THE NEXT GENERATION OF FAITH
BEING FIRST
A PRIMARY ROLE
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Today, nearly one-third of the 31 members of the Saint Anselm Abbey were born during the post-baby boom era—representing a powerful example of the community’s continuity and vow of stability for generations to come.

By Paul J. Pronovost ’91

BEING FIRST

First-generation students share why they chose Saint Anselm, and what their biggest challenges and successes have been along the way to becoming an Anselmian.

By Kate Grip Denon

A PRIMARY ROLE

The New Hampshire Institute of Politics celebrates 20 years of being a must-stop destination for any and every politician on their way to the White House, while also serving as an important place for the community to come together, share ideas, and engage.

By Neil Levesque
Letters!

We love letters!
Thoughts, comments, and opinions on topics relevant to Saint Anselm College, 300 words or fewer. Letters may be edited for length, grammar, and clarity. Include your name and telephone number or email address.

Email your letter to: magazine@anselm.edu or post to: Editor, Portraits
Saint Anselm College, 100 Saint Anselm Drive, Manchester, NH 03102-1310
Dear Friends,
The Hilltop was alive with a great energy and near normalcy this fall. I am proud of how our community managed through Covid-19, making the safety of our campus a priority while ensuring a college experience worthy of Saint Anselm College.

Our tremendously successful vaccination rate and mitigation efforts allowed us to bring back Family Weekend, Homecoming and a spectacular President’s Society Dinner. Fall sports returned for the first time since 2019, and wonderful traditions like the Gingerbread House Contest and the Christmas Feast helped ring in the holiday season. It was a triumphant semester in so many ways, and as I reach the mid-point of my third year as president, it is refreshing to focus on new plans, programs and partnerships, rather than managing through a once-in-a-century health crisis.

In the feature “Being First,” we ask a handful of first-generation students to share why they chose Saint Anselm, and what their biggest challenges and successes have been on their journey. These impressive students are trailblazers in so many ways, and as a first-gen college student myself, I appreciate what it takes to be “first.”

Our cover story focuses on a cohort who certainly are not firsts and will not be lasts. Saint Anselm Abbey has added 11 new members in the past decade, most of whom are in their 20s and 30s. The identity of Saint Anselm begins with the Abbey and the future of the college relies on the continued sponsorship of an engaged monastery. We are so fortunate to know the foundation of this very special place is secured for many years to come.

You also will read about two institutions that are underpinnings for the college. First, the New Hampshire Institute of Politics is celebrating its 20th anniversary at the center of civic life in the Granite State. And second, our longtime core humanities program will finally have a physical home with the Gregory J. Grappone ’04 Humanities Institute. The two share an important role in shaping our students and helping them acquire the tools for public discourse and critical thinking; it is fitting that both are flourishing at a time when these life skills are so needed in society.

Last spring, I stated we were emerging from the pandemic as a stronger, smarter and more supportive community, and I can say without hesitation, as we begin a new year, the transformational experience of Saint Anselm is more valuable than ever before.

Sincerely,

Joseph A. Favazza, Ph.D.
President
On the Hilltop

SAINT ANSELM COLLEGE LAUNCHES CAMPAIGN TO BUILD HOME FOR THE HUMANITIES

This fall, members of the Anselmian community gathered to celebrate the launch of the public phase of a $2 million campaign to build a permanent home for the Gregory J. Grappone ’04 Humanities Institute.

“What we are really doing with the Gregory J. Grappone ’04 Humanities Institute is, as our tee-shirt proclaims, carrying on the conversation,” said Professor Gary Bouchard, executive director of the Humanities Institute and professor of English. “Creating not just classrooms, but a Living Room at the center of our campus where conversations of all kinds between people of all kinds can flourish, a place where... our lives can be transformed by one another in shared reflection about the things that matter most.”

The two-story facility, located in the Boiler House, will be home to a large, state-of-the-art classroom, a seminar instruction room, a flexible, common meeting and exhibition space, a newly restored and landscaped courtyard, and modest administrative office space. It will be the first structure that visitors encounter upon exiting the new Savard Welcome Center and will be a visible reminder of the central place of the humanities in the life of Saint Anselm.

“This building will be more than simply an academic facility,” said Dr. Joseph A. Favazza, president of Saint Anselm College. “It will be the hub for the Humanities in southern New Hampshire.”

During the event, attendees not only learned more about the campaign but also about the life of Gregory J. Grappone ’04 and his legacy.

“There was nothing selfish in Greg at all,” remembered Beverly Grappone HD ’21 during the ceremony. “I believe that is where the best of humanity is. If we can help some other young people to realize that there is more than just what you’re thinking about and what you’re involved with, then we will have succeeded.”

PBS Filmmaker Ken Burns serves as the honorary chair of the campaign.

“The humanities, in all their varied forms, offer us profound and inspired expressions of our shared humanity,” says Burns. “As a friend to Greg and a friend to the Grappone family, I am honored to help lead the way in creating a permanent and living memorial to his memory... knowing that it will inspire generations of people to share in
Greg’s humanity, and seek the wisdom and understanding he discovered and brought to others.”

The campaign has raised $1.3 million towards its goal, and plans to break ground in 2022. Included in this funding are two generous challenge gifts—$250,000 from campaign co-chairs Robert and Beverly Grappone HD ’21 and $100,000 campaign co-chair Susan Connelly ’92 to raise funds in honor of Professor Gary Bouchard.

Near the end of the event, a current student shared her vision for the future. “I can’t help but imagine what future Saint Anselm students will discover when they pass through the doors of the institute we’re creating,” said Amelie Crowe ’22, a Great Books major. “Maybe here they’ll discover their voice, stimulated by the often intense Come Friday discussions, or maybe they’ll learn to ponder some of life’s bigger questions through lectures and panels. Maybe it will provide an environment for another uncertain freshman to find their place here on the Hilltop, as it was for me. Regardless, it will be a testament to the fact that here, at St. A’s, the humanities are alive and well.”

MAKE A GIFT
Help support the Gregory J. Grappone ’04 Humanities Institute Building Project, which will ensure that the humanities continue to flourish at the heart of a Saint Anselm education. For more information, contact Gary Bouchard, professor of English, executive director Gregory Grappone ’04 Humanities Institute, 603-641-7092; gbouchard@anselm.edu, or James Flanagan, senior vice president chief advancement officer, 603-641-7221; jflanagan@anselm.edu.
On July 11, 2021, the Solemnity of Saint Benedict of Nursia, Br. Aloysius Ryan Sarasin, O.S.B. ’17 professed solemn vows as a monk of Saint Anselm Abbey. Abbot Mark Cooper, O.S.B. ’71 clothed Br. Aloysius with the monastic cuculla, a pleated monastic choir robe, a symbol of solemn profession.

Standing before the altar and before his conferes in the monastery, Br. Aloysius professed vows of stability, obedience and conversatio morum, making a permanent commitment of himself to the Lord and to his monastic community. As a solemnly professed monk, Br. Aloysius becomes a member of the monastery’s Chapter, as well as a Member of the Saint Anselm College, and Woodside Priory School corporations.

Br. Aloysius is a native of Leominster, Mass. He is the son of Robert and Dianne Sarasin and was a parishioner of Saint Anthony de Padua Parish in Fitchburg, Mass. He graduated from Saint John’s High School in Shrewsbury, Mass., in 2013 and attended Saint Anselm College, graduating in 2017 with a degree in theology, and a minor in philosophy.

Reflecting on his profession, Br. Aloysius commented, “Originally, upon hearing the news of my acceptance for solemn profession by the monastic Chapter, my late Novice Master, Fr. Peter Guerin, O.S.B., told me that the day of profession ‘will be the saddest day of your life because it is the day you will officially take up your cross and follow the Lord Jesus.’ While I agree this is true, I must add that it is, as well, the happiest day of my life as God has called me for life to carry my cross as a Benedictine monk of Saint Anselm Abbey. I am eternally grateful to Abbot Mark, my...
On August 14, Aloysius Ryan Sarasin, O.S.B. ’17 also was ordained to the Diaconate by the Most Reverend Peter A. Libasci, Bishop of Manchester, the Memorial of Saint Maximilian Kolbe, in the Saint Anselm Abbey Church. Following his ordination and according to house custom, he is now known as Fr. Aloysius.

As a deacon, Fr. Aloysius is now a minister of service for Saint Anselm Abbey and the wider Church. Among his many duties he will assist priests with the administration of the Sacraments.

Fr. Aloysius was presented for ordination by Abbot Mark Cooper, O.S.B., ’71, Abbot of Saint Anselm Abbey.

After the laying on of hands and prayer of ordination by Bishop Libasci, Fr. Aloysius was vested with the stole and dalmatic, signs of his office within the Church, by his seminary classmates, Deacon Zachary Samples, Diocese of Springfield in Ill., and Deacon Roarke Traynor, Diocese of Manchester.

During the Rite of Ordination, Bishop Libasci instructed Fr. Aloysius regarding his new ministry: “As a deacon you will serve Jesus Christ, who was known among his disciples as the one who served others. Do the will of God generously. Serve God and mankind in love and joy.”

In reflecting on his ordination, Fr. Aloysius noted, “It is a great honor and privilege to be called by God to serve Him and His Church in this ministerial office. After discerning a vocation to the priesthood for the last twelve years, it was surreal to finally receive this wonderful sacrament. I am very excited for this next chapter in my life as I begin this new ministry and I look forward to preparing for the priesthood over the next year.”

Fr. Aloysius is entering his fourth year of theological studies at Saint Meinrad Seminary in Saint Meinrad, Ind. He will be ordained a priest following the completion of his studies next year.

Br. Thomas Lacourse ’15 enters Novitiate

On July 10 2021, Dr. Kevin Lacourse ’15 was received into the novitiate and was clothed in the monastic habit. Abbot Mark Cooper, O.S.B., ’71 gave him his religious name, Br. Thomas. Br. Thomas’ patron is Saint Thomas More, the English saint and martyr.

Br. Thomas is a native of Chester, N.H. Fr. Bernard Disco, O.S.B. ’92 will serve as his Novice Master. Please pray for Br. Thomas as he begins this year of formation. Please continue to pray that our community will be blessed with new vocations.

Welcome Br. George Rumley, O.S.B.

On August 24, 2021, the Feast of Saint Bartholomew, Br. George Benjamin Rumley, O.S.B. was received into the monastic community to begin a probationary period before transferring his stability to Saint Anselm Abbey. Br. George comes to the Hilltop from Mary Help of Christians Abbey in Belmont, N.C. The matter of a monk transferring stability is mentioned in Chapter 61 of the Rule of Saint Benedict.

Br. George is a native of Asheboro, N.C. He completed priesthood studies at Saint Meinrad Seminary Saint Meinrad, Ind., last spring. He took vows as a Benedictine monk in 2014. This fall he will work in Campus Ministry.

Please join us in welcoming Br. George to our community and pray for him as he begins this period of prayer and discernment. The monks of Saint Anselm Abbey are appreciative of the prayers of our beloved friends.
The college recently welcomed four new members to the 40-member Board of Trustees. Jennifer L. (Connor) Parent ’89, Xiorlivette “Xiorli” C. (Santamaria) Bernazzani ’99, Marailou Watson, and Sr. Elinor Gardner O.P. ’99 attended their first board meeting October 15. “We are so pleased to have these four individuals bring their diverse perspectives and experience to the Board of Trustees at this important moment for the college,” said Dr. Joseph A. Favazza, president of Saint Anselm.

Jennifer L. (Connor) Parent ’89 graduated with a B.S.N. degree. She first worked at Beth Israel Hospital in Boston, where she held leadership roles, and eventually traveled to Tokyo, Japan with a team of doctors and nurses to participate in a medical exchange program. Parent also worked as a nurse manager at Hutzel Hospital in Detroit, Mich., and later Mount Sinai Hospital in New York City. She and her husband, Jeff Parent, have been active volunteers and fundraisers for St. John XXIII College Preparatory in their current home of Katy, Texas. Parent also serves on the Board of Directors of Abigail’s Place, a transitional housing and advocacy agency for homeless mothers and their children, and is co-chair for the Epilepsy Foundation of Texas 2021 Gala at the Houston Zoo. She has been active in numerous other philanthropic activities, including Saint Anselm’s Days of Giving campaign. The Parents have three children, with their son Connor graduating from Saint Anselm in 2019.

Xiorlivette “Xiorli” C. (Santamaria) Bernazzani ’99 was born and raised in Venezuela, immigrated to the United States in the late 1980s and became a U.S. citizen in 2006. She holds a B.A. in sociology with a certificate in German studies, and a J.D. from New England School of Law, graduating in 2002. After teaching ESOL courses in the Hooksett school district and at Nashua Community College, Bernazzani joined the Nashua-based Law Office of Amy Wolfson in 2004, becoming a partner in 2012. In 2014, she became sole owner of the firm and changed its name to Bernazzani Law. Today the firm employs 13 attorneys, including her husband, Eric Bernazzani ’99 and another fellow Saint Anselm graduate, Lyndsay Robinson ’14. She is licensed to practice in New Hampshire and Massachusetts, as well as the United States District Court for the District of New Hampshire, and she is an active member of the New Hampshire Bar Association, as well as a member of the American Immigration Lawyers Association. The Bernazzanis live in Goffstown, N.H. with their four children.

Marilou E. Watson has been a partner at the Philadelphia law firm of Fox Rothschild LLP since 2008, where she focuses on intellectual property law. A leader in the firm, she serves as co-chair of the Life Sciences Practice. She previously served as co-chair of the
Saint Anselm College recently announced the addition of women’s golf as a varsity sports offering. The institution will now sponsor 18 NCAA Division II varsity sports programs, 10 for women and eight for men.

Women’s golf is expected to first represent the college in intercollegiate play beginning in the 2022-23 academic year—the team will compete as a member of the Northeast-10 Conference alongside Adelphi, American International, Assumption, Franklin Pierce, Le Moyne, Saint Rose, and Stonehill.

“I am proud of what our student-athletes have accomplished during my time on the Hilltop, both academically and athletically,” said Dr. Joseph A. Favazza, president of the college. “The addition of women’s golf at Saint Anselm will help the college attract, educate and transform future students in the coming years.”

Women’s golf is one of the fastest growing NCAA Division II sports. Just under half of Division II colleges and universities sponsored the program in 2009-10 (144), but in 2019-20, that number had risen to 196. Presently, more than 62 percent of NCAA Division II institutions sponsor women’s golf as a varsity sport.

“Adding women’s golf will increase opportunities for female athletics participation at Saint Anselm, at a time when the sport has grown in popularity, both regionally and nationally,” said Director of Athletics Daron Montgomery.

Leading the new program as head coach will be Tara Watt. A decorated amateur golfer in the Granite State, Watt is a two-time New Hampshire Women’s Golf Association State Champion, winning in 2011 and in 2020. Watt recently won the NHGA Women’s Mid-Amateur Championship for the second consecutive year and continues to compete in other major regional events throughout the calendar year.

Sr. Elinor Gardner O.P. ’99 is a member of the Dominican Sisters of St. Cecilia. She received her Ph.D. in Philosophy from Boston College in 2009 and has served as an affiliate assistant professor of philosophy at the University of Dallas since 2016. She is an expert in ethics and the theology of St. Thomas Aquinas. Prior to joining the faculty of the University of Dallas, Sr. Elinor was assistant professor of philosophy at Aquinas College in Nashville, where she taught courses in ethics, epistemology, and the history of philosophy. Before Aquinas College, she taught at the Catholic University of America. Sr. Elinor has published numerous scholarly articles in such journals as Communio: International Catholic Review; Linacre Quarterly; and Verbum. She contributed a chapter entitled “Nature and Rights: The Meaning of a Universal Agreement on Human Rights” to Reading the Cosmos: Nature, Science, and Wisdom (American Maritain Association, 2012).

Leading the new program as head coach will be Tara Watt. A decorated amateur golfer in the Granite State, Watt is a two-time New Hampshire Women’s Golf Association State Champion, winning in 2011 and in 2020. Watt recently won the NHGA Women’s Mid-Amateur Championship for the second consecutive year and continues to compete in other major regional events throughout the calendar year.

An active member of the New Hampshire Golf Association’s (NHGA) Board of Directors since 2015-19. Watt comes to the Hilltop after five years at Southern New Hampshire University as the institution’s assistant women’s golf coach.

“I am very excited to be named the first head coach in Saint Anselm history,” said Watt. “I am ready to hit the ground running and build a competitive team as we attempt to grow the game.”

Watt is a 2005 graduate of Gardner-Webb University where she was a member of the women’s golf team and an active participant on the institution’s Student-Athlete Advisory Committee. She earned an MBA from the University of Phoenix in 2009 and is presently employed by Control Technologies, Inc. as a service account manager.

“Coach Watt is passionate about the sport, and her enthusiasm for starting our women’s golf program resonated with us during the search process,” said Montgomery. “We are so happy to welcome her to the Hilltop as she begins recruiting the future faces of Saint Anselm women’s golf.”

Coach Tara Watt
The college’s first dean of academic excellence filled by professor and former Associate Dean Christine Gustafson, Ph.D. began officially July 1. This new role is a part of the college’s strategic plan for academic initiatives to ensure student academic success and achievement, so each student has the opportunity to reach their full potential. The leadership changes were announced by President Joseph A. Favazza, Ph.D., last winter. The restructuring of the academic division included the dean and associate dean positions which were re-imagined as dean of the faculty and dean of academic excellence respectively.

“We restructured the Academic Affairs administration to ensure all student facing academic services are well-coordinated and resourced,” said Dr. Favazza. “Through the leadership of the new dean of academic excellence, academic deans and directors will work together in a more intentional way to provide students with high-impact learning opportunities and strong academic support across the continuum of ability and achievement.”

This new position will strengthen the college’s tracking and reporting of student outcome data and overall data of student academic success. By reviewing this data, the college will determine why students may not be as involved in experiential learning opportunities while also guaranteeing that all students have access to those experiences that provide them with a well-rounded education. “Having this data will help us ensure that every student has the ability to flourish, to be the best they can be,” said Dean Gustafson. The means for success are already present at Saint Anselm; this new position will connect students with campus opportunities that students previously may not have considered. continued

WELCOME NEW FACULTY

The college welcomes the following new full-time faculty members. From left: Alexandra Locking, assistant professor, history; Carrie Scott, clinical faculty, nursing; Mark Cronin, dean of the college, interim vice president for Academic Affairs; Emily Dix, assistant professor, psychology; Victoria DiBona, assistant professor, biology; Sandra Cereola, associate professor, economics and business; Braima Salaam, assistant professor, psychology; Inês Vañó García, assistant professor, modern languages and literatures, Michael Huelsman, assistant professor, computer science; Arthur Maerlender, associate professor, psychology; Melissa Brodeur, clinical faculty, nursing; Amy Rohlfing, assistant professor, biology; Krystal Pimentel, clinical faculty, nursing; Chelsey Twombly ’10, clinical faculty, nursing; Christine Gustafson, dean of Academic Excellence. Missing: Amy Wilson, clinical faculty, nursing.
The dean of academic excellence is responsible for ensuring student academic success through the coordination and delivery of academic resources. She will supervise the directors of the Academic Resource Center, Career Development Center, Study Abroad Office, Meelia Center for Community Engagement, the first-year and sophomore deans, faculty directors for the Honors Program, the Fulbright/Postgraduate Scholarships Program, college debate, undergraduate research initiatives, and pre-professional programs. The offices overseen by her work closely with students to provide opportunities that further their education while also becoming more involved both on-campus and within the greater community.

Dean Gustafson came to the college in 2004 as an assistant professor of politics. She was tenured and promoted to associate professor along with becoming the associate dean for faculty development and assessment in 2012 and then associate dean of the college in 2015. She continues to publish and present in her fields of Brazilian political economy and democracy, as well as Church/state relations in Brazil and Latin America.

In addition to the creation of Dean Gustafson’s position, the college named Vice President for Academic Affairs Br. Isaac Murphy, O.S.B., the newest executive vice president. In this role working in the President’s Office, Br. Isaac will supervise a number of administrative offices including Human Resources, Institutional Research, and Sponsored Programs and Research. He will also provide general support to the President’s Office and handle special projects. Dean Mark Cronin, Ph.D., will continue his work as dean of faculty while also serving as the interim vice president for academic affairs (VPAA) for the 2021-2022 academic year. The college in the process of conducting a national search for the VPAA position with a start date of July 1, 2022.

THANK YOU, FACULTY EMERITI

When classes began for the 2021-2022 academic year, the Hilltop was missing five notable members from its distinguished faculty. Prof. David George, Classics, Prof. Maria McKenna, psychology; Prof. Elizabeth Ossoff, psychology; Prof. Jay Pitocchelli, biology; and Catherine Spitzer, modern languages (Russian), were granted faculty emeritus/emerita status.

“For those of us who have been at Saint A’s for a number of years, it’s hard to imagine life at the college without Liz and Catherine, Maria, David, and Dr. J.,” said Dean of the College and Interim Vice President for Academic Affairs Mark Cronin, Ph.D. “They were such iconic figures and an integral part of campus life: They could be found leading talks at the NHIOP, walking with Relay for Life teams in Stoutenburgh Gym, heading up archeological digs in Italy, exposing students to languages and cultures outside Europe, driving students to Plum Island to spot birds, and cheering for the home team from a special perch in the end zone or softball stands. And while each brought something unique to the college—in terms of their scholarship, service, and teaching—together, they represented the best of the Saint Anselm College professor: an unwavering dedication to their students and to the life of the college. They are already dearly missed.”
Scene on Campus
1: The women’s soccer team saw its historic season come to a close in mid-November—the Hawks were eliminated via penalty kicks after playing to a scoreless double-overtime draw in its NCAA Championship First Round match against Jefferson University. The team qualified for the NCAA postseason for the first time in program history in addition to winning its first NE10 playoff match since 2006. 2: Prof. Brian Penney, Ph.D., chair of the biology department, works with Anastasia Morrison ’22, a biochemistry and molecular biology student. 3: President Favazza and Dr. Paddy Cronin Favazza welcomed guests back to the annual President’s Society Dinner for the first time since 2019. 4: When the bright colors of fall arrive, campus is elevated from beautiful to stunning. 5: Students had the opportunity to experience cultures from around the world during the Father Jonathan Center for Intercultural Learning and Inclusion’s annual Multicultural Day. 6: NHIOP Student Ambassadors shared their experiences with future Anselmians during the college’s open house this fall. 7: Beloved holiday traditions returned to the Hilltop this season, including the annual Thanksgiving cheesecake and pie sale. More than 2,000 pies, 1,100 cheesecakes, and 1,300 breads were sold, with blueberry pie and gobble rolls topping the list. 8: This year, 43 students completed the 130-mile journey from Lewiston, Maine, to Manchester, N.H., as part of the annual Road for Hope walk. 9: Fr. Aloysius Sarasin, O.S.B. ’17 and Br. Basil Louis Franciose, O.S.B. ’17 greet students during an overcast Move-In Day. 10: The Anselmian Abbey Players presented three performances this fall, including “Puffs,” “Cabaret Night,” and a One-Act Play Festival. 11: The Alva de Mars Megan Chapel Art Center opened its new exhibition, “The MacDonald Collection - In Conversation,” earlier this fall. The exhibition, which will be available through February 11, is part of the Chapel Art Center’s permanent MacDonald Collection brought up from the archives.

Photos by Brian Foley, Kevin Harkins, Jason Kolnos, Leah LaRiccia
THE NEXT GENERATION OF FAITH

Today, nearly one-third of the 31 members of the Saint Anselm Abbey were born during the post-baby boom era—representing a powerful example of the community’s continuity and vow of stability for generations to come.

BY PAUL J. PRONOVOUST ’91
PHOTOGRAPHS BY KEVIN HARKINS

IN THE FALL OF 2013, LOUIS FRANCIOSE was a first-year student at Saint Anselm College looking to make connections in a new community that was 2,395 miles from his home in Salt Lake City, Utah.

Having attended Judge Memorial Catholic High School, Saint Anselm was the sort of experience he was seeking—a small, Catholic liberal arts college. But being from so far away, he was alone when he arrived, so he began attending 5:15 Mass before dinner and homework as a way to meet people. By junior year, he was attending Vespers with the monks. By senior year, he was attending Daytime prayer as well.

And by October of 2017, during a retreat at Saint Anselm Abbey a few months after his graduation, he realized this might just be home for the rest of his life.

Br. Basil Louis Franciose, O.S.B. ’17 professed temporary vows as a monk on July 11, 2019, the feast of St. Benedict, which also happened to be his 25th birthday.

Br. Basil is one of 11 younger men who have entered the monastery in the past decade, with a 12th—Jacob Halterman, a graduate of the class of 2021—expected to join in 2022. Eight of the newer members are graduates of the college.

“One might think there’s no reason for this ragtag group of people to live this life together, except that we have some common understanding of the fact that we’re here, seeking Christ,” Br. Basil says.

The monastic community at Saint Anselm was established in 1889 when
the Bishop of Manchester asked the Benedictine monks of Saint Mary’s Abbey in Newark, N.J., to create a parish and a college to serve the immigrant population that largely worked in the mills along the Merrimack River. With a vow of stability as a core tenet of the Rule of Saint Benedict, Saint Anselm Abbey has been a permanent home to 97 monks, including the current 31 living members.

Five of the newer monks work at the college in Campus Ministry, the Finance Office, the Academic Resource Center, the Geisel Library, and one as a faculty member in the philosophy department.

**Br. Thomas Lacourse, O.S.B. ‘15** recently completed his doctorate at Trinity College in Dublin, Ireland, while Br. Dunstan Enzor, O.S.B. is a doctoral student at Boston College.

One of the 11 younger monks has been ordained a priest, while two others have been ordained deacons, and three are currently doing seminary studies.

Adding a dozen new monks in 10 years is significant, and the young confreres bring vibrancy to a community whose members currently range in age from 27 to 93, explains Fr. Mathias Durette, O.S.B., who has been a monk at Saint Anselm for 34 years.

“I mean, I’m showing my age, but it brings life, you know, literally. We have guys that are half my age, so I have no worry—I never did, but now I have proof positive—I have no worry about the future of the house,” he says. “It’s going to be in good hands because a good group of people—extremely diverse, I mean, all of us are, there are no two alike, but the quality, their attention to our customs … they’re exhibiting all the right things that bring me, as someone who has been here for so long, a lot of comfort for the future.”

Community plays a big role in attracting younger monks, says **Fr. Francis McCarty, O.S.B. ‘10**, who entered the monastery in 2015. Fr. Francis works in Campus Ministry and believes the intertwined nature of the Abbey and the college is a draw to not only new monks but also to faculty, staff and students. In both the monastery and the college, there is a mix of older and younger people who benefit from being together.

“What makes this place unique is that young people are exposed to long-term institutional memory,” Fr. Francis says. “We want to maintain the legacy that makes Saint Anselm special. We look to our older confreres for advice and guidance. They often provide old-school solutions to modern-day problems.”

Fr. Francis believes contributing to the future of the monastery and the college is crucial to his life’s work. This is also true for Br. Dunstan, O.S.B., studying historical theology at Boston College who came to Saint Anselm in 2017 and professed vows in 2019.

“I think all of us, whether we’re monks or whether we’re not monks, come to Saint Anselm College because we think we have a contribution to make, and there are ways in which we can serve the community,” Br. Dunstan says. “As a monk of Saint Anselm Abbey, I certainly feel that way. I know it’s very important to me to be of service to Saint Anselm College, to the students, to the faculty, to the staff. The mission of this college is very attractive and very venerable.”
“I HAVE NO WORRY ABOUT THE FUTURE OF THE HOUSE. IT’S GOING TO BE IN GOOD HANDS.”

— FR. MATHIAS DURETTE, O.S.B.
"YOU LOOK AROUND AND YOU'VE GOT SOME UNCLEs, AND COUSINS, AND SOME GRANDFATHER FIGURES, YOU GET A STRENGTH FROM IT."

— BR. BASIL LOUIS FRANCIOSE, O.S.B. '17
Both Br. Basil and Br. Dunstan, who each experienced life in other religious communities before coming to Saint Anselm Abbey, appreciate the regimen of monastic life on the Hilltop and the “incredible continuity” within the community.

As an example, Br. Basil pointed to Fr. Cecil Donahue, O.S.B. ’50, who took vows in 1948 and has been in the monastery since the time of Abbot Bertrand Dolan, O.S.B., the first abbot. Fr. Cecil still teaches monastic history to young monks, including Br. Basil, who arrived shortly after Abbot Mark Cooper, O.S.B. ’71 became the fifth abbot.

“Sometimes you feel like you’re living with a bunch of uncles,” Br. Basil says. “You’re a 20-something-year-old. You got a number of 20-somethings around, so they look around and you’ve got some uncles, and cousins, and some grandfather figures, you get a strength from it. For sure, you feel like a family, because you have those varied ages with varied numbers of experiences within the college and just within the monastery as well.”

The infusion of younger monks is something not all monasteries are experiencing, so why Saint Anselm? Abbot Mark attributes the phenomenon to the “very good community life” on the Hilltop. He also sees momentum building among the new recruits. “Once you get a couple of young people, it attracts other young people,” he says.

Plus, he adds, “We have always had an excellent community, and these young men add to that. They have a good sense of self, a good sense of humor, and a good sense of their vocations. These are all essential elements to leading a good and joy-filled monastic life.”

Fr. Mathias believes the nature of the Abbey community is a factor as well. “As former prior, I’ve been to other monasteries, spoken to other formators,” he says. “Their observance seldom appealed to me like it does here. We’re neither conservative, nor liberal, I think it’s a healthy middle ground where people can be pious, they can have a very observant prayer life, but they’ll fit in here.”

Over the past few years, Abbot Mark has collaborated with the college’s human resources department to have the younger monks placed in a number of academic and administrative offices to experience a range of jobs at the college. Others are working more permanently in offices, such as Fr. Stephen Lawson, O.S.B. ’08, who is working in the area of finance.

The idea is to maintain a strong bond between the college and the monastery. “There hopefully will be a good Benedictine influence for a long time to come,” Abbot Mark says.

The monastery has a monk representing every decade from their 20s to those in their 90s. The average age of the community is currently in the mid-50s, following the deaths of Fr. Peter Guerin, O.S.B. and Fr. Laurence Schlegel, O.S.B. ’49 this summer.

However, Fr. Francis remembers that when he was a student there were not as many younger people joining the monastery. That has changed. “There are now a good number in their 20s and 30s, so there is a foundation here,” he says.
For his part, Saint Anselm President Joseph A. Favazza, Ph.D., is pleased with the emergence of younger monks in the monastery and what it means for the college.

“The identity of Saint Anselm begins with the Abbey and the future of the college relies on the continued sponsorship of an engaged monastery,” he says. “We are so fortunate to know the foundation of this very special place is secured for many years to come.”

Right: Worn floorboards of the Abbey Church are a physical example of the monks’ vow of continuity and stability.

Br. Dunstan Enzor, O.S.B.
Br. Amadeus Cundiff, O.S.B.
HOMETOWN: Denton, Texas
Entered the monastery in 2020 for a period of probation before transferring from Belmont Abbey
Teaches part-time in the philosophy department; serves part-time in the Geisel Library

Br. Dunstan Enzor, O.S.B.
HOMETOWN: Boulder, Colo.
Entered the monastery in 2017; took vows in 2019
Doctoral student studying historical theology at Boston College

Br. Basil Louis Franciose, O.S.B. ’17
HOMETOWN: Salt Lake City, Utah
Entered the monastery in 2018; took vows in 2019
Preparing for priesthood at Saint John’s Seminary in Brighton, Mass.

Jacob Halterman ’21
HOMETOWN: Solomons, Md.
Anticipates entering the monastery in 2022

Br. Celestine Hettrick, O.S.B.
HOMETOWN: Salem, N.H.
Entered the monastery in 2019; took vows in 2020
Preparing for priesthood at the Boston College School of Theology and Ministry

Br. Thomas Lacourse, O.S.B. ’15
HOMETOWN: Chester, N.H.
Entered the novitiate in 2021
Recently completed a doctorate from Trinity College, Dublin, Ireland

Fr. Stephen Lawson, O.S.B. ’08
HOMETOWN: Holyoke, Mass.
Entered the monastery in 2010; took vows in 2011
Ordained to the priesthood in 2017
Served as campus minister; currently serves in the Finance Office while preparing for graduate studies

Fr. Francis McCarty, O.S.B. ’10
HOMETOWN: North Smithfield, R.I.
Entered the monastery in 2015; took vows in 2017
Ordained a deacon in 2020
Serves in the Office of Campus Ministry

Br. Ignatius Membrino, O.S.B. ’08
HOMETOWN: Billerica, Mass.
Entered the monastery in 2012; took vows in 2014
Serves as assistant archivist in the Geisel Library

Br. Titus Phelan, O.S.B. ’12
HOMETOWN: Swampscott, Mass.
Entered the monastery in 2017; took vows in 2019
Serves as coordinator for academic support and student programming in the Academic Resource Center (ARC)

Br. George Rumley, O.S.B.
HOMETOWN: Asheboro, N.C.
Entered the monastery in 2021 for a period of probation before transferring from Belmont Abbey
Serves in the Office of Campus Ministry

Fr. Aloysius Sarasin, O.S.B. ’17
HOMETOWN: Leominster, Mass.
Entered in the monastery in 2017; took vows in 2018
Ordained a deacon in 2021
Preparing for priesthood at Saint Meinrad Seminary in Saint Meinrad, Ind.

This summer a majority of the 31 living members of the monastery, ranging in age from 27 to 93, gathered together in the Abbey Church.
Photo by Jeff Dachowski
First-generation students share why they chose Saint Anselm, and what their biggest challenges and successes have been along the way to becoming an Anselmian.

BY KATE GRIP DENON
PHOTOS BY LORI PEDRICK

"Don’t be afraid to ask for help. I’ve always been independent and I always tell myself I can figure it out, but that can be so lonely. You never know what someone can do to help you unless you ask. Everyone needs help.”
TARIALIS DELEON ’23

BUSINESS

AVERT, Campus Ministry, Meelia Center for Community Engagement, The Father Jonathan O.S.B. Center for Intercultural Learning and Inclusion

WHY SAINT ANSELM?
I think the main reason I chose Saint Anselm was because it was a good choice financially, it was close to home, and the campus had an amazing aura. It was nice to see that no matter how far I was from a door, someone would still wait and hold it open for me.

WHAT HAS BEEN YOUR BIGGEST SUCCESS SO FAR?
My biggest success so far has been the ability to be a full-time student as well as a part-time worker. My sophomore year of college was difficult, not only because of Covid, but because I was working in a hospital, all while worrying about my school workload. I believe that being able to juggle school while working night shifts has been such a great accomplishment.

AND THE BIGGEST CHALLENGE HERE?
The biggest challenge has been my school and work schedule. I am not able to put all my focus towards school like I would hope to, since I must work some nights. It gets challenging because I am also a first-generation student and a lot of what I am going through now is also a first-time experience for my parents.

HOW DID YOU GET THROUGH THIS?
I believe the people closest to me have helped me get through this. For example, Wayne Currie (director of the Intercultural Center) and Kat O’Loughlin ’10 in Campus Ministry have always been there when I just wanted someone to listen or when I was struggling in a class and needed resources.
Brandon Maldonado '22
Criminal Justice

Thomas A. Melucci Jr. Memorial Scholarship Recipient, Impact Fellow Meelia Center for Community Engagement, Head Peer Mentor, Transitions Program

Why Saint Anselm?
I applied to other schools, but honestly, Saint Anselm gave me the most financial help and that was a big factor in my decision. And when I came to visit campus, I was blown away by the family feel here. Family is very important to me, and I felt that right away.

What has been your biggest success so far?
Definitely being awarded the Melucci Scholarship, but also becoming a head mentor in the Transitions program. This program was how I started making friends when I arrived on campus, and being able to interact with first-year students is important to me.

And the biggest challenge here?
Being a student of color. The school is predominately white, and I stick out like a sore thumb. It sometimes can be hard getting through the day, meeting new people and always being different. But also, being a first-generation student, I put a lot of pressure on myself to be a role model for my younger siblings, and there’s no one at home who has been through this to give me advice.

How did you get through this?
Both the Intercultural Center and the Meelia Center became my second home. Wayne Currie and Nicole Lora '06 [director of the Meelia Center] became an important support system, but they also encouraged me (and pushed me a little) when they saw potential.

Advice for future first-generation Anselmians?
First, I would offer congratulations. Being first generation is a huge accomplishment. But also, I would let them know they’re not alone. There are so many people here looking out for you emotionally and academically—there’s always someone in your corner.”
AMELIA ZHENG ’24
NURSING, SPANISH FOR NURSES MINOR

Resident Assistant, Access Academy Instructor, Meelia Center for Community Engagement

WHY SAINT ANSELM? My first experience with Saint Anselm was when I was in eighth grade taking part in the Science Olympiad held on campus. When I was a senior in high school, it was during Covid and I couldn’t tour schools. I remembered my experience in eighth grade and I knew Saint Anselm had a great nursing program, and I wanted to pick a school that made sense financially.

WHAT HAS BEEN YOUR BIGGEST SUCCESS SO FAR? Just getting into this nursing program was big, especially being first generation. Declaring a Spanish minor also was big—I speak conversational Mandarin at home with my family, and learning to speak Spanish can be a struggle, but being able to test into that minor is an honor. Also becoming an RA, and being a part of the Meelia Center.

AND THE BIGGEST CHALLENGE HERE? Last year, I was very homesick, I didn’t know anyone like me here. Being from Somersworth, N.H., I’m used to a lack of diversity, but in high school, at the end of the day, I knew I would go home to a support system I shared the same background with. But in college, you’re living here. It’s different. Being homesick is still very prevalent in my life, and it’s still something that I go through.

HOW DID YOU GET THROUGH THIS? I took part in the Transitions program and that was a really big help—everyone I met through this program feels like family to me now. Working at the Meelia Center also has helped. I was an Impact Fellow last year and we were able to have important discussions on how to make Meelia Center programing accessible to diverse cultures. I’ve been able to find a lot of friends with diverse backgrounds who have made me feel comfortable.

You think you’re alone, but you’re not. There are a lot of first-generation students on campus who understand your background and what you’re going through. Be confident to share your story, open up, there’s a community here for you.”
ASHLEE LOCKE-HUNTER ’22

ELEMENTARY EDUCATION, ESOL AND SPANISH MINORS

Head Peer Mentor, Transitions Program, The National Society of Leadership and Success President, Senior Class Gift Committee, Substitute Teacher, Head Server at Chunky’s Cinema and Pub

WHY SAINT ANSELM?
When I toured campus, I was able to shadow a student and sit in on two classes. Right away, I knew it was for me. I have been in Catholic schools since kindergarten, and I wanted that same close-knit family feeling—and I felt part of this community and part of a family as soon as I stepped on campus.

WHAT HAS BEEN YOUR BIGGEST SUCCESS SO FAR?
Some of my biggest challenges have been coming to live at school away from home. I am an only child and living away from my family and friends was a big fear and challenge my first year. After being on campus though I fell in love with living here and it feels like a second home.

AND THE BIGGEST CHALLENGE HERE?
I’m currently applying to graduate schools, and I had no idea how many different paths were available to me. I’m extremely close with my parents and they are a tremendous support, but being a first-generation student, I had no one at home who could help me understand all of the possible paths or scholarships to pursue.

HOW DID YOU GET THROUGH THIS?
My parents being so supportive and guiding me in everything I do. Another is Wayne Currie. He is always there to talk to and prompts me to think about what’s next. I’m so thankful to the entire education department. Dr. Aubrey Scheppner Torres has been an amazing advisor and helped me understand all of the options available to me after graduation. But also, Emily Kobrock in the Career Development Center has been very helpful working with me on where and when to look for a job, as well as with my resume and helping me prepare for interviews.

Get involved. It’s the most important thing you can do here. People want you to be part of things, they want to hear what you have to say.”
ALYZEA (AJ) ESPINAL ’24
CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Running Back, Hawks Football Team

WHY SAINT ANSELM?
I visited a lot of schools, but I liked the small size here. After my first visit, which was an overnight, I felt like I fit right in. A lot of my friends who have gone to bigger schools are still struggling to create new friendships and find a community, but I was able to make connections from my first day.

WHAT HAS BEEN YOUR BIGGEST SUCCESS SO FAR?
Being able to evolve as a man here. Last year was so difficult with Covid. Not being able to meet teachers in person, having the double disappointment of football season being canceled in the fall, and then again in spring, it was one of the hardest years I’ve ever been through. Getting through last year was a huge success—if I can survive last year, I can do anything.

AND THE BIGGEST CHALLENGE HERE?
Covid was such a challenge, but also, getting used to the system here. I’m very disciplined but I still struggled with getting everything done. I learned quickly that when it came to schoolwork, I couldn’t put anything off—there was no time to move anything to the side.

HOW DID YOU GET THROUGH THIS?
I have a handful of very close friends from home here, and they, along with my coaches and teammates, are my family here. The coaches and my teammates are always there for me—the upper class teammates care so much about the younger teammates, they welcomed me from the moment I arrived.

HELP FUND THE FUTURE
This year, 17 percent of our students on campus are first generation. If you are interested in helping support future first-generation students by making a donation to the Hilltop Scholarship Fund, please contact Assistant Vice President, Major Gifts, Kenneth Binder at 603-641-7399.

Nothing in life is guaranteed, but come here with a goal and be prepared to work hard, and you’ll be successful. It’s worth the hard work.”
The Saint Anselm College football team charges onto the field for its Homecoming game against Franklin Pierce University at Grappone Stadium, which the Hawks won 42-7. This past season marked a welcome return to play for all Hawks fall athletic teams for the first time since 2019.

Photo by Jim Stankiewicz
The New Hampshire Institute of Politics celebrates 20 years of being a must-stop destination for any and every politician on their way to the White House, while also serving as an important place for the community to come together, share ideas, and engage.

PHOTO BY TORY WESNOFSKE

This year, we are celebrating the 20th anniversary of the New Hampshire Institute of Politics. Four days before the tragic events of 9/11, we held a ribbon-cutting ceremony to launch the Institute, which is dedicated to democratic principles and civic engagement. Some of you may know the home of the Institute has a long history of housing those engaged in service. Nestled next to Saint Benedict Court, the building that houses the Institute was once an Army Reserve facility. It was dedicated to John and Donald Crafts, two brothers who lived in the shadow of this college.
The Crafts brothers made the ultimate sacrifice in service to our nation on the battlefields of World War II. Years later, the building bearing their name gave witness to countless goodbyes as young soldiers prepared to ship off to service in Korea and later in Vietnam. Once the Army ceased using this building for Reserves, members of the college, with the invaluable leadership of U.S. Sen. Judd Gregg, worked tirelessly to turn it into the wonderful, state-of-the-art center for civic and political engagement that it is today. We still have people tell us they used to conduct target practice in the media room, and there may have been a visiting politician or two who faced the press and felt those target-practice days weren’t over.

In the past dozen years, the Institute has grown exponentially, becoming a center of national politics. We host the nationally known “Politics & Eggs” program, we have our own survey center and a 24-hour television studio, we house an amazing collection of political history, and soon we will announce a National Elections Laboratory.

The Institute also features a student-ambassadors program that is emblematic of the crossroads of civic engagement and the Anselmian tradition of hospitality.

The Kevin B. Harrington Ambassador program is a unique opportunity for students to get an all-access pass to the state, local, and national political scene. The students assist with each and every event here, as well as running a number of campus programs promoting civic responsibility and engagement.

The Institute has become a must-stop for any and all White House hopefuls. Since 2001, we have witnessed five primary seasons, having a role in each one. We are proud to say we host more presidential campaign activity than any other location in the United States and will continue to do so in the future. We hosted the first campaign event for then-candidate Donald Trump, and Joe Biden holds a record as the person who has spoken the most at Politics & Eggs.

But the Institute is not just for presidential candidates. Throughout the year, our programs feature renowned authors, journalists, scholars, and policymakers—we’ve hosted everyone from New Hampshire’s Kid Governor to national figures such as Gen. David Petraeus and Madeleine Albright, secretary of state under President Bill Clinton.

We hope you enjoy this photo essay, which takes a look back at the Institute’s first 20 years, and we look forward to sharing with you what will no doubt be an exciting and important future to come.

—Neil Levesque, Executive Director, New Hampshire Institute of Politics
Even before the Institute was opened in 2001, the college had a long history of hosting those engaged with service and welcoming politicians. **CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT:** President John F. Kennedy; the ribbon cutting for the current building in 2001; U.S. Sens. John Kerry and John McCain; U.S. Sen. Judd Gregg; President George W. Bush and Father Jonathan DeFelice, O.S.B.

The current building for the NHIOP was originally a U.S. Army Reserve Center, dedicated as the Crafts Brothers Reserve Training Center in 1957. This ceremonial groundbreaking took place in 1956 with, from left, Fr. Thomas Flaherty, O.S.B.; (unidentified); Fr. Bernard Holmes, O.S.B.; Abbot Bertrand Dolan, O.S.B.; Manchester Mayor Josaphat T. Benoit; (unidentified); and (unidentified).

Photo and caption information courtesy of the Saint Anselm College Archives.
“The New Hampshire Institute of Politics was established as a nonpartisan forum for discussion and debate on all aspects of the American political process. Its mission was and is today, to **EDUCATE, ENGAGE AND EMPOWER CITIZENS** to participate in the civic and political life of their local, national and global communities. It continues to be a place where people from across the political spectrum come together to discuss the most important issues of the day.”

—U.S. SEN. JUDD GREGG
“I believe the New Hampshire Institute of Politics holds a special place in American democracy as a venue where **OPINIONS ON ALL SIDES CAN BE HEARD AND CHALLENGED**. Students can take advantage of the constant stream of accomplished and well-connected speakers, the rich and vivid political history documented throughout the building’s halls, and the incredible community of politically engaged students, staff, and faculty. Even as a non-politics major, The Institute has been a cornerstone of my college experience.”

—RYAN HEATH ’22, STUDENT AMBASSADOR
Famous faces, and famous faces in the making, are familiar sights at the Institute.

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP:
Executive Director Neil Levesque welcomes a delegation from Iraq;
Gov. Chris Sununu with student ambassadors; NHPH reporter Lauren Chooljian ’10 and U.S. Sen. Hillary Clinton;
Gen. David Petraeus;

“The Institute has given me some of the greatest experiences within the realm of politics, but also in life. I have been able to meet so many candidates and network with different guest speakers. I also have made LIFELONG FRIENDSHIPS WITH STUDENTS WHO SHARE THE SAME PASSIONS and interests as me that I know I will have for a long time after I graduate from Saint Anselm College.”

—MAEVE MCCALLISTER ’23, STUDENT AMBASSADOR
“In Mid-April 2014 I was invited to speak at the Institute of Politics at Saint Anselm College in Manchester, N.H. The Institute, led by Neil Levesque, plays an important role in New Hampshire’s primary process. Almost all presidential candidates speak there. As I waited to step onstage, it was interesting to see the photos and posters of candidates past and present on the Institute’s walls. Some of those candidates made it through the New Hampshire primary and ALL THE WAY TO THE WHITE HOUSE. Others are a blip on the memory. That’s politics.”

— U.S. SEN. BERNIE SANDERS, OUR REVOLUTION (SAINT MARTIN’S PRESS, 2016)

The excitement is tangible throughout campus during an election year.

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP:
U.S. Sen. Bernie Sanders;
Fr. Benet C. Phillips, O.S.B., ’87;
President Donald Trump and the hosts of “Morning Joe”;
Neil Levesque and presidential candidate Kamala Harris; and
President Joseph A. Favazza, Ph.D., at his first debate as college president.
LAURA WASIELEWSKI
Education
BY KATE GRIP DENON

“For me, becoming a special education teacher was an opportunity to help others grow wherever they were starting from. Everyone has a gift, and everyone has something they’re working on—as an educator, I wanted to help facilitate that growth in individuals.”

When did you know you wanted to be a teacher?
When I was graduating high school, I was undeclared with what I wanted to study in college, but I spent the summer working at a summer camp for children with disabilities. This experience cemented what I wanted to do with my life. For me, becoming a special education teacher was an opportunity to help others grow wherever they were starting from. Everyone has a gift, and everyone has something they’re working on—as an educator, I wanted to help facilitate that growth in individuals. I was a special educator for five years for a private residential school for students in K-12 with autism spectrum disorders, and from there I moved into public education consulting where I supported students with challenging behaviors before moving into teaching in higher education.

How has the education department at Saint Anselm changed since you’ve been here?
When I arrived here 20 years ago, teacher licensure was an add-on program. There were no majors or minors in education, and no tenured faculty. Today, we have six full-time tenured faculty members and two staff members, two majors, two minors, 13 licensure programs, a rigorous curriculum and a clinical program. We also have just launched our five-year (4+1) Accelerated M.Ed. Program with special education licensure.

Tell me more about the master’s in education program—why now?
There is a critical shortage of special education educators—it has been an area of need for quite some time, and the college is in a unique position to embrace this opportunity and move forward with it. It’s also something our students are very interested in having. Our inaugural class will begin in May, and students will be offered a full year of in-class internship experience while taking two courses in the fall, and one course in the spring. It is open to all seniors, as well as alumni who have graduated within the last five years.

What does this mean for our students? And the college?
For our students, it prepares them for the classroom and expands their career options. It also allows our students to be more marketable and prepares general education classroom teachers to teach all learners. As for the college, it adds to the breadth of programs we offer while also meeting the needs of the community.

In your opinion, what’s the biggest challenge facing teachers today?
This is a difficult question to answer. There are many challenges facing teachers including inequities, and meeting diverse learning, communication, social, and personal needs of students. Today, the greatest challenge is the safety and well-being of their students during a global pandemic.

How are we preparing students to handle these challenges?
Our Teacher Education Program (TEP) goes far beyond education classes. Grounded in the strength and excellence of our liberal arts curriculum, our students have opportunities to examine not only the theory regarding the ethical, moral, political, and social realities, through multiple clinical experiences and community-engaged field work, they have varied environments in which to use this theory to inform their practice as future educators. As a result, they are well-equipped to handle the challenges of the current education climate.

If you weren’t teaching, what would you be doing?
Personally, I would be gardening in my perennial and herb gardens, kayaking on the Maine lakes or on Cape Cod, reading, and spending time with family. Professionally, I think I would have always chosen to teach.
Robert and Beverly Grappone H.D. ’21 have been pillars of the Anselmian community for years, supporting the football stadium and many other emerging needs at the college. Their greatest impact has been the project that is most personal to them—the founding of the Gregory J. Grappone ’04 Humanities Institute in memory of their son who passed away in 2015.

After trying two other colleges to find neither was a good fit, Gregory J. Grappone ’04, a Great Books major, found his home at Saint Anselm College. He loved the atmosphere, and the opportunity to have deeper conversations while exploring the great books.

“A beautiful stage in a person’s life is when they arrive at this school, and know that they can take a road that can lead up rather than down,” says Robert Grappone.

A love for the humanities was not something unique to Greg, but rather something the entire family shares. Beverly Grappone remembers that all of her family has been touched by the humanities in some way, and that love is carried on to subsequent generations—including the love of theater by Greg’s daughter, Briar.

“The humanities are way more than sitting and reading a book about Plato … you can incorporate it into all of your life,” says Beverly.

It is this love of reflection and great books that gave Robert and Greg a chance to connect during the final months of Greg’s life. While visiting him at his home, Robert noticed a copy of Leo Tolstoy’s “A Calendar of Wisdom,” a collection of daily quotes and reflection from great texts around the world meant to “feed the soul.” The two of them, later adding filmmaker Ken Burns, the honorary campaign chair and a friend of Robert’s, would share the daily page and then their individual reflections via email.

This daily exercise continues today, and the “Tolstoy Trio” has grown to include 130 people, some reading and reflecting independently, others continuing the conversation via email.

As a part of the new Humanities Campaign, the Grappones have issued a $250,000 challenge grant to encourage others whose lives have been shaped by their study of the humanities to support the creation of a physical home for the building, one that serves as a visible sign of the central place the humanities play at Saint Anselm College.

The Grappones believe that building a home for the humanities at Saint Anselm College is something Greg would have loved, not only because of his commitment to the Institute’s mission, but also its future location—the Boiler House, which is currently the college’s print shop. Beverly remembers how much Greg loved fonts and printing, and believes the building’s history makes it a perfect fit.

Robert and Beverly look forward to seeing a space where students, faculty, staff, and the greater community can gather to learn and explore issues together, and believe that now is the right time.

“Everyone has been so separate for so long,” says Beverly. “I think people are more thoughtful now after all they’ve been through.”

The Grappones’ passion for the humanities project became even more clear when Allison Grappone, Greg’s twin sister, asked her father a question: “Would you rather have somebody donate or start a group of their own?”

After a moment of thought, Robert answered, “It would be just as gratifying to me that if people don’t have the wherewithal to donate, they don’t have to donate, but if they started their own group that would be wonderful. I’d love to see people, on their own initiative, start a circle and do these reflections. Pick their own favorite authors, but make sure it’s noble.”

Robert and Beverly Grappone H.D. ’21 stand outside the Boiler House and current print shop, the future home of the Gregory J. Grappone ’04 Humanities Institute.

Photo by Kevin Harkins
NINE ANSELMIANS RECEIVE ALUMNI AWARDS

The Alumni Council recognized nine Anselmians at the 2021 Alumni Awards this fall for their inspiring achievements and generous contributions to the college and their communities.

During the evening, honorees, their family and friends, and other Saint Anselm College alumni had the opportunity to come together. The evening began with a welcome from Jim Flanagan, senior vice president and chief advancement officer, an invocation from Fr. Benet C. Phillips, O.S.B., ’87, and a welcome and college update from Dr. Joseph A. Favazza, president of Saint Anselm College.

“I’m thrilled we are able to host this important event in person: an event that celebrates talented and dedicated Anselmians and the incredible work they have accomplished,” welcomed Dr. Favazza. “As we commend our award recipients tonight, I’m grateful for the opportunity to acknowledge the significant impact they have had both on the campus community and in their own communities.”

**Lieutenant Matthew D. Barter ’08** received the Career Achievement Award. Barter serves as the chief of staff at the Manchester Police Department and has spent his career developing and implementing data-driven, evidence-based strategies to reduce crime. He is a member of the U.S. Attorney’s office Project Safe Neighborhoods Committee and is an active member of the Manchester Police Athletic League. “Saint A’s uniquely shapes students to think critically, apply research and theory in what they do, and constantly pursue truth. As alumni and friends of the college we must continue to support these efforts,” said Lt. Barter. “The Hilltop was, and continues to be, influential to me and my work, and I’m beyond thankful that my foundation in policing was here.”

**Alice (Upham) Dunfey ’68** and **Michael Dunfey ’68** received the John F. Barry ’40 Spirit of Saint Anselm Award for their role as “the heart and soul of the class of 1968 for more than 50 years.” They attend most basketball games and bring their classmates along for those and many other campus events. As a former admissions counselor, Alice Dunfey was the reason many chose to attend the college, including some of the other honorees in the room. “Without Mike and Alice’s commitment to Saint Anselm and our class,” shared a classmate in a nomination letter, “we would be hard pressed to share in the accomplishments and hardships of our fellow classmates. They keep us together.”

**Jeanne (Savoy) Elliott ’95** was honored with the Career Achievement Award, for her long nursing career where she has mentored and taught many new nurses at Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston. During the Covid-19 crisis, she quickly stepped up and took on additional responsibilities on her cardiac and other intensive care floors wherever needed. She recently was named a clinical scholar at MGH and will begin coordinating, supervising, and evaluating nursing students. “Integrity, respect, responsibility, compassion, and teamwork are just a few traits that I discovered when I was here on the Hilltop,” said Elliott. “For me, the biggest life lesson I took away was involvement. You must be active in your surroundings. You must think about leaving the world a better place than when you found it.”

**Robert M. Elliott ’95** received the John A. Houghton ’49 Alumni Council Award for his many years of service on the Alumni Council. During his nearly two decades of service on the Alumni Council, he has helped lead multiple council members and assist several Alumni Council Presidents where he has helped with research projects, alumni engagement plans, reviewed and helped select award nominations, worked to reinstate the Boston Business Roundtable, and led a review and update of the council by-laws.

The Alumni Council honored **Colin P. Kiley ’16** with the Young Alumni Achievement Award. After beginning a new teaching job at Austin Preparatory School in Reading, Mass., in fall 2020, he has worked diligently to build relationships while teaching, coaching, and developing new curriculum. The connections he built even in the less-than-ideal times led to his appointment as the school’s interim dean of students for the 2021-2022 academic year. “My time at the Hilltop is something I’ll always cherish because of the people,” he said. “From the campus ministry service and solidarity trips to the service-learning opportunities with the Meelia Center, those experiences taught me servant leadership—principles I try to take with my career now. My time at Saint Anselm College is something I have to thank for that.”

**Maura Marshall, A.P.R.N., M.S.N.,** received the 2021 Walter J. Gallo ’58 Award which honors faculty and staff at Saint Anselm College for their dedication and service. Marshall, who serves as the director of health
services, has served as the point person for the college during the Covid-19 pandemic. She has earned the appreciation and admiration of the entire Saint Anselm community as the “go-to” person for all Covid concerns, leading the way in establishing clear and effective health protocols, counseling the college’s president and senior leadership on the myriad decisions they had to make each week, ensuring compliance with ever-evolving guidelines, implementing and managing effective testing and quarantine procedures, and communicating clearly, honestly and encouragingly to the entire community.

Alison (Poirier) Mueller ’07 received the Catholic Leadership Award for her work bringing new life to Catholic education in New Hampshire through her work as the director of marketing, enrollment, and development for the Diocese of Manchester. Last year, the diocese’s schools were only one of 10 to see an enrollment increase of more than 1 percent.

Steven M. Nugent ’91 received the Career Achievement Award for his work as the director of guidance and head track coach at North Andover High School, where he has spent his career building programs that not only have been successful with state championships but also shape the students into models of sportsmanship and community engagement.

Cory P. True ’09 received the Alumni Award of Merit for his work as the executive director of Re-Member, a nonprofit organization based on the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota. There, True works with volunteer groups on projects, guided by the Oglala Lakota Nation, to improve the quality of life for all those who live on the reservation. He began his work with Re-Member during his time as a student and later staff member of Saint Anselm College traveling for the service and solidarity trips, and credits those trips for his current path. “Several years ago, I was lucky to be part of the team that brought to life... the term Anselmian,” shared True as he ended the evening. “So with just a little more personal ownership of this phrase, I say, the world needs more Anselmians. Today, tomorrow, and always.” ☮
The Saint Anselm College Alumni Association has inducted the following 10 alumni into the annual 10 Under 10 Recognition Program, which celebrates and showcases the successes of Saint Anselm’s young alumni who are already shaping the future.

Kat Bourque, J.D. ’14 is the director of government affairs for Unitil, leading the company’s government affairs strategy by helping craft their public policy goals and serving as their lead lobbyist. Prior to her current role, she served as director of Public Policy in the energy and environmental arenas at the Business and Industry Association. She also was on staff at the New Hampshire Senate for several years. She graduated from Suffolk University Law School with her J.D. and is an active member of the New Hampshire Bar and the U.S. District Court for the State of New Hampshire.

Craig Chalifour ’18 is the owner of The Chalifour Consulting Group LLC, which serves as a business partner for small-to-medium-sized enterprises. He has been able to successfully transform businesses on the operational side by focusing on revenue growth and business efficiencies. Outside of the office, he enjoys surfing, skiing, and golfing alongside friends and family. He has a passion for real estate and often finds himself in the midst of new projects.

Brenda Keys, B.S.N, R.N. ’17 is a medical ICU nurse at the MedStar Washington Hospital Center in Washington, D.C. In March 2020, her unit was the first ICU to take Covid-19 patients, and has treated them almost every day since then. In addition to her work caring for patients, she has been training new nurses, and worked in the hospital’s Covid-19 vaccine clinic, where they have vaccinated over 16,000 individuals. She received her Critical Care Registered Nurse (CCRN) certification in December and is enrolled in graduate school with the goal of becoming a Family Nurse Practitioner.

Nancy Nguyen ’16 is a product manager for Business Intelligence and Data Warehousing at Rue Gilt Groupe. She began her career in federal consulting at Booz Allen Hamilton, where she worked on a diverse set of projects ranging from improving the customer service experience for Veterans to optimizing the medical device regulatory approval process. In 2020, she followed her passions for technology and innovation and pivoted into product management. She has worked for a drone start-up and most recently transitioned into her new role as the product manager of Business Intelligence and Data Warehousing at Rue Gilt Groupe.

Amanda O’Donnell, M.D. ’11 is a first-year nephrology fellow at Boston Medical Center. She has known since high school that she wanted to be a doctor, combining her love of science with a desire to make a difference. She attended medical school at University of New England where she served as class president. She completed her residency in Internal Medicine in rural North Carolina where she was voted “Resident of the Year” by her colleagues and developed an interest in renal medicine. She hopes to combine her love of patient care with her interest in medical education.

Brandon Pratt ’18 serves as the deputy communications director for New Hampshire Governor Chris Sununu. A New Hampshire native, Pratt has twice worked on Chris Sununu’s successful gubernatorial campaigns, overseeing digital communications and advertising. During the 2020 election cycle, he produced Sununu’s first television ad, “Thank You New Hampshire,” which was recently awarded the American Association of Political Consultants’ Pollie Award. Prior to his current role, he served as special assistant to the Governor.

Lyndsay Robinson, J.D. ’14 is an associate attorney at Bernazzani Law in Nashua, N.H. Her practice consists of general civil litigation with a focus on family law, estate planning, probate administration, business law, immigration, and other similar fields. She is committed to serving families in New Hampshire with compassion. She earned her J.D. from the University of New Hampshire School of Law as a Daniel Webster Scholar, and is actively involved with the New Hampshire Pro Bono DOVE Program, representing victims of domestic violence and stalking. She is the chair of the NHBA’s Gender Equality Committee and Family Law Section, and is a member of the Trust & Estate Law Sections. She also was recently selected to participate in the New Hampshire Bar Association’s Leadership Academy.

Juan Suarez Ontaneda, Ph.D. ’11 is assistant professor of Spanish and Latin American studies at Xavier
University in Cincinnati. He examines the production of racialized discourses through performances in Brazil, Colombia, and Peru during the second half of the 20th century. His research underscores how performances created a vocabulary to denounce everyday experiences of racism and discrimination in the Latin Americas. In May 2020, he obtained his Ph.D. in Latin American Literatures and Cultures at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, as well as a graduate minor in Latina/o studies.

Megan Sullivan, D.M.D., M.D. ’13 is an oral and maxillofacial surgery resident at the University of Texas Health Science Center in San Antonio. She worked until 2014 as an ICU nurse at Massachusetts General Hospital before going on to receive her D.M.D. from Boston University in 2018. She then began her residency in oral and maxillofacial surgery at the University of Texas Health Science Center in San Antonio. During her time in residency, she has become an active leader in the Healing the Children organization, which organizes an annual mission trip to Neiva, Colombia to perform cleft lip and palate and other craniofacial surgeries.

Gabrielle Toro ’17 is a financial advisor affiliated with Northwestern Mutual Wealth Management Company where she works to help her customers achieve their current and long-term goals. One of her favorite feelings is watching her clients achieve their goals through the planning that they have worked on together. She lives in Boston with her fiancé, Griffin. 📈

Thomas Burgoyne was named the 2021 Good Samaritan by Youth Services System Inc., a nonprofit youth-serving organization in Wheeling, West Va. Every year, YSS names a Good Samaritan, someone who goes out of his or her way to serve local youth. After graduating from Saint Anselm, the Lancaster, Mass., native joined the FBI in 1963. He served in Miami and Pittsburgh before moving to the Wheeling field office where he led the Drug Task Force, retiring in 1996. He and his late wife Kathy raised their three children there. In 2000, he was elected and served two four-year terms as the Ohio County Sheriff. A community-minded lawman, he coached Little League and school sports, served on the YSS Board of Directors from 1988-2009, and started the SWEAT grass-cutting program to mentor city youth. He serves on the Wheeling Central Catholic High School Board and provides guidance and support to the football coaches and players. He helped bring the Drug Free Clubs of America program to local high schools and continues to serve on its board of directors, as well as the Greater Wheeling Coalition for the Homeless Board of Directors and the YSS Emeritus Board of Directors.

Colonel Philip Kearns, U.S. Army (Ret.) culminated his illustrious military career in the spring of 2021 by being awarded The Order of St. Maurice Award of the 11th Infantry Regiment by the Secretary of the Army. He was recognized for his significant contribution to the infantry community and the U.S. Army. Prior to retirement, Col. Kearns was the recipient of the Silver Star, two Purple Hearts and Six Bronze Stars for service in Vietnam and three Legion of Merits.

Thomas D. Murphy has been appointed as an advisory board member to IIOT-OXYS, Inc. He is a director of CATIC Title Insurance, the founder and former chairman of EstateWorks, director and former chairman of CATIC Financial, and current chairman of Convenient Cards. A former trustee of Baystate Medical Center and Chicopee Savings Bank, he also served as chairman of the board of Elms College. He was awarded the Bronze Star in Vietnam, and is currently “of counsel” at the Murphy McCoubrey law firm in Chicopee, Mass., and is general counsel to Monarch Enterprises in Springfield, Mass.

Joyce Pulcini, Ph.D., P.N.P.-B.C., F.A.A.N.P., F.A.A.N, was awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award by the National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties in April 2021 at their national conference.


Mark Yanarella has retired from a 50-year career at Ion Bank. He started in 1970 at the former Naugatuck Savings Bank as a management trainee with his first job working the front line as a teller. He was promoted to vice president in 1983 and later elected to both the board of directors and the board of corporators. He was then promoted to executive vice president in 1990, and in 1997 he was named president and chief executive officer. He ultimately became chairman of the board and CEO of both the bank and Ion Financial Mutual Holding Co.

Kenneth Winter reached Life Master and Bronze Life Master with American Contract Bridge League.

Peter Lally was awarded the 2021 High School Coach of Significance for New Hampshire by the United Soccer Coaches Association of America. This award recognized coaches who are coaching for character and using the soccer field to teach life lessons at the high school level.

Karen (Merrill) Loome graduated with a master’s degree in Catholic studies in 2020 from the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul, Minn.
There was a standing-room-only crowd on November 13, as the men’s ice hockey team dedicated their 2021-22 season to Daniel J. Kelly III ’86.

Kelly played on the ice hockey team his four years at Saint Anselm College, and served as team captain in 1985-86, his senior year. During his time on the Hilltop, Kelly scored 10 goals and 41 assists across more than 100 games. Since graduation, Kelly served as a police officer in Arlington, Mass., retiring as a lieutenant in June 2020. Dan and his wife, Kelley, reside in Arlington and have three children, Lauren, Daniel and Jack. He never lost his love of hockey, coaching his sons and other Arlington youth hockey players. Both sons went on to play hockey at the college level.

Kelly’s former teammates, family and 100 members of the Arlington Police Department all gathered before the men’s game for a ceremony honoring Kelly and remembering his teammate, Arthur Langley ’86.

Following a blessing by Abbot Mark Cooper, O.S.B. ’71, H.D. ’04, Hubie McDonough ’86 took a few minutes to honor Langley, who passed away in 2019.

“There were two outstanding men—one being honored, one being remembered,” said Rich Evans ’87, sharing words written by former team advisor Professor Joe Catanese. “They wore the Saint Anselm sweater with pride and dignity, exemplars of the Anselm tradition of excellence.”

The ceremony concluded with Dr. Joseph Favazza, president of Saint Anselm College, formally dedicating the 2021-22 men’s hockey season in honor of Dan Kelly, class of 1986. Kelly then had the opportunity to drop the ceremonial first puck. Men’s replica jerseys were auctioned off during a silent auction to benefit the Dan Kelly ’86 Ice Hockey Fund, which will support the men’s and women’s teams.

The men’s ice hockey team is honoring Kelly by wearing a special patch on their jerseys throughout the season, and the college embedded his jersey number, No. 4, on the Sullivan Arena ice. Thank you to Michael Rockett ’88 and Patricia Rockett ’88 for their generous support of the event.

To make a donation to the Dan Kelly ’86 Ice Hockey Fund, visit saintanselmhawks.com/sports/2021/11/17/dan-kelly-86-ice-hockey-fund-donation-page.aspx.

BY ANNA BRENnan-Curry
PHOTO BY KEVIN HARKINS
umpire in chief, and served at his eighth World Series as an umpire in July 2021.

**Honorable Pamela (Hughes) Patenaude** has been appointed to the board of directors for Target Hospitality Corp., in The Woodlands, Texas. She will serve as a Class I director as well as a member of the Audit Committee. From 2017 until 2019, she served as the deputy secretary of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Earlier in her career, she served as assistant secretary for community planning and development at HUD. She currently serves on the board of directors of loanDepot, Inc., a publicly traded financial services company. She also serves on the board of directors for Habitat for Humanity International and the Bipartisan Policy Center. She is a trustee and vice chairman of the Home Builders Institute, and a member of the FDIC Advisory Committee on Economic Inclusion. She is the principal of Granite Housing Strategies, LLC, where she serves as a strategic advisor for clients engaged in real estate development, affordable housing, and disaster recovery management. She recently served as an independent director of CoreLogic, Inc., and previously served as the president of the J. Ronald Terwilliger Foundation for Housing America’s Families, a national nonprofit, education, and research organization dedicated to illuminating America’s affordable housing crisis.

**Joseph Pepe, M.D.** received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Business and Industry Association (BIA). The award recognizes business leaders who have demonstrated a commitment to leadership in their professions, communities and New Hampshire. Dr. Pepe recently retired as CEO of CMC Healthcare System, which includes Catholic Medical Center, New England Heart and Vascular Institute, physician practices, an ambulatory surgery partnership and urgent care centers. He remains CEO of GraniteOne Health, which includes CMC, Huggins Hospital and Monadnock Community Hospital. He serves on the board of GraniteOne Health, Monadnock and Huggins hospitals and the Saint Anselm College Board of Trustees. He is a former member of BIA’s Board of Directors. He received his medical degree from Tufts University School of Medicine and completed his postdoctoral training at Baystate Medical Center in Springfield, Mass.

**MaryCatherine (Cavanaugh) Shoultz** recently passed IAA’s CAP (Certified Administrative Professional) exam, an NCCA-accredited exam that verifies that the CAP meets national and international credentialing industry standards for certification programs. The six-hour exam covers information in six domain categories. She is a senior executive assistant to the CEO of AARP, and in 2021 welcomed her fourth grandchild.

**'88 Susan (Williams) Brisson** was recently promoted to serve as the chief staff attorney for the Bureau of Child Support Services for the NH Department of Health and Human Services. She lives in Manchester with her husband and too many cats.

**'90 Robert O’Brien** was recently elected town meeting member for Precinct 8 in Milton, Mass. He is assistant vice president, commercial banking for The Cooperative Bank.

**'91 Debra Anthoine** is the executive director of philanthropy for St. Mary’s Health System in Lewiston, Maine. Prior to her new role, she was the director of advancement at Saint Dominic Academy in Auburn, Maine. She earned her Master of Education degree from the University of Southern Maine.

**'92 Todd McKay** is manager of Food and Nutrition Services for MaineGeneral Rehabilitation and Long-Term Care: Glenridge Community in Augusta, Maine. He is responsible for the overall food and nutrition services which include menu planning, recipe creation and overall food quality for approximately 120 residents. He received his degree in culinary arts in 2016.

**'93 Christine M. Hanisco, J.D.** of The Stein Law Firm, PLLC was elected to a three-year term as Governor-at-Large of the New Hampshire Bar Association’s Board of Governors. She practices in the area of family law with a special focus on family building through adoption, surrogacy and assisted reproductive technology (ART law). She also has been elected vice chair of the executive committee of Resolve New England. RNE provides support, education, and advocacy to those struggling with fertility and family building throughout New England. She has brought her experience as an adoption and assisted reproduction attorney to the RNE Board since 2017.

**'93 Jane Yerrington** was recently promoted to associate vice president, academic operations at Southern New Hampshire University in Manchester, N.H.
Elena Monarch, Ph.D., has been named president of the non-profit organization, Lyme Awareness of Cape Cod. She also owns the Lyme and PANS Treatment Center where she treats persistent Lyme disease, brain inflammations, PANS/PANDAS, psychiatric Lyme, and other neurological or psychiatric conditions. Her life-long mission has been to prevent misdiagnosis and show that many major illnesses are the result of infections or irritants and that many major mental illnesses are reversible when root causes of symptoms are investigated and treated thoroughly.

Jay Green, J.D., was presented with the 2021 Northern Berkshire Heroes Award by the Northern Berkshire Community Coalition for dedication, support and service as a member of the Northern Berkshire Emergency Operations Center Team. The team consisted of public safety and community officials who staffed a regional emergency management operations center to manage the health pandemic and operated the Northern Berkshire mass vaccination clinic for six months, offering 40 clinics and providing vaccine access to thousands of people from across the Commonwealth. He is an officer of the Northern Berkshire Emergency Planning Committee who was also recognized by the Berkshire Eagle as an Unsung Hero for their efforts bringing together a collaboration of eight communities to manage the health emergency.

Thomas Speight was awarded the Geological Society of America’s 2021 E.B. Burwell, Jr. Award for publications in environmental or engineering geology for his book, *Manufactured Gas Plant Remediation: A Case Study* (CRC Press, 2018). He is a regulator for the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection.

Tom Mooney graduated from the IBEW Apprenticeship program on May 15, 2021. He began working for Seabrook Station in June, and is awaiting working hours toward his journeyman electrical exam.

Meaghan (Walsh) Gerard is serving as the president of the Flannery O’Connor Childhood Home in Savannah, Ga., for the 2021-22 year. The foundation is dedicated to preserving the birthplace of author Flannery O’Connor and providing educational opportunities through guided tours, informative lectures and literary events. The foundation encourages the discovery and exploration of O’Connor’s rich body of work and the interpretation of her writing by contemporary readers, authors and artists.

Patrick Hewett has been appointed vice president of institutional advancement at Endicott College in Beverly, Mass. He formerly served as vice president for advancement at Catholic Charities of Boston.

Nicole Roberge was promoted to intelligence research analyst, working for the Mohegan Tribe’s Surveillance and Surveillance Technical Group at Mohegan Sun Casino in Uncasville, Conn. She is responsible for intel gathering, analysis and sharing through worldwide databases, as well as CCTV and access control assistance on property.

Megan (Bencivenni) Quinn has been named vice president, director of marketing and sales at Charlesbridge Publishing in Watertown, Mass.

Nicholas Quinn has joined the language department as a Latin teacher at Austin Preparatory School in Watertown, Mass.


Courtney (Gray) Tanner, J.D., M.S.W., is serving as the board chair of Families Flourish, a new nonprofit working to establish a substance use treatment program for pregnant and parenting women in New Hampshire. She is director of government relations for Dartmouth-Hitchcock.

Mary (Feenan) Nelson was promoted within the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, Exhibitions department. She is now managing institutional renovations of Dutch & Flemish and Ancient Greece and Rome galleries, along with other collection-wide gallery projects.

Evan Dell’Olio has been elected to the board of directors of the Massachusetts Forest Alliance, a Marlborough, Mass., based non-profit advocacy organization originally founded in 1952. MFA promotes a strong, sustainable forest economy, responsible forest management practices,
private land equity, and the continuation of working forests on public and private lands. He will serve a three-year term as an at-large member of the board.

Rev. Jennifer Mazur was ordained as pastor and Teacher of Word and Sacrament in the United Church of Christ on November 28, 2021 in Andover, Mass.

Merike Youngs was recently promoted to tasting room manager at Hermit Woods Winery in Meredith, NH. In addition to the tasting room, she currently also manages the kitchen and a newly opened beer/wine garden.

Zachary Camenker received an M.Ed. in Language Education and Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) from Plymouth State University in May 2021.

Matthew Rocheleau D.O. of Warwick, R.I., has received the Father Ricard Resident of the Year Award for 2020-2021. The award is presented to the resident who demonstrates compassion, honesty, respect, and professionalism to patients and peers, an individual who treats all people with respect and dignity and willingly engages in activities to make Kent Hospital and the community it serves a better place.

‘17

Catherine Casey earned her D.M.D. from Tufts University School of Dental Medicine in May of 2021. She looks forward to working as a general dentist for a private practice in Massachusetts.

Kaleigh Lord, assistant coach of the nationally-ranked Saint Anselm College field hockey team has been promoted to a full time position at the institution. In addition to her coaching responsibilities, she also will serve as an admission recruiter for the college.

’16

Renee Abruzzese is a registered nurse at Portsmouth Regional Hospital in Portsmouth, N.H. She is enrolled in the new grad nurse residency program and working on a cardiac ICU step down unit.

Abigail Campbell has joined the Andre House of Hospitality in Phoenix, Ariz., for a year of service. She is a member of their core staff, providing daily necessities to individuals struggling with poverty and homelessness.

Katy King is a recipient of the National Health Service Corps (NHSC) Scholarship. She is currently in her first year at the University of Pennsylvania School of Dental Medicine in Philadelphia, Pa. The highly competitive scholarship is awarded to those who are pursuing education in certain primary care health professions. The NHSC pays for tuition, required fees, reasonable educational costs, and a monthly stipend in exchange for a commitment to practice for a minimum of four years upon graduation in a rural, urban, or tribal community with limited access to care.

Janelle Fassi is attending UMass Boston’s McCormack Graduate School of Policy and Global Studies for a Ph.D. in gerontology.

Meagan Dubois is a social services clinician at Butler Hospital in Providence, R.I. She also is pursuing her Master of Social Work part-time at Rhode Island College.

Sarah El Khoury is a delegate account executive for RTM Business Group in New York, N.Y.

Erica Lazarek is a fellow with the Nativity School of Worcester, Mass., where she is working and living in community with other fellows for two years. She also is pursuing her master’s in school counseling at Assumption University.

Brendan Mathews has joined Vanderlande Industries as a solutions manager for the market leading solutions team within the parcel aspect of the company.

Emma Pinault is participating in a year of service with the Mercy Volunteer Corps in Sacramento, Calif. She is serving the community members within Friendship Park, which is an outdoor community with resources for the homeless population of Sacramento.

Danielle Rogers is currently enrolled in the Saint Anselm College accelerated master’s program for criminal justice, and will be graduating from the program in May. She also is an assessment worker for the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services Division for Children, Youth and Families.

Eva-Maria Rudler is attending George Washington University for her master’s in environmental and green chemistry.

Grace Wirein is attending the Lynch School of Education and Human Development at Boston College, working to earn her master’s in Mental Health Counseling. She also is a graduate assistant, doing research on adolescent psychology and multicultural psychology, including Asian mental health topics.

Lindsay Yurek has joined Providence Alliance for Catholic Teachers (PACT) at Providence College. For the next two years she will be working towards her M.Ed. while teaching science for grades 6-8 at Saint Pius V Middle School in Providence, R.I.
Meaghan Wilson ’20 got her first glimpse of Peruvian culture while studying abroad in South America during her junior year of college. She stayed in Santiago, Chile, and Buenos Aires, Argentina, but it was clear that Peru had a strong influence on its surrounding countries. As a Spanish major at Saint Anselm College, she was drawn to the country for its language, and was captivated by the beautiful landscapes, rich history and delicious food. As she boarded her plane back to the United States, Wilson knew her next trip to South America would be to Peru.

In March 2022, she will finally get the opportunity to visit Peru for a nine-month stay through the Fulbright U.S. Student Program. The program awards grants to recent graduates and graduate students for research, study, and teaching programs in over 140 countries around the world.

Wilson will be an English Teaching Assistant (ETA) in Peru, working alongside university students studying to become English teachers. She will meet with groups of students to discuss cross-cultural topics in English, aiding in their understanding of the language, and enhancing her knowledge of Peruvian culture.

“I have a passion for education, specifically English education. I am inspired by the power of language and its ability to bring people together,” says Wilson. “I knew I wanted to be an ETA so that I could continue the impact of English education abroad like I had previously done domestically.”

Wilson’s passion for engaging with people from around the world stems from years of experience through work, travel, and volunteering. As a first-year college student, she served with English for New Americans (ENA), an organization that teaches English to immigrants and refugees in the United States. This first experience with cross-cultural exchange inspired her to continue work in bridging cultural gaps—specifically, the type of work she will pursue in Peru. From then on, it became her goal to receive a Fulbright scholarship after graduation.

One aspect of the Fulbright program Wilson is most excited about is the kickoff of her running club. As a requirement, Fulbright scholars must complete a supplemental project during their time abroad. As a former leader of the Saint Anselm College cross country team, Wilson chose to share her love for running with the students.

“With trail running originating from Incan messengers called Chasquis, a running club is a way to bridge Peruvian history and an important aspect of my life,” she says. The club will be mutually beneficial for both Wilson and the students; while she hopes her love for running will rub off on them, she knows it will also be a great way for her to explore the local community.

After her stay in Peru concludes, Wilson plans to become a school counselor in an urban setting. She already has completed two semesters in her graduate program at UMass Boston. A fresh global perspective and exposure to a new culture will heighten her ability to work with diverse students as a future school counselor.

BY SAMANTHA JETTE ’20
PHOTO COURTESY OF MEAGHAN WILSON ’20
FR. PETER JOHN JOSEPH GUERIN, O.S.B.

Fr. Peter John Joseph Guerin, O.S.B., 85, longtime Dean and theology professor at Saint Anselm College, and monastic superior at Saint Anselm Abbey, died in the early morning hours on Friday, July 9, 2021, at Mount Carmel Nursing Home and Rehabilitation Center, Manchester, where he had been a patient for some months. Fr. Peter, a native of Worcester, Mass., was born March 23, 1936, the second of five children of the late John J. and Ellen V. (Buda) Guerin. He was educated at Sacred Heart School, Worcester. Following graduation from Saint John’s High School, Worcester, in 1953, he entered the College of the Holy Cross, Worcester, receiving his B.A. degree in English in 1957.

He entered the novitiate at Saint Anselm Abbey in 1958, and pronounced simple vows of obedience, stability and conversatio morum, on July 11 of the following year. He made his solemn profession of vows on July 11, 1962, the Solemnity of Saint Benedict, at Saint Anselm Abbey before the late Rt. Rev. Bertrand C. Dolan, O.S.B., first abbot of Saint Anselm Abbey.

Fr. Peter undertook theological studies at Saint Anselm Abbey Seminary, and was ordained a Roman Catholic priest on May 23, 1963, by Bishop Ernest J. Primeau. He celebrated his first Solemn High Mass at Sacred Heart Church, his home parish in Worcester.

He continued his education, receiving a licentiate degree in sacred theology in 1966 from Saint Paul’s University, Ottawa, Canada, and a master of theology degree from the University of Ottawa. He went on to l’Institut Catholique in Paris, receiving a licentiate degree in liturgical studies. At Saint Anselm Abbey, he served as novice master from 1971-1977 and from 2016-2018, junior master from 1968-1977, subprior from 1972-1977 and from 1986-2019, and chaplain to the French-speaking Sisters of Joan of Arc. At the abbey, Fr. Peter served as an organist from his arrival in 1957 until his health precluded such work.

He served on numerous committees for the monastery, college, Diocese of Manchester, including its Presbyteral Council, as well as serving the American-Cassinese Congregation of the Order of Saint Benedict. In the college, Fr. Peter taught courses in biblical, sacramental, and monastic theology, as well as teaching liturgical studies at Saint John’s Seminary, Boston. He also worked in the college’s administration, and for a quarter century, from 1977-2002, was the Dean of the college, its chief academic officer.
Fr. Peter won universal praise as a tireless advocate of the college’s liberal arts foundation. He helped oversee establishment and implementation of its nationally recognized Portraits of Human Greatness program, which was the foundation of the curriculum for three decades. Upon his retirement as Dean, Fr. Peter was recognized by the trustees of the college with an honorary doctor of letters degree, on May 18, 2002. The citation read, in part:

“A tireless voice for excellence in every area of academic life, Fr. Peter has spent the last 25 years working steadily to build an outstanding faculty composed of women and men devoted to the liberal arts and sciences as teachers and researchers. He has called every constituency of the college to be committed to high standards of excellence, certainly in order to build up the academic reputation of the college, but even more importantly for the profound good of the students who come to us. Through all these years, he has built strong and deep relationships with colleagues on the faculty and staff, sometimes helping them in ways that only he and they will ever know. Always the monk, Fr. Peter has been an unparalleled champion and model of fidelity to the daily routine of the monastic life, demonstrating in his own life the very Benedictine combination of love of learning and desire for God.”

Fr. Peter is survived by his brothers in the Benedictine community at Saint Anselm Abbey, as well as by his sisters Marjorie Guerin of Danbury, Conn., and Claire (Guerin) Bouchard and her husband, Hugh, of Leicester, Mass., and his sister-in-law, Ligia P. (Delgadillo) Guerin of Wilbraham, Mass., several nieces and nephews and their families. He was predeceased by his brother, William Guerin of Wilbraham, Mass., and his sister, Sister Ellen Guerin of the Sisters of Mercy, Worcester, Mass.

### Milestones

**FR. LAURENCE JOSEPH SCHLEGEL, O.S.B. '49**

As his confreres were preparing for morning prayer, and fortified by the sacraments of the Church, Fr. Laurence Joseph Schlegel, O.S.B. ’49 entered into eternal life in Christ on June 27, 2021. A monk and priest of Saint Anselm Abbey, Manchester, N.H., he had been a resident at Mount Carmel Nursing Home for the past few years. At age 94, he was the oldest member of the monastic community.

A native of Washington, D.C., Fr. Laurence was born August 4, 1926, a son of Anna (Sajta) and Leo H. Schlegel. He was an avid walker in his youth, often taking hikes of 10 to 15 miles. Near the end of World War II, he served in the Army Air Corps National Guard unit in Washington, D.C.

He was graduated from Gonzaga Academy in the nation’s capital, then attended Saint Mary Seminary, Baltimore, Md., transferring in 1948 to Saint Anselm College. While at Saint Anselm, he was involved in Catholic Action, the Peace Club, the Debating Club and the Saint Thomas More Forum. He served as a Benedictine monk for more than 70 years, and as a priest in the community at Saint Anselm Abbey for more than 66 years.

Like many monks through the centuries, Fr. Laurence had certain personal attributes for which his confreres remember him warmly. Among his most admired characteristics was his precision with information, data, and facts. If Fr. Laurence cited a measurement or referenced an historical date, it was a safe bet that his claim was well-documented and entirely sourced as true. On one occasion, as he traveled from the Abbey at Saint Anselm to a vacation spot at Rye Beach on the New Hampshire coast, he recorded and later announced the exact distance—n miles, feet, kilometers, and meters—between the two locations.

If a confrere needed a container to ship a memento or safeguard an object, Fr. Laurence was the “go-to” monk, having amassed a rather significant collection of boxes and other containers, which he would generously offer if requested. For monks who transported him from the nursing home to the Abbey for a special event, he could be either entirely taciturn, or especially voluble with the driver on the journey across town.

A 1949 graduate of Saint Anselm College, he completed his novitiate for Saint Anselm Abbey at Saint Vincent Archabbey, Latrobe, Pa., and professed vows of obedience, stability and *conversatio morum* on August 4, 1950. He was ordained to the Roman Catholic priesthood on August 12, 1954.

During the 1960s, while assigned to Saint Mary Abbey, Morristown, N.J., the monastic community that founded Saint Anselm, Fr. Laurence was assigned to Sacred Heart Church, Wilmington, DE, and Saint Benedict’s Church, Newark, N.J., both staffed by Benedictine monks. Later, in addition to his priestly ministry within the Diocese of Manchester, Fr. Laurence worked at Saint Anselm College, principally in the Geisel Library, where he served as a reference librarian.

As well as his brothers in the monastic community, he leaves several relatives in the Washington, D.C. area. The monastic community at Saint Anselm received Fr. Laurence’s body at the Abbey Church on June 30, 2021, followed by a Mass of Christian Burial. Committal followed at Saint Leander’s Cemetery on the abbey grounds.
IN MEMORIAM


Robert J. Peck ’50, South Euclid, Ohio, March 27, 2021.

Clare (Kiley) Chauvin ’52 (Mount Saint Mary), Murrells Inlet, S.C., January 5, 2021.

Peter Joseph King ’52, Manchester, N.H., July 4, 2021.

George P. Morin ’52, Pittsburgh, Pa., July 17, 2021.


Rita Meyer Bilbrey ’57 (Mount Saint Mary), Salem, Mo., February 25, 2021.


Charles W. Hart ’61, Bangor, Maine, August 10, 2021.


Gerald E. Grady ’63, Manchester, N.H., October 14, 2021.


Mary (Brophy) Pfau ’70, Canton, Conn., April 23, 2021.


Roger Maurier ’74, Hooksett, N.H., October 12, 2021.
Christopher J. Buckley '75, Manchester, N.H., September 14, 2021.
Mark Bissonnette '78, Amherst, N.H., September 22, 2021.
D. Ryan King II '91, Stockton Springs, Maine and Monson, Maine, July 24, 2021.
Catherine “Kay” Simpson, former employee, April 22, 2021.

MARRIAGES
Christine Keane '09 and James Logan Doughty, January 2, 2021, Concord, N.H.
Benjamin Bradley '10 and Courtney Curtis, October 11, 2020, Newcastle, N.H.
Kristen McKeen '11 and Warren Greenhalgh, June 19, 2021, Saint Anselm Abbey Church.
Kelley-Frances Kelahan '12 and Christopher Farias, November 14, 2020, East Providence, R.I.
Alexandria Bouchard '13 and Jonathan Cote '12, September 5, 2021, Lincoln, N.H.
Jeffrey Busha '14 and Kawiithi Fernando, July 24, 2021, Saint Anselm Abbey Church.
Leah Zraunig '14 and Dino Roffo '14, July 3, 2021, Saint Anselm Abbey Church.
Laura McCarthy '15 and Andrew Mueskes '14, June 12, 2021, Meredith, N.H.
Stephanie Rice '15 and Derek Bruinooge '14, July 31, 2021, Saint Anselm Abbey Church.
Sarah Sidlauskas '15 and James Nicholas Feltham '17, September 25, Saint Anselm Abbey Church.
Ashley Ireland '16 and Neil O’Rourke '16, August 27, 2021, Saint Anselm Abbey Church.
Kathryn Leger '16 and Andrew Grenier '16, July 11, 2021, Saint Anselm Abbey Church.
Kelly Lesiczka '16 and Cory Vescera '16, September 18, 2021, Saint Anselm Abbey Church.
Valerie Nugent '16 and Tim Zawalich '16, June 26, 2021, Saint Anselm Abbey Church.

FRIENDS
Roger Conrad Longval, former employee, April 16, 2021.
FUTURE ANSELMIANS
Megan (Bencivenni) Quinn '05 and Nicholas Quinn '06, a daughter, Eleanor Caitlin, July 14, 2020.
Madison (Murphy) St. John '09 and Mathew St. John '09, a daughter, Agatha Ray, July 1, 2021.

Nina Lukens '19 and Joshua Caruso '19, August 7, 2021, Saint Anselm Abbey Church.
Elisabeth Pope '19 and Robert Moran '19, June 12, 2021, Saint Anselm Abbey Church.
The winner of this year’s Fall Photo Contest was Hunter Newsham ’22 with this striking photo of the statue of Saint Anselm at sunset. More than 700 votes poured in from the college’s online audience via social media. Second place was awarded to Adrienne Lesieur ’23 for an impressive foliage photo, with third place going to Br. Titus Phelan, O.S.B. ’12 for his photo of monks on a walk.

Photo by Hunter Newsham ’22
BREAKING DOWN BARRIERS

The Ernie Thorne ’34 Scholarship for Racial Equality aims to honor the legacy of our first Black alumnus by reducing barriers to attendance and participation at Saint Anselm College.

Congratulations to our first scholar, Jasmine Marshall ’23, a politics major.

Make a gift to the scholarship fund. Your contribution will help to create a more diverse and equal future world by providing opportunities for students from underrepresented groups to become lifelong Anselmians.

www.anselm.edu/ernie-thorne-scholarship
INVEST IN SAINT ANSELM COLLEGE STUDENTS

Each year, hundreds of students rely on scholarship aid to become and remain a part of the Saint Anselm College community. You can help them achieve their dream of a transformative Catholic, Benedictine liberal arts education.

Your gift will offer deserving young men and women the opportunity to launch their future and become ANSELMIANS.

Help make a difference today at www.anselm.edu/support