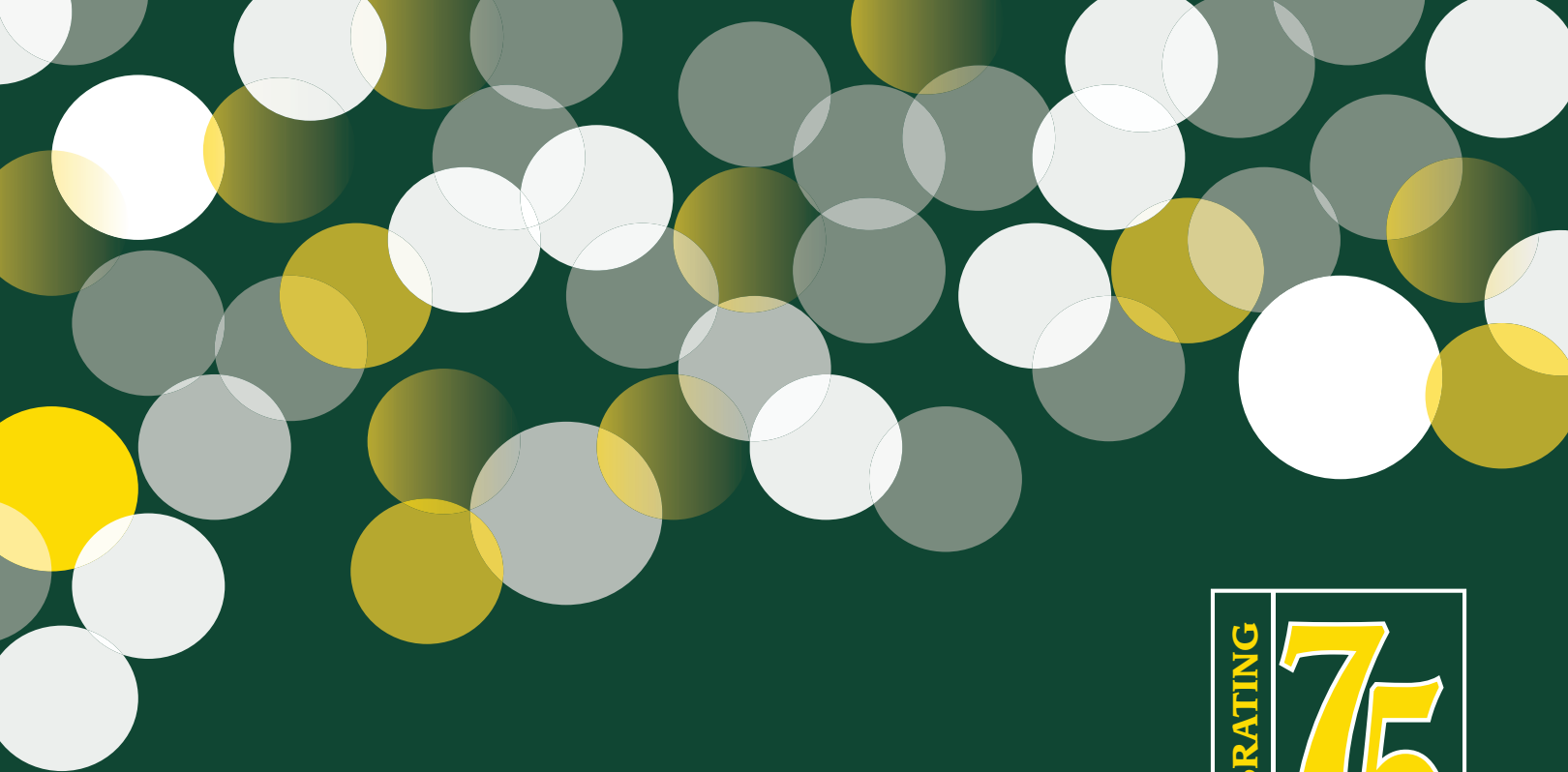


Magazine of Felician University

FOCUS

*A Proud Legacy,
A Promising Future*





Save the Date



FELICIAN UNIVERSITY
75th Anniversary Gala

OCT 18
2017

The Venetian | Garfield, NJ

HONORING:

- ☞ Angelo Genova, *Genova Burns*
- ☞ Governor Brendan and Ruthi Byrne
- ☞ Felician Sisters

For details: Ann Ennis | 201.355.1432



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Felician University Magazine Spring 2017

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Celebrating its 75th anniversary, Felician University – with campuses in Lodi and Rutherford, NJ – is a Catholic Franciscan University founded and sponsored by the Felician Sisters in 1942. Felician offers bachelor's, master's and doctoral programs in Arts and Sciences, Business, Nursing and Teacher Education. In 2015, the University was ranked by Money Magazine as one of America's Top Colleges and also listed among Money's top 25 private colleges for merit aid. For more information, visit www.felician.edu.

75 Years of Changing Lives and Improving the World

Dear Students, Faculty, Staff and Friends of Felician University,

Welcome to the latest edition of Focus magazine. While we've redesigned the publication's pages and introduced a fresh, contemporary look, we've purposefully kept the name, Focus, because it embodies the character and spirit of what we value most—our students. Focus so aptly describes the diverse body of students who are drawn to study here from all walks of life.

Our students are here because—with unwavering focus—they truly seek transformation in improving themselves and world around them—something that is at the very core of the Franciscan values we hold so dear. As you read the articles that follow, I'm confident you will feel as I do—proud of all we've become and hopeful of a bright and successful future.

We have much to celebrate this year, as 2017 marks the 75th anniversary of Felician—and we have many activities planned to embrace this wonderful milestone.

Felician was incorporated on March 26, 1942, as Immaculate Conception Junior College. Since that time, our legacy has been marked by considerable accomplishment in changing the lives of our students and doing our part to improve the world condition. We became Felician College in 1967, the same year we began offering our first four-year program.

“ During the last 75 years, Felician has had a profound impact on the lives of thousands of students—of that we should all be most proud. ”

The vision of becoming a university was realized in 2015 when our petition for university status was approved by New Jersey's Secretary of Education. University designation more accurately reflects Felician's current range and quality of academic offerings, which include more than 16 graduate programs across all disciplines, three doctoral programs, and strong undergraduate programs within the schools of Arts and Sciences, Business, Education and Nursing.

In addition to being designated a university by the State of New Jersey, in the academic year of 2015-16, Felician continued to realize important achievements, honors and recognition.

A little over a year ago, we recognized and celebrated the 50th anniversary of our School of Nursing with a White Mass and Hall

of Honor induction of its first class. Felician's School of Nursing has more than 6,000 alumni, most of whom I am very proud to say continue to serve the healthcare community within our home state of New Jersey.

In the fall of 2015, we opened our newly refurbished Education Commons building—affectionately known as the Ed Commons—offering an expansive, state-of-the-art simulation lab for our nursing students, classrooms, a library, computer lab, and student lounge and study areas. Officiating the ribbon cutting ceremony were Acting New Jersey Governor, Kim Guadagno, and Rutherford Mayor, Joseph DeSalvo.

Also that fall, Felician's initiative on education excellence for Hispanic students was recognized by The White House. Specifically, we have committed more than a half million dollars to improve the academic success, persistence and graduation rates of Hispanic students by five percent through 2020.

Felician received a National Science Foundation grant to establish a center for academic excellence in information assurance/cyber defense. Cyber crime is a critical threat to our nation and we are very pleased and honored to play a role in helping to stem the rising tide of cyberattacks both here in the United States and around the world.

Last February, Felician and Middlesex County College signed a dual enrollment agreement, which allows MCC nursing students to gain automatic admission to Felician's Fast-Track Registered Nurse to Bachelor of Science in Nursing (RN-BSN) program.

Our Business School under the leadership of newly appointed dean, Bob Evans, Professor Joe Lizza, and members of Felician's Young Entrepreneur's Club, partnered with the Internal Revenue Service and local tax professionals to offer free tax preparation services to low income individuals and families, the elderly, disabled and other members of the underserved community.

In April of 2016, I was extremely honored and humbled to be named as one of the recipients of the EPIC Award, presented by the Institute for Nursing, in recognition of community leaders who make an extraordinary impact on our State's health communities and the profession of nursing. Of course, the true recipients of this honor are Dr. Muriel Shore and her staff and faculty within the School of Nursing.

Also in April, we received word from the National Council of State Boards of Nursing that our School of Nursing class of 2015 achieved a 100% pass rate on the National Council



Licensure Examination (NCLEX-RN). The following month, in May, we also received notice from Education Testing Service that our School of Education class of 2015 had achieved a 100% pass rate on the PRAXIS II exam. In addition to providing a caring, nurturing learning environment, it's clear to me that our faculty continues to well prepare our students to tackle the most difficult challenges.

In May, we hosted our 52nd annual commencement exercises—the first as a “university”—featuring keynote speakers, John Sexton, former NYU president and dean of NYU's School of Law, and former U.S. Ambassador to Germany, Philip Murphy, who is now seeking the 2017 Democratic nomination for New Jersey governor.

Strengthening our presence in the global community, in June we signed a memorandum of understanding with Her Royal Highness Princess Nisreen El-Hashemite, executive director of the Royal Academy of Science International Trust (RASIT) and granddaughter of King Faisal (I) Bin El-Sharif Hussein, the first king of Iraq and founder of the modern state of Iraq. The agreement provides RASIT with a home base on our Rutherford campus and will further increase diversity by attracting international students and scholars from around the world.

In July, Felician's Student Veterans of America (SVA) chapter received a grant to improve the veteran center located on the Lodi campus. For the sixth consecutive year, Felician has been named by G.I. Jobs magazine as a top military friendly school for our commitment to providing a supportive environment for veterans and their families. We currently have 43 undergraduate and 19 graduate veterans enrolled in our academic programs.

In addition to the refurbishment of our veteran center, if you look closely, you may notice a number of other improvements

that were made to facilities on both of our campuses over the summer. Unless you happen to be flying overhead in an airplane or helicopter, you're unlikely to know that a section of the roof on Obal Hall over the Breslin Auditorium was replaced. On the interior of the building, though, you can readily see we've renovated the second floor lecture hall and upgraded the lighting to LED to be more energy efficient.

On the Rutherford campus, as Phase I of the Athletic Recreation Center project, this past summer we were hard at work on the Job Gymnasium. A new gym floor was installed, the lighting was upgraded to LED, and the bleachers were refurbished. The Rutherford Dining Hall also received a facelift, including new flooring and energy-saving lighting. Also on the Rutherford campus, our multi-year energy efficiency project concluded with the replacement of the windows in both Martin and BMA halls.

More recently, with many thanks to the generosity of Felician supporters, this fall we have named the Nursing Resource and Simulation Center in Ed Commons in memory of Barbara Toscano, a Felician alumna and longtime nurse and nursing administrator. In addition, we will name the student lounge in Ed Commons, “Ray's Place,” in loving memory of Ray Bramucci, a longtime Felician regent, trustee and one of our most enthusiastic champions for more than 25 years.

In planning for future growth, we celebrate the receipt of a \$500,000 grant from the New Jersey Higher Education Capital Improvement Fund. This funding will allow us to continue the momentum that began with the opening of the Castle and the completion of the Ed Commons building. Renovations of Martin Hall can now begin in anticipation of that space becoming the new home of our Business School. In turn, the vacated space in BMA Hall will become the hub for our international programs.

This issue of Focus is given to you in the same loving spirit that transcends all that we do for our students, faculty and staff. I trust you will enjoy reading about our achievements and it will serve as a rallying point for building a bright future. During the last 75 years, Felician has had a profound impact on the lives of thousands of students—of that we should all be most proud. Looking back over the past academic year, we've accomplished a lot together. Looking forward, I'm confident that with your support, along with the blessings and guidance of Blessed Mary Angela Truskowska, Saint Francis and Saint Claire, Felician University will flourish.

**Dr. Anne M. Prisco, President
January 2017**

Felician *Facts*

2100
students

Average class size =
15 students

Student to faculty
ratio: **14:1**

Incorporated under the laws of the State of New Jersey as *Immaculate Conception Junior College*.



First class of Nursing students admitted.

In June 1967, the New Jersey State Department of Education authorized Immaculate Conception Junior College to offer a four-year program in Elementary Teacher Education under its new name, **Felician College**.

Felician College became coeducational, accepting men and women into all programs and courses.

○ 1942



"Casablanca," one of the most quoted and loved films of all time, premieres.

○ 1965

The Gateway Arch, in St. Louis, Missouri, the 630-foot-tall parabolic steel Gateway Arch is completed.

○ 1967

The Beatles release Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band, one of rock's most acclaimed albums.



○ 1986



The Oprah Winfrey Show debuts nationally.



100% of accepted first year students receive some type of scholarship or grant award.



Named a **veteran friendly school** for sixth consecutive year.



In 2015, unrivaled **pass rate of 100%** on the National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX) for registered nurses.

In 2015, education students received **100% pass rate** on PRAXIS II exam.



School of Education students have received New Jersey **student teacher of the year** award four times.



Encourages **global learning through study abroad programs**, an international student population and UN Fellows program. One of only 26 colleges or universities recognized as an NGO by the United Nations.

Felician is an **independent co-educational Catholic Franciscan University**



founded and sponsored by the Felician Sisters to educate a diverse population of students within the framework of a liberal arts tradition.

Offers **55 academic programs** within four schools: Arts and Sciences, Business, Education and Nursing.



Students logged 10,000 hours of community service.



Close proximity to NYC — 10 miles and 20 minute commute.



14 NCAA Division II athletic teams — eight for women, six for men.



Located on 40 acres on **two campuses** in Rutherford and Lodi.



16 graduate programs across all disciplines, including three doctoral programs.

Felician developed an Athletic Program for men and women's basketball, followed by a men's soccer team and women's softball team.

In the fall of 1997, Felician purchased the Rutherford Campus.



The Felician University Men's Soccer team (started in 1996) won two Conference championships in 2000 & 2001 and two Regional Championships in 2000 & 2001, with two National Tournament appearances.

1996

On July 5, "Dolly" the sheep becomes the first mammal to be successfully cloned.



1997

The first book in the award winning Harry Potter series by J. K. Rowling is published in the U.K.



2000/2001

The first iPod is released in October, 2001.



Offers a classroom to career focus by integrating classroom learning with experiential, hands-on learning through **internships**.



A strong commitment to a **diverse and inclusive campus** to ensure our students a transformative college experience.



The only Franciscan University in NJ. **Committed to Franciscan values** of respect for human dignity; compassion; transformation; solidarity with the poor; and justice and peace.

Welcomes students from all backgrounds, some who have overcome significant personal issues such as poverty and single-parent households.



A 21st Century Global Education Based on Timeless Values:

The United Nations Fellows Program

Building on the Franciscan values of respect for human dignity, compassion, transformation, solidarity with the poor, and justice and peace, Felician University is one of a select few academic institutions worldwide with a nongovernmental organization (NGO) affiliation with the United Nations.

Through the United Nations Fellows Program and the filter of these timeless values, Felician is offering its students experiential learning about global issues including poverty, human trafficking, refugees and water.

Along with faculty and board members, Felician students enrolled as UN Fellows have the unique privilege of presenting at UN briefings and serving as chairs of committees and annual conferences. They are working with Caritas Internationalis, and the Royal Academy of Science International Trust (RASIT), which recently opened an office on the Rutherford campus and is hosting an international science project.

All told, Felician has made it possible for one hundred and seventy students to participate in the UN Fellows program, including exchange students from Africa, Bosnia, China, Denmark, Japan, Poland, Republic of South Korea, Russia, Taiwan, Thailand, and the United States.

Reflecting on her UN Fellow experience, Natsoka, an exchange student from Japan, said “I had the opportunity for new cultural, religious and social experiences. I learned that nations need to forgive each other for past tragedies; otherwise, they cannot stop fighting. Because of this experience I want to be a teacher.”

Another exchange student, David reports, “This experience changed my view of the world—every nation has something to contribute. I want to work in the field of human rights.”

The UN Fellows Program is preparing Felician graduates to be informed global citizens and leaders. Felician expects its UN Fellows will embrace careers as educators, international bankers, human rights attorneys, and even professional athletes. Some will go on to work for NGOs, while others will become civil servants in their home countries.

- Dr. Mary E. Norton
Professor, UN Fellows Program



Top: Dr. Mary Norton; HRH Princess Nisreen El-Hashemite; Dr. Anne M. Prisco; Dr. Edward Ogle, VP Academic Affairs, Felician University; and Rola Dahlan, Secretary General, RASIT; Middle: Felician students participate in The United Nations Fellows Program. Bottom: HRH Princess Nisreen El-Hashemite; Dr. Anne M. Prisco



Top: Felician students march in the New York Veterans Day Parade.

Left: Jorge Soriano, president of the Felician chapter of the Student Veteran Association and Yolanda Denson, representative from The Home Depot, help Dr. Anne M. Prisco, Felician president, cut the ribbon for the newly refurbished Veterans Lounge on the Lodi campus of the University.

Felician—A Top Military Friendly School

Honoring America's Veterans

For six years and counting, Felician University has been named a Top Military Friendly School by G.I. Jobs magazine. This elite distinction – ranking Felician within the top 15 percent of all colleges, universities and trade schools nationwide – just scratches the surface of what can be done to thank our heroes for putting their lives on the line to protect us.

Felician is proud to have taken things further in 2016 – successfully earning a \$10,000 grant from The Home Depot Foundation and the Student Veterans of America (SVA). This money is earmarked for upgrading the Veterans' Center on Felician's Lodi campus, which currently serves 43 undergraduate and 19 graduate veterans. Those students range in age from 26 to 35, and come from an assortment of ethnic backgrounds.

"Our veterans bring many unique

strengths to campus, but they also have specific needs," explained Felician President, Dr. Anne M. Prisco. "We strive to provide the resources to help them transition smoothly to civilian life, whether that means socializing with their peers, offering classes that build on their military experience, and even supplying access to proven methods for treating PTSD."

The Veterans Club at Felician works with Project Rebirth, a resilience resource for all who serve community and country, and its Project Cohort, which is a proven method for treating PTSD through adventure therapy. The club also participates in 5K runs/walks, community events, veteran specific internships, veteran job fairs, VA workshops, on campus veteran events and a special Veterans Day ceremony, including marching in the New York City Veterans

Day Parade and the local American Legion Memorial Day Parade.

Felician offers dedicated financial benefits to veterans and their families, accepts American Council Education (ACE) Military Transcripts, and will transfer up to 90 credits depending on course of study. Felician is also a fully participating Yellow Ribbon Institution, offering the maximum contribution rate of 50%, with a matching contribution from the VA – and no limit to the number of veterans who can attend under the program. The University is also a proud member of the Servicemembers Opportunity Colleges (SOC) Consortium.

To learn more about the services Felician already provides to veterans, as well as the planned upgrades as part of this new grant from SVA, visit felician.edu/veteran-services.



FELICIAN COMMUNITY

FELICIAN



Focusing
on the *Future*
Respecting
the *Past*



“ ... we looked at the future and are mapping our new academic programs to meet the needs of a future workforce. ”

Dr. Anne M. Prisco, President



In 1923 the Felician Sisters founded the Immaculate Conception Normal School, dedicated to training teachers to qualify for state certification. The Normal School became a Junior College in 1942 and, in 1967, the New Jersey Department of Education authorized the institution to offer a four-year program under a new name, Felician College. In 2015, Felician College became Felician University.

Over the course of almost 100 years the institution has continually and conscientiously grown and evolved to meet the needs of students in a changing society. More than that, though, it has remained relevant in a larger societal context as a Catholic institution grounded in, and guided by, Felician Franciscan values.

Now that Felician is in its 75th year, leaders have crafted a plan that respects those tenets and is dedicated to keeping them integral and alive. Dr. Anne Prisco, president since 2012 and the first lay person to hold that position, says, “I always want to remind others of the theme of our strategic plan, and that is that Felician University offers a 21st-century education based on timeless values.”

This value-driven process of developing a relevant curriculum at Felician University, as with any school, is also one of adaptation and change. Dr. Ed Ogle, Vice President of Academic Affairs, led the team that facilitated Felician’s status change. That, he says, “generated a lot of energy among the students, the faculty, the board and the community. It felt like recognition for

the growth we have been experiencing as an institution, like a bright light had been shown on the quality work going on here.”

That work includes not only highly accomplished performances in areas of study for which Felician has long been known. The nursing school is the only one in New Jersey whose graduates passed the NCLEX RN licensure exam at a rate of 100%, as did teaching graduates on the Praxis test for certification. However, Felician is undergoing what Dolores Henchy, dean, Institutional Assessment and Academic Success Programs, describes as “thoughtful change and innovation.”

“I liken what is going on at Felician University to Mark 2:22,” she says. “No one puts new wine into old wineskins. Otherwise, the wine will burst the skins, and the wine is lost, and so are the skins.’ We, as an institution, do our homework. We analyze the external environment, the internal environment, then we make decisions based on that analysis. That’s where the thoughtful change comes in. As an institution, you do your due diligence and keep gathering data and then you get the creative muse to find your niche.”



“...preparing our students to make a positive difference in the world and carry the core values of the Felician Sisters into their personal and professional lives.” Sister Juanita Arnister

To prepare for that future, Ed Eichhorn, vice president for Institutional Advancement, is building a robust internal organization designed to rekindle and build relationships with foundations, donors and alumni. 6,000 of Felician's approximately 7,500 contactable alumni live and work in New Jersey and, he says, "it's important not to lose people who have obtained a bachelor's or master's degree, or higher, from Felician. What we are doing now is putting the school in a good direction in the area of advancement and we're beginning to make progress. But it's more like a marathon than a sprint."

"We have set out on a five-year strategic plan," says Dr. Prisco, "and in that plan we looked at the future of certain careers and are mapping our new academic programs to meet the needs of a future workforce."

Fran Andrea, vice president of Enrollment Management and Student Affairs, has that workforce in mind when she summarizes programs and interdisciplinary degrees newly available at Felician, such as a five-year MBA program. "This allows our students to experience internships and expand their knowledge base," she says. "We are trying to ensure that our students understand that this is more than an education, it's a career path. It's for a lifetime. That critical thinking and analytical skills, compassion and concern, are all wrapped up into the intellect of the individuals who we graduate. That their future is infinite."



An alumna, Secretary of the Board of Trustees and Vice President of Mission Integration, Sister Juanita Arnister shared her 50+ year perspective on Felician University with Focus. She spoke about her early days at what was then Immaculate Conception Junior College, the institution's history, its future, and preparing our students to make a positive difference in the world and carry the core values of the Felician Sisters into their personal and professional lives.

What was Felician like when you attended as a student?

When I started in 1965, our professors were Felician Sisters and priests and a couple of lay professors. By the end of 1965, Immaculate Conception Junior College accepted the first class of laywomen, so now the Sisters were interacting with young women studying for their first degrees. That was really different and new, and in 1967 we became a college. That was very exciting, let me just tell you. It was like a breath of fresh air.

As a young Felician Sister, I witnessed these changes but I never dreamed that through the coming decades Felician College would become the two-campus university it is today. In my first couple of years, it was just being built.

Literally being built?

Literally. We would be in class in the convent area and we could hear the jackhammers as the piles were driven and foundations were being built. It was really awesome. We're talking ancient history, here.

(Continued on page 15)



That future includes new masters, doctoral and interdisciplinary programs in areas recognized in the 21st century workplace as essential, including Business Analytics. "It's the type of academic program that represents the future in that it draws on several disciplines," says Dr. Prisco. "We know now that in this complex world we live in, a major often needs to be a compilation of what has been typically considered separate academic disciplines. And something like business analytics draws from computer science, math and business."

New academic programs in development through 2017 include masters programs in School Counseling, Literacy Specialists and Elementary Education with TOSD (Teacher of Students with Disabilities); a RN to MSN Fast Track program, similar to the existing five-year MBA program; and converting the MBA program to 100% online delivery. "We have expanded opportunities for our students so that their future is one that they can excel in and be proud of," says Ms. Andrea.

In fact, in 2015 Felician was awarded the University's first grant from the National Science Foundation. It is being used to establish a Center for Academic Excellence in Information Assurance/Cyber Defense, as well as increase the number, and diversity, of undergraduate and graduate students in that discipline.

Diversity, itself, remains a touchstone at Felician, ethnically, culturally and socioeconomically. "I refer to us as a melting pot," says Dr. Prisco. "We are a small school with students of different religions and from different backgrounds. Because

of the environment that we create, in the cafeteria or in the classroom, students have to speak to the student sitting next to them, because they are going to be doing a project together." Angelica Diggs Kane, Archival Associate, has a unique perspective on Felician University's past, present and future. Her role is to catalog and archive virtually all information about the school - administrative, photographs, yearbooks, etc. - digitizing it and making the collection more user-friendly and accessible for research.

She sees two events in particular as representing seismic changes at Felician, the first being its change to a Junior College. "I think that was a very pivotal moment for the school," she says. "I think that was when they really set out on a significant path that started with its religious roots and has continued to grow since then."

The second is the drive to develop masters and doctoral degrees. "I think that's a big reflection of not only the school moving forward in terms of what it can offer to the community, but I think that we are staying on trend and being a place that offers unique degrees so people can develop relevant careers."

She also appreciates the spiritual mindset that guides all development and change that she, as an archivist, observes. "When I first started working here I knew that it was a Catholic University, but I was still surprised, and in a good way. What I found so unique about Felician is that the core values of the Franciscan ministry are so present in such a positive way, in the openness and diversity and acceptance of other cultures in the community."



“ We have expanded opportunities for our students so that their future is one that they can excel in and be proud of. ”

Fran Andrea, Vice President of Enrollment Management and Student Affairs

Sister Rosita Brennan, former provost of Felician, was a nursing student at Felician Junior College in the mid-60’s and has witnessed the growth of the institution. “It has been astounding,” she says. “We probably had a couple of hundred students when I attended and we were in a wing in the Mother House. Now we have close to 2,000 and I am very proud of these accomplishments.” There is a common thread running throughout the history of Felician University. From its founding by the Felician Sisters to the expansion of its campus, degree offerings and changing student body, it is an awareness and understanding of the institution’s responsibility to integrate the Felician Franciscan mission and core values into the very life of the school.

Sister Juanita Arnister, Vice President of Mission Integration since 2011, is charged with that task. “In all of our strategic plans, and all of our life here at Felician,” she says, “we want students to be not only academically prepared, but socially. Our core values are respect for human dignity, compassion, transformation, solidarity with the poor, and justice and peace. We are dealing with people. Touching their hearts, heads and hands in service.”

Sister Rosita adds, “Those founding principles are still very important to prepare people, women and men, to go out into the world and carry those values with them, and it is filtered down to the Board of Trustees and the faculty and staff. We believe that these values are still important and that they can be practiced or subscribed to by almost anybody. It’s a care for humanity.”

“People here are very proud of the nurturing environment and are very committed to the mission of the Felician Sisters,” says Ed Eichhorn. “They want to remain committed to that mission while serving the needs of students today, in terms of education, and the future.”

(Continued from page 13)

How has it changed?

What hasn’t changed? When I took my first classes we were studying in what was called the “juniorate,” where high school girls thinking about becoming Felician Sisters lived while attending Immaculate Conception High School, staffed by the Felician Sisters. The building was always super clean but not very modern. Today we have our beautiful Kirby Hall, Obal Hall, Library and all the buildings on the Rutherford Campus.

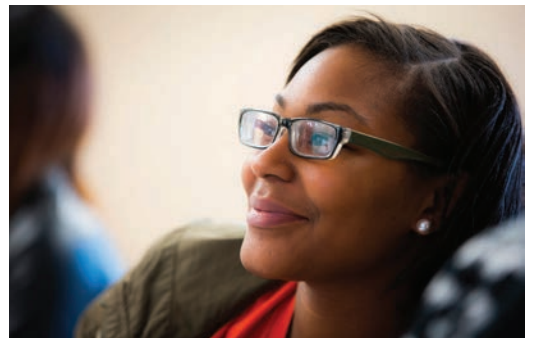
What hasn’t changed over the years?

Little by little the number of Felician Sisters diminished but the wonderful laity who have succeeded them have continued to build on the foundation of the first Sisters. The Sisters and laity truly live the ideals of Blessed Mary Angela Truszkowska, foundress of the Felician Sisters.

Also, Felician’s focus on each student. One on one, each student matters. The values of Felician University are values shared through the decades. Respect for human dignity, compassion, transformation, solidarity with the poor, justice and peace.

What do you think that people who are graduating this year, or who will be graduating in next few years, will be surprised at 5, 10, 15 years from now?

I can’t be specific, but we’re still going to be around and we are going to be providing for their needs, whatever they are. Many programs that we don’t have now will be the norm in the future, because we keep an eye on the population and their needs. It’s all about relationships. We’re dealing with people. That’s very Franciscan, and that’s what people need to know about our institution.





A grand reception followed the ceremony. Standing, from left: Edward Eichhorn, Dr. Muriel Shore, Sandra Keary, Dr. Anne M. Prisco, and Robert Garrett; seated: Sam Toscano and Sr. Theresa Mary Martin

Felician University Honors Alumna

During a very inspiring, prayerful gathering, Felician University dedicated its new Nursing Resource and Simulation Center on the Rutherford campus in memory of Barbara J. Toscano.

The event began with the celebration of the liturgy of the Eucharist in the Castle Chapel followed by a special Signage Unveiling Ceremony in the Simulation Center.

Father Richard Kelly, director of campus ministry, celebrated the Eucharist and Deacon Michael Keary, Barbara's brother-in-law, delivered the homily. Dr. Anne M. Prisco, president, welcomed the guests and introduced Sister Theresa Mary Martin, president emerita, as the central speaker.

Sister Theresa proceeded to define Barbara J. Toscano as "a breath of heaven," whose internal and external beauty and goodness constantly radiated God's love. Sister Theresa noted that goodness is the greatest power on earth and "Bobbie" had it in abundance.

Sister Theresa then traced Bobbie's determination to become a nurse through her meeting with Sister Mary Alma, foundress of the Felician College Nursing Program. Sister Alma's insightful encouragement led Bobbie to graduate from Felician, earn a Baccalaureate Degree in Nursing at Dominican College in Blauvelt, and a graduate degree at Jersey City State University.

Sister emphasized that Bobbie soon became a widely-respected Director of Nursing in the Department of Surgery at Hackensack University Medical Center and was ranked among the "Best of the Best."

Sister Theresa moved on to Bobbie's marriage to Sam Toscano after months of praying that God would send her the right person - and He did. She assured everyone that Sam Toscano also ranked among the "best of the best" - all heart, all goodness, all integrity, all generosity, and a wise businessman.

As Bobbie embraced many wonderful years enjoying her loving family, Sister Theresa sadly noted that everything suddenly changed. Bobbie developed leukemia and immediately re-focused her joy-filled energy towards meeting God.

"And she did so with the same determination, faith, and trust that defined her life." In a note Bobbie sent to Sister Theresa, she said, "Life takes many turns - but it's God's path for us - I know He is walking with me."

Sister Theresa closed by noting that the spirit of Barbara Toscano must live on in the hearts and minds of the Felician University students destined to become registered nurses. She said, "They must develop and use superior learning experiences, strong professionalism, and God-centered compassion when caring for patients. This is what Barbara J. Toscano did and this is what the Felician University Nursing Resource and Simulation Center students are destined to do."

After Dr. Prisco, Sam Toscano, and Sister Theresa unveiled the signage, Father Kelly blessed the center, and Dr. Muriel Shore, dean of the School of Nursing, shared a closing.

In between, Robert Garrett, president of Hackensack University Medical Center, made a surprise appearance, and delivered an eloquent commentary about Barbara and Sam Toscano. Additionally, the Bebe Foundation announced the funding of an endowed nursing scholarship at Felician in memory of Barbara Toscano.

The audience affirmed Sam Toscano with a round of applause for his major financial contribution towards the upkeep of the Nursing Resource and Simulation Center.

Creating an Institute on Catholic Teaching and Traditions



Felician University founded a new institute to study and address pressing issues facing the Church and society. The Blessed Mary Angela Institute for Contemplation, Action and Transformation is named for Mary Angela Truskowska, the foundress of the Felician Sisters order.

“We are pleased to further support Felician’s Catholic, Franciscan values by creating this important new resource,” explained Felician President, Dr. Anne M. Prisco. “Blessed Angela devoted her life to fighting social ills and furthering educational opportunities. It is fitting that we honor her memory through the study of her ministry and the causes she cared so much about.”

The Institute will be based on Felician’s Lodi campus in New Jersey, and lead by director Sister Mary Annelle Velivis. Sr. Annelle will oversee research on Catholic social teachings, and how they address important issues such as poverty, immigration, human trafficking and homelessness, with a particular focus on women and children. The institute will also disseminate academic publications on social justice issues.

“Through research and dialogue, we look forward to helping shine a light on the Church’s role in inspiring all of us to action to make the world a better place for the most vulnerable among us,” said Sr. Annelle.

Preparing for the Road Ahead:

The Felician Difference for a Future Teacher



When I was a high school senior looking at my college options, one factor mattered most: how will this school help me to become a teacher? Luckily, I found Felician University. With its strength in teacher education, I have been given the best resources to prepare for a bright future as an educator.

Felician is different from the other universities I considered attending. The classes are small, creating an open, personal environment in which to learn. I know I wouldn’t have survived in a huge school where I was just a number in a lecture hall. Felician wouldn’t let that happen. Every Felician professor knew my name, and shared with me their love of the subjects we studied, especially English and Education. Faculty offered not just the tools and perspectives to shape my thinking, they cared about me even after classes ended. The connections made a difference. They will matter when I graduate this winter.

College shapes your life. I have been thinking about my undergraduate years in terms of learning to drive a car. You take a driving course to get the knowledge needed to drive on the road. Behind the wheel, you practice with the tools you are given. Felician gave me the knowledge and skills to take charge of my own classroom, and the time to practice.

For my career as a teacher, and for my life more generally, Felician has put me in the driver’s seat. I am ready.

**- Angela Doan, School of Education
Class of 2017**

75 Years Strong

Under beautiful blue skies and balmy early fall temperatures, more than 500 alumni, students, families, faculty and staff gathered on the Rutherford campus to celebrate Felician University's Homecoming 2016. Everyone enjoyed the carnival games and food, children proudly showed off their brightly painted faces and sticky cotton candy fingers, and alumni reconnected with former classmates. The celebration of all things Felician was extra special this year as Felician begins a year-long commemoration of its 75 years in higher education.



Right: Student Ashley Garcia and staff member Brittany Schwartz welcomed all alums back to campus for Felician Homecoming



Students and alums on campus at Felician University

Far left: Andrew Toriello, Assistant Director of Athletics, Recreations and Club Sports and Head Coach Women's Bowling

Above: Felician student Xiamara Reyes



Arts & Sciences Adds Felician's Third Doctoral Program

It won't be long before the first group of graduates of Felician's School of Arts & Sciences get to have the title "doctor" before their names.

The school recently won approval to award a Doctor of Psychology degree in Counseling Psychology, with an emphasis in primary care. A Psy.D. credentials those who hold the degree to engage in the profession of clinical psychology, having attained the necessary skills and knowledge.

The goals and objectives of the Psy.D. program were developed within the larger context of professional psychology, the principles of the American Psychological Association (APA), and

the vision and mission of Felician University. "The educational philosophy of the Psy.D. includes an appreciation for the value and uniqueness of the individual, a belief in the potential for each human being to flourish and achieve integrity and happiness, and an acknowledgment of the strengths of each individual," said Dr. George Abauza, Dean of the School of Arts & Sciences.

The first group of Psy.D. candidates will be admitted to Felician in fall semester, 2017. This will be the third doctoral program at Felician; the other two are Doctor of Business Administration and Doctor of Nursing Practice with tracks in Advance Practice and Executive Leadership.

Felician on Front Lines in Fight Against Cybercrime

The announcement of the new degree came on the heels of some other impressive developments at the Arts & Sciences School – including completion of the first year of a National Science Foundation grant to promote improvement in cybersecurity education and workforce development. Successful implementation of this three-year grant project will mean Felician can apply for status as a Center for Academic Excellence in Information Assurance/Cyber Defense.

As is so often reported in the news these days, cyber criminals are pushing Internet security and cybercrime prevention strategies to the limit. Attacks are growing more sophisticated, so defenses must stay one step ahead. A key element is to have a skilled cybersecurity workforce.

During the first year of the grant, Felician accomplished infrastructure and curriculum improvements through:

- Redesign of existing and development of new coursework for the Bachelor of Science in Cybersecurity
- Building a specialized computer laboratory for use by undergraduate and graduate students
- Continued planning and development of the Cybersecurity track within the new Master's degree in Computer Science, which won the necessary approval of the New Jersey Presidents' Council last March. All new and re-designed coursework is being developed under guidelines provided by the National Security Agency and the Department of Homeland Security

Prof. Carol Manigault assumed the position of Principal Investigator for the second and third years of the

NSF grant, with Drs. Sofya Poger and Songmei Yu as Co-PIs. Professor Manigault has two decades of experience as a computer science professional in various capacities on Wall Street and in midtown Manhattan.

Other key grants are helping Felician combat cybercrime in important ways. With the support of a grant from Verizon, Felician faculty developed and implemented a Personal Cyber Defense Certificate course designed to combat potential cyber threats by providing high school students with a basic knowledge of the risks of cyberspace and educating them about technology and strategies for personal online defense, safety, and protection of privacy, reputation, identity, and finances. This program has been offered to several Bergen County high schools, including: Wallington, Immaculate Conception, and Lodi.

Meanwhile, a grant from AT&T is supporting Felician's innovative Saturday cyber and science camps for high school students from areas underserved in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM). Daylong enrichment programs are being offered on six separate Saturdays for up to 24 students. The goal of each program is to offer young students exposure to STEM areas to engage their interest, through hands-on learning experiences and explorations guided by experts—and in educational and career opportunities in the respective fields. Each eight-hour day is packed with such on-campus learning opportunities as sessions in computer and cybercrime technologies, and in cyber threats, followed by cybercrime lab experience. The program includes breakfast and lunch and transportation to and from Felician.

New Master of Science in Computer Science



In another move that bolsters Felician's presence in a cutting-edge area, the Master of Science degree in Computer Science enables students to acquire the fundamental knowledge and best-practice methodologies to prepare for high-level IT administration and software engineering positions. The MS CS coursework and practical training prepares graduates to solve complex computing problems and become highly productive team members in the computing professions. This comes at a time when there is a persistent need for software engineers, systems analysts, web and mobile application developers, and "big data" specialists.

The first 12 MS CS students began their studies last fall.

Students may complete the 30-credit program in as little as a year and a half through a combination of fully online courses and courses that combine learning online with classroom sessions. The program also offers current undergraduate Computer Science students the opportunity to complete their undergraduate and graduate degrees in five years. Students with undergraduate majors outside of CS are also accepted into the Master's program upon completing a set of "bridge" coursework that quickly prepares them for graduate coursework in CS.



High Tech Innovations Help Nursing Students Prepare



The patient has a lot of problems: high blood pressure, a weak heart – you name it. He’s not going to recover. The good news, though, is that he’s not a human, but one of a family of state-of-the-art mannequins on which Felician students practice the skills necessary for both routine and emergent care at the University’s innovative Nursing Resource and Simulation Center (NRSC).

Dad goes by the handle, Sim Man 3G. Sim Mom is an advanced full-body interactive birthing simulator that delivers a “baby,” otherwise known as an advanced infant patient simulator. Then there’s Sim Junior, a 6-year-old used in pediatric simulations.

The Sim family helps nursing students build confidence and prepare for the complex and diverse clinical situations they will face on the job. The mannequins have cardiac monitors that display heart and respiratory waves. They present a wide range of complex cardiac rhythms, changes in vital signs, normal and abnormal breath sounds, bowel sounds, and symptoms mimicking seizure disorders. Adding to the reality, the mannequins “talk” – in the form of faculty members providing the voice of the patient by speaking via a microphone built into the mannequin.

“Simulations bridge the gap between theory and practice,” said Dr. Muriel Shore, dean of the Felician School of Nursing.

All of this highly interactive learning takes place in an 11,000-square-foot nursing laboratory, designed to provide students with a practice space that faithfully resembles a hospital setting. The NRSC looks like a typical patient care unit, equipped with hospital beds, IV pumps, wall-mounted oxygen suction, and a room with all the supplies needed to teach students how to administer medication.

In the health assessment laboratory, students learn to perform a head-to-toe patient evaluation. Practice models are used to instruct students on various abnormal conditions – for example, the eye task trainer displays cataracts and retinal detachment.

The impetus for these real-life simulators is that nursing is a practice-based profession. Lectures and book learning are hugely important, but

nothing can match the experience gained from applying that knowledge to critically think and reason as nurses face myriad clinical decisions. Working on Felician’s simulated family enables students to rapidly transfer knowledge gained from the laboratory setting to the clinical environment. These highly realistic “patient” encounters replicate nearly all essential aspects of hospital situations so they can be more readily understood and managed when they occur with real patients.

“Simulations bridge the gap between theory and practice.” Dr. Muriel Shore

Another advantage of high-fidelity simulators is that they provide nursing students a safe learning environment. During a simulation, students can make mistakes with no risk to anyone’s wellbeing. After each simulation, debriefing sessions turn the encounters into learning opportunities where students and instructors reflect on what happened and what could be done better. It’s a proven technique: research shows that students involved in active learning, such as simulations, more successfully retain knowledge.

“Our students tell us they’re more excited about learning,” said Dean Shore. “They’re learning more, gaining confidence in their skills, and looking forward to each simulation.” And it’s helping their teachers, too, Dean Shore notes: “Faculty report satisfaction with this strategy and feel renewed excitement about their teaching role.”

The telehealth experience provides students with the ability to remotely interview, assess, plan care, and conduct teaching sessions with clients. This is a growing field in healthcare, where nurses play a vital role in managing care for people at home. The Felician telehealth center resembles a home setting that students “visit” via computers. One of the main goals is to strengthen students’ ability to make observations based exclusively on their therapeutic communication and critical thinking skills.

Felician's School of Nursing: Leading in a Changing World

School of Nursing Celebrates 50th Year of Educating Nurse Leaders



Transformation and innovation best describe the growth of the School of Nursing at Felician University over the past 50 years. Staying in the forefront of sweeping changes in the health care system, new treatment modalities, and technological advances, the School of Nursing now boasts more than 6,000 nursing graduates from its baccalaureate, master's and doctoral programs.

clinical specialties. The population of Felician's nursing students continues to reflect the multicultural and international diversity of patients.

With the 2015 opening of the Education Commons Building on the Rutherford campus, all students in Felician's nursing programs have access to the spacious "high tech" Nursing Resource and Simulation Center to learn and practice using simulation, live models and tele-health technology. Real world "health event experiences" prepare nursing students as they learn to practice competently and safely under supervision in both the Resource Center and in clinical settings across the state.

“ We continually hear from NJ and national Health Employers their preference for hiring Felician Nurses. ”

Dr. Muriel Shore

Working with Felician's Health System clinical partners, the patient and health care consumer remains the primary concern. Team based care is now embedded in all nursing programs as nurses work collaboratively to provide "coordinated care" to patients with their counterparts from medicine and other interdisciplinary fields.

"The School of Nursing has achieved national visibility," said Dr. Muriel Shore, Dean of Felician University's School of Nursing. "Our RN-NCLEX 2015 pass rate was 100%, and our graduates are leading change in major hospitals, health systems and health care facilities in research, practice, executive leadership and nursing education."

"We continually hear from NJ and national Health Employers their preference for hiring "Felician Nurses," said Dr. Shore.

Sixty-six percent of Felician's distinguished nursing faculty have earned doctoral degrees and represent expertise across all

As health care system mergers continue, new roles are emerging such as Patient Navigator. Workforce demands are apparent in the professional fields of Physician Assistant, Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapy and Public Health. Felician University is currently exploring the possibility of these program offerings as it expands its recognized niche in Health Care Education within the state and region.



Institute for Gerontology

A vision of President Anne M. Prisco, the Felician University Institute for Gerontology was founded in 2013 to focus on the unmet needs of our growing elderly population in the state and nation. The Institute's goal is to advance healthy aging, in conjunction with community partners to provide educational programs, participate in workforce development, conduct research, and promote public policy and legislative initiatives to enhance successful aging.

developed and served as the genesis for a major research study on Aging Expectations, Attitudes and Perceptions of Felician University Students, launched in March 2016. The research study will identify aging expectations of young people around services and programs they anticipate being available as they age. The research team will present their findings at the American Society of Aging Conference to be held in Chicago in March 2017. Study results are also expected to be published in journals on aging.

“ ... we will also be working with other partners on the development of a major documentary on Aging in America to highlight the issues and innovations for the future of aging. ”

Dr. Muriel Shore

The work of the Institute is supported by a distinguished Advisory Board of 15 external members with varying expertise in the field of gerontology—including a State Senator, health system and long term care administrators, senior level health providers, insurance payors, and an elder law attorney. Dr. Shore serves as Director of the Institute.

With grant funding from the Felician Services, Inc. the Institute has already completed several projects including state-wide focus group meetings with elders to identify gaps in programs and services. White papers describing the findings were

Other projects include working on programs and grant opportunities with aging associations such as the New Jersey Foundation on Aging, and the Bergen County Division of Aging and Human Services.

“Over the next two years, we will also be working with other partners on the development of a major documentary on Aging in America to highlight the issues and innovations for the future of aging,” Dr. Shore said. “We invite you to join us in leading the transformation of health care.”





“ We join institutions like Yale, Georgetown, Penn ... to serve this important growing demographic in the U.S. ” Dr. Dolores Henchy

El Impulso Académico

Felician University was proud to be honored by the White House as part of the 2015 Initiative on Educational Excellence for Hispanics. The Year of Action, chaired by the National Department of Education, involves nearly 150 organizations committing a total of over \$335 million to increase momentum for cradle-to-career education efforts in the Hispanic and Latino community.

According to the White House: “The strength of America’s education system is undoubtedly connected to the academic success of Latinos. With the shift in demographics taking place in our nation’s schools, securing an adequate and equal education for all students, including Latinos, should be a priority not just for the federal government but for every person in this country.”

“At Felician, we understand both the importance of serving the Latino community, and the huge role these students play in improving the world around them,” said Felician President, Dr. Anne M. Prisco. “We pride ourselves in recognizing the enormous assets that come from having a diverse and inclusive student population, and our Franciscan values compel us to insure an equality of opportunity for all students.”

The University was honored to be recognized by the White

House Initiative for committing over half a million dollars to improving the academic success, persistence and graduation rates of our Latino students by 5% for each of the next five years.

Dr. Dolores Henchy, professor and dean of Felician’s Institutional Assessment and Academic Success Programs received a Presidential invitation to participate in the White House’s Hispanic Heritage Celebration, where the award was announced.

“This recognition puts Felician forefront in an important national movement,” according to Dr. Henchy. “We join institutions like Yale, Georgetown, Penn, and others in using forward thinking to serve this important growing demographic in the U.S.” Felician is also a member of the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities and—as a Hispanic Serving Institution (HIS)—is recognized by the Department of Education.

The White House Initiative on Academic Excellence for Hispanics began with an executive order signed by President George H. W. Bush in 1990.

The full list of “commitments to action” can be found at: ed.gov/hispanicinitiative, or on Twitter @HispanicEd.

New Technology Immerses Education Candidates in Virtual Scenarios

Students at Felician University's School of Education are being trained through a heavy dose of virtual reality. In this case, their classroom is a Smart Board, showing animated boys and girls in a classroom unlike any that previous generations of would-be teachers ever saw.

The technology is called Mursion. It was developed at the University of Central Florida, where researchers found that teaching candidates who used it for an hour learned as much as they would have in four hours in an actual school. The virtual students react in real time to instructions. Programmers who give life to the virtual students can raise or lower the volume in

more time in real classrooms than the state requires—360 hours starting in freshman year for undergraduate teacher candidates—the School of Education faculty are finding the virtual classroom to be an indispensable teaching tool. Not only do Education candidates in teaching and administration experience classroom situations, they also participate in virtual parent conferences.

Professors who teach curriculum and supervision can schedule time for a school principal candidate to hold a conference with a virtual teacher whose performance needs improvement. Principal and supervisor candidates can also hold a simulated



the classroom. Students can act out or cooperate – displaying the full range of behaviors seen in a real classroom.

But unlike in a real classroom, here there can be do-overs that help would-be teachers learn from mistakes and undergo the practice it takes to make perfect. Here, too, teacher candidates can watch each other in classroom situations, learning from their peers in ways that wouldn't be practical in an actual school setting.

Felician students see the computer-generated classroom on a large screen—or Smart Board—in the School of Education. What the teacher candidates say and do is monitored at the other end, so the virtual students behave very much like real kids. Although Felician's education programs provide much

meeting in which teachers and administrators discuss student achievement data.

Faculty choose scenarios appropriate for their classes and schedule time in the virtual setting for candidates to practice. The virtual scenario is transmitted on the SmartBoard at the front of the college classroom and each candidate takes a turn practicing individually. Last fall, for example, Dr. Michelle Anderson's graduate teacher candidates practiced teaching a social studies lesson to the virtual middle school class.

The virtual reality avatars might not bring an apple to Felician's Education students but there is no question they are helping teachers to be better equipped and prepared for a variety of common and perhaps not-so-common classroom scenarios.



The School of Business Thinks Ahead:

A New Dean's New Direction



In an effort to understand the needs of a dynamic business community and meet the evolving demands of a 21st century career, Dean Bob Evans has the School of Business at Felician University reaching out beyond its classroom walls.

Want an example of the interdisciplinary nature of the new Dean's approach? The undergraduate degree in Business

Analytics incorporates mathematics, computer science, and management courses to prepare students for careers in data

refinement and management. In development are several new programs: Social Media Marketing; Entrepreneurship, Finance, Economics; and Healthcare Administration. The MBA program is soon to be offered as a fully online program.

Ultimately, Dean Evans is aiming for "an enriching educational experience that will enable graduates to enter the work force well prepared for the demands of a competitive job market."

"We are reverse-engineering our programs to match the needs of an ever-changing market place," Dean Evans said.

Relationships with companies for internship and placement opportunities is a major priority. As the School expands its Business Advisory Board, local, national, and international business leaders are making regular visits to the School of Business.



“ It is an exciting time to be at Felician University and the School of Business.”

Dean Bob Evans

By meeting with business leaders on an individual basis, Felician is strengthening relationships that will benefit its students and alumni.

As the School connects to leaders in business and industry, it is also reaching out to the community with ventures such as VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance), offering free tax assistance to low-income residents, senior citizens, persons with disabilities, and limited English speaking taxpayers.

Clearly, VITA is a high-impact practice for the local area taxpayer community, but it also represents an invaluable training opportunity for Felician business students who gain a real-world understanding of the income tax process while strengthening operational and people skills.

Change means growth for the students and faculty at Felician's School of Business, which will eventually make its home in Sr. Theresa Mary Martin Hall. Thanks to a \$500,000 grant from the New Jersey Higher Education Capital Improvement Fund, Martin Hall will soon undergo renovations that include, among other things, state-of-the-art technology updates.

“It is an exciting time to be at Felician University and the School of Business,” said Dean Evans. “We look forward to building on our Felician heritage as we develop innovative programs and exciting opportunities.”

As career paths continue to change and evolve in the 21st century, Felician plans to stay ahead of the curve, applying enduring values to imagine new possibilities.

“Aha!” Moments of Felician Alums

by Joanna Chacon and Anthony Bizien—Class of 2013



Felician alumna Joanna Chacon's advice to new students at the September academic convocation could be distilled into two words: “take advantage.”

“Take advantage of the fountains of knowledge that your professors hold, of extracurricular activities, networking events, and work opportunities,” she urged. “Take advantage from your peers. Learn their stories and grow with them.”

“ Take advantage of the fountains of knowledge that your professors hold... Learn their stories and grow with them. ”

Joanna Chacon, Class of 2013

Joanna spoke from experience. Now an intellectual property development specialist at the McDermott Will & Emery law firm in Washington, DC, Joanna helps researchers and scientists secure patents for pharmaceuticals – a job she got shortly after earning a master's in biochemistry and biotechnology at Georgetown University. “The person I am, the person speaking to all of you today,” Joanna told the new freshman class, “is a direct result of my time at Felician. When I first walked through those same doors freshman year, I had no idea that I would be entering into a much larger, more diverse, and more complex world than the one I left behind in high school.”

Fellow 2013 graduate Anthony Bizien, who joined Joanna as a convocation speaker, had a similar story to tell. “I wanted to convey exactly how much of an impact Felician has had on my life beyond college,” he explains. “I acquired knowledge and skills that I utilize every day and I built relationships with faculty, staff, and fellow students that continue to impact me. The biggest impact Felician had on me was through the faculty. So

many professors took an active interest in me and my work and encouraged me along the way.”

The daughter of immigrants from Colombia, Joanna blossomed at Felician. She earned dual degrees in biology and in natural sciences and mathematics, with minors in chemistry and fine arts. No stranger to multi-tasking, the 25-year old from Elmwood Park was a resident assistant, worked in the Registrar's Office, studied abroad in Nicaragua and Italy, and in her senior year ran on the cross-country team.

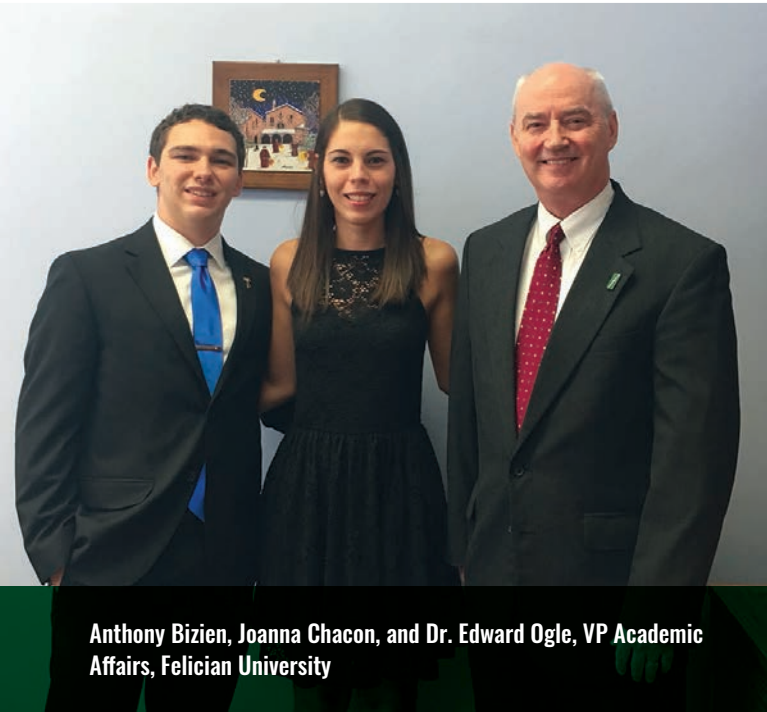
Felician taught Joanna to dream big. “I came into Felician thinking of being a physical therapist,” she recalls, “and that career goal must have changed at least five times. Felician definitely allowed me to realize that I can excel in whatever career I choose as long as I work hard.” Coming back for the convocation was gratifying. “It made me think about how far I had come,” Joanna says. “It felt not long ago that I was sitting in those same seats listening to a speaker, and now I was that speaker. I felt like I came full circle.”



Anthony, now 25, grew up in Hazlet. He graduated from Felician with a BA in history and philosophy with minors in psychology and global peace and justice. Like Joanna, he worked as a resident assistant and in the Registrar's Office. Anthony also played baseball and golf for Felician and was honored as Felician's 2013 Student of the Year. He graduated from The George Washington

“ ... it's important to stay open and to be willing to diverge from whatever plan you had set out. ”

Anthony Bizien, Class of 2013



Anthony Bizien, Joanna Chacon, and Dr. Edward Ogle, VP Academic Affairs, Felician University

University Law School in May and recently started a fellowship at Public Citizen in Washington, D.C. focused on advocating for clearer tax and campaign finance regulations.

Anthony, too, wanted new students not to fear adjusting course, based on the opportunities Felician provided to raise his aspirations. "I changed my major twice and added two minors along the way too, so I became pretty well acquainted with Felician's change-of-major form," he says. "After a few semesters I learned that my abilities translated better to a different career path than I had originally intended, so it's important to stay open and to be willing to diverge from whatever plan you had set out." Anthony's aha moments came from witnessing extreme poverty while studying in Nicaragua and being able to view the inner workings of the United Nations – experiences, he says, "that can leave a lasting effect on anyone."

"They convinced me that it was important to use my skills to help address some of the most important issues in society," Anthony says.

30th Annual Felician University GREEN & GOLD GOLF CLASSIC

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Above: Felician University students on graduation day, 2016;
Right: Julia Sheridan, 2016 Valedictorian



The spirit of love was palpable as the words of valedictorian Julia Sheridan echoed through Breslin Auditorium at the 52nd annual commencement in May 2016.

"Being here today proves we don't have to be the product of past circumstances but rather can be the product of our aspirations." These were heartfelt words, so reflective of the nurturing, caring environment ever present at Felician University.

Sheridan, who has phonological dyslexia, did not learn to read until she was 12 years old, as a student at Teaneck's Community High School.

In May of this year, Julia graduated, not only as Felician's most accomplished student, but also as the University's female athlete of the year and a cherished classmate.

Now a valued member of the team at Pittsburgh-based financial services firm, BNY Mellon, Julia is well on her way to being "the change" in the world. The following synopsis captures the essence and spirit of her parting words to the Class of 2016.

Not Your Typical Valedictorian:

Felician's Top Graduate Shares a Message of Inspiration

by Julia Sheridan

Named the valedictorian of the Class of 2016, I tried to fit the mold. I consulted a thesaurus to enhance my vocabulary, I looked up quotes from famous philosophers. I tried speaking in metaphors.

But I'm not your typical valedictorian. I was not supposed to go to college, let alone graduate at the top off my class.

When people find out about my disability, people usually respond with a look that says either, "So, you aren't smart as you seem?" or "But, it's not that serious, right?"

Wrong, and wrong.

My journey has not been easy. But I don't feel disadvantaged. Inspired by and supported at Felician, I look to my future knowing the power of discipline and possibilities that come from hard work.

For the last four years, we have studied statistics and theology, learned how to do laundry, and figured out how to microwave just about everything. We made new friends, procrastinated, lost sleep, crammed, and struggled. We were afraid we wouldn't graduate. But when our loved ones asked

how college was going we said, "Couldn't be better!"

We conquered our fears. Education majors created lesson plans while preparing to pass the PRAXIS. Nursing students perfected clinical skills while studying for the HESI. Student athletes broke records while excelling in the classroom. Service initiatives accounted for thousands of hours of time, commitment, and passion. "Be the change you wish to see in the world," said Gandhi.

Our time here has been guided by the Franciscan Values, especially diversity. The Class of 2016 includes first-generation college graduates, international students, parents, adult students, students with disabilities, those who have served our country, and many who have faced adversity.

The end goal is not to fit in. We are not the product of past circumstance. We are the product of our aspirations. We look like what we set out to be, not what we've been through. We are the nurse, the accountant, and the future educator. We are ready to be the change.



Right: Felician President, Dr. Anne M. Prisco bids Chris Hall a bon voyage and presents him with some Felician garb to keep him warm.



Preserving Antarctica

A Trip to the Bottom of the World

As he stood, bundled up against the cold in the frozen Antarctic landscape, watching big chunks of ice break up and just float away, Chris Hall couldn't help but think, "I saw climate change happening with my own eyes."

That made a big impression on the first Felician University graduate to set foot on Earth's southernmost continent.

The 2016 Marketing graduate spent the better part of three weeks last March braving negative 25-degree temperatures as part of an expedition led by environmentalist and explorer Robert Swan aimed at raising international consciousness about the need to preserve Antarctica's fragile balance.

Chris, who lives and works in Manhattan, is a marketing and social media coordinator at P3GM, a global development company that creates public-private partnerships and facilitates collaboration between municipalities and the private sector to launch innovative urban infrastructure projects.

Connections at P3GM led Chris to Swan —and the chance to join 130 people from several countries on the latest of Swan's many trips to Antarctica. Much more than an eco-tourist, Chris helped

out with social media, fundraising and marketing aspects of the project. He's especially grateful to Felician for helping to finance the cost of the trip and the special clothing the harsh conditions demand.

Chris arrived at Felician as a 23-year-old after his parents moved to the US from Newcastle, England. A conference all-academic soccer player at the school, Chris said, "The relationships I made at Felician really helped form me and gave me direction. I came out knowing exactly what I wanted to do."

And he sure is doing it. Chris joined P3GM as an intern. Now a full time employee, his responsibilities include managing strategic marketing for Swan's 2041 Foundation (named for the year a global treaty that bans drilling and mining in Antarctica expires).

Chris's goal on the trip was to help inform people so they could go back home and raise awareness about the

need to protect Antarctica. "It's all about education and that's what we really need to push," he says.

Ask Chris what was the most amazing thing he saw in Antarctica and he'll tell you it's "a list as long as my arm."

"The most beautiful place I've ever seen," he says. "So serene, so untouched. You'd have penguins coming up and nibbling on your boots. The weather would change in a heartbeat. If the wildlife wasn't trying to get you, the wind was trying to blow you off a mountain."

Behind the continent's awesome features lies the huge challenge of the warming that climate change brings. "It's happening whether we like it or not," Chris says. "When it happens, people will change their minds. I hope it's not too late."

So, what's next on Chris Hall's journey from the soccer field to world activism? He wants to go to the Congo to promote women's rights — then back to Antarctica.



Sharing Franciscan Values with the Community

Working to End Sexual Assault and Violence Against Women

According to the National Sexual Violence Resource Center, one in five women and one in 16 men are sexually assaulted while attending college. Even more disturbing, roughly 90 percent of sexual assaults on college campuses go unreported.

To stem the rising tide of sexual assault, and with funding from the Department of Justice Office on Violence Against Women (OVW), Felician University will work closely with the YMCA's healingSPACE—Bergen County's sexual violence resource center—and the Rutherford Police Department, to enhance victim safety, provide services for survivors, and support efforts to hold offenders accountable.

"In keeping with our Franciscan values of respect for human dignity, compassion, transformation, solidarity with the poor and justice and peace, we must do all we can to prevent and respond to the egregious act of sexual assault against any person," said Dr. Anne M. Prisco.

Among other activities, the new OVW funded program will convene a coordinated community response (CCR) team, and develop mandatory education and prevention training for all incoming students, faculty and staff. Additionally, response training for SADVDVS will be provided to the University's campus security personnel to increase knowledge and competencies.

The mission of the Office on Violence Against Women (OVW), a component of the U.S. Department of Justice, is to provide federal leadership in developing the national capacity to reduce violence against women and administer justice for and strengthen services to victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking.



What the University hopes to accomplish:

- Coordinate comprehensive, multi-tiered prevention, education, and response programs to help maintain a campus culture and environment that is safe and healthy
- Implement education and programs that promote healthy relationships, media literacy, and bystander intervention trainings
- Promote visibility and awareness of violence against women on campus
- Expand partnerships with the Bergen YMCA's healingSPACE and local police who serve as a resource for training
- Hire a full time Attitudes Against Violence project coordinator

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