

# QU<sup>i</sup>niverse

WINTER 2015

QUINCY UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE

**KICKING OFF**  
A NEW ERA IN  
**FOOTBALL**



**“Academic excellence** rooted in a caring community. Mentoring, internships, and a **rich campus life** to complement high-quality classroom learning. Personal connections and the **confidence** to succeed throughout life.”

Those are some of the benefits of a Quincy University education I emphasize during "Discovery Days" – group visits our admissions office hosts for prospective students and their parents. I always enjoy meeting high school students and parents who are visiting our campus, because the faculty, staff, and students they meet exemplify our collective commitment to excellence in Franciscan liberal arts education. And the personal dimension that has always been a hallmark of the QU experience has been enhanced in recent years by the University's steady investment in improving our facilities. I am gratified when lifelong Quincyans tell me that the campus has never looked better.

The most recent and exciting facilities upgrade, featured in this issue of *QUiverse*, is a major renovation of QU Stadium, a New-Deal-era facility that for many years has needed, literally, a new deal. The stadium is important not only to the University – more than ten percent of our students play football or baseball – but also to the larger Quincy region. A renewed stadium facility will also enhance school pride and make

our campus more attractive to prospective students.

We are fortunate to have outstanding leadership in our baseball and football programs – head coaches Josh Rabe and Tom Pajic, respectively, as well as athletic director



Dr. Gervasi and Thomas A. Oakley meet with Illinois Governor Bruce Rauner during a February 6 visit to Quincy's Oakley-Lindsay Center.

Marty Bell. They, along with the whole university community, embrace the NCAA Division II commitment to balance, which underscores that student-athletes are students first, with athletics complementing their academic experience.

This issue also features a number of individuals who have touched countless members of the QU community and who are very dear to me personally, such as theatre director Connie Phillips, trustee Mike Sennett, vice president for mission and ministry Fr. John Doctor, professors Barb and the late John Schleppenbach and, of course, Jen Gervasi. They exemplify the passionate commitment to our mission that continues to inspire colleagues, students, and alumni alike.

As always, I am grateful for your continued support, as together we ensure that future generations of students will enjoy a Quincy University education.

Peace and all good,  
Dr. Robert A. Gervasi, President





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**On the Cover:** Quarterback Nick Lonergan '16  
at QU Stadium

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“Phi Beta Sigma  
is so service  
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a person who  
loves  
to give back.”

— Durant Descartes '17



Charter members of Quincy's Phi Beta Sigma chapter step dance at the October 31 probate ceremony. From Left: T.J. Riggs '15, Corey Smith '16, Durant Descartes '17, and Jevante Francis '16.

## ► WELCOME PHI BETA SIGMA

**O**n October 31, charter members of Quincy University's chapter of Phi Beta Sigma hosted an introduction, or “probate” ceremony, where they announced that the fraternity would soon be coming to campus. Darning traditional masks for much of the ceremony, charter members Durant Descartes '17, Corey Smith '16, Jevante Francis '16, and T.J. Riggs '15 stated the history of and paid homage to the Phi Beta Sigma organization by way of poems and ritualistic stepping.

Founded in 1914 at Howard University, Phi Beta Sigma is one of nine historically African-American fraternities and sororities, known as the National Pan-Hellenic Council, and it will be the first of the “Divine Nine” to arrive on the QU campus. Brotherhood, scholarship, and service are the ideals of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity; they look beyond race and social class to see an all-inclusive brotherhood of men focusing on service leadership.

Members of Phi Beta Sigma traveled from around the state to attend the event. Additional guests included Dr. and Mrs. Robert Gervasi, Tiffany Nolan, vice president of student affairs, and other Quincy University students involved in Greek Life.

Calvin Johnson, director of multicultural leadership, said this is a part of the strategic plan to double the amount of Greek activity on the Quincy University campus by 2017, and that the fraternity is expected to be ensconced by the end of the 2014-2015 school year.

“Right now Greek Life includes probably about seventy students, and we don't have the impact we want,” Johnson said. “Greek Life plays a significant role in the leadership qualities of our students and teaches them to how to be leaders specifically in community service.”

The **FOUR STUDENTS** involved have embraced the values of the fraternity and are ready to bring the same ideals to the Quincy University campus.

“The main reason I am excited about Phi Beta Sigma is what it stands for,” Descartes said. “I would not have chosen any other fraternity. Phi Beta Sigma is so service minded and I am a person who loves to give back.”





“All of the  
alumni  
were amazing.”

— Colleen McCormack '15

## ► ALUM THEATRICAL EXTRAVAGANZA

**T**WENTY-TWO THEATRE DEPARTMENT ALUMNI returned to the stage last November to perform in the fall production of *In Review: A Musical Memory*. Traveling to Quincy from as far as Chicago and Madison, Wisconsin, these alumni joined Quincy University theatre students to perform a musical tribute to fifteen years of Quincy University musicals directed by theatre director Connie Phillips.

The show featured scenes and songs from the *Wizard of Oz*, *Cabaret*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, *The Secret Garden*, and more. Not only were a variety of characters reprised on stage, but also some of them were played by original cast members who played them over the years at MacHugh Theatre.

From backstage to center stage, alumni easily fell into the rhythm of blocking and striding the boards at MacHugh Theatre.

“All of the alumni were amazing,” said theatre minor and performer Colleen McCormack '15. “Many had not seen their dances or heard the music that would be playing for their numbers until a day or two beforehand—one of the leads arrived the same day—and they were all exceptional.”

Open to the public, the show was over-sold both nights it was performed. Those in the audience on the last night of the show enjoyed a special surprise tribute to the director herself. During the song “Happiness” from *You're a Good Man Charlie Brown*, four alumni expressed what Phillips meant to them using words like *friend*, *teacher*, and *second mom*.

“The tribute to me took me by surprise and touched my heart so deeply that I was crying in the wings,” said Phillips. “I am so blessed to have been able to enlighten others through the arts.”



## ► MEN'S SOCCER REACHES FINAL FOUR

**T**HE QUINCY UNIVERSITY MEN'S SOCCER TEAM FINISHED THIRD in the NCAA Division II NSCAA Coaches' Poll after a run to the NCAA Division II National Tournament Semifinal. The Hawks earned their first NCAA National Tournament win against Drury University (2-1) on November 16. The Hawks recorded wins against Saginaw Valley State University (3-0) in the Round of 16 and Fort Hayes State University (3-2) in the quarter final before falling to Lynn (1-4) in Louisville.

The Hawks won twenty-ones games, tying a school-record set in 1981. Senior keeper, Drew Duncan '15, and the Hawk defense chalked up a school record and NCAA Division II-leading fifteen shutouts this season. QU won the Great Lakes Valley Conference Regular Season Championship for the second consecutive season and earned the No. 1 ranking in the Midwest Region. The Hawks swept the GLVC postseason awards with Mike Carpenter '02 as Coach of the Year, Jordan Roberts '15 as Offensive Player of the Year, Chris Garavaglia '15 as Defensive Player of the Year, and Artan Emini '18 as Freshman of the Year. The Hawks became the first team in GLVC history to sweep the postseason awards. Jordan Roberts (23 goals) became the first 20-goal scorer for the Hawks since Matt Vollink '01 in 2000.

Drury (2-1)  
Saginaw Valley (3-0)  
Fort Hayes (3-2)

“I could not be more proud of the work ethic of those who attended this trip.”

— Julie Holdener '15

## ► TWO MISSIONS CLOSE TO HOME: CAIRO & EAST ST. LOUIS

I could not be more proud of the work ethic of those who attended this trip,” Julie Holdener '15 said of the other **SIX STUDENT** missionary workers and Fr. John Doctor '72, OFM, who accompanied her on a fall mission trip to Cairo, Illinois.

Cairo, in the southernmost part of Illinois, is fighting poverty, unemployment, and high-crime rates. Students worked with Daystar, a community program associated with the Diocese of Belleville, which runs a food pantry and thrift store and provides a variety of other services to the needy.

During their October trip, the students stayed at a small parish house provided by Daystar. Work began promptly at 8:00 a.m. daily, rain or shine—and most of the time, it was rain. For inside jobs, students helped sort donated clothes for Daystar's thrift store and restocked the food pantry.

When the sun was shining, they patched a leaky roof, mowed lawns, and picked up trash around the community. They mustered maximum elbow grease when tearing down a rotting balcony at the Mounds City National Cemetery as students hacked through rubber-cemented plywood with crowbars and jigsaws.

“We were exhausted with hurting backs, but we worked until dark and were determined to get the balcony down,” Holdener said proudly. “We broke two jigsaw blades, but we never gave up.”



Armed with crowbars, students demolish the rotting balcony of Mounds City National Cemetery.



Fr. John Doctor, OFM '72 (front) joins the student volunteers. From Left: Nathan Obert '15, Wade Murfin '15, Michael Lee '15, Taylor Dralle '15, Emma Topps '15, Meghan McCarthy '15 and Julie Holdener '15.



**S**IX STUDENTS STEPPED UP and stepped into a needy community when they accompanied Fr. J. Derran Combs, OFM, during the fall break to East St. Louis, Illinois. The Diocese of Belleville at Hubbard House, specifically designated for volunteers, housed and fed the students during their stay.

Students worked within the Diocese of Belleville's community programs. They donned aprons to help feed the hungry in a soup kitchen. They became movers, as they assisted the diocese in relocating its law office. The law office, called The Neighborhood Law Office, helps educate area residents about civic affairs and helps them fight foreclosure.

Students also lent their expertise at the Sister Thea Bowman Catholic School, a ministry of Diocese of Belleville. Music major Jacob Schumacher '17 worked in the music department, where he used his own talents to help budding violinists. Pre-med student Emily Nelson '18 helped in the science lab.

All the students worked with children at an after-school program run by the Griffin Center, which serves more than 400 children from six East St. Louis housing developments. The QU students played with grade school kids and also helped tutor students.



Jay Austin '15 joins one of Sister Thea Bowman Catholic School's students during a recent mission trip to East St. Louis, Illinois.



## ► MARCHING BAND & COLOR GUARD

**Q**U's Marching Band played a successful 2014 fall season.

On September 24, the band provided an on-campus musical backdrop for then-Governor Pat Quinn's visit to Quincy University. Quinn then requested an **ENCORE FOR HIS NEXT VISIT** to Quincy on October 27, when each band member was greeted by the governor himself.

The ensemble performed two different halftime shows at the five home football games played this season. Choreographed by Galen and Cindy Conkright and directed by Bill Machold, assistant professor of music and director of bands, each featured recognizable soundtracks with themed color guard costumes handmade by the members of color guard.

The Funk Show included seventies funk rock songs including "Dance to the Music" and "Give up the Funk." The Fantasy Show featured songs from the hit HBO series *Game of Thrones* along with songs from *Harry Potter*, *Star Wars*, and *The Chronicles of Narnia*.

These songs were also featured in a pops concert in late November in a public afternoon performance at the Connie Niemann Center for Music. They were followed by a performance from the QU Symphonic Band conducted by student Samantha Seitz '14.

**"The highlight of our season was being asked twice to play for our governor."**

— Bill Machold







# Bringing **FOOTBALL** HOME

by Brendan Bittner

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**STADIUM REJUVENATION**  
USHERS IN A NEW ERA FOR QU FOOTBALL  
AND COACH PAJIC MAKES HIS MARK

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When it was announced in 2010 that historic QU Stadium would no longer be the Hawks' Saturday afternoon home, many fans weren't sure exactly what to think. Since the program's revival in 1986, QU Stadium was the only home field our Hawks—and a generation of Hawks fans—had ever known.

Was QU Stadium perfect? No. Not at all, actually. Flooding was not uncommon. Paint was chipped and walls were crumbling. The locker rooms were in disrepair. Some sections of seating were actually deemed unsafe and had been closed to spectators for several seasons. In many circles, the facility had adapted the moniker "Shawshank" after the 1994 prison film. As one reporter noted in a 2010 column, the comparison was unfair: "Shawshank isn't THAT bad," he quipped.

The Hawks were headed east about three miles to Quincy High School's Flinn Stadium—a favorable field complete with lights, metal bleachers, working bathrooms, an adequate concessions area, and a brand-new synthetic turf surface. QU Stadium had none of these. By way of large, brown, vinyl signage, the "Home of the Blue Devils" became the "Home of the Hawks" for four or five Saturdays a year. All things considered, Flinn Stadium, was everything the Hawks needed it to be with the exception of one key component...

### It wasn't home.

Even before the move, the team's facilities were a far cry from centralized. They practiced on Friars Field. They held team meetings at North Campus. They worked out in Padua Hall. And fans of the team weren't accustomed to driving to games or tailgating at nearby Boots Bush Park. In support of their team, they of course obliged. But it wasn't the same. Things were just... well...different.

That was five years ago.

### And quite frankly, it's time to come home.

Beginning this fall, the QU Hawks, under fourth-year head coach Tom Pajic will return to a completely renovated QU Stadium. The QU football program will finally be in one centralized location. The new facility will be adorned with synthetic turf, new bleachers, a four-story press box, a 50-foot video board, and a raised lawn for spectators.

"It means everything to finally have a place to call home," Pajic says. "It takes QU football to the next level as the premier facility in the GLVC. It speaks volumes to the high school coaches and prospective student-athletes across the Midwest that QU football, at the Division II level, is a tremendous opportunity for them."

The facility upgrades include a new synthetic turf for the baseball infield on the west side of QU Stadium and also the construction of a new headquarters for the football program. The structure will house locker rooms, a weight room, coaches' offices, and meeting

rooms. Many naming opportunities are still available for those wishing to be a part of the new era of QU football.

The university partnered with Public Facilities Investment Corporation (PFIC) to help finance a \$4 million investment into the athletic facility. PFIC specializes in college facility investments, funding over 200 public and private projects in thirty-six states.

Quincy University athletic director Marty Bell expresses that the commitment to renovate QU Stadium and once again centralize the team on campus is all part of a greater vision for the future of football at Quincy University. A state-of-the-art facility is a critical step toward the recruitment and retention of exceptional student athletes.

“  
**CREATING  
THIS STADIUM ALLOWS  
US TO HAVE A COMPETITIVE  
EDGE IN  
RECRUITING AND STUDENT  
ATHLETES TO HAVE A  
QUALITY EXPERIENCE, CREATING  
HIGHER STABILITY  
AND GREATER SUCCESSSES  
IN THE PROGRAM.**”

In keeping with this vision, the stadium renovations are the latest in arguably the most transformative era in QU football's history. In addition to being Pajic's first two seasons, 2012 and 2013 were the first two years in a return to the NCAA Division II ranks and the first two seasons of football sponsorship in the GLVC. The success of the 2014's 6-5 season helped spur the momentum to make the QU Stadium renovation a reality.

Pajic, a New Jersey native, came to Quincy after eight seasons as the offensive coordinator at his alma mater, Bloomsburg (Pennsylvania) University (NCAA Division II). This would be his first head coaching job.



"I felt like I had enough pieces to be able to make a difference, get the program on solid ground, and compete at a high level in the Great Lakes Valley Conference," Pajic says.

The first thing Pajic needed to do with his new players was to build relationships. The Hawks were just one season removed from an 0-11 campaign and coming off a difficult 4-6 final season in the NAIA ranks.

"It takes time to trust in anything, especially in football where you need to be disciplined and focused to improve after a tough few years. We're still going through that culture change," says Pajic. "We're making football a vibrant part of Quincy University."

The Hawks gave Pajic his first career win in October 2012, beating McKendree, 38-19. In 2013, the Hawks led the GLVC in passing and set school and conference offensive records with an 80-26 win at Kentucky Wesleyan.

Then came this past season. Following a road win and two losses, October welcomed the best stretch of QU football in recent memory – a four-game winning streak that started with a 17-point comeback against Southwest Baptist and included fourth quarter wins against three schools.

"Those were the first big wins in our era," says Pajic. "The standard has been set. That's what success will be from here on out. And that's the tradition of winning."

Leadership came from a group of seniors that helped carry the program from one coach to the next. They helped lift the team from several tough seasons to a six-win campaign. They are the cornerstones of the program, student-athletes who have shown the younger crop of players the amount of work it takes to win.

The QU players are also leaders off the field. During the spring semester, a group of players goes to Dewey Elementary School to read and spend time with the students.

"As a coach and as a program we have to give back to our community," Pajic says. "Any way you slice it, our student athletes are role models."

That has been a key to this turnaround for Pajic. He has brought in student-athletes, who can succeed not only on the field, but also serve as mentors in the community and in the classroom.

"Coaching football is more than about what the public sees," Pajic says. "We are recruiting men of character, of leadership, of drive with their academics and their church groups."



Members of the Hawks baseball and football teams break ground on stadium renovations following the December 8 announcement. From left: Coach Josh Rabe '00, Jake Peterson '16, Kory Wisdom '15, Peter Cunningham '15, Coach Tom Pajic, Jesse Berry '15, Brent Williams '15, Dan Camp '15, President Robert Gervasi.

**AND NOW THOSE MEN  
WILL BE PLAYING  
ON A FIELD THEY CAN CALL  
THEIR OWN.**



THE DOCTOR IS  
**IN**

**As QU's  
Vice President  
of Mission  
and Ministry,  
Fr. John Doctor  
Is QU's Top Doc**

by Fr. Joe Zimmerman





Fr. John conducts a Sunday morning mass during 2014's Homecoming Weekend.

W

e've always thought it was a shame that Fr. John Doctor, OFM, Quincy University's vice president for mission and ministry and 1972 alumnus, never got a doctorate. Because if he had, we would have been able to refer to him as "Doctor Doctor."

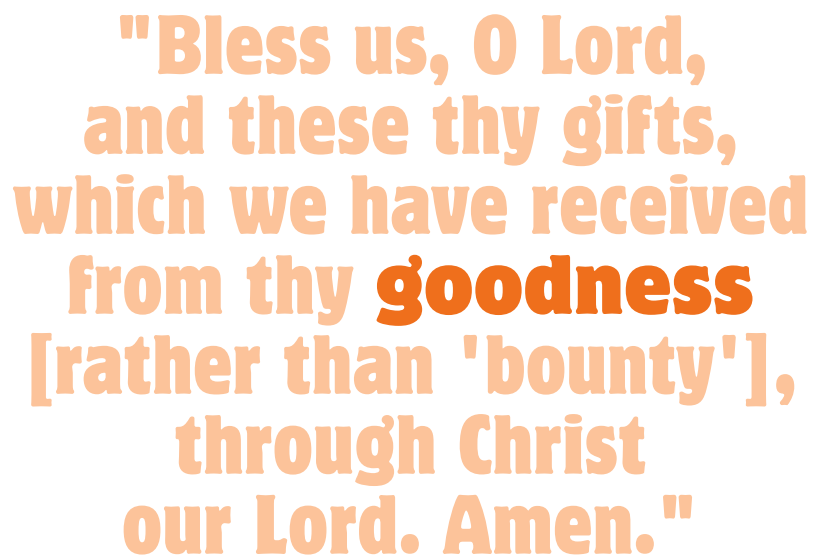
Though he earned a master's degree from Duquesne in 1983, we never did get to use the catchy moniker. Instead, we usually just call him "Doc." Nonetheless, Fr. John's influence in and around Quincy University throughout his life is truly unmatched.

Let's begin with his serving Sacred Heart Franciscan Province as its provincial minister or "top dog." He was elected to that position in 1999 after serving several years as the vicar minister (or second top dog). I'll never forget the moment in 1999 when he re-entered the chapter room where the vote had taken place. Incidentally, the chapter room that year was none other than Quincy University's cafeteria.

The man elected as vicar provincial along with him was 1970 Quincy alumnus Fr. Ken Capalbo, OFM. Making their triumphal entrance to the chapter hall, Fr. Ken and Fr. John honored their new collaboration and paid homage to one another by adding unique accessories to their traditional Franciscan attire. Fr. Ken wore bib overalls to recognize Fr. John's farming background. And Fr. John sported a horned Viking helmet—a humorous take on Fr. Ken's profound love of opera.

That pretty well symbolizes Doc's spirit of playfulness. One could almost call it his spirit of nonconformity.

To this day, during our meal prayers at Holy Cross Friary here at QU, he insists on praying:



**"Bless us, O Lord,  
and these thy gifts,  
which we have received  
from thy goodness  
[rather than 'bounty'],  
through Christ  
our Lord. Amen."**

He thinks bounty is a word that few people, especially children, understand. While I agree, my motto is, "you can't fight city hall." When a custom has gained acceptance, it is very difficult to change without creating confusion.

That has not stopped Fr. John. He continues to be grateful for the gifts of God's goodness rather than God's bounty.

During the nine years of Fr. John's tenure as provincial minister, the pedophilia scandal broke on the U.S. national scene. Fr. John was instrumental in addressing this traumatic issue with the friars of the Sacred Heart Province and nationally with bishops and other religious leaders. That would be enough to turn anyone's hair white—and Fr. John, with his head of white hair, is no exception. He has accepted leadership roles within the church, tackled controversial issues, and fought more than one health problem throughout his life without letting it slow him down.



Fr. John, a farm boy out of Mokena, Illinois, began his life as a priest working at St. Joseph Seminary in Westmont (now Oak Brook), Illinois, during its last few years. He worked at Our Lady of Angels Seminary in Quincy and was pastor of St. Joseph Parish just east of Quincy during that time. He then became the Province's "master of novices," or the man in charge of beginning the transition of new candidates into the Order.

After his nine years as provincial, Fr. John spent a few months of sabbatical in Alaska, discerning whether God was calling him to serve in that forbidding climate. It wasn't easy living with just three to four hours of daylight in a twenty-four hour period. Then he answered the call to take the position at QU, where he became President Robert Gervasi's "right hand man" and a crucial support in Dr. Gervasi's goal of shaping the university into a visibly Franciscan institution. The two continue to make headway in that endeavor, but it takes a long time to make a great ship turn in another direction.

One of the areas where his Franciscan vision at QU is most visible is in the university's Service Learning program. Each student is expected to complete thirty hours of service learning as a requirement for graduation

at QU. This means performing that many hours of recognizable service accompanied by appropriate learning. This is not an easy project, considering all the supervision and paperwork required to set up, supervise, and record each student's progress toward the requirement.

But Fr. John's horizon has not been limited to the U.S. Midwest. At a point during his position as provincial, he became involved in an organization called "Franciscans International," a United Nations accredited agency based in Geneva, Switzerland. For several years after his arrival at QU, Fr. John made regular flights to Geneva and Rome fulfilling the duties of a board member for that organization. His travels extended even as far as Bangkok, Thailand.

Recently, one of Fr. John's trusted Quincy University colleagues, Fr. Ferd Cheri, was named auxiliary bishop of New Orleans. The appointment shook up a lot of things, notably the campus ministry work at QU. As director of campus ministry, Fr. Ferd was crucial in the molding of the university in a Franciscan direction.

But like our campus ministry and Service Learning programs, Fr. John forges ahead.

## DOCTOR'S ROUTE TO QU



**1** First assignment as a priest at St. Joseph Seminary

**2** Our Lady of Angels Seminary & Pastor of St. Joseph Parish

**3** Province's Master of Novices

**4** Sabbatical in Alaska

**5** QU's VP of Mission and Ministry



The Friars of Holy Cross gather at their residence.

Nothing has slowed him down so far. QU is both lucky and blessed to have someone of Fr. John's caliber helping to shape its administration.

But I am cautious. Somebody else may realize what an asset he can be to an organization, and QU will have to adapt once again to the tendency of friars to leave the university when God calls them somewhere else.

We pray that nobody outside of our Quincy University community notices Fr. John for a long time to come.

# Reaching New Heights

by Barb Schleppenbach '71

## « Defining Success by Giving Back »

**HIS ELITE LAW PRACTICE HAS TAKEN HIM TO EVERY STATE AND TO INTERNATIONAL LOCALES AROUND THE GLOBE. YET HIS HEART KEEPS BRINGING MICHAEL SENNETT '73 BACK TO THE PLACE THAT SHAPED HIS MIND AND INSTILLED TREASURED VALUES.**

The ability to think, speak, and write clearly and critically became the liberal arts foundation for future success,” Sennett says. “It allowed me to graduate at the top of my law school class, which enabled me to land a superb entry-level position in a major law firm and then to succeed going forward.”

A major in English with minors in history and philosophy also taught Sennett time-management skills that he puts to good use in a demanding career. “Without a doubt, the sheer press of time as an undergraduate was the biggest challenge,” he says. “There is so much to do, so much you want to do and so many ideas, but you just can’t find the time to get everything done, with family, friends, education, social service, and giving back.”

“My hero in those days was Bill O’Donnell ‘73 because he had this enviable balance in his college life and wise decisions in all he did. I still find this disconnect something of a challenge, but I again learned much from







Michael gathers with family. Back Row: Devin Kelly and Michael Sennett. Front Row: Gabriela Sennett, Rachel Kelly, Georgina Kelly, Isabelle Sennett, Carolyn Sennett, Matthew Sennett, and Leah Sennett.

« My wife, Carolyn,  
sets me on the right path »

Bill when we went on the QU board together thirty years later.”

Upon graduating from QU, Sennett attended graduate school at Northwestern University and law school at Loyola University (Chicago). He joined the historic law firm Bell Boyd & Lloyd in Chicago, concentrating in antitrust and trade regulation law.

“With the increasing internationalization of competition law [which deals with regulation of international competitive markets] over the past twenty years, I moved my antitrust practice to Jones Day, a US-headquartered global law firm, and now am integrated as a partner in one of the finest antitrust practices in the world. Our offices are located in the major financial centers in the Americas, Europe, and Asia – perfect for me,” Sennett says.

# Family

**FAMILY TIME REMAINS A PRIORITY FOR SENNETT**, whose wife, Carolyn, and children Rachel, Leah, Isabelle, Matthew, and Gabriela, keep him grounded. He also enjoys the role of grandfather to Georgina and Vivian, the children of daughter Rachel and her husband, Devin.

Family is also the source of his proudest moment. “I would like to say it was making partner in the law firm, winning major court battles or my first appearance before the European Commission, though these experiences are all memorable,” Sennett says.

“But it was really with the birth of each of my children, over a period of almost twenty-five years, from the oldest when I was young to the youngest when I was much older. I purposefully stopped each time and took a deep breath to make sure it was all right and the path was good, personally and professionally.

“Today, my moments remain with my spouse, Carolyn, who continuously sets me on the right path, keeps me there and counsels, supports me in every important decision, and is my very best friend. Thanks to her, my goals, personal and professional, are largely met.”

Warm relationships with his mother (Nancy), father (Mort), and stepmother (Pia) also play a vital role. “Each of [them] continues to amaze me,” Sennett says.

## **SENNETT CREDITS QU WITH HELPING HIM TO DISCOVER WHAT TRULY MATTERS.**

“I learned life values from the college’s living, breathing Franciscan environment,” Sennett says. “QU was inspired that way. You learn to have compassion for others and humility in achievement, to respect yourself and embrace others of whatever station, and to value reading, thinking, and reflecting in everyday life.”

His undergraduate years fell during a turbulent era for the nation, and QU brought a Franciscan perspective to the controversies of the time. Sennett remembers vividly a march from QU to Washington Park to mark the national Moratorium to End the War in Vietnam. “Toward the end [the friars] gathered a number of us in smaller groups for discussions and the like about the war, what was right about the movement, how to think about it critically, and how peaceably to respond. It was a remarkable and energizing experience in thought leadership from the friars.”

Strong ties with the Franciscan spirit brought Sennett back to campus at a critical moment for QU. “The challenge was the motivation,” he recalls. “By 2006 the university was struggling with its identity in too many ways, and the board needed help.”

“Under Bill Metzinger’s ’74 leadership, and with Brian Belobradic ’80 heading the search effort, I spent many hours on telephone calls, in meetings and doing visits in a nationwide search for excellence. My favorite achievement of my board tenure was hiring Dr. Gervasi as president of the university, the result of a total team effort by a very active and dynamic board that continues to serve QU to this day.”

With a career and personal experience that any student would aspire to emulate, Sennett reflects on the path to high achievement. “Embrace confidently that which makes you special, work tirelessly at something you enjoy,” he advises. “Always give back and make others better and measure success from within yourself and by your influence on others.”

# QU



« That’s the QU way,

*“It was the birth of each of my children... I purposefully stopped each time and took a deep breath to make sure it was all right and the path was good, personally and professionally.”*



“My favorite achievement of my board tenure was hiring Dr. Gervasi as president of the university, the result of a total team effort by a very active and dynamic board that continues to serve QU to this day.”



“Always give back and make others better and measure success from within yourself and by your influence on others.”

A red telephone receiver is visible in the bottom left corner of the page.

and no one demonstrates it more fully than Michael Sennett.







# One Dynamic DUO

moved the entire community  
for more than four decades

by Ben Braun '07

**O**n February 24, 2014, Quincy University received the devastating news that beloved professor of communication, Dr. John Schleppenbach, had suddenly and peacefully passed away in his sleep at the age of seventy-one. The news came as an utter shock to the close-knit campus community that had only begun adjusting to the absence of Dr. Barb Schleppenbach, who, just weeks earlier, had announced a semester-long medical leave of absence.

It was a confusing and terribly sad time for QU's students, staff, and faculty—nearly none of whom knew of a QU without the Schleppenbachs. The “Dynamic Duo” of John and Barb was nothing less than an icon of the university. Although students and alumni may be arguably the loudest advocates for the Schleppenbachs' endearing wisdom, Dr. John and Dr. Barb served as mentors and educators to anyone and everyone fortunate enough to cross their paths throughout four decades of service to the university.

John Schleppenbach joined the Quincy faculty in 1972 as an assistant professor of English. Having earned his PhD in folklore and linguistics from Florida State University, the Wisconsin native ultimately chose Quincy so that he may work with famed folklorist Dr. Harry Hyatt. Sporting long hair and tinted glasses, twenty-

nine-year-old John quickly found his place among students, who revered him, and faculty, who admired him. In his first three years in Quincy, John established a literary magazine for Quincy College faculty members, *Faculty Subjects*, as well as a Learning Skills Center located in the west wing of Francis Hall's second floor where students could seek and provide additional instruction from and to their peers. The mission of the Learning Skills Center paralleled John's educational philosophy that, at some point, every student will need assistance and every student is capable of providing assistance.

**It was here at the Learning Center  
where John and Barb first met.**

“It wouldn't be a stretch to say that John's warmth, compassion, and gifts as an educator won my heart from day one,” Barb says.

In 1975, Barb (then Barb Aschemann) served as an adjunct instructor of composition at Quincy College. A Quincy native and 1971 QC alumna herself, Barb had recently returned to the Midwest following postgraduate studies at Stanford University and dissertation research at Oxford. A phone call from admired professor of English, Ridgely Pierson, persuaded her to return to Quincy in a teaching role.



We both believed that any student can learn and that the teacher's role is to assist the student in finding and applying his or her own learning strengths.

In meeting for the first time, Barb and John realized they shared a true admiration for educating.

"Our shared vision is part of what attracted us to one another in the first place," Barb explains. "We both believed that any student can learn and that the teacher's role is to assist the student in finding and applying his or her own learning strengths."

John and Barb were married in 1977 and together raised two children: Jay and Megan, born in 1978 and 1981 respectively. As children, Jay and Meg often served as supporting characters in many of John's monthly reflections in *The Falcon*.

"Raising children gave us unparalleled access to the learning process," Barb said. It's humbling to realize how much each human being truly desires to learn, and our task as teachers is to facilitate that process."

Throughout the 1980s and 1990s, the Drs. Schleppenbach reached beyond confines of the classroom to broaden the Quincy College experience through several facets. Serving in both faculty and administrative roles, Barb became the director of a widely successful Discovery/QUEST program, which offered a glimpse of collegiate experience to gifted elementary aged students.

"Discovery/Quest provided a particularly fine vantage point for observing classroom magic," Barb says. "The experiences of teachers freed to try new ideas with highly capable and motivated students had an impact on the sense of what's possible and the tools available to energize the educational dynamic."

Meanwhile, John's fascination with technology and multimedia sparked an involvement in a number of technological upgrades to the Quincy campus. In 1985, he facilitated the installation of a Quincy College broadcast studio located in MacHugh Theatre. He expressed the positive results of the new facility and its impact of students in a published, coauthored article entitled, "From Stage to Studio."

And with the meteoric rise of personal computing in the 1990s, John was called upon to develop the college's first computerized writing center—the Ameritech Center for Communication. The Center featured state-of-the-art technology and, in the spring of 1994, became Quincy University's first internet-accessible laboratory.

In 1993, Quincy University launched the Early Exploratory Internship Program (EEIP) thanks in large part to a \$49,000 grant. Tying in businesses both local and throughout the Midwest, the EEIP allowed students internship experience in professional settings—and in many cases, the first step toward a full-time position—prior to graduation. For each year throughout the next two decades, John wrote and was awarded the grants to ensure the program's continued success.

"John had a strong belief in the power of integrating classroom learning with experiential education," Barb says. "He read widely in the areas of cognition and human development, and his research inspired his conviction that an interplay of approaches is essential to full engagement of the student."

Alumni and students from the turn of the millennium to current likely know the Schleppenbachs as two pillars of a successful Quincy University Fine Arts and Communication division encompassing journalism, public relations, broadcasting, and other fruitful programs. In cooperation with their trusting colleagues, the Schleppenbachs implemented a communications curriculum based on learning outcomes through which all students compile portfolios encompassing their best work. Often times, these portfolios come as an added benefit to students entering a competitive job market. With a continued focus on internships and reaffirming preprofessional identity, the communications program at Quincy University continues to thrive. And in 2013, with continued support from Dr. John and Dr. Barb, QU successfully launched its first ever Masters in Communication program.



Through Quincy University endeavors and community outreach programs, the Schleppenbachs taught senior citizens, children, second language learners, graduate degree candidates, and, of course, thousands of traditional QU undergrads.

In the classroom, their lessons were not confined to the pages of a textbook. Coursework, both individual and group-oriented, encompassed real world topics and sparked perceptive discussions and debates. The Schleppenbachs effectively localized global issues and encouraged critical thinking within the context of communication. Often times without realizing it, students learned how to explore conflicting perspectives and develop unique outlooks.

But most importantly, what sets the Schleppenbachs apart in the eyes of many adoring students and alumni was their willingness and aptitude for discovering and uncovering the talents that make each student special. They took the time and initiative to get to know each one of their students and praised each student's individuality and aptitudes. The Schleppenbachs took pride in their students. They made them feel important—like they had something to offer the world.

A Dr. Barb or Dr. John lecture would often incorporate one (or more) stories about notable QU alumni finding success in a range of professional fields, including broadcasting, sports, music, journalism, and public service. These alumni, often just a few short years removed from graduation, were superheroes in the eyes of the Schleppenbachs.

They not only prepared students for life beyond Quincy University; they helped them to discover and cultivate confidence. Confidence to face challenges. Confidence to take risks. And confidence to carry on the Quincy University alumni legacy in new and innovative manners.

We found an ideal place to implement our vision at QU, where every student is valued for distinctive individual talents.



## UPDATE on Barb Schleppenbach

Barb extended her leave of absence to the fall 2014 semester, though she remains actively involved in many of QU's endeavors by way of e-communication (including this very publication).

Today, Barb resides near her family in Chicago where she continues to make great strides towards a full recovery. With the endearing optimism that has become one of her trademarks, Barb is currently teaching two online courses and is looking forward to making a triumphant return to the classroom in the fall of 2015.

## 60s | PROFILE



### Mary Kay Blazel '64

In 1967, Quincy College president and professor of sociology Fr. Gabriel Brinkman needed a new face for the sociology faculty—a void eventually filled by Brinkman's former student, Robert Blazel '64.

"And that's how we got back to Quincy from Wisconsin," wife and fellow 1964 alumna Mary Kay says.

Bob and Mary Kay would spend the next forty years in Quincy. Bob became one of Quincy's most admired professors and Mary Kay became a stay-at-home mother to their four children: Ted, John, Elizabeth (Findlay), and Jane (Loos) '96. In 1983, Mary Kay joined the faculty at Quincy Junior High School and served for twenty years, serving as librarian for the latter half.

"I'm thankful for my QU education that led me to teaching," she says.

After Mary Kay's retirement in 2003 and Bob's two years later, the Blazels moved back to Wisconsin to be closer to family.

"Plus, I love snow," she adds. "That's one of the reasons I love living here."

Beginning in 1997, Mary Kay and Bob discovered a passion for world travel—a pastime Mary Kay continues even after Bob's passing in 2009. She routinely takes at least two trips per year and has visited five continents and many countries. "I think I'm very lucky to travel as much as I do," she adds.

When not traveling, Mary Kay enjoys activities with friends, participating in a book review group, and spending time with her children and six grandchildren.



From Left: Fr. John Ostdiek, OFM '50 and Fr. Gilbert Ostdiek, OFM '59.

## '50s

**Fr. John Ostdiek, OFM '50** and his brother, **Fr. Gilbert Ostdiek, OFM '59** celebrated their jubilee on June 9, 2014 in St. Louis.

**Fr. James McManamon, OFM '51** celebrated the sixty-fifth anniversary of his ordination as a Franciscan priest on June 21, 2014 in Parma, Ohio.

**Charlotte Heintz Craven '53** and her husband, Dale, celebrated sixty years of marriage on August 28, 2014 in Quincy.

**James '57 and Patricia Yates Real '57** celebrated sixty years of marriage on October 9, 2014 in Quincy.

## '60s

**Mary Jane Wand Neu '61** sadly reports the passing of her husband, Richard B. Neu, on December 3, 2014, Quincy.

**Dan '63 and Pam Wozniak Sherman '65** celebrated fifty years of marriage on August 31, 2014 in Quincy.

**Janet Dittmeyer Murphy '64** and her husband, Bill, celebrated fifty years of marriage on October 3, 2014 in Dimondale, Mich.

**Melinda Melton Fagan '66** sadly announces the passing of her husband, Dr. Kenneth Fagan, on June 17, 2014, O'Fallon, Mo.

**Patricia Brown Hummelsheim '67** and her husband, Roy, celebrated forty-five years of marriage on August 23, 2014 in Quincy.

## '70s

**Mike '69 and Kathy Burke Kovachevich '73** celebrated forty-five years of marriage on August 30, 2014 in Quincy.

**Dorothy Haddenhorse Buzzard '70** celebrated her ninety-fifth birthday on June 15, 2014 in Urbana, Ill.

**Janet Brady Luna '73, Ellen Brady King '82, and Marcia Brady Blessman '84** sadly report the passing of their father, Maurice E. Brady, on June 22, 2014, Camp Point, Ill.

**Edward Ross '73** recently published *The Transplants*, a science fiction story, a love story and a story about coming to grips with our most fundamental beliefs. Edward is president of EWRoss International LLC in Great Falls, Va.

**Donald Winget '73** and his wife, Dee, celebrated fifty years of marriage on June 27, 2014 in Quincy.

**Harry '74 and Cindy Cook Cramer '74** celebrated forty years of marriage on June 7, 2014 in Quincy.

**Teresa Morris Kettelkamp '74** sadly reports the passing of her mother, Margot Morris, on July 31, 2014, Des Plaines, Ill.

**Kathy Miller Connor '76** of West Olive, Mich., is the director of office operations and human resources with J. S. Fort Group, Inc., in Downers Grove, Ill.

**Dr. Debbie Bower LeBlanc '78** has received the 2014 Herman Graves Award by the Illinois Principals Association in Peoria, Ill.

## '80s

**Mary Talleur Egan '81** was promoted to director of outreach with Rosecrance Health Network in Rockford, Ill.

**Bill Harrison '82** of St. Louis, key account manager with Chemsearch, was named a Certified Water Technologist by the Association of Water Technologies.

**Jeff Suzewits '82** is the chief medical information officer with St. John's Hospital, an affiliate of Hospital Sisters Health System, in Springfield, Ill.

**Tom Bertrand '85** of Rochester, Ill., was named the 2015 Illinois Superintendent of the Year by the Illinois Association of School Administrators.

**Craig Kabbes '88** is the vice president of technology support services with Heartland Dental in Effingham, Ill.

**Lori Cain Holtschlag '89** sadly reports the passing of her mother, Kathleen A. Cain, on June 24, 2014, Quincy.

## '90s

**Vernon Johnson Kinkade '90** is a Sunday school teacher with Zion Assembly Church of God in Roanoke, Va.

**Pam Shaffer '90** and her husband, Duane, celebrated forty years of marriage on July 20, 2014 in Quincy.

**Robin Cain '92** sadly reports the passing of her mother, Kathleen A. Cain, on June 24, 2014, Quincy.

**Carol Tate Brockmiller '95** was named to chief executive officer with Quincy Medical Group in Quincy.

**Amy Johnson Nelson '95** is an assistant director of special events with the University of Kansas in Lawrence, Kan.

**Tammy Peters Bruns '96** has been promoted to development specialist with Blue Cross Blue Shield of Illinois in Quincy.

**Betty Schmalshof Kasparie '97** of Quincy, vice president of planning and compliance at Blessing Health System has earned certification in healthcare privacy compliance from the Compliance Certification Board.

**Brian Ballok '98** is a design professional with HOK, a global design, architecture, engineering and planning firm in St. Louis.

**Susan Smith Hummelsheim '98** and her husband, Paul, celebrated forty years of marriage on June 22, 2014 in Quincy. Susan retired from Quincy University in September.

**Mark Kuchenrither '98** of Austin, Tex., was appointed interim chief executive officer and president with EZCORP, Inc.

## 70s | PROFILE

### Kelley Kesterson '75



"It was the golden age of music at Quincy College," says alumnus Kelley Kesterson of his college years in the mid-1970s. "It was a special time. We were all very close and the level of playing was unreal."

Inspired by professors Lavern Wagner, Charles Winking, Hugh Soebbing, Louis Margaglione, and Karen Donath, Kesterson turned his love of music and education into a twenty-year career as a public school music educator.

"The professors gave me a terrific knowledge base from which I could establish my career," Kesterson explains. "Their one-on-one assistance was invaluable to me developing as an educator and musician."

For many years, Kesterson served as a widely sought-after clinician, instructing students and faculty at colleges all over the country (including his alma mater of Quincy). He was chosen as a guest conductor for ensembles all over the world.

Today, a "semi-retired" Kelley teaches instrumental music and works as a professional tuba player. He and his wife, Sheila, celebrate thirty-three years of marriage in 2015 and together they have two grown children and two granddaughters. Following in her father's musical footsteps, daughter Lindsay is a graduate opera major and recently performed in Europe.

In his free time, Kelley enjoys playing golf, watching hockey and baseball, and spending time with family.

### ALUMNI GATHERING



Trustees Teresa Kettlekamp '74 (bottom left) and Cris Cray '86 (bottom second from left) hosted a gathering for alumni in the Springfield, Ill. area on July 30, 2014.



## 80s | PROFILE



## David Neun '84

As a Global Steward for Dow Corning, David Neun would not be where he is today without an education rooted in the sciences. Though Neun, who holds a PhD in toxicology from New York University, states that it was Quincy's liberal arts education that truly prepared

him for his life's work.

"I have used a good deal of the education from Quincy," Neun says, "from proper writing to using interesting references to liven up presentations, to the philosophy and bioethics courses that I still use to help me make decisions. Working with people around the world, the history and social science courses really help me to understand differing views."

Professors William Gasser and John Natalini proved to be invaluable to Neun's well-rounded, personal and professional development. As a student, Neun attained a pharmacy tech position at Blessing Hospital with Natalini's assistance. Natalini also provided a source of information on NYU's toxicology program.

"I think his low key demeanor made me comfortable with the whole idea of advanced degrees and how to approach interesting situations," Neun said of Natalini.

In his free time, the Michigan native is an avid world traveler. In fact, for the past sixteen years, he's spent his birthday in a different country—a tradition he aims to continue. He also enjoys fine dining, good wine, and biking the rail-trails of mid-Michigan each summer.

Jera Paris Cofield '99 is a school psychologist at St. Charles School District in St. Charles, Mo.

Dr. Otis Taylor '99 is the principal at Independence School in Chicago Heights, Ill.

## '00s

Sonia Hester Behrens '01 and her husband, Mike, announce the birth of Ryder Andrew on July 3, 2014, Quincy.

Brian Hendrian '01 and his wife, Amber, announce the birth of Elijah on November 7, 2014, Quincy. Elijah joins big brothers and sister, Elliott, Olliver, Abram and Lillian.

Hope Howe Owens '01 passed her board certification exam by the American Board of Cardiovascular Medicine. Hope is a certified nurse practitioner at Quincy Medical Group in Quincy.

Danielle Ley Earnst '02 and her husband, Jeffery, announce the birth of a son on July 20, 2014, Quincy.

Scott '02 and Nikki Stutz LaDeur '03 announce the birth of Ryan Thomas on May 13, 2014, Bolingbrook, Ill.

Ben Miller '02 and his wife, Jamie, announce the birth of Finn Andrew on August 29, 2014, Highland Village, Tex.

Derek Huber '03 and his wife, Kelly, announce the birth of Harrison Isaac on August 19, 2014, Bartlett, Ill.

Maggie Schuering Strong '03 has been appointed vice president of Great River Economic Development Foundation in Quincy.

Maria Bocanegra '04 was appointed arbitrator to the Illinois Workers Compensation Commission, presiding over work injury cases in the Chicago area.

Crissy Padavic Frese '04 and her husband, Andy, announce the birth of Ethan Phillip on October 13, 2014, Quincy. Ethan joins big sister Callie and big brother Joey.

Cody Hageman '04 is the web services manager with Vervocity Interactive, a division of ETC ComputerLand, in Quincy.

Lindsay Tenhouse Herren '04 and her husband, Cory, announce the birth of a daughter on July 28, 2014, Quincy.

Connor McDonald '04 of Evergreen, Colo., married Alison Guest on August 17, 2014 in Tabernash, Colo. Connor is a BSN at First Choice Emergency Room in Arvada, Colo.

Justin Rang '04 is an IT finance director with Horace Mann in Springfield, Ill.

Justin Sievert '04 and his wife, Laura, announce the birth of Elliott Jude on September 8, 2014, Quincy.

Kiara Moore Tierney '04 and her husband, Brian, announce the birth of Margaret Eileen on May 6, 2014, Oak Lawn, Ill. Maggie joins big sister Vivian Kathleen, two.

Karen Biver Truran '04, a special education teacher at Dorris Intermediate School in Collinsville, Ill., received the 2014 Emerson Excellence in Teaching Award for her achievements and dedication to her field of education in Saint Louis, Mo.

Melissa Daggett '05 and her husband, John, announce the birth of a son on August 25, 2014, Quincy.

## CHICAGO ALUMNI GATHERING



Chicago area alumni gathered for the annual QU and You Golf Outing on June 24.

## 90s | PROFILE

## Brett Penick '90



As chief financial officer at Plastic Container Corporation, Brett Penick carries the work ethic he developed on his grandfather's farm as a child alongside the broad education he received at QU with him every day. They help him "wear a lot of hats" for the Urbana, Illinois plastic bottle manufacturer.

"My grandfather was a farmer, so I had the benefit of some jobs in the fields to develop some work ethic at an early age," Penick said. "(At QU) I had a solid foundation in accounting, but skills and knowledge from other classes were just as essential. Economics, History and Political Science help you understand the world."

A diverse education and a degree aren't the only things Brett earned at QU. On a senior year float trip in 1990, he met his wife, Amy Anderson '93.

"We managed to stay together through three years of long-distance dating and then got married after her graduation," Penick said.

Penick lives in Mahomet, Ill., with his wife and two teenage children: Aaron and Lauren. Penick enjoys running and coaching his children's soccer teams—a sport for which he developed a passion during his years at Quincy.

"My first serious exposure to soccer was being a loyal fan of the new Division I team at Quincy in the late '80s," Penick said. "But I am now very deep into soccer with my kids."

**Kara Hoener Hoffman '05** and her husband, Eric, announce the birth of a daughter on October 20, 2014, Quincy.

**Leslie McGinley '05** is an advertising representative in the Retail Advertising Department at the *Quincy Herald Whig* in Quincy.

**Lisa Marie Tournear '05** was promoted to administrative chair of nursing and health sciences at John Wood Community College in Quincy.

**Tabitha Strom Beardsley '06** is a registered nurse manager with the United States Department of Veterans Affairs in Galesburg, Ill.

**Andy '06 and Linda Meyer Douglas '00** announce the birth of a daughter on July 31, 2014, Quincy.

**Brian Forrest '06** and his wife, Brooke, announce the birth of Briley Jo on July 28, 2014, St. Louis.

**Dr. Adam King '06** and his wife, Linda, announce the birth of Madilyn on June 3, 2014, Springfield, Ill.

**Ali Ziegweid Power '06** and her husband, Nicholas, announce the birth of Nash on July 2, 2014, Quincy.

**Megan Lovelace Stark '06** has joined Destination Travel as an all-inclusive vacation travel specialist in Quincy.

**Jessica Wiemelt Beaston '07** and her husband, Bryce, announce the birth of Olivia on May 14, 2014, Quincy. Olivia joins four-year-old twin sisters Alexa and Makayla.

**Ben Braun '07** has been promoted to writer and editor with the Office of Communications at Quincy University in Quincy.

**Dan '07 and Katie Heisel Brown '07** announce the birth of Adeline Marie on June 27, 2014, Rockford, Ill. Adeline joins big brother William.

**Michael Cirrincione '07** of Quincy was named June's Employee of the Month with the Quincy Police Department.

**Elisabeth Rogers Collins '07** of Napa, Calif., is a fifth-grade teacher with St. Basil Catholic School in Vallejo, Calif.

**Jo Dee Barker Klauser '07** and her husband, Lance, announce the birth of a son on September 5, 2014, Liberty, Ill.

**Barbara Munie '07** married Jud Corby on September 20, 2014, Alton, Ill. Barb is a teacher at Lewis and Clark Community College and executive director at Step By Step Inc., Early Care & Education.

**Cale Newlin '07** has been promoted to assistant vice president/compliance officer at Herrin Security Bank in Herrin, Ill.

**Stacey Piper '07** married Joe Bates on July 19, 2014, Defiance, Mo.

**Billy Schaffer '07** and his wife, Jena, announce the birth of Grant Sterling on June 16, 2014, Quincy. Grant joins big brother Sawyer, two. Billy is the director of admissions with John Wood Community College in Quincy.

**Nathan Beaird '08** is in document management with Optitek in St. Louis.

**Jessica Gorton Bemis '08** and her husband, Aaron, announce the birth of Weston Lee on September 21, 2014, Mt. Sterling, Ill.

## COLORADO ALUMNI GATHERING



Members of the Colorado Chapter of Alumni celebrated their tenth annual gathering on July 22, 2014

# 00s | PROFILE



## Megan Breheny '06

After serving as Communications and Marketing Coordinator for HSHS Medical Group for two years, alumna Megan Breheny stepped down in 2012 to take on what she describes as “the most challenging, important, and wonder

role [she has] ever taken on,”—a mother to her now two-year-old daughter, Elizabeth.

“No matter what, I always have the same goal in mind. I seek to provide a safe, loving, educational, and fun environment for my daughter,” she says.

Megan is active in a series of volunteer endeavors including her serving as board member and community advocate for BabyTALK (Teaching Activities for Learning and Knowledge) as well as the Women's Advisory Committee for Congressman Rodney Davis. In addition, Megan is a recent graduate of the Leadership Illinois program—a vast network of women dedicated to positive workplace and community change throughout the state of Illinois.

Through several channels, Megan is an avid supporter of QU, and is quick to cite professors of communication Barb and the late John Schleppenbach as two of her most influential mentors.

“My friendship with Barb and John is a special gift that I will always carry in my heart,” Breheny says. “From the beginning of my time at QU, these two special people saw something in me that I didn't know was there.”

## 1964 INAUGURAL SOCCER TEAM



Members of 1964's inaugural men's soccer team were honored at halftime of the annual Homecoming game on September 26.

Emily DeVoss Heemeyer '08 and her husband, Monte, announce the birth of Knox Alan on September 12, 2014, Quincy.

Meghan Jamrozik '08 of Elgin, Ill., married Jeffrey Scharringhausen on May 21, 2014 in Las Vegas, Nev.

Hannah Kort '08 married Dan Kennedy on August 16, 2014, Evergreen Park, Ill.

Emily Hermesmeier Obert '08 and her husband, Justin, announce the birth of Ava on July 22, 2014, Golden, Ill.

Kristin Ross O'Brien '08 and her husband, John, announce the birth of Jack Ross on May 29, 2014, Nashville, Tenn.

Brandy Paben '08 married Nick Zanger on May 10, 2014, Quincy.

Clinton Sutter '08 married Elise Obert on July 5, 2014, Quincy.

Brittany Vermeire '08 is the human resources director with Quincy University in Quincy.

Stacy Hankins '09 married Ryan Henning on October 25, St. Louis.

Jessica Keller '09 is the head women's basketball coach with Columbia College of Missouri in Columbia, Mo.

Jeremy Saunders '09 and his wife, Meghan, announce the birth of Tinley Tyne on July 15, 2014, Warren, Ill.

Tony Vincent '09 is the associate director of admissions with Chaddock in Quincy.

Greg Whiston '09 married Lauren Rolger on September 27, 2014, Lee's Summit, Mo.

Kevin Williams '09 is an administrative assistant in Human Relations with Blessing Hospital in Quincy.

Angela Zehnle '09 is an administrative assistant with Poepping, Stone, Bach & Associates in Quincy.

## '10s

Peter Coley '10 and Jenni Amsden '10 announce the birth of Cadence Serenity Louise on August 30, 2014, Quincy.

Maekayla Gosnell '10 married Will Wiler on June 21, 2014, Bowling Green, Mo.

Jayne Groark '10 married Megan Wingenbach '12 on June 21, 2014, St. Louis.

Meggie Waterkotte Koch '10 and her husband, David, announce the birth of a son on August 28, 2014, Quincy.

Heidi Thomas Lanier '10 is a media and content manager at Culver-Stockton College in Canton, Mo.

Richard Markey '10 is the web & digital content coordinator with the Office of Communications at Quincy University in Quincy.

Camilla Rose Mast '10 married Larry Bocker II on June 28, 2014, Omaha, Neb. Camilla is practicing personal injury law in Silverdale, Wash.

Eric Wharton '10 and his wife, Erin, announce the birth of Evan on May 29, 2014, Quincy.

Rebecca Arns '11 is a private contractor with the United States Geological Survey. She is studying the movement of Asian carp on the Mississippi River at the Kibbe Wildlife Station in Warsaw, Ill.



## 10s | PROFILE

## Kaleena Gentry '11



Kaleena Gentry's love for business and numbers began well before her days at QU.

"My parents own their own business and when I was growing up my mom would let me help her with the book work, and my dad would teach me about grain prices and let me go to auctions with him," Gentry said. "That's when I decided I liked the business world and enjoyed the financial side of things."

Since joining Dot Foods as a staff accountant upon her graduation in 2011, Kaleena has been a part of various business aspects for the redistribution company. However, Gentry finds herself learning much more than numbers on the job.

"(Dot) taught me about how to treat employees right and how to work together as a company towards goals," Gentry says. "They want to help you develop in your career."

She also attributes a great deal of her career development to guidance she received at QU both in and out of the classroom, specifically through accounting professor Vicki Eidson and the career guidance of career services director Kristen Liesen '98.

"I can truly say that a resume and good interviewing skills are what can put you above the rest," Gentry said.

Gentry lives in Payson, Ill., with her husband, Logan, and their dog, Buck. In her free time, she enjoys volleyball, spending time with family, and being outdoors.

**Kyle Beckman '11** married Sarah Lierly '13 on June 28, 2014, Quincy.

**Danielle Benjamin '11** married Curt Felker on July 4, 2014, Quincy.

**Kelsey Gallaher Bennett '11** and her husband, Michael, announce the birth of Noah on June 6, 2014, Quincy.

**Julie Elston '11** married Todd Logan Jr. on June 21, 2014, Quincy.

**Paul Fields '11** is a sourcing specialist with Nestle Purina in St. Louis.

**Kaleena Hummel '11** married Logan Gentry on June 28, 2014, Quincy.

**Myles McCabe '11** married Sindhuja Rao on August 9, 2014, Plymouth, Minn. Myles is an associate at Greenleaf Capital Partners in St. Louis.

**Craig Moore '11** married Jennifer Woods on August 9, 2014, Athens, Ohio. Craig is the head football coach at Federal Hocking High School.

**Katie Neu '11** is the coordinator of Family Faith Formation with The Catholic Community of Saint Jude in New Lenox, Ill.

**Steven O'Hearn '11** was promoted to consumer loan officer with Mercantile Bank in Quincy.

**Casey Rhea '11** and his wife, Kris, announce the birth of Hudson on May 24, 2014, Quincy.

**Lori Knollenberg Shevlin '11** is an admissions counselor with Quincy University in Quincy.

**Eric Steitz '11** is a first officer with Trans States Airlines in Chicago.

**Jennifer Terstegge Barry '12** and her husband, Keith, announce the birth of Peyton on July 8, 2014, Quincy.

**John Canniff '12** married Brigid Heatherly '10 on May 17, 2014, Naperville, Ill.

**Royce Duncan '12** of Beason, Ill., is a specialist with Country Financial in Bloomington, Ill.

**Danielle Fleming '12** married Eric Deeter on September 13, 2014, Quincy.

**Rachel Lee Johnson '12** is a missionary with Campus Crusade for Christ in St. Louis.

**Amanda Mowen Obert '12** and her husband, Mark, announce the birth of Tess Avery on July 17, 2014, Camp Point, Ill.

**Jeanna Lord Parkhill '12** and her husband, Brennan, announce the birth of a son on September 22, 2014, Liberty, Ill.

**Kristi Weese Shelton '12** is the student accounts and Perkins loans representative with the Business Office at Quincy University in Quincy.

**Michael Varrone '12** married Katie Poulin on October 4, 2014, St. Louis.

**Andrew Zanger '12** and his wife, Ninive, announce the birth of Rose on June 7, 2014, Quincy.

**Brandon Cain '13** is a copy editor/page designer with Victoria Advocate in Victoria, Tex.

**Jeremy Culver '13** is a multimedia journalist with WGEM News in Quincy.

**Blaise Haxel '13** and Kayla Tuley announce the birth of Stella Rae on January 4, 2014, Quincy.

**Charlie Kapala '13** is a technical professional analyst with Comerica Bank in Auburn Hills, Mich.

**Ryne Kirlin '13** is an engineering software liaison with Caterpillar, Inc., in Peoria, Ill.

Jasmine Locke '13 is a prevention director at Madonna House in Quincy.

Jill Bonebrake Shackleton '13 and her husband, Burt, celebrated twenty-five years of marriage on August 26, 2014 in Quincy.

Cody Smith '13 was appointed as a loan officer with Central State Bank in Quincy.

Christine Williams '13 is a new member coordinator & full-time coach with CrossFit RXD in Anaheim, Calif.

Malynda Ancell '14 is the director of nursing at Sycamore Healthcare in Quincy.

Janell Ayers '14 is a lab technician with Archer Daniels Midland Company in Quincy.

Emilia Bieniewicz '14 is a registered nurse in the Intensive Care Unit at Blessing Hospital in Quincy.

Andrew Boudreau '14 is the owner of Wine on Broadway in Quincy.

Ashley Knapp-Brandenberger '14 is an elementary counselor with Canton R-V District in Canton, Mo.

Meredith Brinkman '14 is a laborer with Brinkman Plumbing in Quincy.

Molly Brown '14 is a registered nurse with Blessing Hospital in Quincy.

Kelly Buresh '14 is a financial representative with Northwestern Mutual in Quincy.

Dianna Stabler Butler '14 works in the human resources department at Quincy Recycle in Quincy.

Evan Campbell '14 is a lease agent with Vantage Property Management in Hannibal, Mo.

Constance Smith Clifford '14 is a registered nurse with Blessing Hospital in Quincy.

Zacchary Cocco '14 is a marketing specialist with Total Quality Logistics in Chicago.

Josefina Creighton '14 is a special education teacher and bilingual coordinator with Intrinsic Schools in Chicago.

Lori Crisman '14 is an elementary physical education teacher with the Community Unity School District in Mendon, Ill.

Cara Bunch Cunningham '14 is a registered nurse with Blessing Hospital in Quincy.

Jeffrey Daverne '14 is a credit analyst with HomeBank in Palmyra, Mo.

Hadley Defraia '14 is the assistant vice president of business, banking and data processing at Bank of Quincy in Quincy.

Justin Dickens '14 is a file clerk with Hawkins Parnell Thackston & Young LLP in Atlanta, Ga.

Allison Dooley '14 is a youth counselor with Chaddock in Quincy.

Alex Dornberger '14 is a shelter monitor with the Salvation Army in Quincy.

Sarah Dougherty '14 is a youth pastor with Church at the Gate in North Sioux City, S.D.

Danielle Dunn '14 is a graduate assistant in the Office of Career Services with Quincy University in Quincy.

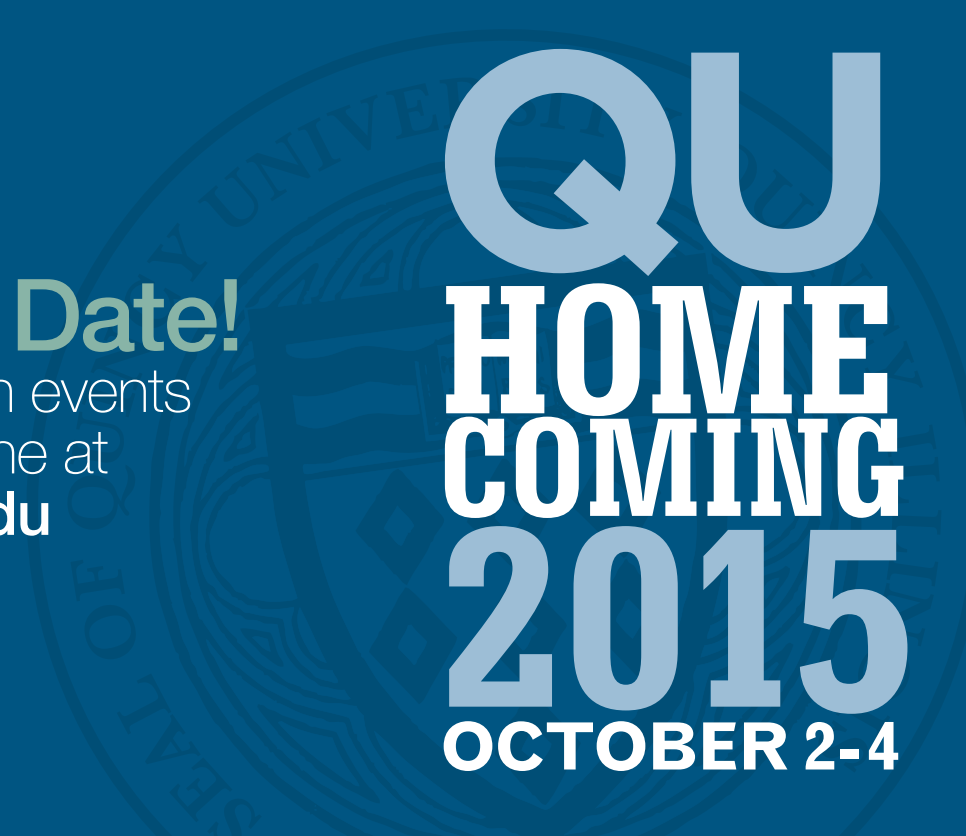
Mary Glosier '14 is a cost accountant with Quincy Compressor in Quincy.

Jonathan Graff '14 is a personal trainer with Advance Wellness in Quincy.

Aisha Gray '14 is a fifth-grade teacher with Chicago Public Schools in Chicago.

# Save the Date!

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OCTOBER 2-4

**John Higgins '14** is a management associate with U.S. Steel in Granite City, Ill.

**Sean Hughes '14** is the assistant men's soccer coach with Quincy University in Quincy.

**Alyssa Horman Hummel '14** is the coordinator of student life at John Wood Community College in Quincy.

**Josh Hunsaker '14** is employed with Fedex Ground in Quincy.

**Ryan Huseman '14** is a manager with Atlas Copco in Quincy.

**Keyonee Jackson '14** is a registered nurse with Blessing Hospital in Quincy.

**Brittany Crane James '14** is a sales manager with BASF in Palmyra, Mo.

**Jami Spangler Kirkham '14** is a registered nurse with Blessing Hospital in Quincy.

**Kristin Kamphaus Koenig '14** is a deposit operations retail specialist with First Bankers Trust in Quincy.

**Samuel Kragel '14** is an implementation consultant with Fast Enterprises in Nashville, Tenn.

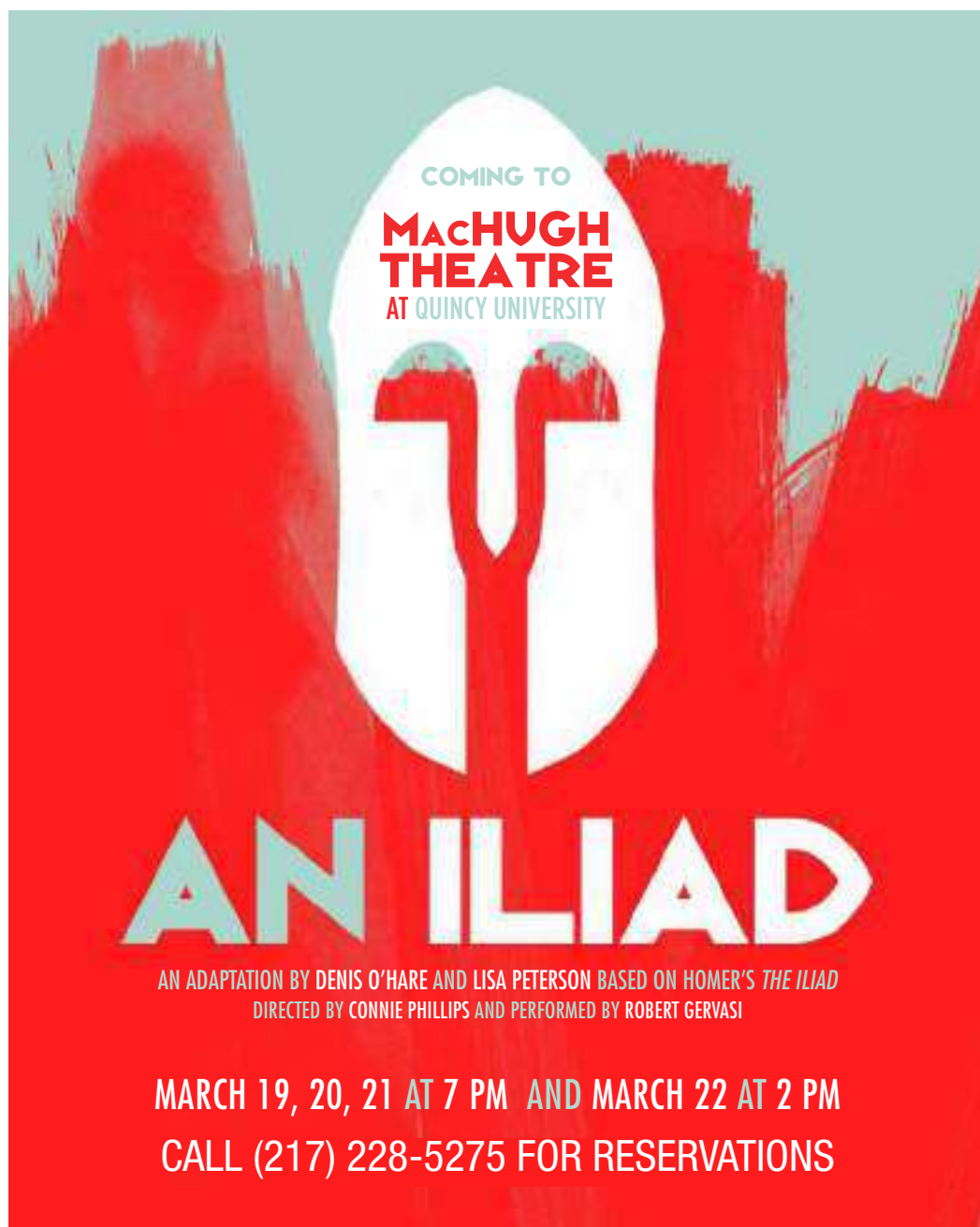
**Ryan Kramer '14** is a buyer's assistant with Farm & Home Supply in Quincy.

**Joshua Lawless '14** is an international service representative with Gardner Denver in Quincy.

**Lane Luhring '14** is the head tennis pro with Black Hawk Tennis Club in Waterloo, Iowa.

**Stephanie Maas '14** is a staff accountant with Arnold, Behrens, Nesbit & Gray in Quincy.

**Jill Meany '14** is a registered nurse with Hannibal Regional Hospital in Hannibal, Mo.



**Dustin Moore '14** is a front desk clerk with National Management Resources in Quincy.

**Scott Morris '14** is a special education teacher with McHenry High School in McHenry, Ill.

**John Moskal '14** is a youth counselor with Chaddock in Quincy.

**Laurie Haag Noble '14** is a licensed practical nurse with Sycamore Health Care in Quincy.

**Adam Notteboom '14** is the assistant men's basketball coach with Quincy University in Quincy.

**Carla Passini '14** is the assistant director of the learning enhancement center and assistant softball coach with Quincy University in Quincy.

**Daniel Pedraza '14** received the 2014 Franciscan Service Award at the Quincy University Senior Champagne Brunch celebration in May. Daniel is a residential youth counselor with Lutheran Child and Family Services in Addison, Ill.

**Jonathan Player '14** of Killeen, Tex., is enlisted with the United States Army.



**Tiffany Rains '14** is a counselor with Quincy Medical Group in Quincy.

**Brennan Rakers '14** is a teller with First Bankers Trust in Quincy.

**Tyler Reidl '14** is a teacher's assistant in the doctor of philosophy program at University of Illinois in Chicago.

**Kayla Spengler Reinebach '14** is an office coordinator with Blessing Hospital in Quincy.

**Jenna Riggs '14** is a dispatcher with the City of Quincy/Adams County 911 in Quincy.

**Dakota Roberts '14** is a supervisor with Zion Public Works Department in Zion, Ill.

**Sherika Smiley '14** is a multicultural and diversity initiatives graduate assistant at Quincy University in Quincy.

**Alysse Smith '14** is a registered nurse with Blessing Hospital in Quincy.

**Joe Sokol '14** is an account manager with ComDoc Inc., in Cleveland, Ohio.

**Rachael Roberts Tenk '14** is an American Sign Language interpreter with the Macomb School District in Macomb, Ill.

**Austin Weber '14** is an administrative and logistics marine with the United States Marine Corps in San Diego, Calif.

**Joyce Hendrickson Woodruff '14** is the benefits coordinator in the Human Resources Department with John Wood Community College in Quincy.

## IN MEMORIAM

**Edward P. Arlis '49** on April 23, 2014, Lombard, Ill.

**Thomas P. Blenner '74** on December 3, 2014, Arlington Heights, Ill.

**Stephen Robert Bybee '69** on June 12, 2014, Quincy.

**Rex Chandler '73** on August 28, 2014, Quincy.

**Dorothy L. Cory '74** on July 21, 2014, Quincy.

**Dr. Kenneth J. Fagan '71** on June 17, 2014, O'Fallon, Mo.

**Michael Anthony Geeraedts '87** on September 20, 2014, Chicago.

**Bette T. Thesen Gorton '48** on May 28, 2014, Rio Rancho, N.M.

**Jeanne Marie Behrensmeyer-Harroun '75** on July 6, 2014, Quincy.

**Thomas K. Hill Jr. '76** on June 24, 2014, Galesburg, Ill.

**Emery L. Kaufmann '75** on November 11, 2014, Quincy.

**James E. "Jim" Klene '58** on July 29, 2014, Columbia, Mo.

**Joseph E. Lawrie '57** on October 31, 2014, San Angelo, Tex.

**Jason D. Mejer '95** on December 3, 2014, Quincy.

**Linda Steinkamp Musolino '78** on November 8, 2014, Quincy.

**James H. "Jim" Neiryneck '51** on June 2, 2014, Ocean Springs, Miss.

**Deacon William Kent Neuser '70** on June 29, 2014, Quincy.

**Walter Thomas Plazewski Sr. '49** on July 9, 2014, San Antonio, Fla.

**Ann Pogge** (beloved wife of Professor Emeritus of biological sciences, Al Pogge) on January 17, 2015, Quincy

**Lyman H. Potter '50** on May 9, 2014, Milford, Conn.

**Deloris Elaine VanOrder Scranton '73** on September 28, 2014, Quincy.

**Robert J. "Bob" Siebers '65** on June 19, 2014, Quincy.

**Robert Stanley Stock '51** on June 20, 2014, Santa Maria, Calif.

**Frederick L. "Fritz" Thomas '49** on November 18, 2014, Quincy.

**Rev. Frank K. Vitus '71** on August 12, 2014, Joliet.

## Richard Magliari

Dr. Richard Magliari, Emeritus Professor of Business, passed away on October 3 at the age of 80.

After fifteen years in the aerospace industry, Magliari joined the Quincy faculty in 1971. Here, he and fellow professor Fr. Melvin Grunloh, founded Quincy's first School of Business. Describing himself as a performer that provided knowledge, he often shared that the classroom was his life. He considered all of his former students, regardless of age, his kids. Asked when he retired what he wanted to be remembered for. He said, "I have had a great life. I loved all the young people I met, and had a great loving family. You can't beat that."

Magliari is a graduate of the University of Dayton, Xavier University, and Webster University. He served as an alderman for the City of Quincy, chairman of Quincy Housing Authority, a member of the Great River Development Economic Foundation, and a seminal board member of Illinois Business Hall of Fame.

His wife (Peggy), two sons (Marc and Adam), as well as five grandchildren survive him.

Memorial gifts can be made to the Dr. Richard Magliari Memorial Scholarship. The Magliari family will match all gifts up to \$100,000.

## Fr. Phil Hoebing OFM

Fr. Phil Hoebing OFM, Emeritus Professor of Philosophy and 1946 alumnus, passed away on December 7 at the age of 91.

Fr. Phil entered the Franciscan Order on August 19, 1942 and was ordained a Franciscan priest on June 25, 1950. He joined the Quincy faculty in 1952 as a professor of philosophy—a position he held for fifty-eight years, making him the longest tenured faculty member in the university's history.

Fr. Phil was likewise an active member of the Missouri Folklore Society. With his love for folklore, he began to collect local stories on fishing, hunting, and colorful characters from the Tri-State Area. He published his findings in 1997's "Wildcat

Whistle: Folklore, Fishing and Hunting Stories from the Mississippi River Valley."

He received an honorary Ph.D from Quincy University in 2000 and was honored by the Holy See with the "Pro Pontifice et Ecclesia Award" (For Pope and Church) in 2002 for his distinguished service to the Church.

Memorial gifts can be made to the Fr. Phil Hoebing, OFM, Scholarship.

## Fr. Victor Kingery OFM

Reverend Victor Marshall Kingery, OFM passed away on December 5 at the age of 90.

St. Francis Catholic Church ordained Fr. Victor in 1949 following his years at the Our Lady of Angels Seminary in Cleveland, Ohio and the St. Joseph Seminary in Teutopolis, Ill. He served as chaplain and instructor for St. Joseph Academy in Cleveland from 1950 to 1960 and taught at the St. Joseph Seminary in Oak Brook throughout the 1960s.

Fr. Victor joined the Quincy faculty in 1970 as associate librarian and was named librarian a year later. Beloved by many, Fr. Victor served Brenner Library and Quincy for thirty years and assisted thousands of Quincy students along the way. All of Father Kingery's sixty-plus years as a priest were spent in the work of education. He was recognized for his services to Quincy University and served on various state and regional educational and library boards.



# A Chat with Jen Gervasi by Helen O'Guinn

## *At the end of 2014,*

Jen Gervasi and *QUniverse* editorial advisor Helen O'Guinn sat down for a chat about Jen and her role at Quincy. Turns out that Mrs. Robert Gervasi has an astonishingly diverse—even exotic—background. Here's a slice of that conversation.

**Q:** You are on campus all the time, attend a stream of events, and I never cease to be amazed at how many students you know by name.

**A:** My relationship with students is one of the most rewarding parts of my role on campus. I try to welcome the 250+ new students each year, so it is relatively easy to get to know them. When I see them on campus, I let them know I care by saying their name or cheering for them at sports events.

**Q:** I can think of a lot of students you've talked about over the years but perhaps none figure more prominently than Dusty Keeven.

**A:** Dusty came onto my radar during the fall of 2008, right after he was in a life-altering car accident. Bob and I visited him regularly in the hospital in St. Louis. We got to know him and his family. I wrote him over the next two years. With lots of physical therapy, he was able to come back to QU in a wheelchair. He finished his senior year, and his family sat with me at graduation. We watched as Dusty walked across the stage to accept his diploma. That has been a highlight of my seven years at QU.

**Q:** Tell me about the beginning of those seven years, when you first saw Quincy. What was your impression?

**A:** During Bob's interview, Barb Schleppenbach showed me around. I remember a feeling of excitement and anticipation of possibilities. My first sight of the school was of Francis Hall. It has become such a dear landmark to me. Now that I know the faculty and the staff, I see why Barb was my guide that first day. She's not only a professor but also an alumna and an enthusiast for both the school and the community.

**Q:** So you and Bob both left the interview feeling good? And then Bob accepted the job?

**A:** Before Bob accepted the job, he asked me to make this a joint calling and I really didn't understand what that meant until I had been here a few months. In January, Bob and I attended the Council of Independent Colleges (CIC), where they have an active presidential spouses program. That really helped inform what I have done since then. I learned that, as a spouse, there are certain responsibilities that you are often expected to assume. First is entertaining in the president's home, on campus, and off campus as part of getting to know the people who affect the university by investing their time, treasure, and talent. Second is community involvement, and third is choosing some way to have an impact on campus, which, for me, has meant campus branding.

**Q:** You bring a special set of skills to each one that the QU community may not know about. You went from a buyer at Lord and Taylor to vice president of the Echo Design Group in New York to executive vice president of Calvin Klein Home to president and CEO of Louisville Stoneware.

**A:** My years in marketing and branding did help me identify a need. During one of our earliest alumni events, an alumnus, who happened to be sending his niece to campus, said that he thought the grounds weren't very inviting. Then, as Bob and I took our early morning walks around campus, I noticed areas of the campus that needed to be beautified, but I was too new to feel comfortable saying much. As I began to work more closely with professors and administrators and even took classes myself, I realized that there was an opportunity to update the classrooms so they would be more conducive to the way faculty teach and students learn. Through the CIC, I learned about the concept of forming an aesthetics committee. The committee was formed and that is how I was able to use my years of experience in visual design to help the university, including working on *QUniverse*.

**Q:** Beyond initially getting to know the QU community, you also plunged into community outreach.

**A:** Within the first six months, I had joined three community boards, and I became particularly active in Quincy's thriving arts culture. I've been active in the community theater, and Bob has acted in two plays! When we are in town, we attend all the arts events. Bob and I even danced the rhumba to raise money for Dancing with the Stars [a fundraiser for Cornerstone, a Quincy family-services organization]. We didn't win a prize, but we had a great time.

**Q:** You and Bob entertain constantly—students, faculty, alumni, friends of the university. And you seem to be able to connect with everyone.

**A:** That I attribute to my background. I was raised in Asia and lived in an expatriate community. It was an international community with international businesspeople and diplomats. That community is built upon a sophisticated social network. So from a very young age, I saw my parents and parents' friends entertaining a constant stream of people, including new people from diplomatic and business circles all over the world. It was a global community. From a very young age, I was told that we were guests in this country—the Philippines—we had to be courteous and respect other people. I went to an international school, where my friends were from Asia, India, Latin America—really all over the world. We incorporated one another's cultures. We didn't know any other way.

**Q:** I know you do much of the work preparing for parties yourself, but with grace and ease. How did you learn to manage that?

**A:** I have always been interested in making things beautiful, and that has translated to the campus and how I approach events. For example, I realized that every event required setting the table with flowers. That spurred my interest in floral design, so I signed up for classes in New York. Now, I can go to local suppliers and figure out what we need for an event and do it more economically and in ways that are creatively attuned to our needs.


**Q:** Could you tell the readers a little about your personal life?

**A:** I was born and raised in Asia where I lived until I graduated from high school. I came to the U.S. to attend college—Denison University in Ohio. I wanted a career in fashion and knew I wanted to live in a multicultural city that mirrored the culture I grew up in. So I moved to New York and was there until I became president of Louisville Stoneware. We have three daughters, one in New York and two in the Midwest, as well family on the east coast. I'm close to my stepmom who lives in the Boston area, my sister who lives in Mexico, and my brother in New York.

**Q:** I know that you are acutely aware of creating the template for future QU presidential spouses. Just as Bob is the university's first lay president, you are the first spouse.

**A:** I am fortunate that the campus community welcomed me and made it so easy. It is a privilege to serve the university and to pave the way for future presidential spouses. I hope I have set a standard that reflects all the love I feel for Quincy.





**"The generosity of those who have funded my scholarship has allowed me to get one step closer to my goal and has inspired me to help others by giving back to the community." – Durant Descartes '16**

*St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands*

"I came to Quincy University to follow my dream of becoming a pilot. After graduation, I plan to pursue a career in corporate or commercial aviation and eventually open a flight academy. My undying faith has pushed me thus far, and it has been a profound journey. I hope that one day I will be able to help other students achieve their goals just as donors like you have helped me."

**Durant** is the recipient of the T.F. Ehrhart Scholarship, which is awarded to students based on financial need and academic standing.



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Parents: If this issue is addressed to your son or daughter who no longer maintains a permanent address at home, please notify the Advancement Office of the new mailing address at 217-228-5227, ext. 3455, or at [qualumni@quincy.edu](mailto:qualumni@quincy.edu)



## LEAVING A LEGACY

There are many ways to leave a legacy.

Thanks to the generosity of Rita Niemann and the late Ferd Niemann, the likeness of St. Clare now graces the easternmost side of the Francis Hall courtyard—a fitting and exquisite complement to the now iconic St. Francis statue gifted by the Niemanns fifteen years earlier.

“Our intention is to provide a visual reminder of all that St. Francis and St. Clare stand for. Their deep devotion to Christ, love for their fellow man, charity, and humility are virtues embraced in their lives and repeated in the mission and practices of Quincy University,” Rita says.

Quincy University would not be where it is today without the continued support of our alumni and friends. Legacies of all shapes and sizes represent love for Quincy University and an investment in our future.

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## QU ALUMNI FOCUS

### RITA NIEMANN '51

