



Reflections

Goldey-Beacom College magazine

**Blazing new trails,
President Colleen Perry Keith
leads students to a bright future.**



A Message from the President Colleen Perry Keith, Ph.D.



Greetings from Goldey-Beacom College!

Let's talk about accelerants, shall we?

Accelerants disturb other substances and create a response. Scientists, especially chemists, would tell us that chemical reactions speed up with an accelerant.

Here at Goldey-Beacom College, we have been blessed with a few accelerants that have hastened our progress on several fronts:

- the COVID-19 pandemic accelerated our move into the distance learning field,
- the completion of Franta Hall and renovated spaces in the Joseph West Jones Center put a fast forward on our decision to expand food services and increase student programming, and

- the strategic planning process we began in 2019 placed a fast forward on our efforts to create a Freshman Year Experience, our plans to build a Center for Academic Excellence and the completion of a collegewide "Salary and Benefits Study."

While we have not yet nailed down all the details, we have made steady progress in other areas that you will read about in the pages that follow.

In this issue of Reflections, we are sharing a great deal of news with you to "catch up" since our pre-pandemic publication in 2019. You will see how we celebrated the graduates of the classes of 2020 and 2021 (in six separate, social-distanced and masked ceremonies over two days,) changes on the campus itself, how we bid farewell to long-time members of the GBC community and a very special tribute to former GBC President, Dr. William R. Baldt.

I now sit in the seat in which Dr. Baldt once sat. Each and every day, I see the tremendous impact he had upon the College. Among his many achievements, he moved us into the world of regional accreditation which, in turn, made the College eligible to participate in federal financial aid programs. Dr. Baldt's defining moment in our history opened the doors of Goldey-Beacom College to many individuals who wanted an affordable, accredited education that met rigorous standards. Several decades later, we continue to offer the same high

standards. In fact, you'll read about the recent tuition reset that will keep the College competitive in the years ahead.

Thank you Dr. Baldt for your insight into the College's future!

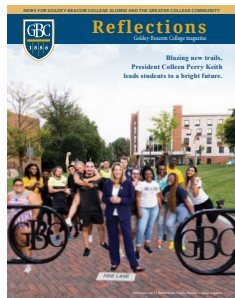
And thank you to all of you reading this magazine. You are a vital part of what makes Goldey-Beacom College who we are. Your support matters!

All the best –

Colleen Perry Keith, Ph.D.
President

"Dr. Baldt's defining moment in our history opened the doors of Goldey-Beacom College to many individuals who wanted an affordable, accredited education that met rigorous standards. Several decades later, we continue to offer the same high standards."

Dr. Colleen Perry Keith



On the cover:

Blazing new trails, President Colleen Perry Keith leads students to a bright future.

Cover photo by Geoff Stone



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Reflections Goldey-Beacom College magazine staff

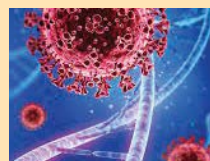
Editor, Writer and Designer, **Janine G. Sorbello**

Layout and Design Assistant, **Ksenija Markovic**

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Page 4 See the results of GBC's \$30 million construction and renovation project featuring Franta Hall, new dining spaces and the new Event Center.



Page 18 Learn how the College made an overnight pivot when COVID-19 struck and how it influenced instruction and campus life.

Page 6 Once dubbed the "accelerant," President Keith details the College's firestorm of accomplishments since she took the helm two years ago and tells us what's next.



Page 26, 27 Powerhouse retirements: Dr. Pat Buhler and Emily Jackson Ilyas retire with fond memories and renewed excitement for the future.



GOLDEY-BEACOM COLLEGE THANKS THE STATE OF DELAWARE AND NEW CASTLE COUNTY GOVERNMENT

In March 2020, Congress passed the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act awarding Delaware more than \$927 million. Goldey-Beacom College benefited from two resulting funds. First, from the \$45 million Higher Education Relief Fund (HERF) announced in November 2020 by Gov. John Carney and second, from the \$322 million awarded to New Castle County Government.

On behalf of the Goldey-Beacom College Board of Trustees and the entire College community, President Colleen Perry Keith thanks Gov. John Carney for the funding awarded to the College through HERF and New Castle County Executive Matt Meyer for the GBC COVID-19 testing program. Read more on page 18.

College Calendar

2021

October 13
Virtual Career Fair

November 20
Legacy Night

November 25, 26
College Closed for Thanksgiving

December 20 – 31
College Closed for the holidays

2022

February 27 – March 4
Spring Break

March 9
Virtual Career Fair

April 28
Honors Day

April 29
Commencement

For more info on events, [click here:](#)

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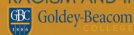
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WE STAND UNITED

AGAINST RACISM AND INJUSTICE



Goldey-Beacom College recognizes the importance of being an equal opportunity employer that fosters an inclusive, equitable and respectful campus climate. We are constantly working to create a College that celebrates individuality and strives to provide a non-discriminatory, fair and equitable learning and working environment for the GBC family.

\$30 Million Construction and Renovation Project Completed

BY JANINE G. SORBELLO

It has been said that a good carpenter measures twice and cuts once. And that's the logic the College followed as they began to plan, not just for the next five years, but the next decade.

So, what actually prompted Goldey-Beacom College to embark on a two-year, \$30 million construction and renovation project? Believe it or not, it was a traditional student survey.

Additional housing topped the list, and after surveying the entire College community, it was soon discovered that students had overwhelmingly asked for a traditional, dormitory-style residence hall with supporting dining facilities.

While this revelation provided the College with the vision and focus for a new residence hall, it was the Franta family who made the dream become a reality with their \$2.3 million gift. The named "William A. Franta Hall" became the driver of the project that

spurred the rest of the construction and the ultimate transformation of campus.

The project included the reconfiguration of the Joseph West Jones Center to strengthen the current infrastructure and allow for expanded dining services, student lounge areas, community space and a redesigned Athletics Department – all areas that will be impacted by housing growth and will foster a community focus for students.

The new Event Center is the former atrium which was relocated and rebuilt as an addition to the Joseph West Jones Center. With community-focused goals, the College looks forward to providing multiple spaces, not only for student activities and other College events but the local community as well.

[Click here for a virtual tour of the GBC campus.](#)

With the completion of its \$30 million, two-year construction and renovation project debuting Franta Hall, Goldey-Beacom College gives sincere thanks and deep gratitude to the following major donors:

**The William A. Franta Family
Longwood Foundation
Marmot Foundation**

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William A. Franta Hall



Single traditional-style room



Student lounges on each floor



Double traditional-style room

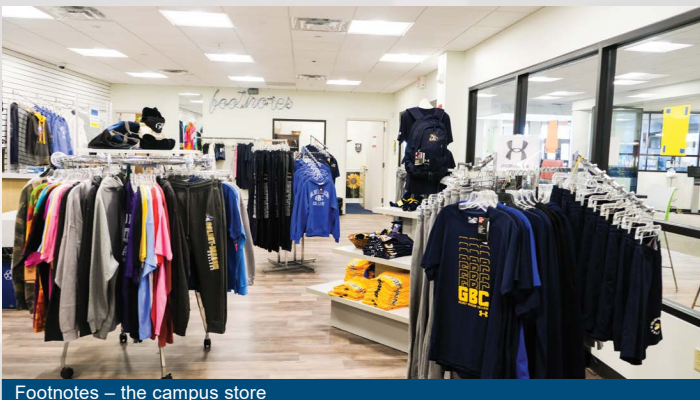
Photos on this page by Geoff Stone



The new Event Center adjacent to the Joseph West Jones Center



New dining services including an all-you-care-to-eat meal plan



Footnotes – the campus store



Expanded dining area



Additional locker rooms and expanded fitness center



GBC Security office on the ground floor of Franta Hall

Photos on this page by Geoff Stone except where noted



A family legacy – Richard and Gayle Franta

Photo by Janine G. Sorbello



Photo by Geoff Stone

Dr. Colleen Perry Keith Makes Unprecedented Impact

In October 2019, shortly after taking the helm at Goldey-Beacom College, the Delaware Business Times referred to Dr. Colleen Perry Keith as “the accelerant.” Now beginning her third year as president, what did “the accelerant” ignite, and what’s next after the sparks fly?

MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Reduced tuition by 50 percent

Implemented ‘Live Online’

Implemented strategic planning process

Received MSCHE accreditation to offer programs fully online

Reenvisioned and implemented New Student Orientation

Expanded Board of Trustees

Joined LCMC/RIZE Consortium

Created GBC Counseling Center

Joined the CIC Course Sharing Consortium

Established a Consortium Agreement with Delaware College of Art and Design

Completed collegewide “Salary and Benefits Study”

Implemented “Great Colleges to Work For Survey”

Hosted Inaugural Convocation

Created avenue for civic engagement for students (AmeriCorps VISTA)

Dr. Keith elaborates on her first two years as president and tells us why it was important to her to engage the entire College community to plan for the future.

One of the first questions I’ve been asked as a new president has been, “So what’s your vision for the College?” In truth, I am never comfortable with that question, because I don’t believe it should be MY vision. It should be OUR vision. I’ve always believed that when a new president arrives, they need to see what the will of the faculty and staff is, what their vision is and what they believe can happen. The new president brings an outside view, and that’s absolutely helpful, but those who have been at the College for any length of time have a strong inside view that should never be discounted.

That’s why I chose a “bottom up” rather than a “top down” approach with the entire College community when I launched the strategic planning process shortly after I arrived. We held a community day in which we closed the offices and invited all faculty and staff to come together to share in the process of reenvisioning our future. The results of that day were condensed into 35 different strategic initiatives that fell within four general themes: Sparking

Excellence, Igniting Success, Lighting Opportunity and Surging Forward (yeah – lots of “lightning” words there!) Examples of our initiatives include: curriculum review, tuition and financial aid revamp, creating a First Year Experience program, comprehensive work around student retention, creation of a Center for Academic Excellence, increasing fundraising initiatives, building alumni relationships, new forms of education delivery and corporate training, and looking at salaries, benefits and workload. All of our initiatives are in some stage of development or implementation and will form the pathway that leads Goldey-Beacom into the future.

You may have seen some of the initiatives that are being implemented. Following official approval from accreditors, we are now offering coursework online utilizing a ‘Live Online’ format. We have rolled back tuition to make college more affordable. We have engaged an outside organization to perform a “Salary and Benefits Study” and are implementing the recommendations. And the faculty is working toward reenvisioning and updating the curriculum.

Going forward, we will continue to implement strategic initiatives, and as we do, we will generate new ones to carry us even further down our new pathway. I hope that you will follow our progress on social media in upcoming issues of Reflections, and please ... come back to campus, and visit us in person. We would love to show you the Goldey-Beacom College of today!

Dr. Colleen Perry Keith



Making College Tuition Affordable

BY LARRY EBY AND JANINE G. SORBELLO

Introducing a \$12,750 pricetag . . . In fall 2020, Goldey-Beacom College announced an unprecedented tuition reset, reducing undergraduate tuition for the fall of 2021 to \$12,750, from \$25,500, which represents a 50 percent reduction. The College has discounted tuition for several years, but this new initiative will keep tuition simple.

In fall 2014, the College introduced its Affordability Assurance Award which reduced tuition by slightly more than half for all undergraduate students. Whether domestic or international, full or part time, residential or commuter, every student received the Affordability Assurance Award which made a college degree financially attainable.

Undergraduate program:

Like many private colleges in the U.S., Goldey-Beacom discounted its tuition from its list price each year, but after seven years of tuition discounting, the College took the next step which many other colleges are reluctant to take. In fall 2019, the College took the critical step to make an affordable education permanent. Instead of perpetually stating one amount for tuition and discounting that amount for every student, the College announced a dramatic change for fall 2021: tuition was CUT IN HALF from 2020's \$850 per credit hour (\$25,500 for 30 credits) to \$425 per credit hour (\$12,750 for 30 credits).

For current students, the tuition cut did not change their bottom line. The Affordability Assurance Award has been reducing their tuition all along, and that



low net price did not increase for them in 2021-22. The new initiative formalized the College's actual practice for the past seven years and added clarity to the bill. This "tuition reset" makes the College's actual cost transparent, easy to understand, and demonstrates a long term commitment to affordability for all students.

Goldey-Beacom's generous merit scholarship offerings are based on GPA and remain available to qualified undergraduate students to reduce their costs even further.

With the combination of a GBC merit scholarship, potential endowed scholarships, and federal and state grants, including Pell Grants and Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants (FSEOG), it is possible for students to graduate with little to no debt.

Graduate program:

Following the undergraduate reset announced in 2020, in mid-May 2021, the College announced a reduction in tuition for its master's degree programs beginning fall 2021. The reduction is the College's next step in its commitment to affordability.

Affordability and transparency weighed heavily in the College's decision to present easy-to-understand tuition rates, as opposed to gross tuition rates with a discount award applied to determine net tuition cost.

These new cost initiatives with the tagline, "we've cut tuition in half," means no more discounting, just up-front low tuition for today's students and those joining Goldey-Beacom College in the future.

What's next for Goldey-Beacom College?

Attain program-level accreditation for appropriate graduate programs

Begin curriculum revision and review for all programs

Increase fundraising initiatives and results

Implement a First-Year Experience program

Create a Center for Academic Excellence

Seek out entrepreneurial opportunities for the College

Investigate and develop corporate training opportunities

Build more alumni engagement opportunities

Focus on campus climate and diversity, equity and inclusion initiatives

Congratulations GRADUATES! Class of 2020

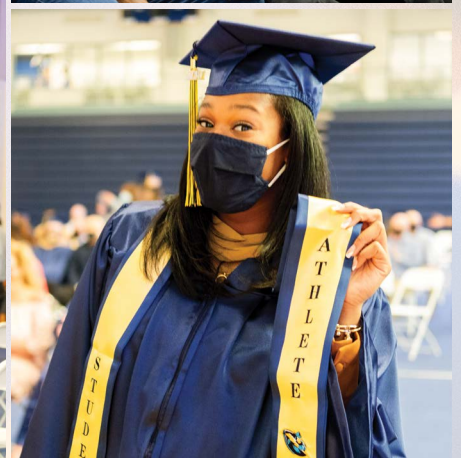


All photos on pages 8 and 9 by Geoff Stone [Click here to view all photos.](#)

In May 2020, all in-person events were canceled because of COVID-19. Goldey-Beacom College recognized the graduating Class of 2020 with a livestreamed video to recognize graduates.

In May 2021, the Class of 2020 (May 1) and the Class of 2021 (April 30) graduates walked across the stage in six different ceremonies to celebrate their academic achievements. Bachelor's, master's and the first doctoral graduates celebrated their achievements after a year of adapting to changes and overcoming COVID-19 challenges.

Congratulations GRADUATES! Class of 2021



Burkhard Headlines Six Goldey-Beacom College Commencement Ceremonies



Chris Burkhard

President and Founder of Placers, Inc. Chris Burkhard delivered commencement addresses on Friday, April 30 and Saturday, May 1, 2021. Burkhard, a fourth-generation entrepreneur and the Delaware Small Business Administration's 2020 Business-person of the Year,

addressed the audience virtually in each of six ceremonies with a combined total of more than 450 students, parents, faculty and staff in attendance.

Burkhard posed this thought to students, "Imagine if you could close the gap between where you are and where you want to be." He shared the importance of knowing yourself and reminded students that,

"when we are young, we are cheered on by the world – every smile, step, word or drawing. As we age, we start to hear the word 'no'. No, you can't do this or no, you can't do that. Be sure the way you follow is the one that you want. Don't let the world decide it for you."

"If you remember only one thing," Burkhard continued, "one year, five years or 20 years from today, I want it to be this: Your life is going to be busy. And time will go by in a flash. I am asking you to think differently about yourself. Work on yourself, know who you are, know what you stand for, and most importantly, understand what makes you happy. And be clear on how you define success. And every now and again, ponder the question – what would my life be like if I had no limits?" [Click here for the commencement speech.](#)

"Every now and again ponder the question – what would my life be like if I had no limits?"

**Chris Burkhard,
president and founder,
Placers, Inc.**

"Achieving a doctorate is one of the single most impressive academic and intellectual feats in the world," said Dr. Dan Young, director of the College's DBA program. He continued, "The realization that you have accomplished what only two to three percent of the American population has ever done brings a certain pride that is very hard to replicate in any endeavor. I am so proud of the three individuals who took on this challenge and battled incredible obstacles – both emotionally and physically – to walk across the commencement stage as 'Doctors.' Kudos to all of them."

DBA Program Director W. Daniel Young, MBA, Ph.D.



**Doctor of
BUSINESS
ADMINISTRATION**

Inaugural Class of Doctoral Students Graduate in 2021



Left to right: Dr. Kevin McAllister, Dr. Sarah Smith and Dr. Dianne Patricia Alston-Jones

Goldey-Beacom College is pleased to present the inaugural graduating class of the Doctor of Business Administration program. Launched in 2018, more than 40 students are currently enrolled in this unique DBA program that engages students and corporate partners to address business issues and resolve challenges faced by the corporate partner.

Rev. Dr. Dianne Patricia Alston-Jones – Dissertation: *Perceptions of Digital Religion Across Digital Nativity, Gender and Race in Philadelphia, PA*

Dr. Kevin P. McAllister – Dissertation: *Factors Affecting Performing Arts Attendance for African Americans in Delaware*

Dr. Sarah A. Smith – Dissertation: *Effective Mentoring Programs in Public Accounting: A Qualitative Study Identifying The Impact of Mentoring Programs on Turnover Rates of Women in the Public Accounting Profession*

Excellence in Teaching Awards

President Colleen Perry Keith presented the 2020 and 2021 honorees of the College's esteemed Excellence in Teaching Awards at its Inaugural Convocation in August. Both academic years were included due to previous pandemic restrictions which hindered the ability to present the 2020 award last year.

Created in 1978, the Excellence in Teaching Award serves three major purposes: 1) to signal the College's commitment to excellence in teaching; 2) to reward faculty excellence in teaching; and 3) to promote excellence in teaching among all faculty.

Dr. Deborah L. Leitsch, professor, accounting and accounting information systems



Dr. Deborah L. Leitsch received the 2020 Excellence in Teaching Award. Dr. Leitsch joined the faculty in 1995, teaching a full-time course load while also taking courses elsewhere to complete her doctorate. She was promoted to the rank of full professor in 2009 and served as chair of the

Business Department from 2014 to 2021. In addition to being an active member of the GBC community, Dr. Leitsch is active in the community-at-large. She is involved in field-related professional organizations and actively encourages her students to get involved. Through her, many students have joined the Delaware Chapter of the Institute of Management Accountants and were subsequently awarded scholarships. She volunteers with community organizations such as the Delaware Humane Society, Hagley Museum, Immaculate Heart of Mary Church and the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program.

Not surprisingly, she is a favorite among students who cite her enthusiasm, her caring nature and the time she takes to be sure that each student has a grasp of the material as important reasons why they value her.

Dr. Leitsch holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration from the University of Colorado, a Master of Science degree in Accounting Information Systems from the University of Delaware, a Master of Business Administration degree in Management and Operations from Syracuse University and a Doctor of Business Administration degree in Accounting from the University of Sarasota.



Dr. Deborah Leitsch accepts the 2020 Excellence in Teaching Award.

Dr. David R. Golberg, assistant professor, criminal justice

David R. Golberg, Esq. received the 2021 Excellence in Teaching Award. Dr. Golberg joined the faculty at GBC seven years ago, in 2014. A former prosecutor who served as an Assistant District Attorney, he brought with him several years of adjunct teaching experience along with several years of legal experience that has greatly enhanced the educational experience of his students.

He continues to work as a consultant on cases with a criminal defense law firm and stays active in his field as a result. He is always looking at ideas to strengthen the Criminal Justice program at GBC and effectively mentors students, especially those who are looking to work in law enforcement or pursue law school. He serves on his local school board, volunteers with various charities and recently accepted an invitation to serve as the GBC representative on the Delaware Bench and Bar Diversity Project, a special project of the Supreme Court of Delaware.



He is a known favorite among students. They consistently voice their appreciation of his classroom challenges that encourage them to think beyond their perceived limits as well as to consider and challenge societal views and to engage with the course content from various perspectives.

Dr. Golberg holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from Northeastern University and a Juris Doctor from Widener University.



Dr. David Golberg accepts the 2021 Excellence in Teaching Award.

A Message from the Alumni Association Board President



Evern D. Ford '97

I sincerely hope this communication finds you, your families and your colleagues safe and in good health. I'd like to offer a special thank you to our alumni who provide or assist in direct patient care and the innumerable public health efforts throughout this pandemic. It is reassuring to see many alumni and colleagues collaborate on best practices for their personal and professional lives as we all adapt to this period of public health and economic strain.

Despite the countless restrictions of this pandemic over these past few months, we have continued to engage with our greater GBC community. We came together twice in the month of July to raise our glasses and toast to a brighter future at both the Dewey Beach Happy Hour and the Lightning Strikes the Vineyard events. It was heartening to see those familiar faces we missed seeing for such a long time as well as so much optimism and enthusiasm among our attendees.

As 2021 draws to a close, and we embark on 2022, we look forward to filling our calendar with many events – some old and some new – and reengaging with the GBC community on our beautifully redesigned campus. Please check out our list of upcoming events and join us. We would love to see you!

We are delighted to serve the Goldey-Beacom College family of alumni. For more information about the GBC alumni board, please follow us on Facebook and Instagram, and check out our page on the Goldey-Beacom College website.

Warmest wishes for peace, health and happiness on the road ahead.

President Evern D. Ford '97
GBC Alumni Association Board of Directors



SAVE THE DATE

November 12 – 21, 2021 – Lightning Bolt 5K and 1886 Legacy Walk

We are pleased to invite you to this event in its second year 'running' (pun intended) and brought to you by the GBC Alumni Association and the track & field and cross country teams. Run your favorite 5K loop or walk for 1,886 seconds (the year in which Goldey-Beacom College was founded), submit your results online and be eligible to win one of several great prizes and awards.

You must submit a time to be eligible for prizes. Acceptable submissions can include a screenshot from Strava, MapMyRun, Apple Watch or any comparable app that shows time and distance traveled. A photo of your treadmill and screen is also acceptable.

[Click here](#) for more information on Alumni Association events.

November 20, 2021 – Legacy Night

The Alumni Association will kick off a watch party beginning at 4:00 p.m. in the new Event Center. The livestream for the men's basketball game vs. the District of Columbia starts at 3:00 p.m. with the women's basketball game vs. Mercy following at 5:00 p.m. Come celebrate each member of the GBC Community who helps to build and strengthen our legacy. Whether you are a student, a parent, an alumnus, a staff or faculty member or a friend, you are part of the tapestry that makes up our unique legacy.

February 26, 2022 – Hoop it Up

Watch the women's 1:00 p.m. and men's 3:00 p.m. NCAA Basketball teams in a double-header. Bring your family, friends and colleagues for a fun night out. Catch up with fellow alumni over complimentary drinks and appetizers.

March 25, 2022 – Silent Auction and Dinner

The Alumni Association is pleased to announce this fun night out with more than 100 items to bid on. Mark your calendars now, and more details will be available soon.

GBC Partners With PCI to Produce an Alumni History Book

Coming Soon

Goldey-Beacom College recently launched a comprehensive alumni verification project that will also turn your college memories into a published collection of stories from your college days.

Collect your thoughts, call Publication Concepts, Inc. (PCI) toll-free at 1-888-778-4613 and tell them your favorite GBC stories. While you're at it, please answer a few questions to have your contact information updated as well, if necessary.

Their friendly staff will record your stories, turn them into print and select the best for publication in a GBC alumni history book. During the call, you will have the option to reserve a copy of this unique collection of memorable stories.



Alumni Events – Summer 2021 Recap

July 17 – Alumni Happy Hour at the Rusty Rudder

Members of the College staff, alumni board and alumni community gathered on the deck at the famous Rusty Rudder in Dewey Beach to enjoy a dazzling sunset over Rehoboth Bay. Despite sweltering temperatures that evening, our group of Bolts had a wonderful time reminiscing about old times and forging new friendships.



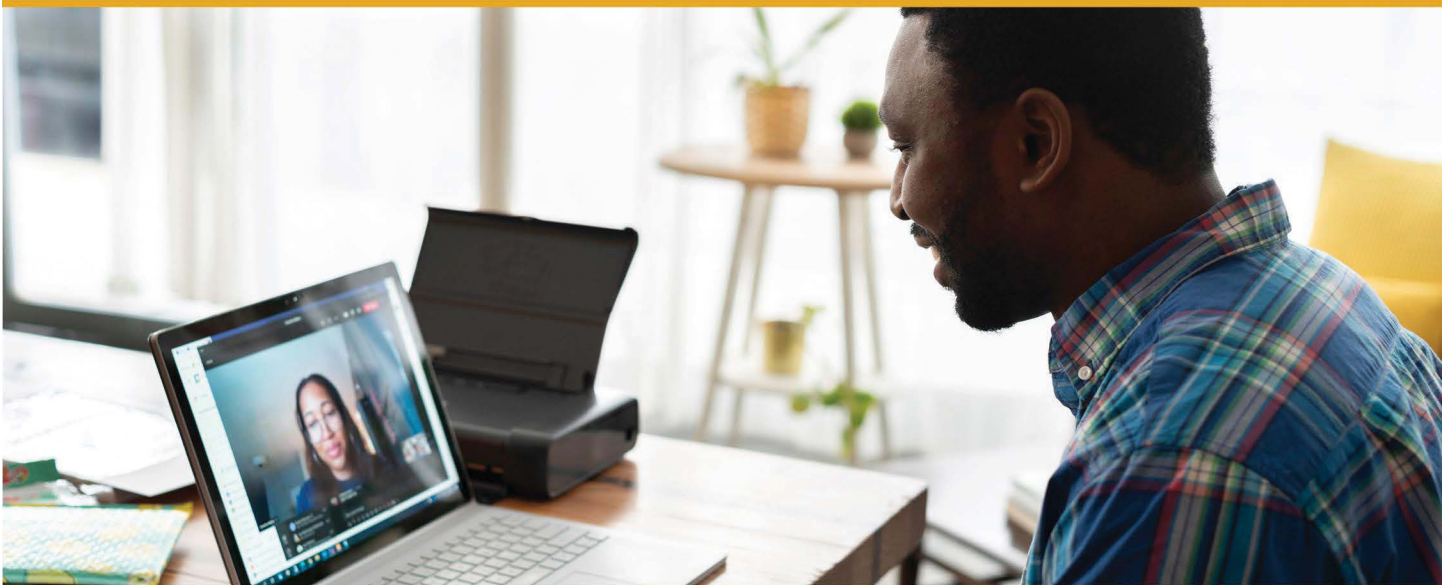
Photos by Maureen Tomey

July 24 – Lightning Strikes the Vineyard at Paradox Winery

A large group representing the GBC community enjoyed an evening of camaraderie on the picturesque vineyard at Paradox Winery. Live entertainment was provided by the Jake Joyce Band and a terrific time was had by all.

For more information about Live Online graduate programs, [click here](#).

LIVE ONLINE GRADUATE PROGRAMS



M.S. FINANCE | M.A. COUNSELING PSYCHOLOGY

- Real time live classes using Zoom TV; online students get the in-class experience
- Classes are “synchronous”; they occur on fixed days and times

Contact Kimberly Anderson at (302) 225-6270 or anderson@gbc.edu for more information



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THANK YOU for your giving. The students of Goldey-Beacom College are grateful for your generosity.

The following pages recognize both 2020 and 2021 donors to the Annual Scholarship Fund. On behalf of the Board of Trustees and the greater Goldey-Beacom College community, we extend a heartfelt thank you to all of our valued donors who gave students an opportunity to achieve greater.

2019 – 2020

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Colleen and Barry Keith
Estate of Thomas C. Marshall '47
Estate of Charleen A. Peters '61

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1886 Society

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Dr. Brian DiSabatino
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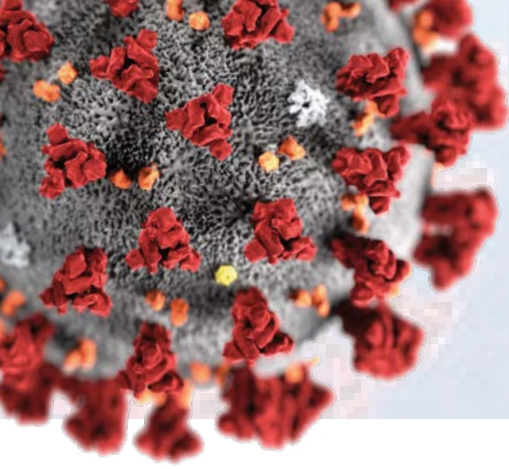
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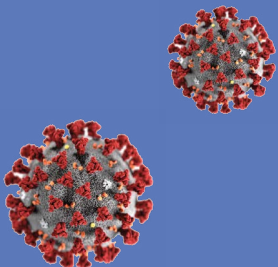
Surviving COVID-19

MARCH 20, 2020 – COVID-19 OUTBREAK

On March 20, 2020, in response to the COVID-19 outbreak, Dr. Colleen Perry Keith informed the GBC Campus community that beginning Monday, March 23, 2020, the GBC physical campus would be closed until further notice. What we thought was a brief, two-week temporary situation turned into a pandemic that continues today over a year and a half later. This pandemic required the College community to unite and think outside the box to establish new ways to provide our students with a quality education and our employees with ways to work effectively and efficiently. [Click here](#) for COVID-19 FAQs.

“Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, the College community worked together to make significant changes to our operations including moving a fully location-based business to a fully-remote one in a matter of days. This would not have been possible without everyone’s support. It truly is a family atmosphere at GBC where everyone is committed to working together for our common goal of providing the best education and environment to our students. I am very appreciative of everyone’s support to adapt quickly to ensure we could provide a safe and healthy campus.”

Susan M. Mannering, SPHR, assistant vice president for financial services and human resources



THE NEXT DAY – GBC REACTS

GBC’s Executive Leadership Team took immediate steps to ensure the safety of students and employees and implemented the following:

- ☑ Pivoted to online instruction almost overnight.
- ☑ Purchased upgraded technology and software to enhance online classes.
- ☑ Purchased Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).
- ☑ Installed instant hand sanitizers in all hallways and entrances.
- ☑ Purchased portable ionization sprayers that required specially approved disinfectant from ECO Lab, one of only six CDC-approved chemicals that kills COVID-19 within 45 seconds.
- ☑ Installed sanitizing hand/surface wipes in all hallways and classrooms.
- ☑ Launched an on-campus, weekly COVID-19 testing program in the gymnasium which began September 15, 2020 for students and employees. Hundreds of tests were administered by volunteer staff and students through the end of the year.
- ☑ Installed Global Plasma Solutions (GPS) ionization systems in all of the air conditioning systems in every building on campus. This \$250,000 project used patented Needlepoint Bipolar Ionization (NPBI) technology to reduce particles in the air by introducing ions into the space via the airflow in ventilation systems.
- ☑ Installed upgraded MERV 13 filters. When coupled with ionization systems, they effectively remove more than 75 percent of all air particulates ranging from .03 to 1.0 microns and larger as well as filter out greater than 90 percent of all particles 1.0 to 3.0 microns in size.
- ☑ Hired professional cleaners to assist existing Facilities Department staff to complete the daily, and sometimes hourly, cleaning and disinfecting of campus.
- ☑ Created a Return-to-Campus Task Force that created and constantly revised COVID-19 policies to ensure alignment with the state of Delaware recommendations and CDC guidelines.
- ☑ Appointed a COVID-19 Liaison to assist students and employees by addressing their COVID-19 health issues and other concerns.
- ☑ Created a Student COVID-19 Response Team to address the logistics of current COVID-19 student cases.
- ☑ Reduced class sizes to 1/3 capacity to maintain six-foot spacing and addressed social distancing requirements across campus.



Goldey-Beacom College Launches 'Live Online' Following MSCHE Approval

BY JANINE G. SORBELLO

This fall, Goldey-Beacom College graduate students will have an additional option to attend classes: in person, online, hybrid or the newest offering – 'Live Online.'

As the recent COVID-19 pandemic pushed the limits of instructional delivery across the nation, GBC was ahead of the curve when it applied for a substantive change from its institutional accreditor, the Middle States Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE).

MSCHE's January 2021 approval enabled the College to move forward with an alternative delivery method to offer academic degree programs fully online. Sparked by increasing online popularity, the College began to offer its newest method of instructional delivery to graduate students in fall 2021.

'Live Online' is a synchronous format in which a class takes place in a classroom, while at the same time appearing virtually for remote students by using Zoom television. Classes occur in real time so online students can participate in lectures and discussions with faculty and classmates who are attending in person.

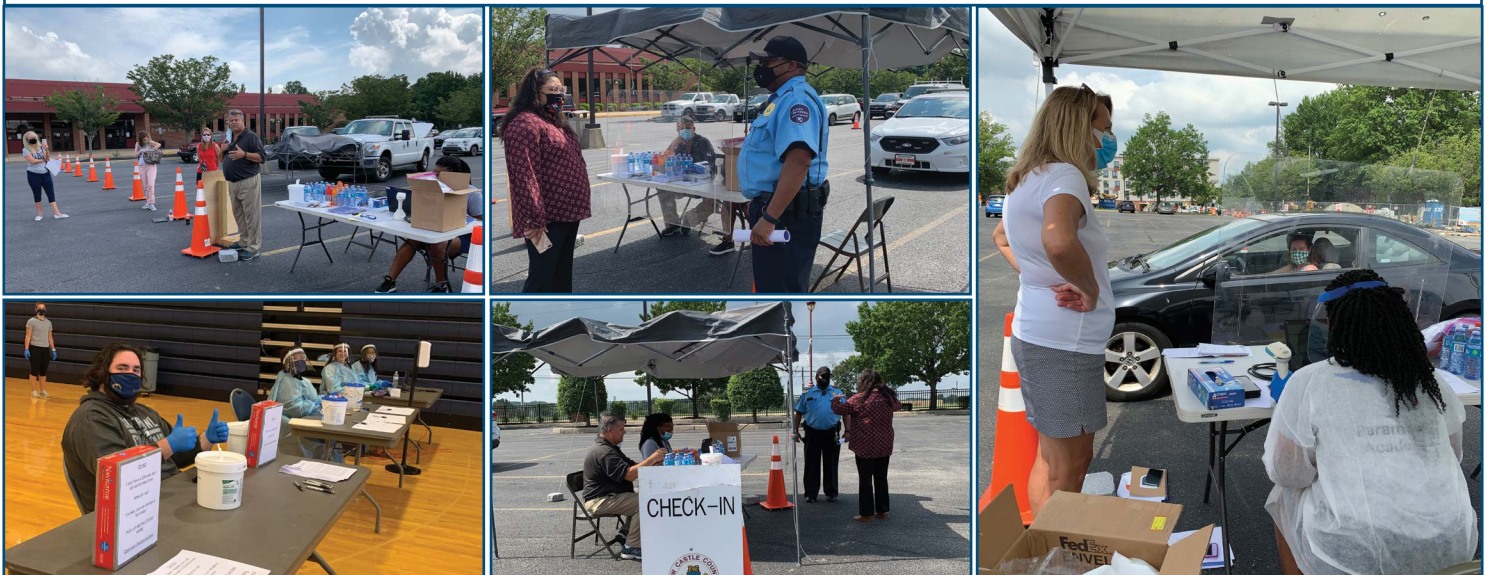
The new 'Live Online' format offers graduate students in two degree programs, the Master of Science in Finance and the Master of Arts in Counseling Psychology, the option to complete their degrees completely online.



Each Goldey-Beacom College classroom has been outfitted with Zoom TV technology to allow for synchronous learning.

For more information about Live Online graduate programs, [click here](#).

"COVID-19 doesn't stop after 5:00 p.m. and on weekends. For the past year and a half, it was incredible to watch the COVID-19 Response Team come together during the midnight hours, weekends and holidays over the past year and a half to address student and employee cases. For such a small college, we have a huge heart of compassion. Our faculty and staff were determined to provide every student affected by the pandemic with a safe, healthy and positive campus experience." Leilani Decena-Shepherd, COVID-19 liaison and compliance and training coordinator.



Photos on this page by Janine G. Sorbello

Jeremy Benoit Named New Director of Athletics

BY DEREK CRUDELE



Jeremy Benoit has been named the College's new director of athletics. "It pleases me to no end that Mr. Benoit will serve as our next leader in athletics," Dr. Colleen Perry Keith said. "He is inheriting a well-run program, and he brings important traits that I have seen him exhibit over the past two years: tenacity, diligence, vision and heart. Leadership takes many forms, and I look forward to seeing how he brings his strengths to this role for the benefit of our student-athletes in the years ahead."

"I could not be any more delighted that Jeremy Benoit has been promoted to the position of director of athletics at Goldey-Beacom College," recently retired Director of Athletics Dr. Thomas M. Brennan said. "As I have shared with others, I have worked with individuals who have advanced to the AD position, but there have been few as strong a candidate as Jeremy. He and I have worked closely during my years as the director of athletics at GBC, and he receives my highest and my most qualified endorsement. Jeremy recognizes better than anyone both the challenges and the opportunities that lie ahead for GBC. The program could not be in better hands."

Benoit's achievements have been many and his likability with student-athletes and staff is contagious. He has already left a giant footprint in helping both the Department of Athletics and the College move forward.

"It's an exciting time to be a part of the Lightning family, and I'm incredibly appreciative that the College is giving me the opportunity to further define what that means," Benoit said. "I was lucky enough to land at GBC very early in my career and have had only one focus: making sure our student-athletes have the best possible collegiate experience that they could have. That's what my alma mater did for me, which is ultimately how I wound up in this profession."

In 2015, Benoit arrived as the department's compliance specialist and has taken on an increased role each year, producing a greater awareness of athletics within the College. He was elevated in January 2019 to associate director of athletics after his promotion in December 2016 to assistant director of athletics for compliance and operations.

Benoit was instrumental in resurfacing and rebranding the Nancy Churchman Sawin field (home of GBC soccer teams), implementing new branding in the Jones Center both inside and outside the gym and influencing the Department of Athletics component of the College's multi-million-dollar renovation project which included four new locker rooms, 15 offices and a conference room.

Benoit's role is not limited to athletics – he has served on multiple committees and has also served as an adjunct instructor of sports management, the College's Title IX deputy coordinator, and has been involved in the department's and the College's strategic planning process.

"From the moment he stepped on campus six years ago, Jeremy Benoit has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to advancing Goldey-Beacom College athletics," Vice President for Student Affairs and Athletics Dr. Charles A. Hammond said. "Most importantly, he has a strong passion for mentoring coaches and student-athletes, always prioritizing academic

success while emphasizing the importance of giving back to the community. With a proven track record for successfully working with all campus constituencies, Benoit truly understands the role and value of GBC Athletics as we develop future leaders and engaged citizens. I'm honored to welcome him as our new director of athletics."

He also has done extensive work with the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee as well as with GBC Cares, the department's community service arm. Part of that community service has featured extensive work at The Summit, including interviewing veterans at the nearby retirement home to discuss their lives in the military and the fight they endured for our freedom. The project, Veterans of The Summit: Stories of Service, closed third for the 2019 NCAA Division II Award of Excellence.

Benoit adds, "When now Vice President (former AD) Dr. Hammond hired me in 2015, I learned a lot from him about what working hard in athletics looks like and why we do what we do. He was a 'do everything' type guy and that's what I wanted to be, so I did my best to emulate those traits. When Dr. Brennan was hired as the next AD, I had another great opportunity to learn. With over 40 years of experience in athletics at several different institutions, Tom represented a gold mine of experience and knowledge that I just tried to dig into every day. I owe a tremendous debt of gratitude to both men as they've been great mentors and assets in both my personal and professional life."



Photo by Ksenija Markovic

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Department of Athletics HIGHLIGHTS

Garrett Musey (Millville, NJ) was named Central Atlantic Collegiate Conference (CACC) Baseball Rookie of the Year.

Goldey-Beacom headed to the NCAA Tournament for the first time in program history and received more awards with freshman first baseman **Garrett Musey** picked second team All-East Region. Head Baseball **Coach Tom Riley** was named the East Region Coach of the Year by the National Collegiate Baseball Writers Association.

Riley, also named the CACC Coach of the Year, has been the Lightning's only coach since the program was instituted beginning with the 2016-17 academic year. His efforts helped the Lightning to be ranked fourth in the NCAA East Region poll and best their 19 victories from the 2018 campaign.

Musey, also picked the Central Atlantic Collegiate Conference Rookie of the Year and first team all-league, stepped into the role as first baseman and made it his own by displaying a tremendous amount of offensive power and making himself a mainstay in the lineup. **Musey** is 26th in the country with an .804 slugging percentage, 45th with a .511 on-base percentage, second in the league with eight home runs (tying **Mason Maxwell** for the most in one season.)

Sophomore shortstop **Mason Maxwell (Newfield, NJ)** who all season has been one of the nation's most preeminent baseball players, was named second team All-East Region by the American Baseball Coaches Association.

Junior outfielder **Bryan Bell (Chesapeake City, MD)** who put forth an outstanding campaign in helping the baseball team reach new heights, was named *CoSIDA* Academic All-District.

Kasey Goshorn (Salisbury, MD) was Goldey-Beacom's selection for NCAA Woman of the Year, having put forth an incredible five-year run for the softball team. Goshorn was one of the Lightning's most reliable student-athletes and gave the squad stability at first base. Always among the league's elite, she graduated tied for seventh in team history with five career home runs, tied for 10th with 70 RBI, tied for 17th with 126 hits and 18th outright with a .320 batting average.



Director of Athletics Dr. Thomas M. Brennan Retires

BY JEREMY BENOIT AND DEREK CRUDELE



Dr. Thomas M. Brennan

Director of Athletics Dr. Thomas M. Brennan has retired after serving Goldey-Beacom College for five years. This puts a bow on a nearly 45-year career in athletics administration which included many accomplishments.

“Dr. Brennan brought vision and inspiration to the athletics program at Goldey-Beacom,” President Colleen Perry Keith said. “He understood that athletics programs should offer something that lasts beyond the season and implemented ideas and programming that helped our student-athletes see how they relate to the wider world. He carried on our proud athletics traditions and enhanced them by taking a wider view of athletics. We are all better off for him having done that. We certainly will miss him and wish him all the best!”

“It’s time to bring closure to my nearly 45-year career in athletics administrations, a career that includes 35 years as an athletics director at four different institutions,” Dr. Brennan remarked. “It has been a good run and as a friend (former colleague) told me recently – it’s not the money raised, the buildings and facilities completed or the wins – it’s the relationships that you will

cherish, and that is what has always been important to me. Goldey-Beacom has been my last stop, and what a great place to have landed, now with friends and memories that will be long lasting. I will continue to have great interest in happenings at Goldey and will be only a phone call away if people ever need some assistance.”

In what he knew would be his final career move prior to retirement, his goals at GBC were to help raise the professional level of the program, to mentor coaches and staff and to develop long-term plans for the department during an unprecedented period of growth.

“Dr. Brennan took the helm of the Athletics Department at the onset of a growth spurt as we were adding baseball, and then put it into a whole other gear,” newly appointed Director of Athletics Jeremy Benoit said.

“Tom’s bevy of experience and his knack for mentorship was an invaluable asset to me as a young athletics administrator, but I think also for other key areas of the College. Goldey-Beacom Athletics is now well poised for long-term growth and improvement.”

“An amazing career spanning across five decades, Dr. Brennan undoubtedly has left his mark as one of the most respected administrators in collegiate athletics,” Vice President of Student Affairs and Athletics Dr. Charles A. Hammond added. “Tom’s leadership has not only transformed our Athletics Department but most importantly, the student-athlete experience. Leading the Lightning to unparalleled academic and athletic success, Tom’s vision has cultivated the development of the Leadership Academy, the expansion of sports offerings, athletics facility expansion and enhancements, and the addition of the Lightning Fund. Tom has been a trusted advisor, and I’m very proud to call him a friend.”

During his tenure, Dr. Brennan created the Leadership Academy to bring a more intentional approach to leadership development for student-athletes and

coaches. It comprises several leadership seminars which, with the help of GBC faculty member Dr. Nicole Evans, allows the Department of Athletics to continue to bridge the gap between other areas of the campus. In its first two years, the Leadership Academy has realized tremendous growth and has created plans to introduce a mentoring program with GBC faculty and staff, an alumni employment panel and a community engagement initiative with nearby Linden Hill Elementary School.

GBC Athletics has also realized an uptick in athletic achievement over the last five years. Significant achievements include two Central Atlantic Collegiate Conference championships and a run to the “Sweet 16” for Women’s Tennis; a CACC Championship and the first NCAA Tournament victory for Men’s Soccer; and, most recently, Baseball’s first regular season CACC Championship, as well as its first and second NCAA Tournament victories.



Dr. Thomas M. Brennan with Athletics Department sponsors Kim Corrigan and Gerry Frenze, Delaware Express. Photo by Janine G. Sorbello

Greep Named New Head Softball Coach

BY JEREMY BENOIT AND DEREK CRUDELE



Head Softball Coach Juli Greep

With a successful run at two schools behind her, Juli Greep looks for more of the same as the new Head Coach for Goldey-Beacom's softball team.

"We are thrilled to add Juli's experience and success to our staff as head softball coach," recently retired Director of Athletics Dr. Thomas R. Brennan said. "Juli is coming to us with a great deal of history in building a culture of athletic, academic and personal success. She has a very high ceiling, and we expect her to do great things with the GBC softball program."

Greep's arrival at GBC follows a successful 10-year run at Wesley College where she left as the program's winningest coach with 168 triumphs. Her arrival in 2012 produced an 11-game increase in victories for the highest in Division III that year. By the time she left, nearly all single-season and career records in program history had been shattered, and she had the top winning percentage of all active women's teams and previous softball coaches at the College.

Greep's run produced the first female student-athlete in Wesley history to be named CoSIDA Academic All-America in addition to three CoSIDA All-District picks, 41 National Fastpitch Coaches Association (NFCA) All-American Scholar-Athletes and 45 Capital Athletic Conference Academic All-Conference honorees.

The Wolverines also had four NFCA All-Region players, three tabbed All-ECAC, three Wesley College Female Athletes of the Year and 16 all-conference picks between the CACC and the Atlantic East Conference. In 2019, Greep was honored as the Atlantic East's Coach of the Year with Wesley advancing to the conference final.

Greep was Wesley's senior woman administrator and its assistant director of athletics from 2016-19 before her 2020 promotion to associate director of athletics. She was an adjunct professor in the Physical Education Department, a student-teacher supervisor, a SAAC advisor, assisted with compliance and verification of transfers, was the Athletics Hall of Fame director of ceremonies and helped create the Atlantic East's softball guidelines.

"What I appreciate most about Juli is her versatility," Director of Athletics Jeremy Benoit added. "When opportunities to grow and learn more about a different facet of the institution or the Department of Athletics have been presented, she's all in. That mentality is what we are all about in GBC Athletics, and I think is what makes her the best fit for the job. She will be a tremendous asset to the softball program, the Department and the College."

Benoit continued, "The College and the Department of Athletics are invested in the softball program and its upcoming success.

I anticipate a great season ahead and plan to bring the CACC championship home in the very near future. I can't wait to get the team back on campus and get started. Go Lightning!"

Greep previously coached from 2009 – 2011 at Keystone College, recording more victories in that time than the previous seven years combined and also helped re-establish the school's volleyball program. Greep had 10 All-Colonial States Athletic Conference players, 19 academic all-conference student-athletes, was an adjunct professor, initiated community service projects and supervised work-study students.

Greep played her college ball at McPherson College in Kansas, earning All-Kansas Collegiate Athletic Conference (KCAC) honors each of her four years. She was a two-time All-KCAC pitcher, a first team All-KCAC first baseman and an All-KCAC utility player. The Bulldogs in 2003 won the KCAC Championship and in 2004 set the program record for single-season wins.

Greep graduated McPherson College in 2004 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Physical Education K-12 before earning her Master of Science degree in Health, Physical Education and Recreation in 2010 from Emporia State University.





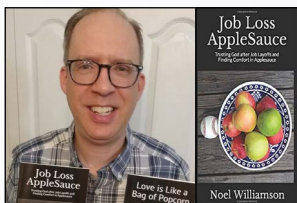
Goldey-Beacom's Chair of the Board of Trustees **Mark Olazagasti '85** was recognized at the 2020 New Castle County Chamber of Commerce Small Business Awards. Info Solutions was awarded Small Business of the Year, and Olazagasti was a finalist in the Small Business Advocate category along with GBC's Dr. Dan Young, director of the DBA program. Olazagasti founded Info Solutions in 2008 and is managing partner. In 2015, he founded YourMoney101, a nonprofit focused on providing financial wellness and mentoring services to individuals and companies.

Jonathan Martinez '20, '21 was featured on the cover of Delaware Business, a bi-monthly publication of the Delaware State Chamber of Commerce. In 2020, Martinez participated in the inaugural cohort for Intern Delaware, a nonprofit whose stated mission is to help build Delaware's future workforce by keeping talent in the First State. He served as an intern for Belfint, Lyons and Shuman. As a result of his efforts, he accepted a full-time position as a staff accountant and continues to work alongside his mentors. Martinez earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Accounting and a Master of Business Administration degree with a major in Taxation, both from GBC.



Leonard Minner '91, '93, CFO of FidelityTrade Incorporated has been recognized by the Philadelphia Business Journal as the 2021 CFO of the Year. Minner earned an Associate of Science degree in Management and a Bachelor of Science degree in Accounting both from GBC. He is a member of the Delaware Society of Certified Public Accountants and the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants.

Robert Buswell '97 recently self-published a book, "Robby's Rule: A Journey to Redemption," about having been a victim of child abuse by an athletic coach in the 1970s. After his predator was convicted, Rob fought for several years and was instrumental in getting two laws passed. One exposed 5,604 child predators who had skirted the registry, just as his abuser had, due to a gap in the law after their crimes were adjudicated. Rob lives in Virginia with his family and three dogs and continues to fight for child advocacy rights. Buswell earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration with a concentration in Marketing Management from GBC. *(Copy partially sourced from Amazon.)*



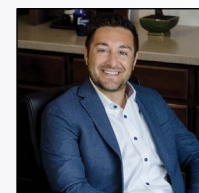
Noel Williamson '97 wanted to provide encouragement and insight on how to help people understand someone who has experienced job loss. He recently self-published a book entitled "Job Loss AppleSauce: Trusting God after Job Layoffs and Finding Comfort in Applesauce" to discuss his three job layoffs. Williamson earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Management with a concentration in Information Systems from GBC.

Alyssa Raikowski '20 was the recipient of a 2020 scholarship from the Fresh Start Foundation. Fresh Start Scholar Grads are nontraditional female students who have faced obstacles toward obtaining a college degree. Raikowski showed perseverance and determination through the pandemic and graduated cum laude in 2020 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology from GBC. Fresh Start's mission is to "improve the lives of women through education. Our scholarship applicants are Delaware women who have faced (or are facing) some type of adversity or setback but wish to obtain a college degree to help improve their lives. Our foundation provides these women with a 'fresh start' through funding and mentors." Raikowski is currently enrolled in GBC's Master of Arts in Counseling Psychology program.



Scott Dolor '14, '15 has been named operations manager of M. Davis & Sons, Inc., a woman-owned, fifth-generation industrial construction company based in Wilmington, Delaware. Dolor has been a project manager at M. Davis since 2011 and has more than 13 years of experience in the construction industry. As operations manager, he will have oversight of customer bids and rates as well as resource management. He will continue to be instrumental in the development and leadership of the project management team at M. Davis. Dolor earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration with a concentration in International Business Management and a Master of Business Administration degree in Marketing Management, both from GBC. *(Copy partially sourced from the M. Davis press release.)*

Sean Merlonghi '11, CFP, APMA, of Lokken Investment Group in Lewes, Delaware earned financial planner certification in December 2020. Merlonghi joined Lokken Investment Group in 2018 as vice president and financial advisor. A CFP practitioner earns the mark by completing a rigorous education component, extensive examination process and ample work experience while adhering to high standards of ethics and practice. Managing Principal Jonathan Lokken said Merlonghi has made a wonderful addition to the team, providing great care to his clients' needs and interests while maintaining an elevated standard of ethics and excellence. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Management with a minor in Finance from GBC. *(Copy partially sourced from the Cape Gazette.)*



Musulain Toomer – Mrs. Delaware America 2020

BY MAUREEN TOMEY



Zumba® instructor, personal trainer, fitness fiend, mother to two teenage daughters, wife and proud Goldey-Beacom graduate, Musulain Toomer '97 ("Mus" for short) was named Mrs. Delaware America in 2020. She went on to represent the state of Delaware, competing in the Mrs. America pageant in March 2021 and placed in the top 15.

Toom was born in Liberia and raised in Senegal, then moved to the United States at the age of 16. While a Business Administration major at GBC, what was most notable to her about the GBC campus was the rich diversity of her peers. Being part of a unique tapestry of students who hailed from every corner of the globe enabled her to embrace differences unconditionally. Having been a relative newcomer to the country at that time, GBC felt like a second home to her, and she still considers the four years spent here as the best years of her life.

After receiving certification, Toomer began teaching Zumba® classes and has been an instructor at the Hockessin Athletic Club for eleven years. Her leading motivation is seeing her participants empowered and confident after completing each class. Needless to say, her classes are always extremely popular and tend to fill up very quickly due to the inspiring atmosphere she creates.

Prior to the summer of 2020, Toomer had never imagined competing in a pageant, but after some persuasive encouragement from friends and colleagues at the Hockessin Athletic Club, she ultimately decided to face her fears. She also knew that it would be an ideal opportunity to share her passion with the world. She registered for the event just a few weeks before it was due to commence and dedicated herself

"With love and understanding of each other's differences, we can make a difference. It starts with each and every one of us. The world will be a better place."

**Musulain Toomer '97
Mrs. Delaware America 2020**

to intensive training, covering everything from how to walk onstage to how to place her hands while posing. She was shocked to hear the judges call her name when she won Mrs. Delaware America, and credits simply 'being true to herself' as the key principle to having earned her that title.

Toomer is always endeavoring to share her health and fitness platform with others. Her journey as Mrs. Delaware America has allowed her to engage more extensively in the community. She deeply appreciates being able to help people. In her own beautiful words, She asserts that, "Our body is a temple, and that our temple is our most precious gift." She believes that it is important to help people live their best lives by taking care of their temples. Her central goal is to educate people while promoting the importance of exercise and proper diet, particularly among those who suffer from various illnesses that potentially make diet and exercise difficult.

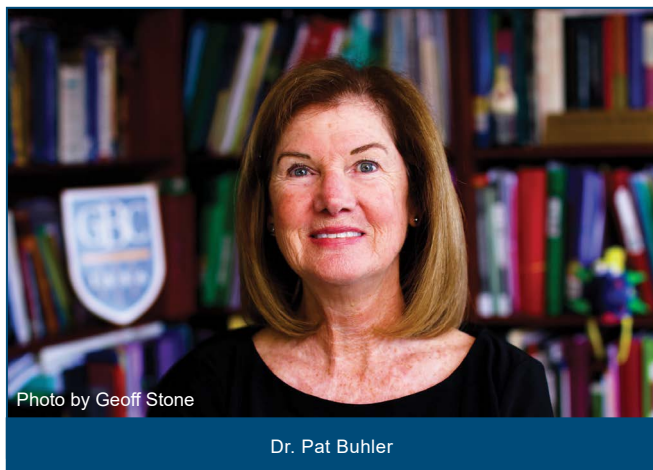
If Toomer was to provide our current students with an uplifting message during these challenging days, it would be this: "With love and understanding of each other's differences, we can make a difference. It starts with each and every one of us. The world will be a better place."



Musulain Toomer with her husband, Mark, and two daughters, Aryanna and Hannah, following her win at the Mrs. Delaware America 2020 pageant. Photos courtesy of Musulain Toomer.

Dr. Pat Buhler Retires Following a 30-year Career

BY JANINE G. SORBELLO



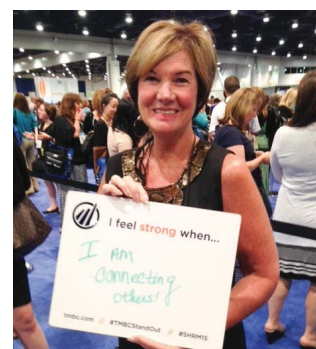
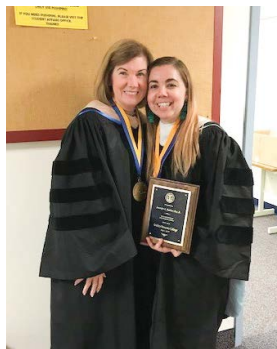
A beloved faculty member, Dr. Pat Buhler, began working for GBC under the presidency of Dr. William R. Baldt – just before the College launched its MBA program in 1992. What followed was more than 30 years of dedicated service.

Dr. Buhler is quick to share her love of academia and preparing students for successful careers. “I refer to it as ‘the dash,’” Dr. Buhler said. “It’s the space on your gravestone that represents what you did with your life between the day you are born and the day you die. I hope people will remember that I really did care, and I really did want to make a difference. I wanted to make a difference for my colleagues and for every student who walked through my classroom door.”

Dr. Buhler has held many positions at the College including acting director of admissions, cluster coordinator, associate professor and most recently professor. Her academic career has been recognized by GBC and many other organizations. She was honored with the 2005 Ron Shane HR Lifetime Achievement Award presented by the Delaware Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM) and the 2015 Delaware Valley HR Person of the Year Lifetime Achievement Award. Dr. Buhler is a two-time recipient of GBC’s Excellence in Teaching Award –1992 and 2004.

“I first met Pat on the telephone,” said Dr. Colleen Perry Keith, president of GBC. “When I asked her questions, I soon realized there was no better spokesperson for Goldey-Beacom. She told me why she came here to teach, the closeness of the faculty and staff and how multicultural the student body was. She gave a thoughtful response to everything, so you could tell she had spent a lot of time immersing herself in what Goldey-Beacom is and was. The result of all of this is why I decided to apply for the presidency. And I’m so happy I did.”

GBC’s Executive Leadership Team and faculty awarded Dr. Buhler the status of Professor Emeritus at its May 2021 Commencement. “Professor Emeritus is a title that is given to professors who have made an extraordinary contribution to the College,” said Dr. Keith. “This position of honor recognizes that Dr. Buhler has given a substantial amount of time, resources, energy and passion to Goldey-Beacom College. In addition, she will continue to be a resource for



us and will share her wisdom and insight in a new role for the College as a curricular designer who will work with faculty and academic departments to further the program offerings of the College.”

Dr. Buhler holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Political Science from the University of Delaware, a Master of Business Administration degree in Management from Pace University and a Doctor of Business Administration degree from Nova Southeastern University.



Photos courtesy of Dr. Jen Buhler unless noted. Article sourced from Dr. Buhler’s retirement documentary, produced by Geoff Stone. To watch the documentary, [click here](#).

Alumna and 48-year Employee Emily Jackson Ilyas Retires

BY JANINE G. SORBELLO

Following 48 years of dedicated service, Emily Jackson Ilyas '84, '08 has retired from Goldey-Beacom College.

Ilyas began working for the College on Feb. 26, 1973 – one year before the College relocated from its downtown Wilmington location to its present 24-acre, suburban Pike Creek campus. Led by then-President Paul R. Brown, the move transformed the College from a secretarial school to a four-year college of business. Emily Jackson Ilyas is the only current employee of the College to have been part of that momentous transition.

Five College presidents later, Emily Jackson Ilyas is now retired and spends more time with her husband, children and grandchildren.

"I've known Emily for more than 30 years, and in that time she has held many positions at the College. She has approached every position with a desire to learn and move

the College forward, and at the same time, ensured the needs of faculty, staff and students were met," said Mark Olazagasti, chair of the board of trustees and an alumnus.

He continued, "And through it all, she brought the rare combination of knowledge, determination, commitment, curiosity, professionalism and dedication to her work."

"I've only known Emily for a year and a half, but in that time, I got to know an esteemed member of the administration who truly cared about the College and the students we serve," said Dr. Colleen Perry Keith. "To say she will be greatly missed doesn't seem to effectively honor her career at the College."

Ilyas has held various positions at the College including secretary to the academic dean, dormitory assistant, supervisor for computer operations, director of computer operations/information systems/payroll, director of MIS, director of IT and the Academic Computing Center, director of information technology and most recently as the dean of information technology.



Photo by Geoff Stone

Emily Jackson Ilyas

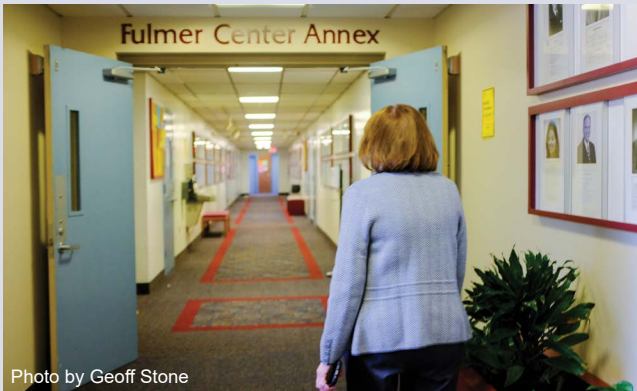
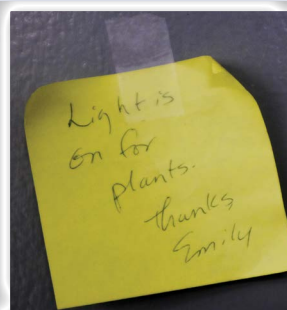


Photo by Geoff Stone



Photos courtesy of GBC archives unless noted.

[Click here](#) to watch the retirement video for Emily Jackson Ilyas.

William R. Baldt, Ph.D.

Oct. 16, 1935 – May 6, 2020 (age 84)

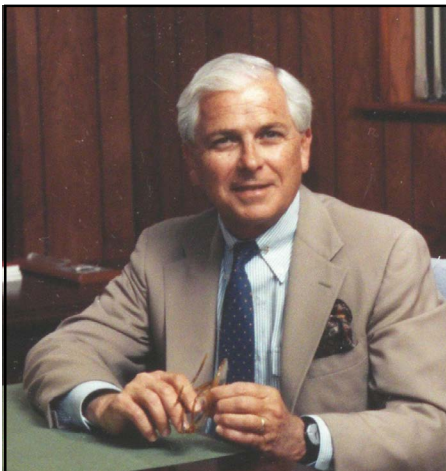


Photo courtesy of GBC archives

On Wednesday, May 6, 2020, the Board of Trustees and the greater Goldey-Beacom College community was saddened by the death of former College President William R. Baldt.

Dr. Baldt was a beloved member of the GBC community who cared deeply for its people. He served GBC from 1975 to 1996 as its 11th president. In addition to an honorary doctorate conferred by the College in 1986, Dr. Baldt also received a Bachelor of Arts degree in History and a Master's degree in Counseling Education from the University of Delaware. He was a graduate of P.S. duPont High School in Wilmington, Delaware. Dr. Baldt touched many lives throughout his career.

"Bill's extraordinary impact on GBC can be seen in so many ways – ways that will be even more evident as the years go by. He was responsible for crafting and advancing a new image for the College – not as a place for training, but for a true baccalaureate education. He promoted the College in his every move, achieving accreditation, choosing prestigious trustees, creating important alliances in the community and articulating the unique nature of the institution. Most important, he was an advocate and champion for students – always genuinely interested in them as individuals and celebrating their growth during their years at GBC. He truly understood that learning was not confined to the classroom, and he expanded the role of extracurricular activities, promoted study-abroad and enabled a rich social life on campus."

Dr. Gary L. Wirt, immediate past president, Goldey-Beacom College

"President Baldt was a key player in the history of GBC. In 1976, he presided over the College's first-ever accreditation from the Middle States Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools (now the Middle States Commission on Higher Education). When Dr. Baldt took over as president in 1975, he brought a confidence, optimism and respect for the College's then 92-year history, and his work made it possible for the GBC we now have 43 years later: one that offers the full gamut of fully-accredited, post-secondary degrees built upon a firm educational and financial foundation."

Dr. Colleen Perry Keith, president, Goldey-Beacom College

"Dr. Baldt was a charismatic leader who understood the importance of balancing the academic and social experience in higher education. He was approachable, engaging, and an intentional leader who promoted mutual respect among students, faculty and staff. Respected throughout the community, Dr. Baldt was an inspiration and role model to many."

Mark R. Olazagasti, chair, board of trustees, Goldey-Beacom College

"President Baldt was the right person at the right time to bring about necessary change for a bright future for the College."

Dr. Mohammad Ilyas, past president, Goldey-Beacom College

[Click here](#) to access the GBC archives.



Photo courtesy of Chris Baldt



Photo courtesy of Chris Baldt



Photo courtesy of Roger Reed

Roger Reed '87 and former GBC President William R. Baldt attended the October 8, 2010 Kappa Alpha Court of Honor ceremony in Washington DC where Reed was inducted and sponsored by Dr. Baldt, a former Knight Commander of the national fraternity. Photo courtesy of Roger Reed.

Trevonte Lamar Cephas

Feb. 19, 1996 – April 13, 2021 (age 25)

Trevonte, or “Scooter” as everyone on campus called him, worked in the College’s cafe for several years. This is why everyone – students, staff, faculty and campus security – knew who he was. Known for his warm smile, fun spirit and kind words, he was taken from us far too soon. He graduated from Goldey Beacom College in 2018 with a Bachelor of Science degree with a concentration in Marketing Management. After college, he joined and served in the United States Army until his death.

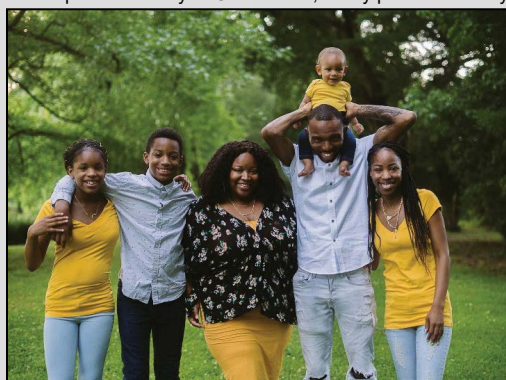
In loving memory

“They say a picture is worth a thousand words. When you see Trevonte’s picture you see a smile so bright, an aura of positivity and happiness that would lift anyone’s spirit. When you hear Trevonte’s name, just know that he was caring, fun, silly, compassionate, hard-working, conscientious, honest, brave, a leader, courageous, selfless, stylish, intelligent, trustworthy, responsible, respectful, gentle, cheerful, friendly, athletic, educated, driven, determined, kind, thoughtful, but most of all he is loved.”

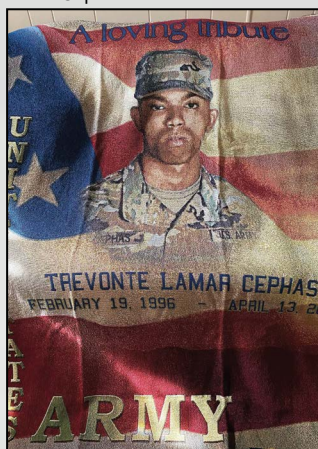
The family of Trevonte Cephas



Above photo courtesy of Geoff Stone; family photos courtesy of Kierra Cephas



Left to right: Akira (niece), James (nephew), Brittany (sister), Trevonte, Nolan (nephew), Kierra (sister)



Left to right: (top row) Kelbourne (Dad), Kierra (sister), Trevonte; (bottom row) Brittany (sister) and Charlene (Mom)

“The WSFS family was deeply saddened to learn of Trevonte’s passing. I was fortunate enough to interview Trevonte as in intern in 2015, and could immediately tell that he was a kind, generous person, and a perfect fit for WSFS. Trevonte made a positive impact on every Associate and Customer with whom he interacted. He will be dearly missed by all of us at WSFS.” Patrick Best, Vice President, Talent Acquisition Manager



WSFS Bank presented a plaque to the Cephas family. It reads . . .

We will always remember Trevonte’s big smile, his love for learning and the kind way he served others.

Our WSFS family, customers and Community are grateful for having known Trevonte. May he rest in peace.





In Memoriam

**We remember the lives of our
esteemed alumni and friends,
and their legacies.**

Doranne Aanstad-Brennan, Catonsville, MD
 Mary Beatrice Adams-Shockley, Millsboro, DE
 Claire Ames-Darby, New Castle, DE
 Wanda Fay Angotti, Newark, DE
 Jeannette E. Benson, Wilmington, DE
 Muriel S. Berger, Wilmington, DE
 Debby Bergman, Lancaster, PA
 Richard J. Bernardo, Newark, DE
 Sharon Birowski-Hayes, Wilmington, DE
 Genevieve Brennan-Riley, Wilmington, DE
 Carol Brighton-Holmes, Cape May, NJ
 Mary R. Brunt, Newark, DE
 Robert Brush, Wilmington, DE
 Geraldine F. Buckwalter, Milton, DE
 Sharon Burkhart-Elliott, Wilmington, DE
 Lewis A. Callaway, Lewes, DE
 Anita Campbell, Berlin, MD
 Margaret Canby Gause Bramble, Wilmington, DE
 Isadore "Izzy" Steven Candeloro, Chesapeake City, MD
 Bonnie Casey-Llewellyn, Pottsville, PA
 Trevonte Lamar "Scooter" Cephas, Bridgeville, DE
 Pauline "Polly" Cerveney-Wilson, Madison, MS
 Dorothy Marie Cherry-Lewis, Newark, DE
 Ronald L. Christopher, Parrish, FL
 Betty L. Christy-Reynolds, The Villages, FL
 Ruth Ann Chynoweth, Milford, DE
 Joan C. Clancy, Wilmington, DE
 Elaine A. Cohen, Wilmington, DE
 Annette Conforti, Wilmington, DE
 Joan F. Conly, Newark, DE
 Margaret H. Conte, Lewes, DE
 Joseph "Joey" Lambert Conway Jr., Middletown, DE
 Anne Corby-Treisback, Wilmington, DE
 Joseph C. Cortese Jr., Lewes, DE

Judy Cousineau, Dover, DE
 William "Henry" Crigler, Rising Sun, MD
 Robert William Crump, Wilmington, DE
 Patricia G. Culliton, Avondale, PA
 Bess Custis-Savage, Quinby, VA
 Marion Daly-Woodworth, Wilmington, DE
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