



Scholarship funds leave legacy and provide hope

Strategic Plan initiatives move College forward

In their own words – students share their experiences

Department of Athletics honors student-athletes



MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLNESS CENTER IMPACTS STUDENT SUCCESS

What students are saying



NEW DEGREE PROGRAMS

Coming fall 2022



B.A. in Interdisciplinary Studies

**B.S. in Business Administration
with a concentration in Business Analytics**

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achieve greater.

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September 10
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College closed for Thanksgiving

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College closed for winter break



On the cover:

Mental Health and Wellness Center Director Megan Romano (right) talks with student-athlete Tumi Sekhampu (left).

Cover photo by Ksenija Markovic



Executive Leadership Team

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



This was all made possible by people who believed in the education that my college provided. They believed in the possibilities that I had in front of me.

And it was all of those opportunities and scholarships that made me want to do my very best. Some were provided by donors who didn't have to give their money to provide a scholarship, but they did because student success mattered to them. Other scholarships were provided by the college itself, but again – the college didn't have to do that.

Those scholarships provided an affirmation for me that I belonged in college; that I was worth the investment, and that someone believed in me.

They gave me a boost of confidence. And that's what scholarships do for our students here at Goldey-Beacom. That's why I can't wait for you to read the pages that follow. You'll hear our students talk about the impact their scholarships have had on their education and their lives.

If you are a donor to our scholarship appeals, I sincerely thank you.

Now sit back, and enjoy this issue of *Reflections*. Thank you for being a vital part of our Goldey-Beacom College family.

All the best –

Greetings from Goldey-Beacom College,

It is with great pride that I present you with this issue of *Reflections*, *Goldey-Beacom College magazine*. I can't wait to hear your feedback as I am certain it's going to be like mine: filled with pride for GBC, amazed at our students and their achievements, and grateful for our supporters.

From the forward movement the College is experiencing as a result of our Strategic Plan to the amazing stories of our student scholarship recipients and their personal College journeys and experiences, you'll find yourself turning the pages of this issue with eagerness to see what's on the next page!

And about those scholarship recipients and the people who have made those scholarships possible ... those are stories that have especially deep meaning to both the recipients and the donors.

Like many of our GBC students, I was a first-generation college student and paid for my college education through a combination of Pell Grants, Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants (SEOG), the Federal Work-Study Program (FWSP), Perkins loans, bank loans, part-time jobs and scholarships.

Goldey-Beacom College Congratulates EDiS Company for DCA Award

Goldey-Beacom College is pleased to congratulate EDiS Company for the honor of receiving a 2021 Construction Excellence Award from the Delaware Contractors Association at its Annual Meeting, Thursday, October 28, 2021, at the Chase Center.

In the category of Higher Education over \$30 Million, the award represents GBC's \$30M project including the construction of William A. Franta Hall and renovation of the Joseph West Jones Building.

Executive Vice President Kristine M. Santomauro said, "I am honored and thrilled that our milestone \$30M campus enhancement project was selected for this award and that our construction manager, EDiS Company, was recognized for their expert management and workmanship."

"Winning the award on behalf of Goldey-Beacom is significant for us because we had the opportunity to play a role in a massive transformation of their campus," said Brian DiSabatino, President/CEO of EDiS Company.

Santomauro confirmed, "The College selected EDiS for their stellar reputation as a construction management firm, but the manner in which they handled the difficulties of COVID-19 further validated our selection. We could not have chosen a better partner!"



Photo courtesy of Delaware Contractors Association
Pictured left to right: Project Engineer Jeffrey Skorup and (former President, now retired) Jerry Doherty, EDiS stand with EVP Kristine M. Santomauro and Director of Facilities and Plant Operations Meezie Foster, GBC



"Each year, *Delaware Business Times* starts its programming year with our '90 Ideas In 90 Minutes' event, where we invite nine business and community leaders to share with our audience 10 ideas in 10 minutes that can contribute to success in business and life. We view this event as a way to kind of give business professionals a mental reset to start the year and hopefully impart some inspiration, hope and advice," said *Delaware Business Times* Editor Jacob Owens.

On March 30, 2022, Dr. Colleen Perry Keith joined a remarkable group of guest speakers who presented awe-inspiring stories as well as expert business and life advice at the DBT "90 Ideas in 90 Minutes" event held at the Delaware Art Museum.

Dr. Keith chronicled an early February 2022 chance meeting with a man we'll call "Jason" as she and her husband, Barry Keith, decided to have lunch in a local bar. Several chairs away, a man sat quietly eating, and soon, the three of them began watching an Olympic downhill skiing event.

As they watched the paralympians in amazement, their conversation leaned toward disabled athletes. Seemingly out of nowhere, Jason remarked that he would love to have a pair of blades and participate in a race. Ironically, Jason didn't have legs.

Here are Dr. Keith's own words about this profound moment . . .

"Up until that point, I hadn't noticed that Jason came in walking with a cane and didn't have full legs. He was energetic about wanting to find a corporate sponsor to purchase blades so he could begin practicing. He talked about his current prostheses: they have hydraulics, are as state of the art as his insurance will cover, and he's even considering new prostheses that can screw into his leg bones, making running even easier. His energy and excitement were palpable.

I assumed that Jason was either former military or was in a horrific accident. I decided to ask him, "How did you lose your legs?" Jason winced, half smiled and said, "I was in a bad place, and I jumped in front of a subway train."

PRESIDENT KEITH SHARES TOP 10 TAKEAWAYS FROM HUMBLING EXPERIENCE

By: Janine G. Sorbello

I was blown away. I said, "I am so sorry."

"It's okay," Jason said. "My wife kept trying to help me – we went to doctors and psychiatrists. I kept refusing help. It got so bad, and I was so awful to live with that she left me, and I jumped in front of a train. After a long time in the hospital, I got some help. Got on medications. We figured out what my mental health diagnosis was. I'm now able to talk about it. I know I can have a future."

I'm still having trouble taking it all in. I mean, Jason is younger than my 33-year-old son.

In fact, I started thinking about it again while I was sitting in the Indianapolis airport on February 8 waiting for a flight. Then I thought about my 90 in 90 speech, and suddenly, it all came together. I found a quiet corner and just started writing. I realized I had learned so much from Jason in just one conversation.

Here are my 10 ideas:

- You can learn from every interaction you have. Your education is never complete.
- Become more reflective about your day, who you have interacted with and what you have learned. Reflection will help you toward a kinder approach to others.
- Encourage people you care about – and even those you don't care about – to seek help if and when they need it. Don't be afraid to say "maybe it would help to see someone." You can risk that rejection if you're wrong because what if you're not wrong?
- Never assume your load is heavier than anyone else's. Everyone handles their load differently and some people aren't as strong as others.
- Do your very best to erase the stigma of mental illness among those in your circles. It's okay to not be okay, and it doesn't mean that person is damaged goods.
- Just because something isn't YOUR reality doesn't mean it's not someone else's reality. It's real to them. Acknowledge that at least to yourself as you lead and interact.
- Get out of your comfort zone every once in a while, and take in a new experience. I did. I mean, sitting at the bar and eating lunch? I don't usually do that unless I'm with my husband (who has never met a bar he didn't want to sit at). I've learned over the years though, that getting out of my comfort zone is always an enriching experience for me.
- You never lose unless you stop trying. Until you try, you have no idea what you can do.
- The more you give, the more you get. Success is the result of how much you give: time, friendship, money. Those who experience the greatest abundance in their lives are givers.
- Remember the Golden Rule: in every situation, act toward others in the same way that you would want others to act toward you.

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Dr. Colleen Perry Keith, Photo credit: Delaware Business Times



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COLLEEN PERRY KEITH, PH.D.
President, Goldey-Beacom College



Photo credit: Geoff Stone

Strategic Plan Initiatives

“Time can be crazy: it can feel fast and slow at the same time. This has been quite true over the past couple of years due to the COVID-19 pandemic. But in spite of that craziness, the College has made significant progress on the Strategic Plan, and to be honest, this progress truly snuck up on us. When you are in the work, it feels like it takes forever for an idea to become a reality. But then you stop and assess what you have done, and you realize those ideas have become reality.”

The Academic Excellence Center and the Freshman Year Experience program have become part of our daily work even though they didn't exist a year ago. The same can be said about many of our accomplishments as we continue to fulfill the Strategic Plan and provide a meaningful education for our students. I am delighted to share our progress with you.”

Dr. Colleen Perry Keith, president

Goals Accomplished

Sparkling Excellence

- Establishment of a comprehensive First Year Experience program, scheduled for fall 2022 implementation.
- Digital Badges/Micro-Credentials program was launched.
- Four-year student journey framework was developed.
- A 50% tuition reset was successfully implemented to assist students and to make GBC as affordable as possible.
- A curriculum review was completed so the College can update curricula to ensure their currency and value to students, employers and the community.
- The College expanded its resources and now offers courses in multiple formats ranging from 100% face-to-face to 100% online. During the pandemic, the College was 100% online. There are now two graduate programs that are fully online (Master of Arts in Counseling Psychology and Master of Science in Finance), and more may be on the horizon, depending on their reception by students.

- Two new undergraduate programs have been approved starting in fall 2022: a Bachelor of Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies and a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration with a concentration in Business Analytics.

Igniting Success

- An extension of the First Year Experience to provide experiential learning for students has been created and will be implemented through the sophomore, junior and senior years for full-time undergraduate students.
- A complete blueprint for a Study Away program was created and is ready for implementation when international travel conditions become ideal.
- The Student Success Committee was formed. Members meet weekly and work on helping students. Between this and other steps taken through the Comprehensive Retention Review Committee, retention was at an all-time high of 82% amid the pandemic.
- The Academic Excellence Center (AEC) will be open beginning fall 2022.

- To better serve students with accommodations, online resources for faculty and staff are now available. The AEC will be an additional resource to assist students with accommodations.
- A Mental Health and Wellness Center opened its doors in fall 2021 with a full-time director. In addition, a partnership with Christiana Care has been launched for students' primary care needs.
- A comprehensive strategic plan for GBC Athletics examined the Role and Value of NCAA Division II Athletics in the life of Goldey-Beacom College.

Lighting Opportunity

- Bringing the local community on campus has been an important goal. So far, the College has hosted the following: summer housing opportunities for Intern Delaware participants, AVID Program with Skyline Middle School, Vocational Training for Meadowood School, the Boys and Girls Clubs of Delaware, SAT testing site, host for State Chamber of Commerce breakfast, Leadership Delaware conference site, sports camps and clinics.

- A centralized reservation system with a calendar accessible to faculty and staff, including the ability to request catering, IT needs, room requests, facility set-up and advertising on signage, is in the implementation stage.
- The College recruited an AmeriCorps VISTA member to support a community partnership with the Boys and Girls Clubs of Delaware.
- There have, and continue to be, many improvements to the physical campus. Some preceded the strategic planning process, but numerous modifications have taken place, or will take place shortly, to accommodate changes dictated by other initiatives.
- It also enables tracking for required training. www.neogov.com
- Town Hall meetings have been held for students at least once a semester (in person with an option to join by Zoom) and hosted by the president of the College. Recent topics have included academic programs, how the College budget works and athletics.
- A meeting/discussion session with the president is held monthly (in person with an option to join by Zoom) for employees to keep informed with what is happening at the College.
- Outside consulting firm, Peter R. Johnson, completed a comprehensive salary review to determine if employees are fairly compensated with competitive salaries. A Comprehensive Salary Compensation program has been implemented and many employees have received salary adjustments. These efforts will continue and are impacting the annual evaluation adjustments that will be made throughout 2022.
- A new employee policy was implemented allowing all full- and part-time employees of the College to receive five free meals per week in the dining hall.
- Health care insurance contributions by the College were increased to 65% for all participating employees.
- A more flexible and trust-based method for tracking hours was implemented for College employees.
- Offices of the College were realigned with best practices related to student success, student retention and student persistence as the focus. As a result, a standalone Registrar's Office and Financial Aid Office were established. The previous Enrollment Management model was dismantled. Now, Financial Aid is part of the Financial Services area of the College, along with the Business Office. The Registrar and Advising Offices fall under Academic Affairs, and Admissions reports to Institutional Advancement.
- The Office of Institutional Research and Training was dismantled and the responsibility for institutional research has been absorbed by the Registrar's Office.

Surging Forward

- The Human Resources Department launched a professional development Lunch and Learn Series for employees.
- The College engaged the services of NEOGOV, an online comprehensive and integrated platform designed specifically for the needs of Human Resources Departments for educational institutions. The platform includes NEOGOV LEARN which provides a module with various training videos for employees in one convenient location.



Photo credit: Ksenija Markovic

AmeriCorps VISTA Sulakshmi Vaid with students from the Boys & Girls Clubs of Delaware

GBC PARTNERS



Photo credit: Ksenija Markovic

The GBC Dining Hall in the Joseph West Jones Center serves hundreds of students, employees and guests daily during the academic year.



Goldey-Beacom College has partnered with ChristianaCare-GoHealth to provide students with easy, convenient access to trusted health care.

Students can access these benefits by visiting: <https://www.gohealthuc.com/dte/christianacare/goldey-beacom>
 Visit the GBC page for more information: <https://www.gbc.edu/student-life/student-health.html>



GBC student Salome Lang with her family. Photo credit: Ksenija Markovic

AT GOLDEY-BEACOM COLLEGE, STUDENT SAFETY AND WELL BEING IS OUR NUMBER ONE PRIORITY.

SO LET'S TALK ABOUT MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLNESS.

Looming student debt, the fear of another coronavirus variant, a spectrum of feelings from anger, anxiety and loneliness to joy, excitement and a sense of accomplishment (and don't forget the fear of failure) – well, who wouldn't need help from a mental health professional? Students across the nation are facing extreme circumstances in a volatile global environment. These serious issues deserve serious attention.

A quick Google search shows many of the issues college students face.

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Depression | Anxiety | Eating disorders |
| Suicide | Panic Disorder | Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder |
| Social Anxiety Disorder | Addiction | Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder |
| Generalized Anxiety Disorder | | |



“With mental health and wellness identified as a priority in the GBC Strategic Plan, I was both excited and hopeful when our team opened the College’s first Mental Health and Wellness Center for our students in fall 2021. From our own experts on staff to state agencies, I’m proud to share as many resources as possible with our students. Support from nonprofit partners, as well as fierce advocacy for the student body, paved the way for the Center to become a reality. Because this was part of the Strategic Plan, it meant that everyone was on board: trustees, faculty and staff. They are not only passionate about their day to day endeavors but are attuned and empathetic to the needs of our students. You’ll learn more on the following pages about the Center’s backstory and the positive impact it is having on our students.” Dr. Colleen Perry Keith, president

Goldey-Beacom Opens the College’s First Mental Health and Wellness Center

By: Janine G. Sorbello

Since the 1990s, university and college counseling centers have been experiencing a shift in the needs of students seeking counseling services from developmental and informational needs to psychological issues. In a 2018-19 National Survey on Drug Use and Mental Health by SAMSHA (Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration) the study reported 30.47% of people between ages 18-25 reported a mental illness while 15.48% reported a major depressive event and 12% had serious thoughts of suicide. Amazingly, only 16.7% reported receiving professional help. *

In addition, in the 2016 survey of students by the American College Health Association, 52.7% of students surveyed reported a feeling of hopelessness and 39.1% reported feeling so depressed that it was difficult to function during the previous 12 months.

Specifically, Goldey-Beacom College reported a 212% increase over a five-year period (2013-18) for mental health referrals and crisis intervention.

THE PRIORITY

As Dr. Colleen Perry Keith took the reins as president of the College in 2019, one of her first priorities included addressing

mental health and wellness needs. “I was deeply concerned about the increase in the diagnosis nationwide of various issues such as anxiety and depression, and even more troubled by the sharp incline in those needs by our students,” said Dr. Keith.

“This is one of many reasons that I launched a strategic planning process as soon as I arrived,” continued Dr. Keith. “I was concerned that without on-campus help, students may not be able to achieve success in their academic programs.” The strategic planning process identified mental health and wellness as a top concern by employees in all departments.

THE PLAN

A two-fold plan was developed by a campuswide initiative team composed of faculty, staff, students, community partners and advocacy groups working together to address student mental and physical health.

As the Mental Health and Wellness Committee focused on supporting student mental health, in March 2020, the group was forced to pivot to address the escalating health and safety concerns stemming from COVID-19 which ultimately resulted in a shutdown of the College.

In January 2021, the Committee reconvened to address the ever-growing demand for on-campus mental health support. Early research confirmed the anecdotal evidence that the effects of COVID-19 had placed a greater strain on the mental health of America’s college students – almost six times higher than pre-pandemic levels in 2019.

The Committee was driven by two guiding principles: 1) provide accessible and quality mental health care to all students, and 2) develop impactful programming to provide opportunities, raise awareness and take action.

By September 2021, the College had hired its first Director of Counseling, Megan Romano LPC, CAADC, NCC.

Romano joined the Committee as they conducted a comprehensive site review, determining Jackson Hall to be the best location for the new center.

Led by Meezie Foster, the College’s Facilities team successfully completed the renovation project to provide students with a beautiful space located in the heart of campus but enough off the beaten path to provide comfort to students searching for privacy.

MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLNESS CENTER OPENS

Today, the Mental Health and Wellness Center (MHWC) is open and serving our campus community. The Center’s mission is to cultivate wellness for each student individually in the interest of growth and success beyond the classroom. The activities and programs of the Center address multiple issues and concerns and aim to achieve the following:

- reduce psychological symptoms,
- cope with life events and developmental tasks,
- improve interpersonal skills and relationships, and
- increase self-knowledge and problem-solving skills.

The MHWC provides individual and group counseling, facilitates student programming and provides training for faculty and staff to support student mental health. The MHWC has become a beacon of hope for so many students throughout the College community.

* Statistics from the 2018-19 National Survey on Drug Use and Mental Health by SAMSHA was researched and provided by the University of Delaware.



Photo credit: Ksenija Markovic
Director of the Mental Health and Wellness Center
Megan Romano, LPC, CAADC, NCC



Photo credit: Janine Sorbello
Left to right: Megan Romano and Courtney Kenner, 2022 GBC grad with a Master’s in Counseling Psychology





Left to right: Tymir Ash-Shaheed, Yusef Shakur, Maura Grier, and Taylor Beres

Here's what students say about the Mental Health and Wellness Center.



Students submitted their thoughts and feelings about the MHWC through an anonymous survey.

"It means everything. I feel safer and more connected to my college than ever. I wouldn't have been able to afford counseling on my own, so the fact that our school pays for it is huge. It is the biggest benefit I think we have at GBC."

SERVICES



- Brief outpatient counseling
- Consultation
- Drop-in hours
- Student events and workshops
- Community referrals
- Student organization advising and involvement

Click here: <https://www.gbc.edu/student-life/mental-health-and-wellness.html>

The Mental Health Association of Delaware Offers Valuable Resources

Paying attention to our own mental health is an integral part of overall wellness. The brain is a part of the body, and if we find that our thoughts and feelings are becoming disordered, they may need treatment or wellness strategies to function optimally. This doesn't have to be complicated. We can check in with our mental health by taking a confidential screening online at <https://screening.mentalhealthscreening.org/mhainde>. We can also do some journaling about how we are feeling or just ask ourselves some targeted questions to get a sense of our mental health.

- How have I been feeling lately?
- What have I been worrying about?
- Am I meeting my basic needs in a healthy way (eating, sleeping, hygiene)?
- Am I connecting with my support system?
- Am I taking time to do things that I enjoy?

If you find the answers to these questions indicate you are feeling depressed or anxious, not caring for yourself, or that you are isolating, it may be time to see a mental health professional, and get things back on track. Frequent check-ins with our mental health help us to recognize problems early, before they escalate into crisis situations, which means that getting help will be easier and more effective. But remember, even when things do get tough, there are many people who want to help and many resources available in our community to help with recovery from mental health disorders. Don't be afraid to reach out - you are worth-it!

Click here: www.mhainde.org



Emily Vera, LCSW
Executive Director



"They gave me the support I desperately needed."

"It provided a safe space to talk and a place to build a more stable mental and emotional state."

"I've needed to see a professional for a long time, but I knew I couldn't afford it. Having free services on campus is amazing."

"You guys are doing an amazing job!"

"Just thank you for the work you guys are doing."

"Megan and Courtney do an amazing job at making me feel heard and appreciated. Megan has been there for me through my toughest times, and her drive to want what's best for the students here at GBC is amazing."

"Amazing opportunity."

"Makes being able to get help so much easier."

"Always good to have someone to talk to for free."

"The Mental Health and Wellness Center gave me a place where I could feel safe, seen and cared for on days that I did not feel any of that. Megan and Courtney have always been so helpful and care deeply for us students. They've helped me find my way out of some extremely difficult situations over the last year."

"Speaking with Megan has helped me organize my thoughts and just let out the emotions that I have struggled with for a couple of years."

"They gave me the tools I needed to be able to manage my problems."

"It means a lot because they just want to help, and they do their best. So, if I feel like I need someone, I can always go to them."

"I just want to say thank you. Megan and Courtney, you have helped me so much in the last two semesters. I started the year at one of the lowest points of my life. I am so grateful to you both for being a resource in our community to help people who are struggling like I was. You guys have helped me to grow and become so much more self-aware. I am in such a better place entering the next chapter of my life because of the work you have done with me. Looking back, if you would've told me I'd be in this position last August, I would not have believed you. But here I am, and it's largely because of you guys. Thank you."

GRADUATION 2022 – feelings of pure joy and sheer accomplishment – achieve greater!



President Colleen Perry Keith concluded the days' ceremonies by offering a few words of wisdom to new graduates.

"We know you have been looking forward to this day for quite a while. Your achievements validate your hard work and diligence, the dreams and sacrifices of your family and loved ones, and the College's confidence in your knowledge and abilities. We hope the degrees we award you today will propel you forward in your chosen career path."

To watch the 2022 undergraduate and graduate ceremonies, visit: <https://video.ibm.com/channel/goldey-beacom-college>
To view 2022 graduation pictures, visit: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/139182138@N05/albums/>



135th Commencement Ceremonies

Goldey-Beacom College held its 135th Commencement Ceremonies on Friday, April 29, 2022, on the GBC campus in two separate ceremonies with undergraduate students commencing first, followed by graduate and doctoral students. A combined total of just over 400 students earned degrees including associate, bachelor's and master's degrees, as well as doctoral degrees, in fields including information technology, marketing management, criminal justice and accounting. Sixteen states and 46 countries were represented among graduates.

10:00 a.m. Undergraduate Ceremony

Guest speakers:
Director of Athletics Jeremy Benoit
Undergraduate student Amanda Garcia '22

2:00 p.m. Graduate Ceremony

Guest speaker:
Lt. Gov. of Delaware Bethany Hall-Long



All photos on pages 12 and 13 by Geoff Stone and Ksenija Markovic



Lt. Gov. of Delaware Bethany Hall-Long delivered the commencement address to GBC graduate and doctoral students.

Hall-Long shared her excitement and commended students, parents and faculty. "It takes a village to get to this day. Our world is a small collective integration of diversity, and we have to be mindful of that as we see each other as human beings and work together," Hall-Long said, and then continued, "so, my real-life experience has been that the best things happen with honesty, communication and openness – recognizing that we are not always going to get everything we want."

She continued, "I was raised on the beaches in Delaware, and I learned one thing about the waves – you can't control them. But you CAN ride them. Have that open mind. And when the wave is really high, and you don't think you can get through it, know that you just have to ride it."

In a thoughtful and reflective moment, Hall-Long added, "Joe Biden always talked about his father's statement 'it's not about how many times you get knocked down, it's about how many times you get back up.' I lost the first time I ran (for office), but I went right back out to community meetings to be a voice. I want you to think about the glass as being half full and learn from your failures. Envision and empower what God has given you and roll with that as an opportunity."

Upon the recommendation of the GBC Honorary Degree Committee and following approval by the Board of Trustees, President Keith conferred upon Bethany Hall-Long an honorary Doctor of Public Administration degree with all appropriate honors, rights, privileges and responsibilities.



Photo credit: Geoff Stone

Amanda Garcia '22 addresses fellow undergraduate students at commencement

"I believe that learning is a collaborative effort. After years of classroom discussions and many lessons learned from each other, I believe that we have grown into capable individuals ready to tackle the job market, graduate programs or whatever exciting opportunities are on the horizon for my well-deserving soon-to-be degree-holding peers." Amanda Garcia '22

About Amanda:

Amanda Garcia was born in Harlingen, Texas and moved to Delaware during elementary school. She grew up in

Wilmington and graduated from John Dickinson High School in 2018 with an International Diploma.

Garcia was motivated by her mother, a Goldey-Beacom alumna, to pursue a major in English with a concentration in Legal Studies.

Garcia works in the human services field as an executive assistant at the Delaware Department of Labor. As a college student working full time, Garcia appreciated having flexible class options

and a strong support system of family and friends. One of her favorite Goldey-Beacom memories happened in 2019. Franta Hall was under construction, and a special ceremony was held to allow members of the GBC community to sign the final beam before it was placed at the top of the building. It was a unifying experience that she will always remember.

Garcia is the recipient of the Hockessin Lion's Club Thomas P. Bentley Scholarship and Community Service Award, was named to the GBC President's List and has received a Gold Level Certificate of Multiliteracy from the state of Delaware. She intends to continue her academic journey at Widener Law School beginning fall 2022.



Photo credit: Ksenija Markovic

Director of Athletics Jeremy Benoit addresses undergraduate students at commencement

"We will all have times in life when we will need someone else's help. And in those times, it's important to remember that the hand that gives, gathers. If you give of yourself, even when it's not convenient, even when it's not in your job description or when you have needs of your own. That support will come back to you in one way or another – and often tenfold." Jeremy Benoit

About Jeremy:

Jeremy Benoit has been with the College since August 2015, following a stint with

the Ivy League Conference Office. Now in his seventh year, Benoit was named director of athletics in August 2021, effectively making him the youngest athletics director in the NCAA at 30 years old. He prides himself on his student-first approach and has a strong passion for community building and engagement.

Benoit has taken on many roles at GBC. He has taught courses

in the Sports Management concentration, served as the Title IX deputy coordinator as well as on institutional committees. He has been an advisor for the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee and helped establish the Athletics Leadership Academy.

In 2019, Benoit also led a community service project at The Summit Retirement Community. The book of memoirs created for the Community's veterans ultimately yielded a donation of more than \$3,000 to the Fisher House for Families of the Fallen and a third place finish out of over 300 submissions for the NCAA Division II Award of Excellence. In his new role, he will continue to enhance the student-athlete experience through the advancement of the GBC Athletics Strategic Plan.



Photo credit: Ksenija Markovic

Dr. Hibbatul Omar retires after 27 years of service

Following more than 27 years of dedication to teaching and delivering excellence in education to each one of his students, the GBC community wished long-serving faculty member Dr. Hibbatul Omar a happy retirement. The College reviewed Dr. Omar's course rosters over 27 years to see how many students he has taught – they counted 7,632.

As each of those students began a career or continued with another degree, they probably shared some wisdom from Dr. Omar and have impacted thousands more lives.

Here's what a few students had to say:

- "Dr. Omar is the best professor I ever had. You can take any class with him. It's totally worth it!"
- "Extremely intelligent; very helpful to students; a good person; great to get such a professor in today's time; overall, you will not regret taking his class."

Thank you, Dr. Omar, for your many years of friendship and service to the mission and people of Goldey-Beacom College.

[Click here: https://transformmidatlantic.org/](https://transformmidatlantic.org/)



[Click here: https://www.bgclubs.org/](https://www.bgclubs.org/)



Goldey-Beacom College partnerships serve the underserved and offer a College connection.

By: Janine G. Sorbello

Goldey-Beacom College has partnered with Campus Compact Mid-Atlantic (CCMA) and the Boys and Girls Clubs of Delaware (BGCDE) to participate in the AmeriCorps VISTA program.

CCMA Grant

In 2021, GBC received the award of one full-time AmeriCorps VISTA member from CCMA for the 2021-22 academic year. The AmeriCorps VISTA member, Sulakshmi Vaid, served as the liaison between the College and the BGCDE. The partnership was designed to strengthen the relationship between the College and the community while providing volunteer opportunities for GBC students as well as access to College facilities, events and BGCDE-based programming for young children.

GBC Students

GBC's Vice President of Student Affairs Dr. Chuck Hammond led the effort to launch this initiative to provide college students with an understanding of civic engagement and an opportunity to mentor disadvantaged youth with the goal of collective impact.

The program includes GBC student organizations and student-athletes who play a part in helping club members explore their potential by providing an example of what it means to be ready for college. Students experience the joy of giving back and providing mentorship to young children.

BGCDE

BGCDE's Wowzers! University program engages high school and college students to implement programming to club members.

GBC students work on programs that introduce financial literacy, computer education, drug and alcohol prevention, art projects, math skills and more to high-need fifth- through tenth-grade students.

BGCDE club members gain access to the College campus including the writing lab, library, cultural activities and sporting events.

Sulakshmi Vaid named Mid-Atlantic Civic Fellow

None of this would be possible without the employment of a full-time, dedicated staff person. Sulakshmi Vaid took up residence on the College campus in 2021 as the result of the original CCMA grant for an AmeriCorps VISTA on a one-year assignment.

CCMA announced earlier in 2022, that Vaid was selected as one of 13 individuals to participate in the inaugural Mid-Atlantic Civic Fellowship program during the 2022-23 academic year. This enables the College to continue its partnership with CCMA and the BGCDE.

This fellowship is a vital component to develop student leaders who are engaged global citizens actively contributing to the creation of equitable, healthy, sustainable and socially just communities.



Photo credit: Ksenija Markovic

Above, Sulakshmi Vaid works with a student at the Boys and Girls Clubs, Wilmington location.

Vaid is a Woodbridge, NJ native who recently graduated from Cedar Crest College in Allentown, PA with a double major in political science and history. She has volunteered a vast amount of time in various civic engagement projects. She is the daughter of immigrant parents from India and Guyana and used her unique understanding of life to serve in different student roles at Cedar Crest such as an inclusion advocate and a civic engagement advocate.

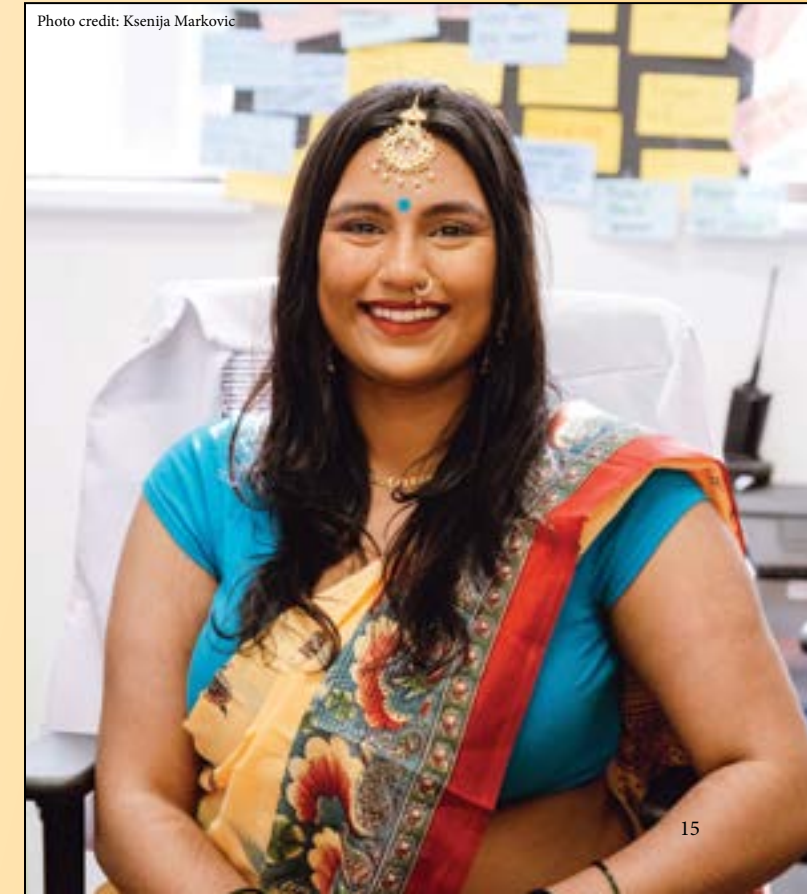


Photo credit: Ksenija Markovic



SCHOLARSHIPS MATTER

Photo credit: Ksenija Markovic

Scholarships can make a profound difference to many students. Countless times the decision to drop out of college comes down to simple economics – “I don’t have any money.”



By: Janine G. Sorbello

To most students, every dollar matters, and too many times, Goldey-Beacom College has experienced students who have either dropped out with only a few classes left or who are currently struggling to pay for the next semester.

Although it is heartbreaking to recognize this reality, it is exactly why our alumni, friends and donors have been inspired to invest in the future of our students.

It’s heartwarming to learn about the “why” for each funder’s story. Some want to simply give back. Some want to leave a family legacy – either in their own names or a family name. Some want to honor a loved one who has led an extraordinary, accomplished life and wishes to pay it forward. But whatever the reason, the goal is the same – to give back to someone who truly needs help.

The College is deeply grateful to many organizations and individuals who have, over the years, helped thousands of students

enter through the doors of Goldey-Beacom College, accept a scholarship(s) and exit with a practical, career-oriented degree.

When President Colleen Perry Keith came on board in 2019, she saw the struggle for so many of our students. That’s why she led the College to maintain a decades-long commitment to keep education affordable.

Dr. Keith explained the rationale, “Since 2014, the College had discounted undergraduate tuition through the institution’s Affordability Assurance Award (AAA). That meant enrolled students received a deep discount to make college affordable and lessen future debt.”

In September 2020, Dr. Keith and the GBC Board of Trustees announced a tuition reset stating that *undergraduate* tuition would be cut in half followed by a May 2021 announcement that *graduate* tuition would also be cut, both beginning in fall 2021.

The tuition reset ended the AAA program, and the College launched the 50% tuition cut initiative with the tagline: we’ve cut tuition in half. It was designed to keep tuition simple, honest, upfront and low.

Since that announcement, tuition has experienced only a slight 2.4% increase and rests at \$13,050 for a full year (30 credits) for undergraduate students.

“Affordability and transparency weighed heavily in the decision to present an easy-to-understand tuition rate,” said Dr. Keith.

Today, high school students and parents know the exact undergraduate tuition – \$13,050 period.

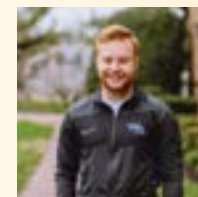
Students can further earn a GBC merit scholarship which is offered to qualified undergraduate students. They may also use Pell Grants and Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants (FSEOG). Combined, these scholarships and grants can help further reduce their costs to (maybe) a few thousand dollars allowing students to graduate with little to no debt.

As the Director of External Affairs, my wheelhouse includes fundraising and development with a focus on major gifts. I’m grateful when I receive phone calls from alumni and community friends who are thinking about how they can leave a legacy for themselves and their families – all for the benefit of the most disadvantaged students who will receive scholarship dollars to help them achieve a college education.

I welcome your phone call or email to start a conversation about how you can design your own scholarship fund and create your legacy. You’ll be surprised how easy it is, and the financial commitment can be spread out over several years. Email sorbello@gbc.edu or call me at 302-290-3224.

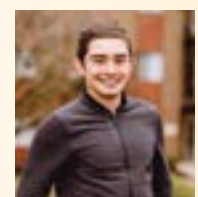
“What my scholarships mean to me.”

Scholarships (plural). At GBC, students can earn more than one.



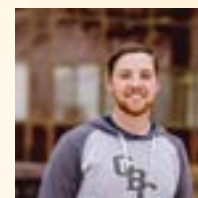
Adam Alvemo ‘24
Kalmar, Sweden
NCAA Sport: Soccer
Languages spoken:
Swedish, English

When I was looking at the cost of GBC, the agency showed me a cost breakdown and the percentage that’s covered by scholarships. It was cool to see that I got a big institutional scholarship that brought the cost down.



Pablo Saenz Avila ‘23
Bogota, Colombia
NCAA Sport: Golf
Languages spoken:
Spanish, English

When I came here, I had some privilege due to my family. If I didn’t get any scholarships, I would pay the full price, but still, having a scholarship here is not just for the money. It’s for the award. It’s something that you can be proud of. You gain your first achievement as an individual person in life.



Marshall Awtry ‘22
Wilmington, Delaware
NCAA Sport: Baseball
Languages spoken:
English

I never really thought about it, but in some way, it’s a form of gratification, just knowing that you are good enough for somebody to recognize it. It’s nice to know that what you’re doing, and what you’ve done leading up to now, has worked for you, but without it, I probably would have joined the military. Thankfully, I did not have to go that route.



Mone Izumi ‘23
Higashiku, Japan
NCAA Sport: Basketball
Languages spoken:
Japanese, English

My parents can afford the school without a scholarship, but I’m so glad to have it.



Cierra Jones ‘21, ‘22
Southern California
Languages spoken:
English

I came here because of the 3+3 Early Admission Program with Widener University/Delaware Law School, but GBC’s affordability was also a huge reason – it was the icing on the cake. I knew that I was going to have to pay for school by myself, and I also knew this wasn’t going to be my last degree. I wanted to go to law school and pursue additional degrees, so I had to be smart with my first degree. And that merit scholarship was literally a game-changer. I was able to come to GBC and graduate and have no student debt attached to my name. Now, I’m getting my master’s, and I’ll still have no debt. That puts me ahead of so many of my peers. Getting scholarships was definitely a game-changer, because I came to Goldey-Beacom with \$0 in my bank account.



Gabriella Moreno ‘22
Malawi, Southeast Africa
Languages spoken:
English, Chichewa

If I didn’t get the scholarship, then I wouldn’t have been able to come. So, if the tuition hadn’t been reduced, and I didn’t receive other scholarships, I probably would have gone to college at home in South Africa.



Jazlee Rojas ‘23
Smyrna, Delaware
Languages spoken:
English

Institutional and merit scholarships are very beneficial. Scholarships pay for my entire ride here. I don’t pay anything out of pocket. I’m an RA (Resident Assistant), so I get that scholarship, and then a merit scholarship on top of that. And then the affordability scholarship. I’m grateful to not have a lot of debt. I’ll come out of college with maybe a little bit of debt, but once I start working, I can pay it immediately.



Patrick Stolze ‘24
Obersulm, Germany
NCAA Sport: Soccer
Languages spoken:
German, English

When I first found out about scholarships, I didn’t know that everybody receives one. My agency gave me a contract that listed all my scholarships. That was the main reason I decided to go here – because it was affordable. It wasn’t like other schools where you pay \$30,000 or more a year. Receiving an athletics scholarship made me feel proud and responsible for the team. When I’m on the field, it’s to perform and to have fun. I represent the College and my coach’s trust in me to have a scholarship.



Sidy Toure ‘22
Mali, Africa
Languages spoken:
Bambara, French, English

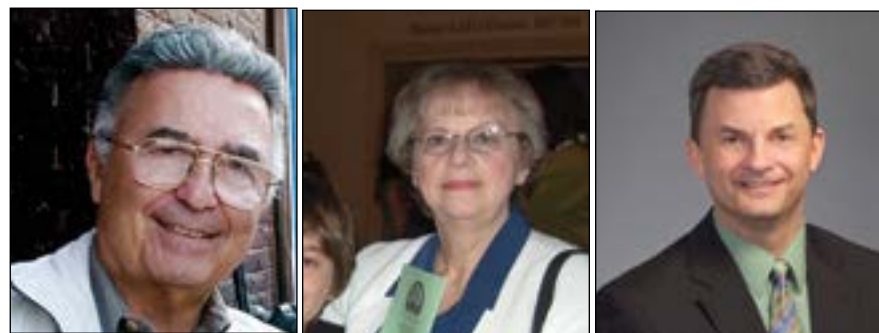
I probably would have been able to attend GBC without a scholarship, but I would say it was a really good surprise because I was really willing to pay for what I saw. And then they told me that I am benefiting from scholarships. I was like, wow, really? Yeah, that was a good surprise. When I looked at it, I couldn’t believe it. I thought that it might be a mistake. But then they told me that I benefited from an institutional scholarship and the merit scholarship – it was great to hear.



Imane Van Veen ‘22
Paris, France
NCAA Sport: Tennis
Languages spoken:
French, English (some Dutch and Spanish)

I think if I didn’t get a scholarship, I wouldn’t have come to the U.S. My mom can’t afford all of this money by herself. When Tennis Coach Joe Kissel (now retired) offered me a scholarship, I knew what I was going to pay. Everything was on paper, so I wasn’t getting any surprises.

The Milton R. Olazagasti Memorial Scholarship Fund
and
The Marjorie F. Olazagasti Scholarship Fund



Milton R. Olazagasti Marjorie F. Olazagasti Mark R. Olazagasti '85

The Olazagasti Family Scholarships honor Mark's parents - Milton and Marjorie

Mark Olazagasti '85 leads by example. In 2011, (then trustee, now immediate past Chair, and current) Vice Chair of the Board of Trustees of GBC, Olazagasti initially made a decision to start a scholarship fund to honor his father, longtime GBC Soccer Coach and founder of the College's soccer program, Milton Olazagasti.

"Upon my father's passing in March 2010, I planned to make a donation to the Annual Scholarship Fund in his memory, but I never considered starting a scholarship because I was unfamiliar with the process," said Olazagasti. He was pleasantly surprised when (then president) Dr. Gary Wirt informed him of the College's intent to honor his father with an endowed scholarship to recognize Coach Olazagasti's contributions to the soccer program. "From there, it was an easy decision to start a scholarship fund," Olazagasti said.

"Later, in 2016, my mother passed away, and although she didn't have a direct connection to the College, our family wanted to recognize her life with a scholarship, too. So I set up a second scholarship! Both of my parents would be grateful and honored to know their legacy continues by providing financial assistance to well-deserving students." Each year, one student is selected for each Olazagasti Scholarship, and each student receives \$500 toward tuition.



Pictured left to right, GBC EVP Kristine M. Santomauro, scholarship recipient Collin Mangan, Mark Olazagasti and GBC Senior Advisor Amanda Birch. Photo credit: Ksenija Markovic

Articles written by: Janine G. Sorbello

GBC Alumnus
David B. Craig Jr. '52
Leaves a
\$700,000 Legacy



Who wouldn't love to receive a phone call for a \$700,000 donation to create a new, endowed scholarship fund? That's exactly what happened in fall 2021 when the executor of the David B. Craig Jr. estate called Janine Sorbello to share the unfortunate news of Mr. Craig's passing at the age of 86 and to also deliver his message of gratitude for his alma mater.

Mr. Craig generously bequeathed half of his \$1.4M estate to Goldey-Beacom College. While the College was unaware of his bequest, it was a bittersweet moment of sadness for such a loss, and at the same time, gratefulness for his commitment to the College.

Mr. Craig graduated from GBC in 1952 with a degree in accounting. After serving in the U.S. Army, he became employed with Sloan Management as their accountant – a position he held for over 50 years. In 1982, he was inducted into the Distinguished Alumni Gallery.

His last and only wish: to help students with dire financial need and strong academic potential. The College has carefully created two endowed scholarship funds to fulfill his wishes.

\$500,000

David B. Craig Jr. Endowed Scholarship Fund

The recipient must demonstrate strong academic potential, coupled with considerable financial need as well as a sense of gratitude for the opportunity to receive this highly esteemed scholarship.

\$200,000

David B. Craig Jr. Endowed Internship Fund

This new fund will provide support for semester-long internship opportunities for full-time, undergraduate students, both on and off campus.

achieve greater.

Shaunasha Prevot '21, '23
Peter A. Larson Award Recipient

By: Janine G. Sorbello

How do you leave a breathtaking Caribbean paradise with lush rainforests, volcanic sand beaches, beautiful coral reefs and amazing cuisine?

When one's drive and determination is greater than the comfort and familiarity of home, it's an easy decision. And that's what Shaunasha Prevot had in mind when she boarded a plane bound for the United States to fulfill her dream of a college education.

Born and raised in St. Lucia, Prevot is the only child of Shaun and Natasha Prevot – the name Shaunasha being the combined names of her loving parents.

Family and culture are extremely important to her. "I speak two languages, English and Creole which is very dear to me because I believe in my culture," Prevot said. "My parents and my extended family are very supportive of my dreams to pursue my education and make my future goals become a reality."

On campus, you'll often see Prevot working in the dining hall as she welcomes students, staff and faculty with her beautiful, warm smile.

In her own words:

"In today's world, international business has become a leading component of how businesses succeed. The world is more

interconnected than ever before especially with technological innovations such as social media platforms.

As with any goals, gaining relevant studies by putting ideas into action through research and hands-on work experience is a crucial step in making a difference in the world. Upon graduation, I can fully integrate my classroom and hands-on work experience into the real world."

Prevot enrolled at Goldey Beacom College in 2019 with a partial soccer scholarship and has since graduated in 2021 with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration with a concentration in Management. She is currently enrolled to earn a Master's degree in Management.

Prevot was honored to receive the Peter A. Larson Award presented by the Sister Cities of Wilmington program.

She offered these kind words of gratitude.

"On behalf of myself and my parents, I would like to say thank you to Sister Cities of Wilmington for awarding me with the \$1,000 Peter A. Larson Award. I am very thankful to the committee because it indeed helps me with tremendous financial support toward my technical education and the necessary supplies I need for my master's program. With a heart filled with joy and appreciation, and on behalf of my parents, I say thank you again."



Pictured left to right: Sister Cities board members: Elaine Archangelo, Shaunasha Prevot (recipient), Primus Poppiti and Dana Frabizzio

The Peter A. Larson Award, Sister Cities of Wilmington

The Peter A. Larson Award is presented on behalf of the Sister Cities of Wilmington program which honors Mr. Larson's immense contributions to international business relations.

First awarded at GBC in 1993, this \$1,000 annual award is granted to a student who exhibits an extraordinary interest in international business and who has contributed to a greater international understanding either within the college community or within the greater business community through a publication, speech or an extracurricular activity.



Photo credit: Ksenija Markovic



Photo credit: Omar Eagle-Clarke on Unsplash



Photo credit: Omar Eagle-Clarke on Unsplash



Photo credit: Janine Sorbello

Scholarships: The Foundation of Dreams

By: Janine G. Sorbello

Mattia Morini hails from Bologna, Italy. As a starting forward for the Goldey-Beacom College Men's Basketball team, he stands at 6' 7" and is a formidable opponent on the court. For Morini, sports have a special place in his heart . . . but his passion? That's a different story.

Morini came to the United States in 2017 and attended Bishop Eustace Preparatory School, a Catholic co-educational, private high school located in Pennsauken, New Jersey. Throughout high school, he had an opportunity to live with two different families who each provided a unique look into American life.

Following high school graduation, Morini enrolled at GBC to focus on business and sports. He is currently earning a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration with a concentration in Marketing Management. He manages a demanding schedule with classes, basketball games and practice, and he also has an internship with the Department of Athletics.

Photo credit: Maria Bobrova

Morini was born in Italy.

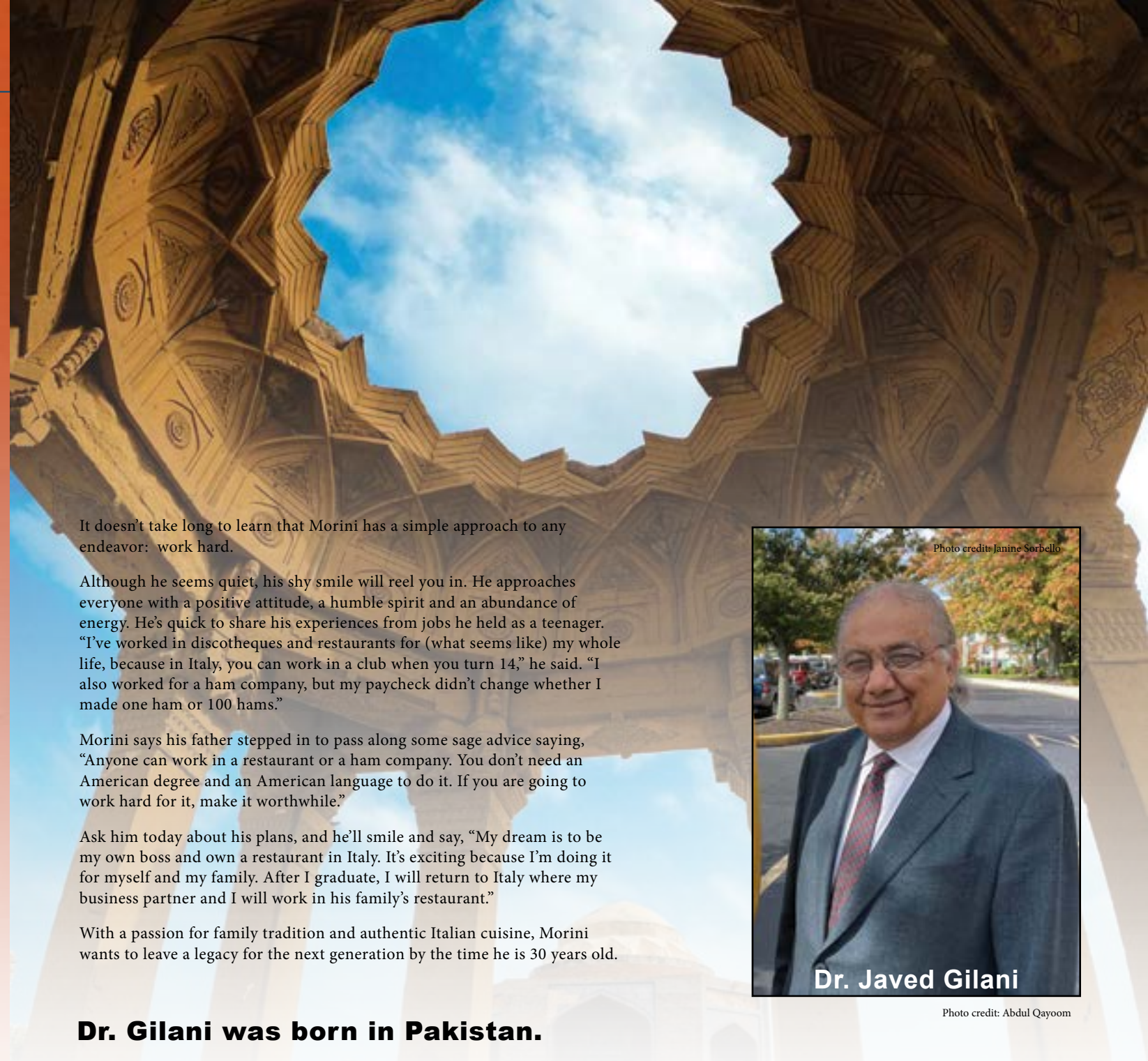
Dr. Gilani and Morini meet

Last fall, Dr. Javed Gilani and Mattia Morini met and enjoyed lunch in the College's new dining hall. It was the perfect setting with its spacious layout and enthusiastic vibe. An incredible conversation ensued . . . full of joy, happiness, insight, gratitude and hope. Meeting the person who funded your scholarship brings a true appreciation knowing that someone believed in you.

As Dr. Gilani listened to Morini's back story, dreams and aspirations, he imparted words of wisdom saying, "You have great goals. Learn management here (in college), and apply that to your business. There's nothing like working for yourself. In business, you need different ideas to expand your business. That's why you need someone who's your opposite."

He added, "If you depend on other people, always have some expertise in each area in case someone leaves. Know the nuts and bolts of that business. You need to keep the business going. No one else will ever do as much and make money for you. You've got to make it yourself."

Dr. Gilani said to Morini, "I'm really thrilled to meet you. I see all of your hopes and aspirations, and one day you might become a big business magnate. When you have your first restaurant, I will come visit you."



It doesn't take long to learn that Morini has a simple approach to any endeavor: work hard.

Although he seems quiet, his shy smile will reel you in. He approaches everyone with a positive attitude, a humble spirit and an abundance of energy. He's quick to share his experiences from jobs he held as a teenager. "I've worked in discotheques and restaurants for (what seems like) my whole life, because in Italy, you can work in a club when you turn 14," he said. "I also worked for a ham company, but my paycheck didn't change whether I made one ham or 100 hams."

Morini says his father stepped in to pass along some sage advice saying, "Anyone can work in a restaurant or a ham company. You don't need an American degree and an American language to do it. If you are going to work hard for it, make it worthwhile."

Ask him today about his plans, and he'll smile and say, "My dream is to be my own boss and own a restaurant in Italy. It's exciting because I'm doing it for myself and my family. After I graduate, I will return to Italy where my business partner and I will work in his family's restaurant."

With a passion for family tradition and authentic Italian cuisine, Morini wants to leave a legacy for the next generation by the time he is 30 years old.



Photo credit: Janine Sorbello

Dr. Javed Gilani

Photo credit: Abdul Qayoom

Dr. Gilani was born in Pakistan.

"I have served on the GBC Board of Trustees since 2009. I had been thinking for a long time about starting my own scholarship fund. It was all about helping a young person to achieve a dream. I decided to focus on international students who worked hard to get good grades, had a stellar work ethic – and passion." Dr. Javed Gilani

The Dr. Javed Gilani Scholarship

Established in 2018 through the generous gift of Dr. Javed Gilani, this renewable tuition scholarship is awarded to a full-time international student in an undergraduate business degree program. The recipient must demonstrate strong academic potential, coupled with considerable financial need. He or she should demonstrate discipline, drive and commitment to learning exemplified by the remarkable life and career of Dr. Gilani. A long-time friend of the College, Dr. Gilani currently serves on the Board of Trustees and is an advisor to the institution.



ACHIEVING THE

Above: Sidy Toure (gray pants, white military shirt) with his mother (Fatou Keita, seated) along with his brothers and sisters in their hometown, Bamako, Mali.



AMERICAN DREAM

Above: Sidy Toure (at graduation April 2022) with his Aunt Babou Sacko and Uncle Aliou Badra Keita and their children. Photo credit: Ksenija Markovic

Sidy Toure '22

By: Janine G. Sorbello

Americans aren't the only ones in search of the American dream. Four years ago, Sidy Mahamane Toure traveled 4,480 miles from Bamako, Mali, in West Africa to Goldey-Beacom College – a college he never visited but only saw in pictures.

Initially, Toure wanted to go to Canada, but his parents felt it was a better opportunity for their son to attend college in the U.S.

Like many international students, Toure enlisted an agency that helps students choose a college in the U.S. Among the positive attributes that influenced his decision to attend GBC, Toure said it was affordable, private and it was a small community.

When Toure arrived at the GBC campus in 2018, he experienced firsthand the value of learning in a small environment where students from all over the world see each other every day. "If I was at a large college, I'd probably see people from my country and talk only with them. Here at GBC, I'm interacting with people from the U.S. and many other countries."

Toure approaches everyone he meets with humbleness and respect. Living among

so many different people on campus has given him an opportunity to learn about new cultures and traditions as well as watch others learn, grow and mature. "It gave me so much perspective," he said as he acknowledged his own personal growth.

"Who I was in my freshman year, and who I am right now, are two completely different people," said Toure with his broad, charming smile. "I am really grateful for the kind of person I have become."

"It's a really friendly environment," he remarked and noted, "everybody knows everybody, and that's something I probably wouldn't have gotten anywhere else."

Among Toure's fondest memories is having class with Associate Professor of English Dr. William Rivers. "I was taking research writing, and I found myself learning, not only about my major, but growing personally and professionally," Toure said. "Dr. Rivers is just amazing. I enjoyed every class I had with him. Every single class really made me a better person than the one before. I'm grateful for that."

Toure has started his own business, and that's why getting a college education has been a priority. "I've started an international trade company in my home country," he said. "That's why I became an international

business major. But the thing is, I don't just want to be making money. I want to feel like I brought something to society. I'm trying to learn as many skills as I can, and at the same time, every day I think about what I can accomplish and be proud of even if I didn't make money out of it. So at least I can say yeah, I'm proud of what I've done."

In April 2022, Toure's aunt and uncle (and their children), drove from New York to the GBC campus to celebrate as he walked across the stage and graduated with a Bachelor of Science in International Business with a concentration in Business Administration.

This is only the beginning for Toure. This entrepreneurial young man has already enrolled in the master's program. "It's the best way to get more experience and have more time to think about what I want to do," said Toure.

If you are fortunate enough to meet Sidy Toure one day, or do business with him in the future, you'll be in the presence of an honest and caring young man who is also deeply committed to his faith. It's not always easy to share religious beliefs for fear of persecution, but he found himself among caring and accepting people at the College.

"Being Muslim is not easy in some countries," said Toure. "When I came to Goldey-Beacom, I was surprised to learn that I had a place where I can pray – they literally gave me a room to pray in," said Toure as he recalled how easy it was to acclimate.

"They offer food to people who are fasting," he said. "When I go to the dining hall, they tell me, you can eat this, and you cannot eat this. They make it so easy. I have friends around the world who have to hide the fact that they are Muslim. People here respect it and even celebrate it. That's something I was not expecting, but it was good news for me."

His Muslim faith is his lifestyle. "It's the one thing I'm always focused on, and for everything that I achieve in my life, I think that it's really coming from God," says Toure.

"It is a core part of me. It's the reason why I don't drink alcohol or smoke or do drugs. I think it's beautiful that not stealing, not cheating is part of your religion. Being grateful and kind to other people is part of my religion and makes me a better person."

Toure's appreciation for GBC runs deep. Following an incident with a small fire, some of his clothes had burned. The GBC staff and faculty were so concerned, the College gave him a check to purchase new clothes.

"That is something that I cannot forget. I made a mistake, and it started a fire," said Toure. "The school has been very helpful, and they didn't blame me. I don't think that's something you get from every college."

You'll often hear Dr. Keith saying, "That's just what we do here – we're family. We take care of each other."

Presented at Honors Day 2022, Toure received the inaugural President's Award for Achieving Greater in the undergraduate division. (This award was also presented in the graduate division.) Nominated by the College president, these are the most prestigious awards a student is eligible to earn. Toure has demonstrated the true meaning of "Achieve Greater" during his time at the College.

He said, "Last semester was very challenging for me at so many levels. I have received a lot of support from President Keith, the Office of Residence Life, Megan in the Mental Health and Wellness Center, Career Services, Advisement, my professors and more."

"I am grateful for President Keith and the whole GBC staff and professors," said Toure. "I have always been treated with love and respect. Goldey has become a second family to me. If I could, I would remain a college student forever."

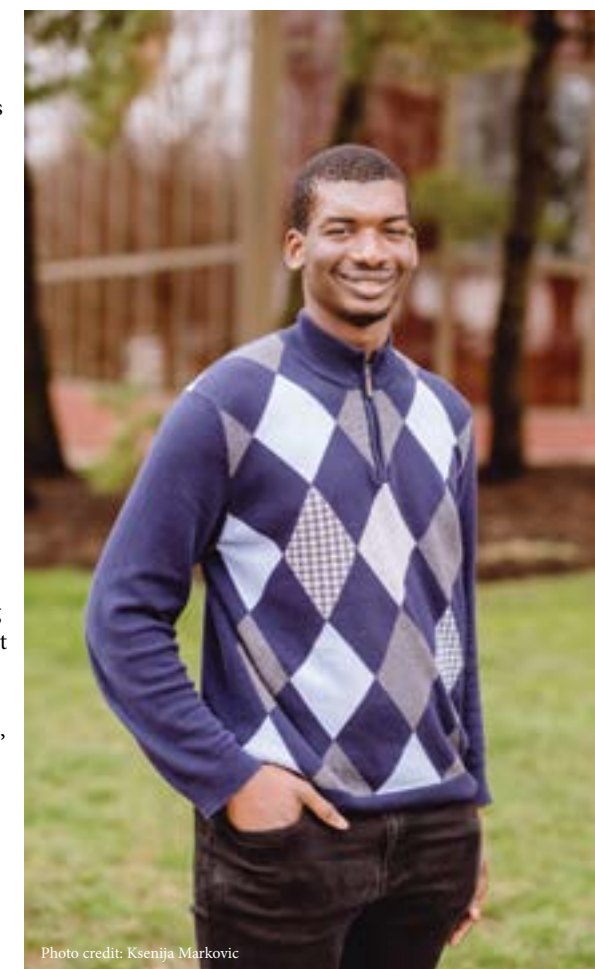


Photo credit: Ksenija Markovic



Cierra Jones '21, '22

By: Janine G. Sorbello

A military brat born and raised in Southern California, Cierra Jones loves to travel, meet new people and experience new cultures. Having lived everywhere from Wisconsin to Washington, her father's most recent U.S. Navy assignment landed Jones and her family in Newport News, Virginia.

While attending a college fair at the Hampton Road Convention Center in her new hometown, Jones was looking for the U.S. Naval Academy display – her first choice – only to find they weren't there. Disappointed and ready to head home, it was her father who pushed her to stay and look around. And that's how Jones embarked on her journey to Goldey-Beacom College.

Jones discovered the 3+3 Early Admission Program with Widener University/Delaware Law School which enables a student to earn a law degree in six years as opposed to the traditional seven or eight years. "That sounded great to me," said Jones. "The application was free, and the representative was down to earth. Once I applied, the College gave me so many scholarships based on my grades and SAT scores, that I literally only had to pay for housing in my first year. Later, I became an RA (Resident Assistant) which meant my housing was covered too."

It didn't take long for Jones to become completely immersed in the GBC lifestyle. During her freshman year, she worked in the school cafe and then began a summer internship at WSFS Bank and continued to do both jobs into her sophomore year.

Initially, Jones didn't like the small campus. She felt like a minority, but not for the reasons you might think. She couldn't identify with student-athletes or international students because she wasn't one of them. Of course, that thought didn't last long. With her beaming smile and confident personality, she began making new friends from all over the world.

"That's what makes the College this huge melting pot, and I've always wanted to experience that," Jones continued. "I want to surround myself with that. That's how Goldey-Beacom has made me realize there is more to life, and you have to explore it."

Among her freshman year memories, Jones referred to the wrought iron bench that sits in front of Leach Hall where she would hang out with friends and talk for hours – as late as 2:00 a.m. or is that as early as 2:00 a.m.? "That bench is so memorable because I made friends and built solid relationships just sitting there and talking," said Jones.

It's no surprise that it was GBC's small environment that helped Jones to build these amazing relationships. She realized that she needed this type of environment where she isn't one of thousands of students. "It helped me develop myself and my confidence. I was coming into myself, my confidence and building a family, but I also had people who were supporting me. I don't think I would have gotten that at a big school," Jones said.

She describes her sophomore year as the craziest time management challenge. "I would wake up, go to WSFS Bank, then work a shift at the Lightning Café, then on Mondays and Wednesdays, I was the RA on duty. The next morning, I would do it all over again, and somewhere in between, I would fit in homework and classes."

Following that year of running full speed ahead and having no time for herself, Jones decided to make personal changes for her junior year saying, "I realized I couldn't keep



Cierra Jones with her family

living like that. I had to find some balance. I started working out and setting priorities."

Becoming a lawyer was number one. She recalled Adjunct Faculty member Brett Bendistis Esq. who teaches criminal law. "He was my first legal teacher," she said. "He encouraged me and forced me to analyze everything, but he was also a real person."

Bendistis tutored Jones for LSATs and helped to raise her score an additional 15 points. He told Jones not to worry if she didn't get it right away sharing that he was a mailman for 10 years and also has his own business. He said, "Life is not a straight line. You're going to get there sooner or later." Jones notes him as an amazing teacher who impacted her career, mindset and experience at GBC.

Jones is currently enrolled to pursue her Master's degree in Human Resource Management at GBC while continuing to work as a graduate assistant for Residence Life in the Student Affairs Department.

Jones works hard and studies hard toward her goals. "I dream of having financial freedom through owning a business, being my own boss and helping people within the community," she said, then casually added, "All that while I'm simultaneously traveling and exploring the world and living that van life. I work toward that every day."

Looking back, Jones said thoughtfully, "Four years ago, the College embraced an opinionated, hard-working, and determined broke girl with open arms and showered her with opportunities and helped her soar into womanhood." She continued, "Goldey-Beacom demonstrated to me that I wasn't just a number in their student body, but a person whom they cared about and valued."



Left to right: Cierra Jones, Jady Parker, Gabriella Mendez and Gabriella Moreno
Photo credit: Ksenija Markovic

Gabriella Moreno '22

By: Janine G. Sorbello

Since the age of 14, Gabriella Moreno – Gabi to her friends – dreamed of moving to America. While in high school she explored her options looking at large universities in Florida and California. With the average tuition around \$60,000, there was no way she could afford a college education without a scholarship.

After several applications fell through, she decided to attend a university closer to her home in Malawi, Southeast Africa.

As Moreno prepared applications, she received a phone call that would later change her life.

"A family friend called me to talk about college, and she told me she went to Goldey-Beacom 10 years ago," says Moreno. "She contacted the College and helped me enroll in the Business Administration program with a concentration in Organizational Psychology. I was so happy to be accepted, and I received scholarships," said Moreno noting that the scholarships were the only reason she could attend.

Moreno expected to arrive at a huge campus, but when her aunt dropped her off, she was shocked to literally see the end of the campus from the Jones Center.

Moreno said the most difficult part about coming to GBC was adjusting to a different culture and being on her own. She said, "My mother is a single parent, so I'm used to being with her. Coming here and not

having her present was very difficult. Until now, the hardest thing in life that I faced is losing one of my best friends in a car accident in 2014. I think that experience has made me a stronger person."

Her first year was unlike anything she imagined. In fact, Moreno was miserable. She first sought out people who shared her same culture and was rather worried about losing her accent. South Africans are proud of their heritage and culture, so while it was good to learn about new cultures, she didn't want to lose her own.

She soon realized that almost everyone else was engaged with the GBC community – except her. As she slowly came to that realization, she became more involved, first signing up to become an RA (Resident

Assistant), and then a student worker. She opened her world to more than just people who shared the same culture, but to people who also shared her values, morals and principles. And then, everything changed.

Sometimes Moreno wants to turn back the clock to freshman year. "That was my best year in terms of freedom," she said. "I'm at an age where I have no responsibilities, and I'm not paying a mortgage. This is the time to explore and find out who you are. And even if you don't find out in your first, second or third year, that's fine. I still don't know what I want to do, and I'm close to graduating. I'm definitely signing up for the master's program at Goldey-Beacom, so I have time."

Moreno is an easygoing person who loves to experience life and engage in different types of learning opportunities. As she heads toward earning a degree in Organizational Psychology, she still isn't sure what she wants to do. But really, that only means one thing – the entire world is open!

Moreno plans to specifically explore the cosmetics and skincare industry as well as owning a business. Ultimately, what matters to her most is being happy. "I've seen people working for the sake of money, but I just want to be happy doing what I'm doing," said Moreno. "And I want to help people back home. I want to give children a better opportunity back home."



Photo credit: Ksenija Markovic



Photo credit: Tejani Geomatt-Suarez

Jazlee M. Rojas '23

By: Janine G. Sorbello

Coming from Smyrna, Delaware, Jazlee Rojas initially chose Goldey-Beacom College because of its low tuition and proximity to home.

But how does one make a final decision? Rojas thought, "What better way than taking an overnight tour?" She was soon in touch with the College and accepted an invitation from softball Coach Juli Greep.

When this outgoing young woman with an energetic smile arrived on campus, she checked out the school's vibe, asked tons of questions and walked around the campus.

As a potential student-athlete for the Softball team, as soon as she set foot on the softball field, it started to feel like home. She got together with the girls on the team and watched them practice. Three years later, she hasn't looked back.

Rojas simply felt the small campus was a better fit as opposed to becoming just a number at a large university. "I want to be somebody," she said. "I want to be a leader. I want to be involved in organizations and campus life."

When you talk to Rojas face to face, her caring spirit and excitement shine through. "I'm in my third year as an RA (Resident Assistant), and next fall, I'll be a senior RA," she said. "I'm also the new president of the GBC Beta Chapter of Rho Alpha Sigma Omega, an honor society for RAs. And I'm the president of the GBC Chapter of the National Association of Black Accountants. I'm ready to watch that organization grow and uplift minorities and people of color."

Rojas is as passionate about academics and her career as she is about softball. "I really love the Softball team," she said "My main goal is to become a certified public accountant and work in a big city, maybe Philly or New York. I just love being out there and having fun things to do." She plans to graduate in 2023 with a Bachelor of Science in Accounting. Practically speaking, Rojas said she needs 150 credits to sit for the CPA exam, so she is contemplating either a master's degree or perhaps an MBA with extra classes to reach 150 credits. Fortunately, she has plenty of time.

"I have really good time management skills, and I keep an agenda that's really up to date," Rojas shared. "And I use different colors and different pages to write everything down. But

I think time management and the support from Goldey are a big help. Everyone has each other's backs."

It's not easy to take on a heavy academic schedule as well as a demanding sports schedule, but GBC staff and faculty have a strong reputation for helping students with anything they need – from food and shelter to a listening ear and a warm heart.

Anyone can reach a point of feeling overwhelmed, and Rojas was no exception. On the outside, everyone sees the smile, but on the inside – no one sees the tears "am I good enough?" the fear "will they take me seriously when they see I'm Hispanic?"

"Just being a Hispanic Latina minority, I feel like we have to work super hard just to be accepted or approved by society," Rojas revealed and continued, "I just want to prove myself to everyone. I want them to think, "She was able to tackle so much and graduate with a smile on her face."

Everyone hits a rough patch, but for Rojas, she needed the care and support of the College community. "I went through a tough time, mentally, just being overwhelmed with everything that I took on," she said.

So, Rojas reached out, and the humanity of the GBC community reached back. From her advisor, Deb Harbaugh, to her softball coach, Juli Greep, the staff in Residence Life and her professors. "Associate Professor Kevin Hunt (recently promoted to director of academic support services) has always been there for me; Jocelyn Moses in Student Affairs has been like a mother figure for me; and Bernadine Griffin has helped me every step of the way," she said. They gave support and encouragement to help her get back to the Jazlee everyone knows and loves. And she came back – stronger than ever.

Rojas will tell you how thankful she is for the Mental Health and Wellness Center. "It's great how supportive everyone is," she said. "Megan comes in with open arms, and I love her so much," she said. "She's been a huge part of bettering my mental health."

With graduation and career goals in mind, Rojas talked about the support she has received from Career Services for the last several years and said, "Beth Kirker – she's been helping me build my resume since my freshman year. That's why it looks so great – because of her." She also credits them for getting her foot in the door at WSFS Bank for her first internship.

Rojas is a powerhouse in time management and takes on a lot of responsibilities.

"Knowing that I can take on different responsibilities and still have a social life, be a girlfriend, a friend, a daughter and an athlete, and still have a great experience means a lot to me," she said. "I want to finish strong. I know that people have my back – Goldey-Beacom is a great support system, and I'm deeply grateful to the staff, faculty and my peers for being my support system."

While her GBC family is important, when you get to know her, you learn more about her love and devotion to her family at home – her brother, sister and parents. Being the oldest brings a responsibility to lead by example for the younger ones. And that's the feeling Rojas carries with her as the oldest of three, all of whom are seven years apart.

"My little sister looks up to me," said Rojas. It was never so evident as when Rojas spoke at the College's Rho Alpha Sigma Beta Omega induction ceremony. "As my family came to the stage to see me," she continued, "my little sister, Jaylee, was crying." Overwhelmed with awe and admiration, Jaylee said, "I'm so proud of you. I could never speak in front of people, but I want to be just like you"

As the tears streamed down Rojas' face, she said, "When you grow up, you're going to do this too – you got this."

Words aren't powerful enough for the love Rojas has for her brother and sister. She said, "I just want to be there for them, and be a good example. That's why I try to be the best that I can – because of them."

One thing is certain, when you meet this dynamic young woman, it's clear that she brings the strength, energy and passion to achieve her goals and live out her dreams.



Photo credit: Ksemija Markovic



Photo credit: Ksenija Markovic

Adam Alvemo '24

By: Janine G. Sorbello

Playing since the age of four, the soccer field is a familiar home to Adam Alvemo. The oldest of three siblings, Alvemo enrolled at Goldey-Beacom College from Kalmar, Sweden which is a Sister City to Wilmington, Delaware.

Following high school, Alvemo wasn't sure where he wanted to attend College. After working with an agency that recruits students to play sports in the United States, he fielded two solid offers. Ultimately, it was Chari Konomi, his friend and GBC soccer

player, who brought him to the Goldey-Beacom family.

"My current teammate, Chari Konomi, enrolled at Goldey-Beacom with the same agency, so they knew he had a good experience, and they recommended the College to me," said Alvemo. And of course, Konomi offered a few encouraging words including the story of the team's 2017 CACC (Central Atlantic Collegiate Conference) Men's Soccer championship.

When he first arrived, it seemed overwhelming, but it became easy. In fact, it was comfortable – so comfortable that Alvemo and his friends agree that many of them come to GBC with the intent to play sports, then transfer to a D1 school. He said what really happens is, "They just come and get really comfortable because it's a warm culture, and you are tight with everybody."

While soccer is a major part of his life, Alvemo said, "My vision is starting a couple of businesses and running the basics." As a Business Administration major with a concentration in Marketing, GBC is the perfect place to start working on his dreams.

Alvemo says the days go by quickly and there's always something going on. "I don't have a moment in my day where I can just do nothing. I have workout in the morning, class until 3:00 p.m., then practice again, some homework and then hanging out with my girlfriend – and the day is done," he said.

While some people may take a purely academic approach to higher education, Alvemo takes an opportunistic approach. "I don't think of school as learning in the classroom. Of course, I learn a lot in my classes, but I could put my money into my own company."

Alvemo further explains, "When I'm paying for tuition, for example, I'm not paying for the classes per se. I'm paying more for the opportunity to get here. That's what opens the door to being in America. Playing soccer in a good environment and being around the right people is a catalyst. It's more about the opportunities that an American college education presents."

One night, he and a group of friends were up until 4:00 a.m. just talking about each other's countries and what it is like to live there. He said, "That night, I really learned a lot about my friends and their countries."

Alvemo will be a sophomore in fall 2022, and so far, he has enjoyed his time making new friends and learning about different cultures.



Kalmar, Sweden and Wilmington, Delaware: the historical connection between the two cities began in 1638 when the *Kalmar Nyckel* brought the first Europeans to the area and founded the colony of New Sweden, which is now Wilmington. Today, the Kalmar Nyckel Foundation proudly sails a full-scale replica of the 17th-century Dutch Pinnace as the colonial ship for festivals, events and tours.

[Click here: www.kalmarnyckel.org](http://www.kalmarnyckel.org)

It is important to note, Sister Cities of Wilmington annually presents the Peter A. Larson award to a GBC student [Click here: https://www.scowde.org/](https://www.scowde.org/)



Patrick Stolze '24

By: Janine G. Sorbello

Originally from Obersulm, Germany, Patrick Stolze flew over 4,000 miles to arrive at Goldey-Beacom College. But how did he find this small College in the second-smallest state in the United States?

This longtime soccer player was finishing high school while trying to figure out what to do next. He tossed around a few ideas including the military, but as he was scrolling on Instagram, he saw a game-changing advertisement: Do you want to combine soccer and studying in the U.S.?

"I'm very close to my parents," said Stolze, "and I couldn't wait to tell them about this amazing opportunity." They were on board with pursuing a soccer team and a college education in the U.S. As an international, students often sign with an agent who helps them prepare college and sports program applications for higher education in the U.S.

"The agency created a highlight video of my best soccer plays," said Stolze. "As soon as I received a response e-mail, I would research the college, find the location, find the division and see if they had a sports management program," said Stolze.

"When I received an offer from Goldey-Beacom, I thought the location was good," he said. "And my parents didn't want me going too far, and since GBC is on the East Coast, it's only a six-hour time difference."

In addition to an affordable price, he quickly noticed many other international students were attending GBC. He took comfort in knowing he would be among people who shared the same challenges of being away from their families and adjusting to a new culture and a new language.

The deciding factor for Stolze was watching the GBC Men's Soccer team documentary produced by Geoff Stone '19 which chronicled their record-making win at the 2017 CACC championship. "I saw how good the relationships were between teammates and how good the student life was at GBC," said Stolze. "I like to connect and talk with people, so I was happy that GBC had a family culture. I knew it would make me feel more included than if I was going to a big school and didn't know anybody."

At first, it was hard to leave his family. There's a big difference between driving for four hours or flying for six hours to get to college. He misses them, and especially birthdays – that's the toughest obstacle.



As a rising junior, his goals are short term. "It's important for me to be healthy. It's important that I play soccer," said Stolze. "I want to perform well on the field and in the classroom, and I want to get good grades."

It's clear the GBC soccer program is having a positive impact. Every sports program has its own nuances, and GBC focuses on the whole student. "Goldey-Beacom has helped me to become stronger – both physically and mentally," said Stolze. "For example, back home, I never really knew how to lift weights. Here, you learn so many different things such as how to treat an injury and how your body performs. And even though it's a small college, I have made connections all over the world. I have friends from Scotland and Australia. Now, every time I go somewhere, I know someone."

He shared one of his best memories from the Soccer team's first away game last year. Stolze had a slight 'uh-oh' look on his face as he began to tell the story and said, "We had a lot of suspensions from the coach because of a party we had the week before."

"Mostly freshmen played, and we won that game in overtime," he said. Then his smile grew wider as he said, "I scored the first goal! Then in overtime, we scored the goal that I assisted. That was a great feeling! When we drove back from West Virginia that night, everybody was so happy and excited."

Stolze soon learned that Goldey-Beacom isn't far from New York, Washington, DC, Philadelphia, PA and Delaware beaches. He was surprised to find so many places to visit, but with one little catch. "You either have to have a car or know someone with a car," said Stolze who has enjoyed exploring the area. He continued, "Be ready to travel and explore things around here. Break out of your comfort zone, and meet people from other sports teams. Don't judge anyone because they are different. Be ready to talk and interact with people. When you start talking to people, you'll find out they're cool, and you have things in common."

Stolze took classes mostly online because of the pandemic and is on track to earn a Bachelor of Science in Sports Management with plans to pursue a master's degree.



Photo credit: Geoff Stone



Photo credit: Ksenija Markovic



Photo credit: Ksenija Markovic

Pablo Avila '23

By: Janine G. Sorbello

Pablo Saenz Avila has been playing golf since he was six years old. Hailing from Bogota, Colombia, he traveled 2,300 miles to play golf for Goldey-Beacom College.

“In Colombia, it’s pretty common to dream of getting a scholarship to play sports in the United States,” Avila said. And this is how meeting a college recruiter changed his life – forever. Although during the process, he sustained a few injuries and lost hope of coming to the U.S. Fortunately for Avila, it all worked out. He was given the opportunity to not only attend GBC, but to join an entirely new, freshmen Men’s Golf team.

“It was a new start in my life with a new Golf team, and I liked the coach,” Avila said. But he admits he was nervous at first, especially about speaking English and being with so many Americans. He met all the Colombian students first and soon realized there were a lot of international students, many of them athletes.

Avila enjoyed the small, family environment that Goldey-Beacom offers. No matter where you’ve come from, students always find a home here with people just like them who were a little afraid at first, but who took comfort from being with other international students. “What’s funny is, I came here thinking my English is going to improve 100%,” Avila said and smiled. “Sometimes I speak more Spanish than English!”

He continued, “Knowing a lot of international students makes my approach to people a lot different. Now, when I meet new people from a different country, I probably know something about that country – because I learned from my GBC friends.”

Avila wants to play golf professionally, and that means being able to perform in any climate. After mostly playing in hot Florida weather prior to GBC, he experienced the weather uncertainty that Delaware is known to dish out. “This semester has been tough for all of us, even though we have Canadians on the team, and they’re used to cold weather,” Avila said. “We have been playing in really terrible conditions like winter, literally six degrees Celsius. It has been tough for everyone.” However, Avila and his teammates know that extreme weather conditions teach a lot about perseverance.

He noted, “The best experiences are the ones where you’re learning more about yourself. As an international student, you’re by yourself, and you just have to get used to it. Literally, your team is going to be your family for four years.”

It’s all about balance which, for Avila, isn’t that difficult. “I have a full-time schedule, but it still allows me to participate in golf practice and our game schedule,” said Avila. He noted the professors understand that student-athletes are committed to sports *and* academics.

He has a lot of free time for himself as well as his friends and family. He said, “I think it’s easy to balance. I don’t find it that stressful. I feel I’m living life.”

It turns out that Avila has developed a bit of an entrepreneurial spirit. “I had a financial

management class with Assistant Professor of Finance, Dr. Robert McConkie. I have been applying all the tools he gave me in a company that I have, and it has made an impact on me, especially the financial tools. I am actually applying them.”

He shared a little bit more about his company. “I started a real estate and investment company with my dad a few years ago in the U.S. It picked up faster than I was expecting. That’s something that I wouldn’t have done if I wasn’t at GBC. Like they say, you’ve got to dream big, and you’re going to achieve big goals.

Managing the company doesn’t require much time, so it’s easy to work into his schedule. “I structured the company in a way that I don’t really need to be involved 100%. I work on it for about an hour a day and check how everything is going.”

One of Avila’s best college memories so far is when his teammates celebrated his birthday during a CACC tournament. “My teammates caught me by surprise,” he said. “They started singing Happy Birthday with all the other teams from other colleges during the CACC banquet. Yeah, my 21st birthday.”



Mone Izumi '23

By: Janine G. Sorbello

A rising senior at Goldey-Beacom College, Mone Izumi has been playing basketball since she was 10 years old. Joining the College from Higashiku, Japan, she initially attended Arizona Western College until she began to share her highlight video with agents with the hope of making a jump to a D2 school.

One of her emails reached the GBC Women’s Basketball Head Coach Bethann Burke. Izumi had an exciting conversation with Coach Burke who explained the program, the family environment and team spirit. She soon realized how much Coach Burke cared about each team member, and when she received the offer, it was an easy decision – Izumi transferred and joined the Women’s Basketball team.

In the past, Izumi often faced obstacles. “I never got playing time in Japan because of my height,” she said. She spoke of the first time she joined a basketball team saying, “No one passed the ball to me because they thought I couldn’t play. But that only made me stronger and tougher.”

International students often endure other scrutiny, hatred and racism, and Izumi is no exception. In Japan, she was told she was too small. When she arrived in the U.S., she endured racial issues and a language barrier. “When I first got here, I only knew: hello, thank you and sorry,” she said.

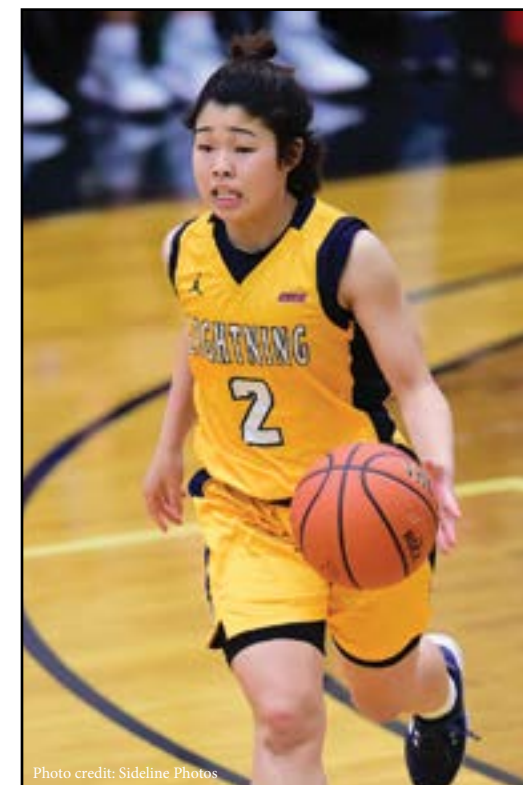


Photo credit: Sideline Photos

Finishing her first year at GBC, Izumi says being at a 4-year, D2 college has been a new and positive experience, much different than her former community college on the West Coast.

Standing with a 5 foot, 3 inch frame and armed with an outgoing personality, she has debunked the myth that Asian people can’t play basketball. “I’m Japanese and people say I’m too small to play basketball,” said Izumi. “My dream is to prove that I can play basketball. I want to inspire small kids, Asians and female athletes. That’s my goal.”

Izumi currently works as a student library worker at the College. While she is gaining work experience, she hopes to reach out to local Japanese companies in Delaware for employment. She also wants to become a professional basketball player in Europe. With many European students on campus, she’s not shy about sharing her dreams and asking them questions about how to become a professional player in Europe.

Izumi has become adept at managing academics, athletics, work and friendships. She shared a typical day saying, “I go to class every day. I practice every day, and I practice as hard as I can. Sometimes it’s stressful when I have a lot of homework. I don’t really study, but I always make sure to have my homework done. I also talk to my family maybe once a week.”

She’s grateful for the collegiate and sports opportunities in the U.S. “Not everyone can have this experience to play basketball at a college in the U.S.,” she said. “I think this experience is precious. Also, I try to not speak Japanese because I want to learn English more.”

Izumi isn’t a party girl. Some of her favorite times on campus have been spent cooking with her friends in their dorms and watching movies. She attributes the small college atmosphere to having close relationships with



Photo credit: Ksenija Markovic

friends. She says the short distance across campus makes it easier to go to class, the gym – everywhere!

It’s no secret that Izumi doesn’t like to study, but she really enjoys being in class and appreciates that her professors are so willing to spend time with her to answer questions and make sure she understands the lessons.

“Assistant Professor of Business Dr. Scott Glenn delivered a moving speech during Black History Month,” said Izumi. She recalled his message and agreed saying, “Black history shouldn’t have happened. We need to move forward.” She added, “Love is everything. If you love a person, it doesn’t matter if they are Black, Asian, white, or Hispanic – love will beat anything. That was the best speech – it inspired me a lot.”





Imane Van Veen '22

By: Janine G. Sorbello

Imagine growing up in the beautiful historic city of Paris, France. Known worldwide for the Louvre Museum, Notre-Dame Cathedral, and the Eiffel Tower, it exudes romance and adventure to its citizens and visitors alike.

From the best croissants and crepes in the world to luxurious designer cosmetics, handbags and haute couture fashion, it's a popular destination for travelers who love the best that life has to offer.

Several years ago, Imane Van Veen ventured over 3,700 miles from her home in the City of Lights to the United States to further her tennis career and earn an American college education.

She was attending a college in California when she received a phone call from Women's Tennis Head Coach Joe Kissel (now retired) who offered her a spot on the team. She loved his approach of being a family.

"I'm an only child," said Van Veen. "When I first arrived, it was like we were all sisters on the Tennis team – always being together. I loved it. I could always count on the them, and that had a powerful impact on me. The school is small; everyone knows each other."

Playing tennis since the age of four, Van Veen said, "I grew up in this kind of environment. I was always at the tennis club or playing in tournaments. I also attended a specialized school that offered half tennis and half academics."

It's clear that Van Veen has the mindset to build a sports career. "Athletes have a completely different mindset than someone who doesn't play sports at all," she said. "I can't imagine not being in a sports environment. That's why I want to create my own business in the sports industry. And I love to travel, so I need to find a way to travel and meet new people."

Approach Van Veen in person, and you'll meet a sweet, happy young woman with a beautiful smile and a heart to match. Meet her on the court and watch her transform into a highly competitive player with a strong backhand, a laser focus on her opponent and one goal: WIN.

As a disciplined tennis player and a high-achieving student, balancing sports and academics wasn't an issue for Van Veen. Between classes, tennis practice and workouts, a social life was easy since the College is small. She said, "I also had a part-time job that I enjoyed with Janine Sorbello in the Office of Institutional Advancement."

Van Veen is appreciative of the enriching experience of being an international student-athlete. "This experience will have a good impact on the rest of my career," she said. "If I stayed in France and didn't have this opportunity to play tennis in college, I wouldn't have learned a new language and met people from all over the world. In France, people are very close-minded and just want to be among themselves. Because of these experiences, I'm more open to new people and different cultures."

Actually, Van Veen was quite shy when she arrived at GBC. She credits Associate Professor of English Dr. Mary Wheeling for the encouragement to speak in public.

"She teaches presentation and debate class," Van Veen said. "Before her class, I was really shy to talk to people or give a speech. Dr. Wheeling gave us tips to speak in public, and we did so many speeches in class, that I eventually became more comfortable. Now, I can do a 10-minute speech in front of the whole class, and it's not a problem. I don't stress about it. I know this will help me in the future."

Van Veen's childhood dream is to become a professional tennis player. She plans to use her childhood and College experiences to further her tennis career.

Van Veen graduated in April 2022 with a Bachelor of Science in Finance. She plans to pursue a master's degree in France to be closer to her mother. "We both believe my bachelor's degree from GBC is strong and will have a good impact on my future," said Van Veen.

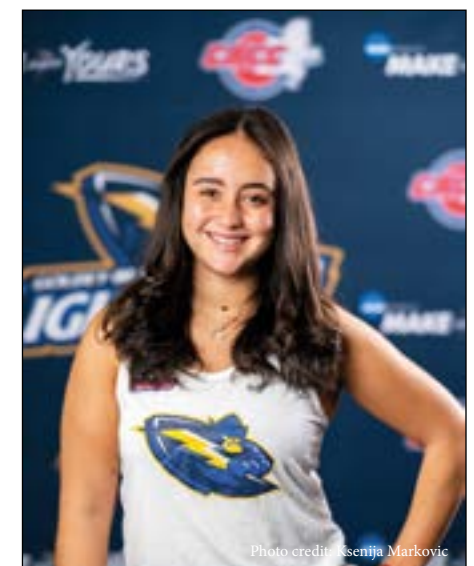
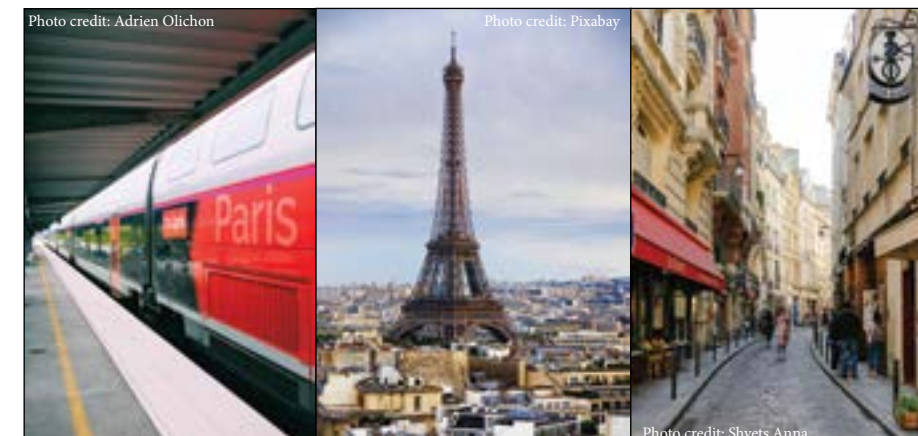
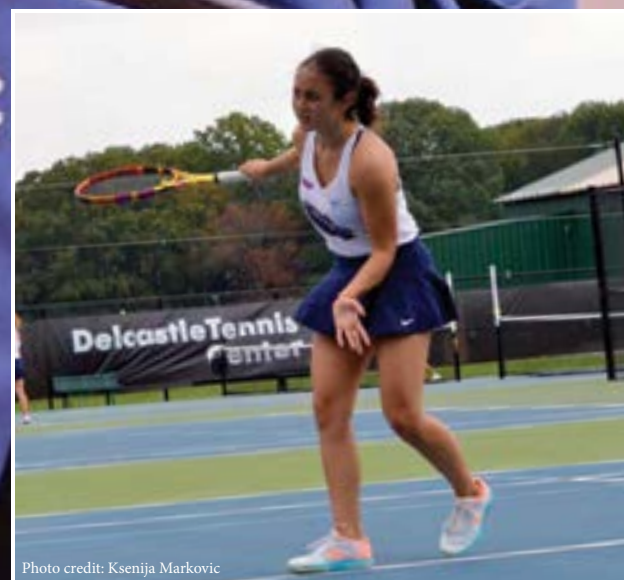




Photo credit: Ksenija Markovic

Marshall Awtry '22

By: Janine G. Sorbello

Born and raised a Delawarean, Marshall Awtry is part of the Goldey-Beacom College Men's Baseball team.

It's no shocker why this catcher and infielder chose Goldey-Beacom. "For me, it's close to home, and I knew I was going to play baseball," Awtry said. "Playing where my parents, family and friends could come and watch is probably the biggest reason I chose GBC."

If he had to list the next top three reasons for enrolling, it would be affordability, small campus culture and an opportunity to get to know professors on a personal level. "Affordability is a huge thing," said Awtry. "I'm one of five kids. For my parents, I was making sure that I'm not breaking the bank to go to college."

Right now, Awtry just wants to play baseball as long as possible and perhaps one day call himself a professional.

While some students face external forces that hold them back, Awtry is working on his own internal challenges. "I have been my own biggest hurdle," he said. "It's my own laziness. Sometimes, I don't want to get out of bed in the morning. I feel the urge to go back to sleep and come up with any excuse to not work out."

But don't let 15 minutes of morning laziness fool you. Awtry finds a way to balance being a student-athlete and an RA (Resident Assistant) with class and homework. "I take it day by day, sometimes hour by hour," said Awtry. He possesses the self-discipline to make a list of everything that must be done (and in order of importance).

"For example, this week I have a paper due in each class, so I wrote down which ones I need to start on and finish first," he said. "Also, Natalia, my girlfriend, helps me stay organized. So I would say between trying to do it myself and just bouncing stuff off of her, it's been pretty, pretty helpful."

It's a great feeling for campus staff and faculty to watch student-athletes support each other. They attend each others' games and cheer each other on – like family – because that's what they are – family. Some of Awtry's favorite times have been spent shouting words of encouragement for GBC sports games.

"Some of my best memories are watching basketball games with classmates," said Awtry. "You get to be around people, and I'm just having fun with my friends cheering on other Goldey-Beacom athletes."

He attributes his future plans to GBC, and especially his girlfriend. He said, "I think my future is whatever she and I decide. I have to thank Goldey Beacom for a lot – the opportunities I've been given here, whether it be baseball or leadership skills. GBC played a big part in that."

He's not saying GBC decided his future, but it gave him an opportunity for a better future as opposed to not attending College at all.

It's not always about academics. Awtry has gained skills and experience as well as cultivated deep friendships with other students. "I think the combination of those three is going to set me up to have the freedom to make decisions instead of decisions being made for me."

One never knows where new friends will be found. "Dr. Joel Worden was never a professor of mine, but I was in a Bible study group with him," said Awtry. "He was there a few times, and I saw how he goes about his work. He's pretty involved. He's always got a smile on his face. And just seeing him around – that's been a pretty big impact."

Awtry said, "A professor I had in class who has had an impact on me was Adjunct Faculty member Tyler Shears '15, '17 (an alumnus who is also a New Castle County Police Officer). He teaches public speaking, and his classes gave me the confidence to be more secure knowing that people are listening because they want me to succeed."

Like many people, public speaking is not among Awtry's favorite things. "I'm definitely more comfortable now that I've taken the class than I was before," he added.

"Honestly, it's such a small school, I was surprised at how many international students there were," said Awtry. "I grew up in Delaware and drove by this place 100,000 times, and I still didn't know what it was. For people from another country to find this place and call it their home is pretty special."

"There have been times, especially being an athlete, when I felt in the minority as an American," shared Awtry noting that many student-athletes are international students.

The Department of Athletics hosts an Athletics Leadership Academy with an almost 50 – 50 split of international and domestic students.

"Sometimes when my teammates or people I know didn't show up, as a white, American male in that group, I was in the minority. It's not a bad thing. It's just interesting. It's interesting to feel that at such a small school and knowing there are people who live 20 minutes from here who have never heard of this place, and so it's just pretty crazy."

Awtry walked across the graduation stage in April 2022 earning a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology. He took with him a deep appreciation for the friends he made, the camaraderie of the Men's Baseball team and his memories that will last a lifetime.

"I would encourage students to ask people from different countries what their culture is like as well as how they have adjusted to American culture and being in the U.S."

"Just ask questions and be open-minded. Try new things. That's what I tried to do. And I think it has helped me gain a better understanding for people, what they've been through and what they're experiencing now."



Photo credit: Derek Crudele

Student-athlete Awards Ceremony

[Click here for photos: https://www.flickr.com/photos/137349955@N04/albums/72177720298410394](https://www.flickr.com/photos/137349955@N04/albums/72177720298410394)

Goldey-Beacom College was proud to hold its 2022 Student-athlete Awards Ceremony on Friday, April 2, that not only featured a new format and venue, but kept up the tradition of presenting many awards to deserving student-athletes in both athletics and academics.

In previous years, this ceremony was combined with the department's Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony. "The recent facility upgrades have allowed us to host both events separately on campus in the College's new Event Center," Director of Athletics Jeremy Benoit said.

"Where the pandemic put a pause on many events, it actually allowed us to re-think this one and make it more impactful," Benoit continued. "The student-athletes really enjoy the events in this new venue and format. It was great to see them get excited and loud for their teammates' accomplishments both on and off the playing surface."

"The 2021-22 academic year has had many accomplishments to celebrate for GBC Athletics," Benoit added. "Our student-athletes continue to achieve at a high level in athletics, academia and their communities. We are incredibly proud of them in all that they do."



Women's Soccer

Jaida Brown
Line Kristoffersen
Kelly Mejia
Taylor Owen
Kiera Young

Softball

Jaeda Henriquez
Nicole Makin
Jazlee Rojas
Chrissy Jordan

Scholar Athlete Awards

Justin Jump – Baseball
Ese Efekodo – Men's Basketball
Kyle Scherer – Men's Cross Country
Edmond Jones – Men's Track & Field
Pablo Saenz Avila – Men's Golf
Lillian Crone – Women's Cross Country
Camilla Flagg – Women's Track & Field
Alexa Pacheco – Women's Soccer
Kristin Radeke – Women's Tennis
Julia Syrdahl – Women's Volleyball
Sarah Round – Women's Basketball
Patrick Stolze (Highest GPA Among Male Student-Athletes) – Men's Soccer
Jaeda Henriquez (Highest GPA Among Female Student-Athletes) – Softball

Chi Alpha Sigma Inductees

Men's Cross Country/Track & Field
Kyle Scherer

Women's Basketball

Vera Lauhalauma
Jhordan Gardner
Sarah Round
Janiya Stevens
Lexi Weikert
Alanna Speaks

Women's Tennis

Maria Bruno
Andrea Fresneda
Salome Lang
Kristin Radeke

Volleyball

Autumn Spendlove
Courtney Bublitz
Julia Syrdahl

Baseball

Marshall Awtry
Anthony DiMartino
Trevor Jump

Men's Golf

Hunter McGee
Carlos Riveras
Pablo Saenz Avila

Men's Soccer

Chari Konomi
Ethan Maguire
Alejandro Sanchez
Alejandro Varela

The Student-Athlete Awards Ceremony included the following:

2021 Female President's Award – Sarah Round
2022 Female President's Award – Autumn Spendlove
2021 Male President's Award – Marshall Awtry
2022 Male President's Award – Tyler Jones

2021 Brian Conley Award – Anthony DiMartino
2022 Brian Conley Award – Alanna Speaks

2021 Female Rookie of the Year – Hannah Davis
2022 Female Rookie of the Year – Alyssa Ruggieri

2021 Male Rookie of the Year – Garrett Musey
2022 Male Rookie of the Year – Logan McNelis

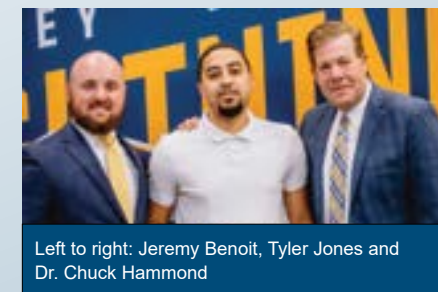
2021 Female Most Valuable Player – Kayla Cook
2022 Female Most Valuable Player – Bianca Newsom

2021 Male Most Valuable Player – Mason Maxwell
2022 Male Most Valuable Player – Nazim Derry



[Click here: https://www.gbcatletics.com/](https://www.gbcatletics.com/)

Photo credit: Ksenija Markovic



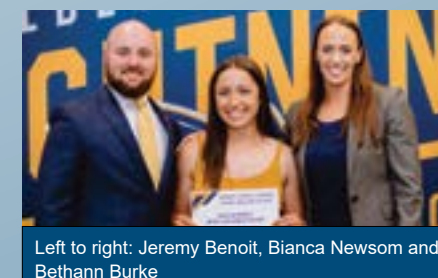
Left to right: Jeremy Benoit, Tyler Jones and Dr. Chuck Hammond



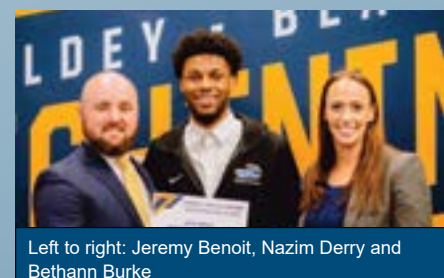
Left to right: Jeremy Benoit, Autumn Spendlove and Dr. Chuck Hammond



Left to right: Jeremy Benoit, Alanna Speaks and Erin McCormick, NovaCare



Left to right: Jeremy Benoit, Bianca Newsom and Bethann Burke



Left to right: Jeremy Benoit, Nazim Derry and Bethann Burke

2022 Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony

Click here: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/137349955@N04/albums/72177720297851370>



Manuela Cornejo, former GBC tennis player



Annette Kissel (Joe Kissel's wife) watches as he is inducted into the Hall of Fame



Left to right: Nicole Turoni, Irene Hudson, Arielle Alford, Mikaila Frazier, Jennifer Carleton, Akilah Sewell, Ashley Rosario, Janae Weldon and Devonne Richardson



Derek Crudele



Left to right: Blanca Sancho, Marina Sales, Joe Kissel, Marie-Louise Klein

All photos on pages 36 and 37 by Ryan Samson



Hall of Fame Inductees



Left to right: President Keith, Dan DiGiacobbe, Matt DiGiacobbe and Jeremy Benoit

Dan and Matt DiGiacobbe fueled a turning point in the history of the Men's Soccer program as the Lightning, perennial contenders at this point, finally could call themselves champions. During the duo's stay from 2001-04, Goldey-Beacom won the 2002 NAIA Region X championship, played in the NAIA National Tournament that year, won the 2003 CACC title and advanced to the ECAC final that season. Dan DiGiacobbe was picked first team All-CACC in 2003, second team in 2002, was named to the 2003 CACC All-Tournament team and graduated third in school history with 20 assists, fourth with 22 goals and fourth with 64 points. Matt DiGiacobbe was tabbed first team all-league in 2004, second team in 2002 and graduated first in program history with 36 assists, third with 31 goals and third with 98 points. The squad's play in the 2002 NAIA National Tournament marked the first team appearance by the College in a national championship tournament.

Joe Kissel arrived at GBC in 2006 to a second-year Women's Tennis program still looking for its first win. What he turned it into was a juggernaut that won the CACC title in 2016 and 2017, claimed a share of the regular season title in 2018 and competed in eight NCAA Tournaments. He produced 148 wins during his 13 seasons that included the 2014-15 team finishing 31st in the country, the 2017-18 squad ending 32nd and the 2018-19 unit ending 44th. The Lightning also posted winning campaigns in his final 11 seasons dating to 2008-09 and double-digit victories in nine of the last 11 campaigns. The 2014-15 season was one of the most memorable with the squad winning a program-record 18 matches and upending CACC-foe Chestnut Hill, becoming the first squad in school history in any sport to win a head-to-head NCAA Tournament contest. The 2018-19 unit claimed a share of its third straight CACC regular-season title and advanced to the Sweet 16 of the NCAA Tournament, marking the furthest a GBC team in any sport advanced in an NCAA sponsored event.



Left to right: President Keith, Joe Kissel and Jeremy Benoit



Left to right: President Keith, Jennifer Carleton and Jeremy Benoit

Led by Head Coach Jennifer Carleton, the **2010-11 Women's Basketball Team** made history by winning the CACC Title and competing in the NCAA Tournament. The squad notched two road wins over No. 1 regionally ranked Holy Family, two victories over No. 7 University of the Sciences and one over No. 10 Bloomfield. The first win ended a 110-game regular-season conference winning streak and 71-game home winning streak at Holy Family, ranked 14th in the country at that time. The second was in the conference final as Goldey-Beacom topped then No. 15 Holy Family, 66-54, to secure the second CACC title by a women's team in school history. The squad featured two all-conference picks (Janae Weldon, Jacinda Jones) and the CACC Tournament Most Valuable Player (Janae Weldon). Weldon and Jones still remain in the program's top 10 list in points, field goals, 3-pointers, free throws and steals.





GBC Women's Tennis Reunion

By: Ksenija Markovic

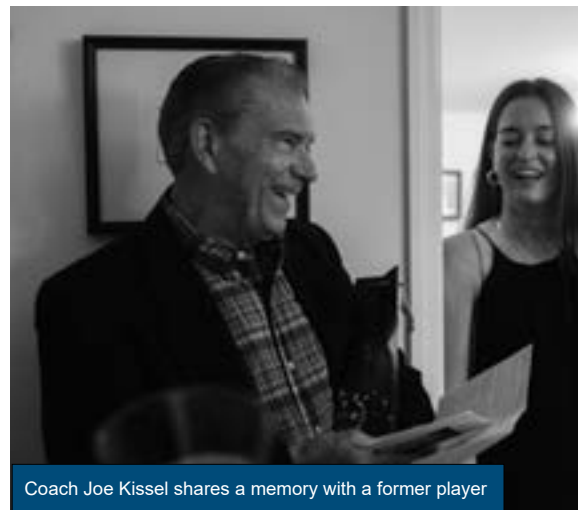
Twenty-five girls from 14 different countries attended the Goldey-Beacom College Tennis Reunion during the weekend of April 1-3, 2022. Coach Joe Kissel, who retired in 2019 following 13 successful seasons of coaching the tennis team, still kept in contact with most former players and organized the team's first reunion. One of the attendees – Stephanie Bain was part of the very first GBC tennis team, formed in 2005.

Many of the players who attended the reunion said the bonds they formed years ago have kept them strong, and it's these same family bonds that brought the girls thousands of miles from their home countries to reunite with teammates and Coach Kissel after so many years.

Anastasia Melnikova, a player from Russia who currently lives in Delaware, organized a welcome party on Friday, April 1. And it wasn't just the tennis players who joined in the fun, there were other local alumni athletes who came to celebrate.

Click here: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/lightning-studio/albums/72177720297927830>

Photos on pages 38 and 39 by Ksenija Markovic, unless otherwise stated



Coach Joe Kissel shares a memory with a former player



Vanessa Leon



Franceska Beg



Stephanie Bain

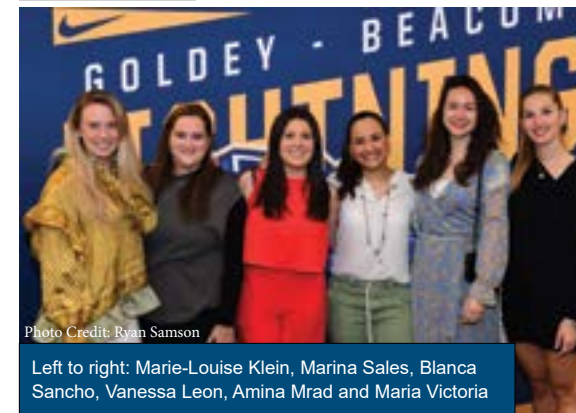


Photo Credit: Ryan Samson

Left to right: Marie-Louise Klein, Marina Sales, Blanca Sancho, Vanessa Leon, Amina Mrad and Maria Victoria

Former players had the opportunity to watch and support the current tennis team at their match against Southern New Hampshire on Saturday, April 2. After the match, both current and former players stepped onto the court and played friendly matches. Coach Kissel joined them to coach one more practice – but this time with more than 20 players on the court.

On Saturday evening, former players were hosted by President Colleen Perry Keith at her home directly beside the College. Some of the Athletics Department staff and faculty attended as well. It was a great opportunity for the former players to meet the new president and see some familiar faces.



Maria Victoria



Photo Credit: Ryan Samson



Left to right: Maria Victoria, Alma Garcia Valle, Dr. Jeff Thurley, Marina Sale, Blanca Sancho and Vanessa Leon

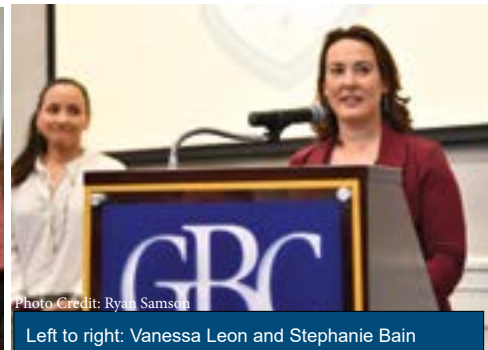


Photo Credit: Ryan Samson
Left to right: Vanessa Leon and Stephanie Bain



Photo Credit: Ryan Samson
Annette Kissel with Maria Sales and Marie-Louise Klein



Photo Credit: Ryan Samson
Left to right: Joe Kissel and his wife, Annette Kissel

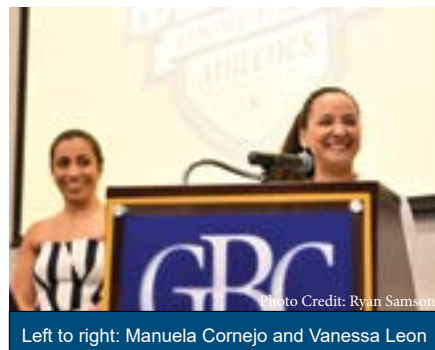


Photo Credit: Ryan Samson
Left to right: Manuela Comejo and Vanessa Leon



2021-22 Golf Season Recap

By: Jeremy Benoit

The Lightning Men's Golf team had another outstanding campaign in the 2021-22 season which has become a trend in recent seasons. Head Coach Steve Golt, in his first year leading the team, was motivated to continue that effort and produced exciting results.

The 2021-22 season came with an interesting lineup of golfers as COVID-19 resulted in five of the eight players regaining seasons of eligibility. Academic juniors Hunter McGee (Almonte, Ontario), Mason Kucy (Camrose, Alberta) and Pablo Saenz Avila (Bogota, Colombia) were able to reclaim their freshman and sophomore seasons due to the pandemic, while Camilo Samur (Bucaramanga, Colombia) and transfer Carlos Riveras (Margarita Island, Venezuela) were able to reclaim their freshman seasons. Suffice it to say that the roster included some old freshmen.

As a program with a storied past, GBC Men's Golf has been working its way back to the top of the food chain in the Central Atlantic Collegiate Conference (CACC) and the East Region in the last few years. After a series of lackluster performances dating back to 2012-13, the squad has finished in the top three of the CACC in the last three seasons.

Although the team was unable to compete in enough events to qualify for the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Regional Tournament in 2020-21, the Lightning racked up the accolades. The squad won the Griffin Invitational for the second year in a row, finished third in the CACC Tournament, Pablo Saenz Avila was selected to the all-CACC team, and Hunter McGee was named CACC Player of the Year.

When the team returned to campus in 2021-22, they had their targets set on a CACC Championship and a run at the NCAA Regional. The returning line up of McGee, Kucy, Saenz Avila and Samur was augmented by the addition of transfer sophomore Riveras and incoming true freshmen Adrian Bonilla (Almeria, Spain), Griffin Pederson (Gunnison, CO) and Ryan Jarvis (Higham Ferrers, England). The Lightning's talent was as deep as any team in the CACC, and they came to play.

The squad battled through the fall semester of competition winning two of their six

tournaments. The CACC Championship ended with the Lightning tied for first at 594 with rival Wilmington University, but they lost the tiebreaker and were forced to settle for second place. Although the day didn't end in a team win, some solace was found in the fact that Hunter McGee finished the tournament at an even-par 142 which put him two strokes up on the field to become the CACC Individual Champion – the first individual champion for GBC since Steven Cutler and Michael Tobiason split the honor in 2005-06.

Not winning the CACC Championship in the fall lost the team the automatic qualifier into the NCAA Regional Tournament which meant they would need to come back in the spring and play well against non-conference opponents to earn themselves an at-large bid. The team did just that, including three top-three finishes and a tenth-place finish at the NCAA Regional Preview Tournament with a score of 619 over two rounds of play. The strong finish in the spring semester earned the Lightning the 6-seed in the East Region and a tee time at the NCAA Regional Tournament for the first time since 2011-12.

The team would go on to an impressive finish at the NCAA Regional Tournament, finishing tied for eighth place with a score of 902 over three rounds of play – a marked improvement from the NCAA Regional Preview Tournament which was held at the same course. Not only did the team finish in the top half of the competition... they also notched the best finish for a GBC team since 2006-07 and out-shot the other two CACC teams in the tournament including

Wilmington University, the same team that bested them at the CACC Championship.

All signs point to another great season ahead in 2022-23 as most of the team members plan to return to Goldey-Beacom next year.



All photos on pages 40 and 41 by Derek Crudele



Men's Golf Team member Hunter McGee

Softball Field Gets Full Renovation

By: Jeremy Benoit

The Jackson Athletic Complex, home of Lightning Softball, was long overdue for a makeover. During the 2021-22 academic year, the softball program realized major enhancements.

Head Coach Juli Greep, in her first year, laid the groundwork for rebuilding the program from a cultural standpoint which has resulted into one of the most exciting programs on campus.

Coach Greep and Athletic Director Jeremy Benoit have spent the past year working on a full renovation of the softball facility. Combined, their dedication and diligence has yielded tremendous early results.

Facility enhancements include the following:

- Replaced silver chain-link fence with new black chain-link fence
- Raised backstop from 20 feet to 36 feet
- Replaced fenced-in public dugouts with concrete private dugouts
- Installed a second batting cage
- Installed branded windscreen around the outfield fence
- Installed three new bullpens beyond the left field fence
- Replaced 12-foot foul poles with 16-foot foul poles

“This investment by the College has gone a long way in building a sense of pride in the softball program and the College as a whole,” Benoit said. “The visible changes in the facility, with bold GBC colors and branding, are impressive and raise the level of quality of the program which will ultimately pay dividends in the recruitment of high-quality, student-athletes.”

But the transformation isn't finished yet. The following enhancements are due to be completed prior to the 2022-23 academic year:

- Replace 10-foot unbranded scoreboard with 20-foot branded scoreboard
- Install a mobile press box for web streaming and live stats
- Laser grade and re-sod outfield playing surface

Coach Greep, who came to Goldey-Beacom by way of Wesley College in July 2021, inherited a program that had struggled in recent years – not amassing more than 10 wins since 2017. Renovating the facility and hiring Coach Greep are quickly proving to be two very impactful decisions as the Lightning finished the season 24-21, which marks the most wins for GBC Softball since the 2005 season. The squad also landed the first all-conference selection since 2014 when second baseman Carly Setting was selected 2nd-team all-CACC.

Not to mention, Coach Greep's recruiting efforts have the Lightning set to have the largest roster in recent memory – a strong sign of a flourishing program. It is safe to say that the 2021-22 academic year was a great year for GBC Softball and 2022-23 is poised to be even better.



Photos by Ksenija Markovic



Official GBC Social Media



Athletics Social Media



Lightning Studio Photos



GBC Alumni Group



INSTRUCTIONS TO USE QR CODE: Open the camera app, scan the QR code, and follow the link to stay updated with the GBC community.

Stay Connected

Scan the QR codes above to like and follow social media pages for Goldey-Beacom College. You'll read up-to-the-minute news on GBC's official social media accounts. Follow your favorite sports teams to stay up to date on games and Lightning Studio photos.

With more than 12,000 members, the Alumni Association shares news about events on its Facebook page. Scan the QR code to join the Goldey-Beacom College Alumni Group on Facebook and stay up to date on their events and fundraisers.

The Alumni Association Board of Directors is a group of committed graduates who meet quarterly to plan events and activities to support the College, its students and its mission. In addition to holding fundraising events, the Board honors exemplary graduates through its biennial Distinguished Alumni Gallery.

Each year, the Board also hosts a Silent Auction, a Dewey Beach Happy Hour and a Drives for Education Golf Outing. This fall, they will host an inaugural Craft Fair in the Event Center on campus. If you are interested to serve on the Alumni Association Board of Directors, please contact Amy Diamond '06, '10 at diamona@gbc.edu for more information.



A Message from the Alumni Association Board President



Evern D. Ford '97

If you happen to be strolling around the Goldey-Beacom College campus this summer, you will find it blooming with life. I mean this both figuratively and literally, as our campus was covered in pink and white dogwood blossoms and our buildings were buzzing with activity while we sent the Class of 2022 off into the next chapter of their lives.

Over the last few months, the Alumni Association has found innovative ways to bring the GBC community together, both on and off campus, in what we hope to be the final days of the pandemic. As you have seen in this issue of Reflections, we have held events both virtually and in person to accommodate individual levels of comfort as we ease back into life post-COVID.

This coming fall, the Alumni Association will reestablish the tradition of our Distinguished Alumni Gallery (DAG) ceremony, and we are thrilled to be hosting it on campus in our Event Center. We have embarked on transforming the current Distinguished Alumni Gallery (DAG) into a significantly more

modern, museum-quality gallery with touch-screen capabilities. The Stay Gold Campaign has raised over \$40,000 toward the new gallery which will be housed in the lobby of the Event Center. If you would like to make a donation, please visit: www.gbc.edu/givenow.

As we begin coming together in person again, we welcome you to come visit our beautiful campus to see it as it grows and blooms with life. May your lives be filled with good health, good friends and great happiness.

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



SAVE THE DATE

Dewey Beach Summer Happy Hour

July 16, 2022 — 4:00 p.m., The Lighthouse, Dewey Beach, DE

Let's meet at the legendary Lighthouse to catch up over a dazzling sunset and a Dewey Crush!

Lightning Strikes the Vinyard

July 22, 2022 — 5:30 p.m., Chadds Ford Winery

More details, including price and registration will be coming soon.

Distinguished Alumni Gallery Ceremony and Brunch

October 22, 2022 — 10:00 a.m. Event Center, Goldey-Beacom College campus

We will be honoring this year's recipients of the Distinguished Alumni Gallery award, Rising Star award and the first

Presidential Alumni Award as well as unveiling our brand-new and contemporary digital alumni gallery with touchscreen technology. More details on award nominations and tickets will be coming soon.

Alumni Association Craft Fair

November 5, 2022 — 9:00 a.m. Event Center, Goldey-Beacom College campus

Come shop a variety of crafters and vendors at our first Alumni Association Craft Fair. Crafters and artists from around the region will showcase their work in a range of media including jewelry, ceramics, glass, textiles, painting and photography.

Drives for Education Golf Outing

May 17, 2023 — Deerfield Golf Club

More details, including price and registration will be coming soon.

Alumni Events – Fall 2021 and Winter 2022 Recap

September 30, 2021 – Drives for Education Golf Outing

The Alumni Association enjoyed picture-perfect weather and a competitive group of golfers at Deerfield for the Drives for Education Golf Outing. Thank you to all who came out as a participant or volunteer to support this event, and a special thank you to our sponsors:

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Long & Foster, Julie Spagnolo
Pike Creek Mortgage, Pat McRae
Priority Title & Escrow, Katie Patille
WeR1 – Delaware Panthers Basketball Club
WIT Services & Remodeling, LLC

Photo Album: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/lightning-studio/albums/7215772000266819>



Left to right: Neil Douen, Dennis Mason, Steve Milewski, Dave Ashbrook and Bill Brady
Photo credit: Chari Konomi

November 12–26, 2021 Lightning Bolt 5K & 1886 Legacy Walk

A group of Lightning Bolt 5K & 1886 Legacy Walk participants ventured outside in all sorts of unpredictable weather to show their Lightning pride this past November. Those who chose not to brave the various elements (snow, sleet and rain) got their steps in on a treadmill or an elliptical machine. We thank each one of them for their dedication to exercise and support this event. We also extend our gratitude to our sponsors. Thank you for your support and generosity.

Gold Sponsor

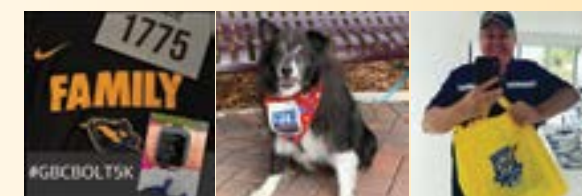
Dr. Colleen Perry Keith

Lightning Bolt Sponsors

Jeffrey Neal Isaac, Evern D. Ford, Roberto Machado

Additional Sponsors

Anonymous, Ryan Quann



November 20, 2021 – Legacy Night

Over Legacy Weekend, we were thrilled to have our greater GBC family together again in the place we all call 'home'. The Men's and Women's Basketball teams hosted the District of Columbia Firebirds for a doubleheader. The Alumni Association transformed our Event Center into a sports bar where they welcomed alumni, parents and friends of the College for a live-streamed watch party for both games with refreshments and stadium snacks. The Men's Basketball team took a 77-65 victory over the Firebirds.

Photo Album: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/lightning-studio/albums/72157720169654566>

February 26, 2022 – Hoop it Up

The Lightning Men's and Women's Basketball teams hosted a doubleheader vs. Wilmington University. The Alumni Association offered a hospitality suite with live-streamed footage of both games throughout the afternoon. A wonderful time was had by all.

Photo Album: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/lightning-studio/albums/72177720297032299>

March 11–25, 2022 – Silent Auction (virtual)

<https://www.32auctions.com/GBC> (all pertinent info on 32auctions website (Virtual event, no photos.)



In Memoriam

We remember the lives of our esteemed alumni and friends, and their legacies. Graduation years included when possible.

Francis Adkins, 1961, Wilmington, DE
Terrence James Alexander, 1977, Parkesburg, PA
Bonnie Insley Allison, Rehoboth Beach, DE
Robert Armstrong, New Castle, DE
Berkley Edgerton Ashby, 1963, Belle Haven, VA
Robert V Bahl, 1964, Johnson City, NY
Carmella Hudock Beattie, Hockessin, DE
Emilie T. Blackwell, 1958, Glen Mills, PA
John M Brooks, Elkton, MD
Sondra A. Brown, 1960, Odessa, DE
Donato Robert Buccini, Greenville, DE
Mary Reilly Buffington, Chadds Ford, DE
Wesley Royce Bumpers, 1960, Orange Park, FL
Jane D. Bunting, 1956, Berlin, MD
Betty Ford Burge, Newark, DE
Jerry Callaway, Milton, DE
Mary Jane Wood Campanelli, Wilmington, DE
Pamela Hurst Carmine, Bear, DE
Elizabeth Gebhart Carpenter, Cherry Hill, NJ
Robert Ruliph Morgan Carpenter III, Montchanin, DE

Ralph L. Chapman Jr., Salisbury, MD
Peter Helen Clarkin, Ocean View, DE
Raymond Jack Clatworthy, Hockessin, DE
Daniel A. Conte, 1967, Newark, DE
Elizabeth Counts, Willow Street, PA
Genevieve T. Crampton, 1949, West Grove, PA
Clifton Crawford, Wilmington, DE
Constance C. Crawford, 1956, Shippensburg, PA
Rose M. Cuocolo, Wilmington, DE
Thomas P. DeLucia, 1954, Wilmington, DE
Louis B. Dempsey, 1952, Newark, DE
Theresa M. Dempsey, 1965, Media, PA
Emily Davia Depippo, Breward, NC
Joan Pittman Dillard, 1961, Camden, SC
Elizabeth Dionisi, Claymont, DE
Joey V. Duckworth, 1984, Liberty, SC
Margaret R. Emerson, 1980, Newark, DE
Carol Smith Ewing, Rehoboth Beach, DE
Carole Pink Gaucher, 1982, Wilmington, DE
Marlene Jones Gautsch Virginia, Elkton, MD
William E. Godfrey, 1950, Wilmington, DE
Linda K. Goff, 1985, Newark, DE
Dorothy Weitzel Goss, Wilmington, DE
Clara Eleanor Graves, Georgetown, DC
Betty Jane Long Grzybowski, Wilmington, DE
Sarah Marion Ogbin Hagerty, 1956, Newark, DE
Gerhard Hahn, 1972, Newark, DE
Judith Gale Haight, 1955, Wilmington, DE
Joseph K. Hardin, Havre De Grace, MD
Richard Gross Hatfield, Wilmington, DE
Roger D. Hendricks, 1960, Middletown, DE
Edward J. Hendrixson, 1963, Wilmington, DE
Paul E. Holloway, 1980, New Castle, DE
Catherine Dougherty Hutton, Wilmington, DE
J Edwin James, Bridgeville, DE

Donald E. Keller, 1959, Winston-Salem, NC
Susan K. Kinard, 1965, Churchville, MD
Richard A. Kirschner, 1962, Lewes, DE
Terri L. Kirschner, 1964, Lewes, DE
Alice S. Klippel, 1946, Wilmington, DE
Diane Frances Moderacki Klonowski, Athens, GA
Veronica T. Kriss, 1955, Hartly, DE
Joseph Kyritsis, 1977, Newark, DE
Kimberley Sue Lefever, Quarryville, PA
Dolores Masiello Lento, Wilmington, DE
Helen Pruitt Lewers, Pocomoke City, MD
Doris Lewis, Cambridge, MD
John Townsend Lewis, Philadelphia, PA
Nancy D Lewis, Kennett Square, PA
Cynthia Woodward Liedlich, Wilmington, DE
David B. Lilly, 1958, Newark, DE
Lynne Linde, Wilmington, DE
Lois D. Lindell, Newark, DE
Robert Lofland, Lewes, DE
Mack C. Long, 1956, Dagsboro, DE
Marvin Everett Long, Selbyville, DE
Thomas F. Lynch, 1977, Hockessin, DE
Shirley K. Mackert, 1958, Milford, DE
James Joseph Maloney, Port Charlotte, FL
Muriel Mann, 1941, Wilmington, DE
Patricia Murray Marra, Hockessin, DE
Phyllis C. Marsh, 1966, Dover, DE
Stanley Mengel, Bel Air, MD
John Allen Metheny, 1965, Hartly, DE
Karen A. Mischler, Wilmington, DE
Ruby M. Moore, Wilmington, DE
Sherrill C. Mullenix, Wilmington, DE
Betty Jean Palmer Murphy, 1946, Elkton, MD
Robert D. Murphy, 1961, Laurel, DE
Joseph J Netta, 1981, Wilmington, DE

Marjorie D. Newton, Wilmington, DE
Thomas William Nock, Exmore, VA
Carrie Margaret Reynolds Olewine, Elkton, MD
Florence Mari Vari Olivere, Wilmington, DE
Hester Emily Payne, Denton, MD
Robert H Phillips, 1948, Berlin, MD
Anthony Piantoni, Wilmington, DE
Beatrice C. Reynolds, 1951, Bear, DE
Theodore Wayne Rollins, Greenville, SC
Debra Jean Salus, 1972, Wilmington, DE
Dianna Michelle Ruge Shutkufski, Athens, PA
Anastasia S. Spadacino, 1966, Walkersville, MD
Catherine Paoli Sparco, Wilmington, DE
Maynard L. Spicer, 1952, Seaford, DE
Ann Kathryn Woodrow Stewart, Wilmington, DE
Kenneth Jay Stoppard, Elizabethtown, PA
Ludwig Stuchlik, 1955, Rehoboth Beach, DE
Beatrice Nickey Thompson, Harrington, DE
Ebe Stephen Townsend Jr., 1948, Dover, DE
Selina Biles Trainer, Northeast, MD
Catherine L. Tucker, 1967, Seaford, DE
Daniel F Tyrrell, 1997, New Castle, DE
Norma R. Urban, 1990, Middletown, DE
Patricia Dougherty Valiante, Wilmington, DE
Irene Smiley Wadman, Wilmington, DE
Billy R. Walden, 1978, Middletown, DE
James Travis Whiteley, Rehoboth Beach, DE
Barry Wilson, Wilmington, DE
Dolores C. Windsor, 1948, Hockessin, DE
Garabed V. Zakarian, 1956, Smyrna, DE

We value our esteemed Goldey-Beacom College alumni. We would be honored to include your loved one who is a verified GBC alumni.

Please email diamona@gbc.edu to submit your information.



achieve greater.

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