



SAINT VINCENT COLLEGE

WINTER '25—ISSUE VII

McKENNA Message

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A NOTE FROM THE DEAN

This past fall, I proudly announced a new strategic plan for the Alex G. McKenna School of Business, Economics and Government. This five-year, comprehensive guide is aligned with the mission, vision and values of Saint Vincent College. It emphasizes the importance of our high-quality destination programs—curricula that are unique to Saint Vincent and are attracting learners from around the world to our campus.

The McKenna School has many such programs, including the SAP Business One program, operational excellence programs, unique emphases in certain areas of finance and new certificate programs such as project

management and organizational leadership.

This newsletter highlights many of our programs that exhibit the characteristics of quality and destination. Students reached milestones in our new aviation management – professional pilot program. Several alumni are making names for themselves in legal careers. Our criminology, law and society programs have been ranked among the best



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A NOTE FROM THE DEAN

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in the country. Our faculty's skill and dedication is reflected in the rigor of our accounting curriculum and a new, unique course on Benedictine hospitality in business.

These stories showcase the McKenna School's dedicated faculty, successful alumni and exceptional students. We are glad so many have chosen us as their destination for education and we look forward to welcoming many more to come.

MASTER'S DEGREE IN CRIMINOLOGY PROGRAM RANKED HIGHLY

According to Intelligent.com, Saint Vincent College's master's in criminology program is ranked No. 11 in the United States for 2025.

"Our criminology program focuses on student success through academic excellence," said Dr. Eric Kocian, associate professor and chair of the Criminology, Law and Society Department. "Everything we do in our courses prepares students for the challenges they will face in the field. We are proud of their successes, remain committed to supporting them in their educational and professional aspirations and are always looking for new prospects who are determined to follow in their footsteps or trailblaze a new path of their own."

Using a data-driven methodology, Intelligent.com evaluated programs across a broad range of criteria, including academic quality, graduation rates, cost and return on

investment and student resources.

Each program was scored on a proprietary scale of 0 to 100, drawing on sources such as the U.S. Department of Education's College Scorecard, U.S. News & World Report magazine and the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Saint Vincent's criminology program was ranked No. 5 nationally by Course Advisor, No. 6 by Police Schools and No. 15 by College Raptor. Graduates of Saint Vincent's program have gained admission to esteemed law schools, notably George Mason University, Penn State Dickinson Law, the University of Pittsburgh and Duquesne University. ♦



AVIATION STUDENTS FLY SOLO FOR THE FIRST TIME

Timothy Jakubek, a freshman from Palm Beach Gardens, Florida, was recruited to play wide receiver on the Saint Vincent College football team. He planned to major in environmental science but fretted about being overwhelmed by the heavy load of labs and chemistry classes.

“Then I talked with my roommate, who came here for the aviation program,” Jakubek said. “I was like, ‘Man, that sounds like something I’d love to do.’ I switched my major and got addicted to flying. That’s my priority now, even bigger than football.”

Jakubek is part of the inaugural cohort in the Bachelor of Science in Aviation Management – Professional Pilot program. On Oct. 17, Jakubek became the first student in the program to fly solo.

“I was cruising at my pattern altitude and looking around like, ‘Wow, I can’t believe I’m here right now,’” Jakubek said. “I had no clue I’d ever be doing this. A couple of months ago, I was at home getting ready play football, and now I’m flying a plane. It was kind of surreal. I am so thankful that God has given me this opportunity.”

The program was developed in collaboration with the Community College of Beaver County (CCBC) and Laurel Highlands Aeronautical Academy. The program integrates a pilot’s license, an associate’s degree from CCBC and a bachelor’s degree from Saint Vincent within a four-year timeframe.

The program enables students to earn their professional pilot’s license while receiving a well-rounded business

education. Graduates will be prepared to pursue diverse aviation roles and administrative positions in aviation and other industries.

“This [program] is really helping me grow as a student and as a person,” said Jakubek, who aims to become a flight instructor and eventually a pilot for a major airline. “I’m meeting new people, being in a new environment, learning new stuff. I definitely feel it’s all part of God’s plan for me.”

On Oct. 23, Nicholas Sikorski, a freshman from West Mifflin, became the program’s second solo flyer. Sikorski took off from Arnold Palmer Regional Airport in a Cessna 172 Skyhawk—a single-engine four-seater that has been called “the ultimate training aircraft” due to its outstanding cockpit visibility and slow landing speed—and navigated the sky above Latrobe for about 45 minutes.

“As I was taking off, I looked around and was like, ‘I’m finally doing it,’” Sikorski said. “I was proud of myself. I was happy, excited and, of course, a little bit nervous.”

In about two months, Jakubek and Sikorski went from having zero piloting experience to making solo flights. It might seem like



Timothy Jakubek poses before his first solo flight

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Nicholas Sikorski in the cockpit

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a fast track, but it required a major investment of time through rigorous instruction and testing. “Everybody says it’s so fast, and it kind of is, but I had no problems,” Jakubek said. “I was very well prepared because of my flight instructor at the airport and the classes I’m taking at Saint Vincent.”

The first step in the process was a discovery flight—a chance to get into the cockpit with an instructor, take a short flight and get a taste of the necessary procedures and safety checks. “Basically, you’re making sure this is something you’re going to enjoy,” Sikorski said.

Sikorski gave himself a head start by taking short flights with an instructor for a couple of weeks over the summer. When the fall 2024 semester began, he’d already built up about 20 hours of flight time.

Before flying solo for the first time, students must get approval from their instructors and pass a written exam. After that, it’s all about hoping for a

clear sky so the flight isn’t scrubbed. “I woke up that morning and immediately started checking the weather,” Jakubek said. “I was a little nervous, but mostly I was itching to go.”

Before going solo, Jakubek did a short warm-up flight with his instructor in the co-pilot seat of his Cessna 152. The plane returned to the runway, the instructor hopped out and Jakubek was on his own.

“To be honest, the big problem for me at the start was talking to the [control] tower,” Jakubek said. “It’s a whole new language you’ve got to learn.”

Cruising 7,500 feet above Westmoreland County at 105 nautical miles per hour (about 120 mph in ground speed), Jakubek’s 45-minute flight seemed to go by in a flash. He circled back to the airport and made a smooth landing.

“I had a smile on my face for the rest of the day,” Jakubek said. ♦

LAW PROFESSOR QUOTED BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Bruce Antkowiak, C'74, JD, law professor and senior legal counsel to Saint Vincent College and Saint Vincent Archabbey, was quoted in September in multiple reports by The Associated Press about the ongoing appeal process on behalf of a man convicted of murder 41 years ago.

Steve Szarewicz was convicted of first-degree murder in the February 1981 contract-killing of William Merriweather. He received a life sentence and is incarcerated in the Pennsylvania State Correctional Institution-Houtzdale.

Three of the four jailhouse informants involved in the case later recanted their claims that Szarewicz was the gunman. Szarewicz has filed numerous unsuccessful appeals of his conviction.

“Our court system places the issue of credibility on the altar of a jury,” Antkowiak told the AP in October. “And if a jury heard these witnesses and made the determination that they were truthful, appellate courts are loathe to make any change at all.”

In November, a three-judge Superior Court panel denied Szarewicz’s appeal. Antkowiak told the AP that questioning the credibility of witness testimony is a long-shot strategy for an appeal.

“Anytime a recanted statement is offered, the trial court has to make a credibility determination, and that determination is seldom overturned on appeal,” Antkowiak said. ♦

MOCK TRIAL EVENT DRAWS HIGH SCHOOL COMPETITORS

Saint Vincent College sponsored its annual high school mock trial competition Oct. 22 at the Fred M. Rogers Center. Thirty students from seven high schools competed in the presentation of opening and closing arguments in a mock criminal trial.

Jared Miller of Penn Trafford took first place in the opening statement competition. Anna Spigarelli of Greensburg Salem and Eliza Kleinschmidt of Penn Trafford tied for second place. Ian Smith of Greensburg Salem won first place in the closing argument competition. Riley Blatz of Franklin Regional placed second. ♦



Bruce Antkowiak (far right) presents awards to (from left) Ian Smith of Greensburg Salem, Riley Blatz of Franklin Regional, Anna Spigarelli of Greensburg Salem, Eliza Kleinschmidt of Penn Trafford and Jared Miller of Penn Trafford.

IN MEMORIAM: DR. GABRIEL PELLATHY

Dr. Gabriel Pellathy passed away in October 2024. He joined Saint Vincent College in 1978 as a political science and prelaw professor and later chaired the department. Pellathy's lectures about state and local government, national law, constitutional law, environmental law and business law inspired many students to pursue careers in government service. He founded the award-winning Mock Trial Team in 1997 and several generations of lawyers in this region are grateful for his easy grading and tough coaching for mock trial. A prolific author and member of the American Political Science Association, Pellathy established Saint Vincent's Alpha Gamma Beta chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha, a national political science honor society. Rest in peace, dear friend. ♦



SVC TEAM MAKES SEMIFINALS AT MOOT COURT TOURNAY

Saint Vincent College students Rebekah Bollman and Caleb Banwar advanced to the semifinals of the American Moot Court Association (AMCA) Fearless Challenge Regional on Oct. 25-26 at the University of Maryland.

Bollman, of Ambridge, and Banwar, of Youngwood, are seniors majoring in criminology, law and society. They lost in the semifinal round against a team from Maryland. In the individual standings, Bollman finished 14th and Banwar was 21st.

Matthew Thomas, a junior from Canonsburg, and Jacob Mock, a senior from Butler, came up one win shy of advancing to the final day of competition. Both students are political science majors.

"It was a tremendous showing for Saint Vincent's first time in the competition," said

Bruce Antkowiak, JD, C'74, law professor and senior legal counsel to Saint Vincent College and Saint Vincent Archabbey.

Thirty-two teams, including groups from Georgetown University, Regent University, the University of Virginia and the University of Toronto, competed in the AMCA Fearless Challenge Regional. ♦



The Saint Vincent College Moot Court teams of (from left) Rebekah Bollman, Caleb Banwar, Matthew Thomas and Jacob Mock.

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: CHAZ COLEMAN, C'12



Chaz Coleman at the Saint Vincent vs. Carnegie Mellon football game in 2023

Chaz Coleman, C'12, hoped his first game as director of football operations at the University of Richmond would be a breeze. It turned out to be a hurricane.

Richmond was slated to open its 2017 season against Sam Houston State in Huntsville, Texas, about 50 miles from the coast. When Hurricane Harvey roared into the Gulf of Mexico, widespread flooding forced the game to be postponed and relocated 130 miles inland at Baylor University's stadium.

On short notice, Coleman had to devise entirely new travel plans—setting up the chartered plane, ground transportation and hotel rooms for a group of 110 players, coaches, athletic trainers and staff. He had to reroute the trucks ferrying Richmond's helmets, uniforms and other gear to Baylor's campus in Waco, Texas. There were game broadcast logistics to hammer out with ESPN.

"When we ran out onto the field for the game, I finally could breathe again," Coleman said. "I was like, 'Hey, I did it. With it being my first game, everything's going to be easy after this.' It was by far my toughest, most challenging moment."

It was not the type of career challenge Coleman envisioned while he was a student at Saint Vincent College. He earned a bachelor's in business management, was a defensive back on the football team and spent one summer as a marketing intern for the Pittsburgh Steelers.

"Being at Saint Vincent was the first time I'd been away from home," said Coleman, a native of Richmond, Virginia. "I had a lot of growing up to do. I didn't know how Saint Vincent would turn out for me, but now I'm glad I took a chance and did something different. It paid off. Dr. Nancy Rottler [former assistant vice president for student success and retention] and her staff helped me develop good habits academically and hone my skills."

After graduation, Coleman moved home to Virginia and struggled to find his niche in the business world. Wondering if sports could provide a pathway to a career, he returned to Saint Vincent and took a job on the football staff coaching defensive backs.

"It was an interesting year and a learning year," Coleman said. "I learned that I did not want to be a coach because it was such a lifestyle change. So, I switched from coaching to being on the administrative side of things."

Coleman was a graduate assistant for Richmond's football program for one year while he earned a master's degree from the Virginia Commonwealth University Center for Sports Leadership. In 2017, he was hired as Richmond's director of football operations.

In 2022, Coleman went to the University of Missouri where he worked as the athletics facilities coordinator. He oversaw the university's football practice facility, Memorial Football Stadium and the gymnastics practice facility.

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ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: CHAZ COLEMAN

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“That was my introduction to big-time college sports, and I just ran with it,” Coleman said. “I was wearing a lot of hats and running a 60,000-seat stadium, so I had to learn quickly. For home games, I was the visiting teams’ liaison and the game officials’ liaison. It’s all about relationships, even with the people in concessions, custodial and maintenance. Having all those solid relationships made my job easier.”

In March 2023, Coleman became the director of athletic operations for the University of Cincinnati. His move happened four months before Cincinnati joined the Big 12 Conference, one of the Power Four leagues in college football.

“It’s a step up in my career,” Coleman said. “Someday, I can look back and say, ‘Hey, I helped UC get started in the Power Four.’ In just a year and a half, I’ve already worked on some unique events.”

Last April, Coleman handled logistics when NFL stars and UC alumni Jason and Travis Kelce brought their weekly “New Heights” podcast to the University of Cincinnati. The event was supposed to be held outdoors in Nippert Stadium, but rainy weather forced a move to an off-campus arena across town—a faint echo of Coleman’s hurricane experience with Richmond in 2017. The Kelce brothers were greeted by a sold-out crowd of 12,500 fans and UC president Neville Pinto and athletics director John Cunningham.

“There were a lot of girls in the crowd who were hoping Taylor Swift would show up,” Coleman said, referring to Travis Kelce’s pop-star girlfriend. “It was a cool experience.”

In October, Coleman delivered a one-hour livestream presentation on sports management careers to students in the McKenna School. ♦

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: ALBERT CIUKSZA, C’02

Albert Ciuksza Jr.’s interest in consulting was sparked during his first year at Saint Vincent College when he worked on a team project through the Small Business Development Center.

“Having the chance to work on a real-world problem while managing a client relationship as a student was a huge catalyst for my post-graduation job search and eventual career,” Ciuksza said.

After earning a bachelor’s degree in business at Saint Vincent, Ciuksza, C’02, managed technology driven growth projects at the Idea Foundry, directed

the Pittsburgh Impact Initiative for the Allegheny Conference on Community Development and earned an MBA from the University of Pittsburgh’s Katz Graduate School of Business. Nine years ago, Ciuksza joined Solutions 21, which offers programs that help corporate leaders adapt to new markets and direct a multi-generational workforce. As vice president of leadership development, he mentors executives at corporations, small businesses and nonprofits on everything from leadership development to general problem-solving strategies.

“It’s been a great ride,” Ciuksza said.

A topic executives frequently raise with Ciuksza is succession—handing over control of an organization to younger leaders. With thousands of baby boomers reaching retirement age every day, it’s estimated that more than three million businesses will change hands over the next decade.

“Almost all the resources to support organizational transitions—lawyers, accountants, consultants and coaches—are designed to advance the interests of the predecessor,” Ciuksza said. “That’s not fair.”

That prompted Ciuksza to write his first book, “Succeeding: Stepping Up Without Stepping in It.” Released in September 2024, the book is targeted to 25- to 45-year-old business successors, who often need help navigating the social, emotional and operational challenges of organizational transitions. It examines the struggle of predecessors who grapple with letting go and the challenges successors face when settling into their new roles.

“I wrote it to be skimmed so readers can pick and choose what matters to them,” he said. “From addressing the predecessor’s perspective to avoiding common succession pitfalls to understanding the very real leadership tools and tactics that can make the process more likely to succeed, it’s all there.”

As he put the book together, Ciuksza gathered the experiences of hundreds of incoming and outgoing executives, exploring why some successions go smoothly and others—even when family members are involved—go off the rails, leading to bruised egos and severed relationships.

“One guy called me and just brain-dumped for 30 minutes about his own succession process, looking at it through a new lens and seeing where he made mistakes in choosing his successor,” Ciuszka said. “It can seem like



a predecessor is the top of the world, but they’re actually going through a challenging psychological experience. I’m trying to give some perspective to successors, some guidance on why things might be happening and to not to take those things personally.”

Writing the book took about three years, a process Ciuksza found to be exhausting but fun. Will there be a sequel? “We’ll see if it’s a first and last [book],” he said with a grin. “It was a real learning experience for me, way more difficult than I expected.”

“Succeeding” is available from major book retailers or via www.succeedingbook.com.

Ciuszka is teaching a sales course as an adjunct at Saint Vincent College in spring 2025. ♦

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: DELANEY FOX, C'24

Delaney Fox's interest in law was sparked while she was a student at Ringgold High School, where she competed on the mock trial team for four years. When she arrived at Saint Vincent College, Fox decided a bachelor's degree in political science would best equip her for law school.

"I figured that if I didn't like it, I could always change my major later," Fox said, "I went through the next four years without that thought crossing my mind again because I enjoyed the courses so much."

Fox, C'24, graduated with a major in political science and a minor in English. She received the Award for Academic Excellence in Politics and was a finalist for the President's Award, Saint Vincent's highest academic honor.

"Delaney was a bright, intellectually curious and diligent student at Saint Vincent," said Dr. Jason Jividen, associate

professor of political science. "Above all, she worked to improve her ability to read, write and think critically. She was excellent at identifying and weighing competing arguments and she formulated well-reasoned arguments of her own. Delaney's Catholic, Benedictine, liberal arts education prepared her well for the study of law."

Classwork was only part of her Saint Vincent experience. Fox was selected for

the George Washington Fellows research program, wrote for The Review student newspaper, tutored in politics and business statistics, was a residence hall prefect and was co-captain of the mock trial team.

"My favorite part of mock trial was the ability to work together with the team to develop our arguments and compete," Fox said. "We always had fun—and it didn't hurt that we usually performed rather well, such as when we went undefeated at the St. Bonaventure tournament in 2022. I learned a lot of helpful concepts for law school as well. It introduced me to evidentiary rules, forming legal arguments and the procedures and terminology involved with trials, and it boosted my self-confidence with public speaking and advocacy skills."

Aided by Jividen and Dr. Jerome Foss, professor of political science, Fox landed internships with the late Magistrate Judge William H. Baughman Jr. in fall 2022 and U.S. District Judge Kim Gibson in fall 2023. "Those experiences solidified my idea that the field of law is where I want to be," Fox said.

Last August, Fox began her first semester at Penn State Dickinson Law.

"Looking back on my just-completed career at Saint Vincent College, the thing that stands out most is how supportive everyone was and still is," Fox said. "I was a first-generation college student and now am a first-generation law school student, and I never once felt as though I was at a disadvantage because every time I asked a question or needed advice, a friend, alum or professor was there, ready to help." ♦





DR. ERIC KOCIAN RECEIVES THORBURN AWARD

Dr. Eric J. Kocian, associate professor and chair of the Department of Criminology, Law and Society, received the Thorburn Excellence

in Teaching Award during the annual Founders' Day Honors Convocation on Nov. 21 in the Saint Vincent Archabbey Basilica.

The award was presented by Dr. John T. Delaney, vice president for academic affairs. The Thorburn Award honors faculty members who make a significant impact on students through their teaching and personal interactions. Candidates are nominated by Saint Vincent College alumni.

"I am grateful to all the alumni who remain in contact with me and especially humbled that some took the time to nominate me for this award," Kocian said. "They are the ones who have taken the lessons and applied them to various aspects of the field and serving God and mankind by their sacrifices. I pray for them and am so blessed to know them."

A career in academia was not Kocian's original plan. After earning a doctorate in criminal justice from Indiana University of Pennsylvania in 2010, he became a special agent in training with the FBI. It was a gig he'd always wanted, yet something didn't feel quite right.

"There came a point when I felt as though God was calling me away," Kocian said. "When I resigned [from the FBI], I had no job, no insurance, no prospects and no clue what was in store for me. I remember driving from Virginia in the pouring rain and praying through tears to trust in God, as everything I ever wanted in a career was fading out of sight in my rear-view mirror."

Back home in Pennsylvania, Kocian worked odd jobs to make ends meet as he tried to figure out his future. After a friend mentioned Saint Vincent was

starting a criminology, law and society program, Kocian applied for a job as adjunct faculty and interviewed with law professor and then-program chair Bruce Antkowiak, JD, C'74.

"The moment I started talking to Eric, I knew he was the perfect person for this place," Antkowiak said. "He understands that the true measure of any successful program is what happens to our graduates. What this guy does for our students goes way beyond the classroom."

Kocian has assisted several of his former students who have gone on to the Pennsylvania State Police Academy. He's accompanied them on early morning runs as they trained for the academy's physical test and offered advice about how to handle the mental and emotional pressures that come with a law enforcement position.

Recently, Kocian was in touch with several Saint Vincent graduates in various fields—including one who is awaiting orders after graduating from U.S. Army Ranger School, a Border Patrol agent who made a significant drug bust, a Secret Service agent assigned to President Donald Trump's detail, an intelligence analyst in the U.S. Navy and a doctoral candidate who is completing her dissertation on a Christ-centered approach to drug addiction.

"These men and women are our heroes," Kocian said. "They are the ones who deserve recognition and honor because they are doing great things for our nation and the world. They also deserve our prayers and constant support."

Seeing his former students achieve great things that make a significant impact is why Kocian has no regrets about trading in a promising career in the FBI for his unexpected role of professor.

"Being in the classroom with the students was therapeutic for me," Kocian said. "I stopped asking why things did not work out the way I thought they would for me and found myself [helping] students get to where they want to be." ♦

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT: MARTI FUSCO

There is a year-old Christmas card tacked to the wall in instructor Marti Fusco's office in Aurelius Hall. On a sunny afternoon last summer, Fusco glanced up from her laptop at the holiday memento and smiled.

The card was from a graduate student who was in one of Fusco's accounting classes. The handwritten message was simple and heartfelt: Thank you for a second chance. Thanks for all your support.

"That's why I'm here," said Fusco, who five years ago pivoted her career from corporate



executive to college instructor. "This is what brings me here every day. This is what energizes me."

Fusco became an accounting instructor in the McKenna School in 2019. Before that, she worked eight years as an auditor for Deloitte in Pittsburgh and 15 years for Kennametal, a machinery parts manufacturer in Latrobe. Among her roles at Kennametal were corporate controller, interim chief financial officer and vice president of finance.

"I spent a lot of time in prayer and discernment, asking, 'What is it, God, that you want me to do, because I feel like this isn't it,'" Fusco said. "In the very early stages of it, I wondered about teaching. But then I thought, 'I can't do that. I don't know anything about

academics,' so I stopped thinking about it."

That changed one afternoon during an office conversation with a Saint Vincent graduate who mentioned the College's Accounting Department had some vacancies due to retirements. That led Fusco to seek advice from a Kennametal coworker who also was an adjunct teacher at Saint Vincent. "He told me, 'Absolutely, you can do this,'" she said.

Fusco's extensive work experience—she's a certified public accountant (CPA) in Pennsylvania and a member of the American Institute of CPAs, the Pennsylvania Institute of CPAs and the American Accounting Association—made her a great fit for an adjunct role. Now as a full-time instructor at Saint Vincent, she is pursuing a doctorate at Indiana University of Pennsylvania.

"I bring a mix of both public experience and corporate experience to the classroom," Fusco said. "There are different types of accounting, and you have to understand the roles. The exciting part is when you take the financial information, read the trends and predict where you're headed to make your business better. Every day, I'm so thankful for this opportunity to engage with my students. I really feel this is what I was meant to do."

The transition to academia was a little bumpy at first, and it took Fusco a couple of semesters to find her stride in the classroom. After dealing for so many years with employees, coworkers and customers, Fusco had to figure out how to relate to students.

"They're sort of like customers, but they're more than that because I really care about their well-being," she said. "I care [for the students] like I care for my own children."

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Fusco and her husband have four kids ages 16 to 20, so she has a sense of what her students like and dislike, wonder and worry about. Being able to connect in that way made her more comfortable in the classroom. It also led Fusco to encourage her students with a phrase that she's long used with her children.

"I say to my kids every day, 'Be safe, be kind, be amazing,'" Fusco said. "All I ever ask of my kids is know you are amazing because that's the way God made us."

The group of 11 accounting majors who graduated in winter 2023 and spring 2024 was special to Fusco because they were the first students she taught, advised and launched into the workaday world beyond the Saint Vincent campus. Each of them is either employed in the field or in graduate school.

In the 2024-2025 academic year, Fusco is teaching intermediate (sophomores), advanced (seniors) and graduate-level accounting courses. She also teaches managerial accounting, which is for non-accounting majors. "I love teaching that class," Fusco said, "That [Christmas card] is from somebody I taught in that class, just telling me to have a great day. That makes me so happy."

One student who calls Fusco her "college mom" is a frequent visitor during office hours. "When she's missing home, she'll plop down in the chair and we'll talk," Fusco said. "I tell my husband all the time, I'm here because they need me, and it fills me with joy. Even on days when I wake up tired, there's a voice in my head—maybe it's the Holy Spirit—that says, 'Go be amazing. Go make a difference in their day and in their lives.' It's so much more than just [teaching about] debits and credits." ♦

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT: FATHER ISAAC HAYWISER, O.S.B., C'09, S'15

As he put together his unique Saint Vincent College business course, Benedictine Hospitality for Business, Father Isaac Haywiser, O.S.B., C'09, S'15, took plenty of inspiration from Saint Benedict. He also borrowed a few ideas from Walt Disney.

"This is the first course I've created from the ground up," Father Isaac said. "I started by looking for biblical text, scholarly books and articles, that kind of thing, and realized that's not going to be enough. So, in the first week [of classes] I asked the students to reflect on what the world of business hospitality looks like and I used [the Disney Institute's book] 'Be Our Guest' as a basis of the conversation."

Published in 2001, "Be Our Guest: Perfecting the Art of Customer Service" reveals the magic behind what Disney executives have dubbed guestology—the practice of exceeding a customer's expectations instead of merely satisfying them.

The Rule of Saint Benedict aims higher: "Let all guests who arrive be received as Christ." Hospitality is extended with prayer, humility, kindness and selfless service. Father Isaac's course examines how those Benedictine principles can be integrated in the business world and beyond.

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FACULTY SPOTLIGHT: FATHER ISAAC HAYWISER

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Benedictine Hospitality for Business, which was offered for the first time during the fall 2024 semester, counts towards the hospitality and nonprofit studies certificates offered by the McKenna School. The course also is part of the College's core curriculum, meaning its lessons are valuable for every sort of student—whether majoring in business management, communication, psychology, chemistry or nursing.

“The Saint Vincent core is about philosophical, theological and ethical [ideals],” Father Isaac said. “So, this course is applicable across all our schools. I tell my students to think about this course within the context of their individual majors. We focus on the business part, that’s one lens, but they’ll bring other things into it.”

The course delves into topics beyond Saint Benedict, who lived from 480 to 547. Father Isaac lectures about how hospitality shaped monastic life in 12th century England; the example of Thomas Merton, a Trappist monk in the 20th century; and the ways American millennials view hospitality.

“We get into, ‘We know the Rule. We’re applying the Rule. How does that affect business on a very practical level? And how does hospitality apply to life in

general?’” Father Isaac said. “The students learn hospitality principles, then figure out how those ethical principles apply to their majors and start thinking about practicality. That’s the vision for the class.”

In addition to his teaching role, Father Isaac is director of strategic initiatives for formation at Saint Vincent Seminary, assistant health care benefits manager for Saint Vincent Archabbey, part-time chaplain for Saint Emma Monastery and Carmel of the Assumption, and spiritual advisor for Rest in Love Ministries.

After his ordination, Father Isaac worked in campus ministry at West Virginia University. In 2020, he earned a master’s in marketing from Drexel University. He returned to Saint Vincent and taught courses in the principles of marketing and advertising promotion while earning a master’s in church management via an online program through Villanova University.

“That’s when the shift started to happen for me,” Father Isaac said. “The McKenna School needed someone to teach nonprofit management [in spring 2024]. I essentially have a degree in nonprofit management—that’s what church management is, right? And then in fall 2024 came the hospitality course. I also started teaching in our core, a listening seminar for incoming students and a seminar for our seniors.” ♦



STUDENTS, FACULTY, AND STAFF ON THE MOVE AND IN THE NEWS

Zachary Herbinko, C'24, graduated from the Pennsylvania State Police Academy on Dec. 13. He ranked among the top three in academics and among the top five in fitness at the Academy.

Dr. Jerome Foss, professor of political science and Endowed Professor of Catholic Thought and Culture, published an online article about the reinvention of the Bill of Rights. The article is part of a paper that he presented at the New England Political Science Association's annual meeting in spring 2024. Foss is working on a book about the Bill of Rights.

Lee Intachai became the McKenna School's aviation programs liaison in January. Her passion for aviation began in high school and led to a career in the aviation industry prior to joining Saint Vincent. Intachai will continue to serve as the College's assistant director of community relations and outreach.

Olivia Matthews, C'16, was a guest lecturer on Dec. 3 in the Empirical Analysis of Faith, Family and Life class at Saint Vincent. Matthews, who is pursuing a doctorate in criminal justice at Liberty University, shared her Christ-centered research on addiction recovery.

Amy Franz, vice president of United Way of Southwestern Pennsylvania, spoke to students in the Leadership class.

Alison Moret, C'23, shared inspirational insights with SAP Business One students about her post-graduation journey and professional experiences working with Fame Rental.

Former pharmaceutical executive Terrence Tormey, C'76, returned to campus in October to offer an insightful session about the state of the bio-pharma industry. Tormey provided an in-depth overview of trends and challenges shaping the industry. He also informed students about the exciting career opportunities available within the bio-pharma sector.

Julia Rater, JD, C'92, Judge of the Court of Common Pleas of Centre County, recently was featured in the Pittsburgh Business Times. Raised in Cresson, Rater credits her upbringing for sharpening her analytical skills. Rater was the first female president of the Saint Vincent's Student Government Association. Sworn in as judge in 2023, she is the third female in the court's 224-year history and is committed to applying her values of fairness and justice.

Saint Vincent College held its annual Alumni of Distinction ceremony on Oct. 4 at the Fred M. Rogers Center. Honorees from the McKenna School were Marianne Anderson, C'87; Adrienne Geis, C'89; Joe Hoffman, C'78; Jeffrey Hoover, C'89; and Bill Ramos, C'64.

Instructor Bob Markley and Dr. Mike Urick, C'04, hosted Avaniko representatives Garrett Virostek, C'19; Osyon Jones, C'24; and Gary Shergill for a discussion with the SAP Business One class about internship and career opportunities.

The Pittsburgh Business Times recently featured Bruce Antkowiak, JD, C'74, law professor and senior legal counsel at Saint Vincent College and Archabbey. His distinguished career spans over four decades, including roles as an assistant U.S. attorney, private attorney and legal scholar. A 1977 magna cum laude graduate of Harvard Law School, Antkowiak emphasizes the importance of law as a vocation grounded in justice. He remains committed to guiding students through Saint Vincent's rich, values-driven tradition of education.

OUT AND ABOUT

Accounting instructor Marti Fusco presented to 50 students at Greensburg Central Catholic High School. She discussed careers in business during the school's monthly Lunch and Learn series.

Before Thanksgiving, Dr. Mike Urick, C'04, dean of the McKenna School, presented papers about generational labeling in the workplace, leadership in "The Mandalorian" television series and teams in Tolkien's writings at an academic conference in Florida.

On Nov. 16, Jym Walters, associate director of campus life, and Dr. Jason Jividen, associate professor of political science and co-director of the Center for Political and Economic Thought, traveled with students to the Gettysburg National Cemetery and National Military Park. The trip was sponsored by the Aurelius Scholars and the Outdoors Club.

The inaugural McKenna School alumni Penguins game meet-up happened the week before Thanksgiving. It was wonderful seeing more than 20 McKenna alumni and we look forward to next year's event!

On Nov. 2, Dr. Justin Petrovich, C'14, associate professor of business administration and chair of the Marketing, Analytics and Global Commerce Department, and a group of students attended Carnegie Mellon University's annual Sports Analytics Conference. The trip, which was organized by the Data Science and Analytics Club, gave students a chance to learn innovative analytic approaches applied to sports data.

On Nov. 8, students and faculty from the Criminology, Law and Society Department visited the Flight 93 National Memorial to learn about events during the terrorist attacks on Sept. 11, 2001. Park ranger Greg Zaborowski provided a detailed, three-hour account of Flight 93's timeline, explaining the hijacking, the courageous actions of passengers and the crash in Somerset County. The 45 attendees left with a deeper appreciation for the significance of Sept. 11 and the sacrifices made that day.

During the fall 2024 semester, criminology, law and society instructor Paige Parsley, C'13, G'18, took students on an educational trip to the Westmoreland County Juvenile Services Center in Greensburg. Students toured the facility and engaged with professionals, gaining insights and exploring potential career opportunities in the field of juvenile justice.

Luke Mulloy, C'19, G'20, hosted SAP Business One students for a tour of SAP's Pittsburgh office.

On Sept. 11, the Finance and Accounting Club organized a trip to the 10th annual Chartered Financial Analyst Society Pittsburgh Career Fair. Attendees included McKenna students Rachael Babinsack, Jacob Devlin, Jacob Dzurica, William Hoerster, Noah Johnson, Hayden Klein, Sam Tokarsky and Mark Varley. The students met with representatives from the CFA Society, BNY Mellon, CS McKee, Erie Insurance, Federated Hermes, Fifth Third Wealth Advisors, First National Bank, PNC, Waldron, Willis Towers Watson, Dollar Bank and The Coury Firm.

EXTRAORDINARY EVENTS

After finals week last December, our SAP Business One students participated in an Oregon Woodland Labs workshop, a three-day, hands-on boot camp that sharpens their skills before internship interviews. “The students configure a test system, run test transactions through the system, then configure a production system,” instructor Bob Markley said. “Many people in the industry have told me that our students have a good grasp of the complexities of an implementation after completing this workshop.” Thanks to seniors Diana Mosten, Sean Fehrenbach and Maddie Smith for assisting with the session.

On Dec. 17, Region 11 of the Future Business Leaders of America held its annual conference at Saint Vincent. Our faculty hosted interactive sessions for nearly 200 local high school students.



Dr. Terrance Smith, C’05, (above) assistant professor of management and executive director of the Kennametal Center for Operational Excellence, spoke to students at the FBLA regional conference

In early December, Dr. Mike Urick, C’04, dean of the McKenna School, presented a session for a group of

community leaders about enhancing team performance. The session was part of the Chamber University initiative sponsored by the Greater Latrobe Laurel Valley Chamber of Commerce and the Good Neighbors Committee.

On Dec. 2, Diane Walter, director of marketing for 412 Food Rescue, gave a presentation as part of the Marketing for Good lecture series. McKenna School students learned about 412 Food Rescue’s innovative use of technology and marketing to reduce food waste in the Pittsburgh area.

On Oct. 23, the Center for Political and Economic Thought hosted an interesting lecture entitled “The Moral History of America” by Dr. Jay Green, professor of history at Covenant College.

During the fall 2024 semester, students in Markley’s SAP Business One class learned about continuous improvement, waste reduction and problem-solving practices in our Operational Excellence Lab.

During Homecoming and Fall Family Weekend in October, more than 100 McKenna School alumni, family and friends attended the school’s annual reunion after the football game. The get-together was held in a tent between Aurelius and Wimmer halls.

On Oct. 2, University of Pittsburgh professor Dr. Jeremy Weber gave an intriguing talk on the uses and abuses

of statistics in public policy. His lecture was sponsored by the Center for Political and Economic Thought.

In September, Chamber University, a partnership between the McKenna School and the Greater Latrobe Laurel Valley Regional Chamber of Commerce, hosted a presentation about fraud and white-collar crime. The session was led by accounting instructor Christina Gibson and Dr. Kayla Jachimowski, associate professor and graduate director in the Criminology, Law and Society Department.

The Career and Professional Development Center hosted an Internships and Careers in Finance Day featuring representatives from BNY Mellon, Federated Hermes, Northwestern Mutual, PNC, PPG and UPMC. Among the Saint Vincent alumni who participated as corporate reps were Bill Berish, C’03; Jon Petrie, C’05; Zack Bono, C’11; Jake Rennie, C’15; Matt Come, C’17; Nicolas Williams, C’21; Aaron Kuhn, C’22; Kyle Persin, C’22; Senaida Luna, C’23; and Colten McCutcheon, C’23. The event was attended by more than 40 sophomore, junior and senior finance majors. Special thanks to Katie Byers, assistant director of the Career and Professional Development Center, for organizing this successful event.



ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE: INDUSTRY INSIGHTS CONFERENCE



Presented by the Alex G. McKenna School of
Business, Economics, and Government

MARCH 22, 2025

9 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Fred M. Rogers Center

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is changing the way that business is done. At a surface level, tools like ChatGPT have changed the way that individuals approach work, but many organizations and entire industries are going beyond such simple tools and adopting AI in unique and unexpected ways.

Many of the ways that AI is used are already changing the world around us in ways that we might not even realize. This conference is meant to give attendees a broad overview of the ways that AI is shaping businesses and the world at large.

◀ SPEAKERS ▶

Dr. Mary Regina Boland
Saint Vincent College

James Buscaglio
GE Vernova

Alden Bushnell
Near Earth Autonomy

Mike Hruska
Problem Solutions

Elliot Levenson
UPMC

Robert Markley
Saint Vincent College

Terrance Tormey
*The Tormey Consulting
Group*

Dr. Justin Petrovich
Saint Vincent College

Dr. Mike Urick
Saint Vincent College



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