

Dominican DATELINE

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Alumnus Invention Wins \$1 Million Google Grant

COMMENCEMENT
REMEMBERING
MICHAEL COFFEY

SUMMER 2016

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Dominican DATELINE

Publisher : Dorothy C. Filoramo, Vice President of Institutional Advancement
Editorial Director : Brett Bekritsky, Director of Marketing and Communications
Managing Editor : Susan Cerra, Director of Communications
Executive Editor : Mary McHugh, Director of Alumni Relations
Contributing Writers : Mary Lichtman, Director of Special Events
Kelly-Ann Di Giulio Light, MSL, Associate Director of Athletics
Clare M. Pennino, Ph.D., Director, Business Administration Division

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Contact Information : Dominican College
Dateline Alumni Magazine
Siena House
470 Western Highway
Orangetown, NY 10962

How to Contact Us : (including address changes)
alumni@dc.edu
845-848-7407

letter from the alumni director

Dear Fellow Alumni,



Hello again fellow alumni! Please join me in welcoming the newly graduated class of 2016 into the ranks of Charger alumni. These young men and women are now part of a network of over 13,000 graduates. These alumni are your allies. Get to know them as soon as possible. They're on your side!

The way we keep this network going, and growing, is through the Dominican College Alumni Association. We want to hear from you. Please send me an email at alumni@dc.edu and let me know where you are and what you're up to, both professionally and personally.

Our Alumni Hall of Achievement honored and welcomed three new members at our 10th Annual Cocktail Reception—**Melissa Lucido, '95** (Excellence), **Edward Astorino, '98** (Leadership), and **Clare McClarnon Steward, '99** (Service). These three alumni have done a wonderful job of carrying on the mission of the College.

In this issue of Dateline, we put the spotlight on **Liliana Lopez, '99, '04**, who was honored at this year's commencement with an honorary degree for her commitment to the College and her community. Liliana is the founder and president of En Su Casa Primary Healthcare, a primary care provider in nearby Spring Valley, NY.

We're also proud to highlight the achievements of **John Damiao, '09**. Recently, John's team at the Center for Discovery received a grant from Google to continue the development of the indieGo, a battery-powered device that John invented to inexpensively turn a standard wheelchair into a motorized one.

On a sad note, we said goodbye to a beloved and popular alumnus, **Michael Coffey, '10**, who lost his fight with Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy after many years. Michael was always such a warm and kind colleague in the Athletic Department. He will be missed by us all.

Once again, congratulations to the class of 2016! We'd love to see you at our upcoming alumni events. All alumni, their families, and friends are welcome to attend the following events:

- ◆ This year's alumni weekend takes place on October 1 – 3, when we host an apple picking event, induct new members into the Athletic Hall of Fame, and have our 19th Annual Alumni Golf Outing.
- ◆ Our very popular Shanangunk Wine Trail event will be held on November 19.
- ◆ On November 30, we'll be running a "Pocketbook Bingo" event, in which we'll be giving away several ladies handbags to some lucky winners.

We look forward to seeing some old friends, and meeting some new ones!

Sincerely,

Mary McHugh, '89, Director of Alumni Relations
845-848-7407 | alumni@dc.edu

Mission Statement

The aim of Dominican College is to promote educational excellence, leadership, and service in an environment characterized by respect for the individual and concern for the community and its needs. Founded by the Dominican Sisters of Blauvelt, the College is an independent institution of higher learning, Catholic in origin and heritage. In the Dominican tradition, it fosters the active, shared pursuit of truth and embodies an ideal of education rooted in the values of reflective understanding and compassionate involvement.

Committed to building its programs upon a strong foundation in the liberal arts and sciences, the College maintains a student-centered climate and serves a diverse community of students in undergraduate and graduate programs. The College empowers this community of learners to excel, lead, serve with integrity, and to engage responsibly in the pursuit of a more just, ethical, and sustainable world.

Dominican College is dedicated to the principle that its educational programs and services must be both challenging and supportive, distinguished both by high standards and by attention to the needs and potential of the individual student. Affirmed and engaged by these standards and values, graduates are prepared for purposeful lives and for the careers and professions they choose to pursue.

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Use #DOSTUFFDC to show your Charger Pride!





COMMENCEMENT

The Class of 2016 was given a challenge during Commencement Exercises at the Westchester County Center on May 22, 2016. President of the Dominican Sisters of Blauvelt, Sr. Catherine Howard, O.P., Ph.D., delivered the Commencement Address and told the graduates that their Dominican education began, rather than ended, that day.

“You see we are lifelong learners, lifelong pursuers of truth, extending compassion, and always committed to service,” Sr. Catherine said. The students were asked to embrace the future with enthusiasm, confidence, imagination, and innovation. “The world needs you. The world needs the Dominican difference. This is your moment. You stand at the beginning of a new era,” she added.

HONORARY DEGREE

Sr. Catherine was awarded an Honorary Degree of Doctor of Humanities during the ceremony for her courageous and inspiring outlook and for the generous use of her talents on behalf of all who have looked to her for wise leadership and judgment.

Sr. Catherine has a long history of leadership in social service roles. She served as Assistant Director of Siena House, a transitional housing program for single mothers and children, and as Founding Director of the Paradise Housing Program, the first short term residential program for HIV infected, addicted, and homeless persons in New York City. She also served as Director of the Ryan White Services in a heavily infected area of New York City. Because of her international experience, Maryknoll Missioners asked her to serve as Executive Director of their Mission Project Series, providing



“The world needs you. The world needs the Dominican difference. This is your moment. You stand at the beginning of a new era.”



data and technical assistance to support projects of 500 church workers in the developing world.

Sr. Catherine earned a doctorate with distinction from the Graduate School of Social Service at Fordham University and has held adjunct positions at Fordham University, the Metropolitan College of New York, and Dominican College.

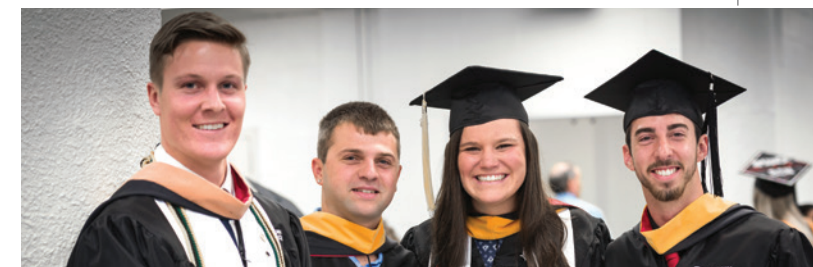
BADAMI OUTSTANDING ALUMNA AWARD

The Badami Outstanding Alumna Award was presented to **Michelle Krupna-Gaylord, Ph.D., '07**. After graduating magna cum laude with Departmental Honors with a B.A. in Biology from Dominican College, where she was a star softball player, Krupna-Gaylord continued her education at New York Medical College. She graduated with a Ph.D. in Microbiology and Immunology in 2012 with high honors and received the Graduate Faculty Council Doctor of Philosophy Award.

Michelle has been awarded two post-doctoral Fellows at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai at both the Immunology Institute and the Department of Medicine between 2012 and 2014. Michelle is now a Senior Biochemist at Siemens Healthcare Diagnostics and an adjunct faculty member at Dominican College. She is married to her college sweetheart Brent Gaylord and they welcomed their first child, Brady Michael, on May 4, just weeks before she attended the Commencement to receive the Badami Award.

VERITAS MEDAL

The 2016 Veritas Medal was presented to Welles Remy Crowther, in memoriam. His parents, Alison and Jefferson, received the medal on his behalf. Crowther—also known as “the man with the red bandana”—is credited with rescuing 18



people from the World Trade Center on 9-11, while wearing his signature red bandana.

Crowther grew up in Rockland and was an honors student and top athlete at Nyack High School. He then attended Boston College where he played varsity lacrosse for four years. After graduation, Crowther became a Series 7 equities trader for Sandler O'Neill & Partners located on the 104th floor of the World Trade Center. On September 11, in the chaos following the impact of United Airlines Flight 175, Crowther searched for survivors and helped to evacuate the dazed and wounded. After saving 18 people, he was last seen heading back into the Tower to continue his rescue efforts. At the age of 24, he selflessly gave his life to save others.

Crowther's parents established the Welles Remy Crowther Charitable Trust to honor his memory. The goal of the trust is to promote academic and athletic excellence, community service, and character development. Among the trust's activities is the Red Bandana Project designed to teach students from elementary to high school the true meaning of love, service, and heroism through such courses as “Leadership, Service, and Humanity.” ■

“With the mural, the buzz words are ‘our history, our life, our legacy.’ This gift is their legacy.”



Pre-Commencement Activity

On the eve of graduation, the Class of 2016 presented the College with a wall mural in the Granito Center depicting student life since the College was founded in 1952. The Senior Class Gift has become an annual tradition at Dominican College and is a way for graduating seniors to show their appreciation to the College.

“With the mural, the buzz words are ‘our history, our life, our legacy.’ This gift is their legacy,” said Sal Pennino, Sr. Advancement Officer, who advised the 10 student members of the Senior Gift Committee.

The mural is on the second floor walkway of the Granito Center above the stairwell and foyer and includes photos of students at the College from the 1950s until today. One of the first photos is of nuns ice skating at the College. One of the last photos is of graduating students taking a selfie.

A short description of each of the photos is included in separate wall panels installed at eye level on the first floor of Granito Center near the entrance.

Recent senior gifts include the Charlie the Charger statue, the Hennessy Center flag pole, and the Alumni Book of Remembrance.

Before the Senior Gift was unveiled, graduating seniors and their families attended a Commencement Mass in St. Dominic’s Convent Chapel. After the unveiling, the Baccalaureate Awards Ceremony was held in the Hennessy Center. ■



BACCALAUREATE AWARDS

**Mother Lawrence Marie Award
for Academic Excellence**
Brett Armand Mitchell, *magna cum laude*

**Sr. Natalie Casey Award
for Academic Excellence**
Katie Ann McLaughlin, *magna cum laude*

**Sr. Michele Nugent Award
for Achievement in the Study
of the General Education Curriculum**
Brittany Ann Austin, *magna cum laude*

STUDENT LEADERSHIP AWARDS FOR 2016

**Sr. Mary Eileen O’Brien Award
for Citizenship and Service
to the College**
Erica Descartes

**Fr. Ronald Stanley Award
for Service to the Community**
Kayla Marie Grodzicki

**Dohn Harshbarger Award
for Outstanding Contribution
to the Life of the College**
Vanessa Maria Lorenzo

Ana Rojas Memorial Award
Destiny Padilla

Outstanding Senior Award
Vanessa Maria Lorenzo

SPOTLIGHT ON
LILIANA LOPEZ
Honorary Degree – Doctor of Science

Helping Immigrants
Get Affordable Healthcare



“I owe the College
a lot and that’s why
anything I can do,
I’m there.”

While working for 10 years as a nurse at Nyack Hospital, Dr. Liliana Lopez, '99, '04, noticed the demographics of Rockland were changing. “I saw how Spring Valley was becoming Latino. A lot of immigrants were coming in and I saw how they were using the emergency room as their primary doctor,” she said. “They didn’t have insurance and were paying \$200 just to be seen by a nurse. I said, ‘I need to be the one helping these people.’”

Four years ago, Dr. Lopez, a nurse practitioner, fulfilled that dream and established En Su Casa Primary Health Care in Spring Valley to primarily serve Spanish-speaking patients who do not have insurance or are underinsured. She started with one exam room and office hours on just two nights a week. Dr. Lopez now has more than 2,100 active patients, four exams rooms, and office hours five days a week, with appointments available during the day, evening, and weekends.

Dr. Lopez’ goal is to change the mindset of the Latino immigrants she serves, by educating them about preventative health care—teaching them about the importance of proper nutrition, regular exercise, and routine medical exams. “They think that because they are working full-time and have two or three jobs, there is no time to go to the doctor,” she said. “They wait until the last minute when they are very sick and they go to the emergency room.”

Dr. Lopez insists that all first-time patients be given a complete physical because many have undiagnosed medical conditions, such as diabetes or high cholesterol. She works with a lab to negotiate an affordable price for her patients.

During Dominican College’s Commencement Exercises on May 22, 2016, Dr. Lopez received an honorary degree, Doctor of Science, for her unwavering commitment to deliver the best health care to her patients, regardless of their financial means, her dedication to excellence in the nursing profession, and her enthusiasm to mentor young nurses to follow in her footsteps.

It has been a long journey for Dr. Lopez, but she said she always believed that anything was possible and that is how she has lived her life. She came to America as a Colombian immigrant at age 10 with her divorced mom, struggled to learn English, and dropped out of high school, earning a GED instead. Lopez then got married and stayed home with her three children. Nevertheless, she knew there was a career in her future. “I always knew I wanted to do something. I had the potential,” she said.

At 30 years old, Lopez attended Rockland Community College to earn an Associates Nursing Degree. She graduated at the top of her class, earning the Hispanic Student Achievement Leadership Award. Years later, while working as Director of Nursing at a local residential treatment center for adolescents, she decided to further her education at Dominican College, earning her Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing in 1999 and later her Master of Science degree in Nursing in 2004, becoming a family nurse practitioner. Still looking to learn more,

she went back to school again, to earn her Doctor of Nursing Practice from Pace University in 2013 at 55 years old.

While she was advancing her studies, Dr. Lopez was working in a variety of challenging nursing jobs, gaining invaluable hands-on experience outside of the classroom. In recognition of her accomplishments, Dr. Lopez has been inducted into the Dominican College Alumni Hall of Achievement for Leadership and was recently named as one of the Dominican College Alumni of Distinction.

At En Su Casa, Dr. Lopez is now mentoring a Dominican College Nursing student in the Family Nurse Practitioner program. “Dominican means family. I am very comfortable there,” she said. “I owe the College a lot and that’s why anything I can do, I’m there.” ■

Alumnus Invention Wins \$1 Million Google Grant



Alumnus and Adjunct Professor **John Damiao, '09**, has invented a device he calls “a game changer” because it gives individuals with Cerebral Palsy an affordable way to turn their manual wheelchair into a power wheelchair and gain the independence they crave. “They don’t have the ability to propel the manual wheelchair,” he said. “Essentially, they are prisoners of their own wheelchairs.”



Google sees the potential in Damiao’s invention and has awarded the Center for Discovery, where Damiao works, with a \$1.125 million grant to improve it and get it on the market. The Center for Discovery in Monticello, NY is a residential facility for people with disabilities.

Damiao credits his Dad’s auto shop and his own mechanical background with giving him the confidence to tackle this project. “I grew up in an auto shop. I was a mechanic for 15 years before becoming an occupational therapist and I’m not afraid of tools or building or breaking things,” Damiao said.

Damiao initially invented the indieGo to help people with disabilities he worked with at the Center for Discovery. “When we found out about the grant, we decided to pitch this device because we found it really useful here in bringing a whole new level of freedom to the individuals I was working with,” said Damiao.

As part of the Google Impact Challenge Grants: Disabilities project, 29 grantees received \$20 million in grants to help address accessibility challenges all over the world.

Damiao says the indieGo is expected to sell for \$1,000. Power wheelchairs for individuals with limited upper body mobility can cost \$10,000 to \$15,000. The indieGo is a small, lightweight device that you can roll any wheelchair onto in order to convert it to a power wheelchair. Damiao’s team is experimenting with a variety of controls, from joysticks to touch buttons to allow all individuals to drive themselves. They have developed a number of prototypes and keep improving on their model so that it is ready to go on the market.

“We felt great and excited that Google recognized the importance of trying to bring mobility to as many people as possible. They are this big tech giant company and this device is very basic and simple,” he said. “It’s really not that high-tech and flashy. It’s more about the impact that it can bring people.”



Damiao said he is pleased that he has found an occupation that pushes his mechanical abilities further into more complex areas. “I was always surrounded by tools and cars and things with wheels. I knew that I didn’t want to be a mechanic my whole life. I wanted to have an education and be able to do more significant things and I sort of stumbled into occupational therapy, but it was the perfect fit,” he said.

While working full-time as an Occupational Therapy Assistant, Damiao attended weekend classes at Dominican College to earn his master’s degree in occupational therapy. “The part-time class schedule meant that my study schedule became rigorous, and this self-discipline has carried throughout my career. I believe my education at Dominican College gave me not just the knowledge, but the confidence to tackle any of life’s challenges,” he said.

Now Damiao is teaching kinesiology in the same weekend occupational therapy program he attended. He explained, “As a lecturer, I am passionate about bringing emotional effort to every class, not just knowledge. We are bombarded with information all day, every day. What students really crave is inspiration.” ■

ALUMNI NEWS

Atlantic City Bus Trip

After a hiatus of several years, the Atlantic City Bus Trip was revived this year and it was a huge success. On April 23, 2016, about 35 alumni, family, and friends enjoyed the day at the Tropicana Casino on the Atlantic City boardwalk. The trip started early in the morning with bagels and coffee in the Hennessy Center Parking lot. Special thanks to **Mary Dillon, '82**, for keeping passengers entertained during the 3-hour bus ride with a variety of games. ■

Alumni Visits

On May 2, 2016, two alumni shared their professional and personal experiences as well as their recipes for success with a room full of current Dominican College students. **Sharyn Miller, '91**, and **Rafael Ortiz, '04**, both business graduates, stressed the importance of a sound education and a positive attitude. Miller is currently the Associate Vice Chancellor and CIO at UNC Wilmington and Ortiz is the Assistant VP/Branch Manager at Santander Bank. ■



Alumni Reunion and Hall of Achievement

SPOTLIGHT SHINES ON AQUIN PLAYERS

Members of the Aquin Players, Dominican College's theater group, took center stage at the annual Alumni Reunion held on Saturday, May 7, 2016. All of the honorees, who were inducted into the Alumni Hall of Achievement, were members of the Aquin Players when they were students at the College.

Melissa Lucido, '95, **Edward Astorino, '98**, and **Clare McClarnon Steward, '99**, were honored for excellence, leadership, and service after a cocktail reception on the Granito Center patio.

Melissa Lucido for Excellence

Lucido said she was honored to be chosen for the award for excellence. "I thank

Dominican College for always giving me the opportunity to develop my leadership, to step out of the box, to learn what it means to make a difference in the world," she said.

After deciding that she was better suited to a career in education, Lucido left her job in sales and marketing and went back to college to get her teaching certificate and later her Master of Science in Education from Walden University. She now teaches kindergarten and first grade students at the Anne Blanche Smith School in Hillsdale, NJ. Lucido was named 2016 Teacher of the Year in her school district and was nominated four times for the New Jersey State Teacher of the Year award. Since 2001, she has been coming back to Dominican College to serve as a co-director and choreographer of the College's spring musical.

Edward Astorino for Leadership

At Dominican College, Astorino served as Class President, president of the Student Government Association, and president of the Aquin Players. He was the recipient of four Leadership Awards as well. Upon graduation, Astorino used those leadership skills to rise in business from a help desk support representative to an ITT Project Manager, running projects worth millions of dollars.

Astorino has never forgotten his friends at Dominican College. "I've always been coming back. Years have gone by where I haven't been able to come back because of travel," he said. "But I know that I could always walk through that door and feel like I never left." Recently, Astorino has been helping out as a production assistant with the Dominican College spring musical.

Clare McClarnon Steward for Service

Steward often volunteers her time playing the bagpipes, including at the Dominican College graduation ceremony.

—Cont. on pg. 24



The Aquin Players' Open Door Policy

DR. JAMES FILIPPELLI SHARES HIS PHILOSOPHY

Nobody is turned away at auditions for the Dominican College spring musical. "If you walk through that door and you want to be involved, I'll get you involved," said Dr. James Filippelli, director of the Aquin Players. "I never exclude anybody—whether it be for a physical handicap, even a mental handicap. I accept any and all." Dr. Filippelli is quick to point

out that his theatrical productions don't suffer because of his open door policy and he is always impressed by the quality of the acting and singing in the Dominican College musicals. Time and time again at the recent Alumni Reunion, former members of the Aquin Players said the drama club was like family to them. That would make Dr. Filippelli a father figure—and a very kind and accepting father.

For more than 35 years, Dr. Filippelli has been directing spring musicals and working as an adjunct professor at the College, teaching communications and theater classes. It was recently announced that Dr. Filippelli will now be teaching full-time

as Assistant Professor of Fine and Dramatic Arts. This is the first time in 25 years that Dominican College will have a full-time person to represent the arts.

The new position follows his retirement last year from the Walter Panas High School in Westchester County, where he taught English for 35 years and directed musicals there, as well. Earlier this year, the Lakeland School District Board of Education voted to rename the Walter Panas High School Performing Arts Center in Dr. Filippelli's honor. The move to rename the center came after a former student started an online petition that garnered more than 800 signatures.

Upon hearing the news, Dr. Filippelli said he was humbled, flattered, and honored. "I share this honor with the countless number of students, the administrators, the teachers, the community members, anyone who ever stepped foot in that place, or performed on the stage—backstage, lighting, scenery, costumes, anything. I share with them, because I couldn't do it alone," he said.

Dr. Filippelli's policy of including everyone in his theater productions was the same at Walter Panas High School, as it is at Dominican College. At his retirement party, Dr. Filippelli recalls that an administrator said that he had changed lives. "You know what?" he said. "Why not?"

Dr. Filippelli knows that not everyone shares in his philosophy. "People are going to disagree with me and that's fine. I can hold my head up high and say I included everybody because not everybody is an athlete, not everybody is a scholar in the classroom. But when they get on the stage, they want to shine," he said. "And why shouldn't they? That's my philosophy and I'm not changing for anyone." ■

CAMPUS NEWS



Dominican College Unveils Chemistry Laboratory with Donated Equipment from Pfizer, Inc.

Dominican College unveiled a newly-renovated chemistry laboratory in Forkel Hall on Thursday, April 14, 2016. The updated lab was made possible by the generous donation of about \$500,000 worth of furniture and equipment from Pfizer, Inc.

"We are delighted to be able to open this classroom and research laboratory for our students to begin using in fall," said College President Sr. Mary Eileen O'Brien, O.P., Ph.D. "This additional lab shows our commitment to the sciences, which provide such an important foundation for many of the top fields of study at Dominican College—including nursing,

occupational therapy, physical therapy, and athletic training."

The furniture and equipment donated by Pfizer, Inc., include a chemical fume hood, four lab work benches, two equipment benches, glassware, solvent cabinets, and instruments. These additions will enhance the use of the renovated room for instruction and lab work.

Pfizer Pearl River Site Leader Kerrin Mahaffey said, "The Pearl River site has been committed to the Rockland community for over 110 years. Not only with advancing medicine and global health, but in supporting our neighbors, non-profits, and schools."

She added, "We are so glad that we were able to provide the equipment for the chemistry and biology research labs. It is our hope that this will make it possible for future scientists to continue in the tradition of Pfizer and the Pearl River colleagues. We expect great things from them."

Assistant Professor of Chemistry Colleen Evans is pleased that the chemistry lab is located next to the biology lab. "That's the future of chemistry majors to be able to have multi or interdisciplinary work. I'm going to be working with faculty to develop programs that we can use for both chemistry and biology," she said. "I think the new lab is really a catalyst that will hopefully help us grow the program to attract students to the field of chemistry."

In November 2014, Dominican College dedicated a biology lab in Forkel Hall which also contained equipment donated by Pfizer, Inc. In addition to the

laboratories in Forkel Hall, Dominican College has three biology labs, a physics lab, and a chemistry lab in Prusmack Center. ■

Dominican College Named a Top Workplace by The Journal News

Dominican College has been selected as a Journal News Top Workplace in the Hudson Valley for 2016. The honorees are chosen based upon the results of an employee feedback survey administered by WorkplaceDynamics, LLC, a leading research firm that specializes in organizational health and workplace improvement.

"We are so pleased to have received this award," said College President Sr. Mary Eileen O'Brien, O.P., Ph.D., "Our mission stresses that we promote educational excellence, leadership, and service in an environment characterized by respect for the individual and concern for the community and its needs. I believe that our respect for every employee is what makes Dominican College such a unique and rewarding place to work. Time and time again, I hear from employees that the Dominican College community is like family to them. We help each other

through difficult times and celebrate each other's good news. This is a particularly meaningful award to me, because it is based upon surveys completed by our employees."

Doug Claffey, CEO of WorkplaceDynamics said, "The Top Workplaces award is not a popularity contest. And oftentimes, people assume it's all about fancy perks and benefits. But to be a Top Workplace, organizations must meet our strict standards for organizational health. And who better to ask about work life than the people who live the culture every day—the employees. Our research has proven that what's most important to them is a strong belief in where the organization is headed, how it's going to get there, and the feeling that everyone is in it together. Claffey adds, "Without this sense of connection, an organization doesn't have a shot at being named a Top Workplace."

According to a May 1, 2016, article in *The Journal News*, Dominican College employees surveyed said they were satisfied with their jobs because of great co-workers and managers, along with the ability to grow personally and professionally. ■

A Cappella Group to Perform National Anthem at Mets Game

Dominican College's a cappella group Pitches and Cream will be singing the National Anthem at the Mets Game at Citi Field on Saturday, September 3, 2016. The group auditioned back in March and was featured on Channel 2 News.

Musical Director of Pitches and Cream Lydia Maynard, Ph.D., said this will be the largest audience Pitches and Cream has ever performed for—by far. "The stadium capacity is about 45,000 people and it's Labor Day

—Cont. on pg. 16



Campus News
—Cont. from pg. 15

weekend and the game is against the Nationals,” she said. “We are excited about it.”

Pitches and Cream was formed three years ago by Maynard who is an Assistant Professor of Mathematics at the College. “When I first interviewed here, I asked if they had an a cappella group and they said ‘no’ so I knew I wanted to start one when I started working here.” Maynard minored in music in college and has always enjoyed performing. ■



Communications Professor Receives 2016 Award for Faculty Service

The Coordinator of the Communication Studies Program, AnnMarie DiSiena, Ed.D., received the 2016 Academic Dean’s Award for Faculty Service on Wednesday, May 18, 2016, during the annual Service Award Ceremony in the Granito Center.

In presenting the award, Academic Dean Thomas Nowak said students have described DiSiena’s teaching style as engaging, entertaining, and wonderfully stimulating. “On our evaluation forms, her courses are consistently rated excellent, averaging an extremely high 3.85 out of 4. Students praise her for providing them with skills that are very helpful for future jobs and real life,” he said.

Outside of the classroom, DiSiena also has many administrative responsibilities. In addition to heading up the Communication Studies Program, she also oversees special sessions—weekend and online courses. During the ceremony, it was announced that DiSiena is also being promoted from Assistant Professor to Associate Professor. ■

County Executives Answer Questions at County Executive’s Forum

The County leaders from Rockland, Westchester, Orange, and Bergen Counties were at Dominican College on Tuesday, June 7, 2016, to take part in the annual County Executive’s Forum sponsored by the Palisades Institute.

Rockland County Executive Ed Day said New York State’s system for public



assistance is a “recipe for fraud,” but said Rockland has a very aggressive Front End Detection System to root out fraud. He also announced that Rockland County just reached a new milestone with more than 100,000 people on public assistance. “This is supposed to be a relatively wealthy suburban County,” he said. “Almost one third of our County is on public assistance. It’s unsustainable.”

Bergen County Executive James Tedesco III talked about the upcoming referendum in New Jersey on gambling in northern Jersey and stressed that a full casino is being considered—not simply slot machines. “The way the law is being written, there has to be a \$1 billion investment by the person that brings gaming to Bergen County or the Meadowlands,” he said.

Westchester County Executive Rob Astorino and Orange County Executive Steven Neuhaus also fielded questions from business leaders in attendance at the

forum, which took place in the Lawrence Room of Rosary Hall.

The aim of the Palisades Institute of Dominican College is to encourage leaders in business, government, and not-for-profit agencies to integrate the concepts of Leadership, Quality, and Ethics to achieve long-term success. ■

College Holds Interfaith Discussion on Pope’s Encyclical on the Environment

The Pope’s encyclical on the environment was widely praised by representatives of several different world religions during a panel discussion at Dominican College on April 12, 2016. Representatives of Catholicism, Judaism, Buddhism, and Islam took part in the discussion of Pope Francis’ “Laudato Si” in the Lawrence Room.

Rabbi Lawrence Troster said he was struck by the fact that the Pope said he was writing the encyclical for all people—not just Catholics. “And he’s not trying to prescribe for us what we’re supposed to do,” he said. “The Pope wants to start a conversation between everybody—no matter what you do or who you are, and that’s exactly what we’re doing here. That in itself is a major achievement.”

The panel members stressed that there was an interconnectedness and oneness among all humanity when it comes to caring for the environment. The Reverend Monsignor Ed Ciuba said that everyone has a responsibility to the world and the planet, which is our common home. “We are all different. We all sing a different tune, but we have been made to sing in harmony and we are not singing in harmony.”

While the panelists all agreed there is much work to be done in caring for the environment, they also all had a message of hope. In speaking about the Pope, Islamic scholar Ibrahim Abdul-Matin said, “As human beings I think it’s pretty awesome that we have a spiritual leader that looks beyond the present and looks past the past that we acknowledge.”

Buddhist monk Bhikkhu Bodhi and Adam Hinge of Columbia University also took part in the discussion, which was sponsored by the Humanities Council. ■

Students Build Homes During Alternative Spring Break

For the past 10 years, a group of Dominican College students have passed up on the traditional Spring Break, instead volunteering to work with Habitat for Humanity to build homes for families in need of decent, affordable housing.

This year, about 30 students participated in the week-long Alternative Spring Break Program. The students were split into two groups, with half going to Goldsboro, NC, and the other half to Palm Bay, FL.

The popularity of the Alternative Spring Break Program at Dominican College demonstrates that the students connect with the service mission of the College, according to Melissa Leigh Grau, College Director of Community Engagement and Leadership Development. “Not only do the students return every year, but they bring their friends and they get new people and they show others what it means



to be part of the Dominican College community,” said Grau.

Freshmen through seniors participate in the trip. The students pay for a portion of the trip, with Dominican College subsidizing the cost.

Grau says the students understand that Spring Break doesn’t have to be about relaxing at the beach and having fun. “Spring Break can be having fun, but building and contributing and being part of something bigger than yourself,” she said. ■

New BEST Program Comes to Dominican College

Dominican College is teaming up with Rockland BOCES to prepare high school students with disabilities for the world of work. The new program is called BEST (Business Expertise for Student Transition and Training) and it will kick off in September 2016 with eight students.

College Director of Special Services Margaret Giuliano said the high school juniors and seniors in the program will be entering the workforce or going to college after graduation. “Through the partnership, they will be spending 1½ hours each day on our campus, experiencing real life job placement as interns and learning soft skills that are key to college and career success,” she said.

Rockland BOCES is providing a full-time teacher, teaching assistant and part-time coordinator to work with the students at the College and teach what are considered soft skills. “It could be interview skills, resume writing, social skills—how to dress on the job, how to speak to your co-workers, anything related to a job,” said Dawn Kitz, Transition Coordinator at BOCES. ■

EVENTS



Night in Ireland Fundraiser a Great Success

Dominican College held its third annual Night of Culture and Cuisine on Friday, March 11, 2016 and this year a sell-out crowd was transported to Ireland. The attendees were treated to the sights, sounds, and tastes of Ireland in the Lawrence Room in Rosary Hall.

The menu consisted of Irish favorites including scones, shepherd's pie, Guinness stew, Irish smoked salmon, and corned beef. For dessert, there was pavlova, trifle, and more. Of course, there was plenty of Guinness to drink, and Irish coffee to end the night.

While dining on delicious food, guests were treated to local Irish entertainment. Dancers from the Broesler School of Irish Dance delighted the crowd with their footwork. In addition, musicians from the Pearl River School of Irish Music played traditional Irish instruments and performed a few songs.

Assistant Professor of Communications AnnMarie DiSiena, Ed.D., said, "The Night in Ireland was an enjoyable evening. We had great entertainment which incorporated music and dance of the culture and we enjoyed good food. I thoroughly enjoyed the Irish Step Dancing and the musicians."

“The Night in Ireland was an enjoyable evening. We had great entertainment which incorporated music and dance of the culture and we enjoyed good food. I thoroughly enjoyed the Irish Step Dancing and the musicians.”

Orangeburg resident Deirdre O'Boy, from the Department of English at Lehman College, and Director of the CUNY Institute of Irish Studies, spoke about how food had been portrayed in Irish literature over the ages.

As part of the decorations that filled the Lawrence room, The Danu Gallery of Pearl River generously displayed beautiful Celtic giftware.

The Night in Ireland event follows a Night in Argentina and a Night in Sicily. Plans are already underway to host a Night in Spain at Dominican College on Friday, March 10, 2017. ■



44th Annual Grand Reception

May 6, 2016
Old Tappan Manor

Honoring 2016 Persons
of the Year: Carl, Martin,
and Peter Wortendyke.



37th Annual Dominican College Golf Classic

June 19, 2016
Rockland Country Club





Remembering Michael Coffey

Michael Coffey, '10, was unusually talkative when he was inducted into the Rockland County Sports Hall of Fame on Saturday, April 16, 2016. The typically reserved Coffey surprised the tables full of family, friends, and coworkers who came out to support him when he shared many stories during his acceptance speech. His eyes sparkled, his cheeks were rosy, and he smiled widely as he accepted the Joseph Holland Lifetime Achievement Award at the age of 27.

"I think he was saying goodbye to us and we were saying goodbye to him and none of us knew it at the time," said College President Sr. Mary Eileen O'Brien, O.P., Ph.D.

Just days after the event, Coffey, who was Assistant Sports Information Director and an Assistant Men's Basketball Coach at Dominican College, died suddenly on April 20, 2016 from a massive heart attack after having difficulty breathing. He suffered from Duchenne muscular dystrophy, and had been confined to a wheelchair since he was 14 years old.

Sr. Mary Eileen described Coffey as a handsome, intelligent, generous young man, and reflected on his passing so soon after the Sports Hall of Fame ceremony. "The people there were grateful for Michael's life and Michael took the occasion to let everyone know how grateful he was for the people who loved and supported him," she said. "It was providential. Who has that opportunity?"

Coffey's mom, Gerianne, who also works in the Athletic Department at Dominican College, said his speech was very heartfelt. "That's an opportunity when you get an award to get up in front of a bunch of people and be able to say thank you so much for my achievements and list them. That's when you can brag, but he took the opportunity to go in a different direction and thank every single person," she said. "I felt his life playing out as he spoke."

On the day of his death, students, staff, faculty, and administrators gathered in the Hennessy Center for an emotional memorial service where Coffey was remembered for his courage, his great smile, his wit, and for always being an upbeat, loyal friend.

Gerianne said even as a child, Michael was happy and never complained. "His heart was always so compassionate. I always felt like he had this special grace over him. How do you live your life and not complain?" she asked. "He really did inspire people."

She explained that from the time he was diagnosed with muscular dystrophy at the age of six, the family decided that he would continue to live his life to the fullest and would not let his disability hold him back. At Pearl River High School, Coffey assisted the baseball, football, and basketball teams, fulfilling the role of Assistant Basketball Coach by senior year. At Dominican College, where he studied biology, Coffey managed the basketball team before his graduation in 2010. After graduation, he began working full-time as an Assistant Basketball Coach and for the past three years as Assistant Sports Information Director, as well. He earned an M.S. in sports management from Southern New Hampshire University in 2014.

During her interview, Gerianne wore a gold pendant with a photo of Michael on it, given to her by her friends, and fought back tears. "I know people might perceive that it was very hard to care for someone who had a physical disability. But, honest to God, it was a privilege to care for him every day—to help him to get to the part of his life where he wanted to be," she said. "I feel like God blessed me and said, 'I'm going to let you take care of him.'"

Gerianne said she was fortunate to have the opportunity to work with her son at Dominican College and now coming to work is comforting. "When I come here, I feel so loved. I know Michael was loved here and it's familiar to me. And I like being able to look at everything he was part of. It brings me comfort to do that."

Coffey is survived by two siblings—25 year old Michele, who just earned a graduate degree from Dominican College, and Matthew, who is entering his senior year at Pearl River High School. Gerianne said the family is trying to honor the memory of Michael. "In our house, he made everything better for us," she said. "We have our good days and our bad days. We keep going because we say, 'What would Michael want us to do?'" ■

ATHLETICS

Sports Wrap-Up

SOFTBALL

The Lady Chargers finished the season with an overall record of 30-16-1 and 22-4 in CACC play. Dominican College finished second in the conference and earned the second seed in the CACC Softball Championships. Dominican College lost two games in the first day of tournament play to be eliminated and end their season.

The team was ranked as high as eighth in the NCAA Division II East Region Poll this season. Six players earned All-Conference honors, while head coach Joe Burbridge was named the CACC Coach of the Year for the first time in his career. Senior **Shannon Haukap** recorded her 200th career hit this season. ■



BASEBALL

The Chargers finished the season with an overall record of 19-29 and a 10-10 CACC record. The team finished in sixth place in the Conference and earned the sixth seed for the tournament. Dominican College upended #3 Wilmington University in a play-in game to advance to the double-elimination portion of the tournament. Dominican College then upset #2 Chestnut Hill College to move into the winner's bracket. On day two of the Championships, the team fell to #4 Philadelphia University and #1 Felician University to end the season. The team had four players earn All-Conference honors. Senior **Carlos Lopez** recorded his 200th career hit this season. ■



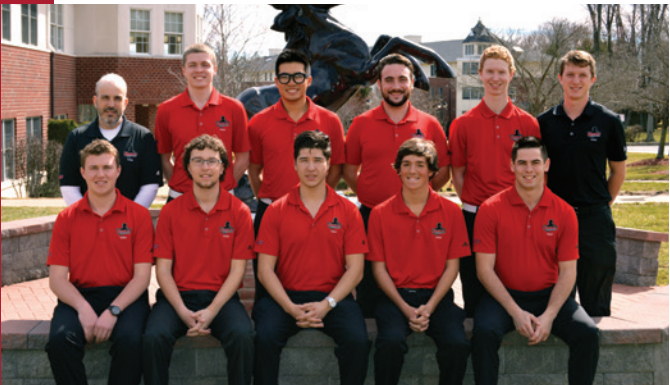
WOMEN'S LACROSSE

Dominican College finished the season with a 3-6 CACC record and a 3-12 overall record. Senior **Christina Brennan** earned two CACC Player of the Week honors. She also netted her 100th career goal to become the fifth player in program history to reach that plateau. **Christina Brennan** and **Haliann Fitzgerald** were both named the All-CACC Second Team. ■



MEN'S LACROSSE

The team finished the season with an overall record of 3-12 and an East Coast Conference (ECC) record of 1-7. Dominican College faced numerous nationally-ranked teams this season and had the honor of playing one game at Johns Hopkins University. Freshman **David Arent** earned two ECC Rookie of the Week honors, while **Blake Israel** earned one Rookie of the Week selection. ■



GOLF

The golf team competed in 13 tournaments between the fall and spring portions of its season. Dominican College took two first place finishes at the Spring Griffin Invitational and the Philadelphia University Spring Match. The team finished in sixth place at the CACC Championships. **Hunter Wescott** earned one CACC Rookie of the Week honors. Freshman **Daniel Parker** won two Individual Titles at the Spring Griffin Invitational and the Philadelphia University Spring Match. ■



WOMEN'S TRACK AND FIELD

The Lady Chargers went to nine meets this season. The team finished in seventh place at the CACC Championships. ■



MEN'S TRACK AND FIELD

The Chargers went to 11 meets this season, including the prestigious Penn Relays. The Chargers had the high finish of third place at the CACC Championships. Freshman **Seth Wilson** won both the 100m and 200m dash at the Championships. Fellow rookie, **Michael Merced** won the 400m dash and was named the CACC Rookie Track Runner of the Year. The relay team of **Wilson, Andrew Pierre, DeCarlo Richards, and Dylan Roadarmel** took the top spot in the 4x100m relay. ■

Alumni News
—Cont. from pg. 12

She is an active member of two bagpipe bands, serves as a Cub Scout Den Leader and is involved in the choir and the religious education program at St. Margaret's Church in Pearl River, NY. She has been honored by the Rockland County Ancient Order of the Hibernians and received a certificate of recognition from the Marine Corps League. Steward said she is very humbled and honored by her induction into the Alumni Hall of Achievement.

"I'm not looking for an honor or a recognition of what I do. I just do what I do because it's who I am. It's who Dominican has taught me to be," she said.

The photos of honorees in the Alumni Hall of Achievement are hung in the lobby of the Prusmack Center. ■

1980



Mary Kay Vyskocil, was sworn in as a United States Bankruptcy Judge for the Southern District of New York on April 7, 2016. Vyskocil, who was a partner in the New York law firm of Simpson, Thacher & Bartlett LLP, was

appointed by the US Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit.

"Mary Kay is a widely respected trial lawyer who has been a valued colleague and a leader of our Insurance Litigation Practice," said Bill Dougherty, Chairman of Simpson Thacher's Executive Committee. "We are proud of all that she has achieved and congratulate her on this distinguished appointment."

During her 33-year career at Simpson Thacher, Vyskocil litigated some of the most significant insurance and reinsurance cases, representing major domestic and foreign insurers in complex coverage litigations, including numerous arbitrations, jury trials, and appellate arguments. She represented Swiss RE Ltd. in litigation arising from the 9/11 attacks on the World Trade Center and has also represented JPMorgan Chase & Co., and the Travelers Cos. Inc.

Second Circuit Chief Judge Robert A. Katzmann said, "With her substantial experience in complex and sophisticated commercial litigation matters, Mary Kay Vyskocil joins a distinguished Southern District bankruptcy bench."

Vyskocil graduated summa cum laude from Dominican College and attended St. John's University Law

School. She also serves on the Dominican College Board of Trustees. ■

1988



Former Dominican College Basketball and Softball Star **Maryellen Massey Montera** was Inducted into the Central Atlantic Collegiate Conference (CACC) Hall of Fame on Saturday, February 6, 2016. This is the first year that the CACC has inducted athletes into a Hall of Fame.

The ceremony honoring Montera took place in Hennessy Center between games of the Dominican-Philadelphia University basketball doubleheader. CACC Commissioner Dan Mara presented Montera with a framed portrait featuring photos from her legendary career.

In women's basketball at Dominican College, Montera is the all-time leading scorer with 2,066 points. In softball, she was a standout as a pitcher and a hitter. She posted a 1.23 earned during her career, which is tops in program history. She also pitched a pair of no-hitters, including a perfect game against John

Jay College. At the plate, she had a .414 batting average and became the first and only student athlete in school history to have her jersey retired in 2009.

Just six athletes, including Montera, were chosen for the inaugural class of the CACC Hall of Fame. The CACC is a NCAA Division II Conference composed of 14 schools in Connecticut, Delaware, New Jersey, New York, and Pennsylvania. ■

1990



Michael McLaughlin was appointed to the College Board of Trustees at the April 16, 2016 meeting. McLaughlin is the Lead Operating Engineer for Urban Foundation Engineering. The Blauvelt resident recently retired from Verizon as a marketing and sales executive where he won the company's highest honor, the Leaders in Excellence award three times.

McLaughlin earned a B.S. in Marketing Management at Dominican College and went on to earn his MBA in Management from Long Island University. Despite having a demanding

career at Verizon, he has always found time to give back to his community. A former basketball player at Dominican College, he has shared his passion for the sport with many young boys and girls.

McLaughlin coached CYO basketball at St. Catherine's parish, and began the annual tournament there. In addition, he coached basketball at the JCCY, PAL, and Spring Valley Youth organizations. He also served as President for the New York Falcons AAU non-profit basketball organization, which has helped 3,000 boys and girls learn life skills through the game of travel basketball.

McLaughlin's volunteer efforts extend beyond the basketball court. He worked tirelessly to raise funds for St. Catherine's new rectory and community room, after helping St. Augustine's Parish raise \$3 million for its new building campaign. ■

2010

Dominican College lost two beloved Alumni this past year who shared a friendship. **John Blanco** and **Michael Coffey**, both 2010 graduates who lived in Pearl River, NY, died this year because of complications with Duchenne muscular dystrophy. Blanco passed away on February 7, 2016, at 30 years old. He was a member of Another Step,

a community-based program for people with disabilities.

Coffey died suddenly on April 20, 2016. He was 27. Michael worked at Dominican College as an Assistant Sports Information Director and Assistant Men's Basketball Coach. (See page 20 for more on Coffey.) ■

2016

Kayla Grodzicki, is continuing her commitment to service after graduation. She is moving to Chicago for one year of service with Dominican Volunteers USA. Grodzicki will be living with Dominican Sisters and volunteering with Sarah's Inn—a non-profit

organization committed to breaking the cycle of domestic violence. She will also be involved with Preaching in Action. ■

Annual Alumni Association Cash Raffle

Congratulations to the winners of the 2016 Annual Alumni Association Cash Raffle. The first place prize of \$2,000 was awarded to Joan DiSpagna. The second place prize of \$1,000 was awarded to **Willie Trotman, '77**. **Dorothy Morris-Grant, '04**, won the third place prize of \$500. All proceeds of the raffle benefited Dominican College. The drawing took place on June 3, 2016. ■

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Dominican College alumni have access to the leading travel and entertainment corporate benefits program in the world with Plum Benefits powered by Tickets at Work.



Sign up for your free employee account using your alumni code today at plumbenefits.com! To get your alumni code contact alumni@dc.edu or **845-848-7407**.

UPCOMING EVENTS



November

SHAWANGUNK WINE TRAIL WREATH FINERIES AT THE WINERIES

Saturday, Nov. 19, 2016
10 a.m. – 5 p.m.
8:30 a.m. Van Leaves promptly from the Hennessy Center Parking Lot
\$45 Per Person

Includes round-trip van transportation. Each wine tasting ticket holder receives a souvenir Shawangunk Wine Trail wine glass at their designated starting winery, a wreath, and unique ornaments to commemorate the event.

Limited number of tickets available.

POCKETBOOK BINGO

Wednesday, Nov. 30, 2016
7 p.m.
Lawrence Room, Rosary Hall
Please check the Dominican College website for details.

Save the Date!

ANNUAL BOBBY MULLIGAN/ SUE HELLER ALUMNI GAMES

Saturday, Feb. 4, 2017

DEFENSIVE DRIVING PROGRAM

Saturday, March 4, 2017

ALUMNI GOLF OUTING AT NEW YORK COUNTRY CLUB

Monday, Oct. 3, 2016
11 a.m. Registration/Lunch
12 p.m. Shotgun Start
New Hempstead, NY
\$150 Per Player
\$600 Per Foursome

REUNION PARTY

Saturday, Oct. 15, 2016
7 p.m. – 11 p.m.
Jack Demsey's Rooftop
36 West 33rd Street, NYC
\$90 Per Person
Open bar, DJ, appetizers, hot dinner buffet, dessert, and coffee. Contact Billy Hofmann, '89, for more information at 917-563-6250 or billyh@longtrail.com.

October

ALUMNI ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME

Saturday, Oct. 1, 2016
Please check the Dominican College website for the list of honorees.

ALUMNI DAY AT DR. DAVIES FARM

Sunday, Oct. 2, 2016
10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Congers, NY
\$35 per family, with a maximum of six family members
Includes ½ bushel bag, hayride, pumpkin, and complimentary boxed lunch.

For information and details on alumni events, please contact the Alumni office.
alumni@dc.edu
845-848-7407

September

EILEEN IVERS

Friday, Sept. 30, 2016
8 p.m.
Hennessy Center
Alumni Tickets \$32
Please call Mary Lichtman for tickets at 845-848-7406 or email specialevents@dc.edu.



 #DOSTUFFDC

Dominican DATELINE

Dominican College, Alumni Office
470 Western Highway : Orangeburg NY 10962

Non Profit Org
U.S. Postage
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Monsey, NY
PERMIT #9161

SAVE THE DATE **ALUMNI WEEKEND** October 1 – October 3, 2016

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 1

Alumni Athletic Hall of Fame

Check the College's website at www.dc.edu for updates and honorees.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 2

Alumni Day at Dr. Davies Farm

10 a.m.–2 p.m. | Congers, NY | \$35 per group of six

MONDAY, OCTOBER 3

Alumni Golf Outing
at New York Country Club

12 p.m. Shotgun | New Hempstead, NY