

A woman with short brown hair, wearing a green baseball cap with a white logo, glasses, a green short-sleeved sweater, a pearl necklace, and a watch, is sitting on a black metal bench. She is smiling and looking towards the camera. Her right hand is resting on the back of the bench, and her left hand is resting on her lap. The background shows a brick building, a green flag with white text, and trees with autumn foliage in shades of orange and yellow.

# New Heights

Summer 2026 ● The Magazine of Le Moyne College

**A Good Neighbor –**  
**A Great Leader**



# 'Phins Up! – Class of 2026

As Le Moyne President Linda LeMura stood before the approximately 850 people who received an undergraduate or graduate degree from Le Moyne this spring, she reflected on the dichotomy that is so often present in life, particularly when we are children. We are told at once to have fun, but to be careful; to make friends, but not to talk to strangers; to get dressed for school, but not to wear that, LeMura intoned. In retrospect, these encouragements and admonishments teach us about the power of choices and the inevitability, and wisdom, of limits. At the heart of her remarks, LeMura shared with Le Moyne's newest alumni her most fervent hope for them and offered a final piece of guidance for them to bring along on the next step of their journeys.

"I wish happiness, success, and peace for each of you and for all of you, and therein lies my advice," she said. "As you strive to build your ideal life, never forget that everyone else is trying to build theirs."



These members of Class of 2026 give the 'Phins up! sign during the commencement ceremony at the Empire Expo Center at the New York State Fair grounds on Saturday, May 16, 2026.

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by Molly K. McCarthy

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**A Good Neighbor – A Great Leader**  
by Joe Della Posta

**Cover:** The longest-serving president in Le Moyne's history, Linda LeMura is guided by her faith, her love of this community, and her belief in Le Moyne's students and their capacity to do hard things and to shape the world for the better.



**Put God First**  
by Molly K. McCarthy



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

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

The magazine submission deadline for the next issue is **Sept. 1, 2026. Thank you for sharing your story!**

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

# LE MOYNE

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

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**UNDERSTANDING MORE CLEARLY** | I was in the fourth-grade at Our Lady of Pompei when my teacher, Sister Mary Lillian, turned my attention, and that of my classmates, to a lesson on the moon. I was transfixed. In the classroom on that day, Sister Mary Lillian related, in terms my nine-year-old peers and I could understand, what scientists knew about this mysterious natural satellite. Among other things, she explained that humanity had long been aware that the moon is covered in craters, and that 33 of them have been named for Jesuits. To say that the burgeoning scientist in me was duly impressed would be an understatement.



Photo by NASA

This decades-old childhood lesson was my first connection to the Society of Jesus, an order that has profoundly shaped my life, personally and professionally. I reflected on it recently while watching news coverage of the Artemis II mission, which carried three Americans and one Canadian to space. The expedition was full of awe-evoking moments; however, one struck me as particularly resonant. When the capsule regained communication with mission control after returning from behind the moon, Mission Specialist Christina Koch offered these words to her colleagues in Houston: “We will explore. We will build ... We will found companies. We will bolster industries. We will inspire. But, ultimately, we will always choose Earth. We will always choose each other.”

Mission Specialist Koch’s call to explore, to build and to inspire spoke to me viscerally as an educator, a scientist and a human being. It is what we seek to do with every program we launch and every partnership we undertake at Le Moyne. What’s more, it is what we prepare our students to do every day. In a world

characterized by uncertainty, we challenge them to be nimble, to be bold, to be curious. I am proud to say that these habits of mind have propelled our newest alumni, the members of the Class of 2026, to careers in healthcare, finance and community service at organizations such as Albany Medical Center, EY, Goldman Sachs and Jesuit Volunteer Corps. It has led them to seek and gain admission to graduate programs at some of the nation’s premier universities, including Brown, Cornell and Duke.

More than 50 years have passed since I sat in Sister Mary Lillian’s classroom. While I remain as captivated by science as I was then, my understanding of its purpose has become sharper and more deeply felt. I understand more clearly how important it is to use it as a tool to unlock new worlds and improve this one for all of us. As it continues to evolve, I hope that, as Mission Specialist Koch put it, “we will always choose each other.”

.....  
President Linda M. LeMura, Ph.D.

# Physics in *Practice*

## Applied Physics In Action

According to state and federal authorities, job growth in areas such as electrical engineering and materials sciences is expected to grow between 6 and 7 percent through 2034, higher than the average for all occupations. Industries that will need individuals with an applied physics degree include:

-  Semiconductor and microelectronics (e.g., chip manufacturers, fabs)
-  Advanced manufacturing and materials
-  Aerospace and defense
-  Medical imaging and diagnostic sonography
-  Energy and renewable tech
-  Software development (instrumentation, embedded systems)
-  Government and national labs
-  Analytics and quantitative finance

Applied physics is, in the words of Professor Christopher Bass, Ph.D., “where scientific curiosity meets hands-on innovation.” It is also an area of growing importance, including in Central New York. The area is home to multiple high-tech firms, including Micron, SRC, Lockheed Martin and INFICON. That makes it an ideal time for the College to introduce an undergraduate degree in applied physics and strengthen its position as a key player in supporting emerging careers in engineering.

The new offering, which will launch in the fall of 2026, blends advanced, hands-on training with opportunities for individual mentoring and a commitment to ethical scientific practice. It is distinct from a traditional physics degree in that it is less theoretical and more practical. Yes, students in the program will learn about the essential principles of physics. However, they will also discover how those scientific rules and laws can be applied, for example, in the creation of semiconductors and in the fields of advanced manufacturing and materials science. Applied physics majors will grow their problem-solving and quantitative reasoning skills and gain expertise in areas such as instrumentation, data analysis and materials characterization. What’s more, they will do so while using the tools and techniques they will encounter professionally, whether they work in a laboratory or industrial setting.

Both Bass and Travis Newton, Ph.D., dean of the Carroll College of Arts and Sciences, emphasized that the program is ideal for students with an interest in physics and engineering, and those who aim to work in high-tech fields locally or worldwide.

“The applied physics major is a prime example of Le Moyne College, and the Carroll College of Arts and Sciences, putting our values and mission into action,” said Newton. “In alignment with our Jesuit heritage, this program encourages both the cultivation of the imagination and the practical application of the liberal arts.”



We recently posed this question to four faculty members:

**What is the most important skill for today's students to develop in order to be engaged citizens as well as outstanding professionals? Here is what they had to say.**

# Faculty Angle

**MARY HANDLEY, LMHC, PH.D., CRC**

Director of the Clinical Mental Health Counseling Program

In order to be outstanding professionals, the students in the graduate program in clinical mental health counseling must first understand the importance of professional self-care and work-life balance. Mental health counseling is a profession that embraces the emotional, social and behavioral difficulties of our communities and, as a result, places a significant strain on each individual counselor. Our students need to be able to manage the compassion fatigue and stress that are associated with clinical counseling and create a work-life balance for themselves. Without this balance, mental health professionals run the risk of burn out, which significantly reduces their capacity to be productive professionally and impacts their ability to be engaged citizens. When we teach the skill of self-care and the tenets of compassion fatigue in this program, we prepare our students to be grounded in their future professional lives. As a result of this grounding and self-care, our graduates will have the balance and motivation necessary to participate fully in their professional lives and in their communities.

**TRIJYA SINGH, PH.D.**

Associate Professor of Mathematics

One of the most vital skills for today's students to master is statistical literacy. We live in a world where data is often used as a tool for persuasion and confirming biases, rather than an instrument to pursue the unadulterated truth. To be an outstanding professional, one must be able to distinguish between a meaningful signal and random noise, no matter which field one chooses.

However, to be an engaged citizen, one must also become a critical consumer of the information he or she encounters. This means questioning how the data is collected, who is collecting it, identifying the biases in samples, and understanding that behind every data point is a human story. Mastering the ability to quantify uncertainty is a vital skill for students to navigate a complex world with both intellectual humility and a sharp, analytical eye.

**CHANDAN JHA, PH.D.**

Associate Dean of Finance, Accounting and Economics

Empathetic analytical discernment is the most essential skill for today's students. Although technology can process extensive data and model macroeconomic conditions, it lacks the human insight and curiosity necessary to address not only the issue at hand, but also society's most urgent challenges. To excel professionally, students must advance beyond technical proficiency and develop the human skills that systems like artificial intelligence cannot replicate, such as recognizing each client as an individual with unique needs. They must learn to interrogate the "why" behind the numbers, using AI and other technologies as complements to their reasoning. As engaged citizens, students should be guided by the principle of *vasudhaiva kutumbakam* – the ancient wisdom that the world is one family.

Our individual prosperity is inextricably linked to the well-being of the whole. When students combine the technical ability to utilize complex tools like AI with the empathy to prioritize collective well-being, they become architects of a better society.



**MATTHEW HANSON, PH.D.**

Assistant Professor of Chemistry

The most important skill for a college student to learn today is to think critically: to draw connections between concepts and interrogate the relevant assumptions and limitations of the methods and information used to solve problems. Almost anyone can access detailed information on nearly any topic, especially with the rise of accessible artificial intelligence. While education will always involve building a knowledge base, this is why the faculty at Le Moyne strive to help students move beyond the accumulation of information toward disciplined reflection. Genuine critical thinking also cultivates intellectual virtues such as patience, humility and respect for different viewpoints. These habits of mind do more than produce competent professionals; they cultivate the kind of discernment and integrity on which trustworthy leadership depends. Students who can evaluate evidence carefully, weigh competing perspectives, and act with informed judgment will ultimately guide teams, institutions and communities responsibly. The ability to think critically will ultimately distinguish the students of this generation.



*When McKenzie arrived on the Heights and was looking for a way to strengthen her ties to the College community, she searched her imagination for something fun and simple, something that could bring together students across campus, when it hit her: Why not start a cheese club?*

# One Sharp Idea

McKenzie Ponto '26 was a middle school student on vacation with her family in Burlington, Vermont, when she announced that she had a request: She wanted to visit the nearby Cabot Creamery and learn how cheese is made. If McKenzie's family members were surprised by this query (they were, after all, in Ben and Jerry's country) they were also obliging. Her mother, Crystal Ponto '95, arranged a tour that McKenzie remembers fondly to this day.

This impromptu detour turned out to be prescient. Years later, when McKenzie arrived on the Heights and was looking for a way to strengthen her ties to the College community, she searched her imagination for something fun and simple, something that could bring together students across campus, when it hit her: Why not start a cheese club? She had transferred to Le Moyne from another

institution that had such an organization, and thought the idea might catch on around the Heights. She was right.

With events like an "Are You Sharper Than a Fifth Grader" trivia night – in which participants answered all manner of questions about sharp cheeses – the club typically draws 45 to 60 people to its meetings. In the spring of 2025, it was named the New Club of the Year at the annual Dolphins' Choice Awards. The club's members have learned about how cheese is made and paired. For McKenzie, it has unlocked important lessons about leadership, thinking creatively and finding opportunities for camaraderie.

The best part, though, is that, club members don't seem to mind it when, on occasion, a cheesy pun crosses her lips.

## A Calculated Future



Rose Nicastro '26 thrives in fast-paced environments. You might expect that from someone who pushes herself to perform at a high level both in the classroom, as a dual major in marketing and business analytics, and out, as a member of Le Moyne's softball team and Heights Global Marketing. Following her graduation, Nicastro plans to build a career in medical device sales. It is a field that will require not only a facility with business strategy, but also an understanding of surgical procedures, human anatomy and the technical aspects of the products themselves.

A Webster, New York, native, Nicastro recently took her first step into this arena as an advanced surgical upstream marketing intern with medical device maker CONMED in the company's Denver, Colorado, office. Her primary responsibility was to execute a high-level market comparison of robotic versus laparoscopic insufflation, which in layman's terms is the process by which gas, vapor or powder is used to distend tissue to prepare it for surgery. Nicastro analyzed procedure volumes, evaluated market share trends, calculated total addressable market by subspecialty, and developed multi-million-dollar revenue projections. She also built a three-year forecast to support long-term strategic planning around laparoscopic expansion.

Over the course of her internship, Nicastro also strengthened her analytical and strategic-thinking skills as she worked with complex data sets and translated them into meaningful insights for the company's leadership; she gained confidence in forecasting, market segmentation, and presenting recommendations supported by data. What's more, she also built relationships, having set a goal for herself to meet with at least three professionals each week, either virtually or in person.

All of this will prepare her to take the next step in a field that is centered around a single goal: contributing to people's health.

A Baby Boomer and a member of Gen Z reflect on the ways in which their liberal arts education has shaped the way they look at the world.

# Face to Face



## EMMET MCDERMOTT '26

### An Understanding that Crosses Boundaries

When I was in high school, I had no idea what I wanted to study. My parents told me not to worry about it. They said, “Find a school where you can follow your faith, receive a strong liberal arts background, and play the sport you love. We promise a school like that will serve you well.” At the time, I had no idea what they meant. I did know that my three older brothers had attended liberal arts schools, and they seemed to love their choices. Well, after two years at Le Moyne, I now know what my parents meant.

I am a political science major who has taken a variety of classes. My favorite has been International Politics. You may ask: Why does it resonate with me? Well, the answer is easy; it’s because of how fascinating it is to learn about politics outside of America. No two countries are exactly the same, and it is so cool to understand the motivations, fears and goals behind the actions of other countries and their leaders.

Ultimately, my experience at Le Moyne has shown me that a liberal arts education is truly valuable. All of my classes across my time here have pushed me to think critically, question assumptions, and grow both academically and personally.

**Emmet McDermott '26** is a political science major and member of the men’s lacrosse team from Pleasantville, New York.



## ROBERT LASALA '71

### Making it Human-Centered

I was a history major with a strong focus on philosophy and theology. It helped me draw connections among disciplines such as history, political science, philosophy and other social sciences. It taught me to look for links rather than just answers to issues, questions and problems, considering historical context and how different cultures interpret events. I learned that complex problems don’t have one simple answer. And I learned to become comfortable with both ambiguity and multiple perspectives, tolerating uncertainty rather than rushing to conclusions.

My education taught me to think critically about sources of information and arguments, whether reading an article, listening to a speech, or hearing an argument. I more naturally ask, “What’s the evidence? What’s missing?” I learned to value all forms of communication, and that meaning isn’t fixed; people interpret the same text, event or data differently.

Even in practical situations, I instinctively consider ethical, cultural or social dimensions. Who does this affect, or what are the unintended consequences? My worldview became more analytical and human-centered. I have put faces to abstract issues. I have developed an appreciation for moral complexity, not just right and wrong. Finally, I have found myself holding people accountable while still trying to understand them.

**Robert LaSala '71** is a retired city and county manager and the senior vice president of leadership development and an executive coach at Strategic Government Resources. Mr. LaSala resides in Walnut Creek, California.

## Overheard on campus ...

🏀 Confidence is key. Steph Curry can go O for 50, and on the 51st shot, he has the same confidence and intent. It's radical to think about that. 🌀 Everything I do is a competition in my mind. 🌳 Find God in everything. Go outside. Look at the trees. Look at the sky. It settles you down. That's a spiritual practice. 🧠 Reach out to the outliers. 🪑 You have to make a living so that you can have a life. 🏠 It's incredible that our small little home here can create such greatness. 🧑 Asking for help is a sign of strength. 👥 Every day I look forward to meeting and working with amazing people – whether in class, work study, or clubs – and taking on interesting tasks that challenge me. 🗝️ Some people go to work to work. I go to make a difference. 🕒 Go into spaces that may not feel comfortable. This is the time to do it. ❓ Understand that fear will be there. Anxiety will be there. Don't let that get in the way of taking a step that will change your life. 🗣️ Being a professional goes beyond what you learn in the classroom. Skills in service, leadership, and public speaking can impact the world. 🙌 God waves at you. Follow.

## Your Perspective



Professor Holly Rine

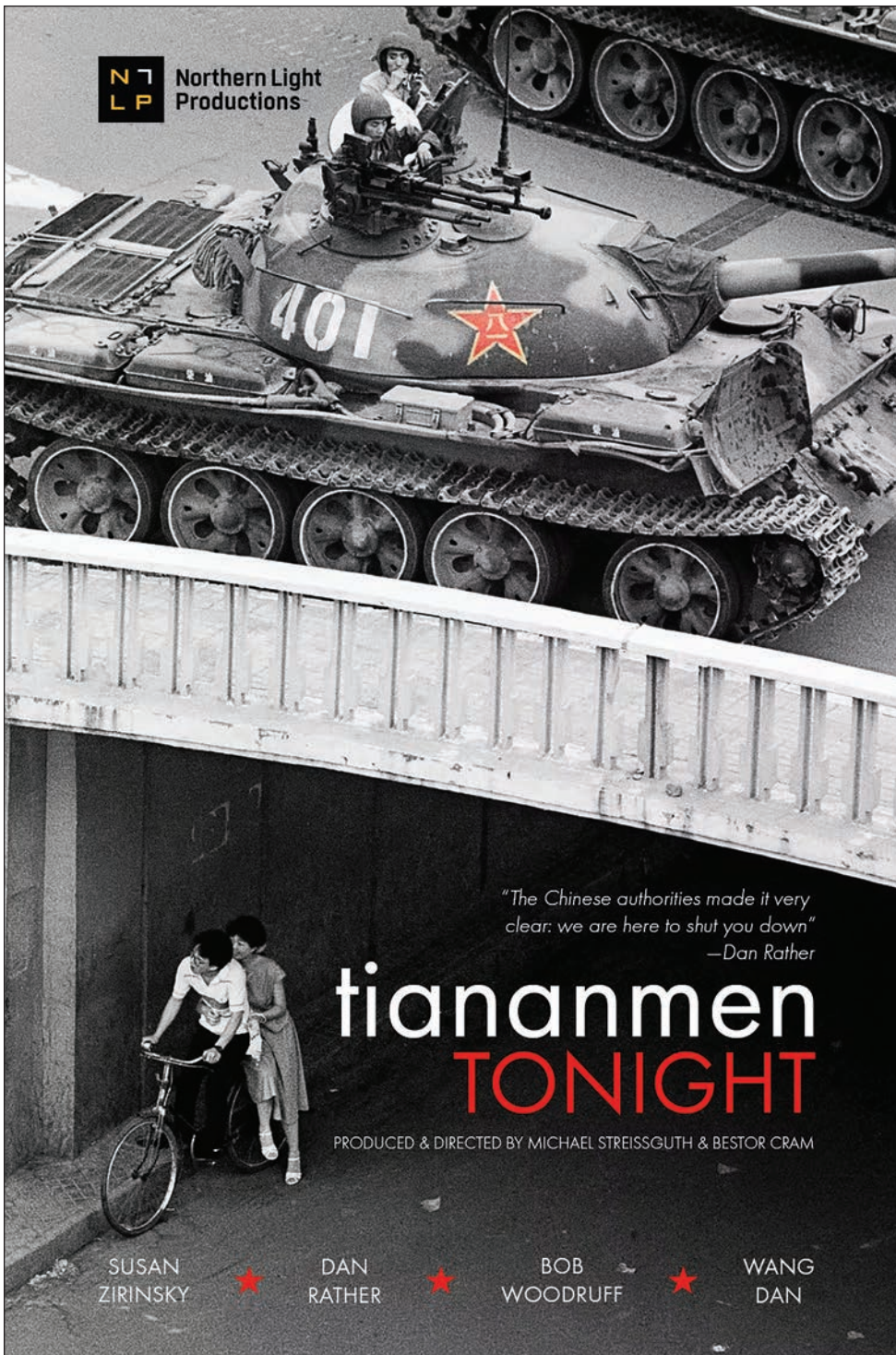
## Progress in Process

**“We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal.”**

I think of these words almost daily, especially as we approach the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. I wonder what was going through Thomas Jefferson's mind as he wrote those words. Was he thinking of the enslaved people whom he counted among his possessions? Was he thinking of women? At the end of the document, Jefferson accused King George of exciting “domestic insurrections” from “merciless Indian Savages.” Could he imagine a future when “all men” would include all people?

I ask my students to consider those words as we discuss the history of our nation. What have been the victories and obstacles along the way? In Seneca Falls in 1848, 68 women and 32 men signed the Declaration of Sentiments that declared “all men and women are created equal.” Lincoln's 1863 Gettysburg Address looked back on those words and declared that our nation “shall have a new birth of freedom.” In 1852 Frederick Douglass asked Americans to consider the question: “What to the slave is the 4th of July?” Reflecting on that question revealed the hard truth that the nation had a long way to go to reach the lofty goal of equality. The progress has been substantial if painstaking and slow. The 13th, 14th, 15th and 19th Amendments codified the equality of Black people and women into the Constitution. In 1924 the Snyder Act extended American citizenship to all Indigenous Americans. Yet the challenges to achieve full equality remain. As we mark 250 years of declared independence, I hope we can all reflect on the progress we have made and the work yet to be done in the continual creation of our more perfect union.

**Holly Rine, Ph.D.**, is an associate professor of history and director of the Core for the Carroll College of Arts and Sciences.



## BEARING WITNESS

As I write these few words about our documentary film *Tiananmen Tonight: Journalism and Courage*, I'm preparing to travel to the University of Texas in Austin for a screening for journalism and media students and then on to Los Angeles where I anticipate greeting many members of the Chinese-American community in the audience. In the film, my co-director Bestor Cram and I follow a crew of CBS News journalists who traveled to Beijing in 1989 to cover what turned out to be an earth-shattering protest – led by university students – against the totalitarian government controlled by Deng Xiaoping. CBS anchor Dan Rather and a diverse detachment of skilled reporters delivered this earth-shattering story to American living rooms, pulling the network back to number one in the ratings after falling behind in the years after the legendary Walter Cronkite retired.

In the film, we highlight CBS News' work as a win for the American people. In the spirit of the free press, CBS had provided valuable coverage of a story in China that Americans needed to know about if they were to participate effectively in American democracy. The idea that our system of government relies on freedoms for the press spelled out in the First Amendment, as well as other freedoms, is a truth we tied to our story. It was our major point, our theme, and one with particular relevance in 2026 when mainstream news media in this country is under siege by disinformation across social media and attacks on the legitimacy of fact-based reporting by government officials and opinion leaders.

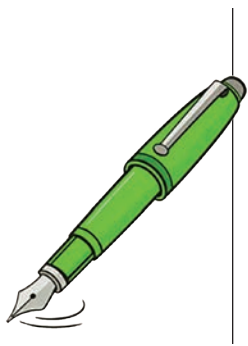
We never imagined that protests in Iran and death and turmoil in Minneapolis and elsewhere in the United States would present additional themes and events that parallel those that emerge in our film. Indeed, a moment almost 40 years ago in Beijing continues to reverberate. It is no surprise *Tiananmen Tonight* has thrived only with the support of the Le Moyne College community, including Professor Yamin Xu, Ph.D., in the Department of History (who was in Tiananmen Square in 1989) and Vice President of Advancement and Innovation James Joseph '83, Ed.D. '23, who is one of our executive producers.

The themes around social justice and democracy in the film (as well as the state of the news industry) are routinely discussed in the College's classrooms as we nurture an academic community rooted in the liberal arts and the Jesuit precept of *cura personalis*. Indeed, our film represents another aspect of our vibrant intellectual life at Le Moyne College.

**Michael Streissguth** is a professor of communication and film studies at the College, where he teaches a course in mass media, film, writing and English literature. In addition to *Tiananmen Tonight*, he has produced and directed several other award-winning documentary films, including *The Tower Road Bus*, *Nighthawks on the Blue Highway* and *Johnny Cash at Folsom Prison*.

Learn more about the documentary





**AMERICAN STUDIES** | Le Moyne professors Holly Rine, Ph.D., and Ann Ryan '85, Ph.D., designed the new American studies minor in the fall of 2024. Interdisciplinary in nature, the minor was created to help students explore the nation's history, identity and culture as they immersed themselves in the works of writers like Henry David Thoreau and Emily Dickinson and eras such as the Harlem Renaissance and the Civil Rights movement. This spring, members of the program's first cohort graduated. In advance of the nation's semiquincentennial, *New Heights* posed this question to several American studies minors: What was your biggest takeaway from the American studies minor, and how did it complement your Le Moyne education overall? Here is what they had to say.



**Developing a More Discerning Eye for Art**

My biggest takeaway from the American studies minor is that it gave me a greater appreciation for the arts. It wasn't until taking the American studies minor that I began to really enjoy art. Whether it was learning about the works of Hudson River School artists who portrayed the American landscape with a sense of awe and reverence that highlighted the sublime nature of the wilderness, or learning about the life of Annie Dillard, my experiences with this minor have led me to view art with a more discerning eye. Rather than looking at things from a surface level and moving on, this minor has taught me to examine things and really try to understand the message being conveyed. This is something that I will be sure to apply throughout the rest of my time at Le Moyne, but also as I begin to transition away from an academic setting.

— *Anthony Darling '26 is a political science major from Syracuse, New York. Following his graduation from Le Moyne, Darling looks forward to a career in law enforcement.*

**Recognizing the Perspectives of Others – and Our Responsibility as Citizens**

In the fall of 2024, Holly Rine, Ph.D., of the history department pulled me aside after class to let me know there was a new minor being introduced, and that I was essentially the academic poster child for it. This she knew because of my interest in American history, and because she had looked at the aggregate of courses I had already taken. Naturally, I was intrigued by the proposition, and was interested to take the two additional courses required to complete the minor. Blending history courses with English courses to gain a deeper understanding and appreciation for American history and culture was a no brainer for me. To be pushed to discuss challenging topics with peers is something incredibly valuable, and the type of education that we need as American citizens. In today's world, we need to recognize that people have different perspectives, and we need to know how to have conversations with people with whom we have diverging perspectives. By virtue of its design, the American studies minor helps students become better American citizens.

— *Henry Wirt '26 is a history major and member of Le Moyne's Integral Honors Program. Following his graduation from Le Moyne, the Rochester, New York, native will enroll in the Syracuse University College of Law.*





**“To be pushed to discuss challenging topics with peers is something incredibly valuable, and the type of education that we need as American citizens.”**

—Henry Wirt '26

## A Voyage that Won't Stop Until the Last Word Has Been Read



Who better to immerse themselves in Herman Melville's epic tale of an angry, obsessive sea captain intent on chasing the White Whale than a group of Dolphins? This spring members of the Le Moyne community, along with several of their neighbors, transported themselves to Ahab's Pequod as they took part in a mini-*Moby Dick* marathon. It was an opportunity for them not only to engage with the story, which at more than 200,000 words is quite a commitment, but also to disconnect from their devices and enjoy each other's company. Some read. Others simply listened. All were encouraged to come and go as they pleased. So far, they've met three times and made it through the first third of the book. In the words of Professor of English Ann Ryan '85, Ph.D., "The students have been amazing; they've signed on to a wild voyage through some beautiful poetry, a little bit of madness, and a lot of salt water. They don't plan to stop until they've read the last word."

### Reflecting on the Words of Emerson, Thoreau and Whitman Daily

My greatest takeaway from the American studies program was all of the content that went into completing this minor, specifically the various readings of Ralph Waldo Emerson, Henry David Thoreau and Walt Whitman. I think about them almost every day. This complemented my Le Moyne education because it gave me a broader understanding of the works that came before the 20th century. As I plan to go into education, this minor provided a look into some of the greater, more complicated topics that often go undiscussed in a high school classroom. I believe that as an English major this was one of the best investments I could have made in my education. It allowed me to take classes that brought me out of my comfort zone, and to gain more insight into what truly fascinates me about American history and how American literature has impacted it. This program also gave me opportunities to take classes with professors who are undoubtedly experts in their fields, and I am grateful to have been able to learn from them.

← *Julianna Caroli '27 is an English major from Oneida, New York, who is planning for a career as a high school English teacher.*





(top photo) Le Moyne President Linda LeMura holding a custom jersey commemorating her tenure at Le Moyne College.



(left) Endowed Head Women's Basketball Coach Nick DiPillo reviews a play with his team.



(right) Members of the team do warm-up drills.

## Being the Change Starts with You



We recently completed our second season as a Division I school, and have adapted to this change in scenery. This new landscape has called on us to be more persistent and precise in our effort, attitude and energy. Across the Department of Athletics, our shared mantra of “be the change” has bound us to one another, particularly in the face of challenges.

I have learned that a simple shift in perspective can have a positive effect on how we view and approach daily tasks. Athletes tend to say, “I have to go lift,” “I have to go to practice,” “I have to ...” But what happens if we replace “have to” with “get to”? We acquire a more positive outlook. That simple reframing can change our entire outlook, making us more optimistic.

We have all heard the phrase, “get comfortable with being uncomfortable.” To “be the change,” we must start by altering our habits. It may cause discomfort at first, but over time, our consistency and hard work won’t go unnoticed. We will never reach our full potential by staying in our comfort zones.

Those extra sprints will hurt, but tomorrow they’ll seem easy. We might fail one rep, but we’ll complete the next one. We may swing and miss one at bat, but we’ll earn a hit at the next one. A change in habits will start uneasily. Nonetheless, in time, it will lead to success.

Doing the right thing is contagious. We all have people we admire and try to emulate. Who’s to say that you can’t be that person on your team? Be the one who values collective success over individual success and strive to “be the change” that leads to a stronger team culture. It starts with you.

**Michael Whelehan '27**  
Baseball, Psychology

# A Celebration of Female Athletes

The Le Moyne College community commemorated National Girls and Women in Sports Day in style. The celebration of female athletes was held during a women’s basketball game at home on Ted Grant Court at the Donald J. Savage '51 Arena. The Dolphins faced off against Wagner College. At halftime of the game, the Department of Athletics recognized current and former female student-athletes, and honored President Linda LeMura, who played DI basketball for Niagara University. Just a few weeks prior to the event, LeMura took part in a panel titled “The Value and Values of Athletics at Catholic Colleges and Universities” at the annual conference of the Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities in Washington, D.C.

A highlight of the event for Dolphin fans? Le Moyne won the game, 62 to 49.

Celebrated each year since 1987, National Girls and Women in Sports Day is meant to inspire girls and women to play and be active, and to realize their full power.





# A Watershed Moment

Angelina Rodriguez '27 is never happier than when she is outside, hiking, running or biking. Being in nature allows Rodriguez to center herself and think through things that may be weighing on her mind. An environmental science systems major at Le Moyne, she recently put what she has learned in the classroom to work, and shared her love of nature with others, as an intern at the Wilton Wildlife Preserve and Park (WWPP).

Not far from Rodriguez's home in Saratoga County, the WWPP's mission is "to provide environmental education and opportunities for outdoor recreation while supporting conservation of ecological and natural settings." The preserve is home to acres of woods, trails and fields, as well as a pond. The latter is where Rodriguez was most often assigned. She loved discovering more and more about the plants and animals that live near and around the pond, and sharing those discoveries with others, especially children. It reaffirmed her commitment to water quality and conservation. Rodriguez is among the 72 percent of Gen Zers

whom a recent Gallup poll found "worry a great deal or some about water pollution," and among the 66 percent who "worry about the health of fish and oceans."

In the future, Rodriguez hopes to continue to care for watersheds, perhaps as a researcher for the Department of Environmental Conservation or Environmental Protection Agency, or as an environmental conservation officer. She looks forward to carrying with her lessons she learned about communication, forging connections and public outreach at the WWPP.

"I discovered so much at the Wilton Wildlife Preserve," she says. "I hope that I can use those lessons one day to make a positive impact on my community."

*Angelina Rodriguez is a past Ignatian Ignite Fellow. Ignite Fellowships help to alleviate the costs that are often associated with internships, including food, housing and the inability to work a paying job. They are supported by Le Moyne alumni.*

## FINDING HER PLACE

When **Sophie Hoy '26** began her internship at Goldman Sachs, a mentor there asked Hoy a question that did not particularly surprise her: What will you



be doing 10 years from now? However, the mentor's response to that same question struck Hoy in a way she hadn't expected. As the Le Moyne student recalls, her mentor told her: "The job I will be doing in 10 years has not yet been invented." With those words, she impressed upon Hoy how critical it is to be a nimble, flexible, constant learner.

A dual major in finance and economics, Hoy served as an asset and wealth management summer analyst at Goldman Sachs in the firm's Cohoes, New York, location. She was assigned to the Fortune 100 company's private family office, which provides clients with advice on everything from portfolio allocation to investment strategies to educational funding to purchasing insurance. Hoy loved putting the concepts she learned in the classroom into practice, and that no day was the same as the one before it. She found that the role was an ideal match for someone with a passion for macroeconomics, financial trends and financial analysis.

The process of securing the internship at Goldman Sachs was incredibly competitive. Hoy was told that more than 300,000 students applied, and fewer than one percent were accepted. She credits her professors at Le Moyne, the staff in the Office of Career Advising and Development, and her parents with encouraging her and offering her sound advice throughout the hiring process. She also incorporated the lessons she learned by participating in Le Moyne's Manresa Program, in which students reflect on their personal values and how they align with their professional aspirations.

After she graduates from Le Moyne, Hoy plans to return to Goldman Sachs full time as a new analyst in the private family office.

"I really did find my place," she says.



11

The number Dr. LeMura wore while playing basketball as an undergraduate at Niagara University. A guard for the Purple Eagles, she was named to the Syracuse Area Sports Hall of Fame in 2022 and the Bishop Grimes Hall of Fame in 2024 .

10,000

Approximate number of undergraduate degrees Dr. LeMura has awarded since being named the president of Le Moyne. (Also the approximate number of hugs she has given while presiding over Commencement.)

23

Number of years Dr. LeMura has worked on the Heights.

27

Number of baseball hats from Jesuit colleges and universities in the United States that Dr. LeMura has collected: one from each school.

1987

The year Dr. LeMura earned her doctorate in applied physiology from Syracuse University.

30+

Number of peer-reviewed articles Dr. LeMura has written.

8

Age at which Dr. LeMura discovered her passion for science and research.

13

Number of times that Dr. LeMura has traveled abroad (including her trip to Spain, where she and several members of the board of trustees walked in the footsteps of St. Ignatius).

1982

The year Dr. LeMura went to her first concert (Earth, Wind and Fire).

### LINDA'S MILESTONES

Linda LeMura, Ph.D., was tapped to lead Le Moyne in 2014. In October of 2025, Dr. LeMura became the College's longest-serving president, a title previously held by William Reilly, S.J. We sought to quantify other aspects of this scientist and leader's life and work. Here is a look at Dr. LeMura, by the numbers.

1,800

Number of Christmas cards Dr. LeMura sent in 2025.

11

Number of women leading Jesuit colleges and universities in the U.S. (as of July 1, 2026).



# Batting A Tho

## 2026 Fernandez Dinner Fields a Dynamic Team of 'Phins

Five extraordinary Dolphins were feted at the 38th annual Frank Fernandez Dinner this spring in an evening defined as much by achievement as by connection and a deep sense of belonging. Named for the inaugural chair of Le Moyne's Department of Accounting, the event honors Fernandez's commitment to ensuring students perform their work with skill and expertise while also modeling the highest ethical standards.

This year's honorees were bound not just by a love of bat-and-ball sports - cricket, baseball and softball – but by a shared dedication to the values Fernandez espoused. In several meaningful ways, the 2026 dinner stood apart. It marked the inaugural presentation of the Lifetime Achievement Award, given to Bernard Arogyaswamy, DBA, professor of leadership and strategy in the Madden College of Business and Economics. It also marked a rare and deeply meaningful moment in which a father and son were honored together: John Levanti '79 and Gabe Levanti '17, recipients of the Daniel McNeil III '77 Risk Management and Insurance Industry Leader of the Year Award.

Yet beyond the formal recognitions, the evening carried something less tangible but unmistakable, the recognition of how deeply intertwined lives become through Le Moyne.

The dinner also served as a unique networking opportunity for students, who were seated alongside leaders from top companies across the business arena; what began as a formal seating arrangement quickly evolved into organic



Scott Landers '92 reunites with Jeff Scanlon. While playing baseball for the 'Phins, Landers gave his baseball cap to Scanlon. Decades later, Scanlon surprised Landers by presenting the Frank Fernandez Business Leaders of the Year Award to him.

# usand



## EMERGING LEADER OF THE YEAR

Alexis (Eastman) Crowle '18, MBA '19

## DANIEL MCNEIL III '77 RISK MANAGEMENT AND INSURANCE INDUSTRY LEADERS OF THE YEAR

John Levanti '79

John Gabriel Levanti '17

## FRANK FERNANDEZ BUSINESS LEADER OF THE YEAR

Scott Landers '92

## FRANK FERNANDEZ LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Bernard Arogyaswamy, DBA

conversations about careers, values and lived experience. That sense of connection extended throughout the evening as former teammates, friends and family gathered to celebrate the honorees, creating an atmosphere filled with laughter, tears and shared memories brought vividly back to life.

One of the most touching moments of the evening came when Le Moyne was able to locate a gentleman who had been deeply moved years ago after a young baseball player from the College gave him his hat. He returned to surprise Scott Landers '92 and read his citation aloud, transforming a simple gesture from years past into a powerful full-circle moment that left a lasting impression on all in attendance.

The sense of community extended well beyond the dinner itself. In many ways, the spirit of the evening carried forward into the following day, as attendees gathered once again for the Dick Rockwell Field enhancement ribbon cutting. Made possible through the generosity of supporters who believe deeply in Le Moyne and in the transformative role of athletics in a student's experience, the enhancements stand as a lasting reminder that a ballpark is more than a place for competition. It is a space where leadership is formed, relationships are built, and lifelong lessons take root, continuing the same themes of connection, legacy, and shared purpose celebrated the night before.

Between the white lines of the diamond and the quiet moments beyond the dugouts, something enduring happens at Le Moyne. Students become teammates, teammates become leaders, and leaders become part of a story that continues long after the final out is recorded.

Through their dedication to nurturing future leaders and serving their communities, the honorees of this year's dinner reflect the spirit that continues to define the Le Moyne experience, *cura personalis*, the commitment to caring for and developing the whole person.

Cutting the ribbon on a new era of Le Moyne baseball. Dolphin donors and friends gathered to officially open the upgraded facilities during a doubleheader on the Heights.





(left) Jim Joseph presents a personalized cricket bat to first-time lifetime achievement awardee Bernard Arogyaswamy.

### Frank Fernandez Lifetime Achievement Award: Bernard Arogyaswamy, DBA

Bernard Arogyaswamy’s academic credentials are impressive. A professor of management and leadership in the Madden College of Business and Economics, Arogyaswamy holds a doctoral degree from Kent State University in Ohio. He has served the College and its students for 40 years, helping to expand its reputation not just locally or even nationally, but globally. Arogyaswamy has led students from the Madden College’s Master of Business Administration program on multiple immersive academic trips to Spain, Scotland and Poland, and received an award from the Fulbright Scholar Program that allowed him to spend a year teaching at the University of Warsaw. However his study of leadership, the field to which he has devoted his life, began long before he entered the academy. It emerged on a cricket field. That is where Arogyaswamy first learned about teamwork, competition and perseverance. As he played a game he loves, he developed his capacity to respond instantly to changes on the ground, to accept the way the ball bounced, and to catch whatever was thrown his way – all without the benefit of a glove.

### Frank Fernandez Business Leader of the Year: Scott Landers '92

Scott Landers '92 discovered, both as a pitcher at Le Moyne and in the professional world, that imperfect people make perfect teams. It is the philosophy around which Landers has organized his life. He recognizes that each one of us has different strengths. Some of us are detail-orientated multitaskers; others are big-picture visionaries. Yet we all have a role to play in working with others toward a common goal. Landers’ current title is chief executive officer of Achievers Solutions Inc., but it is more accurate to describe him as a servant leader. Over the course of his career he has nurtured environments in which others have the opportunity to shine. In a world characterized by near constant change, this is, for him, a constant. His accounting major provided him with a solid foundation in financial management; his time as a student athlete was a master class in leadership, hard work and accountability. There is also a beautiful symmetry in that, like Landers’ chosen field of study, baseball is rooted in numbers: 54 outs in a typical nine-inning game, 90 feet between each base, 216 stitches in a regulation Major League ball.



**Dan McNeil III '77 Risk Management and Insurance Industry Leaders of the Year: John Levanti '79 and Gabe Levanti '17**

Father-son duo John Levanti '79 and Gabe Levanti '17 found that playing baseball at Le Moyne has served them incredibly well in the field of risk management and insurance. They learned that there are no “easy games.” Every win must be earned. It is up to each one of us to work hard, honor our word, build solid relationships and, as their coaches might have said, “leave it all out on the field.” That is precisely what John Levanti did as a player at Le Moyne and beyond. He and his teammates advanced to the Division II College World Series in 1978 and 1979. Following his graduation, he went on to create a meaningful professional life as a senior partner at the ENV Insurance Agency and the founder of the aptly named Champion Fitness. The younger Levanti built his own impressive career as a catcher and third baseman on the Heights. Today he continues to model the commitment to excellence and working as part of a team that served him well as an athlete as the founder and chief executive officer of Levanti Risk Management.



**Emerging Leader of the Year: Alexis (Eastman) Crowle '18, MBA '19**

Alexis (Eastman) Crowle '18, MBA '19 says that playing softball for the Dolphins was pivotal to her success. As a student-athlete and team captain, Crowle mastered time management, accountability and preparation – lessons that extend far beyond the field. She now serves as a manager in the asset wealth management advisory practice at PricewaterhouseCoopers. From campus to the Big Four, her journey is a testament not only to her talent and work ethic, but also to her ability to say yes when opportunity called.



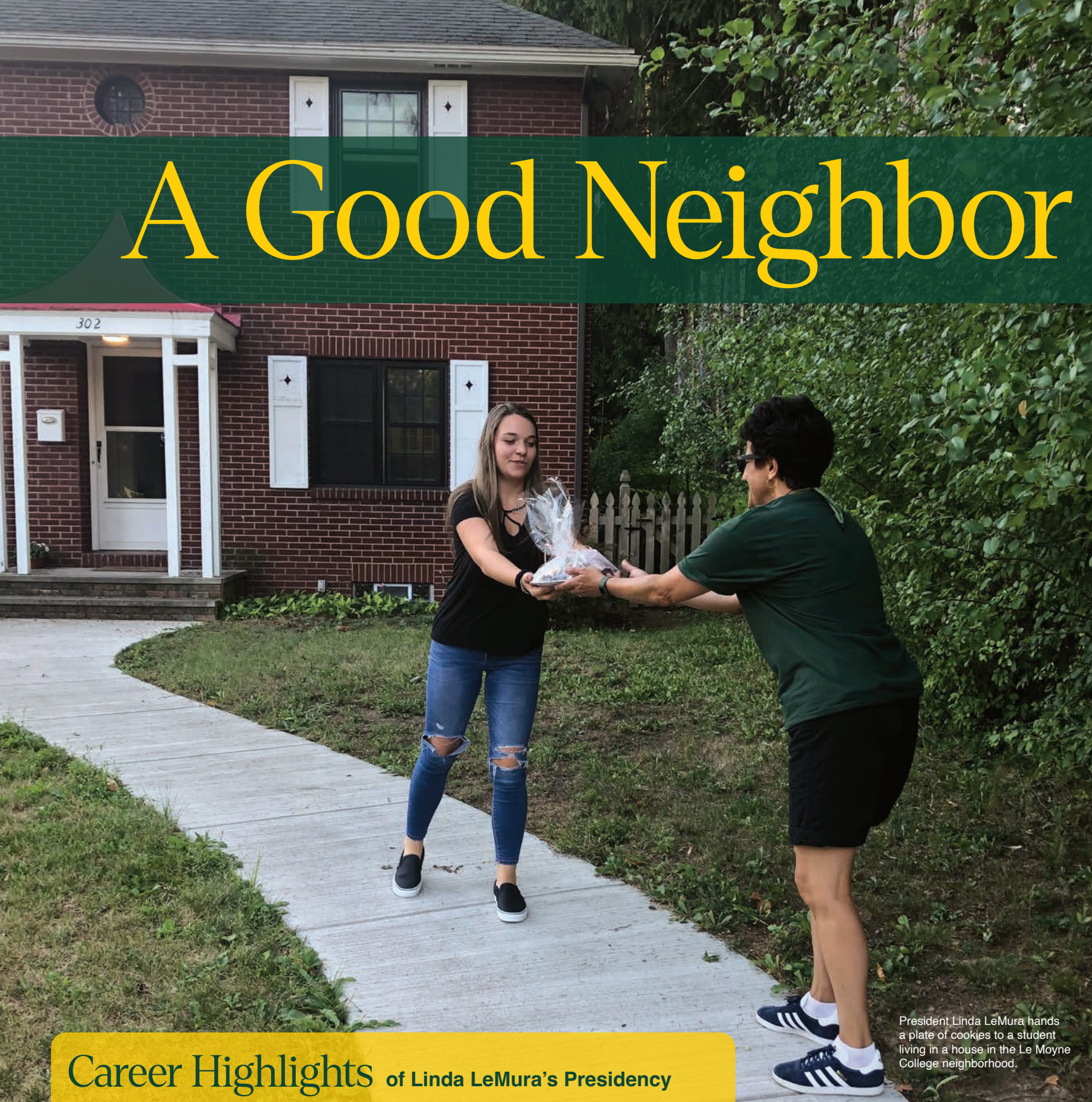
Crowle has come to appreciate that leadership means showing up with a positive attitude, being willing to listen and learn, surrounding yourself with those who inspire you, and doing the work even when no one is watching. This spirit of service and community continues to define her. The alumna now coaches Little League softball in New York City, mentoring the next generation and giving back to the game she loves. Her success is no happy accident. It is the result of her work ethic, humility, leadership and unwavering willingness to embrace opportunity. ■

(left) Dan McNeil III '77 Risk Management and Insurance Industry Leaders of the Year John Levanti '79 and Gabe Levanti '17 pose with their award.

(above) Linda LeMura attaches a pin on Alexis (Eastman) Crowle.



# A Good Neighbor



President Linda LeMura hands a plate of cookies to a student living in a house in the Le Moyne College neighborhood.

## Career Highlights of Linda LeMura's Presidency

- Oversaw completion of the \$100 million *Always Forward* campaign, the largest in College history, which contributed to the record growth of the College's endowment to more than \$300 million. Since LeMura became president in 2014, roughly \$200 million has been raised to benefit Le Moyne.
- Served as a major catalyst for the reclassification from DII to DI intercollegiate athletics. Le Moyne started the reclassification process in 2023, the only institution in the country to do so that year.
- Successfully led Le Moyne through the COVID-19 pandemic, maintaining strong enrollment during this challenging time.
- Advocated nationally for affordable, accessible education for all students through her work to raise PELL funding and other initiatives.
- Launched ERIE21 to create opportunities in tech and innovation for underserved individuals and served as co-chair the Regional Economic Development Council. She is involved in ongoing efforts to bring Micron to the region, which will be the biggest economic development project in the history of New York state. To help prepare for workforce opportunities, Le Moyne will launch an applied physics major in fall 2026.
- Delivered the commencement address at the College of the Holy Cross and Gonzaga University in 2024; both institutions presented her with an honorary degree. Received an honorary degree from Syracuse University in 2026.

# — A Great Leader

by Joe Della Posta

For Linda LeMura, creating a sense of community is a guiding principle that has helped define her personal and professional life. She finds that community through her faith, her family, her profession and in working with other leaders and colleagues beyond the Le Moyne campus.

Her 12-year tenure, which recently eclipsed that of William Reilly, S.J., as the longest-serving president in the history of Le Moyne College, has been defined by steady leadership, remarkable success in a number of key areas, strategic collaborations and facing significant challenges head-on.

Through it all, colleagues and friends say LeMura has never lost touch with her humble upbringing, her deep connection to the Central New York region and her fervent belief that students are at the epicenter of Le Moyne's Jesuit mission.

"Linda is one of those rare leaders who combines intellectual rigor with deep emotional intelligence," said Tracy Barlok, who first met her in 2013 when she worked as vice president of advancement at the College of the Holy Cross, where LeMura served for eight years on the board of trustees. "She's a serious scholar – and yet she leads with her heart as much as her head. She has enormous energy and an infectious enthusiasm that draws people to her and to Le Moyne's mission. But I think what sets her apart most is her genuine commitment to people. She doesn't just talk about *cura personalis* – she lives it."

"The attributes she possesses that make her such a successful, productive and, may I add loved, president are that she is positive, enthusiastic, smart, kind, compassionate and dedicated," said Lucy Paris, who has been a personal friend for more than 30 years. "She is faithful to God, her family, friends, co-workers, students and to the world in general."

These traits have been the hallmark of LeMura's career and were evident long before she became Le Moyne's 14th president. She began her professional life as a professor of physiology and a prolific scholar publishing research in the field of pediatrics and obesity. In 2003, she joined Le Moyne as dean of arts and sciences. Promoted in 2008 to provost and vice president for academic affairs, LeMura made history in 2014 when she became the first lay woman to become president of a Jesuit institution in the United States.

"We could see her passion and intelligence, and her love for the students," said Sharon Kinsman Salmon '78, who served as the chair of the board of trustees for that history-making promotion. "She admired and respected the faculty. She had developed

**"Linda is one of those rare leaders who combines intellectual rigor with deep emotional intelligence."**

—Tracy Barlok



Linda LeMura joins students and Andrew Lunetta '12, founder of A Tiny Home for Good, helping to build houses for the homeless throughout Syracuse.

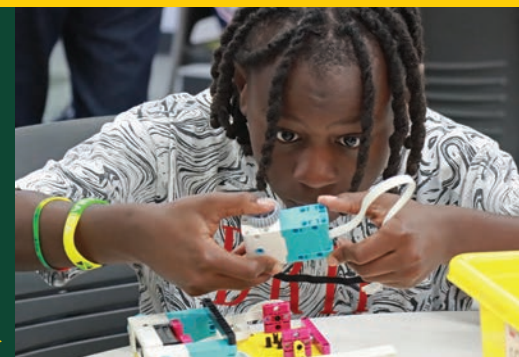
- Partnered with the City of Syracuse on the Le Moyne Area Neighborhood Development Strategy, or LANDS, to learn about transportation, housing, infrastructure, municipal services and overall quality of life from residents living in the Salt Springs neighborhood. The initiative led the city to select the Salt Springs neighborhood for the investment of \$25 million.
- Strengthened academics structurally and financially, including:  
**Naming gifts** for the Purcell School of Professional

Studies, the Carroll College of Arts and Sciences, the McNeil Institute for Risk and Uncertainty, and the Bosch Teaching and Learning Center.

**New programs**, including the College's first two doctoral programs, an Ed.D. in Executive Leadership and a Doctor of Nursing Practice, and master's programs in Clinical Mental Health Counseling, Occupational Therapy and Family Nurse Practitioner.

**A total of 21** new endowed professorships, chairs and faculty fellowships.

Student in the ERIE21 program ▶



# Navigating the COVID Years

No one on Le Moyne's campus could have imagined the havoc and disruption caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Higher education, which relies heavily on personal interaction and close collaboration among all of its constituencies, was particularly hard hit by COVID as it necessitated dramatic changes in core functions, from living arrangements to instruction and pedagogy to meal delivery, to name but a few areas.

As COVID took over all aspects of life, tensions on campus were high. However, LeMura's belief in the College's students, faculty and staff never wavered, as evidenced by what she wrote to the campus community during the pandemic: "My optimism comes from the fact that I believe we can do this, that our faculty, administrators and staff are committed to success, and that our students understand what is at stake and will continue to do what is right. To be sure, it will not be easy."

Danny Bonsangue '21, president of the Student Government Association during the 2020-22 academic year, worked with LeMura closely during the height of COVID.

"What particularly impressed me during COVID was how willing Linda was to listen to student leadership about what was happening on campus," said Bonsangue, now special deputy counsel with the New York Public Campaign Finance Board. "She really wanted to know what was going on with the student body, and where we could find compromises. The rules were there to keep us safe, but we both believed that we needed to find a balance to make sure that students' mental health was also taken care of."

LeMura made national headlines when she chose to move into a house just off campus in order to be closer to her students.

"She was good at expressing genuine concern for the students," said Bonsangue. "I think students knew that she felt our pain. She also genuinely cared about the College and its employees, and was always worried about what would happen if we had to shut down and people lost their jobs."



President Linda LeMura, Ph.D., with Danny Bonsangue '21 during COVID years.



(counter-clockwise from top, left) The young LeMura family with Linda LeMura's father, mother and siblings; Linda and her siblings with their mother in front; Linda, husband, Larry Tanner, Ph.D., and daughter and son-in-law, Emily and Andrew Hock; Linda's mother, Mary, and sister, Lisa, in the Panasci Family Chapel.



several articulation and partnership agreements with other schools, and she was extremely knowledgeable about the challenges facing higher education."

Her appointment started a trend that has literally changed the face of Jesuit education in the U.S., as 12 other institutions have since named female presidents, and earlier this year the Association for Jesuit Colleges and Universities (AJCU) named its first female president.

"I am proud that I have helped pave the way for others," LeMura said. "However, being a president has challenges and responsibilities no matter what gender you are."

"Linda rarely, if ever, spoke of the pressures associated with being the first lay woman to lead a Jesuit college," said Joe McShane, S.J., a Le Moyne professor from 1982 to 1992 who went on to serve for five years as president of the University of Scranton before leading Fordham University from 2003 to 2022. "A practical visionary, she let her actions and plans speak for her. As a result, she quickly became a trusted (and revered) presence at the AJCU board table."

Outside of the Jesuit network, her work in the Syracuse community illustrates her

belief in the value of collaboration and partnerships. Ben Walsh, who served as mayor of Syracuse from 2018 to 2025, viewed LeMura as one of his key allies and confidante while he was in office.

"Having grown up in Syracuse and seeing neighborhoods go through tough times, as dedicated as she is to mission of Le Moyne, she is equally passionate about getting the city back on solid footing," said Walsh who, like LeMura, is a Syracuse native. "She recognized early on how we could best use the assets and economic influence of Le Moyne to benefit the city as a whole and in particular the Salt Springs neighborhood that surrounds campus. She was always looking for opportunities to collaborate and recognizes that the College has a bigger role to play beyond the campus borders in terms of supporting the community."

"Her commitment to the community flows naturally from who Linda is," said Barlok. "She is a daughter of Syracuse – a first-generation college graduate, the child of Italian immigrants who arrived in the U.S. with no English and a pile of dreams. She has said it herself: 'I am that kid' – meaning she is the very student

that Le Moyne was founded to serve. For her, Le Moyne's relationship with Syracuse isn't an institutional strategy. It is very personal – almost sacred ... She sees the College and the community as inseparable."

"She grew up here," said Kinsman Salmon. "Integrating Le Moyne with the whole community is positive for everyone involved. Inclusivity is in her nature."

Prior to its closing in 2024, LeMura's friend Paris worked in development for the Cathedral Academy at Pompei (CAP), a K to 6 school in Syracuse that is the president's alma mater.

"Her involvement, integration and partnerships with the community, including CAP, is two-fold," Paris reflected.

"One is her passionate connections. She wants the best for what she holds dear. The other is looking for how best she can help foster and grow the community she lives in and loves. She is always looking to partnerships that realize the benefits of sharing resources, intelligence and ideas for the betterment of all."

"Her question to me is always, 'How can Le Moyne help serve the diocese better,'" said Syracuse Bishop Douglas Lucia. "Through the work of Bishop Foery, the Syracuse Diocese was the catalyst for the founding of the College. The connection between the diocese and the College was there from the beginning."

One development that promises to change the community is the pending arrival of Micron Technology's semiconductor "megafab" facility, which broke ground in January 2026. Current plans call for a \$100 billion investment over 20 years, with the first phase opening between 2030 and 2033. It is expected to create thousands of jobs.

LeMura has been a huge proponent of the project, recognizing how significantly it will transform the economic ecosystem of the entire region and all of upstate New York.

"In September of 2022, when most of you started high school, the Micron project hadn't even been formally announced," she said at a recent accepted student day event. "At that point it was an unknown – a possibility – a rumor. Yet here we are, four years later, and it is a distinct, concrete career option. I know that's the case because we're working closely with

## Showing Up for Students

Being a college president is a demanding job. There is a near constant need to recruit students, raise funds and engage with faculty and alumni. Linda LeMura does all of this extraordinarily well. However her greatest strength may be her capacity to connect with students.

"She recognizes that Le Moyne's primary mission is to foster growth in students," said Steve Siano '15, M.D., who came to know her well as an intern with the Office of Admission and member of the Student Government Association. "Dr. LeMura loves people and her extroverted personality and deep commitment to the core Jesuit values allow her to think about the larger vision of the College while not losing sight of the students she serves."

José Rosa '27, first met LeMura at an accepted student event in the summer of 2023 and was amazed when she remembered him later that year when she came to speak at a Collegiate Science and Technology Entry Program event.

"She told me to set up a time to come see her," Rosa recalls. "When we met, she asked, 'What can I do for you?' I told her that I was financially struggling because my mom has breast cancer. Being [the child of] a single mother means there is a lot of the pressure on me to help with the bills and essentially be another parent in the household."

She hired Rosa as a work-study student in the president's office, allowing him to quit an outside job and be on campus more, which provided him with the opportunity to be involved much more with a number of student groups.

"She really is another mother figure in my life," Rosa said. "She is constantly checking in with me. It's been a great experience."

"She's not just an educator but a mom also, so she really cares for the kids whose parents drop them off on move-in weekend," said Danny Bonsangue '21. "She definitely comes from a strong Italian-American tradition of 'famiglia,' and she wants everyone to feel like family when they move into Nelligan, St. Mary's and Dablon halls freshman year."

Former Trustee Sharon Kinsman Salmon '78 credits the students with keeping her so focused and energized.

Each year, LeMura makes a point of writing letters of recommendations for students who have chosen to pursue work or graduate school. She leads by example and, as a result, Le Moyne faculty and administrators routinely go above and beyond to work with students to develop professional relationships, advocate for graduate school opportunities and become proponents for students upon graduation.

Siano, who as a student spoke at LeMura's inauguration and now works as a doctor at the Raleigh, North Carolina-based Spine Center, said this: "Keeping in touch with Dr. LeMura is effortless, like catching up with an old friend. Any time she messages or I reach out to her it feels familiar."

LeMura joins students waiting to experience the solar eclipse on campus in April, 2024.



Robert Simmons, head of social impact and STEM programs at Micron Technology and the Micron Foundation gave a lecture titled "From the Block to the Boardroom," in Grewen Auditorium.



Former Syracuse Mayor Ben Walsh took some time to play winter soccer with the Le Moyne soccer team on the quad while visiting campus.

community leaders and Micron’s executives to ensure that this College and our students have a seat at the table for this historic opportunity. In fact, we’ve already had one student get an internship and then a full-time job with Micron, and they just broke ground a few weeks ago! That student was sitting in your seat not too long ago. And that student is now succeeding in a career he never expected. That’s what Le Moyne has always done, and that’s what Le Moyne will do for you.”

This exemplifies how LeMura views her role as president of the youngest of the 27 Jesuit institutions in the U.S. – with a mixture of enthusiasm, optimism and pragmatism, but always keeping the future of Le Moyne and its students (and future alumni) at the forefront.

“In the course of the many conversations that we had during my summer visits to the Heights, I was struck by the fact that she was always restless, always looking for ways both to improve the College and to raise its regional and national profile,” said Father McShane. “I was also struck by the fact that she had

the energy to take on the challenges connected with what she wanted for Le Moyne. At the end of my visits, I was both energized and a bit exhausted.”

“She possesses a unique combination of positive attributes – exceptional intelligence, energy, passion and determination,” said Walsh. “Change is hard and when she sets her mind to something she will not lose focus until it’s done. That’s rare. A lot of people will start a project, but to have the energy and persistence to see it through makes her unique as a leader.”

Her skills and passion for leading others have positively impacted generations of students. Well into her second decade as president, she shows no signs of slowing down. As Barlok puts it: “Higher education needs more leaders who can walk into a room, connect with a 19-year-old student and a 75-year-old donor with equal ease, crack a joke that lands perfectly, and then turn around and make a compelling case for why the institution deserves your support and your loyalty. Linda does all of that, and she makes it look effortless.” ❁



## Faith That Guides

A lifelong Catholic, LeMura possesses an abiding faith that serves as the guiding force in her work as the president of a Jesuit, Catholic institution.

“My Catholic faith has always been an integral part of my life,” said LeMura. “Some of my earliest memories as part of an Italian-American family living on the Northside of Syracuse are of attending Mass at Our Lady of Pompei Church. My mother, Mary, who passed away in 2025 at the age of 97, absolutely loved the community and sense of family at the church.”

Others recognize how integral her faith is to who LeMura is and how it impacts her life in every way, including her role as president. “Central to everything she does as president of Le Moyne is her strong Catholic faith,” said the Most Reverend Douglas J. Lucia, Bishop of Syracuse. “Her belief in Catholicism and Catholic education – not just at the college level but also at the primary and secondary levels – motives her more than anything.”

“Her deep faith in God shows through in everything she does, and that’s something that separates her from many,” said former Syracuse Mayor Ben Walsh.

# For the Greater Glory

## Boston College's AMDG Program Inspires Le Moyne Students to Live Lives of Purpose

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



When Shayla Sanson '28, received an email about the newly established AMDG (*Ad Majorem Dei Gloriam*) program at Le Moyne, she felt it was a sign.

Sanson's spring semester had been tough as a first-year marketing major.

"I wasn't sure what direction I was supposed to go," she says. "I wanted to grow my faith further and really learn about what it means to go to a Jesuit institution. AMDG felt like a calling."

In 2024, the Institute for Advanced Jesuit Studies (IAJS) at Boston College (BC) was awarded a \$10 million grant from the Lilly Endowment to launch the AMDG program, which aims to revitalize faith and service among youth and young adults aged 16-29. In addition to BC, Le Moyne is one of four other Jesuit institutions invited to participate, along with 15 high schools and five parishes from across the country. Every group includes 10 participants, who are led by an ambassador and paired with a BC student leader known as a Beadle.



AMDG stands for *Ad Majorem Dei Gloriam* or "for the greater glory of God," and is the official motto of the Society of Jesus.

In addition to Boston College, Le Moyne is one of four other Jesuit institutions participating in the pilot AMDG program. The others include Creighton University, John Carroll University, and Santa Clara University.

The program begins with a retreat-like gathering called Ever to Excel at BC, which is held over the summer and introduces participants to the program's goals and mission. When groups return home, they are expected to meet about once a month and perform service together. They also experience a silent retreat during the year, and then travel to Spain for a transformative pilgrimage along the Camino Ignaciano at the program's conclusion.

When Sanson first arrived at BC, she admits she was a bit panicked, but that quickly changed.

"I thought, 'What am I doing? I just want to go home.'" But then Father Casey opened his talk with: 'You were born to be loved.' It made an impression on me," Sanson says. "I have a great relationship with my family, but this was beyond that. He spoke about a body as a temple for the Holy Spirit, and you carry that with you. You're a companion and a friend to God. That has stayed with me."

"AMDG provides the opportunity for students to come together with others who have similar interests in growing

their faith," says Meega Wells, Ph.D., RN, ANP-BC, dean of Le Moyne's Purcell School of Professional Studies and Le Moyne's

AMDG ambassador. "It allows participants to realize the importance of serving others, which is a strong Catholic-Jesuit value. When we meet as a group, we have a spiritual component and try to imagine what it was like in the time of Jesus, which is what Ignatius wants us to do when we pray."

The cohorts and monthly meetings provide students with meaningful conversation and reflective time to process their service and other faith-based experiences.

"The Church has noticed that young people are very attracted to lives of service, generosity, and justice," says AMDG Program Director Will Healy. "AMDG seeks to engage young people in an intense year-long formation by helping them see the connection between service and Catholic faith and inspiring lives of service."

So far, the Le Moyne cohort's service has included Sandwich Saturdays, a food outreach campaign run by Syracuse nonprofit We Rise Above The Streets, which

Boston College





The Le Moyne AMDG group at the BC kick-off retreat last summer. Pictured here: (front row) Noor Alowaid, Emilia Muradova, Destany Herrera, Meega Wells, (back row) Raymond Pauta, Joshua Houck, Dominick Lisi, Sophia Massaroni, David Peregosky (BC Beadle), Harold Escalante, John Greulich and Shayla Sanson.

provides basic needs to both the unhoused and others in need, as well as a clean up of the Salt Springs Neighborhood. Several of the AMDG students have also served as retreat leaders on campus.

“At Sandwich Saturdays, the coordinator repeated, ‘Do things with love,’” says AMDG participant Emilia Muradova ’26. “It inspired me. You have to show love in any way you can. The service and this program have taught me you have to find your inner purpose.”

“You always feel better after you do service projects,” says Sophia Massaroni ’27, another AMDG participant. “But this has made me want to do service even more, especially seeing the same volunteers there every week who build relationships with the people they are serving.”

These lessons are exactly what AMDG is trying to cultivate in its participants.

“The program is geared to help participants find meaning in their life in addition to studying and future jobs,” says Wells.

John Greulich ’26, who is joining the Jesuit Volunteer Corps Northwest after graduation, has found this to be true.

“The program has helped me think about how Christ communicates,” he says. “The program over the summer awakened me. But, as the weeks go on, you start to feel disconnected because you have other things going on. But AMDG has taught us intentional reflection.”

This commitment to ongoing reflection and community is what makes AMDG unique, says Healy.


“Students have these really wonderful, transformative experiences, but then are actually able to maintain that community and grow in love and service with a tight-knit community,” he says.

To conclude the program, the Le Moyne AMDG students, along with their BC mentors, Ambassador Wells, and Father Donald Maldari, S.J., will travel together for an eight-day trip to Spain to walk in St. Ignatius of Loyola’s footsteps as the capstone of their AMDG experience. Over the summer, a new cohort will form.

“I’m looking forward to the quiet parts of the walk and taking the same steps St. Ignatius took,” says Greulich. “I think it’ll be really transformative.”

“I know the trip will be something I’ll look back on for the rest of my life,” says Massaroni. “But I’ve learned already that no matter what, I’ll always have this experience with this group of people that went through the exact same thing.”

No matter what the Spain trip brings, Sanson has gotten what she had hoped she would from the program.

“This whole program has been a life-changing experience,” she says. 

**The Camino Ignaciano, which the AMDG students will hike as a conclusion to the AMDG program, is the path St. Ignatius of Loyola traveled in 1522 from Loyola to the city of Manresa.**

AMDG cohorts will grow from 10 to 15 during the 2026-27 academic year, increasing the total number of participants from 250 to 375.



# The Art and Science of Becoming a Physician

Matt Civilette '18, M.D., credits his Ignatian education with helping him to see each patient in front of him, not as a diagnosis or set of symptoms, but as a fully formed human being. John Panzone '21, M.D., is similarly focused on supporting his patients as a resident at the University of Rochester Medical Center. He is considering a career in hand or spine surgery. Meanwhile, Ashley (Brown) Jackson '14, D.O., has uncovered a passion for women's health and psychiatry. She is eager to combine her love of both disciplines by becoming a family medicine obstetrician who is a certified maternal mental health specialist.

Civilette, Panzone and Jackson are among six Le Moyne alumni who credit the College with preparing them for the work that they are now doing, and will do, as physicians. Their time on the Heights provided them with an outstanding foundation in the life and physical sciences that they rely on daily, while also readying them for how deeply personal the practice of medicine is. It is a science, yes, but as these young doctors can attest, in many ways, it is also an art.

## Matt Civilette '18, M.D. Medicine is Mission

For Matt Civilette '18, M.D., medicine is a mission – literally. Civilette is a flight surgeon assigned to Carrier Air Wing Seventeen (CVW-17), stationed in San Diego, California, and attached to the aircraft carrier USS Nimitz. His office is a 100,000-ton vessel sailing across the Pacific Ocean, carrying American service members to their next deployment. The Fredonia, New York, native and Class II Naval Aviator says that his job is not unlike that of the team doctor for the Buffalo Bills. However, instead of determining whether a player is healthy enough to take the field, he ensures that the nation's pilots are a formidable, medically ready fighting force.

The Le Moyne alumnus is deeply integrated into this community. He has gone through extensive training to ensure that he understands the unique needs of his patients, whose work is both dangerous and critical to preserving the nation's security. Like nearly all physicians, he holds clinics and responds to emergencies; he diagnoses illnesses and injuries and designs treatment plans. However, Civilette has also spent time training with the squadron at TOP-GUN in Fallon, Nevada, and spent 77 consecutive days at sea aboard an aircraft carrier. The latter are certainly not claims that every doctor can make.

Civilette earned his bachelor's degree in biology from Le Moyne and his medical degree from the Georgetown University School of Medicine. He credits both institutions with teaching him not just about the biology, chemistry and physiology he relies on every day, but how to relate to others.

"At the end of the day, I feel like I'm able to connect with my patients," he says. "Medicine is called a science, but I think it's much more often an art, and the art is in figuring out what a person is really asking for and what he or she needs. I'm not just a physician. I'm also a care provider, whether it's emotional, spiritual or physical."

Civilette's time with CVW-17 is drawing to a close. This summer he will begin a residency in anesthesiology at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center in Boston, Massachusetts, a teaching hospital



of Harvard Medical School. It's a natural next step. After all, administering anesthesia has been compared to flying a plane. The two most critical elements are "take off" (putting a patient to sleep) and "landing" (waking him or her up). In between, the most important thing is ensuring that the patient has a smooth journey.

## John Panzone '21, M.D. People Are Not X-Rays

As a child growing up outside of Utica, New York, John Panzone '21, M.D., knew that he wanted to dedicate his career to medicine. However, Panzone was not sure precisely what his role would be. It was during his time at Le Moyne, where he majored in biology and minored in chemistry, psychology and applied statistics, that he discerned that becoming a doctor would provide him with the opportunity to make the kind of difference he truly wanted to make.

Today Panzone is an orthopedic surgery resident at the University of Rochester, and is looking forward to building a career in hand or spine surgery. It is a path that aligns closely with the Jesuit mission to care for the whole person. As Panzone has discovered, every patient is unique and a treatment plan can look very different, even for two people facing the same diagnosis. In order to provide his patients with the best possible care, Panzone must understand precisely what they are experiencing, how their diagnosis is impacting their quality of life on a daily basis, and what their goals are for the future.

Or, as he puts it, "People are not X-rays."

Panzone credits his time at Le Moyne with preparing him for the work he is doing and will continue to do in the coming decades. The neurobiology course he took as an undergraduate was remarkably similar to one he took in medical school, and the physics course he completed proved to be extremely useful when he sat for the medical school admission test. Panzone says that the professors who led those classes not only knew his name, but were deeply invested in his success. They even provided him with the opportunity to act as a mock-patient for the College's Physician Assistant Studies Program. In addition, he was involved in a number of activities out of the classroom, including the Pre-Health Society, Le Moyne Student Programming Board and Ignatian Ignite, that shaped the way he thinks about leadership and service today.

"What I'm most excited about is continuing to progress in my journey in healthcare," he says. "Residency is similar to the stages before it. You're constantly trying to push, to learn more, to advance what you're capable of doing. I feel like every day I'm in the hospital, I'm learning, whether that's from textbooks or from my colleagues and from senior residents and attending physicians."





## Ashley (Brown) Jackson '14, D.O.: With Every Step, At Every Stage, A Call to Care for Others

As a family medicine physician, Ashley (Brown) Jackson '14, D.O., helps guide her patients through every stage of life. One morning she may be scrubbing in to deliver a baby; the next she may be counseling an adult experiencing anxiety or depression. The days are long and the work is absorbing, but Jackson considers it an honor to accompany her patients along their respective journeys, supporting them however she can. Yes, she is a clinician, but she is also a teacher, an advocate and a confidante. That multiplicity fuels and sustains her.

Jackson is in the second year of her residency at St. Joseph's Hospital in Syracuse, the city where she was born and raised. The daughter of two nurses, Jackson realized early on that she was called to medicine. Science was – and remains – her professional passion. She earned a bachelor's degree in biology from Le Moyne and a master's degree in biomedical sciences from Midwestern University, where she conducted cancer research, before completing a Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine at Arizona College of Osteopathic Medicine. She credits her undergraduate education, and the training she received in both the natural sciences and the liberal arts, with preparing her for graduate and medical school, and the work she is now doing.

“My time at Le Moyne made me a more

well-rounded person,” she says. “The courses I took, whether they were based in science, philosophy or religious studies, were crucial to opening my eyes to the world around me and helping me to think beyond what is right in front of me.”

Today Jackson's days are centered around her patients. She is available to them, attuned to their needs, and cognizant of their individual circumstances. If she senses that someone needs more time to discuss a concern with her, she will ask that a longer appointment be scheduled for that person. She also believes in helping to educate her patients, whether it is about the course a disease may take or a medicine that has been prescribed to them, so that they feel empowered to take part in their care. What's more, she enjoys having conversations with them, and learning about their work and their families.

“I treat my patients medically, but I also have the chance to teach, to be a counselor, to help with the social aspect of their lives,” she says. “I can enjoy that part of medicine, and I can't think of any other job that allows you to take on so many roles.”

While still early in her career, Jackson has uncovered a particular affinity for both women's health and psychiatry. The former stems from her knowledge that Syracuse is what is known as a “women's health desert” and in urgent need of providers. The latter is buoyed by her understanding that medicine is much “more than what happens from the neck down,” that “your brain and your quality of life matter too.” Her ultimate goal is to combine her love of both disciplines by becoming a family medicine-obstetrician who is a certified maternal mental health specialist, trained to work with women across the reproductive spectrum from pregnancy to menopause.

For this alumna, the practice of medicine comes down to this: “You have to intrinsically want to help people.”



## Ellie Sommers '21 Humanity in Medicine

Ellie Sommers '21 has always been passionate about math and science. Her decision to become a doctor truly revealed itself when she was a freshman in high school and her father, Thomas, was diagnosed with advanced pancreatic cancer. As his illness progressed, Sommers realized that she wanted to play a role in improving other people's quality of life and healthspan as a physician. It was during her time on the Heights, where she swam competitively, that she zeroed in on the idea of specializing in orthopedic surgery. Being able to provide people with what she calls "the gift of movement and restored function" appealed to her as a person, a scientist and an athlete.

A Manlius, New York, native, Sommers recently graduated from SUNY Upstate Medical University and will soon begin a residency at Geisinger Orthopaedic Surgery Northeast based in Wilkes-Barre and Scranton, Pennsylvania. Looking back, she says that Le Moyne prepared her for medical school in all of the ways she expected it would. A biology major and member of the Integral Honors Program, Sommers enrolled in one challenging course after another, including Endocrine Disruptors and Immunology. She availed herself of the services of the College's

Health Professions Advisory Committee and served as the president of the Pre-Health Society. However, the lessons she learned about humanity in her philosophy, religious studies and English courses have proven to be equally valuable to her, as has everything she discovered about leadership and perseverance as a swimmer.

"Unfortunately in today's medical system it is easy to move through your work as though you are just checking boxes," she says. "You are focusing on so many things that are truly important – biology, physiology, pathology – that sometimes the art in medicine is lost. Le Moyne gave me a really beautiful perspective on the humanity that is central to medicine that I carry with me every day."

For Sommers, being a well-rounded person is key to being a good doctor. In fact, she says that one of the best pieces of advice she received over the course of her time at Le Moyne was to "be open to new opportunities." It is wisdom that she heeded. During her first year of medical school, she served as a color commentator for Northeast Conference's national championship swim meet, and last year she and a friend ran the 2025 Boston Marathon, raising \$60,000 for the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. Both were wonderful outlets for her. As it turned out, her stint as a color commentator even came up in her interviews for a residency in orthopedics.

Sommers now looks forward a long career of working with her patients, and of making sure that they feel seen, heard and understood.

She offered this advice to other 'Phins carving out their own path in medicine: "Work really hard and remember: It's a marathon, not a sprint."





## Steve Siano '15, M.D. Healing Through Connection

As an interventional pain physician, Steve Siano '15, M.D., knows most of his patients are not fixated on what the results of a particular blood test are; they simply want to know that they can climb stairs or pick up their children or grandchildren without pain. Siano appreciates that when he is, for example, administering an epidural injection, it is extremely high stakes. Patients are often worried, particularly if it is their first treatment. It is in those moments, he says, that the value of his Le Moyne education truly shines through.



Siano is able to connect with his patients, asking them questions such as, “What is your favorite Shakespeare play?” It takes their minds off of whatever it is they are undergoing, and allows him to learn something more about them. Siano majored in biology on the Heights. When he reflects on his time on campus, he appreciates the fact that, in addition to receiving outstanding instruction in anatomy, physiology and microbiology, he also learned about literature and philosophy, and how to write clearly and effectively.

That is just the start of what the Liverpool, New York, native took away from his time at Le Moyne.

Siano specializes in physical medicine and rehabilitation. Put simply, he focuses on nonsurgical treatment of painful musculoskeletal disorders. It is an area that is growing rapidly, and reflects what Siano sees as a move in medicine toward “values-based care,” or care that is more efficient and focused on prevention of illness. New discoveries in this branch of medicine are coming at a rapid rate, making it critical for Siano to be a life-long learner, something that was instilled in him throughout his time at Le Moyne.

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

“For me success means caring for patients, restoring them to function,” he says. “That is the cornerstone of who I am and why I went to medical school.”

## Phung Tran '12, D.O. Guided by Her North Star

Every day Phung Tran '12, D.O., asks herself this question: How can she best help her patients maximize their ability to function as fully and independently as possible, and prioritize their physical, emotional and spiritual well-being? It is her North Star. Caring for patients and keeping up with the near constant advancements in medicine, from evolving treatments for cancer and dementia to new drugs to aid in weight loss, make life busy for any physician. For Tran, the vocation is particularly absorbing. After completing a residency in family medicine at Our Lady of Lourdes Memorial Hospital in Binghamton, New York, she went on to serve as a family medicine physician at what is now known as Guthrie Lourdes Hospital before opening her own osteopathic manipulative medicine practice in the state's Southern Tier. The work stretches her as a professional and as a human being, and has been enormously rewarding.

"This is just where I want to be," she says.

A native of Binghamton, New York, Tran first felt pulled to medicine when she was just 6 years old and her younger sister was diagnosed with leukemia. She spent a great deal of time in hospitals while her sibling received treatment – observing, listening, wondering. She was intrigued by the science that lies at the heart of medicine, and fascinated by the art that is required for a doctor to establish a rapport with a patient. Those feelings never left or even dissipated.

Following her graduation from Seton Catholic Central, Tran earned a bachelor's degree in biochemistry from Le Moyne and a Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine from the University of New England College of Osteopathic Medicine. She made the most of her years at both institutions. During her time on the Heights, Tran conducted research in the lab of Associate Professor of Chemistry Joseph Mullins, Ph.D., and served as an organic chemistry workshop leader and a tutor in the Student Success Center. She also held leadership roles in Asian Students in Alliance, Biochemistry Club and the Chemistry Club. As a medical student, she served as a laboratory technician at the Biddeford Free Clinic in Maine.



Tran's understanding of anatomy, biology and physiology are, of course, crucial to her work in diagnosing patients who are ill and in designing effective treatment plans for them. However, they are not the only skills upon which she relies. She also draws on her capacity to listen carefully to each patient. Tran understands how important it is to come to know the people she cares for individuals. Each brings to the exam room a distinct set of challenges, experiences and expectations, all of which are factors in the care she provides to them.

"Critical thinking is such a vital part of the work we do as physicians," Tran says. "We have to use our best judgment based on the situation and the available science. That is not easy, but when you see a patient again, and he tells you that he's doing well, it makes you feel great." 📍



# Service, Faith and Purpose

## *Growing Closer to God Together*



To support the Grace Center for Faith and Community go to [lemoyne.edu/give](http://lemoyne.edu/give).



Since its founding Le Moyne College has sought to help students develop their faith as well as their intellect, and to grow in relationship with God and with one another. Over the past eight decades, that aim has only grown more and more important. The algorithms and digital devices that are meant to link us to one another have sadly left more and more young people feeling alone and isolated. To that end, the College's Grace Center for Faith and Community and Put God First are collaborating to assist students across campus in building human and spiritual connections. They are, in President Linda LeMura's words, "helping students to find common ground with one another and engage with God in other aspects of their lives."

The Grace Center was established in the spring of 2025 thanks to a gift from Katherine "Kathy" Grace Purcell '66, and her late husband, John Purcell '65. Its principles align well with those of Put God First, a nonprofit organization based in Vestal, New York. Put God First has three primary aims – to feed God's sheep, to shelter the homeless, and to fill the churches. The foundation is built upon a model of servant leadership. What's more, its founders are propelled by a desire to go wherever they are most needed and to give glory to God. With the generous support of Put God First, the Grace Center

offers numerous opportunities for students to reflect, engage their faith and learn about Ignatian Spirituality. It does so through regular programs, such as Mission Monday and Wisdom Wednesday, and focused retreats, including Kairos, in which participants explore their relationships with God, themselves and others. Put God First also supports the Grace Center's efforts to reach out to students through various social media channels, a valuable means of sharing news and inspiration, and through *The Le Moyne Way* podcast.

Nathan Hanzalik '28, a dual major in management and leadership and risk management and insurance from Endicott, New York, has been working with Put God First since 2024. He now serves as a student coordinator of the College's Le Moyne Way program. He has been inspired by the opportunities that exist for students to spread the Gospel, serve their communities, grow as individuals and, most importantly, to honor God. Moving forward, he hopes that the Grace Center will continue to grow the role it plays in students' transformational journeys at Le Moyne. "The Center is a place where people of all faiths can come together and have a sense of belonging," he said. "I hope they will come to everything that it has to offer." ❁

# Dolphin Stories



**WISHMAKER** | When Ryan Chismark '09 is asked what inspired him to become involved with Make-a-Wish in 2015, his response is simple: “I saw a need.”

At the time, Chismark worked for Cushman & Wakefield in the commercial real estate firm’s Dallas, Texas, office. The Fayetteville, New York, native was familiar with Make-a-Wish’s mission to honor the wishes of children facing critical illnesses, whether they wanted to go on vacation or meet their favorite professional athlete. However, it was not until Chismark became connected with the philanthropy that he learned how great its needs are. Each wish costs approximately \$10,000 to fulfill, and there are 1,100 children on the wait list in the Dallas-Fort Worth area alone. What’s more, there are approximately 300 people moving to the region every day, at least some of whom would benefit from a wish.

That knowledge fuels Chismark. Now a partner with Meritax Advisors, he is more committed than ever to using his time, energy and imagination to support Make-a-Wish in his adopted home. He currently serves as the development chair of Make-a-Wish



Ryan Chismark '09 (center) uses his passion for finance and community to help raise funds for Make-a-Wish.

North Texas. Over the past decade, he has helped to raise approximately \$1.3 million for the organization, primarily by cultivating relationships with other professionals in the area. His pitch to those he hopes will support Make-a-Wish is rooted in practicality. By donating to the organization, they can aid their community and build their legacy. “You can do well by doing good,” he is fond of saying. Chismark also appeals to the competitive streak that often runs through the people he meets. In 2025, he launched “Wishmakers at Work” in which two or more businesses face off to see how much money their employees can raise for the philanthropy. It garnered \$500,000 in its first year and is expected to generate more than \$1 million this year. The program has been adopted by Make-a-Wish nationally.

There are echoes of Chismark’s Le Moyne education in this work with Make-a-Wish. A finance major on the Heights, he has certainly brought the lessons he learned

about decision making, financial modeling and forecasting, and quantitative reasoning to his fundraising efforts. However, with time he has also come to appreciate how the religion and philosophy courses he took as an undergraduate have shaped how he looks at the world and the impact he wants to make on his community.

Chismark is also motivated by the fact that he is himself a father of three. He and his wife, Chelsea, welcomed their youngest child in November. He appreciates how important it is for children who are enduring so much physically and emotionally to have experiences that are purely about bringing them joy. What’s more, he has heard from numerous Make-a-Wish parents that simply having something to look forward to has helped their children navigate difficult treatments and hospitalizations.

“The bottom line is that I do this because it’s the right thing to do,” he says.

## Alumni Achievements



John Farruggio received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the SUNY Human Resources Association.

### A LIFETIME OF ACHIEVEMENT

**1983** ▶ **John Farruggio** of Liverpool, N.Y., recently retired from the State University of New York after 36 years of service as a human resources administrator, primarily with SUNY Upstate University Hospital. Shortly before his retirement, Farruggio received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the SUNY Human Resources Association in recognition of his positive contributions to the SUNY campuses in the field of human resources.

## Share Your Story

Do you have a story about an achievement, an interesting journey, or a cool place you visited? We would love to share your photo and short story! Submit stories to Molly McCarthy at [mccartmk@lemoyne.edu](mailto:mccartmk@lemoyne.edu). Submit class notes to [lemoyne.edu/alumni](mailto:lemoyne.edu/alumni). The magazine submission deadline for the next issue is **Oct. 1, 2026**.

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

### 1970

**William Virkler** of New Hartford, N.Y., recently retired from Utica University, where he served as a professor of practice of criminal justice for 25 years. Virkler will continue to serve as New Hartford Town Justice, a position he has held for 27 years.

### 1982

**Carol (Iacone) Eaton** of East Syracuse, N.Y., retired from her position as senior vice president of marketing and communications for Visit Syracuse.

### 1983

**Timothy Dinneny** of Breezy Point, N.Y., joined Texas Precious Metals as an adviser.

### 1985

**Thérèse Wiley Dancks** of Bridgeport, N.Y., was honored with the Ruth G. Schapiro Award from the New York State Bar Association at the association's annual meeting in New York City.

### 1986

**Scott Shatraw** of Clinton, N.Y., retired as president

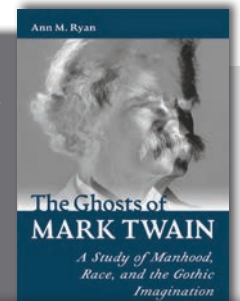
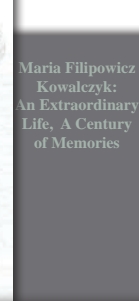
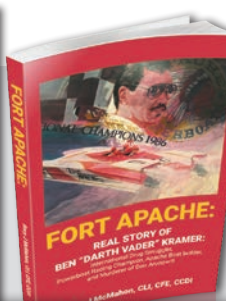
and chief executive officer of Utica First Insurance Company.

**Catherine (Spendley) O'Brien** of Houston, Texas, has been named silver fox adviser for the Greater Houston Area.

### 1990

**Michael Pasquale** of Syracuse, N.Y., joined CNY ONRAMP (One Network for Regional Advanced Manufacturing Partnerships) Inc. as chief program officer. CNY ONRAMP is a workforce innovation hub dedicated to addressing critical workforce

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## Alumni Bookshelf

**1967** ▶ **Anne Marie Lunkenheimer** takes readers from a small, rural community in upstate New York to the far corners of the world in her memoir, *Not Without My Passport*. Driven by a passion for international development and a desire to make a difference, Lunkenheimer became an active participant in the global peace and feminist movements of the tumultuous 1960s and '70s. Her experiences include working in impoverished mountain villages in Mexico and a lifetime of commitments in Central America, Southeast Asia, the South Pacific, Africa and the Caribbean.

**1972** ▶ **Rory McMahon** published *Fort Apache*, in which he reveals the untold stories of the people and cases he encountered over the course of his 50-year career as an investigator, both for the federal government and in private practice.

**1974** ▶ **Teresa Kowalczyk** wrote *Maria Filipowicz Kowalczyk: An Extraordinary Life, A Century of Memories*. Kowalczyk's life journey began in Poland during World War I and included years in a Nazi labor camp during World War II, a turbulent voyage across the Atlantic Ocean and life in America as an immigrant until her death at 100 years of age.

**1985** ▶ **Ann Ryan** is the author of *The Ghosts of Mark Twain: A Study of Manhood, Race, and the Gothic Imagination*. In it, Ryan maps Twain's resistance to ideals of white masculinity and his occasional capitulation to them. Twain scholar Chad Rohman of Dominican University called the work "expansive, deeply contextual, timely, and essential," noting that "it usefully rethinks Twain's legacy, speaks to a nation's persistent ills regarding race and identity, and fills a much-needed gap in current Twain scholarship." A professor in Le Moyne's Department of English, Ryan is the past president of the Mark Twain Circle, the former editor of *The Mark Twain Annual*, and co-editor of the volume *Cosmopolitan Twain*.

**2000** ▶ **Kim LaPoint** released a children's book titled *Bella and Nash: Our First Camping Trip*. It is the story of two cousins, one of whom is neurodivergent and utilizes a communication device, who embark on a camping trip to the Adirondacks with their grandfather. LaPoint writes under the pen name Kim Adams.



# Timing is Everything

You never know what forces will conspire to unite – or reunite – two people. For **Katie Mearon '02** and **Jason Calcagnino '12**, those forces included an internet connection and the weather.

Katie and Jason first met in a human resources class (HR) on the Heights in the early aughts. From there they went on to build meaningful but distinct lives and careers. Katie graduated from Le Moyne in 2002, while Jason, who left and later returned to campus, graduated in 2012.

Their story might have ended in that HR classroom had they not reconnected on a dating app in early 2020. Katie swiped right, secure in the knowledge that Jason was “an actual person she had met before in real life.” In turn, Jason jokes that he asked Katie out “more times than he would care to admit,” but that she finally acquiesced when a snowstorm derailed her other plans. The pair went on three real dates before the Covid-19 pandemic shut down much of the world beginning that March, and have not looked back since.

The couple became engaged during a family trip to Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, a place that holds a special meaning to Katie’s family, and were married at Timber Banks in Baldwinsville, New York, late last summer.

In Jason, Katie says that she has found someone who is calm and steady, whose quick wit keeps her laughing every day, and who is a wonderful, devoted father to his 15-year-old son and 12-year-old daughter. In Katie, Jason has found not just a life partner, but a life coach, someone who is always his first call when there is a decision to make, even if that decision is about something as simple as the topping for the pizza he is bringing home.

The duo looks forward to building a future together based on this principle:

“A good team is balanced, on the same page on major life stuff, and can have fun in any and all situations.”

## ADDING A PAGE TO THEIR SHARED STORY



What makes two people a good team? For **Caitlin Lessun '18** and **Jonathan Becker '17**, it is the ability to laugh (especially at themselves), to rely on one another, lift one another up, and know that, whatever happens, they’re in it together. That philosophy has served as their north star, from their first date at Dinosaur BBQ more than three-and-a-half years ago to their wedding at Jonathan’s childhood home last summer. It will continue to guide them for the rest of their lives.

Each says the other brings something crucial to their partnership. Caitlin’s unwavering love and support helps Jonathan remain even keeled. She is dependable and reassuring, and Jonathan says, “having the most beautiful eyes in the world doesn’t hurt.” Caitlin admires Jonathan’s sense of humor and loyalty, and his capacity to be present for her and her family, particularly following the tragic passing of Caitlin’s beloved sister-in-law, Stephanie Lessun '10.

Fifty years from now, what this bride and groom will remember most about their wedding day is the joy they felt in reciting their vows to one another. As Jonathan put it, “In that quiet exchange, time stood still.” They will also remain grateful to have been married at a place that has been in his family for generations, “adding a page to a book filled to the brim with chapters of history.”

The couple recently moved to a farm of their own, where they started a pumpkin patch that is expanding to include various plants, landscaping and sunflowers. They’ve found it’s a perfect way to incorporate Caitlin’s love of nature with Jonathan’s farming roots.

skill gaps in the advanced manufacturing and construction industries in Central New York.

## 1992

**James Dietrich** of Silver Spring, Md., was appointed by Gov. Wes Moore to the Worcester County Circuit Court.

**Peter Schultz** of Syracuse, N.Y., was named principal of Epiphany Catholic School in Culpeper, Va.

## 1995



**Crystal Furner-Ponto** of Camillus, N.Y., recently celebrated three years as the founder and co-owner of That's What She Read Bookshop and Boutique in Marcellus, N.Y. The store was designed to serve as a quaint haven featuring new, used and vintage books, along with gifts and collectibles. Furner-Ponto previously served as an adjunct professor in Le Moyne's Department of Education.

## Love & Marriage

**Katie Mearon '02 to Jason Calcagnino '12**

**Caitlin Lessun '18 to Jonathan Becker '17**

**Mallory DiDeFilice '22 to Jacob Donofry '22**

**Danielle Green '22 to John Rice '22**

**Maria (Rotundo) Gersbacher** of Syracuse, N.Y., was promoted to manager at Grossman St. Amour CPAs PLLC.

## 2000

**Nicole (Helmer) Simon** of Ballston Spa, N.Y., has been added as an equity partner at the law firm of Gordon, Tepper, DeCoursey, Powers and Simon, LLP.

## 2001

**Lynette Mendoza** of Brooklyn, N.Y., joined New York Breast Health as a board-certified breast surgical oncologist.

## 2002

**Ryan McMahon** of Syracuse, New York, began his first term as president of the New York State County Executives' Association, which represents the 19 counties across the state led by county executives. McMahon serves the executive of Onondaga County; he has held that role since 2018. Prior to that, he was a member of the Syracuse City Council.

## 2003

**Wendy (Kotcamp) Arnone, MBA** of Mooresville, N.C., joined the board of directors of the Charcot-Marie-Tooth Association.

**Courtney Merriman** of Marietta, N.Y., was appointed managing director of the Syracuse office of Barclay Damon LLP.

## 2006

**Michael Backus** of Mexico, N.Y., was named to the 2026 Trailblazers in Healthcare list by City and State New York. Backus is president and CEO of Oswego Health.

**Tricia Pethic** of Canton, N.Y., is the founder of Naseeha Pastoral Counseling LLC.

## 2007

**Stacy (Garrison) Boljkovac** of Orchard Park, N.Y., was named to the Top 50 Women Leaders

of Buffalo for 2025 by Women We Admire.

## 2008

**Kara (Libordi) Cline** of Maize, Kan., was promoted to partner at EFPR, a Springline company, one of Western New York's largest accounting and business consulting firms.

**Chris Sunderlin** of Utica, N.Y., is a program coordinator at Mohawk Valley Institute for Learning in Retirement.

## 2009

**Scott Heyman** of East Syracuse, N.Y., was promoted to director at Grossman St. Amour CPAs, PLLC.

## 2010

**Mary Ellen (Vaughan) Romagno** of Liverpool, N.Y., was promoted to principal in the audit department at the accounting firm of FustCharles LLP.

## 2011

**Gary Williams Jr.** of Cicero, N.Y., joined CNY ONRAMP (One Network for Regional Advanced Manufacturing Partnerships) Inc. as director of operations. CNY ONRAMP is a workforce innovation hub dedicated to addressing critical workforce skill gaps in the advanced manufacturing and construction industries in Central New York.

## 2012

**Julie Angiulo** of Syracuse, N.Y., joined Nephrology Associates of Syracuse as a family nurse practitioner.

## 2014

**Nicole Turner** of Liverpool, N.Y., was appointed poet laureate for the City of Worcester, Mass.

## 2015

**Erin (Senior) Hartwell** of Cicero, N.Y., was promoted to director on the financial and operational performance

services team of Microscope, a FustCharles LLP company.

## 2019

**Brooke (Scribner) Hood** of Chittenango, N.Y., joined Slocum-Dickson Medical Group as a physician assistant in urgent care.

## 2020

**Alexander Betz** of Raleigh, N.C., successfully defended his doctoral dissertation in mathematics at North Carolina State University (NCSU). Betz's research focuses on quantum algebra and representation theory. He has accepted a three-year postdoctoral appointment at Louisiana State University, beginning in August. At NCSU, he had the opportunity to teach Calculus I, II, and III, as well as Differential Equations, and to mentor undergraduate research.

**Bianca Cruz** of Lake Mary, Fla., passed the Principles and Practice of Engineering (PE) exam. Cruz is a structural engineer at McLaren Engineering Group, a division of KCI.

## 2021

**Jacob Fogarty** of Syracuse, N.Y., recently passed the New York state bar exam and is now working as a public defender in Binghamton, N.Y. Fogarty earned his Juris Doctorate from the University at Buffalo.

**Isiah Jennings** of Allentown, Pa., was named head coach for the boys prep basketball team and assistant coach for the national basketball team at Perkiomen School.

## 2023

**Amina Muminovic** of Clay, N.Y., was promoted to senior audit associate in the audit department of the accounting firm of FustCharles LLP.



**A CONSTELLATION OF SERVICE** | At Le Moyne College, we are proud to recognize and celebrate the extraordinary individuals whose dedication strengthens both our campus and the broader community. Perhaps no two people better embody the Jesuit values that define Le Moyne – service, integrity and a steadfast commitment to the common good – than 2026 Le Moyne in New York honorees Chris Curtis '79 and Jeanette Epps '92, Ph.D. These esteemed alumni uplift others and serve as powerful examples for Le Moyne students, particularly those who are the first in their families to pursue a college education.



**“You’re not here for dinner. You’re here to lift up people you will never meet.”**

President Linda LeMura

2026 Le Moyne in New York honorees Jeanette Epps '92, Ph.D. and Chris Curtis '79.

This year’s gala, held at the Lighthouse at Pier 61 at Chelsea Piers, New York, began with watching the historic Artemis II lunar liftoff. The atmosphere was truly electric. While the guests’ eyes were on the stars, their minds and hearts were clearly focused on improving life on Earth. Thanks to the leadership and generosity of the nearly 200 people who attended the event, \$600,000 was raised in support of first-generation students at Le Moyne. Those present at Le Moyne in New York demonstrated exactly what is possible when purpose meets compassion.

Curtis has built a career defined by leadership, integrity and a deep commitment to education. He currently serves as an executive partner at Emerald Lake Capital Management, a private equity firm based in Los Angeles, California. Prior to joining Emerald Lake, he served as chief executive officer of Wencor Group and spent more than two decades at Schneider Electric, a Fortune Global 500 company specializing in energy management and automation solutions. This proud Le Moyne alumnus serves his alma mater as a member of the College’s board of

trustees, recently completing a term as chair. In addition, he and his wife, Karin, generously donated the Curtis Quad and Terrace on campus. This gathering place symbolizes their shared commitment to education, community and the mission of Le Moyne College. The couple are also working with Le Moyne to develop a program to advance literacy in the community neighboring the College.

A retired NASA astronaut, Epps realized a life-long dream when she took part in the first operational mission of Boeing’s CST-100 Starliners in 2024. She spent 235

days in space, including 232 days aboard the International Space Station, conducting research whose aim is to help man travel deeper into space than ever before. Upon her return to Earth, Epps visited Le Moyne to share stories from her seven-month mission. Her words inspired a new generation of 'Phins to think carefully about what they want their contributions to humanity to be. Like Curtis, Epps also serves on the College's board of trustees. In 2016 she was selected to receive an honorary degree from the College and delivered the address to that year's graduates.

Through their extraordinary lives and work, Curtis and Epps uplift others and inspire Le Moyne students. They prove that a Le Moyne education can take you anywhere from the heights of global business to the expanse of the stars.

As she addressed the crowd gathered along the New York waterfront, President Linda LeMura captured the true, transcendent spirit of the night: "You're not here for dinner. You're here to lift up people you will never meet. You're here because you know that everything we do – be it mundane or sublime – has implications and potentialities far beyond our immediate surroundings." 📍

(top right) Le Moyne in New York attendees watch footage of Boeing's CST-100 Starliners liftoff carrying Jeanette Epps and crew to the International Space Station in 2024. (right) Linda LeMura and Jim Joseph '83, Ed.D., lead a toast to Christopher Curtis '79 and Jeanette Epps '92, Ph.D., toasting to leadership guided by purpose and compassion, and to the continued strength and future of Le Moyne College. (below) Alumni and friends gather to celebrate Le Moyne and its graduates' commitment to leading lives of leadership and service at the Lighthouse at Pier 61 at Chelsea Piers.



## DENTAL HEALTH GOES GLOBAL

**“The students grew not just as professionals, but as human beings.”**

Gabe Rich '78, D.D.S.



Rich observes dental students completing a procedure. (inset) Gabe Rich '78, D.D.S., stands with the flag of Moldova.

Gabe Rich '78, D.D.S., has dedicated his entire professional life to caring for his patients, beginning with his work as a public health dentist in Florida more than 40 years ago. Rich formally retired in 2021. However, his commitment to providing outstanding care, particularly to less advantaged communities, remains as strong as ever. He is now dedicating his time to help train the next generation of caring professionals to succeed him.

Dr. Rich serves as an adjunct professor at the University of North Carolina's Adams School of Dentistry. He recently returned from a two-week trip to Moldova, where he led a group of five students taking part in a cultural and professional exchange that is part of UNC's short-term experience in global health. During their first week abroad, the students explored the Moldovan capital of Chişinău and hosted multiple oral health education programs, including at a public school, a community center and an after-school site. They spent their second week abroad caring for patients in rural areas of the country and collaborating with students and faculty members from Nicolae Testemitanu State University of Medicine and Pharmacy.

“The students grew not just as professionals, but as human beings,” Dr. Rich said. “They stepped out of their comfort zones and, as they did, they discovered that our commonalities are greater than any of our differences.”

As is the case in the United States, it becomes increasingly difficult to access dental care in Moldova the further you move from urban or suburban areas into more rural ones. Given the tremendous need, the students Dr. Rich was mentoring learned to be strategic and forward-thinking in treating their patients, adapting to their new surroundings and to the communication challenges that sometimes arose. The students formed a bond with their peers from Nicolae Testemitanu State University centered on their common commitment to their patients.

In addition to his work at UNC, Dr. Rich has been active in Rotary International's efforts to promote dental health around the world. Giving back to the community, both locally and globally, has been one of his imperatives since he graduated from Le Moyne nearly 50 years ago, and it is something that he is proud to share with emerging professionals in his field.

“I hope we impressed upon the students the importance of giving back,” he said. “It is truly one of the most valuable uses of your time.”

Dr. Rich is already looking forward to returning to Moldova for another exchange in May of 2026.

Rich recently completed his second term on the Le Moyne College Board of Regents. He would welcome contact from Le Moyne students interested in the dental profession at:  
**email: [GabeRich@mindspring.com](mailto:GabeRich@mindspring.com)**  
**phone: (919) 621-6203**



## BREWING CONNECTIONS THROUGH CONVERSATION |

Siobhan Fallon Hogan '83 draws energy from other people and strength from her relationship with God. That fact has served Fallon Hogan well throughout her career as actor, writer and producer (*Shelter in Solitude*, *RUSHED*), who has earned acclaim for her work on television (*Saturday Night Live*, *Seinfeld*), film (*Men in Black*, *Dancer in The Dark*, *Forrest Gump*, *Holes*) and stage (*As You Like It*, *New York Shakespeare in the Park*). Now it serves as the foundation of Fallon Hogan's new podcast, *Catholics and Cappuccinos*, in which she and her guests discuss the role faith plays in their lives and how it shapes their understanding of humility, perseverance and love.



Siobhan Fallon Hogan '83 during a broadcast of her podcast, *Catholics and Cappuccinos*.

A Cazenovia, New York, native, Fallon Hogan has been having these kinds of conversations with her family and friends for years. However, this is the first time that they have been recorded and posted online for the world to access, thanks to her partnership with Catholic network, EWTN, which airs in 140 countries and has an audience of 435 million people. Fallon Hogan says that it is important for her to address issues of faith in a way that isn't "overly preachy or judgmental," and which also "shines a light on the joy" that comes from our connection to God and one another.

The earliest episodes of the podcast, which feature conversations with St. Patrick Cathedral's Father

Donald Haggerty and actors Patrica Heaton, Kevin James and Jonathan Roumie inspire introspection and self reflection, including in the host herself. For Fallon Hogan, one of the joys of creating *Catholics and Cappuccinos* is that it leads her to push herself. "I'm having to personally raise the bar," she says. The Le Moyne graduate is, in true Jesuit fashion, a lifelong learner, assigning herself reading to help inform the conversations, including Father Haggerty's *Conversion: Spiritual Insights Into an Essential Encounter with God* and *From Christendom to Apostolic Mission: Pastoral Strategies for an Apostolic Age* by future guest Monsignor James Shea.

Creating the podcast has also been something of a family mission.

Fallon Hogan's husband, Peter, and daughter, Bernadette, a political newscaster at NY1, have each offered their advice and support, while her son Peter Jr. and daughter Sinead produce *Catholics and Cappuccinos*.

"It truly is an instance where all of the stars have aligned," she says of the show. "It has really been a blessing."

Fallon Hogan comes from a proud Le Moyne family, which includes her father, attorney William Fallon '52, sister Sheila Fallon '86, and brother William Fallon Jr. '88. Her grandfather Edward Eagan was one of the founders of the College. ☐

**"I'm having to personally raise the bar."**

Siobhan Fallon Hogan '83



## HOMETOWN PRIDE MEETS HIGH-TECH PROMISE |

Liam O'Connor '24, MBA '25 is a seventh-generation Central New Yorker. Not surprisingly, O'Connor is deeply invested in the region's success. He wants it to be a place where young people can not only find professional opportunities, but also a sense of community and belonging. O'Connor believes that the area is at an inflection point, one that will bring more talented young people to the region, buoyed by an industry that will almost certainly play a role in shaping the future.



**"I want to see the community I love grow and to be a place that more and more people are as proud to call home as I am."**

Liam O'Connor '24

"I want to see the community I love grow into a place that more and more people are as proud to call home as I am," he says. "I want them to see how many opportunities there are to make a meaningful impact right here in our backyard."

O'Connor works in global policy communications for Micron, a Fortune 500 company that designs, manufactures and sells memory storage products. As he explained in a letter to the editor in the *Post-Standard*, the company is investing \$100 billion in a new facility in the Syracuse suburb of Clay. It is expected to bring with it 9,000 direct jobs and tens of thousands of indirect ones.

O'Connor is charged with preparing briefings for the organization's leaders, up to and including CEO Sanjay Mehrotra; contributing to the company's media campaigns; and helping to draft informational materials for various government agencies.

It is a role that requires attention to detail and the capacity to juggle multiple competing priorities. Those are skills O'Connor cultivated earlier in his professional life, in his work for numerous political campaigns in the Central New York media market and with the Onondaga County Human Rights Commission. He also draws liberally from his time at Le Moyne, where he earned a bachelor's degree in

communication and a master's degree in business administration. He regularly applies the lessons he learned on the Heights about communications, operations and strategic leadership to his role at Micron. His education shaped his understanding of the world, and his place in it. It nurtured his capacity to look at things from a variety of perspectives and to promote cooperation among a variety of stakeholders.

"Le Moyne educates its students very holistically," he says. "I think it makes us better people and more interesting people out in the world. It has certainly helped me in my career and in my life." 📍

(top) O'Connor and a member of the Micron team at the ribbon-cutting for the company's Syracuse office. (bottom left) O'Connor and County Executive Ryan McMahon '02 (bottom right) O'Connor in the White House briefing room.

## In Memoriam

Gloriann (Masiello) Romeo '52  
 Peter Winnewisser '52  
 Ralph DeBaise '53  
 Robert Simpson '53  
 JoAn (Fitzgerald) Feyerabend '54  
 Sheila (Egan) Shattuck '54  
 Thomas Fitzgibbons '55  
 Armand Cincotta '57  
 Robert McCarty '57  
 William Salomone '57  
 David McGuire '58  
 Michael Foody '59  
 Charles Frass '59  
 Marianne (Amato) Aman '60  
 Dena Feeney '60  
 Dennis Gosier '61

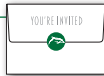
James Clapp '62  
 Joanne LaRue '62  
 Melissa (Coley) Blaine '63  
 Joseph Chini '63  
 Joseph Sarno '63  
 David Curtin '65  
 Raymond Ptak '65  
 Joan (Flanigan) Astoreca '66  
 Lawrence Byrnes '66  
 Gerald "Jerry" Giocondo '66  
 Sharon (Carpenter) Dolan '67  
 Paul Duda '67  
 Barbara Nicholson '67  
 Martha (Muster) Lodes '69  
 Joseph Miller '69  
 Leo Sheedy '69

Robert Storrier '69  
 James Wise '69  
 Ronald Bacisin '70  
 Carole (Hayes) Collier '71  
 Thomas Smith '71  
 Michael Price '72  
 Richard Bryant '73  
 John Hamlin '73  
 John Costello '74  
 Joseph Cominoli '75  
 Michael White '75  
 Frank Mazzuca '76  
 Jorge Mendez Cintron '76  
 Kathleen (Kelly) Spicer '77  
 Ann Marie (Valentino) Nave '79  
 Michael Brown '81

Andrew J. Greene '82  
 James McEvoy '83  
 Colleen (Duggan) Williams '84  
 Scott Robinson '86  
 John Capozzolo '88  
 Rose Zappala '89  
 Janet (Epps) Smith '92  
 Lyle DeVore '93  
 Richard Juli '97  
 Theodore Byrd '00  
 Alexander Lindsey '06  
 Michael Theobald '06  
 Pamela Poushter '07  
 Lauren (Utt) Semprevio '08  
 Johaun Jackson '12  
 Heather Gallauresi '14

# Alumni Events

### Don't get left out.



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



### You've got mail.

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



### Share the joy.

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



## FAMILY WEEKEND 2026 AND 'DOC' JOINER HOMECOMING

SEPT. 25-27, 2026

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

[lemoyne\\_alumni](https://www.instagram.com/lemoyne_alumni)  
 Alumni Network

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

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

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

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



### INSIGHTS FROM THE HEIGHTS

New webinars are being planned for fall 2026. They are designed to educate, inspire and enlighten members of our Le Moyne community. Email [alumni@lemoyne.edu](mailto:alumni@lemoyne.edu) to get on our mailing list for fall 2026 and spring 2027 webinars.

Are you interested in presenting a webinar? We are accepting proposals. Contact us at [alumni@lemoyne.edu](mailto:alumni@lemoyne.edu).

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

# Breaking Barriers

**Four Stempower alumnae** recently returned to Le Moyne College to serve as panelists for the program's annual Women in STEM Careers Panel, offering current students a powerful glimpse into the possibilities that await them after graduation. Representing careers in biotechnology, cybersecurity, actuarial science and engineering, the alumnae shared how their Le Moyne experiences helped shape their professional journeys and prepared them to navigate the rapidly evolving world of STEM. Their stories reflected both the diversity of opportunities available in STEM fields and the growing impact of women entering and succeeding in those careers. Yet despite the vast range of opportunities across science, technology, engineering and mathematics, women still hold only an estimated 27 percent of STEM jobs. Programs like Stempower seek to help change that reality by building confidence, community, mentorship, and professional readiness for women pursuing STEM degrees and careers.

The presence of Stempower alumnae on the panel carried special significance for current members of the program. Seeing women who once sat in their same classrooms and participated in the same mentoring and professional development experiences now thriving in STEM careers reinforces the value and long-term impact of the Stempower community. It transforms success from something abstract into something tangible and attainable. For current students, the alumnae serve not only as role models, but also as proof that confidence, community and engagement can open doors to meaningful and rewarding careers in STEM.



What appeals most to **Katie Kirkgasser '24** about her work is that it is constantly evolving. Kirkgasser is a research associate in the pharmacology department of the biotechnology and longevity firm Ichor Life Sciences. She lives in a professional world in which almost as soon as one question is answered, two more arise, and in which an article published today may well be obsolete six months from now. Given that, Kirkgasser believes that one of her chief roles is to build upon the knowledge she has acquired.

**“My love of learning keeps me in this space,”** she said.

Kirkgasser credits her passion for discovery with drawing her to the field of STEM and to Le Moyne. Her undergraduate years were absorbing, filled not just with her classwork as a biochemistry major and her time in Stempower, but with an internship at the National Institute of Standards and Technology. All of that left her well prepared for the work she does today, which includes project management, scheduling, and protocol and report writing. Moving forward, she looks forward to cultivating her interest in and passion for human biology and biochemistry.

Like Kirkgasser, **Ashley Green '23** credits her time at Le Moyne with helping to prepare her for her current role as a threat hunter at

NBCUniversal. Green first began working for the entertainment giant as an intern in its vulnerability management team, assessing electronic devices and cloud accounts for potential weaknesses and identifying ways to respond to them. Today, the cybersecurity major is part of a group of professionals in search of anything that may make the company vulnerable to a cyber attack. Her goal, and that of her colleagues, is to be proactive rather than reactive. No two days are the same, and Green loves the fact that she is constantly learning.

She offered this advice to other women interested in a career in STEM:

**“Be curious and be persistent.”**

**Aryanna Davila '22** echoed Green's call for those interested in STEM to nurture their curiosity and added this: “Build community.” An actuarial analyst at Excellus Blue Cross Blue Shield, she entered the field at a time in which forces from climate change to economic uncertainty are making it more important than ever for businesses of all sizes to identify, mitigate and manage risk. While still early in her career, she has already found that establishing ties with others in your field to be deeply rewarding. The mathematics major encouraged other women interested in STEM to extend themselves and to ask questions of others.

**“Community is very important to me, as is supporting other people,”** she said. **“I am passionate about this work, and I hope that I can encourage other people to uncover a passion for it as well.”**

Like most people in STEM, **Lindsey Bush '23** is constantly thinking about the future, and what it will take to educate the next generation. Bush earned a bachelor's degree in physics at Le Moyne's and a master's degree in engineering from Syracuse University through the Dual Degree Partnership Program. Her interest in engineering first revealed itself when she was a high school student and had the opportunity to take a course in CAD drawing. Now she is an engineer at Tetra Tech, where much of her work is centered around the design of primary and secondary schools. She likes the thought that there may be other emerging scientists and engineers in the structures she is helping to create.

**“Everything really has come full-circle,”** she said.

## IGNITING THE SPIRIT OF GIVING IN EACH OTHER |

When the members of the Class of 1976 returned to the Heights for their 50th reunion, they brought back more than just decades of memories. They brought an extraordinary testament to the power of lifelong connection. Nearly 30 percent of the class journeyed back to campus. This remarkable level of engagement speaks to the enduring bond they share with Le Moyne and with one another.



The dedication and ribbon-cutting for the Newts Courtyard (left) in Reilly Hall, and the Corcoran Pub (right) in the Campus Center.

At the heart of this reunion was a desire to give back, ensuring that future generations of Dolphins enjoy the same transformative experiences they had. Driven by a collective passion, the Class of 1976 channeled its gratitude into action, sparking a momentum that ultimately culminated in more than a million dollars in class giving to support students and the future of the College.

“The incredible generosity of the Class of 1976 beautifully captures what Le Moyne is all about,” said Jim Joseph ’83, Ed.D. ’23, vice president of advancement and innovation. “By coming together to raise more than \$1 million, this class has shown that our community is defined by how we support one another. Their collective giving creates immediate opportunities for today’s students and secures a powerful legacy for the future of the Heights.”

A catalyst for this fundraising was the leadership of a group of men who lived in Nelligan Hall and were nicknamed Newts. For more than five decades, the Newts represented the very best of the Le Moyne spirit: enduring

friendship and a deep love for this institution. Their support helped launch the reunion giving efforts, inspiring fellow classmates to step up and make an impact.

Central to their efforts was the dedication of the Newts Courtyard in the center of Reilly Hall. Made possible by their generous spirit and extraordinary friendship, this beautiful outdoor space reflects the Jesuit spirit of Le Moyne.

“We wanted to create a lasting token of our gratitude that celebrates the bonds we formed 50 years ago,” shared Dom Pullano ’76 of the Newts. “The Newts Courtyard is a place where students can gather between classes, friendships can deepen, and our community can come together for years to come. It’s our way of passing the torch of enduring friendship to the students of today and tomorrow.”

The spirit of community extends across campus to another cherished gathering place: the Corcoran Pub. Thanks to a generous gift from the Corcoran family, this beloved campus staple has been preserved to ensure it remains a vibrant hub for student life and

connection.

“Le Moyne laid the foundation for our lifelong friendships, and we wanted to ensure today’s students have that same opportunity,” noted Kevin Corcoran ’76. “The Corcoran Pub is a place where friendships deepen, stories are shared, traditions are formed, and community continues to flourish. It ensures our campus remains a welcoming home for students, alumni, faculty, staff, and friends of the College to connect in truly meaningful ways.”

“Inspired by the leadership gifts of the Newts and the Corcoran family, many other members of the Class of ’76 were moved to donate to their own passions across Le Moyne as well,” added Joseph. “Whether gathering outdoors at the new courtyard or sharing stories inside the campus pub, future generations of Dolphins will walk a campus permanently shaped by this milestone reunion.”

Through this historic gift, the Class of 1976 has proven that the Le Moyne community does not end at graduation. It simply grows stronger with time. 📍



# Making Its

Members of the Le Moyne community took London's Off-West End by storm with the British premier of *Edgar in the Red Room*. The play, which was written by Matt Chiorini and Greg Giovanni of Le Moyne's Department of Visual and Performing Arts, has been described as a "frenzied adventure." It details American author Edgar Allen Poe's final days before his death in 1849 through music, movement, projections and shadow play. *Edgar in the Red Room* received tremendous reviews following its 10-show run in the United Kingdom. *Lost in Theatreland* said that "this is a troupe ready, in talent and scope, for the next larger stage," while *Theatre Design*



# Mark Globally

praised it as a show that “hurtles forward with the thrilling momentum of a roller coaster locked securely onto a steel track – fast, occasionally breath-taking, but always held together with impressive technical control.” The production features the work of Le Moyne students, faculty and alumni. In addition to Chiorini and Giovanni, they include Kilian Crowley '16, Morgan Smith '19, Sammy Overton '20, Anna Cornell '22, Moxie Dwyer '26, John Czajkowski, Lindsey Voorhees and Maya Dwyer. It is made possible in part by the support of alumnus Steve Basile '80 and the Friends of the Arts Fund. *Edgar in the Red Room* played to multiple sold-out houses at the Toronto Fringe Festival in 2025 was named Outstanding English Production at the St. Ambroise Montréal Fringe Festival in 2024.

# Le Moyne College Fund

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

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

- Student Aid
- Student Services
- Instruction and Academic Support

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

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# Thank you.

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