Welcome BAC to School

BY: JOSE HERNANDEZ (STUDENT EDITOR) AND ERIN JENSEN (FACULTY SPONSOR)

Welcome back to a new semester and year at Belmont Abbey College. As the year 2022 is slowly coming to an end, the fall semester has been nothing short of a busy time for all of the students. Including new faculty, new academic programs, new student life events, and new achievements in sports, Belmont Abbey is nothing short of a school of opportunity and success.

We are excited to have lots of new faculty, new support staff, new minors, and new tutoring centers (Writing Center and STEM Lab) on campus.

The newspaper is written by students for students. We are always looking for more students to join the newspaper staff. Writing for the school newspaper and enrolling in EN 199 Newspaper will count towards the Writing Minor.

Welcome to Issue I of our school newspaper. We appreciate you reading the articles that we have written.

Welcome New Faculty

BY: STAFF WRITERS

Welcome to the 13 new faculty members at the college! The departments of Accounting, Biology, English, Health Administration, Honors College, Human Services, Nursing, Psychology, Sociology, and Sport Management all have new faculty members.

Elizabeth Bookwalter, Assistant Professor of Psychology

I am excited to once again be part of the Abbey community! I earned a double major in Theology and English for my bachelor’s degree at Belmont Abbey College. During my time as a student at the Abbey I ran for the Track & Field team, focusing primarily on the 400m dash. I attended graduate school at Divine Mercy University in Virginia where I earned my Psy.D. in clinical psychology (plot twist!). Over the past 5 years, I have worked in a variety of clinical settings including a college counseling center, neuropsychology assessment, and a Veterans Affairs Medical Center. As a clinician, I am passionate about addressing trauma, complicated grief, and interpersonal dynamics.

At the Abbey, I am teaching Introduction to Psychology, Seminar in Counseling, and Senior Practicum in Applied Psychology. I am having a blast and enjoying getting to know the students in my classes. Expect to see my husband and me (and possibly our dog, Monty) at many of the Abbey Home games. Go Crusaders!
Josh Chen, Assistant Professor of Human Services

I have a Ph.D. in sociology from the University of Virginia and a M.Div. from Westminster Theological Seminary. Previously, I spent 7 years living and working in the “hyper ghetto” of N. Philadelphia as a pastor, teacher, and professor among Black, Puerto Rican, and Cambodian communities where broken social systems meant life chances are significantly lower than among middle-class white communities. However, I also saw the beautiful possibility of a diverse community of Christians who worked to make broken things better and bring broken people to a Savior who had been broken on their behalf. It is my conviction that the church must recapture our identity as people who exist, not for ourselves, but for others (Mt. 25:40; Jas. 1:27; Jer. 29:7). This means that the gifts with which God has entrusted us are not meant for ourselves but for others; fruit does not exist for its own sake but to nourish others. Speaking of gifts, I am happily married to my wife, Hannah, with two bright, beautiful, and bold biracial daughters, one 5 years old and one 16 months old. I love reading fantasy/sci-fi, playing board games, singing acapella, beat-boxing with my daughters, playing worship music on my guitar, and dabbling in martial arts. But, most of all, I love diversity and talking with students about the sociological imagination. My office is always open in WGS 113E!

Elizabeth Elkind, Professor of Nursing

Dr. Elizabeth Elkind received her PhD in Education with a specialization in Instructional Design for Online Learning K-Corporate from Capella University. She has a MBA from the University of Phoenix, a MSN in Perinatal Nursing from the University of Pennsylvania, and her BSN from Holy Family University. She is a board certified Informatics Nurse through the American Nurses Credentialing Center. In addition, Dr. Elkind is the Editor for the Journal of Informatics Nursing, the American Nursing Informatics Association’s official journal.

J. Brent Hayes, Assistant Professor of Biology

I am originally from Clover, S.C. I went to Winthrop University and Sherman College.

I was a practicing Chiropractor for about 10 years. I have also taught human anatomy and physiology for the past 13 years.

Prior to moving back to the Carolinas, I lived in the arctic tundra of northern Indiana for 12 years. I am excited to be back home, teaching at the Abbey, and enjoying the scenery and weather again.

Lindsay Hofferberth, Assistant Professor of Sport Management

Lindsay joins Belmont Abbey in the Sport & Motorsport Management Program after serving as an adjunct instructor during the 2021-2022 school year. She began her professional career in 2008 as the Director of Entertainment and Game Operations for the Charlotte Checkers of the American Hockey League. Since 2012, she has served as a graphic designer/operator for a variety of live television sports broadcasts. She has supported events for schools in the ACC, NASCAR, the Charlotte Hornets, the Carolina Panthers and Charlotte FC. Lindsay earned a Bachelor’s degree in Marketing from UNC Charlotte and a Master’s degree in Sports Management from Liberty University. She is currently completing a Doctorate in Business Administration with a focus in Marketing. Originally from Dayton, Ohio, she has called Charlotte home since 2004.
Melissa Horstman, Assistant Professor of Nursing

I graduated from Purdue University with my Bachelor of Science in Nursing in 2013 and transitioned into bedside practice in critical care rotating through Neuro, Surgical, and Medical ICUs before landing in a Surgical/Trauma Stepdown Unit. When my husband’s job moved us to Charlotte, NC I changed gears in my nursing practice and began working in Clinical Research by coordinating and managing care of clinical research patients enrolled in pharmaceutical and device trials along the continuum of the research process. During that time I went back to school at Queens University of Charlotte and obtained her Master of Science in Nursing with a concentration in nursing education. I then moved into a quality assurance/educator role within the clinical research department, but found my true calling here at Belmont Abbey College a couple years later and I am so excited to be here!

I live in Fort Mill, SC with my husband and dog. And I am an aspiring cut-flower gardener, a puzzler, and lover of a good book and cup of coffee.

Lindsay Adams Kennedy, Assistant Professor of English

Lindsay Adams Kennedy is a professional playwright and academic, whose research explores virginity, consent, confessional spaces, and depictions of invisible disability in Early Modern drama and poetry. Most recently her chapter “’A document in madness’? Disability Erasure in Contemporary Rewrites of Ophelia” was published in Adaptations of Mental and Cognitive Disability in Popular Media by Rowman & Littlefield and her article “Catcalls and Live Chat: Or, How Livestreamed Performances Illuminate the Early Modern Audience” was published in the Sixteenth Century Journal. She has an MFA in Playwriting from the Catholic University of America and is a PhD Candidate at Saint Louis University.

Emily Nishiyama, Assistant Professor of Nursing

Emily Nishiyama is an Assistant Professor with the Nursing Department here at Belmont Abbey College. Currently, she is responsible for teaching pre-licensure BSN students in both didactic and clinical settings.

She has been in nursing education for 8 years and has a background in simulation education, curriculum development, and instructional design. With a diverse background in professional and clinical nursing, Emily has a passion for using creativity in the classroom through the utilization of technology and active learning strategies to engage all types of learners. She follows a student-centric approach while striving to create a safe learning environment that fosters mutual trust and respect.

She is active in various departmental, college, and community service initiatives. Most recently, she has served as an active board member with the Gamma Iota Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau, is currently a member of the Southwest Region for the North Carolina Nurses Association, and was selected as a 2021-2022 Faculty Fellow for the Invest in Nursing Faculty Fellowship program with the UNC Chapel Hill School of Nursing.

She earned her Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte in 2009 and her Master of Science degree in Nursing Education from Gardner-Webb University in 2014. Her past clinical practice experiences involve working as a Registered Nurse in both medical-surgical and emergency settings.

Outside of her professional life, she enjoys staying active, being outdoors, and spending time with her husband and two young sons.
New Internship Coordinator, Coordinator of Accessibility Services, and Academic Advisor

BY: STAFF WRITERS

There are many new faces on campus this semester including an Internship Coordinator, Coordinator of Accessibility Services, and Academic Advisor. Welcome to the college!

Jenny Johnson, Internship Coordinator

I am excited to be a part of the Belmont Abbey community and serve in the Career Services department. I graduated from UNC-Chapel Hill with a degree in Business Administration and a concentration in Marketing. After working in the business sector for several years and much self-reflection, I moved into the education field. I earned a Master of School Administration degree from UNC-Charlotte, became a school administrator, and have happily worked in various levels of education for 25 years. As you may have guessed from my original career change, I struggled with finding the right career for me, like many of you. When I matched my business interests with my purpose, helping others learn and reach their greatest potential, I found fulfillment in my career. I have always enjoyed working with students directly, which led me to my position at the Abbey. I would love to hear your story and help you explore your interests and purpose to help you find the best career path to share your God-given talents with the greater community.

I invite you to connect with our office no matter where you are on your college and career path. Please don't wait until you are a senior to find out about all the services we offer! We can provide you with various resources to help you throughout your college experience and as you move into your career. Having trouble declaring a major, we can help!

Need some extra cash? Let us help you connect with local employers and gain experience for your resume. Does your major require an internship? Career Services supports the internship search and approval process. Ready to start your career? We can help you make the most of the opportunities available.

Carrie Minnich, Coordinator of Accessibility Services

Carrie is the new Coordinator of Accessibility Services and a Professional Academic Advisor for Belmont Abbey College. She joins the staff here after retiring from Gaston County Schools, where she worked for thirty years as a teacher of Exceptional Children, a school administrator, and the Executive Director of the Department for Exceptional Children. She enjoys her role at the Abbey, especially the time she spends with students and teaching a First Year Experience class.

Carrie has been married to her husband, David, for 32 years and is mom to Allie (28), John (21,) and her Goldendoodle, Sam (4). She loves living in Gaston County, where she can enjoy outdoor activities, great restaurants, and beautiful changes in the seasons.

Brittany Kuznitz, Academic Advisor

I am the Abbey's newest Academic Advisor! I have been advising for 6 years and I'm originally from Fulton, NY. I am an alumna of Nazareth College (BS Communication Sciences & Disorders) and Canisius College (MS College Student Personnel Administration). Outside of work I love spending time with my husband, AJ, and our two dogs, Tucker & Bayley. I am also in a bowling league and my happy place is reading on the deck of our family beach house in Oak Island, NC!
New Tutoring Options:
Writing Center and STEM Lab

BY: JOY DYGOWSKI

Maybe you attended our open house or saw the posters tacked up around campus, but Belmont Abbey College is proud to announce that we have a brand-new Writing Center and new STEM Lab tutoring that is here to help students just like you. The Writing Center is located in the back of Stowe Hall, Room 216, and is open for drop-ins or by appointment Monday through Thursday. The STEM Lab is located in the Science building and has appointments available throughout the week.

Belmont Abbey College’s Writing Center exists to help students become better writers. The Center’s one-on-one session approach is aimed at helping both the student and the tutor to work through ways to improve the students writing. If you are interested in receiving one-on-one instruction from one of our experienced tutors, do not hesitate to schedule your appointment now.

Students can easily book an appointment at the Writing Center and STEM Lab through Canvas under the ‘Tutoring Options’ tab which will redirect you to our online booking platform called ThinkingStorm. Once you have arrived on the ThinkingStorm website you can book a session that fits into your schedule. Or simply stop by our room in Stowe Hall and one of our skilled tutors will be more than happy to assist you with all your writing needs and questions! Or stop by the STEM Lab in the Science Building.

Throughout a student’s journey here at Belmont Abbey, it is almost guaranteed they will have numerous ups and downs throughout their educational voyage. Whether you are an athlete, seminarian, or part of the Honors College, school can be stressful. Combine this stress with learning how to write academically at a college level and you have a perfect storm. Thankfully the Writing Center here at Belmont Abbey College is here to help!

In an interview with one of our new tutors, Danashia Tucker, she said that; “The Writing Center is a great addition to Belmont Abbey, it provides the students with tutoring and guidance on their writing assignments.” When asked about what kind of writing help the majority of students are coming into the Writing Center for, she responded by saying that; “during a typical tutoring appointment, I help the students with the format of their papers, brainstorming ideas, and structure.” Danashia concluded the interview with an encouragement to all students to visit The Writing Center, saying; “visiting The Writing Center can be beneficial for any student having a difficult time with the writing process, or simply looking for guidance.” As a tutor myself, I could not have said it better.

A visit to The Writing Center here on campus can help to bridge the gap between a high school writing style and what you will be expected to do here at The Abbey. It can be overwhelming for students to ask for help with their writing, but the Writing Center is here to create a non-intimidating environment to give the student the skills they need to become a stronger writer. The Center offers peer tutoring to students from all majors, and will also help with any writing-focused project for any of your classes. We want to help the individual student to develop strategies that will make them a better writer. The Writing Center is always here to help. Whether it’s a thesis, confusion on an assignment, or you just want a second opinion and some clarification on your writing, our tutors will work with you to give you the tools and direction needed to take your writing to the next level and set you up for future success here at the Abbey!

New Minors in Accounting

BY: TONI BERBICK (ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF ACCOUNTING)

Belmont Abbey College has approved two new Accounting Minors to compliment the revised Accounting Program Curriculum: The Cyber Audit Minor and the Fraud Minor.

The new curriculum reflects the new format and content of the CPA exam and is based on the ACIPA’s Evolution Module Curriculum and the content on the CPA exam effective 2024. The first minor is in Cyber Audit Risk and Compliance (Cyber Audit) and the second is Fraud and Forensic Investigations Minor (Fraud Minor). In addition to providing students with the skills and competencies required of a newly licensed CPA, both minors address the global skills gap in these two areas. These two new minors complement existing minors available to Accounting Majors including a Minor in Data Science, Artificial Intelligence, Information Security, Cyber Security, Criminal Justice and Pre-Law.

The Cyber Audit Minor is designed for Business and Accounting students who want to complement their major by adding the valuable and highly sought-after skill set of IT Audit. The Cyber Audit Minor compliments the existing Cyber Security Minor offered by the Computer Science Department at the Abbey. While the existing Cyber Security Minor focuses on data risk from and technical perspective, the Cyber Audit minor focuses on operating and control risk based on a foundation of Accounting Information Systems. This was a joint effort between the Accounting and Computer Science Departments.

The Cyber Audit minor was developed with the guidance and support from members of the Charlotte Chapter of ISACA, including Mr. Steve Spittler, CPA, CISA – Senior Audit at LPL Financial and Charlotte ISACA Academic Relations Committee Chair; Ted Wolff, CISA - IT Audit and Risk Management Professional, recently retired from a position as a Senior Leader in Vanguard’s Global IT Risk & Control; and, Kyle Conn, CPA, CISA – IT Divisional Risk Advisor at Vanguard. Their experience and insight were invaluable and I am most grateful for their time and support.

The Fraud Minor is designed for Criminal Justice and Accounting majors interested in pursuing a career in Risk Assurance, Compliance, Internal Audit, Criminal Investigations, and Anti-Money Laundering. Students will
learn the skills necessary to identify financial fraud, how to assess and mitigate the risk of fraud and understanding the criminal investigative procedures. The required coursework is designed to meet the hiring demands of accounting, banking, investment and insurance institutions as well as federal and state regulatory agencies and law enforcement authorities.

The Fraud Minor was developed with collective guidance from members of the Charlotte Institute of Internal Auditors, Association of Certified Fraud Examiners, federal, state and regional law enforcement agencies and major banking, investment and insurance firms in the region. This minor was a joint effort between the Accounting and Criminal Justice Departments at Belmont Abbey College.

I am grateful for the support and guidance from Dr. David Williams, Vice Provost and for the vote of confidence from Dr. Travis Fezzel, Provost, Dr. Brad Frazier, Dr. Julie Beeman, Mr. Gupta, and Dr. Alessandro Rovati. It is truly a pleasure to work in a such a collegial and empowering environment.

New Public History Minor

BY: EMILY DAVIS (HISTORY)

The Public History minor was just added Fall 2022. Contact emilydavis@bac.edu for more information about the minor.

New Social Media and Digital Communications minor

BY: ERIN JENSEN (FACULTY ADVISOR)

The Social Media and Digital Communications minor just started this semester. Please contact erinjensen@bac.edu if you are interested in this minor.

The Social Media and Digital Communication minor is an interdisciplinary minor focused on providing students with increased understanding of and practical experience with using social media and digital communication. Students will have options for classes in English, Business, Digital Humanities, Computer Science, and Digital Art. As part of the coursework, students will create and run social media campaigns and engage in application assignments within their various classes. Upon completion of the courses necessary for this minor, students will have the skills necessary to find jobs in a variety of positions, including social media writing, social media management, graphic design, digital design, content creation, content strategy, digital communication, and many others. Because of the interdisciplinary nature of this minor, students from all majors would be welcome and would find that the minor complements their major studies and increases their employment opportunities.

Minor in Social Media and Digital Communication: 15 credits

Students will complete five courses (15 credits), including one required course (EN 361) and four additional courses.

I. Required for all students:

- EN 361: Writing for Social Media (3 credits) (Taught Spring 2023 and Summer 2023)

II. Students will choose any four of the following courses:

- EN 106: Introduction to Digital Art and Multimedia Art
- CS 110: Introduction to Video Game (3 credits)
- CS 243: Web Site Development (3 credits)
- DH 301: Introduction to Digital Humanities (3 credits)
- DH 400: Methods in the Digital Humanities (3 credits)
- EN 363: Professional and Technical Writing (3 credits)
- BU 315W: Business Communication (3 credits)
- BU 319: Advertising and Promotion (3 credits)
- Digital Communication (to be added)
- EN 453: Internship or Department Internship (3 credits)
- Additional social media and digital communication-based courses as they are added to individual departments
Campus Resources to Remember

BY: AMANDA JOHNSON

College is never a perfect time for anybody. For young adults coming out of high school, four years away from home can be hard for anybody. However, it is always important to know about the resources that are available on campus.

ACADEMICS:
- If you are struggling in a class, go to your professor’s office hours – they are there so that students can come and ask for help! In my experience, every professor is happy to meet with you outside of class.
- Tutoring options that are new this year: Look into the STEM Lab on the first floor of the Science Building and the Writing Center in Stowe 216. These are often student-led – so they know what it’s like to be in your shoes!
- Academic Advising is located in the New Residence Hall on the first floor (to the left when you walk in). These lovely ladies are able to help you understand academics here as a whole and might help you figure out what classes to take next. If you have already declared your major, get in contact with your academic advisor within your department. You can find their name on Self-Service at the bottom of your unofficial transcript!

MENTAL HEALTH/WELLNESS:
- The Counseling Center is located on the bottom floor of the Haid. You can schedule appointments online at https://belmontabbey-counselingcenter.clientsecure.me and talk with our counselor about anything from academic stress, grief, social distress, and so much more! They take a solution-focused approach, which means that you do not attend for more than 6 sessions.
- The Resident Assistant on duty isn’t only for if you’re locked out or want to make a noise complaint – if you are feeling overwhelmed and need someone immediately to talk to, call them and tell them you’re struggling. Every RA gets trained on how to respond to mental health crises!
- You could also just reach out to your personal RA if you want some guidance or a listening ear and don’t know where else to turn. Your RA is usually on your floor or wing and is always willing to help.
- If you feel unsafe, you can contact Campus Police at (704) 400-6200. They can give you a ride from your car at night if you are parked far away, will jump your car if necessary, and do so much more!

Flags in Honor of 9/11

BY: AVANNA POMPEY

The college honored the tragic event of 9/11 with putting up flags around campus. I wanted to take a moment and appreciate the committee that planted the American flags around the walkway from Stowe to William Gaston Building. They were planted perfectly throughout the way, symbolizing remembrance of their lives. The flags represented the victims that lost their life due to the tragic event of 9/11. The tragic event left millions of people dead including first responders and innocent bystanders. The flags planted throughout campus helped bring back history for me and others.

This year the unforgettable holiday was on a Sunday, where schools couldn’t prepare a lesson on the material. Since high school, teachers have rushed through the subject of the tragic event by minimizing the holiday to a regular day. My teachers would continue with the lesson without acknowledging the victims or the event to the class. I would start to think of the holiday as a regular day, until I walked on campus and saw the flags. The flags had given me hope and courage that tradition hadn’t completely died out. I loved how I was able to stand by each one and send a prayer to victims I had known before the event and after that could’ve lost their lives. The flags were placed so nicely that I had to capture the moment for memories. Keep Striving and being Outstanding Crusaders!!!

Campus Activities Board: Who Are They?

BY: HANNAH SCHUDLIK

Belmont Abbey College’s Campus Activities Board (CAB) is a student organization that designs and provides exciting activities and programs for student life. CAB is credited with sponsoring various events such as movie nights, dances, talent shows, and holiday parties. Nate Bolton is the faculty advisor for the club, as well as the director of student activities on campus. As a Belmont Abbey alumnus, Nate is dedicated to creating a fun experience and community-based environment for students.

What Do They Do?
Typically, CAB begins planning ideas in September for events that will be held from October through May. Abbeyfest is a traditional Belmont Abbey event held in the fall semester that incorporates live music, catering, and mini-games for the college’s students and alumni. Last
year, October brought chilly weather and beautiful scenery to campus. Thus, CAB hosted “Nightmare on Abbey Lane!” Members of the club guided students, and the school faculty’s children down the spooky-decorated Abbey Lane. Activities included pumpkin carving, costume and decorating contests, live music, games, and trunk-or-treating.

The spring semester consists of planning for an annual dance formal and student talent show. The Spring Formal, hosted by student activities and CAB, surprises students each year with an unknown destination for a school dance. Previous locations have been the Honey Hunters baseball stadium, downtown Belmont, and even on a yacht! As March approaches, “Abbey’s Got Talent” will show off Belmont Abbey students singing, dancing, performing comedy routines, and more!

Why You Should Join?
CAB is a great way to meet new people and form friendships! The club meets once a week (typically via Zoom) to discuss ideas and plan events, so it is not too demanding of one’s time. There is little commitment required, as attendance for meetings and events is not mandatory. The team consists of a President, Vice President, Secretary, and an abundance of students. Being a part of the council allows for experience in social media management and creating flyers (pictured below). If you have creative ways to get students involved on campus, email @natebolton.bac.edu to join CAB!

The Southeastern Psychological Association Conference (SEPA)

BY: RACHEL PRICE

Earlier this year in March of 2022, the psychology department here at Belmont College gave their students the opportunity to attend the SEPA Conference, located in Hilton Head, South Carolina. 10 psychology majors, including myself, and two of our professors attended the conference.

This experience allowed us to strengthen our relationships with our classmates, learn about other students’ psychology research from other colleges and universities (some near and some farther), and the honor of supporting our very own Belmont Abbey alumni and professor while they presented their research as well.

While most of us at the time were rising seniors, we had the opportunity to speak with a variety of graduate programs and their students. We collected information, heard their individual experiences with the program, and what types of programs the schools had to offer. Looking back, I can say that this trip was well worth all my time and effort as my top pick graduate school is one that I discovered at the conference.

I thank the psychology department for making this trip possible for the other students and myself. Together, we made long lasting memories, learned a variety of professional skills, built stronger relationships with our professors and their families, and shared what we all may agree was a remarkable experience overall.

Art History Implications

BY: AMIL WERR

Just yesterday I was walking up the steps from the grotto towards the monastery and basilica. I noticed facilities personnel had one of the manholes open. Curious, I peeked inside the manhole and noticed old brick walls surrounding what looked like a water main valve, all underneath the asphalt driveway. I was then much more aware of the ground beneath my feet.

I thought to myself, “Wow! Are those part of the old monastery walls? Was it part of a cellar, a monk’s cell, a refectory? How far do those walls go down?”

Memories of Art History class with Dr. Pastryk returned as images of Basilica di San Clemente with its 1st century structures underneath its 4th century basilica underneath its now standing, above ground, 12th century basilica. I had previously thought Art History only involved looking through frames of paintings or glass cases of coins, pottery, and sculpture. I was wrong. The windows through which we

Research Corner

BY: STAFF WRITERS

can peer into different times are myriad, beyond museum walls, kind of like that open manhole in the asphalt driveway. It was helpful for me in furthering my understanding of the nuance and depth of Art History to know that it can also be called “Material Culture.”

When I think of the word “culture,” I think of wine, beer, cheese, bread, yoghurt. I think of each culture, each community of beings endowed with distinct capacities to take material and, through it, express themselves. I think of beings, too small to see with bare eyes, partaking in expressive and transformative action. Those old brick walls underneath that manhole were built by beings I cannot now see.

However, if I am curious or perceptive (or lucky?) enough I can see, study, and appreciate how some ancestors expressed themselves and transformed their world. Though I still forget, I have been aided in my remembrance that, more often than not, we tread unaware right on top of the transformations our ancestors partook in. Having participated in Art History class, it seems as though I’ve received tools of perception that facilitate just enough awareness and interest that I can stop and wonder in wonder, for at least a few seconds, “In what kind of world and with what kind of people were those old brick walls not underneath a manhole in an asphalt driveway?”

Student Voices: Compliments About Faculty

BY: STAFF WRITERS

We asked students for compliments about professors and here are some of the responses:

- Mrs. Margot Rhoades made class really fun/interesting.
- Dr. Gomes is very understanding and helpful, his class was why I chose to major in Psychology.
- Dr. Cote, she is difficult and demands a lot, but yet a wonderful/easy to understand and learn from teacher.
- Father Chris did a great job at engaging all of his students.
- Professor Hayes because she was always so energetic in class and encouraged our participation always.
- Dr. Larner. She is just the best teacher, cares for all her students, and helps anyone with anything.
- Dr. Hutchinson makes history come alive.
- Dr. Jansen is an excellent professor.
- Dr. Joseph Pizza and Dr. Erin Jensen. Both of these professors are very open minded and appreciate everyone’s comments, concerns, and look for new ways to approach teaching.
- Dr. Hutchinson is friendly and seeks to meet his students on their level when teaching.
- Dr. Corwin pushes her students to understand the beautiful purpose of literature.
- Dr. Gina Noia is a great teacher and really understands how to connect the content to life.

Agora: Spreading a Creative Spirit Throughout Campus

BY: IRIS BERTIN

The word “Agora” refers to the forum in which people come to share their thoughts or can be viewed as the marketplace in ancient Greek city-states. Here at Belmont Abbey College, Agora is the title of our school’s literary magazine run by the students themselves. Agora is aimed to promote a creative spirit throughout our campus and open up a community where art is welcomed and appreciated to its full extent. In creating an outlet for students to put forth works of art that are meaningful to them, we are spreading a deeper sense of community throughout our college campus.

Affirming the many different forms of art we receive through submission and Agora events, this magazine becomes much more than many words on the pages. The sense of community that is being formed through this literary work exemplifies how strongly the Benedictine hallmarks are spread throughout our school.

No matter what art form you choose to help express yourself, Agora is accepting of a variety of different kinds. These include poetry, photography, short stories, and any type of graphic art. In submitting a piece of work to Agora, you are able to help enter into the community of the college as a whole. Through these many submissions, a group of team editors will take on the task of sorting through, editing, and deciding to publish all of the different pieces of art. Through this process, these students are able to gain real-life hands-on experience in the editing and publication realm. This club is offering its members experience, a sense of community, and a drive to push them to spread their creative minds throughout a college campus in hopes to reach as many students as they can.

Agora puts on events throughout the year in order to promote the magazine as well as encourage students to submit their own works to be published. At these events, all students are welcome to share their talents with fellow students and members of the Agora Club. These events help to build a stronger sense of community among young college students who wish to promote their art while finding beauty in others’ art as well. The Belmont Abbey College website explains the benefits of these events as such: “Members of Agora staff gain self-confidence by serving as MC’s for events; reading works of poetry, fiction, and non-literary works aloud; and performing musical pieces in public.” Building community through a shared appreciation of art is something so special to the Agora Club that can’t be found elsewhere on this college campus. Agora will be hosting events this fall and will promote them through email, around campus, and on social media.

After speaking to some members of the Agora Club and discussing the goals they have for this club and the Agora magazine, I was able to better understand the role that these club members hold. Lauren, a senior member of the club said the goal of the Agora club and its members is to “channel the creative spirit of this campus.”
She goes on to say that during their meetings and events they aim to “put as much as we can into what we consider to be good literature and good art.” In aiming to promote good literature and good art, they must assess what the value of each piece is and what it can contribute to the magazine in some way, shape, or form. Throughout this literary magazine and this club, our college campus is being driven by the many creative minds of our students here at Belmont Abbey College.

A Closer Look at the New Honors Professors

BY: KATHLEEN STINNEFORD

In the past year, the Belmont Abbey Honors College has hired three new professors: Dr. Thomas Varacalli, Professor James Neff, and Professor Elisa Torres Neff. Both Dr. Varacalli and Professor Torres Neff are Belmont Abbey Alums.

Dr. Varacalli has a Masters and Doctorate in Political Science from Louisiana State University and is an Assistant professor. Professor Torres Neff has a Masters in Philosophy from the University of Dallas and is currently earning her Ph.D. in Philosophy. She is a Visiting Professor. Professor Neff has a Masters in Philosophy from the University of Dallas.

Alongside teaching Honors courses, Dr. Varacalli is also in charge of reviewing new applicants to the Honors College. He and Professor Torres Neff have published many articles and book chapters with each having published eight different publications which is very impressive.

It is very clear that Dr. Varacalli, Professor Torres Neff, and Professor Neff will all go on to do great things in the Honors College, and in Belmont Abbey College as a whole.

Amara Guitry Performs At Abbey

BY: ANNA SIMS

On the 26th of September, 2022, Amara Guitry performed rarely heard sonatas at the Belmont Abbey College Basilica. Guitry is a music teacher at the Abbey and she performed in the Basilica in order to demonstrate her skills outside the classroom as well as provide some free musical education.

I was privileged to hear the talented flutist Amara Guitry accompanied by pianist and harpsichordist Lillian Pearson. The pursuit of these two remarkable women was to revive a forgotten love for classical artists and to share these once popular musical pieces with as many people as possible. Guitry also kept the audience engaged by giving historical background on the different flutes she used throughout the performance. In all I found it quite enjoyable and would love to attend the next concert.

Between pieces, Guitry would give a complete and extremely interesting background on the different flutes. Audience and former flutist Amber described the production as “Absolutely lovely and extremely interesting.” She also said, “I loved that I was never bored. The history of the different instruments was so fascinating.”

In addition to the beautiful flute, Pearson created a fantastic atmosphere with her skill on the harpsichord. She seemed to be able to sweep up the audience and carry them into the Middle Ages. It was a joy to experience this, and I hope to see more students at these events in the future.

Men’s Group

BY: BRIAN HOVERATH

The Belmont Abbey Men’s group is a club meant to help the young men of Belmont Abbey focus on being virtuous through activities and ideas. It is open to men and is held in the student commons from 7-8 pm on Monday nights. The group meets with the intention of having an invited speaker talk on something that relates to Christian ideals.

The topics presented range from paleontology, liturgy of the hours, politics, dating advice, and even sword fighting. The group also takes trips to places that relate to topics being discussed. Ideas for trips are approved by the club leaders and financed by either the school or the individual club members.

The group even has their own flag that is recognized by the North American Vexillological Association. After interviewing the two club heads, Josiah Newsome and Luke Cumby, I decided to attend their most recent meeting. This meeting was held on a Thursday, due to a scheduling issue.

The meeting I attended involved a student discussing traffic laws and enforcement. While this may sound rather tame, it quickly became a conversation on how the federal government’s enforcement of such laws can be an invasion of privacy. This in turn became a conversation on how the government should balance privacy.

If this sounds like something that you would be interested in, you may reach them at their Instagram @bacmensgroup
The History of Belmont Abbey’s Grotto

BY: KATELYN Saxe

Belmont Abbey College is defined by our Catholic roots and by the Benedictine monks who reside here. This College was built by these followers of Christ and students like you. The basis of the Benedictine tradition is what built the guidelines for the college and we are lucky to have a lot of rich history and old architecture on our campus. Every brick of buildings like ‘St. Leo’s Hall and statues like ‘The Lady of Lourdes Grotto’ were put together by the Benedictine Monastery. Funds for new buildings and additions to the school are completed with the help of alumni. One of the best places to admire the history and love behind Belmont Abbey College is at ‘The Lady of Lourdes Grotto.’ Maybe you walked past it and remembered stopping by it on a tour of the college your freshman year, but do you know it’s history?

‘Our Lady of Lourdes Grotto’ sits behind the monastery and just below the Holy Grounds Cafe. This structure was first built in 1891 after a significant leader of the school, Fr. Francis Meyer contracted typhoid fever. He was not expected to live, but this did not stop the members of the school from calling out to God for his recovery. They declared that if he lived then they would build a Grotto for the Lady of Lourdes. This structure was built after Br. Meyer survived his illness and was designed by using materials easily found in the area, wood and many large pieces of rock like granite make up the base that surrounds the statue of Mother Mary and the crucifix of Jesus.

An article was written about the consecration of the Grotto (Theclio.com) and this is where I found most of my information. The Grotto was consecrated on May 7, 1891, on the Solemnity of the Ascension, amid a festive atmosphere. “A seventeen-piece brass band played as a procession of monks, clergy, and laity participated in the event. Abbot Leo Haid introduced Father Francis Meyer and recounted his illness and recovery. A fireworks show concluded the celebrations that evening.” They believed that this addition to the school would serve as a basis for their belief and dedication to God and His willingness to help His children.

Today the Grotto serves as a place for prayer and meditation among students and faculty. Tucked in the woods with a path or two that connects it to the rest of campus, it is a place of peace and tranquility. It is gated and has pews and kneelers for prayer and for admiration. The monastery uses this spot quite a bit for modified styles of worship and prayer. You may even see the sports teams meet here and conduct a group prayer or just have a meeting tucked in the peaceful tree line of the Abbey.

Dance the Night Away

BY: MARY SENECA

President’s Ball happened on October 9th, around 8 p.m.; the dance is where the President, Dr. Thierfelder, throws a ball for all students before midterm exams. On the field near the science building, students gather to have fun conversations, hear music, have fun on the dance floor, and create good memories. Students find it helpful to communicate more with other students and relieve exam stress. One student, Youthan, had said, “as Executive Secretary for Student Government, I always enjoy seeing fellow students getting out and socializing and relieving stress from school work; the President’s Ball provides just that opportunity.”

In my experience during the event, I found it very easy to make and spend time with friends. I said, “I made many new friends and had fun spending time with my best friend, whom I graduated from high school.” It helps by relieving some of the stress from the upcoming exams. The President’s Ball is the best way to create new friendships.

All students were called to the dance floor for the special announcement, an announcement of a new homecoming king and queen. The two outstanding individuals were our homecoming king Thomas Thierfelder and our homecoming queen Makenna Pallozzi. These two young athletes are two great examples of Belmont Abbey College being the better college in the state.

Events like this find to celebrate something outstanding such as the homecoming. It also helps create new friendships and more connections when inviting other friends to the dance. It is the best to develop and flourish our community today.

What I Wish I Knew as a Freshman

BY: MADISON TEACCHMAN

As a senior, I’ve learned a lot in these four short years. I wanted to share some of the things that I wish I had known as a freshman, from relationships, to academics and everything in between.
First and foremost, that high-school sweetheart relationship probably won’t work out, and if it does, it may not work out in the way that you had hoped. Any friends that came into college while in a relationship would agree; that sometimes things are better off left on a good note instead of forcing the relationships boundaries to stretch. Your romantic relationships aren’t the only ones I’m referring to - you’ll also make different friends than you had in high school because many of them have spread out across the country and the dynamics have changed- and that is okay!

When you make those new friends at freshman orientation, it may feel like those have to be your friends for the rest of your college years - which is totally untrue. No one I know is still friends with their original group (even if they are all on the same team) and that’s perfectly normal! If you find yourself feeling overwhelmed or stressed that you aren’t ‘fitting in with your original orientation friends as well, get involved with something on campus to find people with similar interests.

I was a covid freshman, meaning my first year was mainly spent on Zoom and I struggled to find my niche here on campus. Since I wasn’t on an athletic team, I felt that my options for getting involved were limited. However, I have since realized that I just needed to get more involved in all the other clubs and groups that are available on campus.

As you get further into college you realize that a lot of the people in your classes will continue to be for the remainder of your time here and those are great people to surround yourself with. As much anxiety as the Crusader Involvement Fair is - it is a great way to get your name into the mailing lists for different clubs (most of which are really excited to have new members attend and are super excited to see more engagement). If you missed the Involvement Fair don’t be afraid to reach out to student activities or your professors to learn more. Even if you don’t want to actually be in the club- every organization on campus puts together activities that you can attend and make friends through (especially your RA’s- who do programs once a month catered towards building community and relationships).

Lastly, I wish I had known not to stress so much in the beginning. Your classes will still be there tomorrow (and every, single, Monday, Wednesday and Friday.) The library isn’t scary- it’s a calming place to complete all those hours of reading (that you really should do). Teachers are rooting for you. Ask around about classes and majors, find clubs to join, try different food at the Caf, and don’t be afraid to ask a stranger if you can sit with them. Chances are, they’ll accept you, and it really is that easy. One of the best things about the Abbey is how much of a community it is- but you can’t engage with the community if you don’t put yourself out there.

A Mothers Home Away From Home

BY: GRACE MITCHELL

Belmont Abbey is one of only two colleges in the United States that offers expectant mothers, who are enrolled in any college, a long-term home and 24-hour support. All right here on our campus. This pro-life ministry is called MiraVia, and it is truly one-of-a-kind. Women from any walk of life who find themselves pregnant and want to begin, or continue, their college career are welcomed with open arms. They have full access to the many resources that are given until their child turns two.

MiraVia offers their residents so many incredible services. Free room-and-board with a private suite, three meals a day, and any extra necessities of mother and baby. Necessities such as personal care products, diapers, formula, and clothes are all provided. Counseling and support are available 24 hours a day, the staff is always ready to assist with any needs. The women can be enrolled in any form of higher education in any school of their choice and still receive the many benefits of the program. Although, Abbot Placid graciously offers any student of Belmont Abbey a full scholarship for the duration of their stay at MiraVia.

Not only are women given a safe place to live, free of any charge, they are also encouraged to utilize the free, daily childcare in order to work and take classes. A former resident and Abbey graduate says “When I found out I was pregnant, my biggest fear was how I was going to finish college. I am the first in my family to go to college and graduate so it was a big deal to me. MiraVia was the reason I was able to stay in school. Thank you for all of the love and support you’ve given to me.”

There is no shortage of women who would benefit greatly from a program like this. Students for Life recently stated that 1 in 5 college students are pregnant or have children. Our very own college is making a profound impact on these women and children who often have nowhere else to turn.

If you know of anyone who is expecting and in need of support have them reach out to 704-602-4806 or info@miraiva.org. MiraVia also offers material support to mothers in need, even if they do not live in the facility, so please share this information with anyone you think could use it.
Outdoor Practice for Golf

BY: LAUREN DENHARD

The Belmont Abbey Men’s and Women’s golf program has added a new outdoor short game practice facility at their off-campus office. Last year, the golf teams were able to move their office from Sacred Heart to a building off of Woodlawn Street. This move allowed for the golf teams to have more space, including an outdoor area that could house a practice facility.

At the beginning of the fall 2022 semester, construction began at the Woodlawn office of two new practice greens, a bunker, turf, and fencing. There are two greens at the location that run at two different speeds: one faster and one slower. The greens are twenty feet by thirty feet and thirty feet by forty feet, which allows for there to be variety with practice. Also, there is a bunker where players can work on their sand and play with targets at various distances. Finally, the exterior of the greens is lined with artificial turf that varies in thickness.

The area around the building is lined by fencing and mulch which enhances the beauty of the area. There will be customized banners added with the Belmont Abbey Golf team logo.

The golf teams are continuing to utilize local golf courses as well as use the outdoor practice facility. This transition has allowed for the players to be able to practice at convenient times as well as have a shorter commute to practice. The facility is open six days a week, which allows for a more consistent practice.

Finally, the team can practice at this location in all weather conditions. In addition to the outdoor facility, the teams have an indoor hitting area with a Flight Scope launch monitor. The men’s and women’s teams have several events this semester from September through October, and the new practice facility will help with the success of the team.

Cross Country’s Best “Pack” Leader: Meet Coach Dan Finanger

BY: PRESSLIE MARINER

Coach Dan Finanger, a nationally-recognized distance running coach, is the head cross country and track and field coach here at the Abbey. He has been coaching for 32 years, including five years at the Abbey. He has coached more than 5,200 athletes across 16 states, and he sent four athletes to the 1996 and 2000 U.S. Olympic trials.

In addition, Coach Dan coached the 1995 Boston Marathon team and served as director and head coach in international clinics in Saudi Arabia. He established his own running camp, Finanger Running Adventure Camps, with the intent of promoting running in outdoor settings, such as the Cascade and Rocky Mountains, as well as the Maine Coast.

Coach Dan began his running career when he was a sophomore in high school. He intended to play football; however, he started talking to some of the cross country guys and decided to give the cross country team a chance. He has loved the sport ever since! He would go on to run D3 at the Lutheran College in Iowa, where he was a part of seven conference championship teams, including four cross country and two track. He also served as captain of the cross-country team during his senior year. He and his family moved from Minnesota to Charlotte in 2011, and he began coaching at Belmont Abbey in 2017. Some of the tactics he uses in order to ensure a healthy runner, physically, mentally, and spiritually, include combining the values of “body, mind, and soul”. Another one of his tactics includes grouping the men’s and women’s teams into “packs”, with each “pack” having a “pack leader” in order to ensure that no one is running alone, and it involves more team bonding!

Coach Dan has a firm Christian faith, and he believes that it provides him with direction and purpose in life. When asked about how he incorporates his faith into running, Coach Dan replied, “I believe that the freedom I receive from my running comes from God providing me that direction!”.

Coach Dan has established a handshake on the team known as the “Abbey High Five.” God is the top corner of our hands, while family is at the lower corner, as well as friends and teammates. When you raise your hands above your head to do the high five, you put all of that above you. It shows our priorities and humbles us to say that others, including God, are more important.

The cross country and track teams are very fortunate to have Coach Dan as their head coach. His positive attitude, optimism, and strong faith in the Lord have contributed to the overall kind and friendly environment here at the Abbey. Thank you, Coach for all that you’ve done for us here at the Abbey, and here’s to making more memories and smiles on the team!
Cross Country Preseason

BY: JOSE HERNANDEZ

On September 3, 2022, the Men’s and Women’s Cross Country team performed their preseason meet at the Fleet Feet Invitational in Salisbury, North Carolina. There were fourteen teams total for both teams at this meet, where the men raced an 8k and the women raced a 5k. The goal for this preseason race was considered to be a fitness test, to see where both teams are in terms of racing and the areas that the men and women need to work on.

The men finished seventh overall, where junior Elliot Wunder led the Crusaders. He finished 33rd with a time of 27:49.3. Junior Jose Hernandez assumes the second spot for the men, where sophomores Ben Casteel and Brian Sause and junior Nick Berrios fill out the rest of the top five spots. Filling out the last two spots for the seven men that scored were sophomore Dominic Coffman and senior Thomas Thierfelder.

After the men’s race, the women’s 5k race started. Junior and previous first team All Conference finish Makenna Pallozzi led the women to a seventh-place team finish and an individual placement of 31st with a time of 21:06.5. Her junior teammate, Meghan Little fills the second spot for the team, followed by sophomore trios Mia Zuniga, Savannah Willis, and Sydney Keller. Freshman rookie Keegan Liseki fills the sixth spot, and sophomore walk-on Francesca Dinapoli fills the last scoring position for the women.

Overall, the team felt very satisfied with the results of the race. The Crusaders will have four meets over the following weeks, which is preparation for the Conference meet on November 5, 2022 in Spartanburg, South Carolina. With the men racing an 8k and the women racing 5k, both teams have high hopes for placing in the top three, and bringing home medals and All Conference achievements from the future meet.

Cross Country Defend Title: Berrios with School Record

BY: JOSE HERNANDEZ

On October 8, 2022, Belmont Abbey’s Men and Women Cross Country were slated to run at the Akiah McMillan Invitational in Columbia, South Carolina. This meet is a special race for the team, as in 2021 the men took their first win since 1997, with two men finishing in the top ten.

The men did not disappoint this year, while not only did the Crusaders successfully defend their title at this meet, junior captain Nick Berrios broke the men’s 8k school record with an amazing time of 25:37, finishing third at this meet. The school record prior to this meet was 25:42 set by Tim Gill in 2013. Berrios proved to make the previous record look easy with this race, with an average mile pace of 5:09 per mile. Berrios has been having a very consistent season as the team’s number one runner for the past three meets including this meet, with a 26:45 performance on September 17 at the Converse Kick-Off, and a top ten finish with a 26:44 run on September 23 at the Queens City Invite. Berrios stated himself with confidence “if I do not go under 26 in the 8k, I have done something wrong,” and he surely kept to his word at this meet.

Following Berrios’ school record race was sophomore phenom Zack Knott, who also went under the school record with a time of 25:40, finishing right behind Berrios with a fourth-place finish. Knott isn’t unfamiliar with going under the school record mark, as he went under the school record mark on the track for the 10k race at the Bear Invitational on April 9, 2022, with current record holder and alumni Sam Lynch.

Not to be overshadowed, junior captain Elliot Wunder and freshman superstar John Hetzel also round out the next two Crusaders finishing in the top ten at this meet, with Wunder finishing fifth in 25:52, and Hetzel finishing ninth in 26:18. With Brian Sause rounding out the fifth position in 26:51, the men successfully defended their title at this meet with the team win.

This win has given the men a lot of confidence in the season, because this is the first time in program history that the Crusaders beat Conference rival UNC Pembroke in a meet. The men have one more meet before the Conference Carolinas Championship on November 5, 2022.
The men will be going to the Newberry Invitational on October 22, 2022. This will be the first time the men will race at this meet, but with the momentum of the win and massive personal records, the Crusaders will be going into this final month of competition with a champion mindset.

(left to right) Nick Berrios, Zack Knott, Brian Sause, Eliott Wunder, and John Hetzel rounding the top five for the win

The Record Breaking #70

BY: KENDALL WARD

The Men’s soccer team is on pace to soon break a record set only a decade ago. More specifically, Head Coach John Keating is currently tied for the most wins as a head coach in Abbey history with 69 wins.

Coach Keating often says, “I keep the same culture and build from past experiences every year.” With this approach he’s able to keep returning players on their toes with what to expect on the tactical side of things, while also maintaining a standard of class and good work ethic. This method of coaching helps his team stay adaptable and successful.

Coach Keating has many notable accomplishments as a player such as Captaining the West Virginia Soccer team his junior and senior year, is currently still 5th in all time goals for the university. He also played at the professional level in his home region of South Africa for the club Bidwest. His coaching accolades consist of coaching at the collegiate level two times prior to his arrival at the abbey with state university New York (SUNY) and Warren Wilson college. He helped lead SUNY to the SUNYAC finals and Warren Wilson to a NCSAA final four appearance.

John Keating more than anything emphasizes passion and grit. A great display of his values was shown in this year’s home game against Northern Greenville which ended in a 2-2 draw. The Abbey gave up a clumsy penalty kick that Northern Greenville scored at the very start of the second half to take a 1-0 lead. The drive and determination to win however never left Coach Keating or his team as they pushed for an equalizer for remotely all of the second half. That determination was paid back in full with not one but two late goals with a mere two minutes left on the clock.

I was fortunate enough to play the final 15 minutes and the atmosphere I stepped foot in was that of a collective unit that believed whole heartedly that we could win. To be a part of that comeback makes me excited as a player to learn and play under Coach Keating. Please come out and support the soccer team at Alumni Field.

Preston Johnson what the most significant piece of advice the coach has given him for this weekend was, and he said, “Coach told me to always fight for every point no matter what the score is, even if I'm losing 0-6,0-5. He told me that everyone's first tournament is hard, but either way enjoys it.” Make sure to come watch the Abbey tennis team play this semester!

Men’s and Women’s Tennis Competitions

BY: COLIN SADTLER

The women's and men's tennis teams at the Abbey started nine years ago. The teams have recently become more successful with the men winning a conference Carolina championship last year. Coach Mike led them to a 22-17 overall record, including 10-0 in conference play. In the conference finals, they played Mount Olive for the deciding match with a thrilling win by Andy G to win it! Coach Mike has created a very successful program by figuring out how to improve the team's effort, culture, and love for the sport. One of his most significant things is ensuring everyone is accountable for their attitude and action. He is an excellent example of how all programs should run their team.

I asked a couple of returning players who were a part of the team that won conference Carolinas last year what they thought about coming into this year's first competition. Nicholas Carry said, "I am excited about the tournament but also hoping we can keep the same effort, attitude, and team bond we had last year." I also asked Coach Mike what he thought about it, and he said, "I love the team's excitement, but it's all about being able to carry everything we learned last year to make us better this year." Last year's team proved to the Abbey fans and the conference that Coach Mike knows how to run a program the right way.

The teams held a tournament at our tennis courts on Oct. 14 and 15. The top 6 players and all the freshmen played. The freshman are playing to get match experience and their first college tournament out of the way. I also talked to one of the freshmen Peyton Williams, who said, "We have all been preparing for this tournament, so we know at the end of the day we have put in the work." All the freshmen seem excited to play but nervous since it's their first college match experience.

Coach Mike has laid out all the guidelines to be successful for the first-year students in their first tournament, so hopefully, they will use the information and apply it. I asked...
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