

April 29, 2010

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## SBU Arts & Sciences Students to Show Off Work at Expo

By Bobby Gohn, '10

St. Bonaventure University Arts & Sciences students will display their work at the 6th Annual Student Research & Creative Endeavors Exposition Wednesday, April 28, until Friday, April 30, in the Robert R. Jones Board of Trustees Room in Doyle Hall. Students display their projects on posters and will answer any questions about their work during a reception Friday, April 30, from 12:30 until 2 p.m.

Dr. Stephen Stahl, School of Arts & Sciences professor, brought the Expo to St. Bonaventure in 2000 when he served as dean of the school.

"The exposition was created as a means to celebrate student scholarly work," Stahl said. "Also it was to encourage more students to pursue original projects under the guidance of faculty mentors." After its first year, assistant professor of Mathematics Dr. Christopher Hill took the reigns of the Expo from Stahl.

The Expo has grown every year and 2010 will be the biggest thus far with 39 projects on display. Hill carefully picks which students will be invited to exhibit their projects at the Expo.

"Early in the spring semester, I ask Arts & Sciences faculty to invite students to the Expo who they have mentored on a substantial project," Hill stated. "The work must have occurred during the current academic year or previous summer, the work must be meritorious, and the work should be summarized on a poster."

Students and faculty are invited to visit the Expo throughout the week and attend the reception on Friday.

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## SBU rugby to celebrate 35th anniversary

The St. Bonaventure University men's rugby team has become one of the fastest growing and most respected college rugby teams in the country. The team's recent success, however, would not be possible without the courage and determination of SBU students 35 years ago and the efforts of rugby alumni through the years. Alumni and current members of the rugby program come together every Spring Weekend to celebrate the Robert Peraza Rugby Alumni Weekend.

This Spring Weekend, alumni and undergrads will also celebrate the 35th anniversary of the rugby program with a series of planned events. The plans for the weekend include a pub crawl through Allegany on Friday afternoon, a battle for the Gringo Cup between alumni and current Rugby players Saturday at 1 p.m., and a BBQ at an off-campus house later on Saturday. There will also be a prayer service at the 9/11 memorial in front of Plassmann Hall for former rugby player and graduate of the class of 1994 Rob Peraza, who was killed during the 9/11 attacks.

The Robert David Peraza Rugby Scholarship is named in his honor and given to an incoming freshman rugby player every four years. Some of the program's success can be attributed to the 40 or so students who started the rugby program in the fall of 1975. The group was led by Frank Dooley, a freshman from Long Island, who learned how to play rugby in high school. Even though the university didn't fund the program it allowed the team to set up a rugby field and the program was born.

Tom Ren, a graduate of the class of 1978 and one of the original members of the rugby team, explains the first year of the team and how he got involved. "I saw a poster on campus advertising the start-up of a rugby team and thought that could be fun, so I started getting in shape by running in the old Butler Gym elevated short track," said Ren.

"The first year was a little hectic, with only one experienced player, trying to teach the game to a bunch of mostly high school football players."

Dooley acted as head coach and put the team to work. After just four weeks of serious practice the team played its first ever game against the Brockport State "B's" and lost 28-0. Ren said that the first couple months were rough but the players on the team dedicated themselves to being better.

"We hung in there, learned mostly by experience in our early games, and then made a huge commitment to training," said Ren. "We all felt that that would be the easiest way to make us competitive, which eventually it did." In the fall of 1976 Al Silliker became the first head coach and helped the team to its first win against the Genesee County Creamers. Silliker's experience and knowledge of the game and increased interest and support across campus helped the team progress through the years.

Since that first win in 1976, the men's rugby program has enjoyed even greater success, winning New York State Rugby Championships in 1993, 1998, 2004, 2007 and 2008. The team's recent success has also allowed the program to become recognized and respected as a rugby powerhouse across the Northeast. The team has been ranked in a number of national rugby polls several times over the past couple years and also earned the right to compete at the Division I level in 2009 by winning the New York State Rugby Conference Title in 2008. With all of the recent success, Ren feels proud to have been part of the beginning of the program.

"I can now look back at being an original member and be truly proud to have been part of what got it all started," said Ren.

"When I look back upon 35 years of rugby at St. Bona's it's humbling to see how the program has evolved over time. The time, energy and commitment by many has been amazing."

The SBU Rugby Alumni gatherings have been going on for years. They started in the late 1980's, according to class of 1981 graduate Mark Fitzgerald, and started picking up steam just recently in the 2000's. One of the many things that keep alumni coming back for the Spring Weekends is the bonds and friendships they have formed and look to form with other rugby alumni and current players. There is undoubtedly a

special bond between St. Bonaventure rugby players past and present.

Some of the friendships that have been made can be attributed to former rugby players, such as class of 1995 graduate Billy Kelly and class of 1983 graduate Bob Sims who helped organize the SBU Rugby Alumni Association. The SBURAA has over 200 active members with a 19 member board of directors.

According to the team's Web site, sburfc.com, the SBURAA provides the current undergraduate team with additional equipment, travel expenses, facility planning, scholarship opportunities for prospective students, and assistance with internship and job placement for all current and graduating students.

The alumni also host a golf outing every summer for undergraduate students, alumni and current friends and family. All of the proceeds from the tournament go to the Robert Peraza Scholarship Fund. It is events like the golf outing and the annual Spring Weekend festivities that help strengthen the bond between alumni "ruggers" and current members of the team. Sims described the bonds he formed while playing rugby at St. Bonaventure and the bonds he continues to form with alumni and current players as a brotherhood.

"It is a brutal game and these are your mates, band of rugby brothers for life," said Sims. "I have great friends from this experience from '75 year grads to every player on the team today. You have to play and live it to really understand it."

For Sims, the experience of playing rugby at Bona's is one that he will cherish the rest of his life. "I would not trade my SBU rugby experience for anything," said Sims. "You're a member of the SBURFC for life. It depends on each alumni what that means for them. I try to give back to the club every day." A similar tone was echoed by Ren about his experience.

"I would have to say that playing rugby has led me to where I am today, starting a team and having a successful wealth management and financial planning practice," said Ren. "I wouldn't trade my experience for anything in the world and the same could be said for the four years I attended St. Bonaventure as a student also."

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## Senior art show to kick off two-day celebration of the arts in San Damiano

The St. Bonaventure Visual and Performing Arts Department will present the 2010 Senior Visual Art Exhibit "5 & 12" on May 7 and 8, opening two days of arts-centered festivities in the San Damiano Room.

The exhibit will feature a selection from four years of work from Katherine Danahy of Buffalo, and Byron Morgan of Sandusky, near Arcade.

The exhibit is free and open to the public. A gallery talk will be held at 4 p.m. on May 7, with a reception to follow. The exhibit is open from 4 to 6:30 p.m. each day. The San Damiano Room is in Francis Hall, located on the east side of campus.

The exhibit can also be viewed in the Front Gallery of the Regina A. Quick Center for the Arts from May 9-15. Gallery hours are Monday-Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday and Sunday from noon to 4 p.m.

Danahy, an art major, grew up in Buffalo and attended Mount Mercy Academy. After graduating, she continued her art studies at St. Bonaventure University. Her main focus is painting florals and objects found in nature.

"The art displayed in my show represents my progression through the past four years as an artist. I am thankful for the guidance given to me by my professors at SBU and believe that they have helped me to succeed as an artist," Danahy said.

Morgan attended Pioneer Central High School where he majored in visual arts. Morgan majors in journalism and mass communication at St.

Bonaventure. He works in mixed media, collage, acrylic paintings and found object art.

"I really enjoy working with Moleskins brand notebooks," Morgan said. "Each notebook is basically a story that shows how I have grown as an artist. Every notebook is filled with pieces that all work together to show intense movement and rhythm that I have not been able to accomplish in any other medium."

"5 & 12" is the first senior art exhibit to allow a non-visual arts major to take part in the exhibition.

On May 8, the Department of Visual and Performing Arts will present a multidisciplinary celebration of its work from 4 to 6:30 p.m. in the San Damiano Room.

Senior visual artists will present their works of art and offer gallery talks at 4:30 p.m. The visual art program will display undergraduate works created in one of the many studio art classes, under the tutelage of Prof. Constance Pierce, offered in Francis Hall.

The event will be enhanced by performances of various university music ensembles, under the direction of Dr. Leslie Sabina, and selections from the theater program, under the direction of Dr. Ed. Simone.

Danahy and Morgan designed the spaces in the San Damiano Room with the assistance of theater students who built the portable display walls, making the celebration of sister arts possible. A reception follows immediately after the program.

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## SBU tops \$875,000 in tax refunds for low-income workers through VITA program

St. Bonaventure accounting students have helped local taxpayers earn close to \$900,000 in tax refunds this year, more than \$125,000 higher than the 2009 record. Forty-seven volunteers (41 of them SBU students) logged 2,000 hours to save Cattaraugus County taxpayers \$877,000.

By comparison, 180 University at Buffalo students spent 2,200 hours to save taxpayers \$992,000 — in a county and at a university 10 times the size. The Bonaventure Accounting Association formed the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program in 2004. Since then, VITA has helped low- and moderate-income workers earn \$3.3 million in tax refunds, often through federal and state Earned Income Tax Credits. That total includes two service trips to Houston.

"Our tax preparers and partners did an incredible job this year," said Dr. Susan Anders, professor of accounting and adviser of the VITA program. "For the two months that we were in operation, we generated as much business as a medium-sized accounting firm."

For every hour the volunteers contribute, whether in training or in hands-on service, \$300 in tax refunds is generated for Cattaraugus County,

Anders said. It's estimated that in tax-preparation savings alone VITA puts \$825,000 back into the local economy, in addition to the tax refunds generated.

Most colleges only dedicate a couple of weekends to VITA, Anders said, but St. Bonaventure spends 10 weeks, acting as a commercial tax preparation firm operating out of a storefront in the Olean Center Mall. VITA tax preparers must attend training and pass rigorous IRS exams, she said. Over 80 percent of the 46 tax preparers were certified at the advanced level in 2010. During the current tax season, VITA program operations were reviewed positively by the IRS and New York state.

The university joins forces each year with the United Way of Cattaraugus County and the Department of Social Services to make VITA a vital asset to the local economy.

Students in Free Enterprise (SIFE) at St. Bonaventure assist in the marketing of the tax-preparation program. The United Way sets up a site at the mall and provides advertising, the Department of Social Services provides resources to the students, and St. Bonaventure provides the manpower and accounting knowledge.

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## CEO of toy giant to speak Monday at SBU

Gerald L. Storch, chairman and CEO of Toys“R”Us, will discuss creating a successful business at 2:30 p.m. Monday, May 3, at St. Bonaventure University. The presentation will be held on campus in Dresser Auditorium of the John J. Murphy Professional Building. The talk is a part of the School of Business's Visiting Executive Series and is free and open to the public. Storch's brother, Dr. Henry Storch, M.D., is a cardiovascular disease physician at Olean General Hospital.

“We are pleased to welcome Mr. Storch to St. Bonaventure and look forward to learning about the business strategy he has established to position the company for success over the long term, as well as the key initiatives he and his team have implemented over the last few years to achieve business growth,” said Dr. John Watson, dean of the School of Business.

Storch joined Toys“R”Us Inc. as chairman and CEO in 2006 and has been responsible for leveraging the strength of the brand and positioning the global franchise for growth over the long term. During his tenure at the company, Storch has developed and led his team to execute an overall business strategy to maintain and enhance the company's position as the leading toy and baby products authority, gain market share and create a differentiated shopping experience.

Part of Storch's strategy has included the creation and openings of new store formats, including the “R” Superstore and side-by-side concepts, which combine Toys“R”Us and Babies“R”Us under one roof. In addition, in 2009, he initiated and oversaw the successful acquisitions of other leading brands in the toy industry, including the legendary FAO Schwarz, eToys.com, KB Toys, babyuniverse.com and Toys.com.

A retail veteran with more than 20 years' experience, Storch joined Toys“R”Us from Target Corp., where he served as vice chairman. In his 12 years at Target, he was instrumental in the development and growth of the SuperTarget grocery strategy and target.com. He holds bachelor's, law and MBA degrees from Harvard University and was a partner at McKinsey & Company, specializing in retail and financial services before beginning at Target in 1993.

Toys“R”Us Inc. sells merchandise in more than 1,550 stores, including 849 Toys“R”Us and Babies“R”Us stores in the United States, and more

than 700 international stores in 33 countries, consisting of both licensed and franchised stores. Headquartered in Wayne, N.J., Toys“R”Us employs approximately 70,000 associates worldwide.

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## Friday Forum

April 30

The Robert R. Jones Board of Trustees Room in Doyle Hall  
12:30-2 p.m.

Lunch: Free!

Speaker: None (Organizer: Dr. Chris Hill)

Event: “Student Research & Creative Endeavors Exposition 2010: Reception”

All SBU faculty, staff and administrators are invited to view posters, paintings and drawings summarizing the superb projects of students in the School of Arts and Sciences. The projects will be displayed in the Robert R. Jones Board of Trustees Room in Doyle Hall from Wednesday, April 28, to Friday, April 30.

The students will be present to answer questions about their projects during the reception in the Trustees Room on Friday, April 30, 12:30–2 p. m. During the reception, hors d'oeuvres and beverages will be served.

The Expo is a once-a-year opportunity to see the astonishing quality and variety of work by Arts and Sciences students.

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## Newsmakers

Dr. Ed. Simone, chair of the Department of Visual and Performing Arts and director of the Theater Program, is hosting his 11th season of Music from Chautauqua, heard over public radio stations in the United States and Canada and streamed worldwide on the Internet. Simone is also one of two writers for the series. Music from Chautauqua airs in this region for 13 weeks during the summer and into the fall on Classical 94.5 WNED-FM, 94.5 HD1, and 89.7 FM.

Simone will also host four live broadcasts of the Chautauqua Symphony Orchestra from the historic amphitheatre at the Chautauqua Institution on July 2, July 10, July 31 and Aug. 21.

Two graduating seniors from the Department of Sociology presented their Senior Seminar projects during the Undergraduate Poster Session at the Eastern Sociological Society' Annual Meeting. The meeting was held March 18-21, 2010, at the Boston Park Plaza Hotel & Towers in Boston, Mass. Timothy Butler presented "Volunteer Firefighters and Emergency Medical Services Personnel and Stress: Coping Methods" and Joshua Mattern's project was titled "Prison Towns: The Challenging Climate and Consequences to the Community."

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