

inside bona's

Feb. 17, 2005

St. Bonaventure University

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SBU announces new policy to promote responsible behavior

St. Bonaventure University president Sr. Margaret Carney, O.S.F., S.T.D., has announced a new policy to promote responsible behavior, especially regarding the use of alcohol and other substances.

Discussed at a series of meetings this week, the new policy, "Promoting Responsible Behavior: An Initiative to Support & Model Healthy Life Skills," asks all members of the University community — faculty, staff, friars, trustees, alumni, parents, family and friends — to join in modeling responsible behavior.

"We recognize that alcohol, drugs and other substances have legitimate and often beneficial uses that can be accrued through moderate and proper use. We also recognize that a solution to alcohol and substance abuse must come not through prohibition, which is doomed to fail, but through the ability of each of our students to make sound and rational decisions about the proper use of these substances and the role they will — and will not — play in their lives," Sr. Margaret said.

Under the new policy, all undergraduate admissions and orientation programs, and all associated functions, shall be alcohol-free. In addition, alcohol will not be served to any undergraduate student, regardless of age, at University-sponsored events.

The provisions regarding alcohol use as outlined in the Student Handbook will continue to apply; students of legal age may apply for party permits to serve alcohol in the townhouses. In addition,

See policy, page 2 ...

Foerst publishes book on 'God in the Machine'

Dr. Anne Foerst works in the exciting territory where theology and science intersect, giving definition to — or perhaps redefining — the question, "What makes us human?"

Foerst, currently a visiting professor of theology and computer science at St. Bonaventure University, has published her reflections in the just-released "God



in the Machine: What Robots Teach Us about Humanity and God," available from major booksellers for \$24.95.

Local readers will have the opportunity to hear from Foerst firsthand as she offers a reading and book signing at 7 p.m. Thursday, March 10, at the Olean Public Library.

In the book, Foerst describes her experiences at the Massachusetts Institute

of Technology's artificial intelligence laboratory, where she worked with Cog, a 7-foot robot that was able to learn and react to the physical world. She also worked with Kismet, a very cute robot with human facial features and expressions that elicited sympathetic reactions from its human partners.

Foerst examines what defines humanity, arguing that humans are defined by sharing their stories and by including robots within their life stories. She argues that it is our unique quality as humans that enables us to bond closely with other creatures and that even makes us create beings we can bond with.

Humankind was created in God's image; then humans are participating in this divine creative process by creating a new form of life in their own likeness. "God in the Machine" examines how this will affect the way humans regard themselves and their reasons for being.

Foerst, who joined the St.

See Foerst, page 2 ...

Three students publish article on Volunteer Income Tax Assistance

By Kelly Voll, '06

Three accounting students at St. Bonaventure University recently published an article in *The CPA Journal* about their experiences volunteering with VITA, the IRS's Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program, which returned more than \$190,000 in tax refunds to local taxpayers.

Patrick E. Doyle, of Beaver Falls, Pa.,

Michael W. Matt, a native of Rochester, N.Y., and Bradley T. Owens, from Cincinnati, Ohio, are enrolled in the five-year dual BBA/MBA program at St. Bonaventure. The article they wrote for *The CPA Journal* chronicles the Bonaventure Accounting Association's

See VITA, page 2 ...

"Policy" continued ...

provision will be made to serve alcohol to undergraduate seniors who have reached the age of 21 years during "Senior Week."

An important component of the initiative will be the establishment of a committee, made up of representatives of all University constituencies, to engage the community in the discussion, and to give meaning and direction to the initiative. Like the Commission for the Future and the Task Force on University Governance, among others, "this will inclusive, drawing those who will be affected by the committee's decision into the decision-making," Sr. Margaret said. Plans include instituting campus-wide discussions on ways to implement the new policy, as well as communicating with parents and other family members to seek their cooperation and support of the new policy.

"Foerst" continued ...

Bonaventure faculty in 2001, served as theological adviser for the Cog and Kismet projects at the MIT artificial intelligence laboratory. She lectures internationally on artificial intelligence, computer science and the concepts of personhood and dignity, is a contributing editor to Spirituality and Health magazine and serves as a consultant for National Public Radio.

Changes slated for the Notice Board!

*See the insert in this
week's issue.*



Susan Anders, associate professor of accounting, Bradley Owens, Michael Matt and Patrick Doyle present Sr. Margaret Carney, O.S.F., with a copy of the article.

"VITA" continued ...

participation with the New York State VITA program.

VITA was created in 1969 by the IRS to "provide free taxpayer assistance to those who could not afford a paid preparer," according to the article. The VITA program in New York state is a partnership between the IRS and New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance. The program aims to prepare tax returns for individuals eligible for the Earned Income Tax Credit, a refundable income tax credit for low-income working individuals with earned income, said the article.

Volunteers for this program are usually members of local charities and students from local universities. The volunteers do not need to be experts in the field of taxes, as training is provided before they begin working with the VITA program.

St. Bonaventure joined the New York State VITA program for the 2004 filing season. The Bonaventure Accounting Association, a student organization, pitched the program to accounting students and organized the student volunteers. About 30 students signed up for the program, according to the article.

After their training, the students signed up for various time slots throughout the day to work with members of the community who needed tax returns. Students could ask staff from the Cattaraugus County Department of Social Services or United Way volunteers for assistance if they encountered any problems with the tax returns. Students

were not required to prepare tax returns they didn't feel comfortable with, according to the article. In the end, only two taxpayers were turned away.

The article included some of the difficulties the volunteers encountered. Sometimes, the clients who came for tax return assistance did not offer all of their paperwork or personal information to the volunteers until after the tax return was processed. In this case, the returns had to be reprocessed.

Volunteers also felt slightly nervous when clients questioned their youth or seemed uncomfortable having their tax returns processed by students. Doyle, Matt and Owens also included a list of suggestions for any future volunteers of the VITA program. The volunteers generated this list as they reflected on the problems they encountered and the solutions they came up with.

In the end, St. Bonaventure accounting student volunteers prepared 104 tax returns and brought \$191,000 to working families in Cattaraugus County. "When a low-income family walked into the VITA office with their children, praying for an EITC refund so they could pay their electric bill, getting them a sizable refund was an indescribable feeling," the article said.

The program is continuing this year with 50 students volunteering to assist low-income workers with tax returns, according to Dr. Susan B. Anders, associate professor of accounting, who directs the program.

Campus Events

SBU Class of '05 challenged by trustee to raise \$12,500, establish scholarship

By Katie Fish

For the first time in University history, the senior class is being challenged to do something that has never been done before — raise \$12,500 for the University— an amount no senior class has ever come close to raising.

University Trustee and 1970 SBU grad Robert Williams has challenged the class of '05 to raise the most amount of money of any senior class preceding them, and has generously agreed to match each gift, dollar for dollar, up to \$12,500 in order to establish the Class of 2005 Endowed Scholarship, another first for St. Bonaventure seniors.

Senior and Student Government Association president, Thomas Chew, said, "I'm just excited that we have an opportunity like this. Everyone has always said how great we were as a class, and obviously I agree, but its great that now we have a chance to prove it. All I can ask is that we do our best. Hopefully we'll come together and become even closer than we already are."

The purpose of the Senior Class Campaign is to encourage and educate current students on the importance of philanthropy and giving back to the University that has given them so much over the past four years, to encourage participation and unity among senior class members, to leave a significant mark behind and to set the standards for future senior classes.

In order to encourage participation, a number of incentives are being offered to Bonaventure's newest donors.

Seniors who donate \$15 or more will receive an invitation to a Senior Class reception at the Clubhouse Restaurant on April 26, hosted by the Annual Fund department. Seniors who donate \$25 or more will receive an invitation to the Senior Class reception and a chance to



Senior Class challenge committee members include, front row from left, Ron Overs III, Thomas Chew and William Kistner; and back row, Brian Klingensmith, Nicole Severino, Christopher Zimmer and Nikki Della Penta, as well as Alissa Leavitt and Jaime Schember.

win a pair of tickets to the 50-Day Semi Formal (a \$50 value) at the Old Library on April 1. The \$25 gift must be received no later than March 15 to be eligible for the drawing on March 16. Seniors who donate \$40 or more will receive an invitation to the Senior Class reception, the 50-Day Semi Formal drawing and an opportunity to win one of two tickets for Senior Week, May 11–14 (a \$75 value).

Any \$40 gifts received by March 15 will be eligible for both the 50-Day and Senior Week drawings. Any \$40 gifts received between March 16 and April 13 will only be eligible for the Senior Week drawing, which will be held at the Senior Class reception on April 26.

In addition to the letter appeal, senior class committee members will be personally asking their classmates for gifts.

The challenge began on Feb. 7 and will run through April 13. Gifts may be made in the form of cash, personal checks and credit cards. Williams will match only gifts given directly by students.

Calendar

Girls and Women in Sports Day

8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

Today

Reilly Center Arena

Visit by the Bishop of Buffalo

Today

Faculty Senate Referendum

4 p.m. Today

Murphy Auditorium, Sections A & B

"Franciscan Intellectual Tradition"

presented by Fr. Dominic Monti,
O.F.M., Ph.D.

5:15-7:15 p.m. Tuesday, March 8

University Club

Loretta Lynn in concert

7 p.m. Sunday, March 13

Reilly Center Arena

"Franciscan Life and Values"

presented by Sr. Mary Gurley
O.S.F., Ed.D.

5:15- 7:15 p.m., Tuesday, March 15

University Club

"Teaching Franciscan Values in the Classroom"

5:15-7:15 p.m., Tuesday, March 22

University Club

Career Center Events

CAREERfest Advance Résumé Referral

Ends Feb. 25

* Résumés will be forwarded, in advance, to employers attending CAREERfest 2005.

On-Campus Recruiting Orientations

Feb. 4 - Feb. 25

in room 216 RC.

*You must attend an orientation before interviewing with a company!!

NCAA Certification Peer Review Team completes its 10-year cycle to visit SBU

The National Collegiate Athletic Association's Certification Peer Review Team completed its 10-year cycle visit to St. Bonaventure on Feb. 8.

The five-member team arrived on campus Feb. 6 and completed its visit on Feb. 8. The University now awaits the Peer Review Team's report, which is expected in approximately two weeks and is the next step in the process toward NCAA certification. Potentially, the certification process could be completed within six to eight weeks' time.

The NCAA conducts a certification process with each member institution once every 10 years.

St. Bonaventure's Steering Committee for the NCAA Certification is chaired by Barbara Russell, academic coordinator for the School of Business, with oversight by director of athletics Ron Zwierlein, Ph.D. Other University faculty and staff serving on the Steering Committee are Fr. Dominic Monti O.F.M., Margaret Bryner, Barbara Questa, Steve Campbell, Rob DeFazio, Dr. Steve Horan, Ann Tenglund, Nakeia Chambers, Rodney Paul, Dr. Michael Fischer, Dr. Joe Coate, Eleanor English and Gabe Iturbides. Jim Gould is the Board of Trustees representative and John Bartimole is the community representative.

FridayForum

"A Musical Offering"

presented by Laura Peterson
and Leslie Sabina

Noon to 1:30 p.m.
Quick Arts Center Atrium
Lunch \$2.50 each

News makers

Dr. Alva V. Cellini, professor of modern languages, presented a paper titled "Framing Andean Women" at the 2005 International Conference on Arts and Humanities held in Hawaii in January. This cross-disciplinary academic conference was co-sponsored by the East West Council for Education, the Asia-Pacific Research Institute of Peking University and the University of Louisville.

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Dr. Elizabeth Littell-Lamb, assistant professor of history, presented a paper titled "An Unusual Alliance: The YWCA's Industrial Night Schools and the Shanghai Communist Party in the 1930s" at the 18th Conference of the International Association of Historians of Asia held at Academia Sinica in Taipei, Taiwan, on Dec. 6-10, 2004. The paper refuted the view that Sino-Western institutions in China supported only conservative factions during the political struggle for China's future during the 1930s by exploring how the work of the YWCA's industrial night schools for women factory workers furthered the goals and agenda of Shanghai radicals.

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Darwin L. King, professor of accounting, had an article published in the December 2004 issue of the *Oil, Gas & Energy Quarterly*. The article was titled "Timber Profits: Ordinary Income or Capital Gains?" The article discussed the situations where taxpayers must report timber profits as either fully taxable ordinary income or tax beneficial long term capital gains. The Internal Revenue Code is very specific as to which sales or exchanges of timber are allowed to receive capital gain treatment. This represents the 11th article on timber accounting and taxation that King has published over the last five years.

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Chris Mackowski, assistant professor of journalism and mass communication, had a radio commentary about the death of Arthur Miller broadcast on WFBO on Feb. 15. The commentary praises the timeliness of Miller's pieces and their lasting presence in theater and literature over the years.

Dr. K. R. Sundararajan, professor of theology, has been appointed to the Board of Examiners to adjudicate on a Ph.D. thesis submitted to the University of Madras, India. The thesis is in the area of Vaishnava studies in Hinduism.

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Dr. Kimberly Young, associate professor of management sciences, had the article "Treating the Internet-addicted Employee" published in the *Journal of Employee Assistance*, the national journal for the Employee Assistance Professionals Association. She also had an invited article, "Understanding Online Sexual Compulsivity," published in *The Amplifier*, a publication of the American Psychological Association Division on Media Psychology.

Morris K. Udall Scholarships

\$5,000 scholarships available to students studying environmental fields, and for Native Americans or Alaska Natives studying fields related to Health Care or Tribal Public Policy.
Submission Deadline: Friday, Feb. 25

For more information,
contact Dr. Mark Huddle at ext. 2242.



ST. BONAVENTURE
UNIVERSITY

Valuing Knowledge, Integrity, Community

The next issue of *Inside Bona's* is slated for Thursday, Feb. 24. To submit items, please e-mail to inside-bonas@sbu.edu by noon Tuesday, Feb. 22. Questions may be directed to Christie Mendola, editor, at inside-bonas@sbu.edu or to Suzanne Wilcox English, director of media relations, 216 Francis Hall, at ext. 2376 or senglish@sbu.edu.