

**NEUMANN
UNIVERSITY**

SUMMER 2025

Vol. 53, No. 2

ACCEPT



**First-Class Degree
for First Responders**



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

Look for new information about a CEO Roundtable, Abessinio Lecture Series, the PGH Lecture, and screenings of the powerful documentary, *No Risk, No Gain: The Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia*.

July 10 – 12 • Children's Theater: *The Jungle Book*

Presented through special arrangements
with Pioneer Drama Service

July 23 – 26 • Children's Theater: *Newsies, Jr.*

Presented through special arrangement with
Music Theater International

August 7 – 10 • *Seussical*[™]

Presented through special arrangements
with Music Theater International

September 16 • Knights of the Round Table Reception

Recognizing loyal donors who have given
consecutively for three or more years

September 27 • Homecoming

October 10 • Designer Bag Bingo

Presented by the Cultural Arts Forum

November 15 • Behind The Curtain: An Evening for the Arts

November 20 • President's Thanksgiving Reception

Recognizing St. Francis Society members and leadership
donors of \$1,000

Mark Your Calendars!

Exciting events are on the horizon for our Neumann University alumni and students! From alumni and student Knight 2 Knight networking events, to On the Road with NU series, there is a chance to connect with our blue and gold community — there is something for everyone!

More events are being added all the time.

Don't miss out!



A magazine for
NEUMANN UNIVERSITY
alumni, family and friends

SUMMER 2025 Vol. 53, No. 2

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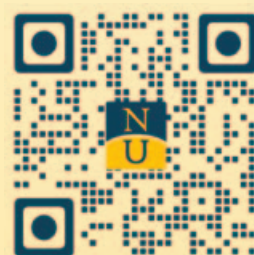
It begins
with

YOU

with your belief,
your generosity,
your hope.

Because when you
give, you begin
someone's journey.

**This is where
possibilities
begin.**





FROM THE PRESIDENT

Neumann University turned 60 this year. Our actual birthday is March 3, the day in 1965 when the Pennsylvania Department of Education signed the charter to establish Our Lady of Angels College.

We set aside some time each year in early March to celebrate our founding with activities during Charter Day. We did so again in 2025 — but with a difference. Our 60th anniversary celebration will last for an entire year.

Even more significant is the manner in which we will commemorate our six decades. The university community has pledged to provide 60,000 hours of service by March of 2026. The project is the epitome of our Franciscan tradition and honors one of our core RISES values.

To launch the service commitment, more than 200 students, faculty, staff and trustees filled the Len Schuler Court in the Mirenda Center to pack 30,000 meals for Kids Against Hunger. Similar activities will fill the university calendar over the next nine months to remind us all of a salient phrase in Neumann's mission statement, that "knowledge is a gift to be used in the service of others."

The yearlong dedication to service is also a recognition of our eternal gratitude for the Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia, who founded this university through prayer, hard work, and an unceasing commitment to lift up the voiceless and marginalized among us.

When the Sisters opened the doors of Our Lady of Angels College in September 1965, the total enrollment was 115 students, all members of the congregation. Today, as Neumann University, we educate more than 2,200 students and have an alumni family of more than 17,000.

It was an extraordinary act of faith that has had truly miraculous results.

To help us honor the Sisters and reach our goal of 60,000 hours of service, please visit www.neumann.edu/60k.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Chris Domes".

Dr. Chris Everett Domes
President

“
Knowledge
is a gift
to be used
in the
service of
others.”

”





Main Line Health CEO John Lynch III and Monsignor Federico Britto '05 received honorary degrees.



More than 350 graduates celebrated their degrees on May 18.

Valedictorian Thankful for Academic, Athletic

Valedictorian Brianna Reim '25 addressed her classmates at Neumann's graduation ceremony on May 18, reminding her fellow graduates about their shared academic and athletic experiences.

"We were able to see how unique and intentional the professors are here at Neumann," she said. "They took the time to know us, support us, and push us to be the best students and people we can be. And because of that, we all get to be just a little wiser and kinder as we move forward in life."

Looking back on the last four years, she admitted, "I can't imagine going anywhere else."

Crediting small classes and caring faculty, she told the crowd, "I feel most people in this room would argue that it doesn't get much better than Neumann."

She also expressed gratitude for her athletic experience as a member of the softball team. In fact, Reim was on the team bus, coming back to campus from an away game in early April, when she got the call that put her on the graduation stage. Dr. Katie Barnes, the university's interim provost, broke the good news that Reim was the class of 2025 valedictorian.

"Oh, my goodness. Guess what?" Reim whispered to a teammate. Word spread quickly, and the bus erupted in cheers.

Describing her teammates as her "family away from home," she credited them for years of friendship and support.

"They taught me how to persevere in the face of adversity, how to lead with empathy when helping people in their struggles and about celebrating each other in our successes. And that is exactly what they did for me," she told the crowd of more than 2,000 who filled the Mirenda Center.

She concluded her remarks by urging classmates to "seize every opportunity, embrace every challenge, and cherish every moment" in the future.

A graduate of Perkiomen Valley High School, Reim earned the valedictorian honor by compiling a 4.0 GPA as an elementary and special education major during four years on campus.

Dariana Troilo '23 '25, who received a master's degree in athletic training, was the student speaker at the graduate commencement ceremony.

Neumann University awarded 361 undergraduate and graduate degrees in 2025: two associate's degrees, 229 bachelor's degrees, 86 master's degrees, and 44 doctoral degrees.

John (Jack) Lynch III and Monsignor Federico Britto '05 received Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degrees for their decades-long leadership and community service.



Davay and Da'Veigh Washington graduated with degrees in business administration thanks, in part, to the dedication of their father, Shellman Washington, who drove the twins to campus and home again in his 2003 Chevy Impala — for four years.



Valedictorian Brianna Reim addressed the Class of 2025.

Experiences

Since 2005, Lynch has served as president and CEO of Main Line Health, suburban Philadelphia's comprehensive health care system, which includes four of the region's respected acute care hospitals: Lankenau Medical Center, Bryn Mawr Hospital, Paoli Hospital and Riddle Hospital.

Lynch also serves on the boards of the United Way of Greater Philadelphia and Southern New Jersey, The Haverford School, the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award Board of Overseers, and The American Heart Association.

Monsignor Britto serves as the founding pastor of St. Cyprian Catholic Church in Philadelphia, a position he has held since 2000. He is also parochial administrator of St. Ignatius of Loyola Catholic Church and regional dean for the Archdiocese of Philadelphia.

Since his ordination in 1982, he has served on the planning committee for the Beatification and Canonization of Mother Katharine Drexel, been a board member for the National Black Catholic Clergy Caucus and worked with interfaith organizations like the National Conference for Christians and Jews.



Dr. Chris Domes gave some graduates a lift in his golf cart.

Social Work Major Graduates at 19

In May of 2023, Sarah Potter walked across a stage at Cecil College to accept her associate degree. A month later, she graduated from high school.

Potter can still hear her now deceased mother's voice, bragging about this odd sequence of events: "My daughter graduated from college before she finished high school."

Two years later, now 19, Potter graduated with a bachelor's degree in social work. No one younger than 19 has ever earned a Neumann University degree.

During her years at Oxford Area High School, she was taking college courses, which counted towards both her high school diploma and her associate degree at the community college in Maryland. When she took English 101 at Cecil College, for instance, it counted for her junior English class at Oxford.

Potter admits that the path was difficult.

"It really challenged me in ways that I didn't know I could be challenged. It was a scary decision, but I've always been motivated to do my best in school and show my talent."

Adding to her motivation was the knowledge that she would be paying for college on her own. Neumann helped by accepting all her Cecil College credits and providing some significant financial assistance.

Even with that support, Potter maintained a non-stop schedule in her last year. She worked Friday through Sunday from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. at the Wawa in Aston, had an internship on Monday and Wednesday in the adoption unit of Delaware County Children Youth Services, and took classes on Tuesday and Thursday.

Potter has no complaints, though. She has been working since she was 14.

In September, she has a job waiting for her at DCCYS. Her long-term plans include earning a master's degree and getting her social work licensure.



“My daughter graduated from college before she finished high school.”



Neumann Names New Provost and Associate Provost

Eric Wellington, Provost

Dr. Eric Wellington, who served as dean of the university's School of Business since 2017, assumed the role of provost on May 19. He succeeds Dr. Katie Barnes, who served as interim provost for three years and defined the position at Neumann.

Wellington will serve as Neumann's chief academic officer and supervise its athletic teams and student affairs.

Under his leadership as dean, the School of Business saw significant growth, adding new academic programs (Cybersecurity, Esports), expanding facilities (Data Analytics Lab, NITE Center, Math Escape Room), increasing enrollment, recruiting leaders to the School of Business Advisory Board, and forging partnerships with public agencies (Aston Police Department).

"During his 25-year career in higher education, Eric has shown himself to be an innovative leader and a staunch advocate for student success," said Dr. Chris Domes, Neumann's president. "He appreciates the students we serve, understands their needs, and works tirelessly to ensure that their Neumann experience is exceptional."

Before coming to Neumann, Wellington worked for Delaware County Community College (DCCC), where he served as chief academic officer (2015-2017) and associate provost (2013-17). Over the past two decades, he has taught myriad courses in computer science, communications, and education at DCCC, Capella University, Saint Joseph's University, and West Chester University.

He earned his doctorate in higher educational administration from Capella University, his MA degree in communication studies at West Chester University, and his BA in speech communication from Youngstown State University.



Najiba Benabess, Associate Provost

Neumann has also appointed Dr. Najiba Benabess as the associate provost for Online Learning, AI and Academic Partnerships, and dean of the School of Business.

Benabess is an experienced academic leader, author, and professor of economics. She comes to Neumann from Elizabethtown College, where she was dean of the School of Business.

A recognized advocate for personal and professional growth, Benabess completed the prestigious Future Leaders program through Harvard Business School Executive Education in 2020. Her previous roles include serving as dean at the Tabor School of Business at Millikin University and as director of the School of Business and Management at Norwich University.

Her leadership was honored with the Dean of the Year award from Academic Global Business Advancement (AGBA) in August 2021, acknowledging her significant efforts in advancing global diversity and inclusion.

"I am honored and excited to be joining the Neumann University community," said Benabess, "and look forward to the journey ahead."

Benabess is also an influential author and speaker. Her research has been showcased at national and international conferences, and her papers are featured in respected peer-reviewed journals.

In November 2023, she published her groundbreaking book, *Irreplaceable Human Intelligence: Surpassing AI Outreach*, which explores the critical role of human intellect in the age of artificial intelligence.

She earned her PhD in Economics from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and her master's degree from Western Illinois University.



Neumann Joins the MAC

Neumann has joined the Middle Atlantic Conference and will begin play as the MAC's 17th team in the fall of 2026. The Knights bring nine men's and 10 women's teams to the MAC, which currently sponsors 27 NCAA Division III sports for more than 7,700 student-athletes.

Its 16 institutions, located across three states, include familiar names with a history of academic and athletic success: Albright College, Arcadia University, Delaware Valley University, DeSales University, Eastern University, Lebanon Valley College, Widener University and more.

According to John Krimmel, director of athletics and recreation at Neumann, "Joining the MAC strengthens our visibility, competitive opportunities, and institutional reputation across a broader geographic region."



◀ Fagan Sets Lacrosse Record For Goals

Lindsey Fagan '24 broke the Neumann record for career goals in women's lacrosse with four scores against Gwynedd Mercy in a 19-8 win on April 12.

She notched her 259th goal that day, surpassing Kaitlyn Conrad's career mark of 258. Fagan finished her career with 270 goals. Her excellent season also catapulted her into second place in career points with 328, trailing only Conrad's 337.

Roller Hockey Wins 6th National Crown

Neumann won the Division II championship in roller hockey on April 5, edging rival Slippery Rock, 2-1, in the title match at the sport's national tournament in Ft. Myers, Florida.

The Knights won the National Collegiate Roller Hockey Association competition with six consecutive victories in a span of four days. The win solidifies Neumann's reputation as a national roller hockey powerhouse. The Knights also won national championships in 2006, 2008, 2015, 2016, and 2023.



Hedden's Jersey Retired

Mike Hedden '09 has scored more goals than anyone else in Neumann ice hockey history — by a lot. In his four-year career, he lit the lamp 96 times. The men's player in second place has 61 goals.

In recognition of its most prolific goal scorer, Neumann University retired Hedden's #28 jersey in a ceremony at the Mirenda Center on March 29. He is just the eighth Neumann student-athlete to have his number retired.

A 2009 graduate, Hedden served as an assistant captain on the team that won the Division III national championship in his senior year and is now the squad's head coach. He was inducted into the Neumann University Hall of Fame in 2017.

Boschi Tops In Men's Lacrosse Points ▼

Brendan Boschi '25 now sits at the top of the list for career points in men's lacrosse. He broke the Neumann record on April 16 in a 27-7 win vs. Centenary with a 10-point performance. His four goals and six assists raised his point total to 231, surpassing the former record of 223, held by Drew Conlon.

In just three years at Neumann, Boschi notched 140 goals (third all-time) and 98 assists (second all-time), setting the new career points record of 238.

Men Win Atlantic East Hoops Title

The men's basketball team defeated Marymount University in an overtime thriller on March 1, 83-77, to win the 2025 Atlantic East Conference Championship.

DJ Earl scored a season-high 30 points to lead the Knights, adding nine rebounds and four steals. Donte Dupriest recorded a double-double with 22 points and 15 rebounds. The team's 20-8 season brought Coach Jim Rullo's 12-year record with the Knights to 201-114 (.638).



First-Class Degree



Jeffrey Luse '24 (right), a captain at The Colony Fire Department in Texas, his wife Raina and daughter Makena visited Angemi in Camden when they came to campus for graduation.

for First Responders

In 2014, Dr. Jilian Donnelly launched a labor of love, a bachelor's degree program tailor-made for first responders.

The daughter of a firefighter, Donnelly knew what the life of a first responder involved: shift work, long hours at the scenes of tragic incidents, and the courage to run toward danger. In the years since she introduced the Public Safety Administration program, Donnelly has helped 396 firefighters, police, paramedics, and EMTs earn college degrees.

Many of the students had not been in an academic setting for years and viewed a return to the classroom with some trepidation. To ease that anxiety, Donnelly says, "I become their den mother, their academic advisor, and their first professor."

According to Jeff Luse '24, a captain at The Colony Fire Department in Texas, "Dr. Donnelly was my first instructor and provided an open-armed welcome into the program. She understands time crunches and scheduling complexity. She supports you."

Kyle Montgomery '19, the chief of police in Magnolia, Texas, agrees. "With Jil, I just felt from the get-go that this was her purpose in life – to help first responders further themselves. She always had that mindset. There was genuine caring and hospitality."

Gabe Angemi '16, a captain in the City of Camden Fire Department in New Jersey, describes Donnelly's influence

succinctly. "Jil is a saint. She brings you in, develops you, and then turns you loose. It's a special talent."

In addition to Donnelly's guidance and support, the structure of the PSA program is very attractive to first responders. The asynchronous online courses provide great flexibility for adult students on shift work, and Neumann accepts as many as 90 transfer credits and prior learning experience credentials.

"The short timeframe to finish, the online format, and being able to do the work on my own time made the program right for me," says Heather Atkinson '19, the director of education for Good Fellowship Ambulance and EMS Training Institute in West Chester, Pennsylvania. "You had deadlines and knew what was expected up front so you could tailor your schedule to assignments."

Tom Johnson '16, the chief of police in Dover, Delaware, is grateful for the transfer credits. "Neumann took my prior training and experience and harvested the academic achievement from my CV to jumpstart my journey toward my degree. Rather than feeling overwhelmed by electives and prerequisites, I was able to dive into the core curriculum and really focus on advancing my professional goals. The program was truly the linchpin that allowed me to unlock my full potential."

Continues on page 10



“
With Jil,
I just felt from the
get-go that this was
her purpose in life —
to help first responders
further themselves.

Kyle Montgomery '19

”

Dr. Jilian Donnelly is the executive director of adult and continuing education at Neumann.



In 2024, Gabe Angemi '16 earned his doctorate from the University of Southern California.



Tom Johnson '16 is the chief of police in Dover, Delaware.



◀ *Kyle Montgomery '19 is the chief of police in Magnolia, Texas.*

First-Class Degree for First Responders

Continued from page 9

Many of the first responders begin with a pragmatic goal. Donnelly, the executive director of adult and continuing education, explains that they need a credential, that college degree, to check off a box on a job application or promotional exam.

"When they're here, however, something magical and transformative happens to them whether they realize it or not," she says. "When they leave, they understand how their calling is an embodiment of the Franciscan tradition, and that influences the impact that they have in the world."

For some PSA graduates, a love of learning takes root. Police Chief Montgomery admits that being in class with EMTs and firefighters, who think differently than law enforcement officers, provides new perspectives and generates outside-the-box thinking.

"I learned from the other students," he recalls, "and I actually enjoyed it. I did not expect that to happen, and I miss it to this day."

That kind of insight is exactly what Donnelly had in mind when she decided to mix police, firefighters, paramedics, and EMTs in courses. "If you're at an emergency scene, you have to interact with each other, and those connections are vitally important," she explains.

For Camden's Angemi, the impact was more profound. Since he graduated from Neumann, he has earned a master's degree at Georgetown University and an EdD at the University of Southern California.

"Jil's guidance in the PSA program lit a fire in me that I never thought existed. I actually like crushing my brain," he jokes. "It set the tone for the next 10 years of my life."

Dr. Angemi is now working on his first book.

Neumann's Public Safety Administration program has alumni in 18 states, including California, Colorado, Illinois, Oklahoma, and Oregon.

U.S. News & World Report has ranked the online bachelor's degree among the best in the country. In rankings released on January 21, 2025, the magazine named Neumann's program as #4 in Pennsylvania and #107 nationwide.

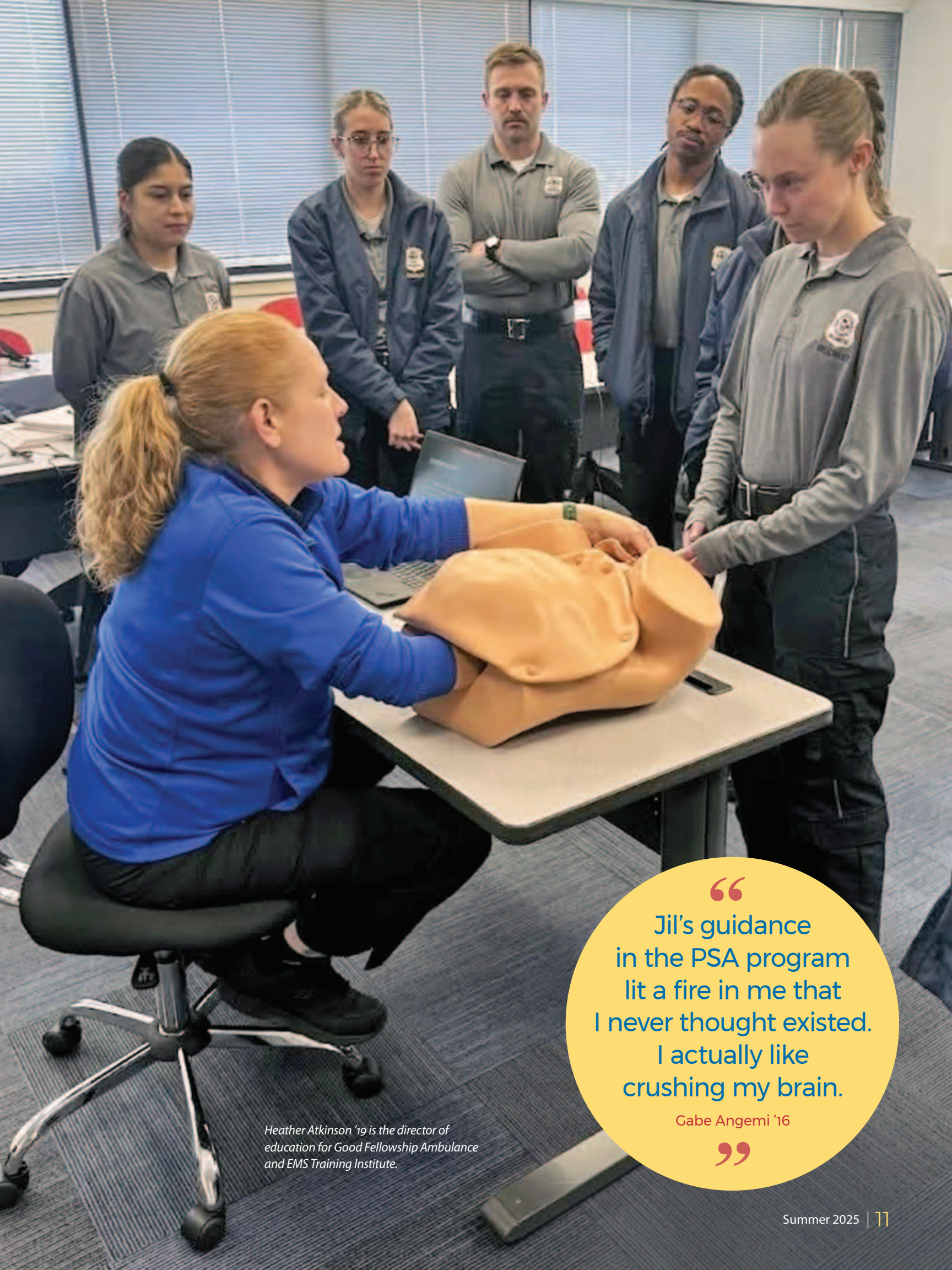
The four categories used to assess online degree programs are Student Engagement (35%), Services and Technologies (25%), Faculty Credentials and Training (20%), and Peer Assessment (20%).

According to the magazine, "*U.S. News* chose factors that weigh how these programs are being delivered and their effectiveness at awarding affordable degrees in a reasonable amount of time."

Donnelly notes that the student satisfaction rankings for the PSA program are higher than those of Neumann's Pennsylvania competitors and that no other Commonwealth university focuses on first responders.

Luse provides a fitting final endorsement: "Personally, the program has broadened my perspective. Being able to take information that seems unrelated and synthesize it into what we do, understand how it applies to what we do, is very valuable. It also bolstered my belief in myself."

Donnelly's reaction? "I love this program with all my heart."



“
Jil’s guidance
in the PSA program
lit a fire in me that
I never thought existed.
I actually like
crushing my brain.”

Gabe Angemi '16

*Heather Atkinson '19 is the director of
education for Good Fellowship Ambulance
and EMS Training Institute.*

Behind the Curtain: An Evening for the Arts

Join us for an enchanting evening of theater, dining and impact as we raise the curtain on a bold new vision — the building of the Nicholas J. DiMarino Black Box Theatre.

The stage is set, the lights are dimming, and excitement is building. Join us for this black-tie fundraiser featuring a live performance of *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* — a dazzling retelling of the biblical story of Joseph, filled with humor, heart, and a rainbow of unforgettable songs.

But this isn't just a night at the theater — it's a night to lay the literal and artistic foundation for a space that will inspire creativity and showcase student, faculty and community talent for generations to come.

An evening to make an impact

Proceeds will go directly toward the goal of raising \$100,000 for the long-awaited construction of the Nicholas J. DiMarino Black Box Theatre. A black box theater is a blank canvas for expression. With flexible staging, lighting, and seating, it allows students to experiment, innovate, and connect with audiences in powerful new ways. From student performances to community collaborations, this space will be the creative heartbeat of our campus arts community.

Your attendance helps create opportunities for emerging artists and ensures the arts continue to be a source of inspiration and passion at Neumann University.



Nick DiMarino

Nicholas "Nick" DiMarino is an accomplished educator, arts administrator, and theater director with a distinguished career spanning more

than four decades. For the last 21 years, Nick has served as the Coordinator of Cultural Programming at Neumann University, where he is responsible for overseeing all arts programming. Nick is also a founding member of The Arts Guild at Neumann University.

Prior to his role in higher education, Nick dedicated over 30 years to teaching social sciences and performing arts to students in grades 7 through 12, primarily within the Chichester School District. In 1984, he co-founded Chichester Community Theater, which would eventually evolve into Center Stage Productions. CSP has since grown into a respected and inclusive not-for-profit community theater organization that makes the arts and arts education accessible to all. CSP now operates as part of The Arts Guild and has called the university's Meagher Theatre its home for over 20 years.

Throughout his career, Nick has produced and directed numerous musicals, dramas, and workshops, offering performance opportunities to individuals of all ages and skill levels. Known for his unwavering commitment to arts accessibility and excellence, he has created a supportive and enriching environment for countless performers, volunteers, and students. He has been recognized by many civic and educational organizations for his leadership, community engagement, and lifelong advocacy for the performing arts.

PLAYBILL



Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat

Lyrics by Tim Rice – Music by Andrew Lloyd Webber

Produced by special arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of The Really Useful Group.
www.concordtheatricals.com

Saturday, November 15, 2025

Dinner | 6:30 pm – Bruder Life Center

Show | 8:00 pm – Fred P. Meagher Theatre

www.neumann.edu/behindthecurtain



60th Birthday Pledge: 60,000 Hours of Service

More than 200 students, faculty members and trustees filled the floor of the Mirenda Center on March 14 to celebrate the university's 60th birthday by packing more than 30,000 meals for Kids Against Hunger.

The event launched the university's pledge to provide 60,000 hours of community service by March of 2026 to mark its 60th anniversary.

Volunteers worked at tables, spread across the Mirenda Center's main arena, mixing and sealing bags of soy and rice for distribution in the U.S. and overseas.

According to Dr. Chris Domes, "Service is the bedrock of the Franciscan tradition and one of the university's core values. Our promise to provide 60,000 hours of service is the perfect way to recognize our 60th anniversary."

Students pitched in willingly and understood the connection to Neumann's mission.

"There are families out there who struggle to get meals on the table every day," said Alyssa Papasodero, a student volunteer. "It's so important that we come together and do this type of service to benefit those in need."

Dominic Petruzzelli, a junior on the men's soccer team, agreed. "If not us, then who? Service is one of Neumann's core values."

Megan Camp, Neumann's director of service-learning and community engagement, will track the service hours logged by students, faculty and staff during the next nine months and provide updates about progress toward the 60,000-hour goal.

Kids Against Hunger is a non-profit humanitarian organization that provides nutritious food to impoverished children and families in 70 countries, including the U.S. The group recruits volunteers to package

highly nutritious meals and distributes them through partnerships with other humanitarian organizations.

In addition to Kids Against Hunger, partner organizations that will benefit from Neumann's service commitment include St. Francis Inn in Kensington, Habitat for Humanity, Cradles to Crayons, Ronald McDonald House, Heart of Camden, Loaves and Fishes Pantry, Ridley Creek State Park, City Team Chester, Catholic Social Services, Meals on Wheels, Philabundance, and many more.

The Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia founded Our Lady of Angels College in September 1965. The total enrollment then was 115 female students, all members of the congregation. Today, as Neumann University, the Franciscan college educates more than 2,200 students and boasts an alumni family of more than 17,000.

“
If not us, then who?
Service is one
of Neumann's
core values.
”



Board Chair Tony Latini (front right) and staff members were all smiles as they packed meals for Kids Against Hunger.



Students Alyssa Papasodero and Dominic Petruzzelli helped kick off Neumann's pledge to provide 60,000 hours of service.

No Risk, No Gain Debuts at Film Festival

No Risk, No Gain: The Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia was the feature attraction of the 2025 Neumann Inspires Film Festival on April 4 and 5.

The documentary allows the Sisters to explain, in their own words, what it truly means to be a Sister of Saint Francis of Philadelphia and why, even as vowed, religious life is diminishing, the world needs their legacy now more than ever.

Two years ago, Sara McDermott Jain decided to tell the story of the Sisters, a 170-year-old order of Catholic nuns who founded Neumann University in 1965. The average age of those in the congregation is 84.



Sr. Diane Tomkinson appears in *No Risk, No Gain*.

"I felt it was urgent to capture the stories in their own words," says Jain, who was familiar with the Sisters through writing for *Good News*, the order's magazine. "Here's this group of people that has done so much good in the world. They are inspirational women with valuable lessons about how to live your life."

Through the years since 1855, women in the congregation became hospital CEOs and college presidents, nursing professors and high school principals, always serving as champions of social justice for the poor and marginalized.

As an adjunct professor at Neumann in 2022, Jain suggested the idea of a documentary about the Sisters to Dr. Chris Domes. He shared her formal proposal with Sr. Kathy Dougherty, who secured a sponsorship for the project from Philip Goropoulos, president of CHI St. Joseph Children's Health.

Since May of 2023, Jain has been employed by the university to produce the documentary and supervise the film festival. She interviewed 60 people for

the film (including 40 Sisters), traveling from Pennsylvania and Maryland to Oregon and Washington with a brief trip to Assisi, Italy.

She amassed 4,000 pages of transcripts and wrote the script. Her first rough cut of the film ran for six hours and sent her into a ten-day cutting frenzy. The final edited version runs for one hour and forty minutes.

The theme of the film, she explains is "Having faith in moving forward with your goals and dreams. There were always challenges, but the Sisters always moved forward, using what they had and doing what they could do."

Jain is a novelist (*Wolves at Night*), a screenwriter who has worked with more than 75 authors in adapting their books to films (*To Kill an Alien*, *Chance*, *The Dawn*, *Foreign Nationals*), and the founder of PRINDIE, the Princeton Independent Film Festival, which ran from 2015-2022.

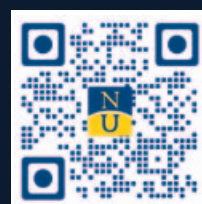
“Here’s this group of people that has done so much good in the world. They are inspirational women with valuable lessons about how to live your life.”

Join Us In Congratulating Our 2025 Alumni Association Award Winners!



This exceptional group of individuals was recognized because of outstanding contributions to their communities and organizations, or through living the RISES values towards others in their everyday lives.

Hear the stories of courage, determination, and excellence that earned recognition.





For more news about marriages, births, promotions, and advanced degrees, visit www.neumann.edu/accent

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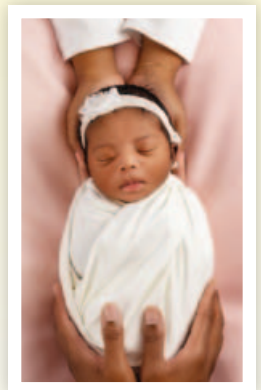


Dr. Arianne Missimer '10 has been ► featured as a **STRONG** Fitness Magazine cover athlete and joined the publication as both a columnist and a member of the advisory board. As a Doctor of Physical Therapy and Functional Medicine Practitioner, she remains dedicated to educating and inspiring both professionals and the community. Dr. Missimer expresses that Neumann University has played a pivotal role in her journey, and she is grateful for the opportunity to continue advancing health and wellness on a larger platform.



◄ **Jared Christmann '21** and **Carolyn Christmann '21** were married on December 14, 2024!

Aliyah Jones-Campbell '17 ► and her husband gave birth to a beautiful baby girl on January 27, 2025.



◄ **Eric Conlon '21** and **Madison (Welsh) Conlon '20** welcomed two baby girl twins into the world on April 19, 2025!



◄ **Khanh Le '23**, a Registered Nurse at Wilmington Intensive Care Unit at ChristianaCare, was nominated to be Delaware Top Nurse in a special issue of *Delaware Today*.

Reconnect With Neumann

We invite you to reconnect
and rediscover Neumann and
the vibrant community that helped
shape your journey!

Your continued involvement
helps strengthen the values
and mission we share. There are
countless ways to engage.

Let's move forward together!



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or Hall of Fame



Take Advantage of Your Benefits



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Update Your Information

**There are so many opportunities
to get involved, whether
through events, engagement,
or simply staying in touch —
we'd love to welcome you back!**

**Discover more at [www.neumann.edu/
alumni/stay-connected](http://www.neumann.edu/alumni/stay-connected)**



It is an honor and a privilege to introduce myself as the newly elected President of the Neumann University Alumni Association. As a proud graduate of our excellent university, I carry with me the RISES values and life lessons that Neumann has instilled in all of us. My time here shaped my professional path and my commitment to service and community.

As your new president, I aim to strengthen the bond between alumni and our beloved university. Together, we can celebrate our shared legacy, support current students, and build a vibrant, engaged alumni community.

But I can't do it alone. I invite all of our alumni to reconnect and get involved — whether by attending events, mentoring students, sharing your expertise at a Knight 2 Knight event, or simply reaching out to the alumni office to inquire how you can become involved. Your voice matters, and your involvement will help us continue the Neumann tradition of excellence and service.

Let's work together to honor our past and shape the future. I look forward to what we will accomplish together.

I look forward to representing every one of you.

Sharon Williams M.Ed.

Sharon Gebhardt-Williams '91

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION



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