the room with a changed view. “It did not matter what caused our brokenness. What’s important is that we are all wounded.”

At that moment, Douglas felt her life shift — she had felt called to serve others, and now she had an idea as to how. She began working as a regular spirituality speaker at Straight and Narrow, a recovery program in Paterson. “The recovery community became the audience that I prepared for all my life,” she says. “I could speak to them, and I just loved them.”

As her work in the recovery community deepened, she began to see the issues that all addiction — chemical substances, pornography, food — had in common. “The hallmarks were the same: the feelings of guilt, shame, unworthiness: these were at their roots part of one’s spiritual condition,” she says. “So we needed to provide a spiritual remedy. And who better to provide this than our Church?”

Douglas started training as a recovery coach. She dove into a course handbook and found that although it was 178 pages long, there were only two pages dedicated to spirituality. Many of her classmates in the course were in long term recovery themselves, and most had said they had had a spiritual awakening as part of their recovery.

That’s when she came up with the idea for “I THIRST,” a recovery program steeped in faith to give people spiritual tools to stay clean and sober. “I Thirst” is a reference to the words of Christ on the Cross, but it’s also an acronym: The Healing Initiative — Recovery, Spirituality and Twelve Steps.

The first part of the program is education and prevention: Douglas developed a curriculum to help the Church become a resource for people suffering from addiction. “It’s like no other disease because of the stigma,” she says. “Even bereavement is different.” People are often afraid to grieve a loved one’s death from addiction because of the shame — and that’s driving them from their faith communities. As part of the program, I THIRST volunteers hold assemblies for Catholic schools and youth groups that address addiction and focus on turning their attention toward faith.

The second part of I THIRST looks to train people to support the spiritual needs of those in treatment programs and prisons, and to sow the seeds of spirituality as a necessary element of wellness. “Some of the people in recovery are angry at God, some are resentful,” says Douglas, adding that teaching how to share love and hope to help people transform is crucial. It also includes retreats, which help people in recovery who are seeking spiritual guidance and community.

The program’s third prong is the development of aftercare and community-building services for people coming out of treatment facilities. Addiction isolates people, and so developing a community is a big part of the recovery process. Douglas hopes to welcome people back into the Church as a way to build this community and has developed a program of recovery Bible groups, recovery Masses and intercessory prayer sessions that trained volunteers can develop in their own parishes. Her office is located in a sober-living community in downtown Paterson.

The faith community’s proactive presence has been a missing element in recovery, Douglas says. One in six people in the U.S. struggles with addiction at some point in life, yet in 2017, only 4 million people received

treatment, or about 19 percent of those who needed it. Drug abuse and addiction cost American society more than \$740 billion annually in lost workplace productivity, healthcare expenses and crime-related costs.

That’s what makes I THIRST all the more necessary. Douglas has been working to pilot the program in the Archdiocese of Boston through Cardinal Sean Patrick O’Malley and its Opioid Task Force as well as other places in the Northeast, making presentations to different Catholic groups. She says many recovery programs are moving toward a clinical model and shying away from systems that integrate faith, like Alcoholics Anonymous or Narcotics Anonymous.

There’s a real opportunity for the Church to lead in this area, says Father Aro. “The problems of the society are also problems of the Church,” he says. “Every priest or religious person, anyone working in name of church, has to be involved in people’s real problems. That’s how we can reach out to them and bring them back to church.”

Traflet says it’s been a joy to watch Douglas’s evolution from that meeting in her office eight years ago. “She’s doing something specific that hasn’t been done before in developing this curriculum that is grounded on faith and Scripture, she says. “She’s very humbly entering into this, using the tools that she was given through her studies.”

Part of Douglas’s success with I THIRST comes from her authenticity, she says. “This is a woman who knows how to pray, and she wants to be able to bring people into a place of prayer as they’re recovering. She understands the power of prayer personally.”

Douglas is bringing the I THIRST program to Seton Hall’s South Orange campus for continuing education units. Undergraduate students also learn about the program through the core curriculum. Douglas explains that while studying transformation in the work of Socrates, Plato and Dante, for example, students learn about the transformative nature of recovery. Students speak with people in recovery and learn stories from real transformative ventures.

Douglas continues to feel called to bring faith to addiction recovery. For too long, she says, too many have



UNITED IN HEALING
Keaton Douglas and Father Luis de la Cuadra, S.T., at the Winter Wheat Cenacle in Paterson.

acted like the priest and the Levite in the Good Samaritan story — walking past someone bloodied in the road.

“Maybe it was because we didn’t understand the nature of the disease of addiction, but we are commanded by Christ to care for one another, no matter what,” she says. “Addiction is messy; it’s hard to understand a lot of trauma and abuse; it’s tender and difficult.”

Engaging in recovery communities has changed Douglas, too, bringing her closer to understanding her own vulnerabilities. She still sings every day to inspire people, using her gifts to lift up people who are feeling ill in detox centers or who are alone in their recovery. She often chooses a well-known song such as “Lean on Me” or “Amazing Grace.”

Douglas hopes to bring people back to their faith, and she hopes the Church will open its arms and welcome back those who have lost their way.

“There is no group, no element of society that is exempt,” she says. “It’s a unique opportunity for a Catholic university to understand this disease and use our spirituality to reach out to people of all faiths, to share the spiritual healing that they do not get in regular treatment.” ■

Katharine Gammon is a freelance writer based in Santa Monica, CA.

He's All Heart

During his Seton Hall career, Myles Powell often has celebrated after making a big shot, grabbing the front of his jersey to show off the name of his school.

But in Powell's case, maybe it means a bit more.

You see, it wasn't always a smooth ride from high school sophomore to first-team All-American (the program's first since 1953) and BIG EAST Player of the Year. But through it all, the senior shooting guard and Seton Hall stayed together, which is why he says, "I'll always put the Seton Hall family first and I want the Seton Hall family to remember that."

Powell's path to South Orange began in his hometown of Trenton, when he was contacted by then-Seton Hall assistant coach Shaheen Holloway. Powell also was contacted by Rutgers, Drexel and nearby Rider, but, he said, "Whatever [Seton Hall] saw in me, they saw it first. ... Real recognizes real. When I felt that love coming from them, I knew it was real."

But reality soon struck.

In Powell's sophomore season at Trenton Catholic, he fractured his foot. And when he broke it again during a post-grad year at South Kent School in Connecticut, "That's when I got fat. And schools were saying, 'Why is he getting so fat?'"

But Seton Hall never wavered, even when Powell arrived on campus in the summer of 2016 carrying 240 pounds and the nickname "Cheese," because he liked to put the dairy product on everything.

"They knew what was going on," Powell said of head coach Kevin Willard and his staff. "They took the time to get to know me as a person." That motivated him to drop 45 pounds and "show them that whatever they saw in me, they saw the right thing."

Powell averaged 10.7 points as a freshman and 15.5 as a sophomore on teams filled with upperclassmen. He had to defer not only on the court, but off it.

"I had so much love for them and just wanted to send them out the right way so bad," he said of the upperclassmen. "I didn't want to step on anybody's toes."

But once those seniors graduated, it was obvious who had to become the leader. And not merely on the stat sheet, although he averaged 23.1 points in 2018-19.

"Last year I wanted to lead by example," Powell said.

But that has changed in his senior year as team captain.

"I just had to find it in myself to get more comfortable in myself as a leader and come out and say certain things," he says. "If I see guys going through things, I'll pull them aside and talk to them even if it's not about basketball."

"I'll go up to them [and] make sure everybody's good," he added. "I find myself going through the [residence] building, knocking on everybody's door, seeing if everybody's cool. ... I just do my best to try to make everybody happy, even though it's kind of impossible."

"I feel like God has a way of sending blessings and opportunities to those who live the right way."

"Myles is a once-in-a-lifetime person," said sophomore teammate Jared Rhoden. "He's like no one I've ever seen before. His charisma is amazing."

Powell credits his mother, Jeannette Moore, as his inspiration.

"All my life I've seen my mom fight, fight, fight [and] never complain. I just want to make her happy."

Making people happy is something Powell talks about often. More important, he lives it. At a preseason autograph session on the University Green, Powell made



Photo courtesy of Seton Hall Athletics

sure he and his teammates stayed until every fan in line had the opportunity to meet them. And after games at the Prudential Center, Powell regularly can be seen signing autographs for young fans.

Powell always tells people, "You don't have to thank me. The smile that your son or your daughter just gave me, it lit my heart up."

"No matter how many accolades I get, at the end of the day none of that stuff matters," says Powell, who is working toward a degree in social and behavioral

sciences. "I just hope that I can be the role model they can look up to."

As for Trenton, he says, "I can't wait to make a lot of money and hopefully one day go back and build a boys and girls center. I want to give back something to my city."

Much the same way he has given so much to Seton Hall University. ■

J.P. Pelzman is a freelance writer who covered Seton Hall basketball for 14 seasons for The Record of Hackensack, N.J.

Success Where it Counts

By the time she was a high school student, Michal “Mikey” Matson qualified as an experienced international traveler. Born in New Zealand, Matson and her family moved to France for several years, to England for another, to Japan for five more, then to Australia for three years and finally back to her birth country. The Matsons explored lands near and far thanks to Mikey’s dad, Tabai “Tabs” Matson, a rugby player and coach whose career exposed them to the wonders of new cultures. Despite that globe-trotting, Matson still faced a challenging adjustment at Seton Hall, where she began her college tennis career in 2016.

“I came into America thinking, ‘OK, I speak the same language as Americans, so how hard is this going to be?’ It was extremely difficult, especially coming to the Northeast where everything is so fast-paced, where everything’s like, ‘I need you to get this done now.’ I was like, ‘I’m on island time. Can I get back to you in five to seven business days?’”

Matson talked to her parents often and realized that, while they could offer verbal support and love, she was responsible for making her new life work. Today Matson can say her time at Seton Hall “exceeded my expectations. I’ve grown more than I thought I would as an athlete, but mainly as a person. I’ve had incredible experiences that have shaped me to who I am today, which I wouldn’t have had if I stayed in New Zealand.”

And who is Matson today? She’s a senior accounting major with a job lined up after graduation, president of Seton Hall’s Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC) and a key contributor in singles and doubles for the Pirates’ women’s tennis team. On the court, says her coach, Kevin McGlynn, Matson has a “very big serve and plays a pretty athletic game. “[She’s] steady on the backhand and tries to set up her points because her forehand is her weapon,” he says.

Matson adjusted to new surroundings early in her Seton Hall career. Growing up, her mom, Nadia, and grandmother “were always at my games. They always sat near the same part of the court every time, and they always had these big, black sunglasses so I could never

see the stress in their eyes. I always looked to them as a safety beacon.”

Even without that comforting company, Matson found success. In singles competitions, she enjoys “the grind and mental toughness and physical endurance and speed, so there’s that pure tennis that I love.” But when she pairs with a partner, “I do find doubles a bit more thrilling because they shorten it to only one set,” contributing to fast-paced matches with little room for error.

In recalling her memorable battles, she remembers a doubles victory with longtime partner Melody Taal when they defeated formidable Yale opponents. And there was the singles match Matson’s freshman year, when she trailed 5-0 in the decisive third set against an opponent from Army. “I ended up winning 7-5 and I still think about that all the time because tennis is one of those sports where it’s not over till it’s over. There’s no time limit. That’s always resonated with me.”

Away from tennis, Matson leads the monthly meetings of SAAC, where two representatives from each team discuss happenings around the school, rule changes from the NCAA, and community service. The group also organizes awards dinners and “makes sure athletes are on the right path to make the transition from athlete to adult.”

When her college days end, Matson will return to the people who instilled that love of competition. In June she joins the accounting firm Deloitte in New Zealand, where she will live with her parents while she pursues a certified public accountant license. Matson’s goal — “to head into the financial department in the sports world” — comes as no surprise, considering her love of athletics.

But that won’t be the end of Matson’s travels. The young woman who struggled in those early days in New Jersey is “going home, getting my CPA, and then I’m coming back to America. ... I want to spend a little extra time with family before I’m like, ‘OK, I’m entering the adult world.’”

She’s already proven she thrives anywhere. ■

Shawn Fury is an author in New York City.

Photo courtesy of Seton Hall Athletics

50s

Edmund S. Schiavoni '51 was named senior vice president and member of the board of directors for Golden Triangle Ventures Inc. ... **James J. Siano '56/M.A. '72** was featured on the FBI Retired Case Files podcast in April 2019.

60s

Marianne D. Earle '60 ran for mayor in the borough of Freehold, N.J. ... **Anthony Canger '64** hosted a showing of his paintings and drawings called “The Spirit of Freedom in Paint” at the Liberty Museum in Liberty, N.Y. ... **Joseph G. Bilby '65/M.A. '82** discussed his newest book, *The Rise of the Ku Klux Klan in New Jersey*, at the Middletown (N.J.) Historical Society. ... **Robert J. Tarte '65/J.D. '69** was elected trustee of Unico Foundation Inc. ... **Brian Fitzgerald '67**, president and CEO of Easterseals New Jersey, was named in the 2019 *NJBIZ* Icon Honors awards program for his commitment to helping people with disabilities. ... **Mon-signor Timothy Shugrue '69/M.A.T. '76** was awarded the Friend of Mother Seton High School award in October 2019.

70s

Robert Bzik '71 received a second Member of the Month award from the Somerset County, N.J. YMCA ... **Joseph P. LaSala, J.D. '72** was named regent emeritus of Seton Hall’s Board of Regents. ... **Bettye J. King, M.A.E. '73**, a retired Newark Public School teacher after 30 years of service, was honored for her 42 years as a member of Kappa Delta Phi international honor society in April 2019 at Seton Hall University. ... **Nicholas St. George, M.A.E. '77** was featured on *NJ.com* for his work with the Mercy Center in Asbury Park, N.J. as a youth and family counselor. ... **James J. Weisman, J.D. '77** was recognized by the New York City Mayor’s Office for People with Disabilities during Disability Awareness Night at Yankee Stadium. ... **John Zoubek, M.B.A. '77** was honored for his

contributions as a board member of the South Orange Performing Arts Center and his volunteer service in the community. ... *The Nostradamus Mission*, a book by **Daniel M. Berghoff '78**, is being made into a trilogy of films by R.C. Rockefeller Entertainment. ... **Joseph A. Turula '78/J.D. '91** was awarded the annual Justice Thurgood Marshall Award from the New Jersey State Bar Association Diversity Committee. ... **Kim A. Otis, J.D. '79** joined Szaferman Lakind, a law firm in Lawrenceville, N.J. ... **Robert Wagner '79** was named chief communications officer at Ithaca College.

80s

Annamarie Bondi-Stoddard '80 was named the 2020 “Lawyer of the Year” by Best Lawyers for Plaintiffs Medical Malpractice in Long Island, N.Y. ... **Father Michael G. Krull '80** was named pastor at Our Lady of Peace church in North Brunswick, N.J. ... **Donald J. Scialabba, J.D. '80** was added to the Feldman, Kleidman, Coffeey & Sappe, LLP law firm in Fishkill, N.Y. ... **Theodore Stephens, J.D. '80** was awarded the Thurgood Marshall Award for 2019 by the Montclair, N.J. branch of the NAACP ... **Lydia Bashwiner, J.D. '81** was elected to the board of directors for the Professional Insurance Agents of New Jersey. ... **Rhonda Cardone '81** was named to the American Society of Highway Engineers New York Metro chapter’s board of directors ... **James McGlew '81/J.D. '85** was honored by the New Jersey State Bar Association as the Union County Bar Association’s Professional Lawyer of the Year. ... **Paul Mladjenovic '81** published *Affiliate Marketing for Dummies*. ... **Mark Veyette '81** was appointed senior vice president of internet technology operations at WOW! Internet, Cable & Phone. ... **Donald C. Heilman, J.D. '83** received the 2019 George Hammell Cook Alumni Award from Rutgers University. ... **Joseph Lubertazzi, J.D. '83** was named chairman of the executive committee for McCarter & English, LLP law firm. ... **Karen Patruno Sheehy '83/J.D. '88** was appointed senior vice president, chief compliance officer at Intra-Cellular Therapies. ... **Adele Gulfo '84**

was appointed to the board of directors for Medexus Pharmaceuticals, Inc. ... **Ellen M. Harris, J.D. '84** was appointed township attorney/law director for Hillside, N.J. ... **Todd M. Tersigni '84** was elected mayor of Phillipsbury, N.J. for 2020-23. ... **Rosaria Suriano '85/J.D. '88** was named co-chair of the Brach Eichler LLC firm’s litigation practice. ... **Raymond P. Ciccone, M.S.T. '86** was elected to the board of directors for 1st Constitution Bancorp and the 1st Constitution Bank. ... **Scott Piekarsky, J.D. '86** has joined the Phillip Nizer law firm as an attorney in the Hackensack, N.J. office. ... **Anthony Bucco, J.D. '87** is a state senator representing New Jersey’s 25th Legislative District. ... **Chris Christie, J.D. '87** was appointed to the board of directors of Pacira BioSciences Inc. in Parsippany, N.J. ... **Walter A. Clayton, J.D. '87** was inducted as the 72nd president of the Sarasota County Bar Association in Sarasota, Fla. ... **Rene Dierkes '87** joined Raymond James & Associates in Morristown, N.J., a financial consulting firm. ... **Robert Iannaccone, J.D. '87** was elected to a second four-year term on the Morristown, N.J. Town Council. ... **Frank McKenna '87** joined Raymond James & Associates in Morristown, N.J. ... **Margaret Frontera '88** was appointed by Gov. Phil Murphy as a commissioner on the Bergen County, N.J., Board of Elections. ... **David Flood '89/M.A. '95** is the 2019 recipient of the Association for Healthcare Philanthropy’s Si Seymour Award, recognizing leadership and philanthropic efforts in the healthcare community. ... **Donald Malter '89** has started a website and podcast designed to help upcoming musicians establish themselves in the industry. ... **William Palatucci, J.D. '89** was included in the 2019 *NJBIZ* “Law Power 50” ranking of the most influential attorneys in New Jersey.

90s

Nancy Bangiola, J.D. '90 was re-elected to the Morris School District Board of Education in Morristown, N.J., and is serving as president. ... **Anthony Masherelli '90** was named one of three new members to Seton Hall’s Board of Regents. ... **Steve McManus, J.D. '90**

PROFILE Until There is a Cure

Photos courtesy of Donna Dourney

Charlie Dourney ’54 was an athlete. He pitched at Seton Hall. He gave tennis lessons. His body could do great things. Then, slowly, he started not to be able to do even simple things. Like breathing easily — or swallowing. His daughter, Donna Dourney York ’80 saw it all happen, and she watched him die 10 years ago from Lou Gehrig’s disease, or amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS).

But Charlie Dourney’s spirit didn’t die with him.

His spirit lives on in handicapped-accessible vans. It’s in a house that was renovated to help someone with ALS use it. It’s in the more than \$1 million raised to fund these kinds of projects or used to help pay health bills piling up on people, Dourney York says.

Seeking to help others facing financial uncertainty and other difficulties that come with the disease, Dourney York founded HARK, (her father’s nickname) in 2011. The organization has provided 14 vans to those who need one and sent organization members to towns to assist with fundraisers.

“You just don’t know what it’s like unless you go

through it,” she says. “The body just betrays you. My father was lucky he was in the military and had coverage for it. Many people don’t, and financial ruin can follow.”

She also provides a personal touch, reaching out by phone to those affected by ALS. “They can become a part of your family,” says Dourney York, who serves as president of the nonprofit, based in Hillsborough, New Jersey.

Dourney York credits the University with helping her become more focused. Her tennis coach, Sue Patton — now a member of Seton Hall’s Hall of Fame — helped show her how to channel her energies and become a leader. Dourney York became team captain in her senior year, a responsibility she really wanted.

Yet her role today at HARK is one she does not want, because she hopes research will eradicate ALS and make her help obsolete. “My father was 79 when he died, but we helped raise money for someone who later passed away in his 30s,” she says. “This disease is cruel. ... You just want to make lives better for those who are dealing with it.” | ERIC BUTTERMAN



MAKING LIVES BETTER
Donna Dourney York (left)
and one of the donated
vans (above).

Pirate Babies

- 1. Tanya (Paitakes) '05 and Gary De Boer '05, a boy, Gerhart John, on July 18, 2019.
- 2. Leah (Semanie) '12 and John Murphy '11, a boy, Keegan Peter, on September 25, 2019.



Tying the knot

- 1. Matthew Chervenak '10 and Laura Maddaluna '10 on November 10, 2018.
- 2. Joseph Haines '12 and Taylor Mollica on May 10, 2019.
- 3. Mery Arcila '13 and Dennis Tejada on November 9, 2019.

SHARE YOUR JOY WITH THE PIRATE COMMUNITY

Please send us your wedding or baby photos to alumni@shu.edu or shuwriter@shu.edu.

We may run your submission in a future issue of the magazine or on social media.



Pirate Pride

Tag us in your Pirate Pride photos @setonhallalumni or email us alumni@shu.edu



Don't have a Pirate bandana yet? Visit www.shu.edu/alumni to request yours.

- 1. Lucas Carreras '11 in front of the Parthenon in Athens, Greece.
- 2. Robert J. Iracane Sr. '69/ M.S. '86 and Robert J. Iracane Jr. '03/ M.S. '16 in Paris.
- 3. Michael A. Magarinos '96 and Maite Tristan Magarinos '97 at Cinque Terre National Park in Italy.
- 4. Chris Paizis '13 and Meghan Borowick '16 in Germany.

was featured in *Vault's* Legal Career Spotlight in November 2019. ... **Gary Noll, M.S. '90** was featured in *Talk of the Town* magazine for his advocacy for deaf sports fans. ... **John A. Snyder '90** was honored as a 20-Year-Circle member by Lawyers Alliance for New York, which connects attorneys with nonprofits serving communities in need. ... **Rosaura Valarezo, M.A.E. '90** was appointed interim principal of Riley Elementary School in South Plainfield, N.J. ... **Patrick C. Dunican, J.D. '91** was honored by the Donegal County (Ireland) Council with the 2019 Tip O'Neill Irish Diaspora Award for promoting New Jersey and Ireland business ties. ... **Richard A. Giuditta Jr. '92/J.D. '96** was named one of three new members to Seton Hall's Board of Regents. ... **Joseph S. Szary '93/J.D. '97** joined the Fidelity/Crime Division for the Great American Insurance Group as a divisional director. ... **Scott E. Testa, J.D. '93** joined the EisnerAmper, LLP firm as a partner in its Personal Wealth Advisors Group. ... **Sabrina Troiani '93** teamed up with Stomp the Monster, an organization that provides support to cancer patients and families, to honor her friend the late **Mirta Capan '90**. ... **Cesar Jimenez '94** was hired as an Small Business Administration business development officer at the First Business Bank, a division of First Business Financial Services Inc. ... **Father Michael Muller '94** joined St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Mountain Lakes, N.J. ... **Jorge Ortiz-Garay, M.D.M. '94** was installed as a new pastor at St. Brigid Church in Bushwick, N.Y. ... **Karen Swift '94** joined Marshall Dennehey Warner Coleman & Goggin law firm as a director of information technology. ... **Jacqueline Bartley-Oxley, M.B.A. '85** joined Hackensack Meridian Health Meridian Health Foundation as vice president for development. ... **Michael DePippa '95** was appointed senior vice president of promotion and artist development for Thirty Tigers in Nashville, Tenn. ... **Patrick D. Reilly '95** was hired as the chief financial officer for Global Venture Capital's e.ventures. ... **Daniel P. Foley '96** was appointed to the Rand Institute Advisory Board as

vice president of consulting for innovative benefit planning. ... **Courtney Gaccione, J.D. '96** was named among the "Stellas della Contea di Essex" (Stars of Essex County) during the 2019 Essex County Italian-American Heritage Month celebration. ... **Martin L. Okner '96** became chairman of the Association for Corporate Growth and is leading its global board of directors. ... **Carlos M. Pomares '96** was honored with a Star of Essex County award as part of the county's annual Latino Heritage celebration. ... **Carole Post, J.D. '96** was named a 2019 Business Woman of the Year by the *Tampa Bay Business Journal*. ... **Stephanie Redish Hofmann, M.A. '96** was named one of three new members to Seton Hall's Board of Regents. ... **Suzanne L. Stevinson, J.D. '98** won election to the Bedminster Township Board of Education in Bernardsville Township, N.J. ... **Diogo P. Tavares '98** ran for election to the Lafayette Parish School Board in Louisiana. ... **Charles S. Cygal '99** was appointed head of Surety for QBE North America, an insurance firm. ... **Dafna Kendal, J.D. '99** was elected to a three-year seat on the Board of Education in Princeton, N.J. ... **Kathleen P. Maiorini '99** was selected as a New York State master teacher, being recognized as an outstanding teacher in STEM (science, technology, engineering and math). ... **Dina Mikulka, J.D. '99** joined the Dowing & Sherred, LLP law firm as a partner.

00s

Patrick Antonetti '00 was elected to the Lincoln Park, N.J., School Board ... **Alyse E. Berger Heilpern, J.D. '00** ran for election to the Board of Education in Livingston, N.J. ... **Sheila R. Cole, Ed.D. '00** was appointed interim director of elementary education in Montclair, N.J. ... **Allyson F. Lehr J.D. '00** was appointed director of professional development of the Greater Lehigh Valley Realtors in Northampton County, Pa. ... **Brian D. Kenney, J.D. '01** was selected to join the board of trustees for the Criminal Law Section of the New Jersey State

Bar Association for a two-year term. ... **John E. Lanza, J.D. '01** was elected a Hunterdon County, N.J., freeholder. ... **Lisa Antunes, Ed.D. '02** was appointed acting superintendent by the Board of Education in Hillsborough, N.J. ... **John S. Cascone, Ed.S. '02** was hired as superintendent of West Orange (N.J.) Public Schools. ... **Eric S. Crespo '02** was appointed superintendent of the Weehawken Township, N.J. school district. ... **Mary A Kjetsaa, Ph.D. '02** was elected to a three-year seat on the Garwood (N.J.) Board of Education. ... **Atiya Perkins '02/M.A.E. '04** is principal at McManus Middle School in Linden, N.J. ... **Frank LoSacco, M.A.E. '03** was appointed the East Brunswick Township chief of police. ... **Matthew N. Maisano '03/M.A. '06** was featured in *Princeton Magazine* for the success of his automotive storage company, Motorcar Manor. ... **Nathan R. Umbric '03/M.B.A. '10** was elected vice-chair of the Housing Authority in Morristown, N.J. ... **Lina Varela-Gonzalez '04** was named one of the "Top 100 Under 50 Executive Leaders" by Diversity MBA. ... **Shacarah Williams Fordjour '04/M.S.N. '07** passed the Pediatric Nursing Certification Board exam to become a pediatric primary care mental health specialist. ... **Elizabeth G. Azar, M.A.E. '05** was named acting superintendent of the Mountain Lakes (N.J.) school district. ... **Christine Czapek, J.D. '05** received a *NJBIZ* "40 Under 40" award. ... **Kristin M. McElroy '05** was inducted into Ancillae-Assumpta Academy Alumni Hall of Fame. ... **Sean R. McGowan, J.D. '05** was appointed partner at Bertone Piccini, LLP, a law firm in Hasbrouck Heights, NJ. ... **Jamie S. Pego Curcio, J.D. '05** joined the board of directors for the Madison Area YMCA (N.J.). ... **Pietro Ruggeri '05** joined the Barnum Financial Group as a financial adviser. ... **Anthony Fischetti '06** became coordinator of the International Baccalaureate program at Linden High School (N.J.). ... **Anthony Floria-Callori, J.D. '06** ran for a seat on the North Caldwell (N.J.) Borough Council. ... **Mei Knothe M.S. '06** wrote an article for *Rehab Management* about seeking solutions for medically complex patients. ... **Jolanta Maziarz, J.D. '06** was re-elected to the Warren Township (N.J.)

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PIRATE LICENSE PLATES

The New Jersey Pirate license plate program, available to all members of the Seton Hall community, provides an opportunity to share Pirate Pride on the road while supporting student scholarships. The purchase of a Pirate Plate, standard or custom, includes a \$25 gift to Seton Hall that may be tax-deductible.



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Committee. ... **Kimberly Rallis, M.H.A. '06** was elected patient and donor affairs representative of the United Network for Organ Sharing and Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network. ... **Jamie A. Uitdenhoven, M.B.A. '06** was named president of Toy Retail Showrooms, LLC. ... **Gail B. Vasilenko, M.A.E. '06** joined the staff at Rowan College in Burlington County, N.J. as the new director of the dental hygiene program. ... **Christopher R. LoSapio '07/M.B.A. '08** took part in a panel discussion on the state of the market at the CRE Finance Council symposium in Washington, D.C. ... **John E. Morrone, J.D. '07** was promoted to equity partner at Frier Levit law firm. ... **Svetlana Ros, J.D. '07** was appointed by the New Jersey Supreme Court to the Ethics Committee for East Morris and Sussex counties. ... **Dawn C. Kumar '08/M.A.E. '11** was elected to the Board of Education in Wayne Township, N.J. ... **Catherine LaGrange '08** was named a 2019 “Up and Coming Attorney” by *Minnesota Lawyer*. ... **Gregory Reid, J.D. '08** received a *NJBIZ* “40 Under 40” award. ... **Yanelis Cabalero-Rempusheski '09** earned the Essex County’s “Teacher of the Year” award from the New Jersey Department of Education. ... **Prashant Hosur Suhas, M.A. '09** was appointed assistant professor of political science at Clarkson University in Potsdam, N.Y. ... **James R. Tavormina '09** was named vice president of sales for Springpoint Senior Living in Wall Township, N.J.

10s

Michael C. Ayres, J.D. '10 was named partner at Villani & Deluca P.C., Attorneys at Law. ... **David Baugh, Ed.D. '10** of Centennial School District in Warminster, Pa. was named Pennsylvania’s 2020 superintendent of the year by the Pennsylvania Association of School Administrators. ... **Liliana Garcia '10** joined the litigation department at CGA Law Firm. ... **Robert Graham, M.S. '10** received an *NJBIZ* “40 Under 40” award. ... **Perry Sutton '10** joined the WSFS Wealth Investments Group, a subsidiary of WSFS Bank. ... **Heidi Boon Mitchell,**

M.A. '11 from the Winderweedle, Haines, Ward & Woodman law firm was named to the 2019 Florida Super Lawyers list. ... **Meghan Chrisner-Keefe, J.D. '11** was elected to the Fair Haven, N.J. borough council ... **Robert Fitzsimons '11** was appointed head of marketing at Exertis (UK). ... **Eric S. Latzer, J.D. '11** joined the Cole Schotzs litigation department in the firm’s New Jersey office. ... **Megan Taguer '11** contributed to the 40 percent annual growth of Spitball, an advertising agency in Red Bank, N.J. ... **Danielle Wolf, J.D. '11** received a *NJBIZ* “40 Under 40” award. ... **Priscilla F. Aybar, M.A. '12** is deputy digital director of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee and a member of the advisory council for Asylum Connect. ... **Lance Aligo '12** was promoted to manager at KRS CPAs in Paramus, N.J. ... **Jake A. Costello '12** is an officer with the Vernon, N.J. Police Department. ... **Monique Darrisaw-Akil, Ed.D. '12** was featured on Momtastic, an online publication, in a dedication to National Women’s History Month. ... **Cara A. Parmigiani, J.D. '12** ran for a seat on the Morris County, N.J. board of freeholders. ... **Michael Sauvigne, M.A. '12** was sworn into the North Brunswick, N.J. Police Department as a lieutenant. ... **Candace Marie Stewart, M.B.A. '12** was hired by Prada as a social media manager. ... **Tiffany Stewart, J.D. '12** was appointed to the board of NJ SHARES, an energy assistance nonprofit. ... **Peter G. Turnamian, Ed.D. '12** was named superintendent for Rockaway Township, N.J. school district. ... **Liana M. Nobile, J.D. '13** was promoted to senior associate of Scarinci Hollenbeck. ... **Roopali Parikh '13** joined Northwell Health Physician Partners Behavioral Health Group Practice in Manhasset, N.Y. ... **Kaitlyn Campanile, J.D. '14** was hired as an associate attorney at the law firm of Davison, Eastman, Muñoz, Paone in Freehold, N.J. ... **Frank E. Ferruggia Jr., J.D. '14** was promoted to senior associate at Castano Quigley, LLC in Fairfield, N.J. ... **Kassandra Griffin, M.S. '14** joined the Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch occupational therapy team. ... **Richard G. Lyons, J.D. '14** was named partner at Bertone Piccini, LLP, a law firm in Hasbrouck Heights, N.J. ... **Regina**

Nadbielny, M.A.E. '14, a teacher in the Orange, N.J., Public Schools, was named “Teacher of the Year” by the New Jersey Association for Gifted Children. ... **Salim Sabbagh, J.D. '14** joined Brach Eichler, LLC as an associate. ... **Rachel Simon J.D. '14** joined the Scarinci Hollenbeck New Jersey litigation law group. ... **Michael C. Bachmann, J.D. '15** joined Fox Rothschild, LLP in Morristown, N.J., as an associate in the real estate department. ... **Emy A. Quispe '15** is a political coordinator for the Service Employees International Union, Local 32BJ, in New Jersey. ... **Stephanie A. Brown, J.D. '16** was elected deputy chapter director for the New Leaders Council New Jersey. ... **Zachary T. Granite '16** signed a minor-league deal with the New York Yankees and was invited to attend spring training. ... **Alyssa Musmanno, J.D. '16** joined the Fisher Phillips law firm in its New Jersey office as an associate. ... **Christian A. Zeron '16** founded Theo&Harris, a pre-owned luxury watch business, and **Anna C. Griffin '17** helped launch the company. ... **Devin Matthijssen '17** was named one of the Institute of Real Estate Management’s “30 Under 30” in 2019. ... **Ligia V. Alberto, Ed.D. '18** was appointed to the Middle States Association Commissions on Elementary and Secondary Schools. ... **Ashley M. Turner '18** joined CNBC as a social media producer. ... **Helen Castellanos Brewer, Ph.D. '19** was appointed vice president of enrollment management and student affairs at the Rockland Community College in Suffern, N.Y. ... **Joa R. Crockett, M.S. '19** accepted a position with KPMG in New York as an associate auditor.

Baby Pirates

Tanya (Paitakes) '05 and **Gary De Boer '05**, a boy, Gerhart John, on July 18, 2019. **Leah (Semanie) '12** and **John Murphy '11**, a boy, Keegan Peter, on September 25, 2019.

Weddings

Matthew Chervenak '10 and **Laura Maddaluna '10** on November 10, 2018. **Joseph Haines '12** and Taylor Mollica on May 10, 2019. **Mery Arcila '13** and Dennis Tejada on November 9, 2019.

PROFILE State of Health

Photo courtesy of Andrea Martinez-Mejia

Andrea Martinez-Mejia, M.A./M.P.A. '08 originally aspired to work in international diplomacy. Luckily for the residents of New Jersey, she is just as intrigued by the diplomacy required in state government. Today, she is the chief of staff for the New Jersey Department of Health, overseeing the department’s day-to-day operations.

“I love the ability to make an impact in the lives of others, and I am honored to be able to be at the table, making decisions and bringing problems in vulnerable communities to light,” Martinez-Mejia says. “I also am lucky for the ability to work with great, multi-talented individuals from other backgrounds.”

In a department that employs 6,800 people, Martinez-Mejia has direct oversight of its management and operations, personnel, information technology and equal opportunity. The job requires long hours, many of which are spent bringing key stakeholders together to discuss major healthcare issues, such as concern about the coronavirus outbreak.

It’s a position that draws on the lessons she learned at Seton Hall in earning a master’s degree in both diplomacy and public administration (with a concentration in healthcare management), while also working full-time.

“I use a lot of the knowledge and theories from my graduate program on the job, and the practical knowledge my classmates and I shared has also been very helpful,” she says. She also points to the compassion and empathy emphasized by a Catholic education as being important in the work being done by the Department of Health.

Martinez-Mejia’s interest in politics and diplomacy was sparked at a young age.

“During my early teen years in Ecuador, my imagination was captured by a foreign mission between Ecuador and Colombia,” she says. “Colombia had a woman as secretary of state, but there were no women in the Ecuadorean delegation.”

After her family immigrated to New Jersey in 1994, she earned a political science degree from Rutgers University, took a job with the gubernatorial campaign of James McGreevey and subsequently began working for the state government. She eventually became director



of the office of appointments for the governor’s office, using her diplomatic and political skills in working with three successive administrations. She requested a transfer to the Department of Health after earning her graduate degrees, then made a brief sojourn into the not-for-profit sector. But public service — and public health — drew her back; in 2015, Martinez-Mejia returned to Trenton to work for the city’s health department. In 2018, she began her current role with the state, where she thrives today.

“I love the ability to make a difference in the lives of others,” she says. | ELAINE SMITH

In Memoriam

Francis J. Michelini '48
Frank B. Saul Jr. '49
Irving Simmons '49
Raymond J. Cetkowski '50
Frank J. Coppola '50
John J. Hinchin '50
William R. Holford '50
Father Paul J. Lehman '50/M.D.M. '54
George J. Lordi '50
Edward D. Bielecki '51
Edward W. Bercofski '51
Francis X. Falivene '51
Father Adam T. Kearns '51/M.D.M. '54
David E. McCarthy '51
Laurence J. Reilly '51
Albert W. Reinhart Jr. '51
Raymond M. Simon '51
Joseph S. Viviani '51
Walter E. Figel Sr. '52
Donald J. Marvin '52
Michael C. Vincitorio '52
Neil Werthmann '52
Joseph John Abitante Jr. '53
Jerome D. Furey Jr. '53
Albert A. Ackerman '54
Felix J. Melleno '54
Nicholas Solowey '54
William M. Spekhardt '54
Sister Mary Glaser '55
George A. Glynn '55
Thomas J. Fahey '56
Morris Straitman '56
Ronald C. Alvarez '57
Jerome Ira Buren '57
William P. Heller '57
Alfonso H. Janoski '57
Geraldine M. Pierson '57
The Honorable Robert E. Tarleton '57
Frederick A. Brunn '58
Louis J. Puma '58
Anita H. Wielechowski '58
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Pirate's Eye Podcast

In the newly launched Pirate's Eye Podcast, we interview some of our 100,000 proud alumni about their latest accomplishments and career paths.

Listen to the inaugural episode with Carrie Sharpe, M.A. '09, who shares the journey which led her to open an AIR Aerial Fitness studio. Sharpe initially thought she would apply her master's degree to a broadcast media career; instead she found herself on a path to entrepreneurship.

A Jolly Seton Hall Christmas

Pirates across the U.S. raised more than \$49,000 last Christmas season by participating in our 2019 Rock the Socks campaign – that's almost \$20,000 more than what was raised in 2018. Thank you to all who donated and rocked their socks!



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News to Share:

Power of Prayer

The coronavirus pandemic has upended the way Americans are living their lives day-to-day — changes to our daily existence have been swift and disorienting. Faith and faith practices provide many with a strong foundation to face uncertainty or hardship. To learn more about the power of prayer and how we might incorporate it into our ever-evolving routines, Seton Hall magazine editor Pegeen Hopkins spoke with Michael St. Pierre, M.A.T. '03/M.A.E. '09, author of The 5 Habits of Prayerful People: A No-Excuses Guide to Strengthening Your Relationship with God. St. Pierre serves as executive director of the Catholic Campus Ministry Association.

Seton Hall: How do you define prayer?

St. Pierre: My research into the lives of the saints revealed a common thread: Prayer is growing an intimacy with God. It's essentially a process of talking with God from your heart and listening. And doing that over and over again until it becomes a part of your life.

Seton Hall: Can prayer play a transformational role in someone's life? How?

St. Pierre: It can. It has definitely transformed mine. It has made me more grateful. It has also made me more compassionate, because prayer gives you the space to turn things over in your day. And the Jesuits conduct a nightly examination of their day, which is a great practice for anyone.

Seton Hall: What suggestions do you have for someone looking to deepen a prayer practice or start one?

St. Pierre: Two things: One is to talk to someone who is prayerful and try to get to know how and when they pray and what that looks like. In my experience, very prayerful people are flexible in their prayers. As a result, they're usually good at giving gentle advice as to how to pray. People could also start to read a prayerful person's work, following them online and paying attention to how they pray.

The second thing is to build a habit. I just finished reading *Atomic Habits* by James Clear where he discusses how to help make a habit stick. It applies to prayer also. Start very small and do it very consistently. Begin with five minutes of silence and do that every day for a week. The week after, perhaps you start to talk to God: tell him about your day and ask him some questions. And do that for a week. When you do it every day, before you know it, you're adding more minutes, and then you're starting to sprinkle prayer throughout your day. That's how God builds what I call spiritual momentum. Which, in my experience, is how people grow.

Seton Hall: What role do you see prayer playing in the lives of younger people?

St. Pierre: A lot of young people have a deep hunger for God. They might not have the vocabulary to express that on a regular basis, but they do have the hunger. And with the coronavirus, they're displaced, but they're still finding moments online where they can pray together. It might be through Zoom or calling in together. It is like an anchor for them. Students can't get to Mass, but they need a touch point.

Prayer does that. It reminds us, "God is still good. We're probably going to be OK." Those moments of prayer don't have to be long or fancy, but consistency is important. When young people pray together they realize they're not alone and that other people want to be prayerful too.

Seton Hall: Anything else you might recommend for the broader population?

St. Pierre: We can't be in churches right now, but this crisis is giving people permission to try things out online. Though it is not the same, it is still a meaningful way to be prayerful. The pope invited us all to pray the rosary at 4 o'clock today. What a great gesture, even if people don't know how to pray the rosary or they've forgotten.

I would say too, if you know anybody who's older or somebody even who's quarantined right now, drop them a line, send them an email, shoot them a text. They need to hear from the rest of us. ■



In a Time of Need

The coronavirus crisis has brought uncertainty and challenge to so many people — including Seton Hall students.

Many of you have asked how you can help financially. If you are in a position to assist, one way is through the Student Emergency Fund, designed to provide financial relief to students enduring unprecedented hardships with costs related to food, transportation, housing and more.

Other options of assistance include the Seton Hall Fund, which provides vital institutional support, or the Pirate Blue Athletic Fund, which helps aid student-athletes who embody the pride and fighting spirit of Seton Hall.

To support our students, please visit www.shu.edu/studentsupport





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