

BRESCIA

2025 A YEAR IN REVIEW

Now!



Once in a Century

Brescia throughout the Decades

BRESCIA UNIVERSITY | OWENSBORO, KY

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A LETTER FROM PRESIDENT SILVERT



At the start of our centennial celebration, one of the first ways we marked the occasion was honoring the Ursuline Sisters and the incredible history and legacy they created. As the year unfolded, we celebrated many successes and also faced challenges, including an historic hailstorm in March. This edition of *Brescia Now* gives you a look at how we celebrated our centennial year and why, as the last Ursuline college or university in the United States, continuing the Ursuline mission is so vital.

Over the past year, our students showed grace and resilience as they adapted

to changes on campus following the hailstorm. I was also grateful to be welcomed by the community as the sixth president of the university. At the same time, our athletic programs reached new milestones from breaking records, competing in River States Conference Tournaments, and continuing to make a difference in the community.

We also saw exciting growth in our graduate programs, including great momentum for the new physician assistant program. Applications opened in April and were met with strong interest, with the first cohort set to begin in August 2026.

Another important change this year was our mission statement. In honoring our Ursuline roots and charism, it has been updated to read: We are a Catholic Ursuline University forming compassionate, critical

thinkers through a holistic and deeply personal education. This reflects our standing as the last Ursuline college in the United States as well as St. Angela's vision to educate the whole person—mind, body and soul. The directive of our Ursuline founders is something worth celebrating and protecting as we begin our second century.

I hope you enjoy this centennial edition of *Brescia Now*. In these pages, you'll see the students, faculty, and staff who make Brescia such a welcoming place. It's hard to fully capture what this past year has meant, but I hope you walk away with a true sense of what it means to be a Bearcat. Thank you for being part of the Brescia community. We couldn't continue this work without you.

President Silvert



Graduate Students

Class of 2025

Dr. Elaine Wright (left) and Tiffany Tinapple (right)



Good evening, everyone,

Welcome esteemed faculty, staff, families, friends, and last but certainly not least my fellow graduates of Brescia University. The class of 2025. We made it.

It is an honor to be here today to recognize the completion of our academic journey, as well as the determination and purpose that have brought each and every one of us to this point.

I stand here, before you all today, as a first-generation graduate. I, like many of you, did not arrive at this point in a linear fashion. Rather, this was quite the winding journey. A winding journey that was influenced by resilience, faith, and a foundation that was significantly more profound.

Over the past six years, I have been involved in crisis work, initially as a behavioral health specialist, then as a clinician, and eventually as a team leader, supporting individuals during their most challenging times,

During the Graduate Commencement Ceremony, graduate Tiffany Tinapple delivered a speech to the Class of 2025. Tiffany plans to pursue supervision to obtain her independent social work and chemical dependency licensure while continuing her work with young adults at a first-episode psychosis department. She also recently obtained her certification in Dialectical Behavioral Therapy and hopes to one day have the opportunity to teach future social workers in a similar capacity she did throughout her educational journey.

often providing a safe space when hope seemed uncertain. That work changed me. But in December of 2024, a new door opened. I stepped into a new role at New Horizons Mental Health Services, a small rural nonprofit in Lancaster, Ohio, where I now serve as the first-episode psychosis therapist. It's been one of the most transformative opportunities of my career. In partnership with The Ohio State University and the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, I've trained with experts and provided specialized, phase-specific treatment to young adults navigating the early stages of psychosis. What drew me to this field was the chance to play a small role in someone's story during a particularly vulnerable period... to accompany them through uncertainty and help them recognize their own strength. That is a profound responsibility. A responsibility that I could not overlook.

Like many of you, my passion for my profession, and for the people it serves, is deeply rooted in my own story. I pursued this path because a younger version of myself needed me. Because at one of the most vulnerable points in my life, just after foster care, it was a single person who showed up. A social worker who didn't give up on me when I had every reason to give up on myself.

I was a senior in high school, just four months from graduation, when I made the life altering decision to drop out of high school. That decision came from fear and from necessity. But mostly, it came from feeling like my story was already written for me. I believed I had become a statistic, the 35%. Just another name in a data set. Another what could've been.

But then...

One person showed up. Not to fix me, not to save me, but to see me. To meet me exactly where I was, with compassion and unwavering presence. What I now know as caritas...love and compassion in action.

That changed everything. Not instantly, not magically...but meaningfully.

And now, here I am. And here we are. Each of us, no matter our field or focus, arrived at this moment because someone believed in us, or because we believed in something bigger than ourselves. We've carried our passion, our grit, and our stories all the way to this day.

So, whether you're here to challenge systems, enhance education, create solutions, or to help others feel a little less alone in the world...We are connected by a shared conviction: the

idea that we have the power to create change. That what we do matters.

Let us never forget that someone out there...maybe someone just like who we once were is waiting for us to show up in the world. To listen. To create. To lead. To heal. To be there.

When it came time to choose a graduate program, I knew I had options, but I chose Brescia University because I had already witnessed during my undergrad what leadership rooted in purpose truly looks like here. These educators that sit before us all today didn't just teach us out of textbooks. They were living it. A professor many of you know who is sitting here before us today would tell us at the end of each class, "Pinkies in the air. I will not check out. I'm going to give it my all. Cause' these people are worth it, and they deserve it, including myself." I know many of us standing here today will never forget those small but powerful moments. Tiny reminders that learning isn't just about the content, but the heart behind it. Moments like these didn't just shape our education; they shaped who we are becoming.

This decision to pursue my grad degree at Brescia University was also influenced by the incredible students I have the honor of standing in front of today. Over the course of this journey, I've built lasting friendships that span throughout the United States and abroad. As an online student I actually consider myself quite the time zone specialist now. I can confidently tell you what time it is in every corner of the country, just for the sake of making sure I never missed a Zoom call to attend class.

So, to my fellow graduates, whether your journey here was conventional or incredibly windy like mine, we share something both tangible and powerful. We made it. Through personal losses and wins, burnout, breakthroughs, early mornings, late nights, and through moments of

doubt, we persisted.

In Bonnie Garmus's novel *Lessons in Chemistry*, Wakely, a reverend who develops an unlikely friendship with a scientist, states in a letter addressed to him, "Some things, even in science, can't be known. We call them unknown variables." And isn't that the truth? Life offers us a range of uncertainties, including loss, trauma, joy, and opportunity... But within those unknown variables lies the power of *caritas*...our ability to respond with compassion, curiosity, and courage. Our potential to demonstrate love in action.

We don't always get to choose the variables. But we do get to choose how we show up. And that is where our power lies.

So today, I challenge us not just to celebrate the title or the positions that we've earned, but to honor the responsibility that it brings. We are the ones who listen when others turn away. We are the ones who ask harder questions, push past policies, and remember that every person we serve has a story, just like we do.

Today, we honor not only the conclusion of one journey but the start of numerous new adventures.

As we venture forth into the world may you never forget how far you have come. That everything happens for a reason and that asking for help doesn't make you weak.

Let us lead with integrity. Let us practice with courage. Let us never forget why we started in the first place.

To our professors, mentors, families, and loved ones, thank you. ¶

Congratulations class of 2025.

-Tiffany



#BU2025

Undergrad Students



▮ Good morning, graduates, faculty, staff, family, and friends.

As I stand here today, carrying my beautiful Brazilian flag on my chest, I can only think of one word - “saudade”. Saudade is a uniquely Brazilian word that describes the bittersweet feeling of longing, nostalgia, and deep affection for moments and people who have profoundly touched our lives. It’s a word that doesn’t translate perfectly into English, yet it is a universal sentiment we all know in our hearts.

It’s stronger than just “I’m going to miss you, Brescia”. It’s the feeling of being surrounded by one another for the last time as students, wearing our caps and gowns, and reflecting on the past four years with immense gratitude in our hearts. Yet, it also leaves a space within us – a space shaped by all the love, laughter, and growth we’ve shared here. It’s not a void to be mourned, but a testament to the irreplaceable moments that made us who we are. Even as life offers us new joys and experiences, nothing will quite fill that space, and that’s what makes it so special.

Saudade is the echo of laughter in the residence halls at 2 a.m. during your 10th study break in an hour; it’s the relief of a canceled test you thought you were going to bomb; it’s

As part of the Undergraduate Commencement Ceremony, Maria ‘Duda’ Feres, gave the senior address to the Class of 2025. Duda graduated with a bachelor of science degree in Psychology and completed Brescia’s MBA program in December. Her plans are to stay local upon degree completion.

the unexpected flood during the first week of classes that turned into a pool party on 8th street; it’s the soap in the fountain flying through the sky; it’s the unforgettable sound of “I feel good, I feel so good, uh” in the background of hundreds of terrified freshmen, and the “hey, what are you doing?” sound of Nighthawk as we run through the Science Building playing hide and seek; it’s the goal scored in the last minute against Kentucky Wesleyan; it’s the “if you know, the words to the song, sing along, sing along” after an 8 hour bus drive to Pittsburgh; it’s when Zoom stops working during your online class and the professor just cancels it; it’s the butterflies you get when your first Brescia crush smiles at you, and the tears running down your cheeks after you break up; it’s the “spill the tea right now” sessions with friends on the couch, and the shared tears on the field or the court at the end of each season, surrounded by your best friends, who also happen to be your teammates, your roommates, your classmates, your family, and your home. Saudade is not just missing a place or a moment; it’s the love that makes those memories unforgettable. Today, as we prepare to leave Brescia University, I feel it – and I’m sure you all do too.

And for me, saudade has always been deeply personal. My mom carries that word tattooed onto her body as a tribute to her father, my grandfather, who passed away on December 17th when she was just a child. I never had the chance to meet him, but he has been a constant presence in

our lives. Since I was born, he has sent my family signs through the number 17. It’s a connection that feels unexplainable yet undeniable, like a reminder that some things in life are simply meant to be.

And when I arrived at Brescia for the first time and saw the address - 717 Frederica Street - it was as if everything suddenly clicked. I realized why I had to leave my home in Curitiba, Brazil, travel thousands of miles, and come to a city I had never even heard of, in a state that I thought only had fried chicken. Brescia was where I was meant to be. And now, standing here, I know that each one of us has a story like this too - a path that led us here, against the odds, from all around the world.

Think about it. The chances of all of us being in this room together, sharing this moment, are incredibly small. Yet here we are. We were meant to cross paths, to shape one another’s lives, and to become a part of each other’s stories. The friendships we’ve made, the lessons we’ve learned, and the memories we’ve created - they were all meant to happen. Isn’t that extraordinary? And as Brazilians say, saudade is the burden of those who were lucky enough to live something truly extraordinary. And we are so lucky!

Now, as we move forward, let us carry this saudade not as a weight, but as a reminder of the incredible journey we’ve had. These are more than just chapters in our past – they are the

roots of our growth, the foundation of the people we are becoming, and the compass that will guide us forward. So, let us honor that luck and that privilege by living lives that reflect the values we've learned here. Let us continue to be leaders, not just in our careers but in our daily lives. Let us keep learning, not just in classrooms but in every experience we encounter. Let us be people who see challenges as opportunities, setbacks as lessons, and success as something to be celebrated with others (and with no fear of being caught by any RAs!).

This Brescia Difference is not something we leave behind when we turn our tassels today; and it's also not just a funny thing we say when there's a broken window or when our bus breaks down at midnight, two hours away, in the middle of a storm. It's something that will live within us, shaping our decisions and our actions. It's the commitment to growth in virtue, the respect for the sacred, the devotion to learning, and the promotion of servant leadership we've embodied in our time here. It's a difference we'll carry into our careers, our communities, and the relationships we build in the future.

And when I think about the future, I see a world of possibilities awaiting us. Some will pursue graduate school, others will begin careers, start a family, and some may still be discovering their path, trusting that the lessons we've learned at Brescia will guide the way. No matter where life takes us, we are not leaving Brescia empty-handed. We carry the resilience we built through tough exams, grueling 6 a.m. practices, and all the personal challenges we never thought we'd get through. And we take with us the ability to create meaningful connections – the kind that grew through late-night heart-to-hearts, team huddles, shared meals in the dining hall, and, of course, plenty of non-alcoholic beverages.

And as we carry these strengths into the future, let us not forget that our saudade is more than a longing for the past. It's also a celebration of what lies ahead, shaped by everything we've experienced here. This longing, this ache, is a testament to the depth of our time at Brescia. It's proof that we've lived something worth remembering, something worth carrying with us as we step into what comes next. Let us hold onto that as a reminder that our

time here has prepared us for where we're meant to be.

And when the road gets tough—and it will—let us remember that we are never truly alone. We will always have each other, the friendships we've built, and the shared experiences that connect us, no matter how far apart we may be. Whether it's a text from a teammate, a memory that brings a smile, or a visit back to 717 Frederica Street, we'll find pieces of home waiting for us wherever we go. As we step into the next chapters of our lives, these connections will remain our anchor. The lessons we've learned, the friendships we've built, and the memories we've made will be our constant companions. Though we may find ourselves miles away, saudade will bring us back to this special place. And when we feel it, let it serve as a reminder to carry forward the Brescia Difference, wherever we go.

Congratulations, Class of 2025. Let's go make a difference. ¶

-Duda

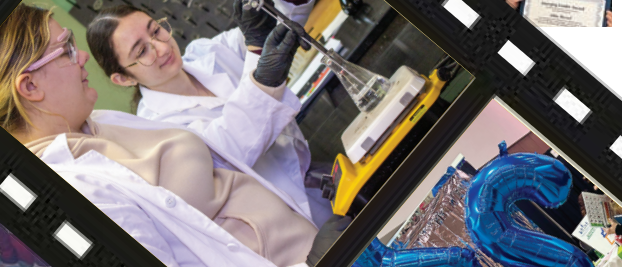


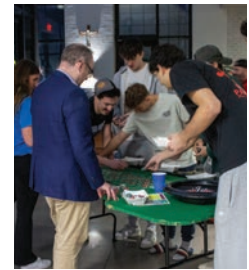
Graduation Video

To watch a recording of the Commencement, scan the QR code!



Spring Semester Recap





Fall Semester Recap





Class of '29 Orientation

Brescia University welcomed a new group of Bearcats during the New Student Orientation Weekend on August 8. This year students moved on to campus on Friday with some help from student athletes before moving onto Opening Convocation. The rest of the weekend the new Bearcats learned all about campus and how to be successful. Students ended their orientation with a campus wide day of service, visiting local places to help kick off the Brescia Month of Service.



During Opening Convocation students took part in a sand ceremony that showcases all the different states and countries that make up the class of 2029.



Students enjoyed lots of events over the weekend, including a party on the quad, icebreakers, skits performed by the Orientation Leaders, scavenger hunts, and more!

Orientation Leaders, Resident Advisors, and student athletes helped move in our new Bearcats into Merici and Saffer Hall.



Students visited the Neblett Center, Daniel Pitino Shelter, Unity Fellowship Church, and more to help sort, clean, and organize donations as part of their service day.



As is tradition, a soaped fountain to kick off the weekend!



2025 Homecoming



Our Once in a Century Celebration began October 20 with a week full of fun and friendly competition. Homecoming activities included Minute to Win It games in the dining hall, the Brescia Lip Sync Battle, and the ever-popular pancake eating contest. The Men's Soccer team, Teagan Wyndham, and Mike Ascencio each claimed top honors in their respective events. Friday afternoon kicked off the weekend with an SGA-hosted intramural volleyball tournament before the celebration moved to the Quad.

Alumni Homecoming officially began with Brescia's Birthday Bash on the Quad, where alumni, students, faculty, and staff gathered for food, games, and live music from country band Yellow Banks. Campus clubs, teams, and departments hosted booths filled with prizes and treats, creating a lively and welcoming atmosphere.

Saturday morning started with Barney's Pancake Breakfast, followed by one of Brescia's most beloved traditions, Chariot Races. Eight teams competed as the Brescia Band and student emcee Stephen Schmidt energized the crowd. The International Club took home first place, and Diego Laguna and Kaitlyn Orange were crowned the 2025 Homecoming King and Queen. The afternoon concluded with a Women's Basketball scrimmage and a special recognition of members of Brescia's first women's basketball team from 1985.

It was a wonderful way to celebrate together, and we look forward to continuing this tradition for the next hundred years. See you October 23-25, 2026, for Brescia's Homecoming!



LAUREL AWARDS

The inaugural Laurel Awards banquet took place on April 26th, 2025. The event takes its name from the laurel tree, featured in the seals of both the Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph and Brescia University. The laurel tree signifies growth with a firm foundation rooted in the theological virtues of faith, hope, and love. In addition, laurel leaves- an ancient symbol of victory and excellence- were often used to crown champions and Olympians in ancient Rome. The Laurel Awards banquet honored 10 alumni for their personal and professional achievements, both as graduates and students.

The evening began with guests arriving at the Moore Center gym, spending the time before the banquet enjoying cocktails and perusing the displays of items available in the Brescia University Alumni Association Spring Silent Auction, proceeds of which benefited storm recovery efforts. The program started with a welcome from Father Larry Hostetter, followed by Student Government Association President Josephine Gesser '26 praying over the meal. After a dinner of smoked New York strip and chicken tenderloins was served by our campus dining partners at Fresh Ideas, the program began.

Jason Cox '97 was presented with the first ever Bearcat of the Year award – an award established to recognize an individual in the Brescia community who exemplifies the Bearcat spirit in actions, service, and heart. Jason is a former Brescia staff member and now owns and



operates The Golf Emporium in Owensboro.

Jason Cox was born and raised in Louisville, KY where he attended Catholic schools his whole life. Cox graduated from DeSales High School in 1992 and graduated in 1997 from Brescia with a degree in social work. During his time at Brescia, he could most often be found on the golf course as a member of the golf team, starring in one of the Little Theatre productions, or cheering on the Bearcats. After graduation, he put his social work degree to work for the Cabinet for Family Services until he returned to Brescia as an admissions counselor in 2000. While in that role, he established the first women's golf team and served as head coach throughout the early 2000's. In the early 2000s, he began his retail golf career and opened Legend's Golf and Soccer. In 2010, he returned to Brescia as the Director of Alumni Relations. In 2015, the pull to serve as a head golf professional drew him to the Pearl Club of Owensboro. However, when the opportunity arose, he could not say "no" to returning to serve for eight seasons as the head coach for the men's and women's golf teams. Cox, along with his wife Tracy, currently owns and operates The Golf Emporium, located in Owensboro, KY.

Sr. Judith Nell Riney '71 was named the 2025 Outstanding Alumnus Award winner. This award is presented by the Brescia University Alumni Association to an alumnus or alumna who has given outstanding service to the Association and/or the University. Sr. Judith has been with the Father

Leonard Alvey Library at Brescia for nearly 45 years and has been Library Director since 1985.

Sister Judith Nell Riney was born in Owensboro and attended the Mount St. Joseph Academy. In 1966, she entered the Ursuline community and in 1971 she graduated from Brescia College with a Bachelor of Arts degree in History. Riney would go on to earn a Master of Arts in Library Science from Spalding University in 1979 and later a Post Master's Certificate in Library & Information Science from Catholic University of America. After graduating from Brescia, she taught social studies at St. James School in Saint Louis, taught five years of math at St. Angela Merici School in Florissant Missouri, taught math for one year at St. Ann School in Normandy, Missouri. Sr. Riney then taught history and part-time library science at Trinity High School in Whitesville for a year. She began working at Brescia as the library's public services manager in 1980 and was named library director in 1985, where she has remained until retiring in May of this year. Over the course of her career at Brescia, she has overseen numerous technological and educational advances – she helped develop and implement the first online class at Brescia and was instrumental in the transition from a card catalog system to the modern digital library system. She has been a fixture in the library community of Kentucky and beyond, serving on numerous boards



and committees, including – the executive committee of the Association of Independent Kentucky Colleges and Universities. She is also a member of the American Library Association, the Catholic Library Association, and Kentucky Library Association.

Androniki “Andrea” Michealidou ’85 was named the 2025 Father Charles Saffer Alumni Hall of Fame Award winner. This award is presented by the Brescia University Alumni Association to a alumnus or alumna who, through a lifetime of personal achievement, has personified the ideals of Brescia College and Brescia University. Andrea has worked as a Speech-Language Pathologist in her home country of Cyprus for nearly 40 years.



Androniki (Andrea) Michaelidou was born in Nicosia, Cyprus. In 1979, she began her studies in Medicine at the University of Bordeaux, France. However, she had to discontinue her studies and return to Cyprus in 1981. Her dream was to study in the United States, and she learned through a close friend that Brescia College offered a distinguished Speech Language Pathology program, along with one of the finest Speech and Hearing Clinics in Kentucky. After successfully passing entry exams, she transferred to Brescia where she not only earned a degree in Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology but also pursued a Minor in French Literature. She was an active member of the Student Government Association, the National Student Speech Language and Hearing Association, the International Students Association, and the University’s soccer team as its manager. After graduation, she returned to Cyprus where

there were only three speech-language pathologists in the entire country. Inspired by the excellence of the Brescia clinic, she established her own practice in Nicosia. She also earned a Master of Arts degree in Healthcare Management from the Open University of Cyprus before moving into a position at Makarios Hospital, where she has dedicated her career for the past 36 years.

Mazvita Ngorosha ’22 was named the Outstanding Graduate of the Last Decade – an award that recognizes an outstanding graduate in the last 10 years whose achievements have been significant to Brescia University, to the general welfare of their community, their profession, and the business world. Mazvita works with Abbott Laboratories in Los Angeles as a Software Engineer working on life-saving medical device software in the cardiac rhythm management field.

Mazvita Ngorosha was born in Murewa, Zimbabwe, and moved to the United States with her family when she was 11. She graduated from high school in Oxford, Ohio before starting her academic career at Brescia University. During her time at Brescia, Ngorosha was a student-athlete on the Women’s Tennis Team, a Resident Assistant, a Black Student Union President, an Orientation Leader, a Student Ambassador in the Admissions office, a cellist in the Music Club, a tutor at the Ursuline Center for Teaching and Learning, a musical and art presenter at the Celebration of Excellence, a member of the Origami Club, a Phonathon Caller, and was the Recipient of the 2020 Outstanding Computer Science Award and the 2022 Spirit



of Angela Award. After graduating from Brescia in 2022 with her bachelor’s degree in computer science and a minor in Political Science.

Distinguished Alumni

Monsignor Patrick Bishop ’71 – longtime Priest in the Archdiocese of Atlanta, community and faith leader, given the title “Monsignor” in the year 2000 during the Pontificate of John Paul II at the recommendation of then-Archbishop of Atlanta John Donahue.

Monsignor Patrick Bishop was born in Atlanta, Georgia and grew up in nearby Marietta where he attended and graduate from Marietta High School in 1964. After one year at the University of Georgia, he entered the seminary at St. Meinrad, Indiana. During senior year, both parents fell critically ill, and he left school to be with them. Brescia assisted him in completing his required college studies and graduate in May of 1971. Bishop then continued seminary training at St. Mary’s Seminary, Baltimore, MD, and graduated with a Master of Divinity in 1973. He later earned a Master of Education degree at Georgia State University in 1981. He was ordained



a Roman Catholic Priest in 1974 and served in several local parishes until he took a four-year assignment as Spiritual Director of the diocesan high school in 1979. He moved to an assignment as pastor to a small rural Georgia parish where he became very involved in the civic community – serving as President of Ministerial Association, was co-founder with the Baptist Pastor of a community food bank, wrote a column for the local newspaper, hosted a weekly tv show about happenings in the area, served as chair of

both the Cancer and Heart funds, was founder of the Community Relations Commission and chaplain to the local police departments. In 1989, he was assigned as pastor to a suburban Atlanta parish back in his hometown of Marietta. He retired in 2014.

Joan Hayden '75 – owner and operator of Hayden Electric and community leader, former board member of the Greater Owensboro Chamber of Commerce, Owensboro Community and Technical College, and first woman president of both Daviess County Lions Club and Daviess County Farm Bureau.

Joan Hayden was born in Owensboro and graduated from Owensboro Catholic High School before entering Brescia



College where she earned a Bachelor of Music Education in 1975. She then taught for eight years in the Catholic school system. She married husband, Martin, in 1983 and started working in the family business, Hayden Electric. Hayden has held many community leadership roles over the years - from scout leader, 4H leader, and FFA aide to sitting on the Kentucky State Extension Council and serving on boards of the Greater Owensboro Chamber of Commerce, and Owensboro Community and Technical College.

Janet Howard '81 – Chief Executive Officer of the Western Kentucky Regional Blood Center, community leader, and Kentucky Colonel.

Janet Istre Howard graduated from Owensboro Senior High School and started at Brescia College in 1975 as a Medical Technology major. While at Brescia, Howard worked as a cytology assistant at a private lab in Owensboro. As a busy working mother and

wife, she said she appreciated the Brescia staff, particularly in the science department, who were supportive of her schedules. She graduated from Brescia and began working at Western Kentucky Regional Blood Center as a part time Medical Technologist in 1981 and became Laboratory supervisor in 1983. She earned designation as a Specialist in Blood Bank in 1993. In 1988, she was named CEO and Administrator of the Western Kentucky Regional Blood Center. She retired in December 2025. Janet is a member of Blessed Mother Parrish and is active with church picnics and the bereavement committee.



Chris Reid '81 - whose family-owned Independence Bank is one of the highest performing banks in Kentucky and, more importantly, known as the top business of giving back to the community.

Born in Owensboro, Chris Reid graduated from Owensboro Catholic High School. Like his father Charles A. Reid, Chris attended Brescia University and earned a bachelor's degree in accounting. He worked full-time while attending Brescia, married Janet Searcy Reid and they started their family during his senior. He also attended a ABA banking school and graduated from ABA CEO Graduate School of Banking in 1985 at University of Wisconsin, where he set and still holds the highest performance marks in BankSim Exams. In 1979, Chris began working full time with his father at the family-owned bank, later named Independence Bank. As a team, they grew the bank to \$250



million in total assets, and after his father's death, continued to lead and grow the bank into the largest, privately-owned bank in Kentucky.

Brescia Athletic Hall of Fame

Will McKenzie '16 is a native of Russellville, KY and a graduate of Logan County High School. He attended Brescia from 2011 to 2016 and was a member of the Men's Golf Team. He was also the "Voice of the Bearcats" from 2012 to 2017, announcing primarily for Men's and Women's Basketball home games, but also covering Volleyball, Soccer, Baseball, and Softball. During his successful golf career, he won multiple events and was named the Individual Medalist of the 2015 KIAC Conference Tournament, earning Conference Player of the Year honors and a trip to the NAIA National Tournament in Daytona Beach, FL. Will was also a member of the 2012- and 2016-Men's Golf Teams that captured Conference Titles. He was named All-Conference in 2013 and 2016.



Natalie Jones Schweinzger '20 was born in College Station, Texas but grew up in Owensboro, attending Owensboro Catholic and then, Brescia University. She earned a bachelor's degree in psychology in 2020 and then continued her education at the University of Louisville with a Bachelor of Science focusing on Dental Hygiene in 2022. She now resides in Nashville, Tennessee. During her athletic career at Brescia, she was recognized as a 1st team all-conference player from 2016-2020, Newcomer of the Year in 2016, Player of the Year in 2020, and was an Honorable Mention All American.



Athletics



Both the men's and women's tennis teams faced challenges this season, finishing with overall records of 5-7 and 0-9, respectively. The teams experienced a significant loss with the passing of head coach Diana Hunter mid-spring season, yet their dedication and passion for the sport remain unwavering.



The Brescia golf program welcomed new coach Drew Augenstein in March, injecting fresh energy into the team. The men's team concluded their season at the River States Conference tournament, where Aaron Munger achieved a notable 6th place finish.



Women's soccer had a record-breaking season ending with an 11-6-1 overall record. The team ended their regular season with the most wins, and conference wins, in program history.



Men's soccer ended their season with a record of 3-10-4 overall. The team started the season with new head coach, Robert Bennett.



Men's basketball finished their season with an overall record of 9-17 under the guidance of new head coach Matt Karn. The team demonstrated promise and growth throughout the year.



The women's basketball team had a historic season, finishing with an impressive overall record of 20-8. Under the leadership of new head coach Nick Chaykowsky, they made it to the River States Conference Tournament Semifinals, marking a significant post season achievement in the program's history.



The women's volleyball team concluded their season with an overall record of 8-22. The team's perseverance and teamwork remained commendable throughout the entire season.



The softball team faced challenges this season, concluding with an overall record of 11-27. Their efforts and determination were evident as they continued to strive for improvement.



Under the leadership of new coach Casey Hamilton, the baseball team had a successful season, finishing with an overall record of 23-19, showcasing their dedication and teamwork on the field.



In cross country, both teams showcased their talent at the River States Conference Championship. The women's team finished strong in 8th place overall, while the men's team followed closely behind in 9th, reflecting their hard work and determination throughout the season.

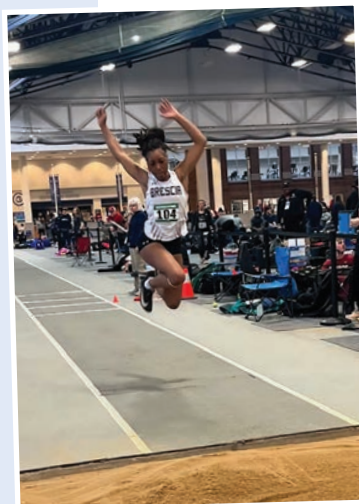




The competitive cheer team celebrated a successful season, highlighted by a second-place finish at the Marian University Invitational. They concluded their campaign at the Mid-South Conference Cheerleading Championships, where they placed.



The newly launched men's and women's bowling teams participated in the Scotty Classic, where the men placed 10th, marking a promising start for this new program.



The women's outdoor track and field team had a spectacular season, breaking numerous records and finishing as runners-up at the River States Conference Championship. Their indoor season was equally impressive, culminating in a trip to Nationals for Jordyn Cardwell, who earned the prestigious title of Field Athlete of the Year.

The men's indoor track and field team wrapped up their season with an array of record-breaking performances, including Henry Chingaipe's remarkable jump of 12.55 meters (41'2") in the triple jump, setting a new program record. The outdoor season continued this trend of success, with Damien Depauw establishing a new high jump record at 1.85 meters.



Brescia Bearcat men's volleyball setter, Meric Akovali, set up a play during a match against Midway University. The team completed their first season 6-19 overall and 3-7 in conference play.



BEARCATS



2025 SPORTS

Awards

RSC Newcomer, Offensive Player, and overall Player of the Year – Men's Soccer

Katai Mukuka

RSC Newcomer of the Year – Men's Basketball

Damian Garcia

RSC Newcomer of the Year – Women's Tennis

Jada Flakes

RSC Coach of the Year – Women's Track & Field

Sandy Moran

RSC Field Athlete of the Year – Women's Indoor Track & Field

Jordyn Cardwell, Brescia

Champion of Character

River States Conference

Brody Kurz – Cross Country

Kaitlyn Orange – Cross Country

Lucas Dos Santos – Men's Soccer

Anna Escobar – Women's Soccer

Campbell McBride – Women's Volleyball

Mid-South Conference

Kaylee Newsome – Cheer

All RSC Men's Basketball First Team

Damian Garcia, Guard

All RSC Women's Basketball Second Team

Jenna Krampe, Guard

Caroline Lucas, Guard

All RSC Men's Tennis First Team

Braedon Christie

All RSC Men's Tennis Second Team

Jose Marino

Matthew Parsons

All RSC Men's Tennis Third Team

Arthur Happel

All RSC Women's Tennis Second Team

Jada Flakes

All RSC Baseball First Team

Artem Logvinov, Shortstop

All RSC Baseball Second Team

Miguel Marcos, Outfield

All RSC Baseball Gold Glove Team

Artem Logvinov, Short Stop

All RSC Women's Cross Country Third Team

Mallory Wilson

All RSC Men's Soccer Third Team

Lance Dickens, Defender

All RSC Women's Soccer First Team

Allana Colen Porto, Midfielder

Ana Victorica, Forward

All RSC Women's Soccer Second Team

Geneva Hann, Defender

Kaja Zupanic, Forward

All RSC Women's Soccer Third Team

Laura Thompson, Goalkeeper

Miriam Tomanova, Defender

All RSC Women's Volleyball Third Team

Cheaney Archer, Setter/

Defensive Specialist

Campbell McBride, Defensive Specialist

Francisca Sousa, Middle

Blocker

2025 Weekly Play

Player of the Week:

Damian Garcia
Guard, Men's Basketball

Defensive Player of the Week, Jan. 6-12

Henry Chingaibe
Men's Indoor Track

Male Field Athlete of the Week, Jan. 6-12

Alliyah Thomas
Women's Indoor Track

Female Track Athlete of the Week, Jan. 6-12

Jordyn Cardwell
Women's Indoor Track

Female Field Athlete of the Week, Jan. 6-12

Griffin Taylor
Outfielder, Baseball

Player of the Week, Feb. 3-9

John Saenz
Guard, Men's Basketball

Defensive Player of the Week, Feb. 17-23

Joaquin Palacios
Middle Hitter, Men's Volleyball

Defender of the Week, Feb. 17-23

Zoe Smithson
Outfielder, Softball

Player of the Week, Feb. 17-23

REMEMBERING DIANA HUNTER



On March 29, 2025, the Brescia University community mourned the loss of a beloved leader, mentor, and friend—Head Tennis Coach Diana Hunter. Known for her compassion, enthusiasm, and ever-present smile, Diana brought light and joy to everyone she encountered. Her absence is deeply felt by all who had the privilege of knowing her. Diana Marie Hunter was born on

February 26, 1960, in Logan County, Kentucky, to the late Sam Morris Grinter and Dorothy Mae Cage Grinter. As the tenth of 14 children, Diana thrived in the warmth of a large, close-knit family and carried that same spirit of connection into every community she touched.

A dedicated educator with Owensboro Public Schools, Diana also poured her heart into coaching. Her passion for sports extended beyond the tennis court—she coached basketball, volleyball, and even founded the OHS step team. Tennis, however, remained her greatest love. She played on local teams that became like family and later returned to her alma mater, Kentucky Wesleyan College, as a coach. Her journey eventually led

her to Brescia University, where she inspired student-athletes with her energy, encouragement, and unwavering belief in their potential.

Diana's commitment to service extended beyond athletics. She served on the board of directors for the Alma Randolph Charitable Foundation and was known throughout Owensboro for her warmth, generosity, and ability to make everyone feel like a friend. She never met a stranger, and her legacy is one of deep community ties and countless lives touched.

Diana Hunter's legacy lives on in the hearts of her family, friends, students, and the many communities she helped shape. She will be dearly missed, but never forgotten.

per Award Winners

Savannah Jones
Pitcher, Softball
Pitcher of the Week, Feb. 17-23

Christian Pinson
Pitcher, Baseball
Pitcher of the Week, March 10-16

Bryce Gamble
Catcher, Baseball
Player of the Week, April 7-13

Allana Colen Porto
Midfielder, Women's Soccer
Offensive Player of the Week, Sept. 8-14
Offensive Player of the Week, Oct. 27 - Nov. 2

Laura Thompson
Goalkeeper, Women's Soccer
Defensive Player of the Week, Sept. 29- Oct. 5
Defensive Player of the Week, Oct. 13-19
NAIA National Defensive Player of the Week, Oct. 20-26

Game of the Week:
Women's Basketball
vs. Midway
Jan. 24

RSC Newcomer of the Year:
Men's Basketball
Damian Garcia

RSC Newcomer of the Year:
Women's Tennis
Jada Flakes

RSC Field Athlete of the Year:
Women's Indoor Track & Field
Jordan Cardwell

BRESCIA PARTNERS WITH CPE AND DCBS TO STRENGTHEN HUMAN SERVICES WORKFORCE

In July, Brescia University was selected to partner with the Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education (CPE) and the Department for Community-Based Services (DCBS) to develop a modern, inclusive workforce training system for Kentucky's human services professionals. This initiative serves more than 5,000

DCBS employees, as well as foster parents, kinship caregivers, and community partners across all 120 counties.

CPE transitioned from a single training vendor at Eastern Kentucky University to a consortium of universities, including Brescia, Morehead State, and Northern Kentucky

University. The new model will expand access to training and improve responsiveness at regional centers in Morehead, Louisville, Hazard, Bowling Green, and Owensboro.

This partnership highlights Brescia's commitment to workforce development and supporting the state's human services community.

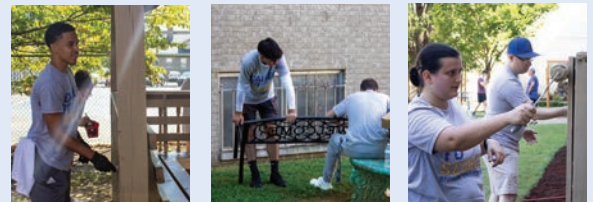
Called to Serve Brescia's Campus-Wide Day of Service

A campus-wide Day of Service kicked off the academic year in August during the first week of classes. While new students traditionally participate as part of orientation, this year faculty, staff, and upperclassmen joined in, expanding the effort into a true campus-wide initiative.

Volunteers took part in a variety of campus beautification projects, including painting swings and the gazebo, mulching the quad, cleaning the fountain, and assembling new outdoor furniture. Indoors,

participants wrote cards for the Ursuline Sisters, adding a meaningful personal touch to the day. Additional efforts included cleaning Taylor Lecture Hall and preparing the cardio room for reopening after hailstorm damage forced its temporary closure.

The event served as a powerful way to begin the academic year, bringing the campus community together while preparing the grounds for President Silvert's inauguration.



BRESCIA UNIVERSITY ANNOUNCES ACCREDITATION PLANS FOR PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT PROGRAM

Brescia University announced plans for a potential Physician Assistant Program at the September Greater Owensboro Chamber Rooster Booster. This developing program is a partnership between the University, HealthForce Kentucky, and Owensboro Health.

Brescia University Physician Assistant Program has applied for Accreditation – Provisional from the Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant (ARC-PA). Brescia University Physician Assistant Program anticipates matriculating its first class in August 2026, pending achieving Accreditation – Provisional status at the April 2026 ARC-PA meeting. Accreditation – Provisional is an accreditation status granted when the plans and resource allocation, if fully implemented as planned, of a proposed program that has not yet enrolled students appear to demonstrate the program's ability to meet the ARC-PA Standards or when a program holding accreditation-provisional status appears to demonstrate continued progress in complying with the Standards as it prepares for the graduation of the first class (cohort) of students.

Dr. Lauren McCrary, Ed.D., Brescia University Executive Vice President and Chief of Staff, shared insight into the accreditation process.

“We’ve come so far in this process, but we still have the necessarily challenging accreditation to navigate,” McCrary said. “Our main goal right now is to finish staffing the program with the right people to make sure we graduate students who are knowledgeable, confident, and practice their skills with a servant’s heart. We are off to an amazing start with our program and medical director, coupled with the facilities that HealthForce Kentucky has made accessible.”

Brescia University welcomed Blair Whitaker, MPAS, PA-C, as Program Director of the developing Physician Assistant Program. She earned a Bachelor of Science in Biology with a minor in Psychology from the University of Kentucky and completed her physician assistant education at Grand Valley State

University, receiving a Master of Physician Assistant Studies. Whitaker is a nationally certified physician assistant and is licensed to practice medicine in Kentucky, Indiana, and Georgia. She previously served as the first faculty hire for Sullivan University’s PA Program and later held positions at South University–Savannah and the University of the Cumberland’s Northern Kentucky Campus.

The University also welcomed Dr. Brent Hayden, MD, as Medical Director of the program. Dr. Hayden graduated from the University of Kentucky College of Medicine and completed his residency at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center in psychiatry and internal medicine, followed by a fellowship in infectious disease. He is affiliated with Owensboro Health Regional Hospital.

Last year, Brescia University received startup funding from HealthForce Kentucky to support the new PA program. HealthForce Kentucky is a regional initiative focused on inspiring healthcare careers by expanding access to advanced instruction and technology. The collaboration includes nine colleges and universities and numerous school districts across 16 counties in Western Kentucky.

“Brescia University proposed an excellent and innovative plan to create a much-needed Physician Assistant program,” said HealthForce Kentucky Chancellor Bart Darrell. “Our team and Board of Directors are proud to collaborate with Brescia to do the work necessary to make the program a reality. Bringing a high-caliber Physician Assistant program to Owensboro will strengthen our regional healthcare network and make our communities an even more attractive place to live and work.”

Applications for the Physician Assistant Program opened in October and will be accepted through April 1, 2026. The University anticipates welcoming the inaugural cohort in August 2026, pending accreditation approval.

HIGHEST RETENTION RATES ON RECORD!

Brescia University had a remarkable retention rate of 91% among first-time full-time freshmen from fall '24 to spring '25. This exceptional statistic marks the highest retention rate recorded since the fall of 2005, underscoring the university's steadfast commitment to providing an unparalleled educational experience and fostering a nurturing and supportive environment for all its students.

This impressive retention rate is not merely a number; it stands as a testament to Brescia University's unwavering dedication to student success. The institution emphasizes a holistic approach that includes personal and academic support, vibrant student activities, and a nurturing campus culture that encourages students to thrive both academically and personally. By prioritizing these elements, Brescia ensures that students feel connected, engaged, and empowered throughout their educational journey.

Brescia University's comprehensive approach to student retention encompasses a range of initiatives designed to enhance the overall student experience. This includes personalized advising, which allows students to receive tailored guidance and support that aligns with their unique goals and aspirations. Mentorship programs connect students with experienced faculty and alumni, fostering meaningful relationships that provide valuable insights and encouragement. Additionally, a diverse array of extracurricular activities is available, from clubs and organizations to community service opportunities, all designed to enrich students' lives and foster a sense of belonging.

This retention milestone is a significant highlight of Brescia University's enduring legacy of educational excellence. It reflects the institution's commitment to the Ursuline tradition of personal and social transformation through education, which emphasizes the importance of holistic development and community engagement.

HONORS CONVOCATION

BRESCIA UNIVERSITY CELEBRATED ITS 2025 HONORS CONVOCATION ON SUNDAY, APRIL 27. AT THIS EVENT, STUDENTS WERE RECOGNIZED FOR THEIR OUTSTANDING ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN ACADEMICS, ATHLETICS, LEADERSHIP, AND BEYOND. ALUMNA MAZVITA NGOROSHA '22 GAVE THE ADDRESS

Sr. Casimir Czurlis Biology
Scholarship
Gay Taw

William Elmer Business Scholarship
Stephen Schmidt

Sr. Alberta Birkhead Memorial
Business Scholarship
Stefanie Schmeisser

Charles E. Field Foundation
Business Scholarship
Diego Laguna
Lincoln Service Business
Scholarship
Elyas Karimi

Greulich Scholarship
Will Embry

August C. Muckler Memorial
Scholarship
Kaelani Jordan

Bill & Jacinta Garinger Scholarship
Jeremy Bryson Brown

Margarite Hawkett Art Scholarship
Diego Laguna

Sr. Robert Irene Golden Art
Scholarship
Diego Laguna

Owensboro Civitan Jack Keeney
Education Scholarship
Haley Rigling

Suzetta Ebelhar Education
Scholarship
Rylee Williams

John D. and Anna Marie Byrne
Family Education Scholarship
Madelyn Bennett
Ashton Farris

Sr. Sharon Sullivan Education
Scholarship
Hannah Flood

Peggy Mangas/Melinda Padgett
Education Scholarship
Andrew Lyday

Mary Karen Jones Special
Education Scholarship
Logan Royalty

The Geoffery Ferry Scholarship
Finn Berger

Sr. Mary Jean Cotter Art
Scholarship
Jennifer Lee

Delbert S. Murphy Alumni
Scholarship
JoJo Gesser

J.B. Hocker Good Government
Endowed Scholarship
Diego Laguna
Kaitlyn Orange

Virginia Stout Fitzgerald Endowed
Scholarship
Abby Russel
Adaline Harris

Florence Henderson Scholarship
Nichole Rhinerson
Huyen Nguyen
Jenna Lucas
Piper Gainer
JoJo Gesser

Theodore Swigert Carlisle
Chemistry Scholarship
Connor Lilly

Sr. Irene Hayden Scholarship

Alvin Benjamin

Dao Ho

Nam Nguyen

Thuong Nguyen

Vi Pham

Robert McDowell Scholarship

Jeremy Bryson Brown

Logan Royalty

Gary Karr Scholarship

Tuyet Hoang

Sr. Mary Carmel Browning

Literature Scholarship

Kaitlyn Orange

David & Suzi Bartholomy

Scholarship

Madeline Lasher

Meister-Echele Family Scholarship

Mia Grosshans



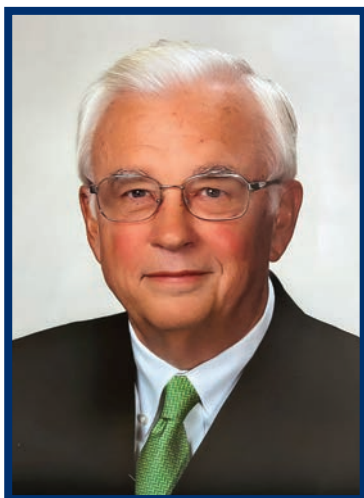
See More



SCAN TO READ THE
REST OF THE AWARDEES

A Legacy of Service and Bearcat Pride

IN MEMORY OF CHARLES JOSEPH "CHARLIE" KAMUF '62



Brescia University announced the Charlie Kamuf Servant Leadership Award during its Centennial Gala to honor Charles Joseph "Charlie" Kamuf '62, our longest-serving Board of Trustees member, Distinguished Alumnus, and beloved supporter. Charlie passed away on November 30, 2024, at the age of 85, leaving behind a remarkable legacy of leadership, generosity, and faith.

A proud graduate of Brescia, Charlie dedicated more than 45 years of service to the University as a trustee, including time as Board Chair. His deep belief in Brescia's mission was evident in every aspect of his involvement—from mentoring students and providing internship opportunities to

his steadfast support of Catholic higher education.

Charlie and his wife, Linda, were among Brescia's most generous advocates. Their enduring impact is perhaps most visible in Kamuf Park, a gift that continues to bring students, alumni, and the community together—a vibrant reminder of Charlie's love for the University and its people.

The Charlie Kamuf Servant Leadership Award will be awarded at the Laurel Awards Banquet and will recognize a Brescia change-maker—someone who embodies the Brescia Difference, leads with humility, and gives selflessly for the betterment of others.

U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT RANKS BRESCIA UNIVERSITY #30 AMONGST BEST REGIONAL COLLEGES SOUTH

Brescia University has earned national recognition in the 2026 U.S. News & World Report Best Colleges rankings, placing No. 30 among Best Regional Colleges in the South and No. 47 in the Top Performers on Social Mobility category. The rankings highlight institutions that demonstrate strong academic quality while helping students from diverse economic backgrounds succeed.

The 2026 edition of the U.S. News Best Colleges rankings evaluates more than 1,700 colleges and universities across the United States. Institutions are assessed using up to 17 measures of academic quality and student success, including graduation and retention rates, faculty resources, financial outcomes, and post-graduate achievement.

Brescia's recognition as a Top Performer on Social Mobility reflects the university's commitment to supporting students from

underserved backgrounds and helping them graduate and thrive. This category specifically measures how well colleges graduate students who receive federal Pell Grants, emphasizing access, affordability, and long-term opportunity.

U.S. News & World Report publishes the Best Colleges rankings annually to help prospective students and their families compare undergraduate programs nationwide. The rankings provide detailed institutional profiles and data on key factors such as student debt at graduation, earnings after college, and overall value, offering families a clearer picture of outcomes beyond enrollment.

"U.S. News' Best Colleges remains a reliable resource for prospective students and their families as they navigate the college selection process," said LaMont Jones, Ed.D., managing

editor for Education at U.S. News. "With over half of the ranking factors dedicated to student outcomes, the rankings and editorial content provide vital data, college advice, and informed reporting to every student pursuing higher education."

University leaders note that these rankings affirm Brescia's mission-centered approach to education, emphasizing personalized instruction, academic excellence, and student support. The university continues to invest in programs and resources designed to prepare graduates for meaningful careers and lifelong success.

Prospective students and families can explore how Brescia University compares to peer institutions and learn more about the ranking methodology by visiting USNews.com.

Centennial Founder's Week

Brescia University kicked off its Centennial year with an event honoring its Ursuline Legacy. This event was held on Monday, January 27, with a program in Duffy Auditorium located in the C.E. Field Center for Professional Studies.

The Mount Saint Joseph Junior College for Women was established in September 1925 by the Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph. After World War II, the need for co-educational extension courses in Owensboro became evident. At the request of city leaders, the Ursuline sisters were called to create a second campus in downtown Owensboro, which they named Brescia College to honor the Italian roots of the Ursuline Sisters' Order. The two campuses were consolidated on the present site in 1950. In 1998, the name was changed from Brescia College to Brescia University.

The Centennial Celebration program included presentations from current student Josephine Gesser, Sr. Sharon Sullivan, Bev Howard '71, Fr. Larry Hostetter, a special video from seminarian Wes Wheatley '22, and Brescia University's President Madison Silvert. Speakers touched on the importance of the Ursuline legacy and how their philosophies focused on teaching the whole person shaped many lives.

Following the kickoff event, students were recognized during Founder's Day in honor of St. Angela Merici, the founder of the Ursuline Sisters. During the celebration Sr. Chanh Ngo and Daniel Rusiecki were recognized as this year's Spirit of

Angela recipients. Students also received Leadership Awards in recognition of their service to the Brescia Community.

Student Leadership Award recipients were:

Baseball - Cole Troutman; Business Club - Stephen Schmidt; Catholic Club - Brandon Wirthwein; Delight Ministries - Jenna Lucas; Men's Basketball - Daniel Rusiecki; Men's Golf - Aaron Munger; Men's Tennis - Diego Laguna; Men's Track and Field - Declan Armistead; Music Club - Sr. Chanh Ngo; Orientation Leaders - Brad Bertram; Peer Educators - Margaret Davis; Psychology Club/Psy Chi - Zoe Smithson; Resident Assistants - Mia Grosshans; Softball - Hannah Hailey; Student Activities Program Board - Meckenzie Baker; Student Ambassadors - Katy Fisher; Student Government Association - Josephine Gesser; Tutoring Services - Kaitlyn Orange; Women's Basketball - Cassidy Morris; Women's Golf/NSSLHA - Abigail Russel; Women's Soccer - Geneva Hann; Women's Tennis - Jada Flakes; Women's Track and Field - Jordyn Cardwell; Women's Volleyball - Sydney Stevens.

To finish off the week of festivities, the program went on the road to visit the Ursuline Sisters at the Mount who were unable to make the Monday program. The Sisters were also able to watch a new video tour of the campus. It was a wonderful way to celebrate with the Ursuline Sisters and to kick off the centennial year!



SINCE 1950

Brescia History

BRESCIA UNIVERSITY THROUGH THE DECADES

CENTENNIAL KICKOFF

On November 25, 1535, Saint Angela Merici gathered twelve young women in a small house in Brescia, Italy, to establish the Company of St. Ursula, named after the patron saint of Catholic education. This order introduced a new model of religious life, allowing sisters to live among the community and effect change rather than remain in a monastery. By the 1600s, the movement had spread to France and evolved into the Order of St. Ursula, focusing on educating girls in line with Saint Angela's vision.

In 1874, five Ursuline Sisters came from Louisville to start a school in what is now Maple Mount, Kentucky. In 1925, they opened the Mount Saint Joseph Junior College for Women to continue the educational mission initiated

ed by Saint Angela. When the college transitioned to co-education, it became Brescia College—now Brescia University—while maintaining its commitment to education.

For over 100 years, this mission has enabled thousands of alumni to make a difference in their communities. We appreciate the Ursuline Sisters who have contributed to this legacy since its inception nearly 500 years ago.

When the Ursuline Sisters founded the Mount Saint Joseph Junior College for Women in 1925, they were committed to education. This dedication continued in 1950 when they moved to the current location of Brescia University and became co-educational, welcoming all students seeking to further their education. Today, their commitment remains strong.

Thousands of alumni have utilized their education from Brescia University to positively impact their communities. Graduates include teachers, social workers, and business leaders, all embodying the values that define the Brescia Difference and the mission of the Ursuline Sisters.

This year, we celebrate 100 years of making a difference.

Here's to 100 more!



Flashback Q & A

WHO WERE SOME OF YOUR FAVORITE FACULTY/STAFF MEMBERS? WHY?

"I loved the sisters, especially the one who taught biology. I don't remember her name, though. It's been a long time!"
 – Francis Thomson '54

"Sister Joseph Angela & Sister Mary Ruth. They were my favorite, but there were several more!"
 – Tom Freeman '71

"Sisters George Ann Cecil, James Rita Sims, Clarita Browning – they made me believe (understand?) that education was a calling, not just a profession – and certainly much more than a job. I was trying to combine being a fully engaged Brescia student with a full-time job and with caring for my parents who were experiencing health emergencies. They (those three sisters) seemed to find ways to make it possible for me not only to succeed but to excel. A marvelous group of women."
 – Sr. Sharon Sullivan '75

"As a Bachelor's of Social Work major – No doubt that two of my most favorite teachers were Marilyn Younger and Nancy Keeton. A direct quote from Nancy that has stayed with me since then, 'our job as social workers are to work ourselves out of a job.... Because then there will be no more societal ills. No more poverty, homelessness, hunger, No abuse, violence, injustice.'
 – Sarah Conrad '98 Everette

"Dr. Bob Cinnamond was my favorite!"
 – Jeff Pierson '96

"One of my favorite things about going to a small school was how well we got to know our faculty and staff. As a Spanish major, I had at least one class with Dr. Moreno-Brown every semester. She's the one who talked me into majoring in Spanish! I'm so grateful for her knowledge and guidance. Without her encouragement, I never would have been brave enough to travel abroad.

For my second major, Psychology, I also had several classes with Vicki Will. She was always patient and encouraging, and her knowledge and feedback has also had a big impact on the rest of my academic career."
 – Devon Cooper '04

"Dr. Asefa, Father Larry, Eva Atkinson, Dr. Ogisi, Regina from the cafeteria."
 – Kwame Ward '03

"It's hard to choose favorites because everyone at Brescia made me feel so welcomed and loved, like I was part of a family. But if I had to pick, Dr. Kuthy definitely stands out. As my academic advisor, she went above and beyond for me. She'd even invite our class over for dinner sometimes, which was always a treat when you were living on a college budget and missing your mom's cooking.

Father Larry was another favorite. He gave off

major Dumbledore vibes—gentle, wise, and endlessly patient. He always seemed to truly see and acknowledge me, and that meant more than I can say."
 – CJ Carter '16

"Dr. Sanderson: He was one of the most intriguing characters a student could have had. He incorporated every aspect of his life experiences into the classes. From skiing in Wyoming to opting out of health insurance because it saved him money."
 – Dylan Beckham '21

WHAT WAS BRESCIA LIKE IN YOUR DECADE?

"Social life at Brescia in the 50s was pretty by the book. Bishop Cotton and the Ursuline Sisters kept us focused on our studies, but we would occasionally go off campus for dances or parties at the old Owensboro hotel on the corner of 4th and Frederica."
 – Francis Thomson '54

"While Brescia has long cultivated a sheltering environment, it could not isolate its students from the turbulence - or from the positive energy - of the 1960s. The four years of college are typically transformative for an individual, but in this decade major changes were also happening in the country and for society as a whole.

1925



Mount St. Joseph Junior College for Women is established at Maple Mount, KY

1946



Mount St. Joseph Junior College begins offering co-ed courses in Owensboro, KY

1950



Brescia College is established as a four-year co-educational liberal arts college in Owensboro

1953



First four-year graduates from Brescia College

It was 1962 or 1963 when a group of girls (my sister among them) decided to walk from the campus to the theater in downtown Owensboro and take in a movie. As she recalled, one or two of the girls had bought their tickets and others were waiting in line behind Frances when the cashier told Frances she couldn't buy a ticket and couldn't enter the theater - because she was Black. It was a shock to many, if not all, the group, and the response was swift and unanimous: if Frances wasn't allowed in, none of the other girls were going either.

By March of 1965, Brescia students and some faculty were so affected by the Civil Rights Movement sweeping the country, that a busload of them traveled to Alabama in support of the famous protest marches from Selma to Montgomery. Mic was on the bus, and he recalled the hostility they met along the road. When they stopped at a rest stop, the driver told the students to wait to reboard until he had made an inspection under the bus, checking for explosives."

- Bertnetia Akin '68

"The girl's dorm had hours. We had to be in by 10:00pm Monday through Thursday, midnight on Friday and Saturday, and 10:30pm on Sunday. God help you if you missed curfew! We were required to wear dresses or long skirts to class, the dining hall, and the library."

- BelindaCollings'72Thomson

"Our calendar was filled with social and cultural events, including dances, festivals, and community gatherings that brought students together in joyful celebration. I was honored to be named the 1985 Family Weekend Queen and also served as first runner-up representative for the Mountain Laurel Queen—both unforgettable experiences that made my time at Brescia even more special."

- Androniki "Andrea" Michealidou '85

"Coming out of the doldrums of the 70s it was the booming 80s by the time I graduated ... the

cold war and nuclear detente were peaking."

- Rick Higdon '86

"I attended Brescia from 1994- 1998. Brescia had that 90's vibe both socially and culturally. Many nights sitting in the basement of Merc Hall - TV viewing parties watching 90210, Friends and Seinfeld!"

- Sarah Conrad '98 Everette

"The beginning of the tik tok era I would say. However it all came to a screeching halt when we were told to pack our bags & go home for covid."

- Dylan Beckham '21

WHAT'S SOMETHING YOU LIKED ABOUT BRESCHIA DURING YOUR TIME THAT YOU HOPE BRESCHIA CONTINUES TO DO IN ITS SECOND CENTURY?

"I hope and expect Brescia to keep moving forward in the Ursuline spirit, adapting to the times, continuing to meet the students' educational and personal needs to become mature and responsible adults ready to serve others."

- Sr. Barbara Jean Head '69

"I've never spoken to anyone who was as well prepared to be a teacher as I was. I hope that Brescia continues this tradition."

- Kate Monagan '74

"My professors consistently challenged me to think critically and open my mind, fostering an environment where no single ideology was indoctrinated. Instead, they encouraged me to develop my own positions by considering multiple perspectives."

- Rick Higdon '86.

"The small class sizes allowed for meaningful relationships with professors, & the close-knit environment fostered a sense of belonging that extended beyond academics. It wasn't just about earning a degree; it was about growing as a person—spiritually, emotionally, and professionally."

As Brescia enters its second century, I believe that maintaining this intimate and personal approach to education is more important than ever."

- Androniki "Andrea" Michealidou '85

"They accepted students that weren't Catholic and respected their different beliefs."

- Jeff Pierson '96

HOW DID BRESCHIA PREPARE YOU FOR LIFE AFTER GRADUATION?

"I got a good education, and it set me up for a career in education. I earned my livelihood teaching and earned a nice retirement too!"

- Francis Thomson '54

"It gave me the confidence and desire to go venture out and meet the world. I spent a large part of my career working around the globe."

- Rick Higdon '86

"The Social Work curriculum along with the liberal arts focus helped me be more well-rounded, a critical thinker who remains curious about people, culture, their upbringings and their stories. I worked in several different settings before I landed as an Oncology Social Worker at an area Hospital. I taught at UofL Kent School of Social Work as an Adjunct professor. And I am currently providing Therapy to Med School and Dental School students at UofL."

- Sarah Conrad '98 Everette

"I graduated with a degree in Finance and Economics, and I've worked in manufacturing management for almost 20 years. I'd love to see a supply chain degree or an Organizational Management program."

- Kwame Ward '03

"Brescia taught me the value of hard work, resilience, and commitment. As a student-athlete, balancing rigorous biology coursework with basketball helped me develop discipline

53

1957

1960

1974



Students receive diplomas from Brescia College



Brescia College receives accreditation from Southern Association of Colleges and Schools



Sr. Joan Marie Lechner, OSU named President of Brescia College



Sr. George Anne Cecil, OSU named Brescia College President

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and time management skills. After graduation, I shifted my career path from physical therapy to chiropractic and attended Logan University in 2016. I graduated in 2019 and opened my own upper cervical chiropractic clinic in Owensboro, KY in August 2020—during the height of COVID. It was a leap of faith, but the work ethic and confidence I gained at BU gave me the foundation to take that risk. I've now been in private practice for nearly five years, helping people restore their health through neurologic-focused chiropractic care."
 – Dr. Kyle Wilgus '15

"Anytime I share "my story," Brescia is always part of it because if it weren't for Brescia, I truly don't think I'd be living out my God-given purpose in the way I am now.

I began my journey studying political science, and during my junior year, I took a Law and Social Issues course that opened my eyes to the economic disadvantages in our education system and the deep inequities that come with them. That class stirred something in me—it lit a passion for justice, service, and systemic change that I believe was placed on my heart by God.

In the fall of my senior year, I felt called to apply for Teach For America. The Brescia community surrounded me with encouragement and support, helping bring that calling to life. I served three years as a corps member

teaching middle school math in Jacksonville, Florida.

Originally, I planned to complete two years of service and then move into policy work. But I quickly realized I loved the classroom. I saw how deeply I valued serving students, families, and communities—providing a rigorous, affirming education where every student could see themselves and their worth reflected. Now, I get to carry those same values into my work here in Owensboro—serving with love, humility, and a deep sense of purpose."
 – CJ Carter '16

"The values of Brescia University directly translated to every career I have explored after college. The real life experiences the faculty were able to provide helped me more than anything. I am a Commodity Buyer in manufacturing."
 – Dylan Beckham '21

"Brescia prepared me to be able to choose whatever path I wanted. Because of my soccer coach, I was put in contact with the only facility in the area that was willing (because Covid times) to let me get my hours for my masters program that I'm currently in my residency for. Without that connection I would not be where I am today. Thankful for the connection Brescia had to the community."
 – Mary-Kate Dennis '22

WHAT WOULD YOU SAY TO A STUDENT CONSIDERING BRESCIA UNIVERSITY FOR THEIR EDUCATION?

"It compares with most colleges and universities as far as what they offer. It can be a good fit."
 – Francis Thomson '54

"Do it!"
 – Sr. Sharon Sullivan '75

"If you're looking for a place that will invest in

who you are and who you're becoming, Brescia is that place."
 – Androniki "Andrea" Michealidou '85

"DO IT! You will not regret it. If You want a small college with a BIG Heart than Brescia is the place for you!"
 – Sarah Conrad '98 Everette

"I would say the faculty is very knowledgeable, and the smaller class sizes creates a tremendous learning advantage for students. You're not just a number in a class at Brescia. You are valued, and the bonds and interaction you develop with professors last a lifetime!"
 – Kwame Ward '03

IF YOU HAD TO DESCRIBE YOUR BRESCIA EXPERIENCE IN ONE (OR A FEW) WORDS, WHAT WOULD THEY BE?

"Community."
 – Helen "Boo" Kula '73

"I left as a better person."
 – Rick Higdon '86

"The best bar tab I ever ran up!"
 – Jeff Pierson '96

"Unexpectedly transformative."
 – Devon Cooper '04

"Amazing! I've made lifelong friends from around the world at Brescia!"
 – Kwame Ward '03

WHAT IS THE BEST THING ABOUT BRESCIA IN YOUR OPINION?

"One of the best things about Brescia – and something I trust will continue – is its commitment to social justice and the directive to love thy neighbor."
 – Berneta Akin '68

"Obtaining an education that prepares you for

1968



Intercollegiate sports introduced

1980



Weekend College program is established

1982



Brescia begins intercollegiate athletics for three more sports

1985



Sr. Ruth Gehres, OSU, President

a career and adult life."

– Helen "Boo" Kula '73

"Brescia went beyond the ordinary to make us feel a part of something larger than ourselves. Brescia also made it possible for those of us who were non-traditional not only to succeed, but to become and remain fully engaged in the Brescia family. I hope this will always be true of Brescia [no matter how many centuries]."

– Sr. Sharon Sullivan '75

"Brescia is about you; developing you and preparing you to enter the world with a perspective that you can make a difference."

– Rick Higdon '86

"The friendships you make and keep over the years!! there were so many people that were students of all ages!!"

– Jeff Pierson '96

"The People – The Teachers, The Staff and the Friends that you meet along the way."

– Sarah Conrad Everette '98

"The people!!!"

– Kwame Ward '03

"The people. The relationships with professors, classmates, and teammates shaped my life in powerful ways. Brescia's community helped me grow and feel at home."

– Dr. Kyle Wilgus '15

"The faculty."

– Mary-Kate Dennis '22

WHAT'S SOMETHING YOU'LL NEVER FORGET FROM YOUR TIME AT BRESCIA?

"Oh, golly! Just getting my degree. If Brescia hadn't come to town, I don't think I would've had the chance to go to college."

– Francis Thomson '54

"The classes were very hard! I didn't realize

that I would have to study so hard in order to get my degree!"

– Tom Freeman '71

"Best was meeting my husband. Also the year he was in Korea I was able to continue classes with an infant. She attended class a few times or someone (faculty, staff, or other students) in speech clinic would watch her."

– Helen "Boo" Kula '73

"The parties ha! But seriously, the people I've met during my time at Brescia as a student & alum. Brescia is such a great community."

– Kwame Ward '03

"The lifelong friendships I made and the unforgettable moments with teammates & classmates—especially the journey to the National Basketball Tournament my senior year."

– Dr. Kyle Wilgus '15

"The streets flash flooding and everyone playing in the water."

– Mary-Kate Dennis '22

HOW DO YOU THINK BRESCIA HAS CHANGED OVER THE YEARS? WHAT HAS REMAINED THE SAME?

"Brescia has changed!? Still seems the same to me! I love the greater international diversity and the wonderful new science labs that we got with a grant."

– Sr. Michelle Morek '66

"The campus has changed so much since the late 60's. More elegant buildings now."

– Tom Freeman '71

"The campus has greatly expanded, the student population has grown and it is now a University instead of a college. The dedication of the Ursuline sisters has never waivered, and they pivot to meet the needs of the students."

– Kate Monagan '74

"The buildings are different – more up to

date, renovated, some removed. But the heart of Brescia remains – the energy, the community and the closeness of the people."

– Sarah Conrad '98 Everette

"Although I haven't spent much time on campus since graduating, I've seen the physical growth with new buildings and renovations, like the complete remodel of the Moore Center and gym. While many faculty members from my time have moved on, I believe the heart of Brescia—the community and the values—remains the same."

– Dr. Kyle Wilgus '15

AS WE CELEBRATE OUR 100TH YEAR OF HIGHER EDUCATION, WHAT'S SOMETHING YOU'D LIKE TO SAY TO THE BRESCIA COMMUNITY AS A WHOLE?

"From the island of Cyprus and on behalf of all Cypriot students who have had the privilege of calling Brescia their academic home—we send our heartfelt wishes and deepest gratitude. Your mission, your values, and your unwavering dedication to student growth continue to inspire. May Brescia's second century be filled with continued success, strong community, and even greater global reach. May you keep changing lives—just as you changed ours. Χρόνια Πολλά, Brescia! With love and respect from Cyprus."

– Androniki "Andrea" Michaelidou '85

"Let's keep this going for another 100+ years."

– Jeff Pierson '96

"I'd like to say thank you. Thank you for creating a respected institution of higher learning that values knowledge and social connection. Thank you for doing work that supports the community as a whole, and thank you for continuing to have a positive effect on my life and the lives of anyone who has the opportunity to attend or work there."

– Devon Cooper '04

"Brescia Community: Thank you for giving

35



named Brescia College President

1987



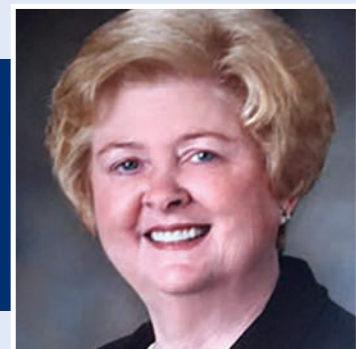
Barney the Bearcat becomes the Brescia College mascot

1991



Brescia College debuts a new logo, a version of the current logo used today

1995



Sr. Vivian Bowles, OSU named Brescia College President

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me & many other students the support, grace, guidance, courage, attention, & resources we needed to build a foundation for the future & to move forward into our next chapters."

– *Shelby Nelson '18*

WHAT WAS YOUR FAVORITE PLACE ON CAMPUS?

"My favorite place when I was a student was the Mouse House, where I volunteered every Friday, cleaning out the mouse cages with Sister Casimir, and helping her with her cancer research projects."

– *Sr. Michele Morek '66*

"The Little Theatre! – Belinda Collings '72 Thomson (The Little Theatre was named the "Belinda Thomson Little Theatre" in her honor in 2017.) Most of us loved the humanities lounge on the 2nd floor of the admin building. There were record players in those rooms and we could take our vinyls over there and listen to them. Most of us didn't own record players. At 10pm on the weekends, the security guards put us out."

– *Kate Monagan '72*

"The old quad (without the fountain) lots of green space to hang out!!"

– *Jeff Pierson '96*

"The swing behind Merici. Is it still there? I had so many late-night chats and in-be-

tween-class hangs with friends there."

– *Devon Cooper '04*

"The Den" – it was electric during home basketball games and full of energy. Playing there created lasting memories."

– *Dr. Kyle Wilgus '15*

"First, I loved sitting on the swing in the courtyard; officially for people-watching, but honestly, I was probably chatting with everyone who walked by (lol).

My second favorite spot is the chapel steps, because that's where I actually MET MY HUSBAND! during his freshman orientation! We even took our engagement pictures there, so it holds a really special place in my heart."

– *CJ Carter '16*

"My favorite place on campus: The Quad- I have many memories here including building snowmen, playing orientation games, the luau, farewell fest, sitting on the tree swing, and soaping the fountain!"

– *Shelby Nelson '18*

"Moore Center 110%."

– *Dylan Beckham '21*

WHAT WAS YOUR FAVORITE CLASS? WHY?

"I loved Anatomy and Physiology!"

– *Francis Thomson '54*

"Math for Elementary teachers, Art for Elementary Teachers, and German!"

– *Tom Freeman '71*

"Morals and Ethics with Father Larry Hostetter!!! I think that was the class lol. But we spoke openly and discussed life issues together."

– *Kwame Ward '03*

"Two of my favorites were Animal Behavior and Marine Biology, both taught by Dr. Toepfer. His teaching style made the content engaging and memorable. In Animal Behavior, I conducted a field experiment on squirrel food preferences at Legion Park. It was hands-on, fun, and scientifically enriching. Though I missed the Marine Biology trip to Florida due to our basketball team's tournament run, the course itself was fascinating and well taught."

– *Dr. Kyle Wilgus '15*

"My favorite class was Dr. Squires' Faith and Justice course. During my time at Brescia, I really wrestled with finding where my religious faith and passion for social justice intersected. This class helped me discover that connection. We engaged with challenging, thought-provoking books, many of which I've returned to even after college. I was constantly encouraged to reflect on and challenge my beliefs. It was truly transformative."

– *CJ Carter '16*

"Any Dr. Sanderson class!"

– *Dylan Beckham '21*

"Anatomy and Physiology. It was the most challenging, but I learned the most from it."

– *Mary-Kate Dennis '22*

WHO WERE SOME OF YOUR BEST FRIENDS YOU MET AT BRESCIA? TELL ME ABOUT THEM

"There was only 6 people in my graduating class! We didn't keep in touch too much. But in my first teaching job after college, I met my wife. The first year teaching she was Sister Delores Ann, the second year she was Miss Delores Mudd, and by the third year she was Mrs. Delores Thomson!"

– *Francis Thomson '54*

1998



Brescia receives university status

2007



Brescia begins offering online classes & Fr. Larry Hostetter named Brescia University President

2014



Brescia enters the public phase of a \$10 million capital campaign

20



Brescia celebrates the newly renovated

"The people I hung around with were mostly sisters since we were commuters, but I enjoyed several "characters" among the students like P.J. O'Donoghue—he was my lab partner who always drank our ethanol in chemistry lab. — Sr. Michele Morek '66
I am still in contact with Helen Echele and Fred Meister from Brescia. At one point Helen and Fred lived near Gary and I. Our kids played together. When my son Dylan knocked out his 4 top teeth at age 3, it was Fred who removed his teeth."
— Helen "Boo" Kula '73

"My roommate Freshman Year, Courtney Dyer. She was wild and unlike any of my friends from Louisville. She was loud, outspoken and tons of Fun. She was the girl that taught me how to drink beer like a champ! She was loyal and a good friend. She passed away from Breast Cancer last year after a 9 year journey of it.

Erin and Kellie Nash - they are sisters. They were from Louisville – but I didn't know them there. I met them at Brescia. They both played Volleyball and were so very smart. Erin made me laugh like no other human. She was/is the Best storyteller. She is beautiful and has the best smile.

Kellie Nash loves deeply and went through some hard times during her years at Brescia. Her Faith in God and faith in her amazing family taught me about adversity and resilience.

My other Roommate at Brescia was Amy Watterson – Amy was gentle, kind to Everyone and never met a stranger. Amy also was so very smart and I remember received an academic scholarship. Amy and I loved to Dance together, smoke cigarettes and laugh till our stomachs hurt. I also felt that Amy was one of my soul mates - we just really got one another.

Some Guys that I was best friends with are Jim DeMaio and Shane Shepherd.... My experience at Brescia would've not been the same if those two were not in sooo many of my memories. Non stop hilarity would ensue when with these two! So much love for both of them."
— Sarah Conrad '98 Everette

"Best Friends from Brescia: Some of my very best friends were commuters! Kristin Emmick (now Rapp), Jessica Burk, Nathan Huff, and Jonathon Kamuf were just a few of the students that I had the absolute privilege of meeting through Brescia. We grew through our 20's together and continue to keep in touch and meet up often. They've become my chosen family. I have Brescia to thank for that."
- Shelby Nelson '18

WHAT KIND OF EVENTS OR EXTRA-CURRICULARS DID YOU ENJOY MOST WHILE AT BRESCIA?

"The dances and parties off campus. A few of us even tried to start a baseball team there in the 50s, but couldn't get it together before we all graduated."
— Francis Thomson '54

"Riding the blue bus back and forth to the Mount, leaving in a hurry in the afternoon to get home for Theology Class. But as a faculty member I liked taking courses in Spanish, Art, and singing in every chorus I could find."
- Sr. Michelle Morek '66

"Theatre rehearsals and productions, bonfires, snow sledding in the winter, small social parties, and dances."
-Belinda Collings Thomson '72

"We loved the dances, and games. Go Bearcats!"
— Jeff Pierson '96

"The dances, man. The dances!!"
— Kwame Ward '03

"Honestly? I loved pretty much all of it lol! Vegas Night was always a blast. There was such a great energy, and I loved to see Father Larry manning the roulette table. I also really enjoyed Cats Den Karaoke for the pizza and sense of community. Those events made Brescia feel lively and welcoming. They're some of my favorite memories from college."
— CJ Carter '16

"Playing on the men's basketball team for all four years was one of my most impactful experiences—especially being team captain during my junior and senior years. Making history by qualifying for the NAIA National Tournament my senior season was an unforgettable highlight."
— Dr. Kyle Wilgus '15

IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE YOU'D LIKE TO SHARE ABOUT YOUR BRESCIA EXPERIENCE?

"I'm just grateful to have gotten an education that set me up for life."
— Francis Thomson '54

"My time as a student was magical. I was so young and so naïve that every day was an adventure. I was able to grow up and become the confident, well traveled, well educated adult I am today."
— Belinda Collings '72 Thomson

"Just so Grateful that I got to be a Student at Brescia and that I spent 4 years in the 90's at a place that produced soo many fabulous memories and people. Brescia helped me become even more me."
— Sarah Conrad '98 Everette

"Nooo, I'd get in trouble!!! Hahaha."
— Kwame Ward '03

17

2019

2020

2025



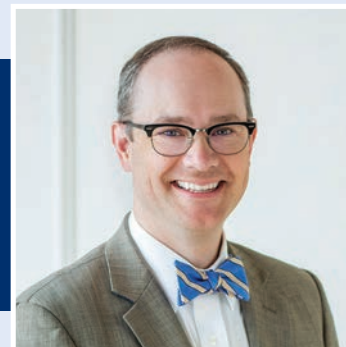
Grand Opening of the Ed Moore Center



Brescia celebrates the Grand Opening of a new residence hall on St. Ann St.



Brescia celebrates the Grand Opening of the C.E. Field Center for Professional Studies, completing the Gateway capital campaign



Mr. Madison C. Silvert, J.D. named Brescia University President



Honoring the Leadership of Fr. Larry Hostetter

After 18 years as president of Brescia University Fr. Larry Hostetter announced, he would like to step down during the 2024 November Board of Trustees meeting. His last day would be March 31, 2025. During his tenure as president, he oversaw a capital campaign, announced new programs, broke enrollment records, witnessed athletic accomplishments, and handed out hundreds of diplomas.

In 2007, Hostetter became the fifth president and the first non-Ursuline to hold the position. Within his first five years, enrollment grew; campus updates started, and the university received multiple large grants. The Gateway Campaign was publicly announced in 2014, raising over \$14 million before it closed in 2019. This campaign brought the updated Moore Center,

the building of the C.E. Field Center for Professional Studies, and St Ann Residence Hall. Following that campaign, the Onward, Brescia Campaign was announced and ended after three years having raised \$3.7 million.

Also, during his time as president, the university expanded its graduate programming, adding a Master of Science in Speech-Language Pathology, Master of Science in Information Systems, Master of Science in Clinical Psychology, Masters of Social Work and the expansions of the MBA program.

Fr. Larry is currently Pastor at St. Pius X Parish in Owensboro and is still on campus as a part-time instructor.





In September, Fr. Larry and a small group of travelers started their journey, 'From Brescia to the Heart of Italy' as part of Brescia's centennial celebration. Over the 11-day trip, the group visited Assisi, Gubbio, the Eternal City of Rome, and Brescia, Italy where they visited the Sanctuary of St. Angela Merici.



#BearcatNation

Welcome President Silvert

MADISON C. SILVERT INAUGURATED AS BRESCIA'S SIXTH PRESIDENT

The inauguration of Brescia University President Madison C. Silvert, J.D., took place on Friday, August 15 at 3 p.m. The presidential inauguration, which included an installation ceremony, was held at Saint Stephen Cathedral, 610 Locust St. The public was invited to attend.

Events were held throughout the day to celebrate the occasion. A Mass was celebrated at 11 a.m. in the Brescia University Immaculate Heart of Mary Chapel in honor of the Feast of the Assumption. Following the inauguration, a family picnic took place on the Brescia University Quad, featuring music, games, food, and burgoo provided by the St. Pius X Cooking Team.

Susan Montalvo-Gesser, Chair of the Brescia University Board of Trustees, said “The future of Catholic higher education, and in particular Ursuline education, hinges on the success of Brescia University. That future is secured in the leadership provided by our new president, Madison Silvert.”





She continued “I am so thankful and excited to see Mr. Silvert lead Brescia into her new century. His deep understanding of Catholic teaching as a lay minister, his passion for the mission of

Catholic education, and his ability to foster a faith-filled community ensures that Brescia will continue to graduate servant-leaders.”

President Silvert was named the sixth president of Brescia University in December 2024 and officially began his tenure on March 31, 2025—marking the first time in the institution’s 100-year history that a layperson has served as president.

Prior to joining the university, Silvert served as President of BryantCorp, President and CEO of the Greater Owensboro Economic Development Corporation, and remains licensed to practice law. During those years, he also served as adjunct faculty at several local colleges and universities.



#BearcatNation



LEGACY OF CHARLES COBB ESTABLISHES NEW SCHOLARSHIPS AT BRESCIA

In December, Brescia University celebrated a generous donation made by the late Charles Cobb, alongside many other charities within the Owensboro Community. The estate gift to Brescia University will help advance the university's endowment and the baseball program by establishing two new scholarships.

President Silvert spoke on the donation stating, "to be able to think about the importance of higher ed, particularly to our needy students, that he looked at the need and said, 'this is going to need first' and recognized the difference this can make not only to this community, in this region, but in this world to think that way is pretty special."

A portion of the donation will be used to set up an endowed scholarship for a member of the Brescia Bearcats baseball team. This scholarship, named the "Dickie Cobb Memorial Baseball Scholarship", honors Mr. Cobb's younger brother who was on the Owensboro All Start team that represented Kentucky in the Little League World Series in

1952. The remainder of the gift will create "The Charles Cobb Memorial Scholarship" for a Brescia student with financial need.

Charles Cobb graduated from Kentucky Wesleyan College and was a member of Third Baptist Church. He started his career at Kresge's Department Store in Detroit, Michigan and retired from K-Mart. Charles enjoyed investing in stocks and left an impactful legacy.

President Silvert accepted the gift on behalf of Brescia and shared the institution's gratitude for this transformational gift.

"This means so much to Brescia but also to the Owensboro community. I think that Mr. Cobb clearly understood that this community needs a strong Wesleyan AND a strong Brescia. To be a graduate of one and to give such a substantial gift to the other truly is a gift. It is a realization of the need of this community and of higher education in general that most people don't think of," he said. "If we only had more people who thought and cared like Mr. Cobb, we would be in a very different place, and I look forward to a world where everyone does."



Faculty & Staff NEWS

Blair Whitaker has joined the Brescia community as the Program Director for our new potential Physician Assistant program. With experience in leading inaugural programs and expertise in both clinical and didactic capacities, Blair brings inspiring energy and enthusiasm as we embark on this journey. While she will primarily work remotely, she will be on campus as needed. In addition, we welcome Dr. Brent Hayden as our Medical Director for the Physician Assistant program. A native of Owensboro, Dr. Hayden works as a Hospitalist at Owensboro Health and is eager to contribute to both the PA program and the community.

Assistant Professor of English **Jamie Alvey's** film *Bystanders* garnered seven awards and received 11 nominations at the HorrorHound Film Festival. Among the accolades were Best Writing for Jamie Alvey, Best Directing for Mary Beth McAndrews, Best Cinematography for Chance Madison, Best Editing for Barry Rowen, Best Supporting Performance for Garrett Murphy, as well as Best Feature and Judges' Choice.

Associate Professor of Biology **Dr. Sherief El-Shazly** has

published an article available through PubMed, titled 'Genomic Characteristics of an Extensive-Drug-Resistant Clinical *Escherichia coli* O99 H30 ST38 Recovered from Wound'. El-Shazly authored the article along with Dr. Ali A. Dashti, Dr. Leila Vali, Dr. Sara Shamsah, and Dr. Mehrez Jadaon. To read the article, visit <https://doi.org/10.5812/ijpr-143910>.

The **Brescia University Marilyn Younger Conley School of Social Work** received two proclamations recognizing March as Social Work Month.

Associate Professor of Psychology **Dr. Rachel Besing** won the Biannual Presidents Innovation award for her work in her class of the Psychology of Fear where students visited Bell Witch Cave. As part of their trip, students had the opportunity to confront their fears firsthand while applying the skills they've learned throughout the semester. The out-of-the-classroom experience allowed our students to test their theories and deepen their understanding of the psychology of fear. Dr. Jon Dudko and Dr. Lisa Reece were also recognized for their teaching practices in biology and social work.

WELCOME NEW BOARD MEMBERS

David Carroll

Director of Operations
Green River Distilling Co.

Wanda Figueroa

EdD, LCPC, President & CEO
RiverValley Behavioral Health

Grant Collins

CPRC '14, Investment Advisor
Representative
Advanced Investment Management

Robert E. Mitchell

CPA, CVA '89, Managing Member
Mitchell & Associates, PLLC

Josephine Gesser

Student Government President
Student Representative

Phil Riney

President, Chief Risk Officer
Independence Bank



CONTINUED...

Faculty & Staff

A LEGACY OF SERVICE

By Sarah Cox '20

In a world that often measures success by speed and spectacle, Sr. Judith Nell Riney has quietly built a legacy rooted in presence, purpose, and profound service to others. In her 45 years working at Brescia University, she has served as the guiding heart of the Fr. Leonard Alvey Library—not just as the director of library services, but as a steward of wisdom, a mentor and friend to many, and a living embodiment of the Ursuline values of faith, commitment to learning, and community. While her years at Brescia are certainly a testament to her determination, her story is not just one of longevity, but of transformation as seen in the lives of those around her. To highlight this impact, I reached out to those who have known and been shaped by Sr. Judy to reflect on her lifetime of service.

Winnie Cohron, one of Sr. Judy's younger sisters, when speaking about their childhood recalled a story of when Winnie broke her leg while playing outside. Winnie was out in the woods behind their house when the injury

occurred, and Sr. Judy jumped into action. Despite not being much older or bigger than Winnie herself, Sr. Judy carried her back up the hill and over the fence to get her home. Even when she was young, Sr. Judy would do whatever it took to help others. This quality of showing up in times of crisis continued throughout her life as Winnie noted that when her husband was passing, Sr. Judy “didn’t ask any questions” and stayed with her during those difficult days. “Judy has always been available to any of us when we were in need,” Winnie noted, “regardless of what that need was.”

Sr. Judy's decision to attend Brescia as a student was seen by Winnie as “a natural progression” of her education since they had grown up being taught by Ursulines.

It was during her time as a student at Brescia that Sr. Judy decided to take that formation from the Ursulines a step further and pursue religious life with the Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph. Although Winnie was in middle school at the time Sr. Judy announced she would be joining the congregation, Winnie “sensed that’s where she [Sr. Judy] belonged.” Sr. Judy would go on to teach a variety of subjects and grades before returning to Brescia to work as



OP NEWS

the Public Services Manager in the Fr. Leonard Alvey Library. Upon retiring at the end of the 2024-2025 academic year, Sr. Judy worked a total of 45 years at the Fr. Leonard Alvey Library with most of that time serving as the Director of Library Services.

“Once she puts her hand to the plow, so to speak, she’ll carry through until the work is complete and until she believes there’s nothing left to do in that circumstance,” Winnie remarked when asked if she was surprised by how long Sr. Judy had worked at Brescia. It is that dedication in the seen and unseen ways that she has served Brescia, her Ursuline Community, and their family that Winnie points to as impactful for her. In Winnie’s words, Sr. Judy has influenced her by showing her that “Service is required for a full life and not all service needs to be public” and that “Presence is the most important gift that you can give anybody.”

Just as Sr. Judy’s family has been shaped by her presence, so too has her religious community. Another person I spoke to who has been impacted by Sr. Judy is fellow Ursuline Sr. Monica Seaton. Sr. Monica first met Sr. Judy at a weekend retreat put on by St. Stephen’s Cathedral, and she described Sr. Judy as being very outgoing, welcoming, friendly, and funny. Sr. Judy would invite her along to outings or gatherings of her bonded group for opportunities to engage with the other Ursulines more and to

help her discern a possible call to religious life. It was that openness and generosity that helped a young Sr. Monica learn to see those who chose religious life as human beings as well. Sr. Judy made the possibility of becoming a sister a little less scary because “she embodied Ursuline hospitality and welcome.”

That charism is something Sr. Judy lives out in her religious vocation by helping her community however she can be it getting items from the library for sisters living at Mount St. Joseph, accompanying sisters when they are sick, or serving on leadership. Sr. Judy is not only a hard worker, but a friendly face to her Ursuline sisters to whom she brings joy through funny pranks or slight mischief. Sr. Monica believes that in Sr. Judy’s 45 years at Brescia she “found the best way to live her religious vocation in service to the Church and to our Ursuline Community through Brescia and the community she created at Brescia” and in doing so found a sort of calling within her calling. Sr. Monica notes that Sr. Judy is someone who champions and supports others and has taught her that “whatever you do, try and do it well and to the best of your ability and see that a job is finished” while at the same time not to “take yourself too seriously.”

Careers are hardly built upon the work of a single individual but are influenced and shaped by the communities and

support we have around us. For myself, I know that Sr. Judy has played a pivotal role, not only in the trajectory of my career and decision to become a librarian, but in the formation of myself as a person. She has been a mentor to me and shown me how to be a leader who sets high standards for herself while simultaneously challenging others to do their best. She has set an example of how to be a fierce defender of libraries and the value that they bring to their communities. In many ways, Sr. Judy’s legacy lives on in the many student workers and library employees—those who now carry forward her values of service, scholarship, and faith—in their own varied careers and lives.

On a personal level, she has been a constant supporter and shown me how to have a more active Catholic faith that does not have to fit into a tidy box. There’s not enough room in this article for me to express my gratitude for Sr. Judy, so instead I want to share a quote from the late Pope Francis, whom Sr. Judy loves, that I believe sums up her philosophy “Have the courage ‘to swim against the tide’. And also have the courage to be happy.”

The often touted “Brescia Difference” is experienced across all facets of campus. Even in the unassuming stacks of Brescia’s library, lives have been shaped by the tireless dedication of an Ursuline librarian who would tell you she is “just doing her job.” And what a wonderful job she has done these past 45 years! Here is to a happy retirement filled with many blessings and joys from the community she has cultivated!

A special thank you to Winnie Cohron, Sr. Monica Seaton, and Maura O’Donoghue for their contributions to this article.



CONTINUED...

faculty & staff NEWS

20 YEARS OF CHRIS & CHRISTY



Chris (A) Christy (B)

When was your start date at Brescia?

A. May 2, 2005

B. May 2, 2005 (This is correct, but Chris will probably give you an incorrect date)

What stands out about your first day or the interview process at Brescia?

A. I believe I had applied for the position months before I was invited to interview so I was surprised and excited to get the call. The interview process was unique in the fact that I was asked to stick around in the afternoon to offer my thoughts on two candidates they were interviewing for two admission counselor positions. One of those candidates was Christy and I told Sr.

Vivian she should hire her immediately as she was someone that I would want to have with me to turn around the admissions office. I also ended up hiring the other candidate I interviewed, and she started a few weeks after my arrival.

B. The interview with Chris was my third time interviewing on campus for the Admissions Counselor position. The first two times, Brescia decided not to fill the position for various reasons, so by the third time they called me for an interview, I came in assuming it was going to be another fruitless endeavor. I know my interview outfit was increasingly more casual each time.

Where was admissions located on campus when you started?

A. The Office of Admissions was located in a “shotgun” building across the street from Raben Tire about where the Art Gallery in the Field Center is located. When they started to work on the Field Center, we temporarily relocated to the Administration Building while they finished the Moore Center renovation.

B. Chris and I refer to it as the Shotgun Shack. It was a small two-story building on 9th and Frederica with windows that rattled when the train would go by and LOTS of cosmetic issues. Truly an eyesore. But it was home.

How have things in admissions or at the university changed for you since you started? What has remained the same?

A. The greatest change at Brescia has been the renovations to campus over the last 20 years. What hasn't changed over the last 20 years, has been Brescia's support of the Office of Admissions in all we do. That is something that is unique to us and something we should be very proud of, as I have not experienced it to this degree throughout my career. As far as changes in admissions over the last 20 years, the greatest change is the strategies that we have employed to recruit students. However, what hasn't changed, and I doubt will ever change, is in the end most students just have a feeling that Brescia is the right choice for them.

B. Campus improvements have been a major factor: The renovation of the Moore Center, then the additions of St. Ann Hall and the Field Center. These improvements were things we dreamed about early on in our tenure at Brescia because other than the student apartments and the renovated Chapel, the newest building on campus was the Campus Center that had been built in 1989. Our newest academic building was the Science building (built in 1968)!

Roughly, over the 20 years here, can you tell me some stats, how many students have enrolled at Brescia during your tenure?

A. From fall 2005 until fall 2024, Christy and I have been involved in the enrollment of 7,159 students. That number includes all new students entering into either the fall or spring semester. That number includes 2,777 freshman, 2,872 transfer students, 645 graduate students, with the rest being non-degree students.

How many college fairs, visits, etc. have your team attended?

B. I'd estimate we have attended 1,800 college fairs and made over 4,000 high school visits in the last 20 years

What's your favorite thing about your tenure in Brescia Admissions? Greatest successes? Proud moments?

A. There have been so many things. The thing I am most proud of are my current and former employees that I mentioned above, that is at the top, #1, no question. Second, would be the record freshman class from fall 2018. There are very few moments in one's career where you can say you helped do something that no one



else has ever done before in the history of the campus. That was a very cool experience and one I would love to repeat one last time before I retire. Heck, the first registration program that year was so big that we couldn't fit in Taylor Lecture hall, and we had to adjust the agenda to accommodate the large group.

B. It was nice bringing in the largest freshman class in Brescia's history in 2018. I'm proud that I've been the kind of co-worker and supervisor that former employees still like to stop in and visit when they have a chance. Admissions is a high turnover field, and I know not to expect to keep recruiters long, but I appreciate that when it is time for them to move on to the next thing, they're almost always very sad to say goodbye. And thanks to social media, I love getting to see former students as they live their lives, whether working in the field they always wanted or in the field they never realized was the right one for them, getting married, starting families, etc. Their successes are a much greater success for me than that huge 2018 class.

What's it like seeing students you and your team have recruited as high school seniors, sometimes juniors or sophomores, end up at Brescia and graduating with their degrees?

A. Wow, that is what keeps us going and why we are here. What is even cooler is to see those students that we recruited, who enrolled and graduated, now return with their kids and see them enroll and carry on that tradition.

B. My first week at Brescia, Chris told our team at the time that on the first day of classes, we should walk around and see all of our new students making their way to class and that it would give us the "warm fuzzies." He said if we ever got to the point where we didn't feel the warm fuzzies on

the first day, this job wasn't for us anymore. I still get warm fuzzies when I see them on the first day and when they come in to say goodbye during their last week of senior year.

What's your favorite thing about Brescia as a whole?

A. The people. You don't invest a lifetime at a place if you don't like the people around you and they don't motivate you every day to do the best job that you can. Listen, no organization is perfect, even Brescia, but we truly have something special here and I worry at times that we don't recognize that and celebrate that enough. Everyone just needs to trust me on this but the culture we have at Brescia is not found at other colleges and universities.

B. I can't help that it sounds trite, but it really is home, and the people here really do feel like family.

Anything else you'd like to share?

A. I would be remiss if I didn't take a minute to thank Christy for her support of me and Brescia over the last 20 years. People sometimes say to us that we are "work" spouses. We are not, we are "work" siblings and I think of her as my sister and partner in crime and I could not have accomplished this much without having her by my side the last two decades.

B. Yes! I'm proud of the number of people who got their start as recruiters in our office who have moved into other administrative roles on campus. From our tenure alone, we have a former VP of Student Affairs, plus our current Director of Institutional Research, Financial Aid Counselors, Alumni Director, and our current VP of Academic Affairs who started as recruiters for Brescia.

Class Notes



JORDAN COOPER-LIVERS '18

Named Head Coach for Central Hardin (Ky.) High School Girls Basketball.

**LOGAN BATES '22
LIBERATO**

Promoted from Audit Associate to Senior Audit Associate at the management consulting firm Accuity.



**AMBER '17 AND
ANDREA '17
BOARDMAN**

Opened their own private practice, Speech Therapy Services, in Owensboro, KY.

**EMILY HAYES '88
MCCARTY**

Received the Father Joseph McGee Outstanding Catholic Educator Award from the Archdiocese of Louisville.

GEORGIANA COUDEN '16

Earned Doctor of Social Work degree from Simmons University



HOLLIE ANSON EAVES '11

Head Coach of South Knox (In.) Girls Basketball led her team to the 2A State Championship and was named the 2025 Bob King Coach of the Year for Indiana's District Three.

TIM SULLIVAN '01

Named Head Boys Basketball Coach at St. Henry District High School after leading Cooper High School team to state tournament run.

JASON HAYDEN '91

Named Director of the Owensboro Museum of Fine Art.

JASMINE MCDANIEL '22

Promoted to Children's Coordinator at River Valley Behavioral Health



TAVON JOHNSON '18

Head Coach of Central Hardin (Ky.) Boys Basketball was named Kentucky 5th Region Coach of the Year

**CHELSEA ANDERSON '10
HOFFMAN**

School counselor at College View Middle School was honored as the Kentucky School Counselors Association Middle School Counselor of the Year.



**FRANCIS FITZGERALD
HAYDEN II '85**

Received the Life Fellow Award from the American Psychiatric Association at ceremony in Los Angeles.



CAITLIN RANBURGER '14

Announced as the 2025 recipient of the Owensboro Community and Technical College Pathfinder of the Year award, established by the Kentucky Community and Technical College System to recognize high school teachers and counselors for their efforts in supporting students' college and career goals.

AMANDA EPLEY '19

Welcomed her first baby boy into the family in January 2025.



SR. MICHELE MOREK '66

Retired as Column Editor for Global Sisters Report (a project of National Catholic Reporter) in Kansas City after 6 years, moved to Maple Mount, Ky.

LARK BUCKMAN '69

Inducted into the Kentucky Veterans Hall of Fame – an award for veterans who demonstrate a commitment to community service.

BRESCIA UNIVERSITY DEDICATED NEW VETERANS MONUMENT



Brescia University dedicated a new veterans monument on campus on Sunday, November 9, as part of the university's ongoing centennial celebrations.

Brescia University has a long-standing tradition of serving and educating veterans. In 1950, the university relocated from Maple Mount, Kentucky, to downtown Owensboro to meet the educational needs of servicemen returning from World War II. Seventy-five years later, that tradition continues with veterans studying at Brescia today and alumni proudly serving in the Armed Forces.

The new monument was inspired by a group of veteran alumni who wished to honor Brescia's centennial and its historic connection to the military community. The monument will serve as a lasting tribute to the men and women who have served our country.

In Fall of 2024, a small group of alumni veterans approached the University about the possibility of establishing a monument dedicated to the many Brescia alumni who are veterans of the US military.

"Is there a veterans memorial or monument on campus?" asked Frank Werner '73 in a conversation with Brescia Trustee Lark Buckman '69 in Fall of 2023. This question started a process that would result in the November 2025 dedication of a monument recognizing members of the Brescia community who have served in the United States Military.

Work began in earnest in November of 2024, when Buckman and fellow alum and trustee Richard Brown '72 visited campus and met with staff to explore the possibility of a veterans monument on campus. Given Brescia's longstanding history in serving and relationship with veterans, Brescia's administration committed to exploring the

project further. Within a few weeks, a site for the monument was selected – an existing park area on the north side of the quad- and later, quotes from vendors and contractors were solicited.

In February, with possible design drafts and cost projections in hand, a committee comprised of alumni military veterans was formed to oversee the project. The committee was made up of Lark Buckman '69, Frank Werner '73, Richard Brown '72, Tom Dreyer '68, Ed Cecil '70, Garry Pierce '68, Ernie Taliarferro '70, Greg Higdon '69, Alan Hoffman '68, and Steve Stemle '69. Over the next several months, the committee reviewed potential monument designs and began the fundraising process for the project.

By July, the committee had successfully raised over \$25,000 for the installation of a the monument, commercial grade flagpole, lighting and landscaping, and funds for future maintenance and upkeep of the park. Orders were placed and a dedication ceremony planned for Fall 2025.

On Sunday, November 9th the monument was officially dedicated. The day began with Mass in the Immaculate Heart of Mary Chapel on campus. Due to sleet and high winds, the dedication ceremony also took place in the chapel.

Garry Pierce '68 opened with a prayer, giving thanks for the Ursuline Sisters and their commitment to serving veterans, followed by presentation of colors by members of VFW Post 696. After a singing of the national anthem lead by Brett Ballard – Assistant Professor of Music, Lark Buckman '69 spoke on the background and process of the project – from just an idea to a permanent recognition of veterans in the Brescia community. President Madison Silvert gave remarks on Brescia's relationship with veterans and continued commitment to future veterans who attend Brescia.

Sr. Sharon Sullivan, OSU Congregational Leader provided historical context, relaying the stories of how Brescia's founding was directly involved with serving veterans and their educational needs. Finally, Jake Davis '12, Director of Alumni and Donor Relations read a reflection on the Brescia Difference and military service on behalf of Frank Werner '73, followed by all attendees singing a rendition of God Bless America.

The ceremony concluded with the crowd walking in the wind and sleet from the chapel to the newly installed veterans monument where veterans committee members Alan Hoffman '68 and Steve Stemle '69 raised the American flag over the monument while the crowd recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

The monument features the Brescia University logo, the seals of all six branches of the United States Military, and an inscription that reads:

This monument stands in tribute to the men and women who have served our country, and to Brescia University, which has long recognized the value of their sacrifice and service.

Following World War II, Brescia took pioneering steps to develop programs and classes for returning veterans, empowering them to pursue education and new opportunities. This tradition endures, with veterans continuing to attend and graduate from Brescia University, and with members of the Brescia community proudly serving in the Armed Forces.

To all veterans - past, present, and future - we honor your courage, sacrifice, and commitment to the enduring bond between service and education.

Dedicated in 2025, The Centennial Year of Brescia University.

jubilarians

Ten of the 12 Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph who are celebrating jubilees of religious profession in 2025 are graduates of Brescia. One of these Sisters still serves at Brescia.



Sister Ann McGrew, a Clarkson native, is celebrating 60 years. She earned degrees from Brescia, Western Kentucky University, and Loyola-Chicago, along with certifications in spiritual direction. She has served as a teacher, parish minister, and in numerous roles with her Ursuline community, including campus minister, formation coordinator, and two terms on the Leadership Council. She was director of the Mount Saint Joseph Conference and Retreat Center (2010–16) and now serves as treasurer at the Motherhouse.



Sister Barbara Jean Head, is celebrating 60 years. The New Haven, Ky., native graduated from Brescia in 1969 with a bachelor's degree in math. She also earned a master's degree in education from Western Kentucky University and a master's degree in business administration for not-for-profits from the University of Notre Dame. She was a teacher and principal in Kentucky for 20 years. She was treasurer and business administrator for the Ursuline Sisters (1989-2004) and was elected to serve on the Ursuline leadership Council (2004-2010). Since 2005 she has served as senior accountant at Brescia.



Sister Elaine Burke, a Louisville native, is celebrating 75 years. She ministered in Kentucky, Nebraska, and New Mexico, later serving at Brescia in ministry formation and theology. She continues quilting for the Mount Quilt Club and volunteering at the Owensboro RiverPark Center.



Sister Emma Anne Munsterman, a Mount Vernon, Ind., native, is celebrating 60 years. She taught in Kentucky schools before serving at the Ursuline Motherhouse in leadership roles. Since 1996, she has been a licensed massage therapist and natural health practitioner, offering holistic care to the Sisters since 2018.

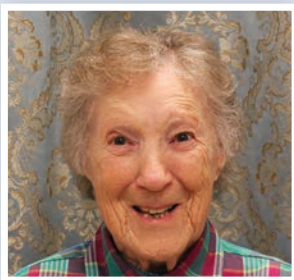


The Ursuline Sisters are celebrating 151 years of service since arriving at

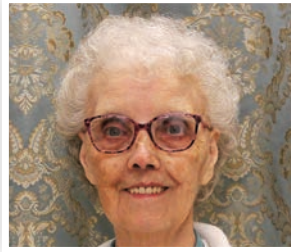
Founded at Maple Mount in Daviess County, Ky., in 1874, the Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph currently



Sister Francis Louise Johnson, was born in Waverly, raised in Mayfield, and is celebrating 70 years. With degrees from Brescia and Western Kentucky University, she taught in several states, later serving in parish ministry and as Guest House coordinator at Mount Saint Joseph (2003–2017). Now retired at the Motherhouse, she remains active in the Powerhouse of Prayer.



Sister Marie Carol Cecil, a native of Howardstown, is celebrating her 75th year of religious life. She graduated from Brescia in 1966 with a degree in elementary education. She was a teacher for 45 years, including at Blessed Mother/St. Angela Merici School, Owensboro, 1984-9. Sister Marie Carol was an AmeriCorps worker in Owensboro from 1997-2000 and provided clerical assistance and transportation at the Motherhouse in Maple Mount. She is retired at the Motherhouse and is active in the Powerhouse of Prayer.



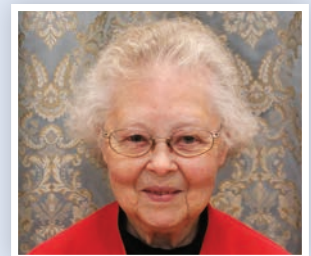
Sister Margaret Marie Greenwell, a native of New Haven, Ky., is celebrating 70 years. She earned degrees from Brescia and Western Kentucky University, served 35 years in education and ministry, and later worked at Louisville’s Sister Visitor Center. Now retired at the Motherhouse, she remains active in the Powerhouse of Prayer.



Sister Catherine Marie Lauterwasser, is celebrating 70 years. The Owensboro native earned degrees in history and music from Brescia and The Catholic University of America. She taught and served as principal in several Kentucky schools and in Nebraska and Missouri, and later held leadership roles at the Motherhouse. Now retired, she remains active in the Powerhouse of Prayer.



Sister Mary Henning, is celebrating 60 years. The Axtel native earned degrees in education and music, including a master’s from Northwestern University. She taught for 32 years as a music professor at Brescia, served in Louisville and at Mount Saint Joseph Academy, and was music minister at Blessed Mother Parish. Since 2013, she has been director of worship and liturgy at the Motherhouse.



Sister Marie Joseph Coomes, is celebrating 60 years. The St. Lawrence native earned degrees in education from Brescia and Western Kentucky University. She served as a teacher, in the Motherhouse infirmary and prayer house, and later in senior and community support roles in Owensboro and at the Motherhouse. Now retired, she is a substitute receptionist and active in the Powerhouse of Prayer.

at Maple Mount in 1874. Jubilee congratulations may be sent to 8001 Cummings Road, Maple Mount, KY 42356.

ently minister throughout Kentucky and in Illinois, Kansas, Louisiana, Minnesota, Missouri, New Mexico, New York, Tennessee; and in Washington, D.C., and Chile, South America.

Hail Storm

On March 14, Brescia University experienced significant damage across campus as a result of a severe hailstorm. Several key areas were affected, including the Moore Center, Alumni Hall, and Kamuf Park, resulting in widespread structural and property damage.

The storm caused hail damage to siding and windows on multiple campus buildings, as well as to the windshields of nearly all university vehicles. One of the most substantial losses was the complete destruction of the campus greenhouse. Additionally, the roof over the north wing of the Moore Center sustained severe damage, allowing rainwater to enter the building and causing flooding in numerous interior spaces. Brescia's iconic atrium window was also impacted and will require extensive repair.

Fortunately, the majority of students were off campus at the time due to the scheduled Spring Break. Most importantly, no injuries were reported during the storm or in its aftermath, a fact for which the university community remains deeply grateful.

In the days following the storm, campus operations and the academic schedule continued with minimal disruption. Students were able to complete the semester as planned, as day-to-day activities were largely unaffected. Over the summer months, repair efforts began, with roofs and siding across campus being restored. While most areas of campus have since returned to

normal operations, work on the Moore Center remains ongoing.

Plans are currently in place to repair the Moore Center's atrium window during the summer of 2026. Once this work is completed, the university will be able to move forward with rebuilding the second floor of the Moore Center, restoring the space for full use.

Throughout the recovery process, the Brescia community came together in remarkable ways to support storm relief efforts. A visible symbol of this unity was the creation of a "Bearcat Strong" sticker, designed by talented alumna Rachel Sinclair '03 and produced by alumni-owned business Greenwell Chisholm Printing Company. The initiative exemplified the strength, creativity, and generosity of Brescia's alumni and supporters.

The estimated cost of the storm damage is nearly \$1 million, underscoring the ongoing need for financial support as the university continues recovery and restoration efforts. Brescia is grateful for the outpouring of assistance and encouragement from students, alumni, faculty, staff, and community partners during this challenging time.



A LEGACY OF POSSIBILITY AT BRESCIA

THE JULIE BETH HAYDEN FOUNDATION



On June 21, 2020, the world lost a remarkable woman - Julie Beth Hayden - a dedicated counselor, passionate advocate, and cherished daughter of Brescia University alumni Donald Hayden '68 and Julie Andrews '67. Although she was born with a rare heart condition, which also caused congenital deafness, Julie Beth defied odds and broke barriers throughout her life.

Julie Beth's path was one of resilience and service. After receiving a strong educational foundation at St. Joseph's Institute for the Deaf in St. Louis, she graduated with honors from Sycamore High School in Cincinnati and went on to earn both her bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Kentucky. She then dedicated nearly 25 years of her life as a Rehabilitation Counselor for the Deaf and Deaf-Blind at the Kentucky Office of Vocational Rehabilitation. To her clients, she was more than a counselor - she was a guide, a role model, and a beacon of possibility.

"She never saw deafness as a handicap," recalls Andrews, her mother. "Julie Beth encouraged her clients to dream big, to define their own goals, and showed them how education could unlock those dreams."

Throughout her career, Julie Beth witnessed firsthand the critical gaps in support - needs like childcare, transportation, clothing, and tuition assistance. That realization planted the seeds for what would become the Julie Beth Hayden Foundation, an organization that has, in just five years, already made a profound impact - from funding auditory brainstem response (ABR) equipment for newborns to awarding grants for post-secondary education.

The foundation led by Andrews, Julie Beth's stepfather Jim Andrews, and board member Christy Burch Norton - works to meet the essential needs that vocational r

rehabilitation often cannot fund.

"I was interested in expanding the foundation to reach students enrolled in private universities like Brescia, in addition to Kentucky's public universities," Andrews shared.

As a Brescia alumna, she felt compelled to bring that support home. "One day, out of the blue, I called Brescia to ask if they had needs that might be supported by the foundation. It was most fortuitous because Brescia did!"

That single call connected Andrews to the Office of Disability Services and the Julie Beth Hayden Foundation awarded Brescia University its first grant, a gesture that reflects Julie Beth's own philosophy of empowerment through education and inclusion.

"For us, this is more than a grant," Andrews said. "It's about keeping Julie Beth's spirit alive. The loss of our daughter was heartbreaking, but celebrating her life in this way is a blessing that keeps her with us every single day."

Donations like the one from the Julie Beth Hayden Foundation are not only deeply meaningful, they are transformative. They remind us that every act of giving is a ripple that can change a life. Brescia University thrives because of the generosity of alumni, families, and friends who believe in its mission.

As we honor Julie Beth's legacy, we invite others to consider how their own support - large or small - can open doors, remove barriers, and empower students to chase their dreams, just as Julie Beth so passionately encouraged others to do.

EDUCATION FUND

At Brescia University, we believe that education is not only about knowledge, but also about transformation. It is about equipping students to lead lives of purpose, service, and integrity. And that transformation begins with access.

The Brescia Education Fund is our most flexible and impactful fund. It helps bridge the gap between what it costs to educate a student and what tuition covers. It allows us to respond to urgent needs - scholarships, classroom resources, student support services, and more - ensuring that every student has what they need to thrive.

Your gift to the Brescia Education Fund goes directly to where it's needed most. Whether helping a first-generation student stay enrolled after an unexpected financial setback, supporting innovative academic programs, or investing in the people and tools that make a Brescia education so distinctive, your generosity makes an immediate difference.

In a world that can feel uncertain, the power of education remains constant. With your help, we can continue to offer stability, hope, and opportunity to students who are ready to make a difference in their communities, and in the world.

Will you consider making a gift today?

Together, we can continue the mission that began a century ago: forming compassionate, critical thinkers through a holistic and deeply personal education.

Make a Gift

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT MELANIE BROOKS, VICE PRESIDENT OF INSTITUTIONAL ADVANCEMENT AT 270-686-6417 OR MELANIE.BROOKS@BRESCIA.EDU



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MAIL A CHECK

MAIL YOUR GIFT IN THE PROVIDED RETURN ENVELOPE

IRA QUALIFIED CHARITABLE DISTRIBUTION

MAKE A GIFT OF YOUR QUALIFIED CHARITABLE DISTRIBUTION. IF YOU ARE 70 1/2 OR OLDER, CONTACT YOUR FINANCIAL ADVISOR TO SUPPORT BRESCIA BY MAKING A GIFT FROM YOUR IRA

LEAVE A LEGACY

ADD BRESCIA TO YOUR WILL AND ESTATE PLANS WITH JUST A SENTENCE OR TWO. CONTACT THE OFFICE OF ADVANCEMENT FOR MORE INFORMATION.

BRESCIA MARKS 100 YEARS WITH CENTENNIAL GALA CELEBRATION



Brescia University Presidents (living): Fr. Larry Hostetter, Sr. Vivian Bowles, Sr. Ruth Gehres, and Madison Silvert.

As part of Brescia University's Homecoming celebration, the university hosted a Centennial Gala in October, marking a once-in-a-lifetime milestone in Brescia's history. The evening brought together alumni, donors, community partners, and friends of the university to celebrate 100 years of faith-filled education and to honor those whose generosity has helped shape Brescia's past, present, and future.

In addition to commemorating the university's centennial, the gala served as a special opportunity to recognize members of Brescia's Society of the Arch. The event also marked the introduction of a new giving society level—the Diamond Level—created to recognize extraordinary lifetime philanthropic commitment to the university.

The Diamond Level honors donors whose lifetime contributions to Brescia University exceed \$1 million. During the gala, Brescia presented Diamond Awards to the Diocese of Owensboro and The Ursuline Sisters of Mount St. Joseph, recognizing their enduring support and foundational role in the university's mission and growth.

Brescia also celebrated donors whose lifetime giving exceeds \$100,000, acknowledging their significant and lasting impact on students and campus initiatives. Those

recognized included Sister Vivian Bowles; Greenwell Chisholm Printing; Rick and Kim Higdon; Linda Kamuf; Owensboro Health; Mr. Dave McJoynt; Ernie and Shirley Taliaferro; Ron and Kathy Tisch and Vicki Roberts; and President Emeritus Reverend Larry Hostetter.

Nearly 200 guests attended the gala, enjoying a gourmet dinner and specialty cocktails in an atmosphere of celebration and gratitude. The evening's program honored Brescia's rich history while looking ahead to a bright future, featuring remarks from presenting sponsor Owensboro Health, Student Government Association President JoJo Gesser, and Brescia University President Madison Silvert. Each speaker reflected the university's legacy, its commitment to students, and the vital role of community support in sustaining Brescia's mission.

Following the program, guests took to the dance floor as the Entice Band provided live entertainment, bringing the celebratory evening to a lively close. The Centennial Gala stood as a fitting tribute to a century of achievement and a powerful reminder of the generosity and community that will carry Brescia University forward into its next 100 years.

Make a Difference Today!

Support the Brescia Education Fund or
Refer A Bearcat for Fall 2026!



Visit brescia.edu or scan the QR code to learn all the ways you can help Brescia continue its mission!

