



# Inside Bona's

The E-Newspaper for the  
St. Bonaventure University  
Campus Community

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**December 6, 2007**

1. [Gary Ostrower named ombuds officer](#)
  2. [BonaResponds to host art auction to aid victim of Ohio flood](#)
  3. [Schoolchildren attend tree lighting at Quick Center](#)
  4. [Bonagany committee spreads holiday cheer](#)
  5. [Career Center](#)
  6. [Friday Forum](#)
  7. [Newsmakers](#)
- 

## **Gary Ostrower named ombuds officer**

Dr. Gary B. Ostrower of Alfred has joined the St. Bonaventure University community as ombuds officer, announced Sr. Margaret Carney, O.S.F., S.T.D., University president.

Ostrower holds this same position at Alfred University, where he also is a professor of history and has spent most of his teaching career.

The ombuds position provides resources for confidential complaint handling and neutral, informal conflict resolution to all St. Bonaventure University faculty, students and employees. Ostrower will facilitate communication and promote collaborative dispute resolution by various methods including self-help and mediation, as well as collect data and provide feedback to the University president regarding policy and procedure improvements.

Ostrower's office is located on the second floor of Francis Hall in Room 219A, accessible from either the front or back entrances to the University Relations offices. Ostrower's office hours are Tuesday from 1 to 4:30 p.m. or by appointment. He may be reached on campus at 375-2553 or via e-mail at [gostrower@sbu.edu](mailto:gostrower@sbu.edu). On days other than Tuesday, he can be reached at (607) 871-2999.

Specializing in the history of international organization, Ostrower has authored three books about the subject. During the spring semester of 2005, Ostrower served as a Fulbright Lecturer at Aarhus University in Denmark. He taught courses dealing with the Vietnam War and with American history from Truman to Clinton. He also researched on topics related to the United Nations.

Ostrower earned a bachelor's degree in history/political science from Alfred University, followed by a master's degree in American history and a doctorate in U.S. history from the University of Rochester. From 1999 to 2005, Ostrower served as mayor of Alfred, where he had been a member of the Village Board of Trustees for the previous 18 years.

Ostrower replaces Bernard Brodsky, who left during the summer when he and his family relocated to Ohio.

[Click here to return to the top of the page](#)

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## **BonaResponds to hold art auction to aid victim of Ohio flood**

BonaResponds, a volunteer-run disaster relief group based at St. Bonaventure University, will host a silent art auction Dec. 14 to benefit an elderly victim of this summer's devastating Ohio floods.

The event will be held, free of admission, from 7 to 9 p.m. in the Reilly Center's Athletic Hall of Fame room as a split benefit for the flood victim and BonaResponds.

During the University's five-day October break, BonaResponds traveled to Bucyrus, Ohio, to aid flood victims. There, the group met Clarence Austin, an 83-year-old World War II veteran.

Volunteers worked on Austin's house, tearing out sewage-soaked insulation from a crawlspace. Months of living with mold infestation have affected the health of Austin and a granddaughter who lives with him. Both now suffer from severe asthma.

Four other groups came to help Austin, but after looking at the damp, muddy crawlspace, they never came back, abandoning the veteran. Austin did not have enough money to cover the costs of having professional contractors remove the insulation, and the city would not cover the costs.

"One guy took a look at it and said it was a biohazard," Austin said.

Austin could not offer BonaResponds any money, but out of gratitude he offered the group his canvas paintings from his days as a commercial artist. He no longer had use for them and didn't want them to go to waste.

BonaResponds will auction these paintings, along with others from local artists. There will be a total of approximately 20 paintings, with many starting at \$100.

Interested bidders may also offer sealed bids online in advance. (An online page, with previews of the paintings being auctioned, will be established at [www.bonaresponds.org](http://www.bonaresponds.org) a few days before the auction.)

Auction winners will pay only as much as the runnerup had bid. Amounts paid above the artist's original price will be tax deductible. Refreshments will be served at the event.

"Of course we want to help Clarence," said Jim Mahar, Ph.D., founder and leader of BonaResponds and assistant finance professor at St. Bonaventure. "And we want to help any of the thousands of families still waiting for housing across the Gulf. And we want to help more locally as well. Unfortunately, this all takes money. We have to strike a balance between all of these."

"One of the hardest things I do is to say, 'No, I am sorry, we can not help on such and such a project because we can not afford to do it.' That is not a position I want to be in," said Mahar. "Events like this are designed to assure that that doesn't happen."

Those who would like to donate to Mr. Austin or BonaResponds should send checks to BonaResponds, Attn: Jim Mahar, School of Business, Box BY, St. Bonaventure, NY 14778.

"Whether it is helping Clarence to add insulation to his house, or to pay for breathing masks in the Gulf Coast, the money will have a lasting impact," said Mahar. "Your donations and purchases assure that we can continue to respond to people in need locally or across the country."

BonaResponds was created in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. It has taken approximately 500 volunteers to the Gulf Coast and led just as many volunteers in service projects throughout Western New York. BonaResponds aims to be a world-class organization whose mission is to help people in need, as well as to build better leaders and better communities. The group, comprised of students, faculty, staff, alumni and local residents, is run completely through donations.

BonaResponds completed its sixth local service day on Sept. 8, and plans to return to the Gulf Coast in January.

BonaResponds welcomes new members, regardless of affiliation with St. Bonaventure. For more information regarding BonaResponds or the auction, visit [www.bonaresponds.org](http://www.bonaresponds.org) or contact BonaResponds at [bonaresponds@sbu.edu](mailto:bonaresponds@sbu.edu).

[Click here to return to the top of the page](#)

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### **Schoolchildren attend tree lighting at Quick Center**

Area schoolchildren were in attendance last Friday, Nov. 30, for the annual Christmas tree lighting ceremony at The Quick Center of the Arts. The giant tree, which stands in the center's two-story, glass-walled lobby, is decorated entirely of birds and feathers.

It will be lit through the holiday season for the enjoyment of campus and community residents. Fr. Greg Dobson of St. Mary of the Angels Church in Olean blessed the tree prior to the lighting ceremony. Many of the children at the ceremony were attending Friday's performance of "Snow Queen" at The Quick Center.»

[Click here to return to the top of the page](#)

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### **Bonagany committee spreads holiday cheer**

Members of the Bonagany planning committee presented checks for \$300, raised during events at this fall's Bonagany celebration in Allegany, to The Warming House and the Allegany Fire Department Wednesday morning at Café La Verna. Pictured are (from left): Lisa Woodarek, Anne Conroy-Baiter, Lori Tiller (Bonagany chair), Gordon Scott of the fire department, SBU President Sr. Margaret Carney, O.S.F., Trevor Thompson of The Warming House, Lance Brennan, and Dennis O'Brien.

[Click here to return to the top of the page](#)

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[Click here to return to the top of the page](#)

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### **Career Center news ...**

For information on how to form a job-search network and upcoming career fairs taking place off campus during winter break, check out the latest issue of Directions, the Career Center's monthly newsletter, [click here!](#)

[Click here to return to the top of the page](#)

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## Friday Forum

All SBU faculty, staff and administrators are welcome to all the Friday Forums.

**Date:** Friday, Dec. 7, 2007

**Speaker:** Tom Donahue, director of print and electronic publications; Mike Hoffman, director of Technology Services

**Time:** 12:15 to 1:30 p.m.

**Place:** University Club

**Topic:** An Update on the Redesign of www.sbu.edu

**Abstract:** A redesign of the University Web site began last spring. What is the status of the redesign? What is changing? How & why was it decided to redesign the site? Also, a sneak peak at how the new Web site will look.

**Cost:** \$3

[Click here to return to the top of the page](#)

## Newsmakers

Dr. Paula Scraba of the Department of Physical Education, presented a Build with Living Stones Program Nov. 9, 2007, as part of the series to faculty and staff at Oldenburg Academy, Oldenburg, Ind. The workshop program presented a Franciscan perspective of Bonaventure's interpretation for Traces of the Trinity and Traveling the Gospel Way: Moving toward the Kingdom in the Church.

Dr. Alva V. Cellini, professor of modern languages, participated in V Congreso de Investigaciones Lingüístico – Filológicas with a paper titled "Lengua y literatura bilingüe en los Estados Unidos" (Bilingual Language and Literature in the United States). This international conference was sponsored by UNESCO and the Universidad Nacional Mayor de San Marcos, Lima, Peru, in August 2007.

Cellini published a book review in the Fall 2007 issue of MultiCultural Review. She reviewed Dagoberto Gilb's "Hecho en Tejas: An Anthology of Texas Mexican Literature," (Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, in 2007). MultiCultural Review is a journal dedicated to a better understanding of ethnic, racial, and religious diversity. Cellini recently received a Recognition Award from Colegio de España, Salamanca, Spain, for her excellence in teaching and professional contribution in fostering the international study of Spanish language and culture.











