For alumni, students & friends of Brescia University in Owensboro, Kentucky. Visit brescia.edu
Greetings from Brescia University. As I write this, the skies outside of my office window are grey and dreary. Winter in the Ohio Valley brings the kind of cold that sinks deep into the bones and makes one long for the promised spring. Despite the cold, however, Brescia’s halls are filled with the warmth, laughter and bright promise of our students who have returned from the Christmas holidays to begin the next stage of their educational journey. Brescia just isn’t the same when our students are away. Our institutional soul finds its purpose in educating and forming the men and women who enter our doors whether on-ground or online.

In this edition of Brescia Now we are happy to share with you multiple glimpses into the life of Brescia University and our students. With these stories you will encounter a dynamic, life-giving, and purposeful educational experience that we are proud to call the Brescia Difference. Whether it’s about choosing a law school for post-graduate education, learning about the US Constitution, celebrating the heritage of Brescia with Homecoming, or serving others with the fall festival or soup day, our students experience the Brescia Difference in a variety of engaging ways. You will also read about important programs and events such as Co-Starters, Graduation, BU Athletics, study abroad, and our unique Honors College experience. I am especially proud to share with you the many awards and recognitions that Brescia has received over the past year.

Very important to our mission is the support that we receive from our generous alumni and benefactors. Please take a moment to read how your support has enabled us to launch the “Gateway to Our Second Century” Campaign that is now well underway. Our students are also blessed to have many of you endow scholarships that they can use to help offset the cost of education, ensuring their success as a student and their future success as they take their education into the workforce. Thank you to all who have helped with these initiatives. The good that you do with your generosity is hard to quantify but is clearly seen on the faces of our students when they receive their well-earned diploma and use their education to make a difference in our world.

I hope you enjoy this Brescia Now. Please know you are always welcome at your home—Brescia University.

Thank you and God Bless,

Fr. Larry Hostetter
Tom Lilly Joins Board of Trustees

Brescia University added a member to the Board of Trustees in June. Tom Lilly is currently serving as Vice President and Client Advisor in the Trust Department at Old National Bank. He was formerly the Senior Vice President of Operations at St. Mary’s Medical Center in Evansville, IN where he served for ten years. Mr. Lilly has many ties with Brescia from his time as Director of Stewardship for the Diocese of Owensboro and his service on the President’s Advisory Council.

Mr. Lilly holds a Bachelor’s degree in Communication from the University of Southern Indiana; has earned a Certificate in Not-for-Profit Management from the AHP Madison Institute; a Certificate in Effective Executive Management from the Harvard Kennedy School of Government; and has completed a two-year study in Executive Leadership of Government; and has completed a Certificate in Effective Executive Management from the Madison Institute; a Certificate in Profit Management from the AHP Providence College; and a Certificate in Not-for-Profit Management from the AHP Providence College.

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The annual Law School event on campus was extended to a two-day fair that took place October 27-28. Students had the opportunity to hear from each of the representatives from the Commonwealth’s law schools, the University of Kentucky, University of Louisville and Northern Kentucky University. The counselors shared information on the application process, best practices for taking the LSAT and what applicants might expect from each of their respective schools.

The fair also featured an All-Star panel of professionals from the Owensboro legal community who discussed working in the legal profession and answered inquiries from those in attendance. The panel included Honorable Thomas O. Castlen and Honorable Henry M. Griffin III, both from the Daviess Circuit Court; Jesse E. Offill, with Cooley Farley, representing the Kentucky Department of Public Advocacy; David also serves as an adjunct faculty member of Brescia University.

“The purpose of this event is to help individuals think through details of the legal profession, ask questions and learn more about the educational opportunities available to them in Kentucky and surrounding states. This event is open each year to anyone who may not be certain of what profession they want to go into. By learning more about the legal profession, individuals may find a new career path for themselves,” stated Dr. Allen Gehring, Brescia University Assistant Professor of Philosophy.

New to the fair this year were the prestigious Indiana University, University of Louisville and SIU Carbondale who participated in the Graduate School Fair that took place on the second day.

Law School Day: Five Schools, Two Days and One All-Star Panel

Constitution Day

In the midst of Homecoming week, the Brescia University family took a moment to commemorate Constitution Day with the help of attorneys Charlie Kamuf, Brescia University Trustee, and Charlie Moore. The two members of the Owensboro legal community took sides on the recent Supreme Court case involving Hobby Lobby, presenting both sides of the ruling that was determined earlier in the summer. Students, faculty and staff were in attendance.

Hugh Johnson, Database Administrator
Kristopher Jernigan, Maintenance
Sarah Beth Tanner, Assistant Coach
David Ralph, Assistant Coach
Logan Stull, Admissions Counselor
Veronica Horton, Housekeeping
Sasha Hodsakin, Mailroom Clerk
Trevor Rollie, Assistant Coach
Jayme Walters, Grant Writer, Special Assistant to the President
Kaye Castlen, Student Support Services Director
Sagan Sette, Admissions Counselor

Promotions
Helen Bennett, Director of Career Services
Stephanie Clay, Director of Institutional Research and Effectiveness
Jake Davis, Director of Annual Giving
Sac Duncan, Director of Resident Life
Tracy Naylor, Vice President for Institutional Advancement
Britton Hibbitt, Curriculum Resources Center Coordinator

Take Brescia With You Wherever You Go

When renewing your vehicle registration, check out the new Brescia University license plate, available at your local County Clerk’s office. Whether you are a current plate holder or not, trade your existing plate for a new Brescia plate. Any owner of a non-commercial motor vehicle under 10,000 lbs registered for use on Kentucky highways is eligible to purchase the new license plate. The initial cost is forty-four dollars and that cost is due each time a new plate is issued. The annual renewal cost is thirty-one dollars. Ten dollars of the initial issuance fee and renewal fee will go towards a general scholarship fund for Brescia. We cannot wait to see Barney on the roadways! For more information, visit http://www.aikcu.org/

Additions
Jacob Adler, Assistant Professor of Biology
Robert Boyce, Instructor of Marketing
Kayla Crusie, Director of Public Relations and Marketing
Jon Evans, Head Men’s Soccer Coach
Dan Mariscal, Head Women’s Soccer Coach
Todd Palmer, Director of Social Work
Janett Williams, Assistant Professor of Computer Science
Jeffrey Barnette, Associate Academic Dean for Online Programs
Shannon Skortz, Data Manager
Parker Scarboro, Assistant Coach
Lori Ferguson, Administrative Assistant
Van Jernigan, Maintenance
Daniel Kury, BlOline Academic Advisor
Kristie Coomes, BlOline Advisor
Stacie Morris, Housekeeping
Connor Rutherford, Maintenance
Rebecca Wood, Academic Records Database Administrator
Eric Schneider, Assistant Coach

New Faces on Campus

We had the opportunity to add a number of individuals to the Brescia family this year, as well as the privilege of celebrating the promotions of those who are familiar to our campus.

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AROUND CAMPUS

Fall Festival

The 2014 Fall Festival drew a large crowd of community members to the Campus Center on Friday, October 10. An annual event hosted by the Student Activities Program Board, the fall festival seeks to celebrate the fall season by hosting the Owensboro community on Brescia’s campus.

Festival activities included inflatables, crafts, face painting, games and other fall fun, all provided free of charge.

“This year’s Fall Festival was very successful but it would not have been possible without the help from our Brescia Student Organizations and several staff members,” stated Patricia Lovett, Director of Student Activities & Leadership Development. “This is one of my favorite events because it is a great way to welcome Owensboro Community to Brescia University. And for many families in attendance this maybe the only Fall Festival their children get to participate in because the admission was free.” The event saw approximately 225 children and parents in attendance.

Soup for Saint Paul’s Mission

Brescia University’s School of Social Work hosted its annual Soup Day on Thursday, November 13. Students, faculty, staff, alumni, community members and even Channel 14 News packed the Ramold Center, lining up to enjoy homemade soup, bread and desserts.

For more than a decade, social work majors have traveled to Crown Point, New Mexico to complete a practicum experience at St. Paul’s mission. The students reside at the mission and work as interns in social service agencies that serve the Navajo families and children. Proceeds from the Soup Day go to help provide gifts for these families.

This year, the event raised nearly $2,100. Thank you to those who were able to attend this year’s event.

AWARDS SUMMARY

Brescia University Adds to List of Distinctions in 2014

It has been an award-winning year for the university! From being honored for various aspects the Brescia Difference, to being selected for our commitment to military students, Brescia has been recognized nationally by various prestigious organizations and publications.

Prestige at a Glance…
College of Distinction

Brescia University is one of a select group of colleges to earn this designation, based on excellence in Four Distinctions: engaged students, great teaching, vibrant campus communities and successful outcomes. The College of Distinction looks beyond rankings and test scores to find colleges that are the ideal places to learn, grow and succeed. The selection process reviews such factors as the school’s five-year experience, general education program, experimental components of the curriculum, the strategic plan and alumni success and satisfaction.

“Best Value School” by University Research and Review

A rigorous selection process that began with an examination of nearly 8,000 postsecondary institutions listed Brescia University on a list of twenty colleges selected by the University Research and Review. In addition to the diversity of programs and the cost to attend, the Selection and Nominating Committee look at default and retention rates and whether a school serves students well while adhering to its mission.

“A Best College in the Southeast” by the Princeton Review

The Princeton Review, a nationally-known education services company recommended Brescia as one of 138 institutions in twelve Southeastern states on its “Best in the Southeast” list for 2015. Editors narrowed their choices based on institutional data the Company collected directly from hundreds of colleges in each region, staff visits to schools over the year and the opinions of college counselors and advisors whose recommendations the Company invites.

“Best Regional College in the South” by U.S. News & World Report

Schools in U.S. News and World Report’s 2015 edition of “America’s Best Colleges” focus on the undergraduate experience and offer a broad range of programs in the liberal arts and in fields such as business, nursing and education. Schools are grouped based on categories created by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching and rankings are based on several measures of quality: Graduation and Retention Rates, Assessment of Excellence, Faculty Resources, Student Selectivity, Financial Resources, Graduation Rate Performance, and Alumni Giving. Scores are based on data submitted by institutions as well as peer review opinion.

President’s Volunteer Service Award

For the second year in a row, the University received this honor for its service, commitment and dedication to Junior Achievement of Western Kentucky. This award is issued by the White House and the President’s Council on Service and Civic Participation for the 2013-2014 school year. Brescia had a total of 12 volunteers who committed 520 hours with JA.

Victory Media Inc.’s Military Friendly Schools® List

Brescia University ranked among the top 15 percent of colleges, universities and trade schools in the country that are doing the most to embrace military students and dedicate resources to ensure their success in the classroom.

Affordable Colleges Foundation List

BUonline, Brescia University’s alternative learning environment developed for distance learners, earned a number of honors from the Affordable Colleges Foundation. The Foundation uses a proprietary scoring system to evaluate hundreds of colleges and universities to identify those that offer the best online programs based on value, affordability and student satisfaction rates and whether a school serves students well while adhering to its mission.

BUonline was also featured on the list of 35 colleges featured as the Top Colleges for Online Associate Degree Programs. BUonline was also the only school in the Commonwealth of Kentucky to be named one of the Nation’s Best Online Accounting Degrees. 2013, ranking 6th out of a total of 31 colleges.

BUonline was also featured on the list of Top Online Psychology Degrees for 2015.

FACULTY NEWS

Dr. Conrad Toepfer was named a National Academies Education Mentor in the Life Sciences for 2014-2015 academic year. He received this recognition because of his work during the 2014 National Academies Gulf Coast Summer institute on Undergraduate Education held at Louisiana State University.

Dr. Toepfer also gave a poster, “A Cross-Curricular Approach to Complex Biology Topics,” at the conference on Integrating Cognitive Science with Innovative Teaching in the STEM Disciplines at Washington University, St. Louis. In addition, he gave two workshops, “DIY Animation and Teaching Like a Pro in Your First Years,” at the Association of College and University Biology Educators (ACUBE) annual meeting at the University of Portland. While there, he was elected to be on the Steering Committee.

Dr. Allen Gehring presented a paper at the Midudson Philosophy Conference at Rhodes College in Memphis, TN and at the Kentucky Philosophical Association at Western Kentucky University in Bowling Green. He won Brescia University’s Presidential Award for Teaching Innovation and was invited to speak at the Statesmanship Academy at the Wendell H. Ford Government Education Center in Owensboro, KY.

Dr. Gehring also presented a paper at the Tennessee Philosophical Association at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, TN.
On May 10, 2014, friends and family of Brescia University students gathered for commencement at the RiverPark Center. Fellow students, staff, administrators and trustees joined Father Larry Hostetter, President, in sending off the class of 2014. The 103 graduates were addressed by Most Reverend Joseph E. Kurtz, Archbishop of the Diocese of Louisville, Most Reverend William F. Medley, Bishop of the Diocese of Owensboro and their peer Carla Maria Crespo, SGA President and Graduate.

Owensboro and Brescia University welcomed Most Reverend Joseph E. Kurtz D.D., the fourth Archbishop and ninth bishop of the Archdiocese of Louisville, who delivered the commencement address and received an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree from Brescia.

**BY THE NUMBERS**

Undergraduate Studies:
- Associate of Arts-2
- Associate of Science-4
- Bachelor of Arts-21
- Bachelor of Science-35
- Bachelor of Social Work-37

Graduate Studies:
- Master of Business Administration-3
- Master of Science in Curriculum and Instruction-1

**TOTAL:** 103

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Mud Volleyball

As the week wound down, the homecoming festivities were just beginning on Friday, September 19. Firemen could be seen early in the morning hosing down the volleyball court, preparing for the muddy battle that would ensue. Teams went head to head in a tournament style competition battling for the victory, representing various clubs, organizations and classes. The William H. Thompson School of Business hosted a cookout, feeding spectators dodging the mud and muck.

Alumni Association Annual Meeting

The Alumni Association welcomed alumni and Society of the Arch members with a blue carpet style reception, and Barney the Bearcat greeted them for a photo op. Attendees shared memories and laughs and the Alumni Association honored Sister Sharon Sullivan ‘75 with the Father Saffer Award and Jim Weafer ‘02 with the Outstanding Alumni Award. Guests were then entertained by the “Brescia’s Got Talent/Campus Capers” show. Students and faculty showcased their “talents” for the crowd and “celebrity” judges.

Chariot Races

Saturday morning dawned with the ring of the “Brescia Bell” as teams warmed up for the annual Chariot Races. After a hard fought battle, a host of alumni, ninja turtles and dragons fell to a team of international students proudly displaying their colors as they raced to victory. Their names will forever remain on the “Brescia Bell” as the 2014 champions.

An Afternoon at Kamuf Park

The afternoon drew attendees to Kamuf Park to watch the Men’s and Women’s Soccer teams in action. Ashley Dell ’06 and Andrew Howard ’11 were inducted into the Athletic Hall of Fame. Italo Arruda and Jordan King were crowned as the 2014 Homecoming King and Queen.
Distinguished Alumni Honored at Ceremony

Since its origins as the Mount Saint Joseph Junior College for Women in 1925, Brescia University has sought not only to provide a student centered education, but to produce graduates that use their talents and skills to build successful careers, nourish strong families and make a difference in the lives of others, the life of the Church and the life of their community. In 2000, the university established a prestigious award to be presented to those graduates that embody the very mission of the institution and its Ursuline Legacy.

Like every aspect of our university, this award seeks to honor the spirit of St. Angela Merici that has driven the work and lives of the Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph, and inspired the rich tradition and roots of Brescia University. More than 50 graduates have been awarded the Distinguished Alumni title, the highest honor the university bestows. Each year, during the Homecoming festivities, alumni, faculty and staff gather to salute the inductees at the annual Distinguished Alumni banquet.

The 2014 Distinguished Alumni featured three graduates from very different walks of life; Chief Art Ealum ’06, Sister Vivian Marie Bowles ’68, OSU, EdD and Rick Higdon ’86. These individuals exemplify the Brescia Difference: Respect for the Sacred, Devotion to Learning, Commitment to Growth in Virtue and Promotion of Servant Leadership.

A record number of university faculty, staff, alumni and friends were in attendance to enjoy a dinner and remarks from the recipients.

Brescia Honors Veterans with Ceremony at Shelton Memorial Riverfront

The ties that bind Brescia’s rich history together are entwined with those of our nation’s veterans, dating back to 1950 when the institution was founded by the Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph. Immediately following World War II, community leaders requested the Ursuline Sisters offer classes in downtown Owensboro to accommodate veterans returning home from war. This led to the creation of a second campus of the Mount Saint Joseph Junior College for Women. Consolidation of the two campuses formed what is now the present-day location of Brescia University.

The connection to our nation’s military service men and women does not stop there, but fades into the current student body at Brescia. Approximately 60 current students are military veterans, and at least three students are on active duty, attending classes through BUonline.

Homecoming proved the perfect opportunity to blend the past, present and future by honoring those graduates and current students that have served in our armed forces. Members of the community joined students, faculty and staff at Shelton Memorial Riverfront for a ceremony that featured remarks from Father Larry Hostetter, Honorable Ron Payne, Mayor of the City of Owensboro, 1972 alum and United States Navy Veteran, and Honorable Al Mattingly, Daviess County Judge Executive, 1969 Brescia alum and United States Army Veteran.

“The 60’s were a difficult time as the country was in the middle of the Cold War and engaged in terrible conflict in Southeast Asia. The war was unpopular and poorly managed, and as a result returning service men and women were made to feel ashamed of their service, much of which occurred on campuses of our colleges and universities. Brescia was different,” stated Owensboro Mayor Ron Payne, during his speech. “I was never made to feel ashamed on campus but was welcomed by faculty and students. Sure there were protests against the war, but not those fighting it. Brescia has been committed to serving the men and women of our armed forces since 1928. I am proud of my service in the United States Navy but I am also just as proud to be a graduate of Brescia College.”

The flag flown during the ceremony was recently flown in Afghanistan in honor of Brescia University and Michael Yates ’05, who is currently serving as Brigade Psychologist for C Co 526 Brigade Support Battalion. 101st Airborne Division.

“The future is bright in this community because of Brescia University. The future is bright because of the students who have attended the college and received a liberal arts education. I can tell you today, that I have every confidence in the world that the future of our children and our children’s children will be brighter than the future we experienced all because of institutions like Brescia and the opportunity to gain an education that is unparalleled throughout this state, throughout this nation and dare I say throughout the world,” said Daviess County Judge Executive Al Mattingly.

Those in attendance were invited to light candles honoring those who have served. The candles will burn at the All Soul’s Day mass in honor of those being remembered.
Recent Brescia University graduate and Lady Bearcats golfer, Schyler Pentecost from Greenville, Kentucky, received the NAIA National Champion of Character Award for displaying exemplary character and sportsmanship on the golf course, on campus, and in the community, displaying the core values of Integrity, Respect, Responsibility, Sportsmanship and Servant Leadership.

This award was presented May 26th at the NAIA Women’s National Championship banquet in Lincoln, Nebraska. Pentecost was selected from among all the individual female golfers from 160 colleges and universities.

“Receiving the National Champion of Character Award is a tremendous honor because I learned how important servant leadership is in every aspect of life – from my education and from my sport (golf),” stated Pentecost. “I strive to demonstrate leadership on and off the golf course. Golf, as well as life experiences, has taught me the core values of Integrity, Respect, Responsibility, Sportsmanship and Servant Leadership and how to apply them to everyday life. I had the experience of a lifetime being able to go to Nationals my senior year.”

This was the first time that the Women’s golf team had qualified for Nationals since 2001 and the team tied for 24th place with a 3-day total of 1068. The team consisted of Abbey Zehner, Nicole Burks, Courtney Lucas, Taylor Holley and Pentecost.

Pentecost graduated in May 2014 with a Bachelor of Arts degree with an emphasis in Studio Art. During her four years at Brescia she served in a multitude of ways; including the Student Activities Program Board, Student Government Association and was the student representative to the Board of Trustees, served as an Orientation Leader, Student Ambassador for the Office of Admissions, a Peer Educator, and was a member of the National Society of Leadership and Success.

Pentecost is currently serving as an Admissions Counselor for Brescia.

Schyler Pentecost Earns National Award

You can find rosters, schedules and daily news stories on the Bearcats by visiting www.bresciabearcats.com. Be sure to sign up for their SMS subscription and follow them on Facebook and Twitter!
In gratitude to my parents for boosting me I want to help boost up the ladder the next generation...
Fr. Tony Shonis

Brescia University is proud to announce the creation of two new endowed scholarship funds. Through the establishment of these two funds, donors have chosen to create a perpetual legacy for their lost loved ones that will benefit generations of students to come. In both of these new scholarships, the legacy for the honoree is particularly strong because the student group that each fund will serve has been chosen to highlight an area of concern that was specifically important to the named love ones whom they honor. These scholarships, once fully funded, will be added to the list of endowed scholarships that Brescia University awards each year to deserving students.

The Margaret "Peggy" Mangas and Melinda "Mindy" Pudgett Special Education Scholarship fund was created through an anonymous donation to pay tribute to the life of an amazing woman. Peggy Mangas, a 1977 graduate from then Brescia College, dedicated her life to the service of those with special needs. Her permanent foster daughter, Mindy Pudgett, had cerebral palsy, and those close to the pair speak fondly of Peggy’s dedication to Mindy. In fact, Peggy passed away last spring only two months after losing Mindy to pneumonia. Teaching and serving the community, along with caring for Mindy and those with disabilities, was a testament to her life and dedication that this fund will pay tribute to.

The Margaret "Peggy" Mangas Scholarship is part of the immigrant legacy. The first generation boosts the second generation and the second boost the third. My grandparents could barely read and write but both my parents finished high school. My sister went to college and is a math teacher, my other sister finished business school and opened her own business and my brother is a veterinarian and I am a priest. Tony and Seconda Shonis worked long and hard to boost their children to the next level just as their parents did for them a generation before.

It was brought home to me that there are only two ways you can work your way up the ladder in the United States: education or learn a trade and join a good union. In gratitude to my parents for boosting me I want to help boost up the ladder the next generation and I can think of no better way to do this than funding a Brescia scholarship in honor of Anthony J. and Seconda E. Shonis, my hardworking, selfless parents.

For more information on these endowed scholarships, please contact Sydney Warren at Sydney.warren@brescia.edu.

Brescia Ties Serve Future Generations of Students
by Sydney Warren, Director of Major Giving

CO.STARTERS Program GRADUATE FIRST COHORT IN THE COMMONWEALTH
by Helen Bennett

This semester I had the privilege of playing a key role in an exciting new program offered by Brescia University. In May 2014 Brescia University, the Greater Owensboro Economic Development Corporation (EDC), and the Kentucky Innovation Network partnered to offer CO.STARTERS, a nationally renowned business development program, to Greater Owensboro. CO.STARTERS is a platform to help communities grow local business. This nine-week program equips aspiring entrepreneurs with the insights, relationships, and tools needed to turn business ideas into action.

At the time of the announcement many of the details were yet to be defined. As the program administrator I took the lead to engage many in the business community to set up the infrastructure required to assure the program would be successful. It was a great honor meeting and talking with so many business leaders who wanted to be a part of CO.STARTERS program in one way or another. From these discussions Guest Speakers and Mentors were identified.

After a training session in July 2014 a Facilitator was identified. John Jurkiewicz, President of Jurkiewicz Consulting, became the first facilitator of the first CO.STARTERS cohort in the state of Kentucky. John has forty years’ experience in operations, human resource management, and business coaching. He was the right person, with the right credentials for the role of Facilitator.

The next challenge was to recruit participants. There was a tremendous response from Brescia University students and alumni as well as from the Owensboro community.

The cohort began with 9 “STARTERS” (participants). There was great excitement each Thursday evening as we gathered at the Centre for Business and Research on Allen Street close to Brescia’s campus. There was a great mix of talents and experiences in the room and the ideas ranged from making furniture to photography to property management to an innovative irrigation product. Each week built upon the previous week and we everything from knowing your market to why legal stuff matters to setting up a good accounting system.

The cohort ended with 4 “STARTERS” presenting on week 9, Pitch Night. The presentations were observed by 6 guests including Brescia’s President, Fr. Larry and the Vice President of the EDC, Joe Berry and representatives from U.S. Bank, Pure Barro and Aquascape Pool & Spa. The feedback to each of the 4 “STARTERS” was positive and encouraging. Each received tips on their presentations and suggestions of how to take their ideas to the next level. I am confident we will have a business owner emerge from this first cohort.

I received great feedback from all of the participants. One STARTER stated, “I feel this class is perfect for me, very well presented, and truly something I need to completely grasp. Thank you very much for presenting this class.” Another STARTER was already 1 year into his business and credited CO.STARTERS with rejuvenating him. He said, “I was reenergized by the cohort. I remembered why I wanted to start my business and regained focus on my business goals.”

I’d like to publicly thank the following individuals who agreed to speak to the cohort and share their business stories, challenges and life lessons: Ken Stock, Vice President of Operations at Kemergy, Mike Edge, Business Development and Sales for Upright Communications, Ed Hodkins, Attorney at Thacker, Bickel, Hodkins & Thacker, L.L.P., Rick Higlon, Advisor – Ernst & Young, Bobby Huff, Tax Sensor with Rinney Hancock CPA’s PSC., Kyle Gorman, General Manager and Fred Emory, Director of Business Development for Gorman and Associates, Jason Kyle, Co-founder of Red Pixel, Inc. Being the first CO.STARTERS cohort in the state of Kentucky we have learned a great deal and are confident some of the changes we are planning to make will only make this experience more meaningful to all who participate. We have many new ideas for the future of this program and are excited as we look forward to planning for the spring.

The second cohort is currently underway, with sessions being held on campus at Brescia University every Tuesday and Thursday afternoon. For more information on CO.STARTERS and to learn about upcoming cohorts, contact Program Administrator, Helen Bennett, at helen.bennett@brescia.edu or 270-315-4331.

The Anthony J. and Seconda E. Shonis Minority Scholarship fund was created by Fr. Tony Shonis with the story of his parents:

"The story of the scholarship I started for my mother and father begins in the ‘old country’. My mother’s parents came from Italy and my father’s from Lithuania. Both my grandfathers were coal miners and both died miserable deaths from miner’s asthma (black lung). Both Seconda and Tony Shonis worked in factories, mother in a dress factory and my father in a bakery. I come from a blue collar, union, hardworking middle class family.

The Shonis Minority Scholarship is part of the immigrant legacy. The first generation boosts the second generation and the second boost the third. My grandparents could barely read and write but both my parents finished high school. My sister went to college and is a math teacher, my other sister finished business school and opened her own business and my brother is a veterinarian and I am a priest. Tony and Seconda Shonis worked long and hard to boost their children to the next level just as their parents did for them a generation before.

It was brought home to me that there are only two ways you can work your way up the ladder in the United States: education or learn a trade and join a good union. In gratitude to my parents for boosting me I want to help boost up the ladder the next generation and I can think of no better way to do this than funding a Brescia scholarship in honor of Anthony J. and Seconda E. Shonis, my hardworking, selfless parents.”

Ties Serve Future Generations of Students
by Sydney Warren, Director of Major Giving
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Brescia on the Brink of a Bright Future

Since its origins as the Mount Saint Joseph Junior College for Women in 1925, Brescia University has had a single overarching goal – Student centered education as directed by the four pillars of its mission: Catholic, Liberal Arts, Career Preparation, and Service to Others. Inspired by St. Angela Merici, the faculty and staff of Brescia University have aimed to understand the unique needs of contemporary students and to address those needs with an education customized to the individual student. The result? Values driven graduates who use their talents and skills to build successful careers, to nourish strong families and make a difference in the lives of others, the life of the Church, and the life of the community.

In the 89 years since the founding of that small junior college in Western Daviess County, Brescia has faced incredible challenges and changes, including but not limited to a move to Owensboro in 1948, a name change, the expansion of higher education opportunities in Owensboro, the addition of graduate programs, the elevation to university status and the evolution of online learning. The “Great Recession” was the most recent test of Brescia’s ability to continue to adapt in the increasingly complex environment of higher education. This test too was passed with notable success.

Brescia is now on the brink of its future facing a bright future. On Saturday, October 25, students, faculty and staff joined alumni and community partners on campus to announce and celebrate the kickoff of a $10 million capital campaign for the university, the largest fundraising effort in the history of the institution. “The Campaign for Brescia University: Gateway to Our Second Century” will take place over the next five years and the funding will provide for many enhancements to the campus.

The vision that drives the campaign comes as a result of long conversations with faculty, staff and students and will seek to meet the current needs of the institution, as well as position Brescia to excel in the years to come. A Master Plan set forth by the Board of Trustees, the President and his Cabinet, as well as a Steering Committee outlines a strategic plan to address the enrollment growth and the needs of modern day learning:

Enrollment Growth:
Since 2007, the undergraduate degree seeking population has grown by 135% and the first-time full-time growth has grown by 69%. The online population has grown by 385% since 2009. For the first time since the 1960’s undergraduate degree seeking headcount has surpassed 1,000.

Residential Life Growth:
A record number of resident students has stretched the residence hall capacity. This issue must be addressed.
Continued Expansion of Online Learning:
An increasing number of non-traditional students seek online learning. Brescia must provide these students with an educational experience that maximizes the use of modern technology while maintaining personal relationships.

Increased Competitive Nature of Higher Education:
Students have more choices and competing interests when selecting a college. Brescia must provide the essential services deemed important by the 21st century learner.

The Changing Face of Downtown Owensboro:
As a landmark institution that serves as the gateway to downtown Owensboro, Brescia is committed to playing an important role in Owensboro’s revitalization effort.

The campaign will support the construction of a new structure on campus and the renovation of current buildings. The new building on the corner of Frederica and 9th street will house the Schools of Education, Business and Social Work. It will also feature innovative classrooms and technology centers, a Digital Studio for Innovative Learning, a modern art gallery, community theatre space and much more. The building will give a new face to the university and serve as a landmark for the entrance to downtown Owensboro.

With the increase of the number of students on campus, a critical piece of the master plan addresses renovations to the Campus Center and Residence Halls. The 26-year-old Campus Center will house an expanded cafeteria and modern exercise and wellness center with the goal to create a vibrant center for student life and leadership education.

While this is a challenge for the University, it is a challenge to be celebrated as over $8.3 million has already been pledged. The first phase of the campaign construction is expected to begin this summer. While there is still $1.7 million left to raise, it’s the passion and promise of the university that will enable the university to be reborn, renewed and prepared to meet the needs of the 21st century and beyond. Brescia’s story is far from completed, a new chapter is about to begin.

If you are interested in contributing to the campaign or becoming involved in the effort, please contact the Institutional Advancement office at 270.686.2101 or 2ndcentury@brescia.edu.

The kickoff night celebrated the rich tradition of the institution’s history, rooted in the Ursuline Legacy and in its origin in Mount Saint Joseph Junior College for Women. As a tribute to the foundation of the university, guests enjoyed an alfresco dining experience that featured a modern street fair made up of flavors representing important pieces of the history provided by local downtown partners.

Faculty, Staff, Alumni and students alike took to the stage throughout the night to share their part of Brescia’s story and to celebrate the pledges that have been made to the campaign, thanking those that have laid a significant foundation for the university’s future.
In May of last year, six Brescia students had an opportunity to travel abroad to Central Europe for 12 days. The great adventure began in Budapest (Hungary), continued over the rivers and through the mountains to Krakow (Poland), Prague (Czech Republic), and Vienna (Austria). Kathy Keller, one of Brescia students, reports on the trip:

For transfer and off-campus students, making friends in the tight-knit family we call Brescia can be difficult. But it wasn’t so in the class preceding the study abroad trip. All of our pre-trip fears were looked at, analyzed, and set straight in a way that was neither invasive nor judging — the way it should be but seldom is. Having the class before the trip also guaranteed a friend to talk to on the long flights to Europe.

Budapest was beautiful. Getting there in time for dinner and bedtime was perfect. Our grouchy selves didn’t have to be friendly with the locals for too long before climbing into nice comfortable beds. Fully refreshed and with little to no jet lag, the next morning couldn’t have been better. Our only complaint was the lack of time to spend in this great city.

As beautiful as Budapest was, Krakow was even better. Now accustomed to walking, we took advantage of exploring European history on foot. We saw old castles, and even older salt mines. And our most impactful and memorable experience
happened just outside of Krakow: a visit to Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camp.

I have learned about WWII and the concentration camps almost every year in school, but reading about it doesn’t compare to actually seeing it.

The day itself was dreary—dark and rainy. “Arbeit macht frei” (German for “work makes you free”) really does stand over the entrance. I hadn’t thought before about what it was like to walk under that sign and know without a doubt that millions of others had walked under it, too, and never walked out.

As we study WWII history, we see pictures of bodies, hair, shoes, pans, brushes. Those pictures do NOT do justice to the actual sites. Seeing the piles of brushes was horrible, but even that was small in comparison to walking through the mounds of shoes and hair. The hair really got to me. And then the shoes. All the shoes, no two alike, and then to think they each had a sister.

Birkenau was massive. And worse, it had a smell. I don’t know what that smell really was, nor can I describe it, but in my overactive imagination, it smelled as it did 70 years ago: of burned bodies, of people dying in pain and humiliation, of the non-existent value of human life, and of the infinite brutality of human nature.

Three months later, as I write this, I can’t think of that day without sobbing. And I am not ashamed. Those people deserve a tear now and again. For the old ones, for the young, for the people who tried to help.

The day, however, ended on a happy and positive note in the hometown of Pope John Paul II and the famous “Pope cake.” OMG! Oh, we can’t exit Poland without mentioning pierogi. I have had those frozen ones you can get at the grocery store and liked them, but nothing can compare to the real thing. I could have eaten them at every meal for at least a week. We entered Prague on a Sunday and got to take our first tram into the Old Town. The Old Town Prague is amazing! The young buildings were 200 years old! And I am so glad we took our tired selves into town the very first night there. The square was as deserted as it gets, I imagine, and that was a pleasant stray from what had become the packed city viewing the next day.

Our shortest drive brought us to Vienna. On our first night there, we went to see Rossini’s opera, the Cinderella, at the National Opera House. It was amazing. It was in Italian and subtitles were available but the singers were so good that I couldn’t look at the subtitles. The night concluded with a trip to the Sacher Hotel with its famous Sacher Torte! I must say—

This trip was over and beyond what I expected it to be. And the travel bug has bitten me hard.

Overall, this trip was over and beyond what I expected it to be. And the travel bug has bitten me hard. I hope I can afford to continue traveling and I am trying to think of ways to travel as a job.

Stay tuned for the next issue of Brescia Now to hear another student’s account of the May 2015 trip to London and Paris.
Students Published in Online Academic Journal

A group of 16 Brescia University science students, some of whom are now graduates, completed a nine-page interdisciplinary senior seminar research paper entitled, “Inadvertent Sequestration of Water - Are Humans Disrupting The Water Cycle?”. The paper was picked up and published last June in The Blue Water Institute’s most recent online journal of Leadership and Organizational Effectiveness.

The students conducted a pilot study to “determine if a group of adults inadvertently behaves in a way that removes water from the water cycle.” The results stunned the students when they considered the amount potentially wasted at larger venues. Their recommendations from this study include educating others about the finite resource of water and encouraging those who drink bottled water to empty the bottle and remove the cap prior to discarding or recycling. You can read the entire journal online at Blue Water Institute. http://www.thebluewaterinstitute.com

Genetics Students Perform Experiment with Researchers at UofL Cancer Center

In November, Genetics Students performed an important research study on plants and their ability to respond to the stress that they undergo upon foreign protein/drug insertion. These plants are used by researchers to produce drugs like those that are being used to treat Ebola and the study sought to provide a better platform for producing these types of drugs in the future.

BU 101 Students Practice Servant Leadership

BU 101 is a course on campus that concentrates on the first year experience of the students, demonstrating the importance of mission and servant leadership. Each class is encouraged to establish Community Partners who they can collaborate with in an effort to give back.

On Thursday, October 23rd, a group of Brescia students enrolled in BU 101 visited Hager Preschool in Owensboro. During their time with the children, they enjoyed getting to know students and reading with them. This same group of students spent time in August cleaning up landscaping around the school.

On Saturday, November 1, ten students participated in “Build-a-Bed”, sponsored by First Baptist Church. This project seeks to deliver beds to children in the Owensboro area that do not have a bed to sleep in. Each child who receives a bed – complete with a mattress, sheets and blankets – also receives a Bible story book, a stuffed bed toy and personal hygiene items. The students divided into two teams, completed a bed, and even had the opportunity to deliver a bed to a 7-year-old girl.
Brescia Students Bring History to Life

While the Owensboro Community enjoyed a host of activities to commemorate the Civil War in February, four Brescia students had the opportunity to live it. Lutisha Buckner, English major from Louisville, Kentucky, portrayed Leah Cabble, wife of Samuel Cabble, an escaped slave who served with the 55th Massachusetts Infantry. Jamie Alvey, English major from Munfordville, Kentucky, portrayed Sarah Ballou, wife of Sullivan Ballou, Judge Advocate of the Rhode Island Militia. Kody Hughes, an education major from Hardinsburg, Kentucky, portrayed Christian Fleetwood, free Black man from Baltimore, Maryland and member of the U.S. Colored Infantry, Fourth Regiment, Company G. Jacob Whitfil, Business Management major from Hardinsburg, portrayed Federal soldier in Battle of Sacramento reenactment.

"I have always been interested in acting and portraying characters and I jumped at the chance to play a character from a specific time period. It was something new and challenging for me," stated Jamie Alvey, who portrayed Sarah Ballou. "It was neat to be able to get out of the classes and obtain some real world acting experiences. It helped me understand my craft much more than I did before. Every new challenge that comes with my theatre minor is a blessing and it all helps contribute to my growing knowledge on the craft. I try to learn a little bit from everything I do here. It’s an immensely beautiful thing to be able to work with such talented and enthusiastic people and professors."

For one student, the travel back in time did not end at the Museum. After seeing the student’s performance at “The Civil War: A Kentucky Perspective”, individuals involved in the Battle of Sacramento, a reenactment co-sponsored by the McLean County Fiscal Court and the City of Sacramento that commemorates the original battle on December 28, 1861, invited the Brescia University Theatre Troupe to join their reenactment held in May. Jacob Whitfil jumped at the chance to open yet another portal to the past and participated in various commemorative events throughout the day.

"Jacob arrived at the battleground and was quickly adopted by the other men who outfitted him in an authentic Federal uniform, provided a real gun for him to use, fed him from their campground stew pots and assigned him a battlefield role that required him to be wounded and patched up by a field medic. I have to say Jacob was a hit in Sacramento!" stated Belinda Thomson, Professor of Speech and Drama. "I have directed Jacob in a variety of creative activities over the past couple of years so I am aware of his talent and capabilities. It was a treat for me to observe rather than direct him at the Battle of Sacramento because he was performing in a different context and with people he met that day. I look forward to more creative activities with Jacob."

Brescia Commitment to Service Continues

The Class of 2018 dedicated Day of Service to the community as part of their orientation in the fall. New students, peer mentors and advisors – more than 170 in total – began at 9:00 am and visited a variety of community organizations, lending a helping hand. Organizations included: Habitat for Humanity, the Daniel Pittino Shelter, Oasis Women’s Shelter, St. Vincent de Paul, the Hager Preschool, the Daviess County Animal Shelter and the Western Kentucky Botanical Garden.

Honors College Students’ Learning Extends Beyond the Classroom

After the initial launch of the redesigned Honors College Program in 2013, enrolled students had the chance to travel to Indianapolis and Atlanta as part of the travel opportunities that are embedded within the program.

Biochemistry Students attend Symposium

On Friday, October 3rd. Biochemistry students had the opportunity to attend a day-long Symposium at the University of Louisville to learn more about signaling that takes place on the membrane of our cells. This Midwest Membrane Trafficking and Signaling Symposium highlights the importance of the signaling as it relates to health and disease prevention. The Symposium was co-organized by Brescia’s own Dr. Jacob Adler, Assistant Professor of Biology.
Sara Appleby ’05 Appleby is known for transforming her classroom into a variety of “learning environments” to bring lessons to life for her students. This and her skill set as a teacher earned her a spot as one of three “Middle School Teacher of the Year” semifinalists whose nominations were reviewed by a blue-ribbon panel of veteran educators. Nominations were judged based on their teaching philosophies, teaching experience, community involvement and letters of recommendation.

Appleby has served as the language arts teacher at Daviess County Middle School for 12 years, after beginning her teaching career at McLean County High School in 2001.

“Sara Appleby’s personal and professional commitment is to challenge and encourage each student to be better each day, as learners and as individuals,” said DCPS Superintendent Owens Saylor. “She emphasizes improvements in attitude, knowledge and understanding, nurturing passions and growing with integrity, holding her students accountable for their learning and for their character. Students need look no further than their teacher to see an exemplary role model for these expectations. Sara Appleby radiates love for the teaching profession and the students she serves.”

Lyndsay Booker ’11 Booker has joined the RiverPark Center as Accounting Manager. She has an Applied Mathematics and Accounting degree from Brescia, experience in non-profit accounting and has also worked in public accounting.

Devon Cooper ’04 Cooper is currently attending the University of Southern California and will graduate December 2014 with a Master’s of Arts in Teaching TESOL.

Durand Engineer ’05 Durand traveled to the State Soccer Tournament with his Owensboro Catholic Lady Tigers. He finished, finishing as the runner-up. This was the best finish to a season in the history of the school.

Sabrina Grant ’05 Grant officially took up post as the new President of the Alumni Association Board in September.

Sharon Lauffer (Taurman) ’82 After 22 years in her solo Family Medicine office in Corydon, IN, Lauffer has moved on to become a staff physician at Norton Immediate Care Centers located in KY and IN. While she misses watching the babies she had the opportunity to deliver grow up, she is enjoying the time for herself and making memories with her family.

Sister Anita Louise Lowe ’87
On June 21, Sister Anita Louise celebrated her 25th anniversary of her monastic profession as a Sister of Saint Benedict.

George ’69 and Sally ’66 Medley This Brescia couple had the opportunity to witness their daughter, Kathy Medley Sixbey, be inducted into Southern Arkansas University’s Sports Hall of Fame. Kathy, a former Texas All-State basketball player and a two-time All-ASC women’s basketball player, is currently the fourth-leading scorer in Southern Arkansas history. She scored 1,416 points in games played from 1990-1994.

Jonathan Miller ’06 Miller has been selected as the new principal of Graves County Middle School, accomplishing a life-long dream of his. Miller was a member of the school’s first eighth-grade class when the school was first opened after consolidating.

Miller previously taught Language Arts at the school for four years and served on the District Instructional Leadership Team for two years. He also served as the Assistant Principal and Athletic Director for Mayfield Middle School for three years. He is married to wife Jade Miller and has two daughters, Emilee and Kylie.

“Every decision I make as principal will be with the kids’ best interest at heart,” he explained. “My goal is that all 750 of our students will be known as individuals.”

Adria Nassim ’10 As an individual living with autism spectrum disorder, Nassim was a perfect fit to serve on the City of Bloomington Community and Family Resource Department’s Autism Program entitled “Autism Speaks and We Listen, Living with Autism: Diagnosis, Education and Treatment.” Nassim’s personal connection with Autism helped her provide the wise and insightful insight into this disorder that is affecting more people than ever before. The program was held April 1 and was free and open to the public.

Kendal Quinton ’10 Each Daviess County Public School selects and nominates a Teacher of the Year on an annual basis. These teachers are recognized for their unique teaching qualities and innovative practices that support quality teaching and learning in their classrooms. Quinton was selected as the Highland Elementary Teacher of the Year. She serves as an outstanding educator, model and supports “Great Expectations” for all students, every day. Barney the Bearcat had the opportunity to visit Quinton at Highland, congratulating her on her achievement.

Alice Rouse Longtime Murray Ledger & Times Publisher Alice Rouse announced in March her decision to retire from the paper. After working for the newspaper for nearly 40 years, she has become the Publisher Emeritus. She continues to be involved in the community and currently resides in Murray, Kentucky with her husband Bill.

Rouse began working at the Ledger & Times in 1975 as a bookkeeper and was eventually promoted to Publisher in 2001. She was honored as the Murray-Calloway Chamber of Commerce “Citizen of the Year” in 2004, in 2006 she was honored as Outstanding Citizen by the Woodman of the World and a “local hero” by the Susan G. Komen BMW Ultimate Drive in Paducah July 2008. She was one of seven women featured in “Kentucky Monthly” magazine “Fight Like a Girl” article in October 2009.

Rouse has served on various civic, business and charitable boards during her career, including the Kentucky Press Association Board of Directors where she served as president in 2006. She has been named a Kentucky Colonel.

Laura C. Shea ’91 This Bearcat had been on the move, chasing her passion for photography around the globe. She visited Australia and New Zealand in May to polish her photography skills with renowned photographer and photojournalist Greg Newington of Australia. Shea had the opportunity to shoot treasures such as mudslides, kangaroos, koalas, mountains, winding roads and emerald valleys that spanned more than 1,200 miles.

“It’s such a diverse landscape,” she said. “I have traveled quite a few places in the U.S., but New Zealand and Australia have such different terrains — there can be plains, valleys and mountains all within a short distance of each other. It was interesting to see how the people and animals have adapted to the landscape. It was great just to be immersed in that for a time.”

She said that taking the trip helped her rediscover her passion she studied here at Brescia. She chronicled her trip on her blog, which can be found at www.chasingclouds.net.

Courtney Strahan ’05 In July, Strahan was chosen as the next principal of Graves Elementary School. She joined the Graves staff in 2012 as the school’s Curriculum Facilitator after beginning her teaching career in the Owensboro Public School system in 2005 as a sixth grade teacher at Poult Elementary School.

“I am thankful to the Site-Based Council and Dr. Brake for their hard work this summer and for providing me this opportunity. Graves Elementary is a great school surrounded by a great community, and I am excited to be their new principal! In my time here as Curriculum Facilitator, the thing I’ve always loved most is that the students at Graves are so special. This is special to be a part of that environment,” said Strahan.

Graves Elementary School serves approximately 506 students in kindergarten through fourth grade.

J.D. Street ’00 Formerly a resource planning and project performance manager, Street was recently promoted to Director of Corporate Safety at Vectren of Evansville.

Shawn Townsend ’00 After starting at Point Guard for the Bearcats from 1996-2005, Townsend became a Jr. Partner for a financial planning firm in Goshen, UT. Peachtree Planning Corp. In Tennessee, the corporate headquarters for Banks-Townsend Planning Partners is ranked 4th by the Nashville Business Journal for Financial Planning Firms.

Townsend resides in White House, Tennessee but still has a large segment of this business rooted in West Kentucky. He had been married to his wife Rachel for 11 years and has their kids, Makayla, Tucker and Aidan. Townsend is interested in reconnecting with his Brescia family! Reach out in his Shattucks Bank-Townsend Planning Partners, LLC 615.855.3350 office 615.506.1589 cell Shawn.Townsend@peachtreeplanning.com

Andy Varns ’07 Varns has been named the Assistant Soccer Coach for the University of Oklahoma Sooners.

“Andy’s preparedness and attention to detail during the interview process set him apart,” Potter said upon Varns’ hiring. “Andy exudes great character and a personality that will be an invaluable asset to our student-athletes. We are delighted to welcome Andy and his family to our Sooner soccer family.”

Varns was previously an assistant for the Division II women’s program at Rollins College in Winter Park, FL where he spent three seasons helping to guide the program to a 43-12-4 mark and also served as the program’s recruiting coordinator. He also coached the program at Colorado Mesa University.
The Society of the Arch

Was established to recognize gifts of $1,000 or more to the Brescia Annual Fund. As membership in the Society of the Arch has increased, so has our ability to seize opportunities, address priorities, and invest in the areas that are making us first choice for an increasing number of students. Thank you for choosing to invest in Brescia. (+ For Deceased)

The Society of Trustee Associates was created to recognize those individuals who have provided significant ongoing support, both restricted and unrestricted, of $25,000 or more to Brescia University during their lifetime (+ For Deceased)
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Brescia University had the honor of being named a 2015 Chamber Business of the Year as the Education and Workforce Development Program of the Year at the 2015 Annual Dinner. “We’re excited about helping our students achieve the careers they choose,” said the Rev. Larry Hostetter, President of Brescia University. “From my perspective, one of the things we’ve been able to accomplish is to change the way we think about delivering education to address the needs of the 21st-century students—not only online but on ground. We are proud and pleased to be recognized for that.”

Thank you to our alumni, faculty, staff, and community partners for your continued support of our mission. And to our students, you are the reason we do what we do.