

# 2020/ 2021 ANNUAL REPORT



**INSIDE**

<b>04</b>	Message From The President
<b>06</b>	Promoting Educational Excellence
<b>12</b>	Promoting Leadership and Service
<b>16</b>	Promoting Organizational Health
<b>22</b>	Celebrating Our Community
<b>26</b>	Milestone and Faculty Achievement
<b>32</b>	Donors
<b>38</b>	Financials
<b>39</b>	Chief Administrators



*“While the College community worked together to survive demanding, uncharted experiences, we also kept sight of our mission to promote educational excellence, leadership, and service among our student body.”*

SR. MARY EILEEN O'BRIEN, O.P., PH.D., PRESIDENT

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Friends,

I welcome this opportunity to present to you the 2020-2021 Annual Report and share with you some of the accomplishments of this past year. We are delighted that our students, faculty, and staff have returned to campus full-time, with the resumption of in-person instruction, after more than a year of COVID challenge. Our campus community is thriving and safe, with students and staff overwhelmingly complying with vaccine mandates. The small percentage of those who have received health or religious exemptions are undergoing weekly COVID testing. While the College community worked together to survive demanding, uncharted experiences, we also kept sight of our mission to promote educational excellence, leadership, and service among our student body.

Our exceptional faculty and staff showed tremendous resiliency and innovation as they provided both remote and in-person instruction to students. Technical innovations like new “Zoom Carts” were used, classrooms were reconfigured, and new safety protocols were put in place. Our students rose to the challenge as well and had a successful school year. We are pleased to report that our freshman grade point average of 3.12 is the highest rate in two decades. In addition, our retention rate and graduation rate both increased.

This past June we graduated over 500 students, 13 of them having completed the college’s our Honors Program and six graduating summa cum laude, bringing our total number of College alumni to 15,355. It was wonderful to gather in person to celebrate Commencement. Graduate ceremonies were held on campus, while the undergraduate ceremony was held at the Palisades Credit Union Park in Pomona, enabling our graduates to “cross the stage” in person to receive their diplomas in the presence of family and guests.

Our nursing students and alumni continue to be on the front lines of the fight against COVID-19. They have cared for patients, delivered vaccines, and screened or tested individuals for COVID. While the spotlight on the healthcare heroes of this pandemic has faded as the pandemic wears on, they continue to work tirelessly increasing our

admiration and gratitude.

Meanwhile, our academic programs have attained impressive achievements. The Nursing and Occupational Therapy Programs were re-accredited for 10 years and 100 percent of physical therapy students passed their licensing exams within one year of graduation for the third year in a row. In addition, the College received State approval for new programs in Finance, Marketing, and Information Technology.

The College’s efforts to secure federal grants, has been most beneficial for the College. We recently secured \$6.4 million in two federal grants—including the largest programmatic grant the College has ever received. These grants will allow us to establish new STEM programs and a public health informatics technology program.

The College has also been successful in other fundraising efforts as well. The \$3 million goal of the Dirt 2 Turf Campaign for the turf field and track has been exceeded. Our benefactors and alumni continue to be generous throughout a difficult year, with the number of alumni who contribute increasing. We remain most grateful.

We rallied around our Charger athletic teams, who raised our spirits by clinching three CACC Championships in women’s basketball, men’s golf, and men’s baseball. In addition, Women’s Basketball Head Coach Bill Diener was named All-Met Coach of the Year.

Dominican College is blessed with dedicated members of the Board of Trustees, generous donors and alumni, committed faculty and staff, and talented students. As we recoup from COVID-19 and move forward with enthusiasm, together we can accomplish what none of us can do alone.

Thank you for keeping Dominican College in your prayers and among your priorities. May you and yours experience a happy and healthy 2022.

Gratefully,

*A. Mary Eileen O'Brien*

Sr. Mary Eileen O'Brien, O.P., Ph.D.  
President

**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.





# Innovation in the Face of Adversity

Kelly M. Johnson, Ph.D., leads a class in Psychology

# PROMOTING Educational Excellence

The 2020/2021 academic year at Dominican College was different from any other in the school’s nearly 70-year history. Every department, both academic and student life, pulled together to ensure that students got the education they deserved in the safest way possible.

### Remote Learning

At the beginning of the year, 16% of the students were given permission to attend all their classes remotely. By the end of the semester, nearly all students were learning remotely. Faculty adapted their instruction to meet the needs, with many teaching with Zoom Carts with only a few students physically in the room with them. A few even came in on snow days in the early spring to teach from campus even though the campus was officially closed.

Many of the upper-level classes had their best years ever, according to the professors. The classes had better attendance and involvement than they normally do when held in person. Because of the remote nature of the classes, instructors were able to bring in more guest speakers than they ever had before.

The Academic Success Center reported that remote tutoring was more successful than in-person. Likewise, many advisors reported that

remote advising was more successful and productive than when they were face-to-face with the students.

### Facilities Changes

Through the fall and spring semesters, an additional five minutes was added between class sessions to allow students to leave their classrooms in a staggered fashion. They also had time to arrive at their next class and wipe down chairs and desks with sanitizing wipes. Everyone on campus was required to wear masks all year long.

Classrooms were rearranged to allow for six feet of distance between students. This meant that some of the college’s large meeting rooms were converted into classrooms and class sizes were cut in half in many cases.

### Clinical Innovations

Clinicals, which by definition need to be done in-person, were changed to allow students to do their work on a rotating schedule.

Virtual simulations that were approved by New York State were used to replace many clinicals. The virtual clinics actually expanded to include simulations of emergencies and other situations that are difficult to replicate in person.

### Technological Innovations

The College’s Office of Information Technology created Zoom Carts. Each cart features a 40-inch flatscreen television, an iPad, and a computer.

The cart allows remote students to see their classmates, the instructor, and the slides the instructor is showing. Students in the classrooms are able to see all the remote students and the instructor’s presentations. Thirty-seven of these state-of-the-art Zoom Carts were constructed and changed the face of college instruction for the year, and perhaps, in some ways, for the foreseeable future.

### Innovation Forward

While the 2020/2021 school year might have been challenging, most students and faculty were pleasantly surprised how well everyone adapted. Thomas Nowak, Ph.D., Vice President for Academic Affairs and Academic Dean said, “By working together to find innovative solutions to the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, Dominican College was able to deliver an education while maintaining the strong sense of community that makes our College such a great place to learn and grow.”



## Dominican College Teams Up with RCC to Help Students Earn Bachelor’s Degree

In July, Dominican College and Rockland Community College in Suffern, NY, signed a Dual Admission Agreement to encourage students to earn a bachelor’s degree. The agreement guarantees that RCC students who successfully complete their associate degree will be admitted to Dominican College.

The agreement provides that: RCC students who successfully earn an Associate of Arts (A.A.), Associate of Science (A.S.), or Associate of Applied Science (A.A.S.), will be guaranteed acceptance to Dominican College. The students are not, however, guaranteed acceptance to a particular program of study.

RCC graduates will qualify for a Dominican-RCC Transfer Student Scholarship of \$3,000 to \$12,500 for full-time study in any classroom-based undergraduate program. The award is renewable annually, provided students meet the terms of the scholarship.

The colleges will provide joint advisement to students to ensure that students are able to transfer from RCC to Dominican College without academic disruption.

“This agreement helps to support and encourage RCC students who would like to eventually earn a bachelor’s degree,” said Sr. Mary Eileen O’Brien, O.P., Ph.D., President of Dominican College. “We are committed to providing financial assistance and academic advisement to ensure that the RCC students have a smooth transfer to Dominican College. Ultimately, Rockland County and the surrounding areas will benefit with a better educated workforce.”

## Honors Lyceum Features Best-Selling Author and Illustrator

New York Times best-selling author and illustrator Michael Garland was the guest speaker at the Honors Lyceum on March 25, 2021. During his Zoom presentation, “My Life in the Arts,” he showed samples of his amazing array of art—including book covers, magazine covers, illustrations, and fine art paintings.

Garland has earned a living as a freelance artist for more than 47 years. He has illustrated covers for Forbes, Fortune, and Newsweek magazines, and illustrated picture books for celebrity authors including James Patterson and Gloria Estefan.



Emil Euaparadorn, Program Director, Physical Therapy, addressing graduates at the PT Hooding Ceremony.

## Class of 2020 PT Graduates Attain 100% Board Pass Rate

For the third year in a row, 100% of Dominican College physical therapy graduates have passed the board exam within one year of graduation. In addition to this achievement, the Class of 2020 Doctor of Physical Therapy students had a 100% graduation rate.

Emil Euaparadorn, PT, DSc, Director of the Doctor of Physical Therapy Program, attributes this success to a number of factors, starting with a revamped admissions process, “Besides looking at intellectual ability, we look at emotional intelligence. We are looking for really mature students who will study—but more importantly—when they struggle, they will seek advice and listen to the advice of faculty.”

Euaparadorn said that other improvements to the program included changes in curriculum, an increase in comprehensive, hands-on tests, and more intensive board preparation. He says the clinical instructors have given amazing feedback on the quality of Dominican College students, and many students are offered jobs prior to graduation.

Board exams are formally known as the National Physical Therapy Examination and are required to become a licensed physical therapist.

**For the third year in a row, 100% of Dominican College physical therapy graduates have passed the board exam within one year of graduation.**

## Students Win Prestigious Scholarships

Emily Griffin ’21 was awarded a scholarship from the NYS Association for the Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired, a professional membership organization dedicated exclusively to professionals who provide services to persons with vision loss. Emily says she was inspired by both her sister and mom to pursue her career. Her sister is visually impaired and her mom is a dedicated teacher of the visually impaired.

Emily is employed as an itinerant teacher for Eastern Suffolk BOCES, working with students who are visually impaired in a number of different schools.

Bruno Garcia ’21 was awarded the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU) Miller Lite National Scholarship. Garcia is one of just 20 students nationwide to receive the award.

HACU champions Hispanic success in higher education. At the college, Garcia was an honors business major and a soccer player. He was also Senior Class President, and the Founder and President of Dominican College’s International Students Association.



Emily Griffin ’21 and Bruno Garcia ’21

## Dominican College Ranked #21 on Social Mobility by U.S. News & World Report

U.S. News & World Report ranked Dominican College a Top Performer on Social Mobility on its 2022 Best Colleges list. Dominican College was ranked #21 out of Regional Universities North for social mobility. Top performers in this category are more successful than other colleges at advancing social mobility by enrolling and graduating large proportions of disadvantaged students awarded Pell Grants.

President Sr. Mary Eileen O’Brien, O.P., Ph.D., said, “Dominican College has always welcomed students of diverse economic backgrounds, while promoting educational excellence, leadership, and service among our entire college community. We are delighted to once again be recognized for successfully supporting and encouraging students to succeed.”

This is the second consecutive time that Dominican College was ranked in the top 25 for social mobility on the Best Colleges list.

## New Academic Programs

The Business Administration Division had three applications approved this year by NYSED. A standalone Marketing major was approved in the fall, and a standalone Finance major was approved in March.

“Like all our business majors, our new marketing and finance majors promote our motto of ‘Doing Business Right’—by which we mean that at Dominican College business students are taught how to be successful while also making the world a better place,” said Ivan Rudolph-Shabinsky, Director of the Business Administration Division.

The College already offers concentration in both Marketing and Finance within the Business Management major. The new standalone programs, however, will offer students more comprehensive review and study of both disciplines and will better prepare them to pursue careers and graduate-level work in these fields.

The Division also received approval to rename “Computer Information Systems.” The program is now called—“Information Technology,” and has two tracks, one for infrastructure and one for application development.

**Dominican College business students are taught how to be successful while also making the world a better place.**





## Nursing and Occupational Therapy Receive 10-Year Accreditation

From October 26 to October 28, the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) conducted a virtual site visit of the College’s undergraduate Nursing programs. The three days were made up of scheduled and unscheduled Zoom meetings with the peer review team meeting with the faculty, most areas of the College administration and support areas, students, and members of the external community.

Overall, the visiting team found that there is a clear fit between the undergraduate Nursing programs and the College’s mission, a strong adherence to New York State guidelines, and close communication with the program’s stakeholders ranging from students to clinical sites.

The team also said that programs NCLEX passage rates would be “enviable” to other programs (83% for last year’s cohort, which was higher than the average of many of our competitors and peers and matched the state average), as would be its very high graduate employment rate and reputation in local facilities.

Similarly, the Occupational Therapy program hosted a virtual reaccreditation site visit conducted by its accrediting agency, the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE), from March 5 to March 7. In its exit report, the visiting team was complimentary of the program and identified no areas of noncompliance with ACOTE’s 189 administrative, curricular, and fieldwork standards. The administration’s support of the program and its students during the pandemic, the culture of community and the weekend program format were some of the items identified as strengths,

Following the visits, both programs were voted full accreditation status for a period of 10 years, the maximum period possible.



Nancy DiDona, Ed.D., Director of the Nursing program



Pam Story, DOT, Director of the Occupational Therapy program

## Students Share Liberal Arts Research Projects Online

Dominican College faculty and students were determined to move ahead with the 2021 Liberal Arts Research Day after the 2020 in-person event was cancelled due to COVID. With hard work and ingenuity, students shared their capstone research projects on a website that showcased their research in communication studies, health sciences, and biology.

“While this was something of a learning curve for both faculty and students, our students really rose to the challenge and created narrated posters, PowerPoint lectures with guided audio, and even digital video projects,” said Mark Meachem, Ed.D., the former Director of the Division of Arts & Sciences.

Meachem said the website offered some unexpected benefits. Students learned how to quickly adapt their work and had a larger audience with more professors, family, and friends able to view the projects. Because of that, the website may continue to be used even if Liberal Arts Research Day is held in person in spring 2022 as planned. The event serves as a way for students to share their knowledge and also helps prepare them for graduate-level work and academic conferences.

## New York Medical College Partners with Dominican College

New York Medical College (NYMC) School of Health Sciences and Practice (SHSP) in Valhalla, NY, has partnered with Dominican College to provide early acceptance programs into the Master of Public Health (M.P.H.), Master of Science (M.S.), and Graduate Certificate programs at NYMC’s SHSP.

Through the agreement, NYMC and Dominican College will work to identify undergraduate students with interest and aptitude for public health and provide guidance to the students during the application process. NYMC offers M.P.H. programs in Health Behavior and Community Health, Epidemiology, Environmental Health Science, Health Policy and Management, as well as an M.S. in Biostatistics.



Biology student Anna Acosta, Professor Li-jun Ma, Ph.D., from University of Massachusetts-Amherst, and student Madison Newman (left to right) working in Forkel.

## Visiting Scholar Works With Summer Research Students in Biology Lab

World-renowned computational biologist Li-jun Ma, Ph.D. visited Dominican College this summer to work with three biology students on research funded by the National Science Foundation (NSF). This follows the year-long sabbatical of Dominican College Biology Professor Bernadette Connors, Ph.D. at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst with Dr. Ma.

During the sabbatical, Connors worked with Ma and her team to learn how to analyze genomic data with different sequencing technologies. The summer research students are developing a manuscript with Connor’s data to hopefully be published in a scientific, peer-reviewed journal. Ma said the Dominican College students have integrity, intelligence, and are fully committed to the research, “They are so engaging, I would rate them as some of the best students I have ever had.”

The sabbatical and undergraduate research work was funded by a two-year \$166,000 NSF grant (award #1950018). In addition to furthering Connor’s research of microbial communities in the Hudson River Valley freshwater streams, the grant funded new equipment for Dominican College laboratories and provided stipends for the research students.

The biology students who took part in the summer research are Madison Newman ’22, Anna Acosta ’22, and Darlenys Sanchez ’22.

## Biology Students Get Career Advice From Regeneron Scientists

Scientists who work at Regeneron Pharmaceuticals, Inc., shared their educational background and career paths with Dominican College biology students during a Zoom panel discussion on Monday, October 26, 2020.

The advice from Lyndon Mitnaul, Ph.D., Senior Director, Research Program Management at Regeneron Pharmaceuticals, Inc., was to be exposed to a lot of different careers so the students could find where they would “fit” best. Mitnaul told the students he had a “take-home lesson” for them. “Make your future where you can make a difference. I think that’s really the take-home,” he said. “There’s a lot of opportunity where you can play a role if you are interested in drug discovery and development. You just need to find out where you can make that difference.”

The panel discussions with students are part of Regeneron’s Day for Doing Good project where Regeneron employees volunteer in the local community. ■



# PROMOTING LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE

## Students and Alumni Step Up to COVID Challenges

As healthcare providers around the world continue to battle the COVID pandemic, Dominican College graduate students, undergraduates, and alumni are doing their part to care for patients, administer COVID tests and vaccines, and help prevent the spread of the deadly virus.

“I’ve seen our students go into clinical settings and give vaccinations, our nurses man the testing sites, our students work in the ICUs, the emergency departments, and the general floors. They’ve all become overnight experts—and they are fantastic at what they do,” said Patricia Kivlehan, M.S.N. ’16 Clinical Coordinator of the Graduate Nursing Program. Kivlehan stressed that the Dominican College students are kind, strong clinicians who deliver superior quality of care.

The last year has been particularly tough, said Kivlehan, because nurses were dealing with COVID at work, family members who were sick, and childcare issues with children learning remotely.

Dominican College undergraduate nursing students stepped up to volunteer to administer COVID-19 vaccinations at Good Samaritan Hospital in Suffern, NY, to meet the needs of the community. Assistant Professor of Nursing AnneMarie McDermott, DNP, said, “It’s really important because for so many years our students have gone there clinically and the Good Sam nurses work with our students and give so much that we want to give back to them.” The student volunteers were juniors and seniors who were certified in vaccinations and received additional hands-on training

to meet Department of Health standards.

The College’s undergraduate students were also among the first line of defense against COVID at Blythedale Children’s Hospital in Valhalla, NY, where they worked as medical screeners, taking temperatures and completing health assessments of each person entering the hospital. In addition, many nursing

*“I’ve seen our students go into clinical settings and give vaccinations, our nurses man the testing sites, our students work in the ICUs, the emergency departments, and the general floors. They’ve all become overnight experts—and they are fantastic at what they do.”*

**PATRICIA KIVLEHAN, M.S.N. ’16**

students work in hospitals throughout the region where they have assisted with care of COVID patients.

Meanwhile, Dominican College alumni rose to the challenge of COVID-19 across the country. Nevada Governor Steve Sisolak praised Clinical Nurse Manager Amy Vavolizza-Runge ’96 on social media stating, “Nevada’s healthcare workers have been vital in our states testing and

vaccination efforts and Amy Runge from University Medical Center of Southern Nevada is no exception. I would like to acknowledge her leadership in managing one of Nevada’s largest testing sites and helping slow the spread of COVID-19—Thank you!” In February, Vavolizza-Runge was also named one of 10 Health Care Headliners by Vegas Inc. Health Care Quarterly Magazine.

Sr. Mary Flood, O.P., MD, Ph.D., has years of experience as an Infectious Disease Physician at New York-Presbyterian Hospital that benefited her patients and the Sisters of St. Dominic of Blauvelt, where she also serves as medical director of the home care unit. Sr. Mary instituted strict COVID protocols at the Convent. In fall 2020, Sr. Mary was featured in the Global Sisters Report’s Saints Next Door series. She was also honored as a Woman of Distinction by New York State Assemblyman Mike Lawler in May 2021.

Liliana Lopez, DNP, treated many COVID patients at her En Su Casa Primary Health Care clinics in Spring Valley, Haverstraw, and Ossining. Contracting COVID early on, before any of her patients, protected her with antibodies. “It was a blessing. I saw it as a blessing,” she said. “God made me get it so that I could be there to take care of my patients.” Once the vaccines were available, Lopez said her clinics pivoted to administering the vaccine to as many people as possible.

In addition to being alumnae, Sr. Flood, ’68, and Lopez ’99, ’04, both serve on the Dominican College Board of Trustees.





Sr. Mary Eileen O'Brien, O.P., Ph.D., and Kathrin U. Jansen, Ph.D.

Head of Vaccine Development at Pfizer Delivers Commencement Address

Kathrin U. Jansen, Ph.D., Senior Vice President and Head of Vaccine Research and Development, Pfizer Inc., wished the Dominican College Class of 2021 “a lifetime of joyful learning and meaningful accomplishments” at the 67th Undergraduate Commencement Ceremony on Sunday, June 27, 2021, at the Palisades Credit Union Park in Pomona, NY.

During her Commencement Address, which was delivered virtually, Jansen praised the graduates for persevering during an unprecedented time. “You deserve recognition not only for having earned your degrees, but for having done so while contending with the extraordinary challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic,” she said.

Under Jansen’s leadership, Pfizer developed the first COVID-19 vaccine to receive emergency use authorization

for use by individuals 16 years of age and older from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA). It was developed in record-breaking time and was also the first vaccine approved for emergency use in adolescents 12 to 15 years of age. Jansen explained that the vaccine was developed quickly without taking shortcuts by using a radical approach of carrying out required steps simultaneously, instead of sequentially.

Jansen ended her address by sharing with the graduates what she has learned since graduating. Her advice was: don’t waste time worrying; always trust your gut; value your alliances; express your gratitude to your valued partners; embrace opportunities and learn from detours and failures; and cultivate resilience. “It is abundantly clear to me that the Dominican Class of 2021 already has the quality of resilience in abundance,” she said. “You survived a most difficult year and you are here

with your friends and family to celebrate it—to celebrate you.”

In addition to the undergraduate ceremony at Palisades Credit Union Park, graduate hooding and commencement ceremonies for Dominican College students earning advanced degrees took place on campus throughout June. Over 500 students received degrees—74 doctoral degrees, 108 master’s degrees.

Outstanding Senior Award Presented to International Student

The 2021 Outstanding Senior Award was presented to Bruno Garcia at Senior Class Night on May 4, 2021.

At Dominican College, he studied international management and economics and graduated with a 3.92 cumulative grade point average.

Throughout his four years, Garcia not only excelled in the classroom, but also was a leader in many extracurricular activities. He played on the soccer team, founded the International Students’ Association, was president of the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC) and served as a Resident Assistant.

Garcia also volunteered and took part in service projects including the Alternative Spring Break program. Since graduating, Garcia has returned home to Brazil where he is working as the Manager of New Business at Garcia Construction.

Tammy Jersey  
President of TKJ Associates

Palisades Institute Heard Many Voices Speak About COVID-19

The Palisades Institute had a year of forums dealing with the pandemic’s impact on every aspect of life and business in the region.

On October 6, 2020, a Palisades Institute Zoom forum featured Carolyn Grossman Meagher, NYC Director of Regional Planning, who gave a presentation on how the city is reaching out to all of its neighbors to make the region stronger. She was joined by area governmental leaders and business people.

Four leaders talked in November about how businesses can survive and thrive during the pandemic. “From a business perspective, these are very exciting times,” Walter Goldman of Goldkap Consulting Group in Suffern, NY said. “And I know when I say that, people are surprised by it, but the reality is that business entrepreneurs and business executives kind of thrive on disruption.” He set the tone for a forum that spoke to business leaders about adapting to the



times and thriving in the face of the pandemic’s uncertainty

In mid-January, 2021, over 125 people participated in a Zoom forum that discussed the importance of the COVID vaccine and the safety of mRNA vaccines and corona viruses.

Dr. Mary Leahy, CEO of Bon Secours Charity Health System, reminded everyone that masks and social distancing work and that “we all have to do this together.”

On March 10, 2021, the COVID-19 focus moved to its impact on women in business. Ivan Rudolph-Shabinsky, Director of the Business Administration Division at Dominican College, co-moderated the event. He said, “This pandemic has impacted pretty much the service sector most severely and that’s a sector that’s over-represented by women, so they’ve been hit in a big way there.”

Panelist Tammy Jersey, President of TKJ Associates, pointed out that companies have started to and need to continue to be flexible and open to new ideas in order to adapt to the changing work environment. They need “to remove responses that might have been there in the past, like ‘no,’ and ‘I can’t,’ and ‘but,’” she said.

The Palisades Institute forums continue to be newsworthy events featuring the best minds in the region and explore how the pandemic has and is affecting business in the area.

Students Volunteer in Camden During Weekend of Service

A team of Dominican College students, alumni, and staff

volunteered in Camden, NJ, during a Weekend of Service from March 5-7, 2021. The group worked with Romero Center Ministries to help UrbanPromise prepare to reopen its afterschool program which had been shut down for several months because of COVID-19.

In addition to volunteering, the Dominican College students lived and ate simply, engaged in reflection, and disconnected from technology. Strobel said the students also watched a documentary to gain a deeper understanding of the people living in Camden and to hear their stories. The Weekend of Service allowed students to be involved in service even though the traditional Alternative Spring Break Program was canceled.



Lisa Hirsch, MD, of Bon Secours Medical Group

Healthcare Symposium Tackles Obesity

During the 7th Annual Healthcare Symposium, “Obesity and Weight Gain During the Pandemic,” a panel of experts discussed the “quarantine 15” and how obese patients fared with COVID-19.

Lisa Hirsch, MD, an Internist with Bon Secours Medical Group, stressed that obesity increases the risk of poor outcomes with COVID-19. “It not only increases the risk of severe illness, but increases the need for critical care

services. It triples the risk of hospitalizations, increases the risk of death, and although it is too early with the vaccine to know, other vaccines have had decreased efficacy with overweight people,” she said.

Other panelists included Jill L. Brodsky, MD, Pediatric Endocrinologist, CareMount Medical Urgent Care; Michelle S. Kleinman, Public Health Nutritionist, Rockland County Department of Health; and Robert Ranieri, Senior Vice President, Rose & Kiernan, Inc.

The symposium took place via Zoom on February 23, 2021, and was moderated by Joan Facelle, MD, Former Rockland County Commissioner of Health and Vice Chair of the Dominican College Board of Trustees.

Students Package 10,000 Meals for the Hungry

Dominican College students packaged 10,000 non-perishable rice and beans meals for the hungry on September 4, 2020, by partnering with The

Outreach Program on a service project called “Feed Your Soul.”

Kathryn Strobel, former Director of Community Engagement & Leadership Development, pointed out that the College’s first Day of Service took place during Hunger Action Month. “Many Americans don’t have access to sufficient, nourishing food. I believe this activity is popular among our students because it feels good to put time into helping others, and to see the tangible result of 10,000 meals—knowing that will have a positive impact on thousands of people. This activity is proof that, when we work together, small actions can make a big difference.”

Safety was a top priority during the service project. The food packaging was done in shifts with a maximum of 25 students in the gym at one time. Students were required to wear masks and gloves. In addition, surfaces were frequently disinfected. ■



Students packaging 10,000 meals for the hungry.



# Promoting Organizational Health



## A SUCCESSFUL YEAR FOR FUNDRAISING

During a year that presented extraordinary challenges for fundraising, Dominican College is thankful for the public and private funders who supported the College and its students. Because of the generosity of alumni, benefactors, foundations, businesses and government, the College Advancement Team exceeded fundraising expectations.

“The Advancement team is outstanding,” said Joseph Valenti, Vice President for Institutional Advancement. “They’ve proven they can raise funds through every possible promotional angle, even using telemarketing, to deliver for the students in a spectacular way against some tough odds in the midst of a rough year for everyone.”

Grants Consultant Maddy Schiering worked with faculty and administrators to submit 37 proposals that brought in nearly \$1.5 million in grants for research, programs, scholarships, and facilities—not including the \$6.4 million in federal grants that were awarded in fall 2021.

A \$250,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)

Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) will enhance Dominican College’s undergraduate nursing program by funding new simulation technologies and community health-based clinical experiences. Some of the other grants awarded include: more than \$100,000 from the Lavelle Foundation to support

Sterling National Bank Charitable Foundation to help students achieve academic success; \$5,000 from TD Bank Charitable Foundation to provide students with laptops for remote learning; and \$2,500 from Enterprise for Career Services.

Members of the Advancement team were also key players on the *Dirt 2 Turf* Campaign

in gifts and pledges. The money raised includes \$1.5 million from Chartwells Food Services, \$573, 000 from a New York State Higher Education Capital (HECap) grant, and \$25,000 from the Waldorf Foundation/Risk Services Company. All of the college trustees made pledges and contributions as well.

In addition, graduates of Dominican College also stepped up this past year, with greater numbers of our alumni supporting their alma mater, during a year when some Colleges saw the numbers of participating alumni decline.

Dominican College is committed to providing students of all backgrounds with an affordable, high-quality education. To do that, Valenti said his team will continue their fundraising efforts. “The momentum of special events, alumni relations, telemarketing, major gift solicitations, and database management will continue through 2021-22 school year with the hopes that we can even beat this year’s record,” said Valenti. “It’s going to be a great year at Dominican College.”

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the Teachers of the Blind and Visually Impaired Program and fund scholarships; \$29,540 from the Hugoton Foundation to purchase a technologically advanced medication dispensing system and two interactive display boards for the Nursing department; \$10,000 from the

Committee. Using videos and Zoom presentations to alumni, neighbors, local business leaders, corporations, faculty, and parents, the *Dirt 2 Turf* Campaign Committee was able to raise more than \$3.2 million over the entire campaign period



# Dominican College Secures Two Federal Grants Totaling \$6.4 Million

Shortly after the new 2021-2022 school year got underway, Dominican College learned that it would receive two federal grants totaling \$6.4 million dollars, including the largest programmatic grant ever received by the College. The grants were awarded by the U.S. Department of Education (ED) and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC). They will be used to establish the STEM Opportunities for Hispanic and Low-Income Students (SOHLIS) Project and a Public Health Informatics & Technology Workforce Development (PHIT Workforce) Program that both aim to increase the diversity of students entering these fields.

College President Sr. Mary Eileen O'Brien, O.P., Ph.D. said the grants are a wonderful achievement, "As a Hispanic-serving institution, Dominican College is in a unique position to educate a diverse student body in high-demand fields and help contribute to a more diverse workforce. These federal grants will enable us to establish comprehensive STEM and public health informatics technology programs, which will both go a long way in increasing educational and career opportunities for our students."

Dominican College was awarded a \$4.5 million, five-year grant from ED to develop the SOHLIS Project. This project will establish student services and curricular programs to increase Dominican College's STEM

program enrollment, retention, degree completion, and career entry. As part of this grant, Dominican College will partner with Rockland, Westchester, and Bergen Community Colleges to strengthen articulation agreements.

In addition, ONC awarded Dominican College a \$1.9 million grant to develop and establish a PHIT Workforce Program which will include paid internships and career placement for students. "We were one of only 10 schools in the country who received this grant," said Ivan Rudolph-Shabinsky, CFA, Director, Business Administration Division. "It was a very competitive grant. All of the other schools are large research universities. We are the only school from New York State to be chosen, so we are really excited to have gotten this grant. It's going to be a cooperative effort between our Information Technology Department and our Health Sciences group."

The funds will be used to develop a proposal, to be submitted to the New York State Education Department for consideration and approval, for a PHIT concentration within the Health Sciences and/or Information Technology majors. The PHIT Workforce Program is funded through the American Rescue Plan and aims to increase the number and diversity of students entering the field of public health informatics technology to improve public health reporting and address systematic health inequities. ■



On September 29, 2021, Sullivan Library staff hosted a ribbon cutting to celebrate their new outdoor study space. The new patio is a result of many months of planning, help from many campus offices and was a dream of former Head Librarian Gina Shelton. Sister Kathleen Sullivan, O.P., Chancellor for External Affairs, Trask, and current library staff spoke briefly at the ceremony.



**Institutional Advancement Team** Back: Mary McHugh, Joseph Valenti, Mary Lichtman, Brett Bekritsky, Front: Joanne Sorace, Eileen Reilly, Jennifer Melendez, Susan Cerra, Bridget Shalvey, Anne Reeves



## Dominican College Launches New Rowing Club

In September 2021, Dominican College launched a new Rowing Club, with men's and women's teams. The club will compete against collegiate teams in the New York area, regional races including the New York State Collegiate Championships, and some national races—including the Dad Vail Regatta in Philadelphia.

Coach Ivan Rudolph-Shabinsky says there are many national team rowers who didn't start rowing until college. "This creates a wonderful opportunity for the late-blooming athlete who has not yet found 'their sport' to try rowing and know that, even if they start only in college, they have the possibility of reaching the highest levels of the sport," he said.

Rudolph-Shabinsky, Director of the Business Division at Dominican College, is an accomplished rower and coach who began his career at Cornell University. He continued racing as an adult—most recently winning a gold medal in a masters four in 2019 at the prestigious Head of the Charles Regatta. He is also president of the Rockland Rowing Association, where he coaches youth rowers and competes as a masters rower.

Dominican College has partnered with Rockland Rowing to develop the Rowing Club. Rockland Rowing is completing a new rowing center at Rockland Lake that will include the new Creston Rowing Pavilion, a low-profile eco-dock, and a buoyed 10-lane course. ■



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Two New Trustees Join the Board

Two new Trustees with a vast amount of experience in the financial sector have joined the Dominican College Board of Trustees. Orangeburg resident Lawrence Bates and Nyack resident Ruben Roy were approved at the June 10, 2021 Board meeting.

Lawrence Bates

Lawrence Bates has more than 20 years of experience in strategic planning, business transformation, and mergers and acquisition integration. He is the former Operating Partner of Apollo Management, one of the world’s leading alternative asset managers. Prior to his nine years at Apollo Management, Bates worked at American Express Company as Vice President, Global Strategy and Business Transformation, for five years. He also has worked at Deloitte & Touche LLP, John Hancock Financial Services, and other firms earlier in his career.

Bates earned a Bachelor of Science in Finance and Business Management from Pace University. For the past four years, he has served on the Rockland Country Club Board of Governors. In addition, he sat on the CoreTrust Private

Equity Advisory Board for six years and held interim board positions on portfolio companies for eight years.

Ruben Roy

Ruben Roy is a Senior Equity Research Analyst at WestPark Capital, Inc., in New York City. WestPark Capital is a full service investment banking and securities brokerage firm which serves the needs of both private and public companies worldwide, as well as individual and institutional investors. He previously worked at The Benchmark Company as Managing Director, Senior Research Analyst, Semiconductors, and MKM Partners, LLC, as Managing Director, Senior Research Analyst, Semiconductors, in addition to other securities firms. Roy began his career as a design engineer responsible for the conceptualization, creation,



Lawrence Bates and Ruben Roy

and development of very large-scale integration (VLSI) chip designs.

Roy earned a Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering from Fairleigh Dickinson University, a Master of Science in Electrical Engineering from Manhattan College, and an MBA from New York University Stern School

of Business. In the past, he served on the Board of the Nyack Center which supports children, youth, and families through educational and recreational programs. ■

President’s Advisory Council

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## Bill Diener, Woman's Basketball Coach, Named Coach of the Year

Head Women's Basketball Coach **Bill Diener** is eager to share the spotlight after being named Division II All-Met Coach of the Year because he considers it an honor bestowed not personally upon him—but upon Dominican College.

Diener credits college administrators, the athletics department, trainers, and the cleaning staff with helping the school go forward safely with athletics during COVID. "I look at it that the whole school was honored, especially with this season and how we had to comply with all of the protocols, rules, and regulations. It was not only me, but a great recognition of the school."

Of course, Diener also applauds the players who excelled on the basketball court and won the CACC Tournament Title during a year filled with uncertainty, restrictions, and regular COVID testing. "Our kids were fantastic," he said. "We just really focused on what we can control today. We can't control what's going to happen tomorrow. Let's just concentrate on today, thank God for where we are today, and continue to go day by day." The Met Basketball Writers Association announced the award in April, honoring Diener as Coach of the Year for leading the Chargers to a 12-2 record and their first CACC title in more than 18 years.

Diener has been head coach of the women's basketball team for 11 years, after spending two years as an assistant coach. He came to Dominican College from Albertus Magnus High School where he was head coach for the girls' varsity team for 10 years.



# Celebrating Our Community

### Banner Year for Athletics

The 2020-2021 school year ended with a bang for three of Dominican Colleges sport teams, as the men's golf team, the women's basketball, and the baseball team all won their CACC (Central Atlantic Collegiate Conference) championships.

### Golf Championship

The men's golf team was led by a freshman from Sweden, Alexander Lundvall, to a combined score of 305, one stroke better than number two Concordia. Lundvall was named the MVP of the tournament. The tournament was held on April 19, 2021 at White Beeches Golf and country Club in Haworth, NJ.

This is the golf team's fourth championship. They won it all in 2001, 2002, and 2018, as well.

### Women's Basketball

The women's basketball team finished with an impressive 12-2 record on the season, but the 81-65 win over Georgian Court University for the championship will be remembered for years. Not only did the Lady Chargers defeat the top seeded team, but they won their first and second round games against Felician University and Nyack College, respectively, during the tournament.

Taylor Tomlinson was named MVP of the CACC Women's Basketball Championships. She led the team in

scoring and rebounding and was ninth and sixth in the conference, respectively. Khay'la Latimer led the conference in three-point field goal percentages and baskets.

She and Tomlinson made the All-CACC Women's Basketball Team. Both players ranked in the top 20 in a number of skills on the court.

This was the basketball team's first championship win in 18 years.

### Baseball Team

On May 15, 2021, the baseball team won the CACC championship in a spectacular 6-5 victory over Thomas Jefferson University. This is the team's 18th championship.

The championship game,

played at Alumni Field in Philadelphia, PA, remained scoreless into the fifth inning, until Carmine Giordano (2B) hit a solo home run. By the seventh inning, the game was tied 2-2.

The top of the ninth saw the champs load the bases with singles, hits by pitches, and walks. Left fielder Shane Hewlette hit the game-winning triple that put the Chargers up 5-2. DH Benjamin Meza hit a double that brought Hewlette home for a score of 6-2.

Jefferson came back on the field with a vengeance, but it wasn't enough. They racked up three runs on two hits, but still fell with a final score of 6-5 to the Chargers.

Hewlett was named MVP of the tournament and was placed on the All-Tournament team.







Softball

The softball team finished with an outstanding CACC record of 20-6 and an overall record of 21-14 even with a shortened schedule and no spring break trip to Florida due to the pandemic. The team made a strong showing in the NCAA East Regional Poll. They placed second in the CACC and received a second seed in the Conference Championship Tournament. They made it to the quarterfinals before being eliminated.

Lacrosse

The College's lacrosse team had an overall record of 4-5 with a CACC record of 2-2, in their pandemic shortened seasons. They made it to the semi-finals of the CACC Championship before being eliminated.

Men's Soccer

The men's soccer team had an impressive CACC record of 3-0 with an overall record of 4-1. The Charger's finished the season in first place in the CACC. The Chargers lost to Concordia in the final match of CACC Championship to end the season with a bit of disappointment but a lot of reason for pride.

Women's Soccer

The women on the pitch finished with an overall record of 4-4-1 and a CACC record of 3-3-1. The team made it all the way to the semi-finals of the CACC Tournament and were only felled by the conference's number one-seeded team. The players racked up an impressive number of individual accolades in the conference.

Men's Basketball

The men's basketball team finished second in the CACC despite an abbreviated schedule. With a CACC record of 4-3 and an overall record of 4-4, the team had an excellent year. Though there wasn't a CACC Championship Tournament this year, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the team made it to the quarterfinals of the NCAA East Regional Tournament before being eliminated.

Women's Golf

In just the third year of the program, the women's golf team made respectable showings at all five of the tournaments they played in a short season. The team finished third in both Jefferson matches.

Men's Tennis

The men's tennis team finished fourth in the CACC and just missed a playoff berth this year. Also playing a shortened season, the team had a 3-5 CACC record (3-6 overall). The team's first win in program history came on March 25 when they beat Thomas Jefferson University 4-3.



Women's Tennis

The women's tennis team, in only their second season of competition, ended the season with a record of 0-5, with individual players growing in strength and skill. With a team that offered a perfect 5-0 record in doubles play and several players excelling in individual play, the team is maturing together well.

Unfortunately, the College's cross-country and the women's lacrosse teams didn't compete due to the pandemic.

Men's Track

The men's track and field team only took part in five meets this year. Freshman Kenney Laredent won the triple jump at the Charles E. Davis relays and third at the Wolverine's Last Chance Meet. Ezra Evens and Lawrence Ribbiero each stood out at their respective events this year as well. The 4x100m relay team finished second at the St. Peter's Invite and third at the CACC Championships.

Women's Track

The women's track and field team also had a shortened season. Stacy Eliezer took third place in the hammer throw event, while Sabrina Hernandez took fourth in shotput at the Charles E. Davis relays and fifth in discus at Saint Peter's Invite and the Wolverine's Last Chance Meet.

Volleyball

The women's volleyball team had one win late in the season against Felician University (3-2) giving the team at 1-7 overall record and 1-5 CACC record. With a shortened season and no matches until spring, the team showed power with several of the players carving out roles on the hardwood to contribute to some tough fights. ■





*As the Associate Academic Dean, Ann literally met with hundreds of students each year, balancing individual needs, legal rights, and compassion with enforcement of the College’s academic standards.*

Ann Vavolizza

When Ann Vavolizza, Ed.D., accepted a part-time teaching position at Dominican College in 1981, she couldn’t have imagined that her career at the College would last almost 40 years or that when she did retire, she would be leaving Dominican after serving as its Associate Academic Dean for more than 13 years. All who know her, however, are extremely grateful that her career evolved this way.

Ann began at the College as an adjunct English instructor in Dominican’s Weekend College in 1981. In 1983, she accepted a one-year full-time teaching position in the College’s English program stepping in for a Sister who was on leave. When that Sister decided not to return, Ann’s position was converted to a regular full-time one.

Eight years later, in 1991, she became the Humanities Coordinator, overseeing both the English program and the English placement tests, which back then were all graded by hand, which meant that a large part of her job was reading several hundred essays every summer and dealing with phone calls from angry and/or upset students wanting to know why they had to take the “Enhanced Writing” course for transfer students.

In 1995, Ann assumed new responsibilities as Assistant Academic Dean under Dr. Leigh

Holt, and she was later promoted to Associate Dean. As the Associate Academic Dean, Ann literally met with hundreds of students each year, balancing individual needs, legal rights, and compassion with enforcement of the College’s academic standards. This would be a difficult balancing act for just about anyone, but Ann was able to calm almost every storm that blew into her office. For faculty and administrators alike, Ann was the go-to person regarding any and all questions about academic policies and procedures. Along the way, Ann also earned her Ed.D., from Columbia University’s Teachers College, writing her dissertation on a topic she knew all too well, college catalogs.

During her career at Dominican College, Ann played a significant role in the development and accreditation of many new academic programs. As the direct supervisor of the Library and its staff, she was involved in the creation of the Sullivan Library. She also had direct supervision over the Academic Success Center and the Office of Special Services. She spearheaded the development of the College’s academic assessment procedures, and oversaw their continued refinement as Chair of the Assessment Committee.



*Phil mentored numerous students over the years and was always more than willing to offer Independent Studies and Winter and Summer Session courses to keep students on track for graduation.*

Phil Sciame

Prof. Phil Sciame retired from Dominican College after a 39-year career at the College as an Assistant Professor of Computer Science. Phil joined the College in 1982 which, not coincidentally, was the same year the College’s Computer Information Systems, or CIS, program was introduced. Phil was instrumental in getting this program off the ground.

He also served as the program’s coordinator for many years, continually refining the curriculum to meet the developments in a rapidly changing field. He developed and introduced many new course offerings not only for CIS majors but for the MBA program and other majors as well. He recognized the need for his students to have “hands on” practical and applicable experiences, which is perhaps best seen in his popular “Science of Robotics” course in which students were able to build their own small robots. The development of this course was funded by an internal Excellence in Teaching grant that was awarded to Phil. During one semester, students from Hudson Valley P-Tech, a regional high school STEM program, were hosted by this class, and P-Tech honored Phil with their “Above and Beyond Award” for his work with them.

Phil mentored numerous students over the years and was always more than willing to offer Independent Studies and Winter and Summer Session courses to keep students on track for graduation. Beyond the CIS program and the Business Administration Division of which he was an active part—for example, serving as the founder and long-time president of the College’s chapter of the Sigma Beta Delta International Honor Society for Business—Phil was involved at one time or another with just about every College-wide and Faculty Committee. In fact, few have had a better understanding of the College’s history and workings than Phil.

Outside of Dominican College, Phil has always remained remarkably involved in his local community, actively participating in his local parish, the Boy Scouts of America, the Palisades Institute, and several other organizations. He is also well known among the College community for being both a diehard Mets fan and a Trekkie, even occasionally showing episodes of Star Trek focused on the theme of Artificial Intelligence in some of his courses.



Granted Tenure

Mary “Patty” Furlong, D.N.P., (Nursing)  
Karl Rusch, D.P.T., (Physical Therapy)

Granted Promotion

Christine Davies, D.N.P., (Nursing) Assistant Professor  
Lucinda Acquaye-Doyle, Ph.D., (Social Work) Associate Professor

Departures

Ann Vavolizza, Ed.D., Associate Academic Dean, after 40 years  
Phil Sciamé, M.B.A., Assistant Professor of Computer Science, after 39 years  
Barbara Sulzer, Dean’s Office, after 36 years  
Mary O’Keeffe, Library, after 28 years  
Victoria Szerko, M.B.A., Assistant Professor of Business Administration, after 21 years  
Lorraine Morris, Social Sciences, after 23 years  
Ann Beutel, Arts and Science, after 18 years  
Mark Meachem, Ed.D., Associate Professor of Communications, A&S Director, after 17 years  
Anne Buchan, Human Resources, after 13 years  
Monique Lalanne, B.A., Admissions, after 10 years  
Colby Valentine, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Criminal Justice, after 9 years  
Joel Rajan, IT, after 8 years  
Kamille Duff, after 8 years  
Emma Fortunato, after 8 years  
Denice Tomassetti, after 7 years

Emma Sarro, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Biology, after 7 years  
Gina Shelton, Assistant Professor and Head Librarian, after 7 years  
Michael Pizzi, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Occupational Therapy, after 6 years  
Roxanne Drown, Controller, after 4 years

Service Awards

30 YEARS OF SERVICE



Maria Pizzano, Teacher Education

25 YEARS OF SERVICE



Paul Bonk, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Social Sciences



John Burke, M.S., VP Student Development



Ellen Dolgin, Ph.D., Professor, Arts and Science



John Spillner, M.B.A., Assistant Professor, Business Administration

20 YEARS OF SERVICE

Andrea Catania, Career Development Center

Lynda Chesterman, M.A., Director of Health Center

John Lennon, Sr., Human Resources

Lorraine Motta, MSED-Teacher ED

Robert Tyrrell, M.S. Ed, Admissions

15 YEARS OF SERVICE

Kathleen Boylan, M.A., Residence Life

Anna Desposati, Enrollment Management

Russell Diaz, M.S., Information Technology

Eileen Doyle, B.A., Human Resources

Chad Duesler, B.A., Student Development

Patty Furlong, D.N.P., Assistant Professor, Nursing

Kathleen Hinge, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Arts and Science

Eleanor Klepper, Accounts Payable Clerk, Controller

Karen Ko, B.A., Library

Christopher Libertini, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Social Sciences

Debra Moniz, Ed.D., Academic Success Center

Eileen Piccininni, M.A., Education & Prevention

Kathleen Rosenberger, B.S., Bursar

Denise Signorile, Health Center  
Pauline Teahan, Accounting

10 YEARS OF SERVICE

Michael Ainette, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Social Sciences

Yvette Blitzer, M.S., Assistant Professor, Coordinator of the TVI Program

Helen Hallinan, Physical Therapy

Annemarie McDermott, D.N.P., Assistant Professor, Nursing

Anne Reeves, Institutional Advancement

James Reitter, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Arts and Science

Lorraine Vitale, M.S., Instructor, Nursing

5 YEARS OF SERVICE

Maureen Amato, B.S., Academic Success Center

Janet Barron, B.A., Admissions

Alice Donohue, B.S., Institutional Research

Emil Euaparadorn, PT, DSc, Associate Professor, Physical Therapy

Elizabeth Fontes, B.B.A., Student Accounts-Collection

Michael Hoffman, M.B.A., Assistant Professor, Business Administration

Lisa Knipl Ippolito, M.S., Academic Success Center

Barbara Polowczyk, D.N.P., Instructor, Nursing

Mary Roche, M.S., Assistant Professor, Occupational Therapy

Michelle Wendt, B.A., Admissions

Faculty Achievements

Noteworthy Scholarly and Other Professional Activities



**Regina Alvarez, Ph.D.**, (Biology) had her co-authored article entitled “The Spontaneous Vascular Plant Flora of New York’s Central Park” published in the Journal of the Torrey Botanical Society. Dr. Alvarez was also the recipient of a two-year \$25,000 grant from Orange & Rockland Utilities for a series of monthly workshops on various environmental science topics open to both the College and local community. These workshops will be led by a combination of Dominican College faculty and experts from outside the College.



**Bernadette Connors, Ph.D.**, (Biology) published the paper “Navigating Proposal Writing and Implementation of an NSF S-STEM Grant Program: Reflections as a First-Time PI” in the journal CourseSource.

**Alvarez and Connors** (Biology) co-authored a paper with three students— Darlenys Sanchez, Anna Acosta, and Nicole Skoumpourdis—entitled “Complete Genome Sequences of Two Mycobacterium Smegmatis Bacteriophages” published in the journal Microbiology Resource Announcements. The paper was supported in part by the Dextra Baldwin McGonagle Foundation. In the same journal, Dr. Alvarez and Dr. Connors, along with Emma Sarro (Biology) co-authored a paper on the “Complete Genome Sequences of Mycobacteriophages Apex and Gophee” with students Denzel Edwards, Tara Carney, Yunia Alvarez and Justin Pagan.



**Catherine Cavaliere, Ph.D.**, (Occupational Therapy) and her third-year graduate students presented at the New York OTA Virtual Conference in November. They spoke about the findings of their joint year-long research project in a paper entitled “The Role of Sensory Health in Well-Being: A Review of the Literature and Implications for Practice.”



**Giovanna Czander, Ph.D.**, (Religious Studies) had her article, “‘Dialogues of Life’: The Focolare Movement’s Contribution to the Role of the Laity in Interreligious Dialogue,” included in Full, Conscious, and Active: Lay Participation in the Church’s Dialogue with the Word, a publication by Vaticano: Libreria Editrice Vaticana.



**Colleen Evans, Ph.D.**, (Chemistry) published “Synthesis and Biological Evaluation of Thioadatanserin and its Dialkylated Products as Partial 5-HT2A Antagonists for Potential Use in Depression and Anxiety Disorders,” which she co-authored with several DC science graduates, in an issue of Biorganic & Medicinal Chemistry Letters. She also published a paper entitled “Understanding Determinants for STEM Major Choice Among Students Beginning Community College” in the journal Community College Review.



**James Filippelli, Ed.D.**, (Fine and Performing Arts) and three of his students—Samantha De’Jesus, Thya Ellis, and Mariah Feliciano—published their article “Occupational Therapy and Theatre Arts Mutually Benefit Clinical Simulations: A Collaborative Approach” in The International Journal of Education. The article was based upon collaborative classroom activities between undergraduate theatre and graduate Occupational Therapy students.



**Judy Gitlin, M.S.L.S.**, (Sullivan Library) published a review of the book Linked Data for the Perplexed Librarian in a recent edition of the journal Library Resources & Technical Services.





**Sr. Mary Flood, O.P., M.D., Ph.D.,** (Trustee) an Infectious Disease doctor at Columbia Presbyterian Medical Center, was honored as a “Woman of Distinction” for the 97th Assembly District on May 14, 2021. She was one of just 22 women receiving this honor.



**Dawn Haughey, M.S.N.,** (Nursing), a Skills Lab Assistant and Adjunct/ Clinical Instructor, had her paper “Stronger Together: The Student Experience During the Onset of COVID-19” published in The Journal of Nursing Education. She also delivered a poster presentation entitled “Assessing School Personnel’s Knowledge of Child/Adolescent Depression and the Mental Health Impacts the COVID-19 Pandemic has on Students and Teachers” at the National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners’ National Conference.



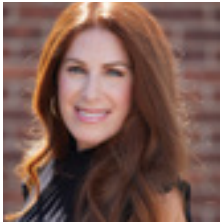
**Kevin Hermberg, Ph.D.,** (Philosophy) and several colleagues from other institutions presented a five-session lecture/workshop series on Inclusive and Anti-Racist Pedagogy at the University of Vermont. With one of these colleagues, he presented a paper on “Inclusive Practices: Moving Beyond Accommodation of Neurodifferences” as part of the American Association of Philosophy Teachers Summer Series on Pedagogy.



**Mark Meachem, Ed.D.,** (Communication Studies) had his article, “I Think; Therefore It’s News! The Convergence of Opinions versus Facts on Cable News Networks” published in The Review of Arts and Humanities.



**Sr. Mary Eileen O’Brien, O.P., Ph.D.,** President, was elected to the Board of Directors of the Council of Independent Colleges (CIC), based in Washington, D.C., and the Commission on Independent Colleges and Universities (CICU), based in Albany, NY.



**Tara Parrello, Ph.D.,** (Criminal Justice) had her article “Join the Space Race: Using Socrative’s Gaming Feature for Exam Review” published in the newsletter of the Teaching and Learning Section of the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences. Dr. Parrello was also named to the Executive Board of this group.



**Joseph Valenti, M.A.,** Vice President for Institutional Advancement joined the Hudson Valley Economic Development Corp. HVEDC Advisory Board of Directors.

In Memoriam



Leigh Holt

Leigh Holt Jr., Ph.D., retired Dominican College Vice President for Academic Affairs, passed away on November 9, 2020. He is remembered as being kind and compassionate with a wonderful sense of humor. Holt was also a distinguished scholar, a gifted orator, and an involved community member.

Holt joined Dominican College in 1979 as an Associate Professor in English and later was promoted to serve as the Director of the Arts & Sciences Division. In 1991, Holt was promoted to Academic Dean and eventually to Vice President of Academic Affairs in 2000.

Thomas S. Nowak, Ph.D., V.P., for Academic Affairs, considered Holt his mentor and his friend and said that his office is still full of Holt’s books. “He was just so smart and thoughtful that I could just sit back and listen to him speak on almost any subject you could imagine. At his retirement party, I compared him to Professor Dumbledore from the Harry Potter novels because of his kindness, dedication, and wisdom, but I also noted the physical resemblance between the two of them,” said Nowak.

Holt retired in 2007 after 28 years of service to the College. Nowak said that much of what Dominican College is today was shaped by Holt who had unwavering dedication and devotion to the College.



Rona Shaw

Rona Shaw, Ed.D., former Director of the Teachers of Students who are Blind or Visually Impaired Program, and former Director of Graduate Education passed away on January 5, 2020. A memorial service to celebrate her life was held in the Rosary Hall Chapel later that month.

Yvette Blitzer, M.S. in Ed., Coordinator, Program for Teachers of Students Who are Blind or Visually Impaired, considered Shaw a mentor and said, “Rona was a kind, tender, yet strong woman who generously shared her love, genuinely and deeply. To know her was not only to love her, but to have her love you.”

Shaw served Dominican College for more than 30 years and was nationally recognized as a leader in her field. She produced critically important literature that enabled families and professionals to nurture, support, and serve children with visual impairments and other disabilities. Under Shaw’s leadership, Dominican College’s Program for Teachers of Students for are Blind and Visually Impaired thrived. Shaw has an enduring legacy because her work benefited so many children, families, and professionals throughout the country.

The Rona Shaw Scholarship Fund has been established by her family. Each year, two Dominican College students enrolled in the College’s TVI program will receive a onetime grant of \$1,500 to subsidize the cost of tuition.



Jenna Tacinelli-Hach

After a lengthy and courageous battle with brain cancer, the college community said good-bye to Jenna Tacinelli-Hach on August 26, 2021. She was the Coordinator of Clinical Education for the Athletic Training Education Program for the past nine years. Tacinelli-Hach is remembered as a devoted faculty member, mentor to her students, advocate for the profession of Athletic Training, and the embodiment of a servant leader.

“The Athletic Training Program lost a valued and trusted member of its family,” said Jim Crawley, M.Ed., Athletic Training Program Coordinator. “Jenna would give you the shirt off her back and then go buy you some more shirts to make sure that you had enough.”

Tacinelli-Hach devoted herself to service with her involvement in a variety of charitable organizations. She organized Coupons for the Community, Operation Christmas Child, and St. Baldrick’s Day and volunteered at the Tunnel to Towers run and the New Jersey Special Olympics. In addition, she organized the Allied Health Symposiums sponsored by the College and was involved with the New York State Athletic Training Association.

To recognize Jenna’s unwavering support of students, an endowed scholarship to support undergraduate Health Science majors has been created in her honor.



Chantal Haskew

Chantal Haskew, Lecturer in Art for 28 years, passed away on August 18, 2021. She is remembered for her kind nature, generous spirit, and creativity.

Haskew was an exceptional artist and earned a master’s degree in painting from the Pius XII Institute in Florence. She had art exhibits in Florence, Philadelphia, Chicago, and locally in the Hudson Valley. Her art ranged from abstract landscapes to vibrant watercolors.

Since Haskew began teaching at the College in 1993, she taught nearly 150 courses. She was beloved by her students and will be missed.



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Food Pantry**  
Better World Books  
Cecelia Byrnes, O.P. '66  
Bernadette Connors, Ph.D.  
Express Entertainment  
Patricia Ginty, O.P. '95  
Raskob Foundation for Catholic  
Activities, Inc.  
Virginia M. Reeves  
Sisters of St. Dominic Community

Genessee & Wyoming, Inc.  
**STEM Program**  
Orange and Rockland Utilities, Inc.  
**Student Success Program**  
TD Charitable Foundation  
**Vaccine Raffle Fund**  
Kathleen Sullivan, O.P.

Scholarship Contributions

**Donna Abood Scholarship Fund**  
NTT Industries, Inc.  
**Coca-Cola Scholarship**  
Coca-Cola Bottling Company  
**Dorothy Christine Filoramo  
Scholarship**  
Susan E. Cerra  
Mary Lichtman  
Mary A. McHugh '89

**Marilyn Fishman Scholarship**  
Lawrence J. Fishman

**Ann and Frank Galiani Scholarship**  
Carolyn Curran '62  
**High Five Project**  
High Five Project Inc.

**Vaughna Jarvis Memorial  
Scholarship**  
Foster Jarvis  
Venika F. Jarvis  
Pauline Moore Jarvis

**Michael Jolly Memorial Scholarship**  
Andrea O'Connor  
Christine O'Prey

**Maggie Kaplen Scholarship**  
Kaplen Foundation

**Lang Family Scholarship**  
Peter Lang

**Lavelle Scholarship**  
Lavelle Foundation

**Janet Lockwood Scholarship**  
Sharon Jolly

**Dr. Lilian Lopez Scholarship**  
Liliana Lopez, FNP, DNP '04

**Forster McCaffrey Scholarship**  
Rosanne N. Hicks  
Denise T. O'Donnell

**Frank and Madelyn Medici  
Scholarship**  
Madelyn and Frank N. Medici, M.D.  
Frank T. Medici

**Bobby Mulligan Scholarship**  
Thomas W. Ehardt



Scholarship Contributions

**Helen & Philip O'Brien  
Scholarship Fund**  
James and Jennifer Diercksen  
James W. and Rose Marie Diercksen  
Margaret A. O'Brien

**Riversville Foundation Scholarship**  
Riversville Foundation  
**Rockland Country Club Scholarship**  
Rockland Country Club Foundation

**Dr. Brian Schroeder Memorial  
Scholarship**  
David L. Standig

**Rona Shaw Scholarship**  
Texas Instrument Foundation/  
David Groeke

**By Grace through Faith Scholarship  
- Simpelo Family Scholarship**  
Dan Justin A. Simpelo '15  
Dante M. Simpelo  
Rachel A. Simpelo-Causing '13

**Sisters of St. Dominic Service &  
Leadership Scholarship**  
Sisters of St. Dominic Community  
General Fund

**Successful Learning Center  
Scholarship**  
The Successful Learning Center, Inc.  
**Switzer Foundation Scholarship**  
Switzer Foundation

**Karl Walker Memorial Fund**  
Debora & Gregory Walker

**CSC Service Works Scholarship**  
CSC Service Works

**General Scholarship**  
Andrew J. Bell '02  
Sandra J. Blasy '85  
Marie E. Buckley Hoffman '85

Debra Coppola '91  
Catherine A. Doyle '90  
Dorothy C. Filoramo  
MetLife Foundation  
Lawrence Nolciolo IMO Marguerite  
Vatter  
Margaret S. Raabe '78  
Frank M. Raspanti '80 IMO  
Marguerite Vatter  
Robert H. Vatter IMO Marguerite  
Vatter

**John T. Buhler Scholarship**  
Schwab Charitable

**Heritage Society**  
A special thank you to the Members  
of the Heritage Society. Members  
of the Heritage Society have  
designated Dominican College  
as a beneficiary of their estates.

Capital Expansion

**Turf Field**  
Pat Aguanno  
Aramark  
John Bartolotta  
Beacon Offset Printing  
Joseph A. Carlo '12  
Joseph E. Clinton '16  
Coca-Cola Bottling Company  
Construction Industry Council of  
Westchester & Hudson Valley, Inc.  
Gregory DiDona '05  
John T. Dillon, Jr., Esq.  
Marcella Doonan  
Ethel & Philip Adelman Charitable  
Foundation, Inc.  
Brian Fernandes  
Dorothy C. Filoramo  
Michelle Fitzpatrick



Capital Expansion - Turf Field and Track

John F. Fitzsimmons '01  
John F. Flynn, Ph.D.  
Joseph E. Gartner '78  
William Gove '77  
Jennifer M. Hach  
Alison E. Hales '04  
James and Barbara Hennessy  
Christine Higgins '05  
Samantha James  
Bernadette M. Kappen, Ph.D., '70  
Margaret Kivlehan '88  
Mary P. Leahy, M.D.  
Kelly Ann Light  
Gaetchine Louis '01  
Christopher J. Mahoney  
Marshall & Sterling Inc.  
James P. McDonald '77  
Michael T. McLaughlin '90  
Thomas J. McNamara '88  
Jennifer Melendez  
Pat Miele and Rosemarie Miele '86  
Madeline P. Mignone, Ph.D.  
Margaret E. Mulligan  
Erin Munsch '02  
Thomas Nowak, Ph.D.  
James J. O'Brien, Jr.  
Margaret A. O'Brien  
Olori Crane Service, Inc.  
Clement Y. Osei, M.D.  
Brian J. Quinn, Esq.  
Bonni Raab  
Anne Reeves  
Eileen Reilly  
Jennifer Sassano, Ph.D.  
Bridget M. Shalvey '21  
Sheer Strategy  
Michael Shilale  
Kathy A. Strickland '18  
Josephine Sullivan  
Pauline Teahan '12  
James J. Toolen '85

Joseph G. Valenti  
Robert H. Vatter  
Ann Vavolizza, Ph.D.  
Waldorf Family Foundation Inc.  
Barbara A. Werner, O.P. '83

**College Scholarships  
Annual Scholarships**  
AAUW - Mimi Korb Scholarship  
AAUW - Myneder Scholarship  
Donna Abood Memorial Scholarship  
Adopt A Scholar Program  
John T. Buhler  
By Grace through Faith Scholarship  
- Simpelo Family  
Patrick Abraham Emanuel Studley  
Chambers Memorial Scholarship  
Coca-Cola Company Scholarship  
CSC Service Works Scholarship  
Follett Higher Education Texbook  
Awards  
Forster-McCaffrey Scholarship  
Ann and Frank Galiani Scholarship  
Vaughna Jarvis Memorial Scholarship  
Lavelle-Brother James Kearney  
Scholarship  
Dr. Liliana Lopez Nursing Scholarship  
Frank and Madelyn Medici Scholarship  
Red Bull Corporate Scholarship  
Riversville Foundation Scholarships  
Rockland Country Club Scholarship  
Sagaria Family Scholarship  
Sr. Tina Marie Stocks, O.P., Memorial  
Scholarship  
Successful Learning Center  
Scholarship  
Switzer Foundation Scholarship  
Tappan Zee High School Scholarship  
Karl Walker Memorial Scholarship  
Marilyn G. Fishman Memorial  
Scholarship

Rona Shaw Memorial Scholarship  
The Lang Family Scholarship  
The Sheila Greason Scholarship  
The High Five Project Book  
Scholarship  
Endowed Scholarships  
Albert the Great Scholarship  
Alpha Chi Scholarships  
Alumni Scholarship  
Nicholas Badami Family Fund  
James Clancy Memorial Scholarship  
Janyce White Cuccio Memorial  
Scholarship  
Friar Thomas D'Aquino Scholarship  
Dorothy Christine Filoramo  
Scholarship  
Friendly Sons of St. Patrick of  
Rockland County Scholarship

Dominic Guzmán Award  
Sue Heller Memorial Scholarship  
Hennessy Family Scholarship in  
Honor of the Dominican Sisters  
of Blauvelt  
Denise De Simone Jensen Memorial  
Scholarship  
Lee and Jerome Johnson Nursing  
Scholarship  
Michael Jolly Memorial Scholarship  
Maggie Kaplen Nursing Scholarship  
Lavelle Fund Scholarship  
Janet Lockwood Memorial Scholarship  
Coach Robert Macken Memorial  
Scholarship  
Estelle and Joseph Micceri  
Memorial Scholarship  
Bobby Mulligan Memorial Scholarship  
Helen and Philip O'Brien Memorial  
Scholarship  
Dennis J. O'Gorman Scholarship  
O'Keefe Family Memorial Scholarship  
Gertrude Schlachter Memorial Fund  
Dr. Brian Schroeder Memorial  
Scholarship  
Sr. Mary John Burke Scholarship  
Sr. Noel Dwyer, O.P., Scholarship  
Sr. Maureen Francis O'Shea Nursing  
Scholarship  
Sr. Mary Zita Nursing Scholarship  
Sisters of Reparation of the  
Congregation of Mary Scholarship  
Alfred Wieteck Memorial Scholarship  
Anthony Troncone Scholarship  
Sr. Beryl Herdt scholarship

**Palisades Institute  
Sponsors**  
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Westchester & Hudson Valley, Inc./  
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James and Barbara Hennessy

Sr. Beryl Herdt, O.P., Ph.D.  
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Orange Bank and Trust Company  
Rockland Teachers Center  
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Palisades Institute

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Stanley J. Jacoby

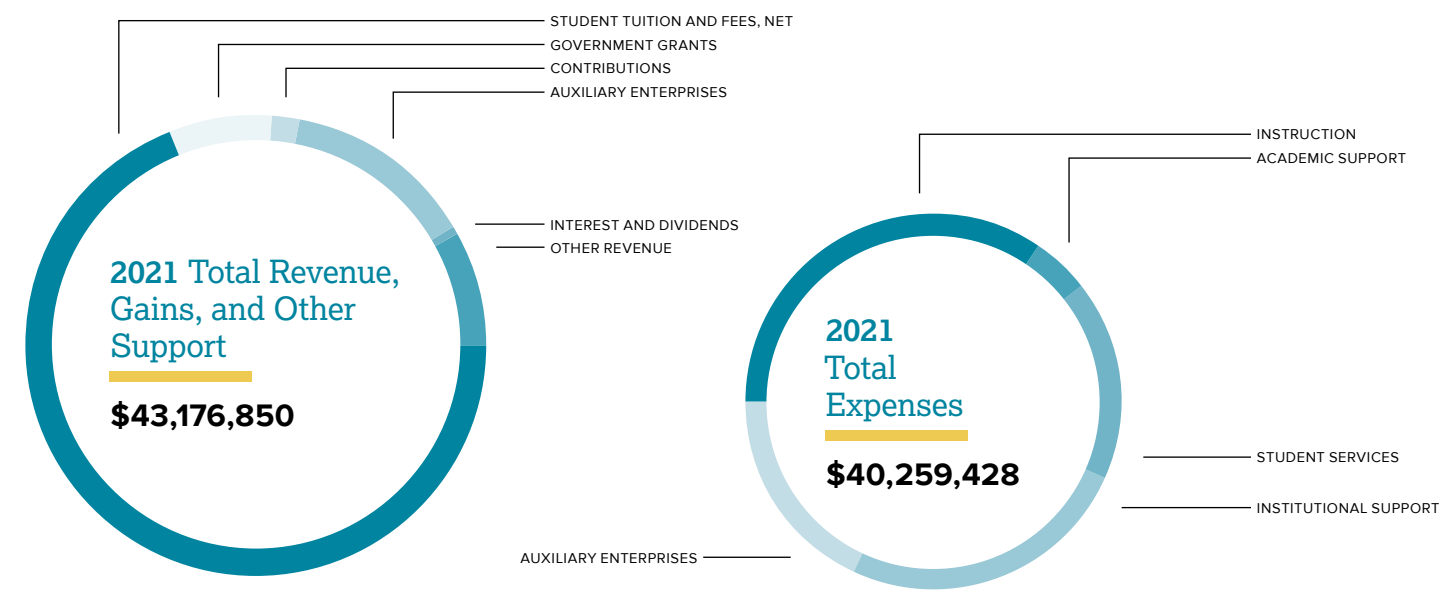
**Dominican College Liaison**  
Kathleen Sullivan, O.P.

**Board of Advisors**  
Frank Armstrong  
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Alumni Association  
Board of Directors

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Michelle Perez '09  
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Frandy Osias '13  
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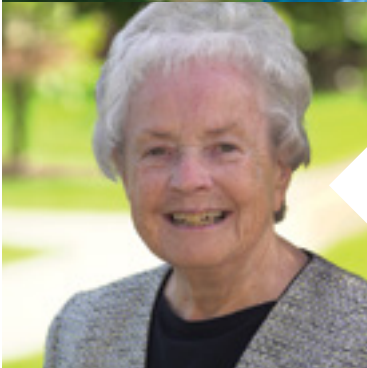
Revenue, Gains, and Other Support

	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017
Student Tuition and Fees	\$47,372,164	\$49,096,410	\$48,888,936	\$47,770,867	\$47,403,034
Less: Institutional Aid	\$(17,607,211)	\$(17,909,910)	\$(17,987,757)	\$(16,733,288)	\$(16,899,143)
Student Tuition and Fees, Net	\$29,764,953	\$31,186,500	\$30,907,179	\$31,037,579	\$30,503,891
Government Grants	\$3,182,519	\$1,633,343	\$777,694	\$813,645	\$1,977,606
Contributions	\$796,285	\$3,088,951	\$939,270	\$823,216	\$1,139,251
Auxiliary Enterprises	\$5,812,533	\$6,223,623	\$7,379,157	\$7,045,397	\$7,452,306
Interest and Dividends	\$206,875	\$193,438	\$210,440	\$186,301	\$213,261
Other Revenue	\$3,413,685	\$353,956	\$360,313	\$483,405	\$956,279
Total Revenue, Gains, and Other Support	\$43,176,850	\$42,679,811	\$40,568,053	\$40,389,543	\$42,242,594
Instruction	\$13,913,552	\$14,538,977	\$14,644,503	\$14,606,237	\$14,370,619
Academic Support	\$2,073,091	\$2,281,153	\$2,217,966	\$2,108,941	\$2,142,983
Student Services	\$6,892,953	\$7,573,178	\$7,513,987	\$7,185,750	\$6,941,048
Institutional Support	\$10,123,155	\$8,939,248	\$8,340,872	\$7,936,555	\$8,382,211
Auxiliary Enterprises	\$7,256,677	\$7,046,533	\$7,499,113	\$7,550,792	\$7,711,175
Total Expenses	\$40,259,428	\$40,379,088	\$40,216,440	\$39,388,275	\$39,548,036
Increase in Unrestricted Net Assets from Operating Activities	\$2,917,422	\$2,300,723	\$351,612	\$1,001,268	\$2,694,558
Endowment Growth	\$10,204,093	\$7,627,296	\$6,578,300	\$5,549,700	\$4,532,800

CHIEF ADMINISTRATORS



SR. MARY EILEEN O'BRIEN, O.P., PH.D.  
President



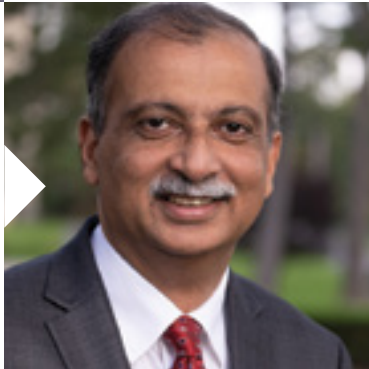
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Chancellor for External Affairs



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Vice President for Fiscal Affairs and Chief Fiscal Officer



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