

**In recognition of
Jacquelyn Wilson Fegley**
OUR LADY OF ANGELS COLLEGE, CLASS OF 1971



Born and raised in Chester, Pennsylvania, Jacquelyn Wilson Fegley was one of three children and a proud graduate of Notre Dame Girls High School, Moylan Rose Valley (Class of 1962). After high school, she entered the Convent of the Sisters of St. Francis, where she spent ten years devoted to prayer, learning, and reflection of the Franciscan values throughout life.

Before pursuing her nursing degree, she worked for four years, while also living with her husband and raising thirteen children between 1962 and 1971. She answered a new calling and enrolled at Our Lady of Angels College (now Neumann University), graduating in 1971 as a member of the second nursing class.

As a registered nurse at Holy Family and Nazareth Hospitals, Jackie served with integrity and genuine compassion. She married William H. Fegley in 1971, and together they raised thirteen children. Her professional and family life has defined her. Her professional and family life are



**\$5 Million Gift for
Nursing Scholarships**

SAVE THESE DATES



To view the latest details about all upcoming events, visit neumann.edu/advancement/events



▶ Charter Week Celebrations

ALUMNI AWARDS • Tuesday, March 10, 2026

DAY OF GIVING • Wednesday, March 11, 2026

CHARTER DAY AND DAY OF SERVICE

Friday, March 13, 2026 (includes the completion of 60,000 hours)

▶ 2026 Arts at Neumann University

Visit our website for a schedule of exciting events!

www.neumann.edu/arts



A magazine for
NEUMANN UNIVERSITY
alumni, family and friends

WINTER 2026 Vol. 54, No. 1

President

Dr. Chris Everett Domes

**Vice President for
University Advancement**

Carrie Snyder

Editor, *Accent Magazine*

Stephen T. Bell

Contributors

Joanmarie (Curtis) Meyers '08

Rachel Spina

Jill Weigel '16

Photography

Michael Ciaverelli '19

Hunter Martin

Tessa Marie Images

Accent Magazine is published
two times annually
by Neumann University,
Office of Public Relations
and Marketing,
One Neumann Drive,
Aston, PA 19014-1298
(610) 558-5549

Copyright by Neumann University.
Accent Magazine is distributed
free of charge to alumni and
friends of Neumann University and
is printed on recycled paper.

Information in this issue was
received by 1/16/26.

**Please send change-of-address
correspondence to:**

Office of University Advancement
Neumann University
One Neumann Drive,
Aston, PA 19014-1298
or
alumni@neumann.edu

INSIDE ACCENT

FEATURES

4 Team Chaplains:
More than a wing and a prayer

6 Legacy Lessons:
Teaching with a human touch

8 Historic gift for
the nursing program

13 Abessinio Lecture:
Find your calling

16 Knights in the classroom



ON THE COVER:
Jacquelyn '71 and William Fegley, Jr.
made Neumann history.

DEPARTMENTS

3 From the President

15 Alumni Spotlight: Danielle Weber '95

ACCENT GOES DIGITAL!
Check us out at www.neumann.edu/Accent

GO GREEN ►
Subscribe to *Accent* online
at www.neumann.edu/gogreen



The journey starts here . . .

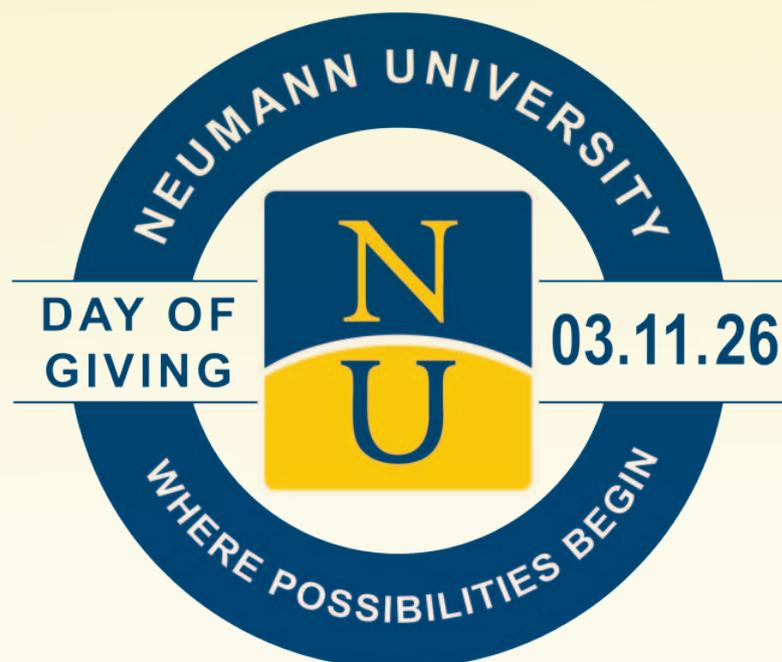


Your belief, your generosity, and your hope can empower others to find their purpose.

Where you found home, help others find their future.

Give Where It All Began —
THEN. NOW. ALWAYS.

Where possibilities begin.





FROM THE PRESIDENT

A member of our alumni family has made Neumann University history. Jacquelyn Fegley '71 and her husband of 51 years, William Fegley, Jr., have made the extraordinarily generous gift of \$5 million to support undergraduate nursing students.

It is the largest donation that the university has ever received from an individual.

Jackie and Bill's gift will provide scholarships for 15 new nursing students each year, allowing them to launch their paths to a BSN and a professional nursing career. The criteria to qualify are straightforward: academic excellence and financial need.

In recognition of the gift, the university's BSN and graduate nursing programs were named The Jacquelyn Wilson Fegley '71 College of Nursing at a January 16 ceremony on campus.

It is no surprise to anyone who knows Jackie and Bill that they would encourage aspiring nurses to achieve their educational goals. Both believe in the power of higher education to transform lives.

Jackie earned her nursing degree at Neumann (then Our Lady of Angels College) and served as a nurse for years. Before her time as a health professional, she devoted ten years of her life to prayer, learning, and service as a Sister of St. Francis of Philadelphia.

A former lecturer at Penn and adjunct professor at Drexel and Penn State, Bill acted as the managing shareholder at Fegley & Associates for 47 years, serving his clients by helping them attain financial security. He is a member of the Neumann University Board of Trustees and served as Chair of the Board of Trustees for the Sisters of Saint Francis Foundation for four-and-a-half years.

Their gift for nursing scholarships will transform the lives of hundreds of aspiring nurses, including many first-generation college students at Neumann.

For their devotion to Franciscan values, higher education, and the nursing profession, we are forever grateful.

Dr. Chris Everett Domes
President

“
Their gift
for nursing
scholarships
will transform
the lives of
hundreds
of aspiring
nurses.
”

Mary Domes,
William Fegley, Jr.,
Jacquelyn Fegley '71
and Dr. Chris Domes.



TEAM CHAPLAINS: More than a wing and

Every athletic team at Neumann has a chaplain, and the impact of those who volunteer for the role goes far beyond the offering of a pre-game prayer.

Students describe chaplains as friends, mentors, support systems, and team moms. They are sources of spirituality, team bonding, guidance, and stress relief.

The Team Chaplain Guide clearly states a chaplain's primary responsibility: "To be present to a designated athletic team by forming positive relationships and providing personal and spiritual support to student-athletes."

It is part of what Athletic Director John Krimmel calls "a holistic approach to the experience of being a Division III student-athlete at a Catholic, Franciscan institution."

According to Sr. Linda DeCero, chaplain for flag football, "I can't be your coach or write papers for you, but I can be your GPS and

direct you to all the resources that you need on campus."

Tim Corrozi, assistant director of the campus store, is a chaplain for men's ice hockey. "We call him Timbo," says senior Chase Cochran. "He's there every single game for us, does a prayer with us, and is a friendly face around campus. He's an extra light in our corner."

Alura Troilo, a senior on the tennis team, calls her chaplain "a backbone for schoolwork, athletics, and my faith." She still remembers a prayer that Professor Andrea Lobacz offered before a match – to understand that your performance on the court is not what God's perspective of you will be. "I thought about that before every single match," Troilo recalls. "It really resonated with me."

Chaplains regularly attend home games, help organize service projects for the team, and are available to be a supportive ear for questions about anything from roommate issues and stressful schedules to academic and career goals.

"I go to home games," explains Advancement's Vivian Long, the chaplain for women's volleyball. "I sit on the sidelines with the coaches, which is really cool. I stand in circles with them when they do their huddles, cheer 1-2-3 go Knights, and give high fives. I'm part of the team."

Some, like campus store director Natalie VanWyk, embrace the role of team mom. "I bring a snack for the girls to have after the game or



Natalie VanWyk offers a pre-game prayer with the field hockey team.

a prayer

Vivian Long shares a high-five with Delaney Jack at a women's volleyball match.



to take on the bus to away games," says the field hockey chaplain. "I never played sports myself, but I have three boys who played sports. I'm really happy that's in my life again. I've learned so much from the girls. We shepherd each other."

Chaplains also participate in team evenings of reflection, which are powerful experiences for many students.

"You work with Sr. Linda to formulate a route for the team to follow," says senior soccer player Dominic Petruzzelli, "and focus on the five pillars in the Mirenda Center: respect, balance, play, beauty, and reflection. Guys open up and share personal experiences. We are together 24/7 during the season – pre-season two-a-days, eating together, practice, on the bus to away games. It's soccer, soccer, soccer, but players have identities other than sports. Those personalities come through during the nights of reflection."

Delaney Jack, a women's volleyball player, agrees. "On our last evening of reflection, we went back to the basics. We discussed why we play, team culture, and that we are all here for a reason. It's helpful because sometimes the season goes by so fast that we forget there is more to us than just playing."

Perhaps Cochran puts it best. "This day and age, things move so fast. Everything is at your fingertips. You're never not doing something, and it's really hard to find time to step away. The evening of reflection lets you see the bigger picture and slows down life a bit."

Joe Glass, who was men's basketball chaplain for 12 years, puts the program in theological perspective: "The goal of the chaplain program is to connect people with the sacred, the holy, to let people know that they're part of something bigger. It touches on what we're all about, the integration of the mission into everything. It's in Neumann's DNA."

The experience has an impact on the chaplains, too. "I've never felt so loved," says VanWyk, "and I hope I'm worthy of their affection. I feel like we're a sisterhood."

“
The goal
of the chaplain program
is to connect people
with the sacred, the
holy, to let people know
that they're part of
something bigger.

Dr. Joe Glass

”

LEGACY LESSONS: Learning with a human

Molly Schmeltzer, 21, holds her charm bracelet gently in the air, explaining its significance to Joan O'Brien, 89, who sits just inches away. Joan reaches out to the bracelet, perhaps attracted by the memories of similar moments in her own life, now so many years in the past.

It is the kind of connection that rarely occurs in a classroom, and it's exactly what Dr. Marisa Rauscher was hoping for when she launched the Legacy Lessons project. A professor of educational psychology at Neumann, Rauscher arranged for students in her Social Studies and Social Justice Methods class to visit "senior scholars" at Wesley Enhanced Living in Media three times during the fall semester.

"This project is a collaboration between each of you, our future educators, and a group of volunteer senior scholars," Rauscher told her students in September. "With the help of our experienced partners, we will embark on a more connected, story-based/artifact approach to examining history, civics, economics, geography, and culture."

The first step was research. Students examined Social Studies curricula at local school districts. They reviewed Pennsylvania State Standards and information from the National Council of Social Studies before their first visit to Wesley, an introductory gathering to establish a mutual comfort level.

During the second excursion, the students' bond with their senior partners began to blossom. The Education majors prepared 4-6 interview questions to spark conversation about the older generation's experiences. The students, most of them 20 or 21, also brought an artifact with them – an item that represents a significant element of their history, culture or character.

They shared stories about a music carousel, ticket stubs to a concert, a volleyball medal, a grandmother's ring, a photo album, and the charm bracelet.

The experience and subsequent conversations provided the students with some valuable insights. "The thing that surprised me the most is how much we all have in common," recalls Erica Paterson, a junior.

Kaylie Matthews vividly remembers a life lesson that one of the seniors shared: "Always remember there's a reason someone is acting the way they are. We never know what someone else is going through."

Shaynik Fletcher, also a junior, learned to "always stay true to who you are."

At the third visit, the senior scholars shared their artifacts with the students and enjoyed the opportunity to tell vivid stories from their past. They told tales about a baseball, a wedding dress, a photo of Polish immigrant parents, and a hall pass carved in wood shop.

Don Ziegler, 84, brought a baseball that he caught during a spring training game in Florida, the last memory of a vacation with his wife before she was diagnosed with cancer. "Our cultural context is so different," he noted, "but we have some things in common. Most of these kids knew Jimmy Buffet. I was surprised at that."

Getting to know people who were strangers just a few weeks ago is good for the students, according to Donna Gevav, 85. "They're getting out of their comfort zone and learning different ideas."



“
This project is a collaboration between each of you, our future educators, and a group of volunteer senior scholars.
”

Dr. Marisa Rauscher

Molly Schmeltzer, 21, shows her charm bracelet to Joan O'Brien, 89.

Legacy Lessons sparked intergenerational connections.

touch

Barbara Florio, 87, was pleased with the opportunity to share her story. When she was a youngster, her family moved from the city to the country and lived in a farmhouse where there was no running water, no heat, and no electricity. Her mother was on her own, caring for three children from Monday through Friday.

One of the students asked how living in such primitive conditions affected her life. "I told them that the experience taught me how to deal with any kind of distress or unhappiness," she said.

Francis Rauscher, 83, (Marisa's father) dubbed the intergenerational experiment a success. "I think that the students get a better understanding of us, of old people . . . and we learned not to be judgmental of young people."



The long-term goal, of course, is that the students will remember the impact of person-to-person learning and apply that insight in their own classrooms.

Dr. Rauscher is confident that her students will benefit from Legacy Lessons. She believes that "real, true, powerful learning starts with connection and relationship." She has witnessed her students'

willingness to learn in new and different ways — by being more active and engaged with the community.

"I can never predict how game-changing and powerful these experiences will be," she admits. "We are different on the flip side. So why not reach for these experiences every time we can?"



\$5 Million gift for nursing scholarships

Neumann University has received a \$5 million gift — the largest in its history by an individual — from William Fegley, Jr., and his wife Jacquelyn to support undergraduate nursing students in the School of Nursing and Health Sciences. The family has designated \$4.5 million for undergraduate nursing student scholarships and \$500,000 for state-of-the-art laboratory equipment.

Jacquelyn Fegley is a Neumann alumna and former Sister of St. Francis of Philadelphia.

In recognition of the gift, the university's BSN and graduate nursing programs were named the Jacquelyn Wilson Fegley '71 College of Nursing at a January 16 ceremony on campus.

Neumann will begin awarding the Fegley scholarships in the fall of 2026. Criteria include academic achievement and financial need, and the awards will follow the students throughout their time in the

nursing program. Fifteen new students each year will benefit, receiving \$6,000 annually (\$24,000 over four years).

Nursing is the largest undergraduate major at Neumann University with approximately 120 students per year accepted into the program. When they graduate, those BS in Nursing students have an extraordinary track record of success.

Over the last four years (October 1, 2021, through September 30, 2025), according to NCLEX-RN results released

by the Pennsylvania State Board of Nursing, Neumann University's nursing graduates have achieved an impressive 96.9% first-time test-takers pass rate on the exam required for licensure as a Registered Nurse.

During the same four-year period, the first-time test-takers pass rate was 89.98% in Pennsylvania and 86.33% nationally.

Born and raised in Chester, Pennsylvania, Jacquelyn Wilson Fegley entered the convent of the Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia after graduating from Notre Dame High

The nursing faculty applaud Jacquelyn and William Fegley, Jr. as they arrive on campus to announce their gift for scholarships.



School in Moylan, PA, in 1962. She spent ten years with the congregation, devoted to prayer, learning, and service.

With the Sisters of St. Francis, Mrs. Fegley taught grade school for four years — one of them while living in an orphanage, caring for 13 children between the ages of three and nine — and earned a bachelor's degree in nursing at Our Lady of Angels College (now Neumann University), graduating in 1971 as a member of the university's second nursing class. The Sisters of St. Francis founded Neumann University in 1965.

After deciding to pursue her nursing vocation, she began a professional career in 1972 and worked at Holy

Continues on page 10



MEET THE DONORS

Jacquelyn Wilson Fegley '71

Born and raised in Chester, Pennsylvania, Jacquelyn Wilson Fegley was one of three children and a proud graduate of Notre Dame Girls High School, Moylan Rose Valley (Class of 1962). After high school, she entered the Convent of the Sisters of St. Francis, where she spent ten years devoted to prayer, learning, and service — an early reflection of the Franciscan values that would guide her throughout life.

Before pursuing her nursing degree, Jackie taught grade school for four years, while also living in an orphanage for one of those years caring for thirteen children between the ages of three and nine, living out the values of Service and Reverence for each person. She later answered a new calling and enrolled at Our Lady of Angels College (now Neumann University), graduating in 1971 as a member of the University's second nursing class.

As a registered nurse at Holy Redeemer and Nazareth Hospitals, Jackie served with Integrity and Excellence, combining professional skill with genuine compassion for those in her care. In 1974, she married William H. Fegley Jr., and together they raised five children, nurturing in their family the same commitment to faith, kindness, and responsibility that has defined Jackie's life. Today, they are the proud grandparents of eleven grandchildren.

Through her lifelong dedication to faith, family, education, and the healing profession, Jacquelyn Wilson Fegley exemplifies the RISES values — Reverence, Integrity, Service, Excellence, and Stewardship — that are at the heart of Neumann University's mission.

Reflecting on her blessings, Jackie shares: "God was good to our family, and we are happy to be in a position, together with my husband, to provide scholarships."

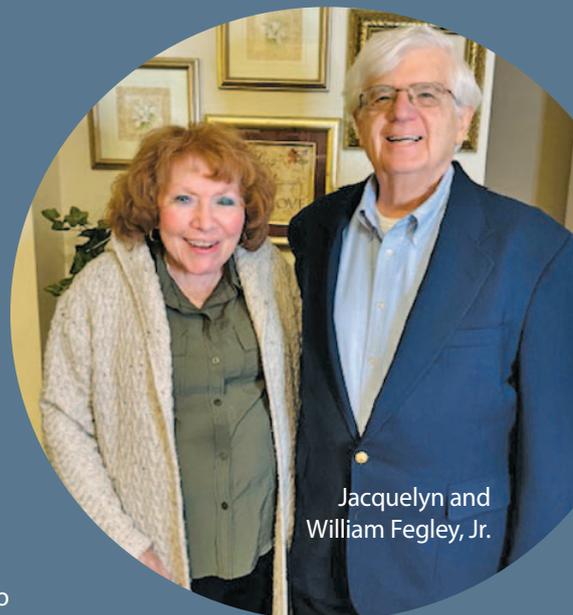
William H. Fegley, Jr.

William H. Fegley, Jr. began his career in public accounting with Arthur Young before he founded Fegley & Associates in 1975. He acted as the managing shareholder at Fegley & Associates for 47 years until he recently merged his practice into Morison Cogen LLP, where he continues to serve as partner in the Accounting and Audit Services Group.

Bill has extensive knowledge in real estate financing, accounting, and costing; he also provides in-depth tax planning solutions to clients facing complex tax issues. He excels in helping clients secure financing for both their working capital and long-term needs. He has served a diverse client base, with an emphasis in real estate construction, development, leasing and management, as well as manufacturing and service organizations.

Mr. Fegley served for four-and-a-half years as Chair of the Board of Trustees for the Sisters of Saint Francis Foundation and is currently a member of Neumann's Board of Trustees. He is a former lecturer at the University of Pennsylvania, former Adjunct Professor at Drexel University and Pennsylvania State University, former Captain of the U.S. Army, and has previously served as board member and trustee for various other organizations.

Bill is a graduate of Drexel University, where he earned both a Bachelor of Science degree in Commerce & Engineering and a Master of Business Administration degree. His professional associations include the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and the Pennsylvania Institute of Certified Public Accountants. He is also certified as an AICPA Personal Financial Specialist.



Jacquelyn and William Fegley, Jr.

\$5 Million gift for nursing scholarships *Continued from page 9*

Redeemer Hospital in Meadowbrook, PA, and Nazareth Hospital in Northeast Philadelphia for several years.

William Fegley began his career in public accounting with Arthur Young before he founded Fegley & Associates in 1975. He acted as the managing shareholder at Fegley & Associates for 47 years until he recently merged his practice into Morison Cogen LLP, where he continues to serve as partner in the Accounting and Audit Services Group.

Mr. Fegley, who served as Chair of the Board of Trustees for the Sisters of Saint Francis Foundation for four-and-a-half years and is currently a member of the Neumann University Board of Trustees, also has experience in the field of education. He is a former lecturer at the University of Pennsylvania and former adjunct professor at Drexel University and Pennsylvania State University.

Both William and Jacquelyn Fegley believe in the power of higher education to transform lives.

"God was good to our family, and we are happy to be in a position, together with my husband, to provide scholarships," Mrs. Fegley explained.

Her husband agrees: "The only way that the world is going to get better is through education. That's what Jackie and I think. I can't change anybody's life. I'm not a fireman, not a policeman, not a nurse. But if one scholarship changes somebody's life, that's incredible."

The couple come from humble roots. "I met Jackie in January of 1974, and we got married in September of that year," recalled Mr. Fegley. "I had no money. We got married at a Knights of Columbus Hall in Northeast Philly, and Jackie wore a borrowed wedding dress."

Today, they have been married for 51 years and have five children and 11 grandchildren.

“
God was good
to our family, and
we are happy to be in
a position, together
with my husband, to
provide scholarships.
”

Jacquelyn Fegley

Jackie and Bill Fegley (center) were joined by their children at the announcement ceremony: Brian, William, Michael, Maureen Walawender, and Mark.



NCLEX-RN pass rates: 2022 to 2025

Over the last four years (October 1, 2021, through September 30, 2025), according to NCLEX-RN results released by the Pennsylvania State Board of Nursing, Neumann University's nursing graduates have achieved an impressive 96.9% first-time test-takers pass rate on the exam required for licensure as a Registered Nurse, surpassing state and national rates.

**Neumann
University**

96.9%



Pennsylvania

89.98%



United States

86.33%



"This extraordinarily generous gift from Bill and Jackie Fegley comes at a time when the demand for highly competent, practice-ready nurses continues to grow nationwide," said Dr. Chris Domes, president of Neumann University. "The Fegley nursing scholarships will help meet that need and transform the lives of countless aspiring nurses, including many first-generation college students, by supporting their academic journey to a lifelong professional career."

With more than 60% of students as the first in their families to attend college, Neumann has been recognized for social mobility by U.S. News & World Report for six consecutive years.

Dr. Theresa Pietsch, dean of the newly named Jacquelyn Wilson Fegley '71 College of Nursing, believes that the gift will provide critical financial assistance for Neumann nursing students, many of whom become professional nurses for healthcare systems in the tri-state area when they graduate.

*Nursing faculty white coats are now inscribed with a new name:
the Jacquelyn Wilson Fegley '71 College of Nursing.*



Corporate and community partnerships expand

College students across the country want internships, and Neumann is expanding its corporate and community partnerships to meet that need. According to new data from Inside Higher Ed's annual Student Voice survey, "The No. 1 thing respondents want their institution to prioritize when it comes to career readiness is help finding and accessing paid internships. No. 2 is building stronger connections with potential employers."

In the past two years, Neumann has added pre-career experiences in fields as varied as professional sports, physical therapy, and law enforcement.

The newest collaboration is the School of Business partnership with the Delaware Blue Coats, the G-League affiliate of the Philadelphia 76ers. Through this new relationship, Neumann students have unprecedented access to numerous opportunities with the organization.

For the 2025-2026 season, ten Neumann students were selected to intern with the team, across various departments, including Sales, Operations, Social

Media / Marketing, Fan Engagement, and Game Presentation.

Earlier in the fall semester, members of the Blue Coats front office held a sport sales combine on campus for interested students. The full-day event provided students with exclusive training and insight into the skills needed to enter the sports industry as sales reps. Students were given detailed insight into what it takes to be successful in sport sales and coached through mock sales calls, presentation and delivery training.

In April of 2025, Kinetic Movement Reimagined and Neumann announced a partnership to benefit both the growing business and the university's physical therapy students. The three-year collaboration provides Kinetic with a branded logo in Health Sciences Center 242 and names the room



the Kinetic Movement Reimagined Musculoskeletal Lab.

Neumann receives an annual fee and opportunities for student internships and employment at any of Kinetic's nine locations in the Philadelphia suburbs.

Meanwhile, since it began operation in January of 2024, the university's digital forensics lab has assisted Delaware County law enforcement with more than 500 cases.

According to Aston Detective Joe Walsh, director of the lab, in the last 20 months the NITE Center has analyzed pieces of digital evidence in more than 200 cases and supported police investigation of real-time crime over 300 times.

The intern team has helped investigate a variety of high-profile crimes, including stolen vehicles, burglaries, hit-and-run incidents, an organized shoplifting ring, and social media threats. Two interns have already landed jobs with the Aston Police Department.

Coming in 2026 is a yearlong collaboration with Delco 250, a nonpartisan initiative to engage all Delaware County residents in America's 250th anniversary by providing and supporting experiences that ignite imaginations, elevate diverse stories, inspire service, and highlight the American founding and 250 years of American history through Delco's unique lens.



Fitzgerald to students: Find your calling

With only a huge slide of the French phrase *Raison d’Etre* on the screen behind him, Ward Fitzgerald spoke to a packed house in the Meagher Theatre on November 11.

The CEO of ExCorde Capital, Fitzgerald delivered the 10th annual Abessinio Lecture on Management and Entrepreneurship, urging the hundreds of students in the audience to find their calling.

He defined an entrepreneur as someone who is willing to take risks, be innovative, and develop useful skills. To illustrate his points, the Northeast Philadelphia native reached back to his days as a youngster, working summer jobs in Wildwood at the Jersey shore.

He told tales of placing risky orders for excessive copies of the Philadelphia Daily News so he could get the papers before his rivals and sell them at the beach, finding an innovative way to clean fudge from copper kettles in just 17 minutes to escape a hot kitchen, and learning to solve math problems in his head.

A polished speaker, Fitzgerald moved comfortably across the stage, spoke for more than 40 minutes without notes, and invited audience questions after concluding his remarks with a genuine embrace of his Catholic faith.

“Everybody’s not called to be an entrepreneur,” he said. “Find your calling. Find your *raison d’etre*, and lean into what you’re good at ... You’ll find it by being self-reflective about your gifts and by spending time with the Lord.”

He confessed that “we all have different faith journeys” and that one day in 2006, in church, the Lord spoke to him through John 15: “I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.”

He described the second part of that metaphor (without me you can do nothing) as “a shot in the jaw.” He shared his epiphany with the students: “You’ll do nothing if you don’t consecrate and be intentional.”

Fitzgerald is overtly intentional about his faith through his professional choices — guided by Gospel values — and through leadership roles with the Papal Foundation, the National Centre for Padre Pio, the Catholic Leadership Institute, and the Catholic University of America.

“
Find your
calling. Find your
raison d’etre, and
lean into what
you’re good at.

Ward Fitzgerald

”

A photograph of Ward Fitzgerald, a man in a grey suit and tie, standing on a stage and speaking to an audience. He is pointing towards the audience. In the background, there is a blue curtain and a banner for Neumann University's 60th anniversary (1965-2025). The audience is visible in the foreground, looking towards the stage.

Ward Fitzgerald urged students to find their calling.



A black box for a white knight

Nick DiMarino has been a white knight for the arts at Neumann since he began directing plays on campus in 1986. A champion of artistic expression, he has been a vocal advocate for the construction of a black box theater for more than 20 years, and his dream now has the support that could make it real.

Behind the Curtain, a fundraising event for the project, drew 200 people on November 15 and generated more than \$75,000 in revenue.

Supporters of the arts were treated to dinner in the Bruder Life Center and a dynamic live performance of *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* in the Meagher Theatre. The production involved 60 people, including 17 members of the Delaware

County Symphony (directed by Dr. Richard Sayers), Center Stage Productions actors, and Neumann alumni — all on stage the entire time.

A black box theater is a small performance space with flexible staging, lighting, and seating. Named in DiMarino's honor, the campus black box would allow students and Neumann's Arts Guild organizations to experiment, innovate, and connect with audiences in powerful and intimate ways.

According to DiMarino, "A black box is a great space for film screenings, lectures, small productions, rehearsals, chamber concerts, theater in the round, workshops, faculty TED talks, live interviews, and group presentations by students.

Hopefully it will seat around 100 people and can be reconfigured in many ways."

The veteran educator taught social studies and performing arts in the Chichester School District for 33 years and founded Center Stage Productions, a community theater group that debuted at Neumann with *Man of La Mancha* in 1986. He retired from teaching in 2003 and joined the university as coordinator of cultural programming just weeks later.

DiMarino estimates that he has produced or directed more than 150 plays during his career. He has been recognized by many civic and educational organizations for his leadership, community engagement, and lifelong advocacy for the performing arts.

Danielle Weber '95: ChristianaCare's Chief Nurse Executive

When Danielle (Eichinger) Weber graduated from Neumann with a BS in nursing in 1995, a friend told her that ChristianaCare was hiring. Weber applied and soon started as an entry-level RN.

Thirty years later, she is the Chief Nurse Executive for the entire healthcare system, leading a contingent of 5,000 nurse caregivers. In her role, she sets strategic priorities, advises leadership on nursing best practices, establishes policies and procedures, and oversees nursing education and research.

Weber explains her role more personally: "My responsibility is to support ChristianaCare's nursing caregivers so they can do their best work every day. My job is to remove barriers, to be strategic in building our nursing practice, and create an environment where our nurses want to come to work every day."

Over three decades, she has been a Registered Nurse, Nurse Manager, Vice President for Patient Care Services, Chief Nursing Officer of the Wilmington Campus, and now Chief Nurse Executive for thousands of nurses in acute care, ambulatory, and home health settings.

"We're a great team, and I've built great relationships," she says. "That's what brings me joy."

She describes ChristianaCare as "a great place to grow" and credits her professional success to organizational support (scholarships and leadership opportunities) and to her own willingness to learn. "I said yes a lot," she explains. "I said yes to opportunities, and I said yes to learning."

Those opportunities included a dual master's degree in nursing leadership and health care administration from Wilmington University and a Doctor of Nursing Practice at Drexel University. Weber is also board certified in medical-surgical nursing and has an advanced nurse executive certification through the American Nurses Credentialing Center.

She recently completed a prestigious Johnson & Johnson Nurse Innovation Fellowship with a ChristianaCare colleague.

"The fellowship gave us the opportunity to use human-centered design thinking to analyze a problem that we wanted to address," Weber says. "We focused on nurse well-being and created a wellness app — an at-the-fingertips contact for wellness resources like mindful meditation, our Care for the Caregiver program, or texting a peer. We're piloting it now."

She believes that nursing is a calling. "It's special because you touch the lives of so many people every single day. Nurses make an impact."

Her experience at Neumann influenced her approach to the profession.

"The clinical instructors and professors at Neumann really set the standard that they expected from their nursing students. Every school has its own culture, and Neumann's Franciscan RISES values spoke to me. For instance, Service speaks to me as a nurse and in my role as CNE. It flows from compassion, love and respect, and leads to identification with and understanding of those whom we serve. Neumann's values set the stage for me as a nursing student."

“
It's special
because you touch
the lives of so many
people every single
day. Nurses make
an impact.

Danielle Weber

”





KNIGHTS in the Classroom

Lift up the next generation of Knights!

Through Knight to Knight Alumni and Student Connections, your experience becomes someone else's momentum. Our students are dreaming big – your insight, time, and support help transform dreams into reality. Join us, get involved, and be the impact they'll remember.



Julia Worth class of 2016 ▲

We were proud to welcome back Julia Worth '16 as a featured speaker in our Knight in the Classroom series!

A graduate of our Sports & Entertainment Management program, Julia currently serves as the Director of Premium Services for the Philadelphia Union where she leads strategy and service for top-tier client experiences. During her visit, Julia shared valuable insights into her career journey, from NU student-athlete to sport industry leader, and offered students hands-on case studies to challenge future leaders. Julia's passion, professionalism, and perspective were an inspiration to our students.

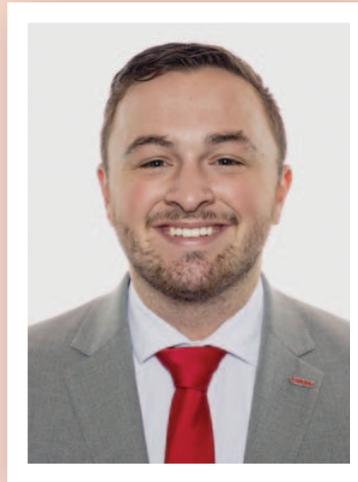


◀ Courtney Curcio class of 2018

Our Intro to Sport Management class had the incredible opportunity to learn from Courtney Curcio '18, alumna and current team member at PGA REACH Foundation — the charitable arm of the PGA of America transforming lives through the power of golf. Courtney took our students behind the scenes of her multi-faceted role, covering everything from program design and partnership development to impact measurement and board management. She showed them how strategic thinking and community engagement translate into real-world results in the sports nonprofit sector. This is what experiential education looks like — alumni investing in the next generation and bridging classroom theory with industry practice.

Brian Wagner class of 2019 ▼

The Sports Governance class welcomed Brian Wagner '19, Chief Administrative Officer at Heyday Athletic who shared his career journey and insights on risk management, athlete safety, and facility operations. Brian's real-world experience — from Aramark, to Director of Athletics, and his current role at HeyDay — gave our Sport Management students a valuable look at leadership and decision-making in the sport industry.



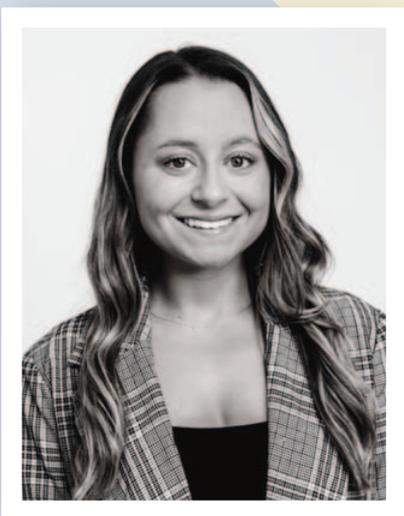
◀ Sean Flannery class of 2023

Sean Flannery '23 is the current director of sales at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, after working two years with Nascar and the Philadelphia Union in ticket sales. Via Teams, he visited the Sports Policy, Governance & Legal class.



◀ **Kimberly Lyman class of 2013 and 2016**

In a visit to Dr. Julie Lanzillo's sport management class, Kimberly shared her unique career journey, highlighting the power of connections and the importance of maintaining relationships. Every job she's held has come from someone reaching out with an offer, proving that networking and never burning bridges can open doors you didn't expect!



▲ **Karli Keffer class of 2022**

With a major in Health Sciences, concentration in Exercise Physiology, and a minor in Marketing, Karli recently visited Mr. Hubert Lee's Health Science class to share her insights on medical sales, how her professional career has grown, and the diverse career paths available to Health Science graduates.



◀ **Joe Quinta class of 1993**

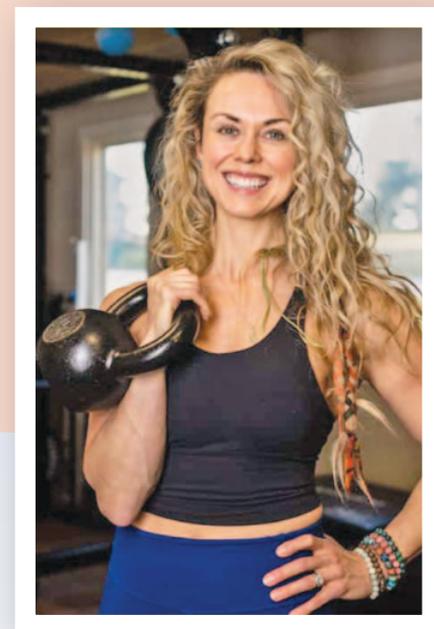
Joe Quinta '93, Director of Collegiate Partnerships at A-G Specialty Insurance, returned to campus to speak to Dr. Julie Lanzillo's Sport Management 420 class! A-G Specialty Insurance offers tailored risk management solutions in sports and student accident insurance, designed to meet the unique needs of their clients and the athletes they support. Mr. Quinta spoke about his love for Neumann University from its days as a college till present, working as director of alumni relations and director of athletics after graduating.

Dr. Adrienne Missimer class of 2010 ▼

Dr. Missimer '10 shared her powerful journey — overcoming cancer, embracing functional medicine, launching a business (The Movement Paradigm) with her husband, and prioritizing emotional, mental, and physical health within her patients. She emphasized the importance of truly caring for patients to uncover the root of their challenges, leaving our students motivated to make a lasting impact in the health field.

Her favorite mantra? "Be the change you wish to see in the world."

Oh, and did we mention she's a TEDx speaker and a former American Ninja Warrior contestant? Talk about unstoppable!



◀ **Alicia Galat class of 2018**

Alumna Alicia Galat '18 visited Janis Chaker's Communications class to share insights into her journey as a multimedia content producer, landing a job in the field of communication and discussing the creation of her latest short film.

Watch your fellow Knights in action!

Scan here ▶



CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Submit Your Service

We invite Neumann alumni, faculty, and staff to join us in our effort to reach 60,000 hours of service by coming together in your local communities to share your time and talents with causes that are making a difference.



Help us reach our goal.

Submit Your Hours Here ►

