



Reflections

Goldey-Beacom College magazine

Spring/Summer 2023



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



Our faculty and staff make the difference for so many. You will intuit that from the pages that follow. Our students make the difference to our faculty and staff and to one another – you will see that too. And our alumni and our donors are difference makers. All of us together, through our work, our careers, our gifts and our relationships, make a difference.

That difference we all make results in economic and social mobility for our students, in dreams achieved, in new majors and courses, and in meaningful careers. You will read on pages 4-10 all about how the difference Goldey-Beacom College makes is being recognized nationally and the steps the College is taking to be the difference for future generations of students.

But it all comes down to our people. And that includes you! Thanks for being that difference.

All the best –

Colleen Perry Keith, Ph.D.
President

As I got ready for that luncheon, and as I read through this issue of Reflections, I kept thinking of what Sam Walton, the American business magnate best known as the founder of Walmart, said in 1979: “our people make the difference.”

Mr. Walton was right. It was not a new observation in 1979 but it’s still incredibly true today, 44 years later, and especially true here at Goldey-Beacom College.

achieve greater.

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

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Goldey-Beacom
COLLEGE

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(facing) Hanna Palacios hugs
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Derek Ongeri ‘24

GOLDEY-BEACOM COLLEGE IN THE NEWS



In fall 2022, for the first time in its 137-year history, Goldey-Beacom College (GBC) was recognized by U.S. News & World Report rankings.

After being listed as a “special-focus school” for decades by the Carnegie Classification®, this designation precluded Goldey-Beacom from being listed by U.S. News & World Report.

Over the past decade, the College has added degree offerings beyond the category of business, first with psychology in 2009, and English and criminal justice in 2011. By 2021, when Carnegie reviewed its classifications, the College had added even more programs outside its business curriculum and was subsequently reclassified as “Master’s Colleges and Universities: Larger Programs.”

The College attained reclassification by the Carnegie Classification® in 2021 because it no longer awarded the majority of its degrees in one single major area of study.

This change qualified the College to appear in the U.S. News & World Report’s ranking system. The College is now counted among the Regional Universities North category.

Dr. Colleen Perry Keith said, “As we continue our focus on enrollment, career opportunities and an expanded list of degree options for our diverse population, thousands of students and parents will find Goldey-Beacom in online searches as they explore the possibilities of higher education.”

U.S. News & World Report Best Colleges 2022 rankings:

Regional Universities North

1. Overall #133-175 out of 175
2. Top Performers on Social Mobility #55 out of 175
3. Least Debt (students) #18 out of 175
4. Most international students #14 out of 175
5. Campus ethnic diversity 22 out of 175



In July 2022, Inside Higher Education published a story “A New Approach to Ranking Colleges” by Sara Wiessman detailing how colleges rank on an economic mobility index that measures the return on investment for low-income students and the percentage of Pell grant eligible students that each institution enrolls.

Of the 1,320 colleges and universities ranked, GBC ranked in the top tier (Tier 1 – top 20% of colleges in the U.S.) in 139th place, and the ONLY Tier 1 college in the state, meaning that we advance economic mobility far better than our in-state competitors, all of whom are ranked in Tier 4.

Unlike traditional college rankings, which prioritize selectivity and test scores, the Economic Mobility Index (EMI) places value on how well institutions serve low-income students in addition to the proportion of low- and moderate-income students each college enrolls.

In other words, the EMI shows which colleges help low- and moderate-income students achieve an income that moves these students economically upward, at a reasonable cost.

NOTE: Alongside the IHE article, Forbes magazine reported on July 21, 2022, that Third Way, a Washington, DC think tank, updated its Economic Mobility Index ratings of American colleges placing GBC in the top 20% nationwide.



Assistant Vice President for Academic Affairs/ Associate Provost for Academic Programs, Dr. Joel Worden greets students at a College event.



In September 2022, Washington, DC think tank Third Way ranked Goldey-Beacom College in the top 20% of the Economic Mobility Index (EMI) for colleges and universities. GBC is the only institution of higher education in Delaware to achieve this ranking.

GBC provides value for those who need it the most. The College has an intentional focus on enabling the least-resourced students to come to our institution and gain an incredible life opportunity.

Michael Itzkowitz, a senior fellow for Third Way, has been responsible for shaping the group’s higher education advocacy agenda. This five-tiered system was designed for comparison purposes. He said, “Institutions that provide the greatest economic mobility are now located in Tier 1 with other schools shown to deliver comparably strong outcomes.”

Tier 1: Colleges that rate within the top 20% for economic mobility

Tier 2: Colleges that rate between 20% and 40% for economic mobility

Tier 3: Colleges that rate between 40% and 60% for economic mobility

Tier 4: Colleges that rate between 60% and 80% for economic mobility

Tier 5: Colleges that rate within the bottom 80% and 100% for economic mobility

According to Third Way, its EMI mathematically combines two variables:

- 1) the amount of time it takes low-income students from a given college to recoup the costs of paying for their education, and
- 2) the proportion of students from low- and moderate-income backgrounds who were enrolled at each school. This updated model now incorporates the amount of federal financial aid that each of these institutions receives on an annual basis.

“When you think about GBC’s recognition on the Economic Mobility Index, we should be getting all sorts of students – we provide value for those who need it the most. It’s not just that we happen to be affordable, it’s that we have an intentional focus on enabling the least-resourced students to come to our institution and gain an incredible life opportunity.”

**Dr. Colleen Perry Keith
President**



2023 Career Fair

GOLDEY-BEACOM COLLEGE IN THE NEWS

GBC Named an Emerging Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI)

Goldey-Beacom College (GBC) has been named an Emerging Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI) by the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU) in its March 30, 2023 release of an analysis on the 2021-2022 Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) enrollment data, which shows an increase in the number of Hispanic Serving Institutions (HSIs) and continued growth in Hispanic student enrollment at colleges and universities.

In 2021-2022, there were 572 institutions that met the definition of an HSI compared to 559 in 2020-2021. HSIs are defined as having 25% or more undergraduate Hispanic student full-time equivalent (FTE) enrollment. In 2021-2022, HSIs enrolled 65.6% of all Hispanic undergraduates and 30.5% of all undergraduate students in nonprofit postsecondary education.

“At Goldey-Beacom College, we value the benefits of a diverse student body. We are proudly a majority-minority institution with a healthy number of international students as well. I believe this enriches our students’ college experience as they study, play and live with other students from a variety of backgrounds.”

**Dr. Colleen Perry Keith,
President**

GBC is among the number of Emerging HSIs – colleges approaching the 25% Hispanic student enrollment threshold, which showed growth to be 400 in 2021-2022, compared to 393 in 2020-2021.

“At Goldey-Beacom College, we value the benefits of a diverse student body,” said Dr. Colleen Perry Keith, GBC’s president. She continued, “We are proudly a majority-minority institution with a healthy number of international students as well. I believe this enriches our students’ college experience as they study, play and live with other students from a variety of backgrounds. As we see the number of Hispanic students enrolling in college grow, we want to be part of that growth and ensure they have significant representation in our student body.”

“It is encouraging to see the enrollment at Hispanic Serving Institutions return to numbers prior to the pandemic,” said HACU President and CEO Antonio R. Flores. “HSIs are critical to developing a diverse, competitive 21st century workforce. We hope Congress will address the underfunding of these vital institutions to ensure that funding is commensurate with the number of students they serve.”

Over the past 10 years, GBC has doubled the percentage of Hispanic enrollment by attending more than 30 college fairs a year in the mid-Atlantic region targeted to Hispanic students and leveraging those opportunities to reach guidance counselors from majority Hispanic high schools.

In the fall of 2019, the GBC Admissions Office expanded recruitment travel to include Puerto Rico, where the majority of college-bound students enroll in colleges on the mainland. That initiative was suggested by its new president, Dr. Colleen Perry Keith, upon learning of this recruitment initiative.

The Admissions Office now travels twice a year to Puerto Rico to recruit students and continues to attend up to 30 Hispanic college fairs throughout the mid-Atlantic region.

A prime tool for success for growing its Hispanic enrollment, the College offers a scholarship funded by the Goizueta Foundation to provide academically qualified Hispanic students with scholarships. Recently, the Goizueta Foundation Scholarship has expanded to now cover full tuition and in some cases room and board.

Goldey-Beacom College has long been a majority-minority serving institution and has focused on serving students of traditionally underrepresented backgrounds. For Hispanic students, the College provides culturally responsive programs and services that focus on the needs and experiences of Hispanic students.



HACU
H I S P A N I C
A S S O C I A T I O N
O F C O L L E G E S &
U N I V E R S I T I E S



Photo credit: Derek Ongeri

Goldey-Beacom College students, left to right: Top Row: Adrian Bonilla, Nahomi Quinonez, Luis Restrepo, Maria Bruno; Bottom Row: Armando Campana, Claudia Camporro, Camilo Samur

This includes hosting Hispanic Heritage Month events, encouraging participation in OLA (Organization for Latin Americans) providing bilingual resources, and creating leadership opportunities that empower Hispanic students at the College.

GBC engages with community organizations specifically focused on Latin Americans to cultivate partnerships and provide opportunities for outside engagement including its longtime partnership with La Academia Antonia Alonso Charter School.

The College fosters a sense of belonging and inclusion throughout campus by creating safe spaces and promoting

culturally diverse experiences that celebrate Hispanic culture. This includes offering counseling, mentoring and other support services that are culturally responsive to their emotional well-being and academic success.

Recognition as an Emerging HSI is the first step in getting attention for the kind of work the College has been doing for several years. The trajectory shows that we are on track to attain HSI status in the near future, once the results of the recruiting effort in Puerto Rico begins to materialize.

And that increase will secure our seat among Minority Serving Institutions (MSIs) as well. Such recognition is

important as it pushes GBC toward the top of the list of colleges that Hispanic students may be considering. In addition, it underscores the mission to provide a quality education to all students. And it serves as an indicator of success in educating Hispanic and other minority students when the College approaches donors in search of support for new initiatives. The College continues to make inroads toward this important segment of the college-bound market and the successful recruitment of Hispanic students.

achieve greater.

GOLDEY-BEACOM COLLEGE IN THE NEWS



Goldey-Beacom College Joins SAGE Scholars® Private College & University Enrollment Consortium to Offer Signature Tuition Rewards® Program

Goldey-Beacom College (GBC), which already offers one of the region’s most affordable tuition rates, has joined the SAGE Scholars® Private College & University Enrollment Consortium. The Consortium’s signature program, SAGE Scholars Tuition Rewards® Program, is a nationwide program for families and their students to earn guaranteed minimum scholarships through a national consortium of over 440 participating private colleges and universities.

“This program is designed to help families save and prepare for college,” said GBC President Colleen Perry Keith. “Affordability is key when it comes to making college a reality for students. Membership in the SAGE Scholars Tuition Rewards® Program provides us with an additional way to identify and recruit students who may be interested in attending Goldey-Beacom, while at the same time, offering monetary support that can help ease the financial burden associated with attending a private institution like ours.”

Tuition Rewards® Points accrue like frequent flyer miles and are typically earned by saving or investing with affiliated financial institutions, banks, brokerage firms, credit unions, 529 plans, mutual funds and diverse financial service companies involved in cash-value insurance products,

retirement plans and other instruments.

The SAGE Scholars Tuition Rewards Program is offered by over 135,000 employers nationwide including health

insurers, financial institutions and nonprofits to encourage and reward families for preparing, planning and saving for higher education. Earned Tuition Rewards® Points represent the guaranteed minimum amount of institutional financial aid that participating colleges and universities will award to students.

How it works: Member colleges and universities can recruit participating students when they reach high school age. When a student applies to a member institution, the Tuition Rewards Program® account holder submits a Tuition Rewards Points statement to the school.

Each year, participating families typically earn Tuition Rewards® Points equal to 5% of eligible assets invested with SAGE Scholars® financial partners or a fixed number of points available to all employees.

How to qualify: Students must be registered by the start of their senior year in high school. If the student is admitted to a SAGE Scholars® partner college or university and matriculates, the participating member will offer a guaranteed minimum scholarship at least equal to the amount of the student’s Tuition Rewards® Points – up to a maximum of one full year’s tuition, spread evenly over a projected four years of attendance, starting with the first year.

Additional external scholarships, institutional scholarships, grants or other discounts can be applied or stacked with the SAGE Scholars Tuition Rewards® Program.

“We are very pleased that Goldey-Beacom College has joined the SAGE Scholars® Private College & University Enrollment Consortium,” said Dr. James Johnston, SAGE Scholars® founder and president. “Goldey-Beacom is an excellent institution, and we are honored to partner with them to help families save and prepare for college.”

Formed in 1995 by Dr. James Johnston, a former director of admissions and financial aid at the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania, SAGE (Savings And Growth for Education) Scholars® is proud to be the nation’s oldest and largest private college preparation and funding organization whose main focus is to help improve the affordability of private, higher education.

They bridge the gap between students who want an affordable private college education with colleges that will guarantee tuition discounts for member families – all at no cost to the student, family or college.

The idea was that families could, by conscientiously saving, planning and preparing for college, accumulate Tuition Rewards Points redeemable for guaranteed minimum discounts off the “sticker price” of tuition at a group of private colleges seeking qualified students. For families and participating colleges, SAGE Scholars was a “win-win”: Families could earn guaranteed, non-need based discounts off full tuition of up to 25%, and colleges could recruit quality students.

Learn more about the SAGE Scholars Tuition Rewards® Program at www.tuitionrewards.com.

GOLDEY-BEACOM COLLEGE IN THE NEWS



Goldey-Beacom College (GBC) has been recognized by Colleges of Distinction (COD) for its commitment to help undergraduate students learn, grow and succeed.

GBC has been named in four categories:

2022-2023 Colleges of Distinction

2022-2023 Colleges of Distinction, Delaware

2022-2023 Colleges of Distinction, Business

2022-2023 Colleges of Distinction, Career Development

COD’s mission is to help parents and students find the “right” college – not necessarily the “best” college. Their

criteria are tailored toward colleges that provide personalized education that embraces students’ interests.

“This is a terrific achievement for Goldey-Beacom and due in no small part to the many student-centered initiatives we have been pursuing in our strategic plan,” said Dr. Colleen Perry Keith, president of GBC. “As one of the benefits to the College’s inclusion component, this distinction will amplify our message to students, parents and guidance counselors.”

GBC underwent an exhaustive COD review that encompassed four overarching distinctions which are the fundamental elements of an effective undergraduate education: Student Engagement, Teaching, Community and Outcomes.

Dr. Keith expounded, “With all the focus in the media on college rankings and whether college is worth the effort and money, the Colleges of Distinction program gets past the focus on rankings, and instead, focuses on what makes a college truly effective, and

asks the question . . . what are the right standards that equate with student success? The results of the four areas of distinction prepare undergraduates to be strong writers, speakers and thinkers because of the one-on-one with faculty and also because of the meaningful experiences we provide.”

The College’s Career Services Office provides both students and alumni with a wide variety of programs designed to develop their professional skills and achieve their career goals. The staff offers individual career coaching, resume reviews, career assessment tools that explore interests, skills and values as well as interview preparation both in person and through an online application.

“Our Career Services Department is in tune with the ever-changing job market,” said Beth Kirker, director of career services. She continued, “The staff prepares students to meet employer demands through hands-on assistance with one-on-one counseling to search for a job; résumé, cover letter, and interview assistance to apply for a job; and comprehensive access to internships and other real-world experiences to prepare for a job.”



common app Goldey-Beacom College Joins Common App for fall 2023

Students applying to Goldey-Beacom College (GBC) for fall 2023-2024 had the ability to do so through Common App, a powerful online college application platform that serves more than 3 million applicants, teachers, counselors and advisors across all 50 states and around the world each year.

Common App helps simplify the college application process, including making the fee waiver process more efficient for eligible students.

In addition to accessing the online application system, GBC

is helping to make additional tools and services available to students and those who support students through Common App, including a mobile app, financial aid and scholarship information, virtual mentors, online portfolios and a vast library of counselor resources available in English and Spanish. Common App also offers 24/7/365 technical support to all applicants and recommenders using the system.

Students who are thinking of applying to GBC can create a Common App account now because their account will roll over to next year’s admissions season. Common App members can also use the Common App for transfer, a separate application designed exclusively to meet the needs of transfer and adult student populations. The College continues to offer the option to apply through its website for students unfamiliar with Common App.

GOLDEY-BEACOM COLLEGE IN THE NEWS



Goldey-Beacom College President Colleen Perry Keith Named Vice-Chair of the NCAA Division II Executive Board

Jeremy Benoit said. “Our president continues to make an impact on the College, but she always has her eyes set on the improvement of our community, whether that means our immediate community or a community as large as the NCAA membership. Her willingness to get involved at this level will continue to ensure that small colleges like Goldey-Beacom have their voice heard in the legislative process. There is no one more well-read and capable to do that than she.”

Dr. Keith will also serve on the Division II Administrative Committee and chair the Division II Planning and Finance Committee. She is one of nine presidents out of the 311 Division II institutions to be on the Executive Board (formerly known as the President’s Council).

“Athletics plays a very important role at Goldey-Beacom College and I am excited to bring our voice, and

that of small colleges like us, to the conversation,” Dr. Keith said. “The Division II philosophy is ‘life in the balance’ and ‘make it yours’ – two statements that we align very closely with at GBC.”

The NCAA also announced that in addition to the presidents and two independent members not salaried at an NCAA school, two student-athletes will serve on the board. This builds on the existing legislature that is student-athlete friendly and includes a vote from the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC) on all legislation which is only represented in Division II among the three NCAA divisions.



Goldey-Beacom College (GBC) President Colleen Perry Keith, a longtime advocate of bettering student-athletes’ lives and a longtime voice within the NCAA, has been named Vice-Chair of the NCAA Division II Executive Board at its January 2023 NCAA Convention in San Antonio, Texas.

“Dr. Keith’s appointment is very important for the College and the Central Atlantic Collegiate Conference,” Director of Athletics



M.B.A ANALYTICAL TRACK

The Master of Business Administration (Analytical Track) degree program has been designated by the College as a STEM-eligible program in accordance with Department of Homeland Security (DHS) regulations.

Program Requirements

- ACC 644- Financial Reporting and Analysis
- BA 728- Business Analytics
- ECO 627- Econometrics and Forecasting for Business
- FIN 623- Corporate Finance
- MGT 608- Managerial Decision Modeling
- MGT 712- Project Management
- MKT 640- Customer Data Analytics
- 15 Elective Credits


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GOLDEY-BEACOM COLLEGE ANNOUNCES . . .

Five New Graduate Certificate Programs

The Goldey-Beacom College (GBC) Graduate Certificate Program is designed to help students develop the broad competencies needed to excel in today’s business world. Small business owners and professionals alike can boost their résumés and retool their current skill set to advance in their careers.

In July 2022, the College announced approval from the Delaware Department of Education for an additional five nine-credit graduate certificate programs.

“We met with many area employers to discuss education and training needs,” said Dr. Colleen Perry Keith, president of GBC. “We identified five major areas where upskilling or reskilling would make it possible for an employee to move forward in a particular career path.

Combined with evolving education trends, one specifically noted by The World Economic Forum’s “The Future of Jobs Report 2020”, estimated the need for reskilling for 50% of us over the next five years.

A Harvard Business Review article by Sean Gallagher entitled “How the Value of Educational Credentials Is and Isn’t Changing” (September 20, 2019), said that 64% of employers surveyed ‘agreed that the need for continuous lifelong learning will demand higher levels of education and more credentials.’ ”

Marketing:

This nine-credit graduate certificate emphasizes organization, planning, evaluation, and control of essential aspects of a firm’s marketing activities. The student is exposed to new

product development, management of advertising, distribution and sales administration. In addition, the student will become familiar with the assembly of marketing data, analysis and the application of quantitative models.

Human Resource Management:

This nine-credit graduate certificate is designed for those individuals transitioning into HR positions and individuals in management positions. Students will gain an understanding of the human resource role in organizations today and the importance of the strategic approach to human resource management. Students will explore the increasing complexity of talent acquisition and the related challenges of employee retention and engagement. Topics will include performance management, employment law, safety and health, and diversity, equity and inclusion.

Health Care Management:

This nine-credit graduate certificate is designed for those individuals transitioning into health care organizations or positions and those requiring a more in-depth understanding of the health care industry. The certificate provides the student with an understanding of the role of public policies and politics in the health care industry, the various component sectors of the industry, and the planning methods used within the health care field. Students examine the principles and practical application of the laws that affect the operations and decisions of health care providers. An introduction to the main components of health information technology and how it relates to health care service businesses provides a basis for understanding the role of information in the success of the delivery system and other health care processes.

Entrepreneurship:

This nine-credit graduate certificate fosters the entrepreneurial mindset and develops critical skills. Students become empowered to launch their own new ventures and create employment opportunities for others or translate the skills learned for intrapreneurial success in larger organizations. Students examine the process of evaluating the viability of business ideas and managing a venture through its growth stages and master a variety of tools for managing projects. Students will have an opportunity to take a deeper dive into social entrepreneurship or leadership with an elective.

Information Technology:

This nine-credit graduate certificate is designed to prepare professionals to bridge the gap between today’s technology and management’s use of the products of the global information infrastructure. All modern organizations require people equipped to focus information technology on its specific business needs, with an eye on leveraging IT for productivity and competitiveness. Any individual who is responsible for processing information, decision-making or managing systems, and who wants to sharpen their skills, would benefit from this program.

These new certificate programs have joined the following established certificate programs:

- Certificate in Business Analytics
- Certificate in Business Development
- Certificate in Business Management
- Certificate in Strategic Leadership

For more information on how you can enroll today, please visit: <https://www.gbc.edu/academics/graduate-studies/graduate-certificates/>.



May 5, 2023 Commencement

Pictured above, Goldey-Beacom College Trustee Dorrell Green, superintendent of Red Clay Consolidated School District, addressed graduates, parents and the greater College community at the 136th Commencement Ceremony held on campus with undergraduate students commencing first, followed by graduate students and doctoral students next. A combined total of 365 students received degrees. Pictures on pages 12 through 15 courtesy of GBC Lightning Studio.





May 5, 2023 Commencement

achieve greater.



Goldey-Beacom College Mission and Vision

Launching a strategic planning process

Since its founding in 1886, Goldey-Beacom College (GBC) has prepared students of all backgrounds to face the world's challenges with creativity and a spirit of innovation and entrepreneurship.

President Colleen Perry Keith launched a five-year strategic plan in early 2020 right before the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, embarking on a community-wide collaborative journey to reshape Goldey-Beacom as well as responding to the profound shifts in higher education and to the broader challenges facing society.

The strategic planning process resulted in the creation of four pillars that direct the College's vision forward:

Sparkling Excellence

Academic and Financial Value

Igniting Success

Student Success and Retention

Lighting Opportunity

Community Partnership and Marketing

Surging Forward

Employee Engagement, Development and Structure

"The world the College operates in has been changing for many years, and the global pandemic guided change in more new directions," said Dr. Keith. "Because of strategic planning, Goldey-Beacom has made good strides, but even more important, we are now better informed about what we need to do. We are better able to plan for and implement change that will bring us strong results."

To ensure the education and experiences we provide to students are responsive, impactful and inclusive, the strategic plan articulates measurable strategies for more effectively and intentionally



uniting our academic enterprise to meet the needs of the rapidly changing work environment that our students will encounter, whether for the first time, or as lifelong learners.

Now, three years into the plan, there is much to celebrate.

Defining the Mission

Driven by the mission and values of the College, Surging Forward is grounded on four strategic imperatives focused on academic excellence, student success, community engagement and innovation.

These strategic imperatives were revisited this spring during Mission Day hosted by Vice President of Operations and Planning, Dr. Charles Hammond.

"Mission Day was an incredible opportunity for the College community to come together and express our hopes and ideals for all to see and to champion the vision we have created together," said Dr. Hammond.

He continued, "The progress we have made as an institution is a direct result of President Keith's leadership and the hard work of so many staff and faculty across campus. We thank the initiative teams for the foundation they have built in the spirit of Surging Forward."

Leading the Vision

The college aims to achieve its vision by providing high-quality academic programs, fostering a supportive and engaging learning environment and engaging with the community.

Together, the Goldey-Beacom College strategic plan, vision statement and mission statement each reflect the College's commitment to providing high-quality education that prepares students for success in the global marketplace.

And with that combination, the College is well-positioned to achieve its goals and continue to be a premier provider of education in the region.

MISSION

An independent, multilevel college, Goldey-Beacom College offers challenging undergraduate and graduate programs. As a teaching-oriented institution of higher learning, the College emphasizes instructional excellence in the classroom and is committed to sustaining faculty who are caring, dedicated and knowledgeable in their respective fields, who motivate their students to realize their full learning potential, and, above all, who represent teaching excellence.

Goldey-Beacom College is further committed to providing a caring, wholesome, intellectually stimulating learning environment to its students so they may grow as individuals and become worthy, productive members of society.

SPARKING EXCELLENCE

Goldey-Beacom College is committed to providing high-quality academic programs that meet the needs of students and employers. The College will focus on maintaining and enhancing the quality of its existing academic programs while developing new programs to meet emerging needs. The College will also invest in faculty development to ensure that its faculty members are knowledgeable and effective in their fields.

Our achievements are:

- New programs and certificates
- New Learning Management System (LMS)
- New Instructional Modalities
- Tuition Reset

IGNITING SUCCESS

Goldey-Beacom College is committed to ensuring that its students are successful both academically and professionally. The College will focus on providing a supportive and engaging learning environment that promotes student success. The College will also provide career development services to help students transition from college to the workforce.

Our achievements are:

- Student Success and Retention Committee
- Mental Health and Wellness Center
- Academic Excellence Center
- First-Year Experience
- Digital badges and Co-Curricular Transcripts
- E-Sports

LIGHTING OPPORTUNITY

Goldey-Beacom College is committed to being an active and engaged member of the community. The College will focus on developing partnerships with local businesses and organizations to provide students with experiential learning opportunities. The college will also provide service opportunities for students and faculty members to give back to the community.

Our achievements are:

- Partnerships with the Food Bank of Delaware, Boys and Girls Clubs of DE, Skyline Middle School AVID program and La Academia Antonia Alonso Charter School
- Marketing
- New website launch summer '23
- Completion of Campus Enhancement Project with spaces used by community groups

SURGING FORWARD

Goldey-Beacom College is committed to ensuring its long-term sustainability. The College will focus on managing its resources effectively and efficiently to ensure that it can continue to provide high-quality education to its students. The College will also invest in infrastructure and technology to support its academic programs and administrative functions.

Surging Forward is a power of collaboration, from local solutions-based learning and civic engagement with our local community, to deep and productive relationships with a broad array of cross-sector employee partners.

Our achievements are:

- Salary study, Peter R. Johnson Consultants
- Implementation of a full-service human capital management system with integrated payroll, human resources and talent management features
- Town Halls, Monthly Check-In's
- New organizational structure, expansion of Executive Leadership Team



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

On behalf of the Board of Trustees and the greater Goldey-Beacom College community, we extend a heartfelt thank you to all our valued donors who gave students an opportunity to achieve greater.

2021 – 2022

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Visit: <https://www.degives.org/fundraisers/annual-scholarship-fund> to donate to the 2023 Annual Scholarship Fund or email diamona@gbc.edu for more information.





Photo credit: Janine G. Sorbello

Lankford Family Scholarship Fund

Established in 2022, the Lankford Family Scholarship Fund honors two Lankford alumni: Ronald E. Lankford '55 and granddaughter Courtney Savage '05, '06.

Two Generations One Legacy

By: Janine G. Sorbello

"It's been a fortuitous career," said Ronald "Gene" Lankford. "My education and experiences at Goldey-Beacom College became the foundation that prepared me for my career in real estate as well as DuPont and General Foods."

After Lankford graduated from Goldey-Beacom in 1955 (downtown Wilmington) with an Associate Degree in Accounting, he landed a position at DuPont. "My dad worked for DuPont at the factory in Seaford," he said. "After I graduated they hired me. My job was to monitor the freight account – account number 1503, I still remember it."

Later, DuPont sent Lankford to The Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania where he earned an Associate degree in Business in 1962.

While at DuPont, he met Ocean City, Md. realtor and developer, James Caine, who worked on the weekends as an accounting clerk. Caine saw something special in this young man and began to mentor Lankford on how he could become a success in the real estate business.

Convinced that Caine was right, Lankford left DuPont and moved his family to Ocean City, Md to embark on a new career. It was a valiant start, but unfortunately, the March Storm of 1962 wiped out most of the area. Today, it is still considered the worst natural disaster in the history of Ocean City.

"I couldn't wait for a turnaround; my family had to be fed," said Lankford. Not to be defeated, he soon landed a job in the state of Delaware's budget office where he formed what would become lifelong friendships with colleagues and community leaders.

"When General Foods opened a plant in Dover in 1964, I went to work for them – and they decided I needed more education," said Lankford. "They gave me a year off with a salary and paid

my tuition. I was able to transfer all my credits and attend the University of Baltimore for a year, then graduated with my Bachelor's degree in Finance in 1968. I was working and raising a family the entire time."

Lankford advanced quickly, moving to the corporate offices in White Plains, New York. He served as the director of personnel for all General Foods subsidiaries, but his specialty was labor relations. "I represented the Kool-Aid division and negotiated contracts all over the country for the distribution center unions," Lankford said.

As time passed, the travel back and forth from Rehoboth Beach to White Plains was becoming more and more difficult.

Then one day, as he picked up the newspaper, he saw a job opening for the state's director of personnel. On his next trip to New York, he stopped by the governor's mansion (because in those days, you could just show up) and left a resume with the governor's assistant – who happened to be Ruth Ann Minner (Minner went on to become the first female governor of Delaware in 2000).

Two weeks later, he received a phone call from Governor Sherman W. Tribbitt offering him the position. Lankford came on board and served as the director of personnel until the end of Tribbitt's term in 1977.

(Interestingly, Tribbitt attended Beacom College in Wilmington where he studied accounting and briefly worked at the Security Trust Company in Wilmington. Tribbitt served as Governor from January 16, 1973 – January 18, 1977.)

Lankford never returned to corporate life or a government position but became fully involved in real estate and property development.

As he amassed a portfolio of properties, he purchased the Breakers Hotel in 1980 and the Atlantic Sands in 1984. And he didn't stop there.

Lankford became a mentor to Chris and Preston Schell. He partnered on many Schell Brothers projects in several residential joint ventures including

The Tides, Captiva Sands and Oyster Bay, all in Rehoboth Beach. "We also built Paynter's Mill in Milton, and we're currently building Seaglass Apartments with 224 units and expect to be finished within a few months," said Lankford. He is still going strong with his latest project to build the Atlantic Crowne on Baltimore Avenue in Rehoboth Beach.

Now, the family is giving back through the Lankford Family Scholarship Fund. "It's like an insurance policy to encourage and develop young people," said Gene and Courtney. "Starting the Lankford Family Scholarship provides students who want to be successful in life an opportunity to do so."

"My grandfather provided me with an education that no one can take away," Savage added. "We'd like to offer others the same opportunity."

Courtney Savage graduated from Goldey-Beacom College in 2005 with an Associate degree in Accounting and in 2006 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Finance. During her last year at GBC, she held a temporary position at JPMorgan Chase in their Federal Funds department. Following graduation, she accepted a permanent position.

Savage currently works for her grandfather to manage his holdings. So, what is it like to work for a larger-than-life real estate mogul?

"Hard (laughing)," Savage replied. "He's a great mentor and role model. I'm extremely blessed to have his guidance throughout my life. Working with him can be challenging because I'm held to a higher standard. Nothing great is ever achieved without my enduring."

"My grandfather provided me with an education that no one can take away. We'd like to offer others the same opportunity."

Courtney Savage '05, '06

Four New Graduate Psychology Courses

In March 2023, Goldey-Beacom College (GBC) announced the addition of four courses for the Master of Arts in Counseling Psychology (MACP) program which was introduced in fall 2019.

- Career Counseling
- Human Sexuality
- Research Methods and Statistics
- Counseling Theories and Techniques

“Becoming a skilled mental health clinician requires that one be exposed to a variety of topics that impact the human experience as well as to develop ways to effectively work with clients,” said Dr. Colleen Perry Keith, GBC president. “The new coursework in our MACP program provides exposure and skills so that our graduates achieve even better outcomes with their future clients. Mental health and wellness require skilled clinicians, and I believe that GBC is providing the most appropriate and effective education.”

Dr. Gerard Hoefling and Dr. Erin-Lee Kelly, both of whom are assistant professors of psychology at the College, led the effort to enrich the Psychology Department’s curriculum to reflect changes in the industry as well as student needs.



Photo credit: Derek Onger

Dr. Gerard Hoefling, Assistant Professor/MACP, Psychology

Dr. Hoefling and Dr. Kelly said the new courses will explore the interrelationships among and between work, family and other factors including the role of diversity and gender and career development as well as relevant ethical and legal considerations. Courses will also offer career counseling processes, techniques and resources, including those applicable to specific populations.

PSY 644 Career Counseling

This course is designed to provide students with a depth of understanding of relevant theories, issues and practical applications of career counseling. Students will develop an understanding of foundational theories and their respective applications within the diverse field of Counseling Psychology. Students will gain insight into aspects of career counseling, including but not limited to: how to apply career development theories and decision making models.

PSY 640 Human Sexuality

This course will provide students with a developmental model of sexuality and investigate the following topics: developmental impacts on sexuality, intimacy, sexual desire, sexual dysfunction, sexual trauma and sexual identity. This course includes readings to challenge students, conversations to engage them and assignments to help them develop as counselors and scholars. Engagement in the course

with respect for different views and concern for others from all walks of life is integral to the learning process. Students will be able to demonstrate counseling skills appropriate to meet the needs of individuals and couples.

PSY 632 Research Methods and Statistics

This course is designed to expose students to the essential elements of scientific inquiry within psychological research through exploration of accepted practices for effective behavioral research. Students will incorporate methods of quantitative and qualitative design including but not limited to: methods of observation, correlational research, surveys, archival research and quasi-experimental and ex post facto designs. This exploration of scientific research will lead to the ability to apply the basic concepts of probability, common distributions, statistical methods and data analysis. Students will become knowledgeable on how to interpret and perform statistical tests in order to design experiments and interpret the results.

PSY 610 Counseling Theories and Techniques

This course is designed to bridge theory with practice. This course links the theoretical foundations to the application in the practice of counseling. This course will have students explore, Psychodynamic, Person-Centered Theory, Existential Theory, Gestalt Theory, Constructivist Theories, Integrative Theory, Feminist Theory and other diverse theories. Each theory will be considered critically within a cultural context inclusive of gender, race, ethnicity, class, sexual orientation, ability and age. This course is intended to be hands-on with role-play and practice therapy sessions serving as the vehicle for students to begin laying the foundation for their unique identity as counselors and therapists while considering the principles and history of these selected theories.

Through the ups and downs, the laughter and tears . . .



MEET OUR STUDENTS AND ALUMNI

MEET *Salena Mayhall '23*

EARNED: Master of Arts in Counseling Psychology (MACP) '23

By: Janine G. Sorbello

A native Delawarean, Salena Mayhall graduated from Caesar Rodney High School and pursued a college education at West Virginia University, then came back home and enrolled at the University of Delaware to complete her undergraduate degree.

Originally, Mayhall wanted to become an endocrinologist and enrolled in immunology and medical microbiology. She soon realized the chemistry portion of the studies just wasn’t for her, so she did what any other student would do – she switched her major.

Always fascinated by psychology, it was an easy choice. But she was also homesick. That’s why she transferred back to Delaware to finish her degree. In 2021, she graduated from the University of Delaware with a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology and a Bachelor of Arts in Italian Studies.

Mayhall has always leaned toward the idea of applying knowledge, and that’s part of what made Goldey-Beacom an easy choice for the MACP. “I’m not a person who likes conducting the research. I like applying it,” said Mayhall. And with her warm and caring personality and beautiful, welcoming smile, it makes sense that she currently works in a hands-on, clinical environment.

Affordability was also a consideration for her to enroll. “College was always something that my parents wanted for my sisters and me. I’m the youngest, but I’m the first child to complete an undergraduate degree as well as to

pursue a master’s degree,” said Mayhall. “When I came to Goldey-Beacom, I wasn’t expecting to get a scholarship, but I truly needed it. I was very thankful. It meant less assistance on the loan I had to take, so it made it much easier to afford college.”

At first, Mayhall was surprised by the campus atmosphere. “At my previous colleges, there were so many buildings. Coming to such a small campus made me feel closer to my peers,” she said. “I enjoyed the smaller classes because my relationships with the professors felt so much closer. It helped me to build a good rapport.”

Mayhall advises anyone who wants to enroll in the MACP to go at their own pace. “It’s not a race,” she said. “At first, I felt like I had to do everything. But last fall, I needed a mental break, so in my second semester, I didn’t take any classes during the first seven weeks. If you need a break, take it. It will all be there when you come back.”

“And second, listen to your professors,” she added. “Some professors will give you their phone number in case there’s a question or an emergency. It makes the relationship between the professors and students better because we know we can rely on them for information or if we just need help in general.”

Mayhall has been attending classes by zoom as well as in person and graduated in May 2023. She is currently serving practicum hours toward licensure at the Center for Balanced Living.

Photo credit: Salena Mayhall '23



MEET The Racz Family - Father *Peter Racz '13* Daughter and incoming freshman *Kayla Racz '27*

By: Janine G. Sorbello

PETER'S STORY

EARNED: MBA in Finance '13

It was 2002, and Peter and Jennifer Racz had just settled down in a home on Long Island. Life was great, and his career at Verizon was going well. "Then sure enough, I was laid off," Racz said. "So, I decided to go back to Queens College in New York in 2003 to finish my undergraduate degree, and as soon as I graduated, Verizon called me back to work."

But then, the timing was off because Racz had sold his house in Long Island and moved to Delaware to live near his in-laws. He knew it would be a challenge, but he accepted the position and simply traveled back and forth from Delaware to the Verizon office in Manhattan for a year and a half before transferring to the Wilmington office.

As he settled into a new routine, he learned that Verizon offered an employee tuition program that would pay for his MBA. Excited to take advantage of the opportunity, Racz said, "It's always good to have more tools in your toolbox in case something happens or if I want to change my career." He'd heard that Goldey-Beacom was a good school, so he got together with work friends Eric Holland and Bill Daugherty, and the three of them enrolled together in the MBA program.

Peter Racz remarked about the difference between touring a large, university vs. GBC saying, "Goldey-Beacom has a lot of opportunities for internships as well as developing a career path. They have a lot of connections in Delaware."

"We studied together, compared notes during work breaks, and we all graduated in 2013 with our MBAs," said Racz beaming with the satisfaction of a major life achievement. The three of them still work for Verizon today with Racz and Holland on construction sites.

"I work as a fiber slicer," Racz said. "I'm working with fiber optics the diameter of a piece of hair. I fuse them together and make sure everything is running in the right direction. It's intense."

Fast forward a few years, and in 2022 it was time for his daughter Kayla to begin looking at colleges.

KAYLA'S STORY

CURRENT MAJOR: Bachelor of Science in Business Administration '27

Born in Middletown, Delaware, daughter Kayla Racz remarked, "My dad has always talked about Goldey-Beacom and how much he liked his professors." She says it was an easy decision to choose GBC. And with rolling admissions, it didn't take long to learn that she had been accepted.

She booked a tour and from the moment she stepped on campus, she felt at home. "I loved it there, and I knew that was where I wanted to go to college," Kayla said with a warm, broad smile. She had been contemplating large universities in other states, but instantly realized the value of a small school.

She reflected on how GBC was different from other college visits where she felt alone among a sea of people. "The students just really seem to have a better connection compared to other colleges where they walked past each other and didn't speak," said Racz. "At Goldey-Beacom, they were sitting around and talking to each other. My tour guide had friends who came up and started talking to us. It seemed like everyone knew each other, and it was a great place to be."

But as most parents do, Peter and Jennifer focused on affordability. They needed every bit of financial support, especially with their younger son, P.J., who will soon attend college. The entire family was elated to learn Kayla would receive a Merit Scholarship, a Bank of America Scholarship and a Legacy Scholarship to help bring down the cost of her Goldey-Beacom education.

The Racz's attend Accepted Students Day

In April 2023, Peter and Kayla came onto campus to attend Accepted Students Day. They met staff and faculty and learned more about what GBC had to offer. They visited displays representing every department of the College including student affairs, the business office and career services.

With so many opportunities to get involved, Goldey-Beacom presented all of the options. Racz will soon begin exploring her career plans for a business degree. She said, "I took a business class in middle school and one in high school, and I loved it." Like many students, she doesn't have a defined plan following college graduation, but as she says, "I'm hoping I figure it out during college."

At the end of the day, Kayla said, "I loved all the professors and everyone who talked to me. All the staff members were knowledgeable and really nice. I definitely made the right decision."

Peter Racz remarked about the difference between touring a large university vs. GBC. "Goldey-Beacom has a lot of opportunities for internships as well as developing a career path. They have a lot of connections in Delaware. The other universities barely mentioned any of that, as far as internships and building a network with other companies. And that was important for her mother and me."

This fall, you'll see Kayla on campus, and in October, you'll see the entire family for homecoming. And that's what it's all about – the Goldey-Beacom College family.

Photo credit: Racz family



The Racz Family
P.J., Kayla, Peter and Jennifer

MEET *Grace McConkie '16, '19*

EARNED: Associate of Arts, General Studies '16
Bachelor of Science, Business Administration '19

By: Janine G. Sorbello

From Utah to Delaware

Introduce yourself to Grace McConkie and you'll be met with a beautiful smile, bright blue eyes and a warm personality, and when she speaks, it's with knowledge, confidence and a loving spirit.

The daughter of Goldey-Beacom College professor, Dr. Robert McConkie and his wife Flora, she was born in Utah and moved to Delaware at 5 years old to live on the GBC campus where her father had accepted a teaching position. In fact, longtime professors remember Grace and her brothers Taft and Benson riding their bicycles around campus.

Early beginnings

McConkie was home schooled. Following the lead of her older brothers, she skipped high school and started GBC at age 14. They are probably the youngest students in GBC history.

"I've known from a very early age that I wanted to do something with American Sign Language (ASL)," said McConkie. "I saw someone interpreting during a church service, and I fell in love with it. Then I discovered that I love teaching, so I put those two things together and decided to pursue Deaf Education."

As she met people in the Deaf community, she formed deep friendships. She completed an internship at Delaware School for the Deaf with the details finalized by GBC Career Services. She became an asset to the front office communicating with staff and students in ASL. "As a person of faith, I knew it was what God wanted me to do – help the hearing and Deaf worlds understand each other and be a bridge between these two worlds," said McConkie.

"Now, I'm getting my master's degree in Deaf Education from McDaniel College in Westminster, Md. and will graduate

in Dec. 2023," said McConkie. "I've volunteered, interned and worked in the summer program at the Delaware School for the Deaf for several years. I hope to obtain full-time employment at DSD soon and am grateful for the staff members who've welcomed me with open arms into the Deaf community."

McConkie is grateful for the unique opportunities that GBC gave her. Earning a college degree at a young age has enabled her to work toward her lifelong passion in ASL.

Faith has always been important to McConkie and her family. "People are surprised that we're Christian," she said. "As members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, we follow Jesus Christ and try to love every person on earth as our brother and sister; we believe we are all children of God."

Little did McConkie know that her faith would lead her to a lifelong friendship with another Goldey-Beacom student.

Tolson and McConkie meet

"I was in a Microsoft PowerPoint class, and I needed help – desperately," Lynda Tolson said throwing up her hands unapologetically. "It had been decades since I'd been in school, let alone college. And I see little Grace McConkie in class, and I said to myself, what's she doing here? Why is this little girl in a college classroom?"

Initially, Tolson approached this always happy, curly blonde-haired girl (child, as Tolson saw her) and asked if her father knew anyone who could tutor her. "Little Grace", who was only 15 years old at the time, spoke up, "I can tutor you."

Several days later, they were granted permission from her parents and special permission from the College's dean.



The rest can be read and felt in McConkie's journal.

Grace's journal entry

July 2014: "I am a tutor! On the last session of my PowerPoint class, Lynda Tolson (an older, grandmotherly lady) asked me if Dad knew someone who could tutor her in the class. I said that maybe I could! I get paid \$10.00 an hour. So far, I've made \$50. I just love it. I love teaching. It's such a nice feeling to teach someone and see their progress."

July 2014: "Lynda Tolson came to the pancake breakfast with her husband, James. They stayed for two hours!"

Soon, McConkie and Tolson began to enjoy visiting each other's churches as evidenced in an excerpt from a letter McConkie wrote to her brother in Dec. 2014:

"Last night we went to Lynda Tolson's non-denominational Christian church (Seeds of Greatness) for a Christmas program. I was impressed with the love and acceptance shown when Mom and I came to the program with Lynda. People we did not know, and had never met before, wanted to give us hugs, simply because we were friends of Lynda!"

MEET

Lynda Tolson '14, '24

CURRENT MAJOR:
Bachelor of Arts, Human
Services '24

**EARNED: Certificate, Micro-
soft Office Suite Plus '14**

By: Janine G. Sorbello

From Harlem to Delaware

Number nine of 10 children to Elijah and Hayley Riley, Lynda Tolson grew up in Harlem, New York.

It was a busy household growing up in the 50s and 60s. Her parents worked hard and somehow managed to send the kids to summer camp and vacation in the Carolinas to show them the world beyond the streets of Harlem.

She later married James Tolson, raised a family and sent their daughters off to college. A career woman, she was a paraprofessional in New York City. "It kept me close to my children, and I was able to be home when they arrived home from school," Tolson said. "But, after being in the city for so many years, I really wanted out. I was tired of the hustle and bustle of the city."

In 1995, she happened to visit Delaware for a Memorial Day barbecue at her

nephew's home. They loved it and didn't need much convincing to move. It was close to family and offered tax-free shopping. What more could you ask for?

Shortly after arriving in Delaware, Tolson landed a telemarketing position at MBNA America. "Remember, I'm number nine of 10 children," said Tolson. "You don't live in a household with that many people without having a personality of cooperation. MBNA recognized my ability to lead, to teach and to be teachable. I soon moved into a managerial position which I absolutely loved because I was working in the same atmosphere that I grew up in."

Tolson remained at MBNA until she took an early retirement when the bank was sold to Bank of America.

Pursuing a college education

Following the loss of her job at MBNA, Tolson visited the Delaware Department of Labor for guidance and was given an opportunity to attend college. She had waited many years for her own children to finish college, and this was her moment to shine.

"College was a dream come true for me," Tolson said. "My mother and father weren't highly educated, but they were motivating. I realized how blessed I was to begin this journey."

She enrolled at Goldey-Beacom in 2014 and began her journey. Ironically,

Tolson was about to meet someone who would not only provide the academic guidance she needed but who would become a lifelong friend.

A friendship blossoms

During her first GBC class, Tolson met McConkie, a 15-year-old college student and daughter of Flora and Professor Robert McConkie.

As they began studying together, Tolson insisted that McConkie call her Miss Lynda. Well, that didn't last because along with two other out-of-state grandmothers, McConkie had always wanted a Delaware Nana. So somehow, it was Lynda or Nana.

Unfortunately, the Department of Labor funding was limited and Tolson's education journey took a hiatus after a few classes. But her friendship with McConkie flourished.

It wasn't until about five years later in fall 2020, GBC offered a new degree program in human services. This was exactly what Tolson was waiting for. She couldn't call her advisor, Deb Harbaugh, fast enough. And seemingly overnight, Harbaugh made it happen. Tolson was back in College with McConkie cheering her on throughout the entire journey.

Tolson stepped back on campus as one of the most stylish students. With her flawless natural beauty and motherly, compassionate personality, it's no surprise that students gravitate to her for a listening ear and an encouraging word. After all, Lynda Tolson was named after none other than Lynda Carter aka Wonder Woman. How did her mother know this high-energy, outgoing child would one day emulate that character by helping people and becoming a mentor to young people who wanted guidance?

"We don't believe exactly the same thing, but we just have so much in common, and we both feel strongly that God brought us together," said McConkie. "You know, it's not a coincidence that I was in that class and she was in that class. And now almost a decade later, we're still such good friends. We've helped each other through different challenges. And I just love her to pieces."



Photo credit pages 28, 29:
Derek Onger





Photo credit: Janine G. Sorbello

MEET *Juana Henao '19, '21*

EARNED: Bachelor of Science in Business Administration with a concentration in Finance '19

MBA in International Business Management '21

MBA in Financial Management '21

From Bogota, Colombia to Wilmington, Delaware with her younger brother in tow

By: Janine G. Sorbello



Juana Henao's lifelong dream was to move to the United States and attend college, but her only wish as a small child was a little closer to the heart – she prayed every night for a little brother.

As good fortune would have it, both wishes came true.

Born and raised in Bogota, Colombia, her brother Felipe was born seven long years later. Now, she is the oldest of five children. They all remember learning English at an early age mostly because their parents broadcast American television channels where they watched the Cartoon Network and Disney movies like The Little Mermaid.

"I was very lucky as a child to visit Walt Disney World in Florida with my parents every few years," said Henao. "After my first experience in the states, I was obsessed with this country, and very often I would ask my parents if we could move to the U.S."

Henao has been playing soccer since she was seven years old. One day, her third-grade math and English teacher offered game changing advice telling her that it was possible to attend college and play soccer in the U.S. on a scholarship. It wasn't that her parents were poor by Colombian standards, but the exchange rate of the U.S. dollar meant an American education was impossible.

Making sacrifices

She was willing to do anything to achieve her dreams. Instead of a traditional quinceañera, she asked to travel to the U.S. for soccer camp, thus giving up a rite of passage in her culture. It was an incredible sacrifice, but her parents agreed and sent her to visit a family friend in Washington, DC. "Their kids played soccer, and I had the good fortune to attend a soccer training camp at the University of Maryland, Baltimore campus," said Henao. Following her return to Colombia, she announced her intention to attend college in the U.S.

By the time Henao graduated high school, only a few Colombian schools were starting to offer scholarships for soccer. Sadly, only male players received scholarships. Henao knew she had enough talent to play on a college team and was more determined than ever to attend school in the states. Because of NCAA restrictions for students under the age of 18, Henao signed with an agent.

She already loved Washington, DC, so it was easy to direct the agent in that area. She only had a few requirements for her dream college. It had to be located on the East Coast, offer a business administration major, offer a women's soccer program – and above all – offer a scholarship.

Answered prayers – scholarships

With the economy in Colombia not as strong and a high exchange rate, Henao was in desperate need of a scholarship.

"There was no way I could have come to GBC without a scholarship," she said. "But I just knew it was going to work out for me."

After reviewing several offers, Goldey-Beacom was the only school that checked all the boxes. Henao's offer from GBC provided two scholarships: athletics and academics.

After arriving at the College, she was amazed at what she found. "The one thing that really surprised me was the number of international students," she said. "My freshman year, I was in a dorm of six girls, and four of us were international students. It meant that I wasn't the only person going through this, and there were so many other people to connect with on that level."

And for Henao, soccer was a means to an end. "I knew that soccer was the tool I had to use to come to the states," Henao continued. "But it never crossed my mind to pursue it at a professional level. I have a passion for this sport, but I never competed to that level like the other girls on the team."

An early introduction to Career Services

During her freshman year, she was ready to pursue a career. Although she wasn't familiar with how the College's Career Fair operated, she volunteered. "It was a great way to learn how to introduce myself and gain exposure to employers," said Henao. "I attended every year following that. And that's how I landed all my jobs until I graduated."

Henao knew the importance of building a solid resume. After she first settled into her new lifestyle on campus, she soon landed a position as a tutor in the College's Academic Resource Center. She went on to become a library assistant, then spent time working in the Athletics Department and Student Affairs.

"Goldey-Beacom placed me in departments where I had opportunities to build my resume and my professional self," said Henao. "I've been able to talk about these experiences during the many interviews I've had throughout my time as an undergraduate student, a graduate student and now as an alumna."

"Working with Career Services, I was able to land my first job outside of the College – a service position with a local Toyota dealership," said Henao. "When the assignment was finished, I went on to a junior accountant position with Progressive Systems, Inc."

Gratefulness

Henao didn't know where to begin. "There's so many ways Goldey-Beacom has helped me," she said. "The first thing that comes to mind is having

faith in me, giving me the confidence I needed and the opportunity to work on campus."

Following the completion of her MBA program, Henao set her sights on a multinational corporation. Although she achieved her current position through her own sources, Henao says, "All the questions that were asked during the interview, were all related to my experiences and the positions that I held at Goldey-Beacom."

A successful, global career

Today, Henao works for SAP, a German company where she first interned with the global cloud services team. "I was primarily in project management," she said. "And in November 2022, I moved to a full-time position as a project consultant for cloud services."

Giving back has always been important to Henao. She is currently a member of the Alumni Association Board of Directors. Henao says it's a great networking opportunity and encourages alumni to consider joining the board.

But her story doesn't end here. Turn the page, and meet her younger brother, Felipe.



Photo credit: Juana Henao



Photo credit: Janine G. Sorbello

MEET *Felipe Henao Llaña '26*

CURRENT MAJOR: Bachelor of Science in Economics '26

By: Janine G. Sorbello



Answered prayers – a little brother

Despite a seven-year age difference, Felipe Henao Llaña and his sister Juana were always close. After all, she'd only been praying most of her life for a little brother.

As a young boy, Felipe wanted to do everything his big sister did. She played soccer. He played soccer. She attended camp. He attended camp.

However, that came to an end when she wanted to move to the U.S. for college

sports. He couldn't fathom the idea of leaving his native Colombia.

Sibling attachment runs deep, so it's easy to understand why he was devastated when his sister arrived back from a Washington, DC soccer vacation and announced her plans to pursue a college education in the states. Felipe was faced with a difficult separation. He wanted the best for his sister, but his love for familiarity and country prevailed, and he decided to remain in his native Colombia.

Arriving in the states

Felipe said, "I remember it was hard for me, because we were always super close. I never really saw myself in the U.S., but when I flew over for my sister's wedding, we also visited Goldey-Beacom College." That was in 2020, and everything else just fell into place. He soon realized

that he could remain in touch with their parents and other siblings while following in his sister's footsteps to achieve a college degree in the U.S. as well as join a sports team.

A scholarship paved the way

With the College's rolling admissions process, he didn't have to wait long. As a sibling, he earned a Legacy Scholarship as well as a Joseph West Jones Scholarship. And just like his sister, his enrollment into Goldey-Beacom wouldn't have been possible without those scholarships.

"At first, it was a bit hard for me," Llaña began to say. "I was the only international student on the Cross Country Team. Everyone else was from the U.S., but I was able to become friends with so many cool people. There's no difference between cultures as in how we think and get things done. Everyone on the team, from the coach to my teammates, has been super supportive. For me, Goldey-Beacom has been better than I ever dreamed of."

Choosing a major

Choosing a major comes easy for some students. Llaña was no exception as he arrived having been greatly influenced by his grandfather's passion for economics. "One day I was reading a book on economics by Paul A. Samuelson that had belonged to my grandfather," he said. "He wanted to be an economist, but he never graduated from high school. I started reading the book, and I loved it." Reading that book many years ago made Llaña's academic major an easy choice, and in 2026, he'll graduate with a Bachelor of Science degree in Economics.

Mentors

His grandfather hasn't been the only influence in his life. For any student who is thinking about a degree in economics, Llaña is ready to share his thoughts.

"If you said you wanted a degree in economics, I would say there's not a better degree you could have chosen at Goldey-Beacom," he said. "Why? Because you'll have Dr. Kirk Johnson

as a professor. Even my electives were economics classes. I believe the smallest class I've had was seven students – but look at all the attention you get! They're tough classes. You need to pay attention, but Dr. Johnson explains everything in such a way that even a child could understand it."

These days, Llaña works in the GBC business office where he interacts with human resources, finance, career services and athletics.

Felipe feels at home with other international students

Coming to the U.S. wasn't without a few surprises. "The number of international students was surprising," said Llaña. "For example, I would be in the Fitness Center, and I could hear people speaking different languages. And people who spoke the same language were becoming close friends. It was comforting."

Both Juana and Felipe were surprised at how easy it was to complete what would be the most complicated tasks in Bogota. From visiting government offices, getting a driver's license and even a trip from the Philadelphia Airport.

In fact, when asked to describe why Bogota is difficult to maneuver, Juana and Felipe asked, "Have you ever been to New York City during rush hour?" They claim it's absolutely the best comparison to Bogota saying it's just a bigger version of New York City. And compared to the Bogota Airport, they say the Philadelphia International Airport is a walk in the park.

Juana and Felipe offered heartfelt advice to potential students.

"Since it's a smaller college, it's an opportunity to get to know everyone. It's easier to be known among others, and everyone is so friendly. We've been able to talk to a lot of professors even if we didn't have classes with them. It makes your college experience a lot better when you feel that you're welcomed. We just feel like coming here is the best thing that could have happened to us."



Bogota, Colombia
Photo credit: Pexels - Palu Malerba

MEET *David Seeman '24*

CURRENT DOUBLE MAJOR: Bachelor of Science in Entrepreneurial Studies '24

Bachelor of Science in Business Administration with a concentration in Information Technology '24

By: Janine G. Sorbello

It wasn't easy for David Seeman to arrive in the United States. It almost took an act of Congress, but what really happened was even more astonishing.

In 2002, more than 7,000 miles away in South Korea, his adoption to a family in Hockessin, Delaware hit a rough spot and needed help. As native Delawareans, they did the only thing they could – they called their U.S. Senator. The power of that phone call was mighty and within days, a beautiful baby boy arrived at the Newark Liberty International Airport in New Jersey. That U.S. Senator is now president of the United States – yes, it was Joe Biden.

As a kid, Seeman had always been an entrepreneur at heart. He loved money and business. He ran everything from plant

sales to church bake sales and participated in other neighborhood events.

"Originally, I wanted to be a chef," he said. "I've been cooking and baking for a long time. He has produced tons of baked goods, which began as a hobby in middle school, and continues today as he bakes for both faculty and his peers.

His love of entrepreneurship started after working at a home and garden stand at "Fair Between Friends". "I wanted to study entrepreneurship, but I had no idea what business I wanted to go into," said Seeman. "Now, my goal is to go into data analytics. Cooking is just a hobby. I worked in a restaurant and realized I didn't want to make it a career."

But when it came to making a decision about College, it wasn't difficult because

between classes. Since statistics, we've had a few more classes together and we both ended up participating on the Commuter Council this spring. Then I learned he recommended me for the Entrepreneurship Club Committee.

David has become someone I look forward to seeing on campus. He is a fantastic person, an excellent student and a baker extraordinaire. I think I have gained a few pounds from his amazing desserts!

Even though we are decades apart in age, it has been enlightening and enriching to hear his perspectives. Most of all, I think I've learned that there is a bridge to be made between generations that has the potential for strong collaborations and mutual growth. I hope he gets as much out of our friendship and GBC journey as I have. I can see David doing wonderful things in his education, career and life."

Smith agreed that their friendship began as students in the same class studying together and snowballed from there.

GBC offers many courses in its business curriculum. "Goldey-Beacom was in the back of my mind," he said. "I rode past it almost every day. When I finally came on campus, everyone was so nice, and that's what got me."

Seeman is deeply committed to his community. He achieved the rank of Eagle Scout after completing a community service project in the middle of the pandemic in 2020. The project involved repainting the Friendship House, a nonprofit that serves people facing homelessness. As the project required, he created a budget, wrote a proposal and raised the funds to purchase all of the paint and supplies.

It's not surprising that with such a grand entrance into the world that he is full of energy and has a passion for more than one profession. Seeman credits GBC's Career Services for helping him attain an internship with the CSC Smart Tech team.

When asked what advice he has for students who are considering GBC – "Go there and see it for yourself. Great friends. You're not a number like other colleges. Basically, come with an open mind."

They marvel at the relationships they've built with professors including Tom Fleck, Dr. Scott Glenn, Dr. Nicole Evans, Dr. Melvina Brown and many others.

"It's all about the relationships you're able to build with classmates and professors both in and outside class. That's what I love about GBC.

I thoroughly enjoy the friendships that I've made with David and other people in our junior class. It's been amazing. I have a whole new perspective that I didn't have before, and hopefully it's reciprocal. It's been really good for me."



Classmates who became friends.

The truth is . . . they met in statistics. Ask any college graduate if statistics almost pushed them over the edge, and most of them will simply groan and walk away.

In Crystal's words . . .

"I met David in statistics last fall. Everybody was struggling, and he joined a study group another classmate and I started. We soon became study buddies sharing many hours in the library



Photo credit pages 34, 35:
Derek Onger



Photo credit pages 36, 37:
Derek Onger

MEET *Crystal Smith '24*

CURRENT MAJOR: Bachelor of Science in Business Administration with a concentration in Human Resource Management '24

By: Janine G. Sorbello

When you meet Crystal Smith, you'll be drawn to her warm smile, happy personality and professional handshake. Package it with confidence, compassion and human relations knowledge, and you'll swear she is part of an HR team. And you would be correct – she is – for the state of Delaware.

Smith started working at Delaware's Department of Human Resources, Classification and Compensation Unit in March 2023 as a seasonal/casual human resource associate which recently accelerated into an internship.

Smith believes her application for an internship is what caught their eye. "It finally got me in the door. When they noticed my resume, I had interviews with the talent acquisition team, the benefits team and the classification compensation team," she said. "Because of my previous experience, they hired me as a human resource associate. My plan is to work part time while I'm finishing school, and my ultimate goal is to obtain a human resource analyst position when I graduate in May 2024."

No stranger to hard work, Smith's journey hasn't always been easy. As a biracial woman, life has had its challenges, however, her parents worked hard to provide every opportunity for their daughter.

Born and raised in New Jersey, she graduated from Clayton High School in 1998 participating in everything from concert band, jazz band and marching band to becoming drum major in her junior and senior years. Always striving to achieve, she was vice president of student council and played field hockey for two years.

Unfortunately, her father was diagnosed at a young age with early-onset

Alzheimer's disease. The family held close together through those difficult times as she helped her mother to take care of her father and little brother. Smith had just turned 20 years old when he passed away.

Remaining steadfast and strong, Smith enrolled in college and completed classes at Gloucester County College (now Rowan College) and Delaware Technical Community College while working full time before transferring to Goldey-Beacom College as a freshman in 2022.

Since arriving at Goldey-Beacom, she

has earned her way onto the spring 2022 Dean's List and the fall 2022 President's List. She was inducted into the National Society of Leadership and Success and has joined the GBC Entrepreneurship Club and GBC Commuter Council. She plans to take three classes this summer, and in the fall, will take five classes while serving an internship.

Now at 43 years old, Smith's life is the definition of busy. In addition to school and work, she is her mother's caregiver, she is a wife of 10 years and she remains steadfast on her journey toward achieving a college degree.

If it wasn't for grants and scholarships, Smith says her education would be impossible. Receiving a GBC academic achievement scholarship has made a profound difference in her life and will allow her to graduate next year.



Pictured left to right: Entrepreneurship Club scribe Crystal Smith, faculty chair Dr. Scott Glenn and chair David Seeman

The Entrepreneurship Club aims to share ideas, collaborate on projects, access resources and network with College staff and faculty as well as the greater community.

"The GBC Entrepreneurship Club's goal is to not only give real life advice in terms of business, but also to help students tap into the mind of what an entrepreneur is. It's not only business majors, but all majors can tie into entrepreneurship including communication, criminal justice and psychology. If you love business, we're the club for you."

David Seeman

MEET *Melissa Brayman*

CURRENT MAJOR: **Certificate in Accounting**

By: Janine G. Sorbello

When you meet Melissa Brayman, you are instantly drawn in with her amazing, deep brown eyes and stunning island beauty. Born in Costa Rica, she grew up in Newark, Delaware.

From Costa Rica to the U.S., then back to Costa Rica

As a young child, Brayman's entire family moved to the U.S. after her mother had been recruited by the University of Delaware as a French professor. But they still vacationed every summer in their native country.

As you would expect, Brayman is bilingual and speaks English and Spanish. Since her mother worked at UD, it's no surprise that she attended and earned her degree – a Bachelor of Science degree in Entomology with a concentration in wildlife conservation. She said, "At the time, UD only offered it as a concentration, so I chose entomology as a major which goes back to my interest in Costa Rica and studying wildlife. I love anything that involves being in nature."

Living the corporate life

Following college graduation, Brayman returned to Costa Rica where most of her career was spent in insurance, banking and financial services.

Eventually she returned to the United States to work in life insurance operations with HSBC until her position was eliminated in 2011. However, they announced expansion into the Latin American and Asian markets.

"They put more resources into their operations, and that was my opportunity to transfer. I became a senior branch manager for HSBC Latin America."

My daughter was entering kindergarten, and we had transitioned to Costa Rica thinking it would be a three-to-five-year

period working for HSBC, Costa Rica.

Unfortunately, HSBC sold to a Colombian bank a year later. "I lost my job and tried to figure out what to do," Brayman said. "I opened a beach restaurant with seafood and American fare. I did a little bit of everything during those four years that I lived in Costa Rica," she added.

Interestingly, what Brayman thought would be paradise living in her native country soon came with the realization that she had become very Americanized.

Although she had been visiting Costa Rica her entire life, she realized that working and living there were quite different from simply visiting. It was a difficult transition not to mention the difference in salary and cost of living.

The final return to the U.S.

"Costa Rica kind of chewed me up and spit me back out again," said Brayman. So she decided to come back to the United States. "I came back with nothing actually – just my clothes and my laptop, and I started over." Initially, she began working part time at UD then transitioned back to the insurance field.

By 2020, the Delaware State Chamber of Commerce had an open role in finance and operations. This became the opportunity that landed Brayman where she is today. But, just to add some chaos to keep life interesting, Brayman's first day at the DSCC was March 18, 2020 – the same week as the COVID shutdown.

"One of my strengths is that I'm a fast and curious learner," said Brayman "I need to know why something is a certain way. I have to dig a little deeper."

That experience has built confidence and direction for Brayman. "Being in my current role has made me see what I want to build as a career," she said. "I want to continue in a financial or operational role, either within the organization or elsewhere. Perhaps move up to a controller role."

Enrolling at Goldey-Beacom

This determination prompted her to pursue a Post-Baccalaureate Certificate in Accounting, but why Goldey-Beacom?

Proximity was a factor in Brayman's decision to enroll in finance and accounting classes. "I'm a busy single Mom who runs back and forth to school as well as my own work schedule and for my daughter's extracurricular schedule," she said. "I have a limited amount of time, so being close to the College was definitely a factor in my decision."

Brayman's first course introduced her to Dr. Deborah Leitsch for Principles of Accounting. "I've enjoyed her classes very much, and the fact that the classes are fast paced, I don't get bored," says Brayman. "Dr. Leitsch keeps that pace moving. I make sure that I read the material thoroughly so I can keep up. I'm very happy."

Brayman was pleasantly surprised by

the feel of a small campus. "I felt like during my undergrad experience at a large university, I didn't really get to know anyone," she said. "I didn't really form any bonds, but I can see how that opportunity would exist at Goldey-Beacom because it's a small campus."

In fact, a small campus makes enrollment super-fast and easy. "It's a no brainer," she said instantly. "I was able to make a decision to do this, get enrolled and start classes within a quick turnaround time. And it's affordable. The classes are eight-week modules. I love it because you can knock out a few courses in a short amount of time."

An alumna in the family

Brayman shared that she is not the first Goldey-Beacom graduate in her family. Her sister, Michelle Brayman, graduated in 2021 with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration.

Pictured below: Sisters Michelle Brayman '21 and Melissa Brayman





MEET

Maria Bruno '22, '24

CURRENT MAJOR: MBA, International Business Management '24

EARNED: Bachelor of Arts, Media and Communications '22

By: Janine G. Sorbello

When you meet Maria Alejandro Mariale Taguaruco Bruno, you are instantly met with her gorgeous smile, bright blue eyes and a magnetic personality that speaks without words. It says – I'm fierce, but a little shy; I'm competitive, but compassionate.

Bruno was born and raised in Maracay, Aragua State, near the Caribbean Sea in Venezuela, a country in South America. It's most known for Angel Falls, the world's highest waterfall and for being called the Garden City for its large amount of vegetation.

You'd expect many cultural differences between two countries with opposing political systems, but it brings a smile to learn that Bruno grew up watching American television – and her favorite show – Friends.

Achieving the dream of playing tennis and attending college

Since Venezuela was going through a political economic situation, her parents knew that she wouldn't be able to play professional sports in their home country. But 12-year-old Bruno wanted nothing more than to come to the United States to achieve a college degree, play tennis and land a career.

Tennis lessons were expensive in Venezuela, but her parents Maria Alejandra Taguaruco and Marco Antonio Bruno spent years of sacrificing so that she and her siblings could play sports. When Bruno graduated high school from Colegio La Concepcion, there were only two things standing in the way of achieving her dreams – a plane ticket and a scholarship.

Like many international students who want to play sports in America, Bruno started the process by having her coaches send a sports video and a resume to American colleges and universities. She was accepted by several colleges, but not offered a scholarship. Then the family remembered Bruno's cousin, Melanie Bonomo, who had played tennis for Goldey-Beacom.

The phone call that changed Maria's life

It was late spring 2018 – a few phone calls were exchanged – and then Bruno's phone rang. It was longtime head tennis coach Joe Kissel who introduced himself and said, "Maria, I saw your video and your resume, and I really want you on my team. I'm giving you a scholarship."

Bruno was elated that she would receive a scholarship that would make her dreams come true. It would enable her to come to America, achieve a college education and join a competitive college tennis team. It was the key to her professional growth and independence.

"My scholarships gave me the opportunity to study here," said Bruno. "I wanted to achieve a degree and graduate here in the U.S. My scholarships gave me the opportunity to keep playing tennis which is one of the things that I love. It meant I was able

to pursue more opportunities for my professional career."

A busy student life

In addition to a busy academic schedule, Bruno is captain of the Tennis Team and has spent the last five years playing the sport (except 2020 due to COVID).

Initially, balancing classes, homework and athletics during her final semester in 2022 wasn't easy. Loaded with seven or eight undergrad classes, Bruno said, "Oh my gosh, it was hard. I was waking up early and doing homework all day. Sometimes I could do homework in the Fitness Center if it wasn't too busy."

She is currently in her second year working toward an MBA in International Business Management with the anticipated graduation date of May 2024. She is also a resident assistant (RA) and works for the Department of Athletics. She takes fewer (but more difficult) classes giving her the entire week to study and prepare for classes.

GBC's Career Services has helped her to explore internships and potential jobs. "This would have been 10 times harder if I stayed home in Venezuela," Bruno said. "Here, I have the resources, the connections and people who will help me become even more successful."

"My scholarships gave me the opportunity to study here," said Bruno. "I wanted to achieve a degree and graduate here in the U.S. My scholarships gave me the opportunity to keep playing tennis which is one of the things that I love. It meant I was able to pursue more opportunities for my professional career."

Maria Bruno '22, '24

As Bruno begins to wrap up her GBC education, she's focused on the future. "I love sports in general, not just tennis," says Bruno. She hasn't pinpointed a career, but she has time and opportunity. As a fluent English and Spanish speaker, she'll be armed with two degrees, work experience, a passion for sports and a world of choices in front of her.

Looking back

As Bruno reflects on her time at GBC, she says, "One of my first classes was humanities with Dr. Mary Wheeling. She became one of my favorite professors. I took a humanities class with her and now five years later, she still asks how I'm doing. Humanities was so hard because it was history and culture. I remember studying for tests, and I used to copy everything in Spanish and then translate it, so it would take hours. But I got an A, and I was so happy!"

As she continued reminiscing about undergrad classes, she said, "Dr. Bill Rivers is a great professor, too. I learned how to write a good essay."

Bruno hasn't always been immersed in studies. She and her friends once took a train to Philadelphia to visit to a Venezuelan restaurant. To her surprise, "It was like being at home, complete with a Spanish menu and Venezuelan owners."

During a recent trip to New York City, she stayed at an Air B&B, ate in little Italy and went to a Spanish club.

Maria Bruno's advice for new and potential GBC students:

- Take advantage that Goldey-Beacom is a small school. You can't get lost.
- Just be yourself and meet new people.
- Visit Career Services to work on your resume.
- Go speak to your advisor about classes and scheduling.



• If you come to the dining hall in pajamas, no one cares.

• Attend College events, if you show up, the right opportunities will come to you.

• In general, Americans don't care if you say something the wrong way. They are going to forget by the next day.



• Meet everyone you can, and don't be shy.

2022 Convocation



2022 Convocation



2022 Unity Walk

Goldey-Beacom College hosted its second annual Convocation on Friday, August 19, 2022. Beginning at 11:00 a.m., students, faculty, trustees, elected officials and community guests gathered to kick-off the 2022-2023 academic year. Preceded by a bagpipes procession, President Colleen Perry Keith addressed attendees with College updates, future plans and what to expect during the upcoming academic cycle. Other highlights included a Lightning Unity Walk followed by a community BBQ.

Dr. Keith welcomed the class of 2026 saying, “Convocation is one of many “beginnings” in these early days. This morning we call together the Class of 2026’s entry into the academic community that is Goldey-Beacom College. The next time you will be together as a class — just you — will be in May 2026 when you walk across the stage in the gym to receive your diplomas. So think of this convocation and your commencement as the bookends of your college experience.”

All pictures on pages 46 & 47 courtesy of Lightning Studio.

2022 Excellence in Teaching Award

Dr. Nicole Evans received the 2022 Excellence in Teaching Award. Joining the faculty in 2015, Evans has compiled an exemplary record of teaching and service. She earned a promotion in rank from assistant professor to associate professor in fall 2021.



Dr. Nicole Evans, associate professor, management

Dr. Evans brought an 18-year career in financial consulting and management which demonstrated her versatility and well-rounded business experience. Students truly benefit from and appreciate real-world examples that provide practical applications of abstract business principles.

Dr. Evans mentors students in the human resource field. She has held key roles in the Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM) and is involved in the student chapter. She works closely with the Athletics Department as the Leadership Chairperson of the Athletics Leadership Academy for GBC student-athletes.

Dr. Evans holds a Bachelor’s degree in Institutional Management from the University of Delaware, a Master of Science degree in Human Resources Management and a Doctor of Business Administration degree, both from Wilmington University.

Dr. Evans works closely with students to improve their communication skills, attention to practical application,

enthusiasm and passion, and creativity and innovation with class assignments and projects.

Here are some things that students have said about Dr. Evans:

“This professor often encourages students to participate in various topics during their lecture. They give space to students to share their experiences and thoughts.”

“The way this professor teaches is very helpful and they always want to help and be there for their students.”

“The instructor seems to really understand what they are teaching and is passionate about it. Having a passionate professor can make the class not only easier to understand, but more enjoyable.”

“This faculty member is good at keeping the class’s attention and has a very sweet personality as well; she is a great character and person outside of the classroom.”

PRESIDENT’S SERVICE AWARD

President Colleen Perry Keith presented the inaugural President’s Service Award at the 2022 Convocation. A donor-funded award, this award recognizes employees for extraordinary service to the College. All employees except for those on the Executive Leadership Team are eligible for the award as long as they have been employed for a minimum of three years. Both recipients received a cash award of \$1,000 each.

Dr. Melvina Brown has been an adjunct faculty member since 2019 and is also an alumna of the college. She teaches undergraduate, masters and doctoral classes. Her service and commitment to the students and the college overall have been a continued nature from her first day at the College. She is genuinely a very good person and the students can feel this right away. She has served the college through hours of unpaid committee work on both the DBA Steering Committee and the Comprehensive Exam Committee. She has developed courses and programs for the College – all without remuneration – because she believes in the work she is doing and she loves the College.

What people have said:

- *“When working with staff, her calm, pleasant, patient demeanor prevails no matter what her true level of frustration may be.”*
- *“I have watched her move equipment in 100 degree weather as well as in freezing cold temperatures.”*
- *“She is a constant faculty support, student mentor and valued colleague.”*
- *“At a pragmatic level, her efforts simply improve the ease and efficiency of the College’s operations. This in turn helps reduce stress, frustration and anxiety that often accompanies many workplaces.”*
- *“She is involved in many organizations outside of the College and is always eager to include employees in those groups or events. As the College continues to change and grow its reach in the community, people like her are essential in that endeavor.”*
- *“She continually goes out of her way for others.”*

Mr. Meezie Foster has been a member of the staff since 1999. He has taken every opportunity to tackle new responsibilities and challenges for the betterment of the College. Over the years, he has taken on new roles and learned through formalized training and education but more so from his own research and desire to understand. He earned his undergraduate and graduate degrees while working at the College full time and understands how his work impacts, not only our students, but everyone at GBC. When the College embarked on a \$30 million campus enhancement project, it was our “facility guy” who tirelessly worked to ensure the project was finished on time and within budget. While most of us were working at home during the COVID-19 pandemic, Foster made sure the campus was clean and safe and spent countless hours ensuring that we had a campus ready to come back to. He is on call 24/7 and does many tasks that the rest of us take for granted.

What people have said:

- *“He is more than an employee. He is really connected with the student population. He is always supportive of the staff and students and also attends GBC sports events.”*
- *“He is always willing to jump in and offer help when asked and does so with a smile. He is the definition of what “going above and beyond” means in the workplace.”*
- *“In a changing situation, he has made sure we change with it. There are so many things he does behind the scenes that enable us to do our jobs. His work helps all of us to make the students the number one priority and helps the College continue to grow.”*



Dr. Melvina Brown, '84, adjunct faculty, DBA



Meezie Foster, '04, '17 director of facilities and plant operations

On October 22, 2022, GBC alumni and friends gathered to honor inductees at the Distinguished Alumni Gallery Brunch held at the GBC Event Center. Bernard Tynes '16 and Charles Bisciegla '70 were inducted into the Distinguished Alumni Gallery. Christine Rich '11 received the Rising Star award, and Adelaide Orsini '48 received the inaugural Presidential Award. The next awards banquet will be in 2024, and you can nominate an alumni anytime by visiting <https://www.gbc.edu/alumni-and-giving/alumni.html>

2022 Distinguished Alumni Gallery



Charles Bisciegla '70

Charles Bisciegla is the former chairman, CEO and president of South Jersey Industries, having retired in 2004 after 37 years. He remained on the board of directors until 2006. His vision for the company, and its family of companies, was instrumental in the growth and success of the energy and energy-related services.

Bisciegla is a firm believer that executives should guide, advise and foster strong successions, and after the transition has been successfully made, step aside to let the next generation lead. "There comes a time when CEOs need to move on and let new ideas and competencies grow a company," said Bisciegla.

In 2006, Bisciegla became chair of the Board of Trustees at Shore Memorial Hospital where he was instrumental in navigating the challenges of the constantly changing healthcare industry. Bisciegla has been the recipient of several awards, including the Atlantic City Chamber of Commerce 2000 Businessman of the Year, the 2001 March of Dimes F.D.R. Community Service Award and the 2001 Bailey Award presented by the press of Atlantic City in recognition of selfless and generous efforts to improve the quality of life in the community.

He has received the Family Service Association's 2002 Henry West Leeds Corporate Award for Strengthening the Community as well as the 2003 Mainlander of the Year presented by the Atlantic County Chamber of Commerce. He has been a respected member of the community and has also received the Distinguished Service Award from the New Jersey Utilities Association which honors special individuals who have made positive and significant contributions to the state. Bisciegla lives in Egg Harbor Township, N.J. with his wife Susan.



K. Bernard Tynes '16

Bernard Tynes has more than a decade of experience developing and leading teams to define and deliver differentiated brand experiences and communication strategies that grow market share and build customer loyalty in the financial services sector. For several years, he has served as senior vice president of marketing and communications at Penn Community Bank, the largest mutual bank in eastern Pennsylvania. In January 2023, Tynes became the chief marketing and impact officer. This executive role combines and expands the responsibility and oversight of traditional marketing and communications, while closely focusing on the bank's commitment to meaningful philanthropic impact across the region. In this role, Tynes will also serve as the executive director of the bank's charitable foundation.

While at GBC, Tynes grew a passion for diversity, equity and inclusion. Now, that passion can be seen in his involvement with state and national industry groups, including as a board director of the Pennsylvania Bankers Association, where he was a founding member of the organization's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Advisory Council. Regionally, Tynes volunteers his time and talents to a number of nonprofits and community groups, including as a board director of the United Way of Bucks County. For his efforts, Tynes has been recognized by the Philadelphia Business Journal as part of its Forty Under 40 program and Diversity Leader in Business awards, as well as being named one of Philadelphia's young African American leaders to watch by the Philadelphia Tribune. In addition to being a GBC graduate, he has also completed the University of Pennsylvania's Executive Certificate in Business Analytics. He is currently pursuing an MBA at GBC. Tynes lives in Montgomery County, Pa. and enjoys spending time with his children, fitness and the beach.

2022 Rising Star



Christine Rich '11

Christine Rich graduated from Goldey-Beacom College in 2011 with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration with a concentration in Marketing Management. Rich is currently completing her Doctorate in Higher Education Leadership and Innovation while serving as a technology adjunct professor at a local university. With a late diagnosis of ADHD and other mental and physically limiting diagnoses, she understands the importance of time management and is currently developing a time management webinar specifically for higher education students.

Rich lives by the motto "turn your adversities into opportunities." In 2014, she was the recipient of Wilmington University's Trustees' Award for Service for her philanthropic contribution to the university and the local community. In 2015, she was given a proclamation from Delaware's Governor for her philanthropic contributions to the state. Also in 2015, Rich became the first Delaware representative to place in the top 15 at Mrs. United States. She was the captain of the Baltimore Ravens appearance squad, the Playmakers, during their Super Bowl winning season. She is a former professional cheerleader in Major League Lacrosse and was featured on ESPN.

In 2017, Rich founded her business, Blue Palm Sunless Studio, a luxury sunless studio in Middletown, Delaware. She expanded the company by successfully launching Delaware's first sunless product line in May 2022. In 2019, Rich was recognized as one of Delaware's 40 Under 40 by Delaware Business Times. Also in 2022, she presented at GBC's TEDx Women in Business series.

After placing runner-up three times, Rich again represented Delaware and won the title of Mrs. USA Earth 2022 making Rich the first Mrs. delegate from Delaware to bring home a national title. She has been featured on podcasts, national news, and local media and radio stations. She serves as an ambassador for oceanic conservation and an advocate for mental health and invisible disabilities. Rich lives in Middletown, Delaware with her husband Caleb and their son Talan.

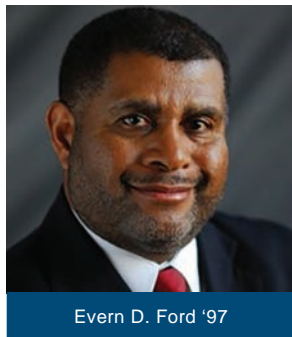
2022 Presidential Award



Adelaide Orsini '48

Adelaide Orsini is a household name at Goldey-Beacom College. As a graduate of Beacom Business School in 1948, Orsini started her career at WSFS Mutual Savings Bank as a stenographer, ironically because she didn't pass the shorthand test the first time around. For 36 years, she was the executive secretary to the president of the bank, and retired in 1984. Wanting to continue to work, she started one month later at Delaware Trust and remained in a secretarial role there for 10 years. Orsini has been a member of the GBC Alumni Association Board of Directors for many years, and in 1982 received the Distinguished Alumni Award. In her spare time, Orsini enjoys the arts such as opera, classical music and the theater. As a young woman, she took voice lessons and was a member of the choir at St. Anthony's Parish in Wilmington for many years. When speaking about GBC, "It made me who I am, and I am very proud of that." Orsini currently resides in Wilmington and spends time with her many neighbors and friends.

A Message from the Alumni Association Board President



Evren D. Ford '97

On behalf of the Alumni Association Board of Directors, I welcome you to our community.

One of our goals is to preserve a mutually beneficial, enduring relationship among alumni and with the College. As your representatives, we are constantly seeking meaningful ways to embrace your needs and unite our efforts in the name of Goldey-Beacom College.

I urge you to become an active alum and share in the exciting activities and opportunities this organization has to offer. There are a variety of ways you can show appreciation and play a part in Goldey-Beacom's continued success. This includes attending events, cheering for our teams, staying connected to each other and the College, and of course, offering your time and gifts to help GBC students. You can get involved with the Alumni Association, read about inspiring alumni accomplishments, find out about upcoming alumni activities, learn about on-campus events, volunteer and much more.

Wherever you are, at whatever stage of life you are in, there's something here for you. The Board of Directors and I encourage you to engage with the Alumni Association and maintain your personal connection to the College.

We are excited about the direction and future of the GBC Alumni Association and look forward to serving and sharing information with you throughout the year. Choose to support the Alumni Association and better yet, become a member of the Board of Directors and share experiences with us as we raise funds to support our student scholarships and student activities. If you are interested in learning more about what we do as a Board of Directors please contact Daniel Dunlap or Kevin Lamb, co-chairs of our Membership Committee. Amy Diamond, events and alumni engagement coordinator, diamona@gbc.edu can put you in touch with them.

Evren D. Ford

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



SAVE THE DATE

Join the GBC Alumni Association for these upcoming events:

Saturday, June 24, 4:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Lightning Strikes the Vineyard at Paradocx Vineyard, Landenberg, PA

Look for the GBC Tent at Paradocx Vineyard for their 2nd Annual Food Truck Festival. BYO chair and blanket – hang out, listen to good music, enjoy great food, wine and beer. Fun for the whole family!

Saturday, July 8, 7:00 p.m.

Tiki Boat Cruise, Wilmington, DE

Spend an evening on the water and cruise the historic Christina River on the coolest Tiki Boat in town. Departing from the Wilmington Riverfront near Iron Hill Brewery and Taco Grande along the Riverwalk, you and your guests can sip on island-inspired cocktails (cash bar), beer or seltzer along with fellow alumni in a tropical atmosphere. \$40 per person. Purchase tickets here: <https://cbo.io/tickets/gbc/tiki>

Friday, August 4, 7:05 p.m.

GBC Night at the Blue Rocks, Wilmington, DE

Spend an evening with fellow alumni and families at the Wilmington Blue Rocks. \$30 per person includes a suite-level seat and fireworks after the game. Purchase tickets for you and your family here: <https://cbo.io/tickets/gbc/brgame>

October 6 – 8

Homecoming

Stay tuned to social media for more information.

Saturday, November 4, 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Fall Craft Fair at the GBC Event Center

Bigger and better than last year! Details coming soon on GBC social media.

Alumni Events – Fall 2022 and Winter 2023 Recap

February 26, 2022 – Hoop it Up

The Men's and Women's Basketball Teams took on Bloomfield College. The Men's Team lost, but the Women's Team scored a 30-point victory. The Alumni Hospitality Suite served up corn dogs and other game-day snacks.

March 24, 2022 – Delaware Blue Coats Game

The Delaware Blue Coats welcomed GBC alumni and families with their own suite complete with a nacho bar. Even though the home team lost, everyone had a great time mingling and watching the game.

July 11, 2022 – Lightning Strikes the Vineyard

The Chadds Ford Winery hosted the Alumni Association and friends on July 11 for Lightning Strikes the Vineyard. While it was a fiery summer evening, guests cooled off with sips of wine and tasty charcuterie plates under a lovely tent.

October 7 – 9, 2022 – Homecoming

The 2022 Homecoming and Lightning Family Weekend took place October 7-9. The weekend was filled with sports games, food and family fun. Softball and soccer games took place on the outdoor fields. Food trucks, bounce houses and vendors were on the sidelines. Volleyball and basketball games were

held in the gym, with the Alumni Hospitality Suite hosting alumni from all decades. It was all smiles, all weekend.

November 5, 2022 - Craft Fair

The Alumni Association hosted their first Craft Fair in the GBC Event Center. With over 45 vendors selling hand-made goods, more than 400 shoppers attended. Many vendors said it was the best event they have attended. The Alumni Association raised over \$3,000 for student scholarships and alumni events.



Above: left to right: Bernard Tynes, Adelaide Orsini, Christine Rich and Charles Bisciegla





Left to right, Alison Boord White, Kristine M. Santomauro and Dr. Deborah L. Leitsch

GOLDEY-BEACOM COLLEGE RETIREMENTS

On April 21, 2023, Goldey-Beacom College hosted a retirement luncheon to say goodbye (for now) and best wishes to three longtime College employees:

- 35 years** **Kristine M. Santomauro**, executive vice president
- 44 years** **Alison Boord White**, provost and vice president for academic affairs
- 28 years** **Dr. Deborah L. Leitsch**, professor, accounting and accounting information systems

Photo credit, left: Lightning Studio



Above: Kristine M. Santomauro (center), son Joey Santomauro (left), husband Joey Santomauro (right)



Kristine M. Santomauro executive vice president

Kristine M. Santomauro graduated from Goldey-Beacom College in 1988 with a bachelor's degree in accounting (honors program) and earned a master's degree in accounting from Widener University in 1992. Upon receiving her bachelor's degree, she began her employment with the College as the accounting coordinator. She ascended the ranks to controller, director of financial services, treasurer, and vice president and served as the College's chief financial officer under three College presidents. In addition to all financial operations, she presided over the administration of facilities, information technology, human resources and enrollment management.

She implemented financial policies that produced a strong financial position for the College and generated budget surpluses for over three decades while stewarding the growth of the College's endowment fund from \$1M to over \$200M. She has designed and implemented all campus aesthetics throughout her tenure. Most recently, she spearheaded the \$30M campus enhancement project, which included the additions of a five-story residence hall (William A Franta Hall), an event center, and an athletic wing, and the massive remodeling of the Joseph West Jones Center. In 2011, she was inducted into the Goldey-Beacom College Distinguished Alumni Gallery. She will retire June 30, 2023, to spend more time with her husband and son and to enjoy her newly renovated beach home. Photo credit, top left, right: Kristine M. Santomauro; bottom: Lightning Studio

Alison Boord White provost/vice president for academic affairs

Alison Boord White joined the staff at Goldey-Beacom College in December 1979 after graduating from the University of Delaware with a bachelor's degree in American Studies. In 2000, she earned an MBA with a concentration in Human Resource Management from GBC and graduated with highest honors. She has worked in many offices at the College throughout her 44-year stint with long stretches in advising, admissions and most recently in academic affairs for the past 20 years. White says one of her favorite roles at the College was as director of academic advisement because she worked directly with students on a regular basis. She also enjoyed teaching management classes at the College.

During her three years as director of the MBA program, she created a less quantitative alternative graduate program for students through the Master of Management degree which has maintained steady enrollment over the years. While she was the recruiter, the MBA program more than doubled in enrollment. She has also served as the Primary Designated School Official (PDSO) for the College's international students.

Her hard work on passing the first non-business degrees through the approval process for the state's Department of Education started the College on a curriculum expansion that is still gaining speed. White introduced the Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology in 2009, followed by criminal justice and English in 2011 and the Master of Arts in Counseling Psychology in 2018.

Her longtime, tireless efforts in the assessment and accreditation have led to unqualified decisions for reaccreditation and accolades from the College's accrediting agencies: Middle States Council of Higher Education (MSCHE) and Accreditation Council for Business Schools and Programs (ACBSP). White is an active volunteer for MSCHE, working on various committees and serving as a peer reviewer. She will retire June 30, 2023, to spend more time in her Maine cabin and dote on her grandchildren.



Photo credit: Lightning Studio

Above: left to right, Andy Neuman (Chelsea's husband) with their son Nolan; Alison Boord White, her husband Tim White, their son Sam White, daughter Chelsea Neuman holding Wally



Photo credit: Lightning Studio

Above: Dr. Deborah L. Leitsch (center) with sons Matt Leitsch (left) and Chris Leitsch (right)

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

Dr. Deborah L. Leitsch joined the Goldey-Beacom College faculty at the start of 1995, teaching accounting, and she retires still teaching accounting. Beginning as a lecturer during her time at the College, Dr. Leitsch has earned her doctoral degree from the University of Sarasota, has moved up the faculty ranks to full professorship, and has ascended to the role of cluster coordinator, and then chair of the business department.

She has been recognized with the College's Excellence in Teaching Award, not once but twice during her tenure at the College, in 2003 and 2020. The special projects she has worked on outside the classroom and in service to the College are innumerable, and she is without question one of the hardest working faculty members this College has ever employed. She retires this year to ... continue teaching accounting as an adjunct instructor at Goldey-Beacom College.



In Memoriam

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

Howard S. Abbott, Jr., Georgetown, DE 8/5/2022

Norris Abrams, Jr., Rising Sun, MD 4/4/2022

Albert Ament, Wilmington, DE 7/29/2022

George L. Anderson, West Grove, PA 5/10/2022

Diana Barry, Hockessin, DE 7/27/2022

Mary “Winnie” Blachowicz, Wilmington, DE 9/1/2022

Mary Lou Boyce, Wilmington, DE 7/29/2022

Edith Brady, Punta Gorda, FL 5/25/2022

Mildred Mitchell Brown, Parksley, VA 9/11/2022

Helen S. Budd, Wilmington, DE 2/5/2023

Donald Campbell, Selbyville, DE 8/8/2022

Edward Bates Carter, Lewes, DE 6/25/2022

George Harvey Cleaves, Kennett Square, PA 7/12/2022

Victorine “Vicky” Colombo Bullen, Wilmington, DE 10/16/2022

Richard Cordrey, Millsboro, DE 8/21/2022

John E. “Jack” Cosgrove, West Chester, PA 6/11/2022

Jeanette Craig, Sebastian FL 6/13/2022

Edward Leroy Davidson Jr., Centerville, DE 7/30/2022

Charles Davis, Denton, MD 7/25/2022

Marilyn Depue (Hubbard), Winter Haven, FL 8/20/2022

Emidio “Motts” DiMatteo, Wilmington, DE 8/24/2022

Harold Dodd, Rehoboth Beach, DE 7/18/2022

William H. Dryden III, Northeast MD 4/23/2022

Lois Eileen Dugan, Bel Air, MD 4/19/2022

Charles J. Ettinger, Wilmington, DE 9/3/2022

Shirley Ferrante, Ocean City, MD 9/13/2022

Michael Evanco, Landenberg, PA 10/24/2022

George Fersch, Magnolia, DE 4/15/2023

Shirley K. Fischer, Newark, DE 4/9/2022

Elizabeth O. Fisher, Laurel, DE 8/1/2022

Edna Jayne Flaherty, Baltimore, MD 7/23/2022

Louise Fortner, Wilmington, DE 12/16/2022

Marcia Frey, Lancaster, PA 9/11/2022

Sheilah Gray, Wilmington, DE 3/27/2022

Sewell Grier, Wilmington, DE 2/18/2023

Kathleen Haley, Wilmington, DE3/25/2022

Norman Hasson, Rising Sun, MD 5/21/2023

Anne Hayman, Wilmington, DE 12/29/2022

Elizabeth Heanlein, Newark, DE 9/25/2022

Charles Oliver Davis, Denton, MD 7/25/2022

Karen Eileen Holloway, Hebron, MD 9/12/2022

Jamie Hudson, Elkton, MD 1/20/2023

Anthony N. Imbalzano, Carbondale, PA 5/2/2022

Judith “Judy” T. Jones, Camden-Wyoming, DE 8/2/2022

Joanna Blake Jordin, Rehoboth Beach, DE 8/10/2022

Thelma Sally Julien, Ocala, FL 7/18/2022

William Howard Kent, Wilmington, DE 10/28/2020

Henry Earl King Jr., Bear, DE 4/1/2022

William H. Knikitich, North Port, FL 4/30/2022

Denise Knotts, Newark, DE 2/4/2023

Elizabeth “Betty” B. Kreider, Quarryville, PA 5/23/2022

Esther Krueger, Smyrna, DE 4/12/2023

Jewel Levering, Lewes, DE 12/31/2022

John “Jack” Lewis, Dover, DE 8/22/2021

Robert Lloyd, Hesston, PA 2/25/2023

Bessie “Bess” Lobel (nee We), Wilmington, DE 8/11/2022

Jane Long, Salisbury, MD 4/14/2022

Anne Mason, Accomac, VA 2/8/2021

Dorothy Bush Messick, Wilmington, DE 7/2/2022

Carol A. Montague, Seaford, DE 4/19/2022

Wayne Morris, Salisbury, MD 2/5/2023

Barbara A. Mulford, Hockessin, DE 1/26/2023

Robert S. Murphy, Millsboro, DE 5/4/2022

Alfred Nai Wilmington, DE 12/28/2022

John (Jack) Thomas O’Connell, Kennett Square, PA 12/6/2022

Stephen E. Paradis, Cambridge, MD 11/1/2022

Fayetta B. Parsell, Smyrna, DE 6/24/22

Walter D. Peretiatko, Jr., Lewes, DE 7/8/2022

Violet Tribbett Phelps, Dover, DE 12/22/2022

Robert Pierson, Oxford, PA 7/1/2022

Mike Pinto, Newark, DE 9/11/2022

Robert Marden Prettyman, Winder, GA 5/22/2022

Walter Reed, New Castle, DE 7/13/2022

Edward C. “Ed” Reppert, Lebanon, PA 6/13/2022

Joanne Memere Robbins Fry, Rehoboth, DE 5/27/2022

Herman Thomas Rogers, Millbsoro, DE 8/12/2022

Marilyn Carol Ross, Chadds Ford, PA 4/30/2022

Edith Sanders, Wilmington, DE 7/4/2022

Douglas Mark Schwanger, Lancaster, PA 4/28/2022

Alfina Seelig, Newark, DE 7/27/2022

Doris Shriver Kiziah, Richmond, VA 9/30/2022

Paul Smallwood, Newark, DE 11/13/2022

Nancie Smedley, Johnson City, TN 3/21/2022

Stanley John Smith, Laurel, DE 8/15/2022

Ella Jane (Williams) Sommers, Elkton, MD 3/19/2023

Margie Ann Starkey, Falls Church, VA 8/6/2022

Martin Steinberg, Groveland, FL 3/4/2023

Pamela Stewart, Newark, DE 11/12/2022

Nancy Suchy, Lynnwood, WA 12/24/2022

Gerald Szabo, Glenville, WV 7/22/2022

William Townsend, Georgetown, DE 12/10/2022

Jefferson Trader, Pocomoke City, MD 9/3/2022

Maxine McWhorter Ungerbuehler, Lewes, DE 9/29/2022

Annabelle (Lawrence) Vaughan, Claymont, DE 2/5/2023

Mary Anne (Frugoli) Walsh, Wilmington, DE 2/16/2023

Kenneth Weiford, Bear, DE 7/26/2022

The Honorable Richard S. Cordrey
Sep. 8, 1933 – Aug 20, 2022 (age 88)

Former Delaware State President Pro Tempore and Secretary of Finance Richard S. Cordrey passed away peacefully at his Millsboro home on Aug. 20, 2022, at the age of 88. He was born on Sept. 8, 1933, the younger of the two sons of John A. Cordrey and his wife, Rachel Smith Cordrey.

He served as a member of the Delaware General Assembly for 26 years, 24 of which were spent in the State Senate from 1972 until 1996. In 2005, he was selected by Governor Ruth Ann Minner, a former Senate colleague, to serve as her Secretary of Finance, an office he held for the next four years.

He and his older brother, John S. “Jack” Cordrey, grew up in Millsboro and attended local schools, working with their father in the family business, the John A. Cordrey Feed Company.

Cordrey graduated from Millsboro High School with the Class of 1951 and went on to Goldey-Beacom College in Wilmington, where he was blessed to meet a lovely young woman from Bridgetown, N.J., Mary Jane Bowen. They fell in love and married in 1953, remaining a wonderful team for the rest of their lives.

After college, Cordrey joined the U.S. Army and served at Fort Gordon, Ga., where Mary Jane joined him. The Cordreys went to church every Sunday at the base chapel.

One of Richard Cordrey’s favorite stories was about the Sunday they were late getting to church and the only unoccupied seats left were in the special pew set aside for the use of a frequent visitor to the base, then U.S. President Dwight D. Eisenhower, a former five-star general and ardent golfer who loved coming to Fort Gordon because of its proximity to Augusta National Golf Course. Eisenhower welcomed the young enlisted man and his bride to join him in his pew, and after the service he had a friendly conversation with them.

Upon their return to civilian life, Richard and Mary Jane Cordrey settled in Millsboro, where Richard Cordrey established the business that dominated his working life for the rest of his days, RSC Farms, with an office in a small building behind the feed house. He and Mary Jane were blessed by the birth of two sons, Richard Joseph Cordrey and Stephen Bowen Cordrey. When the boys were older, Mary Jane took a job with the Millsboro school system, where she was employed for 21 years.

Richard Cordrey was active in the community and in such organizations as St. Mark’s Episcopal Church, where he and his brother, Jack, both sang in the choir, and the Millsboro Lions Club. He served as a member of the Millsboro Town Council from 1965 to 1973.

In 1970, Cordrey ran as the Democratic candidate for state representative in the 41st District, which extended all the way from Rehoboth Beach to Gumboro. He was elected and served in the House of Representatives for two years. In 1972, he challenged the incumbent state senator for the area, Republican state Sen. Thomas Hickman of Bayard, and won by some 60 votes.

Cordrey’s years in the Senate began with a shift to a Democratic majority after many years of Republican control. He served as Senate Majority Leader from 1974 until 1976, and as Senate President Pro Tempore from 1976 to 1996. At the time of his retirement from that body in 1996, he was the longest-serving president pro tempore in the nation and the longest-serving in Delaware history.

He served under five governors during his Senate years — Russell W. Peterson, Sherman W. Tribbitt, Pierre S. du Pont IV, Michael N. Castle and Thomas R. Carper; and under a sixth governor, Ruth Ann Minner, as a cabinet secretary.

One of Cordrey’s major interests in the Senate was agriculture. Thus, it came as a fitting tribute to his years of service when, in 2012, then-Gov. Jack Markell

and then Secretary of Agriculture Ed Kee announced the naming of the state’s Department of Agriculture headquarters in his honor. Cordrey said at the time that he considered the dedication a great honor.

“If I had any choice of any building to have my name put upon, it would be this one right here,” adding, “I have had the two best jobs anyone has ever had in the world — being a legislator and being a farmer.”

Mary Jane Cordrey preceded her husband in death, passing away on Jan. 5, 2016. Richard Cordrey is survived by their two sons and daughters-in-law, Rick and Valery Cordrey, and Steve and Kim Cordrey; by six grandchildren and their spouses, Michael and Kristen Cordrey, Ryan and Amanda Cordrey, Thomas Miller and Megan Schatzman, Casey and Blake Hershelman, Chris and Rachael Cordrey, and Chance and Paula Cordrey; and by 11 great-grandchildren. His survivors also include Mrs. Ina Cordrey, widow of Richard’s brother, Jack Cordrey; as well as two nephews and their families, and many dear friends and relations.





achieve greater.