Class of 2015 Reaches New Heights

celebrating diversity
A recent national poll indicates that 60 percent of all Americans think that race relations in the United States are generally bad and getting worse. Violence motivated by race, ethnicity, gender, religion or sexual orientation is tragically all too frequent. The Franciscan vision of respect for each individual person, and the Franciscan commitment to dialogue that embraces differences, can seem like a utopian dream.

Yet it is a vision the Quincy University community is determined to affirm and promote, however long the journey to its fulfillment. “Diversity” is more than a buzzword at QU. It is a fundamental Franciscan value that inspires our strategic direction, both inside and outside the classroom.

This issue highlights some of the many expressions of QU’s commitment to diversity. From academic offerings to student clubs, from study abroad programs to students’ demographics, QU students, faculty and staff are shaping a microcosm of dialogue, understanding, and acceptance that we earnestly desire for our society and world.

To be sure, that microcosm is far from perfect. We strive to attract minority faculty and staff, and to shape an ever more welcoming environment for all students. At the same time, there is a genuine spirit of inclusion on campus, reflected in our high rates of student retention. We try to create a home for students here, and it shows.

I invite you to share my pride in the people and programs reflected in the following pages, and I thank you for your ongoing engagement with QU. Together we truly are making a difference in building a better world.

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

“‘Diversity’ is more than a buzzword at QU. It is a fundamental Franciscan value that inspires our strategic direction, both inside and outside the classroom.”
Members of the QUINCY UNIVERSITY

Class of 2015, closing the books on their college experiences, are embarking on new and unpredictable adventures. In their years at QU, they’ve expanded their horizons, given back to the community, built enduring friendships, and created memories that will last a lifetime.
The passionate words of graduate Julie Holdener echoed throughout Pepsi Arena, captivating the fellow members of her 2015 graduating class.

Donning the traditional black gown, mortarboard, and multicolored honor cords, the Lincoln Laureate recipient encouraged her classmates to uphold the words and spirit of St. Francis.

We have learned so much.
We have been given so much.
We have seen so much.
We must **RISE** to the challenge
and use our education for something far greater than ourselves...
we must use our education to promote justice in society.

There is a reason that this school was established 150 years ago in the memory of one man. And that **REASON** is because the man’s message became the truth; the truth about humanity, the truth about who we are called to be as human beings.

Holdener’s opening remarks, which garnered a well-deserved standing ovation, that morning of May 17, kicked off what would become...

A COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY FULL OF ICONIC MOMENTS:

GRADUATE EMILY FREIER received more than a diploma as she reached the stage, where she found her boyfriend, alumnus Spencer Smith ’14, on bended knee holding out a diamond ring (she said yes, by the way). The couple met in 2012 during marching band camp.
The Charter Class of the masters in communication program received their degrees. The program launched in 2012 under the leadership and direction of Drs. John and Barb Schleppenbach.

Find and celebrate differences.

LEARN from them.

Be tolerant.

Be respectful.

– Michael Sennett

ALUMNUS MICHAEL SENNETT ’73 delivered the commencement address in which he advised new graduates to embrace diversity and adhere to the advice bestowed upon him by his Franciscan instructors: Respect each person—as a sister or brother—with dignity, value, and worth.

NEW ORLEANS AUXILIARY BISHOP FERD CHERI, longtime director of Campus Ministry, made a triumphant return to QU, much to the delight of many adoring students and former colleagues. A last-minute addition to the program, Bishop Cheri delivered a memorable invocation to the 2015 class.

Thirty years after beginning her Quincy education, KRISTA MANARD received a degree in biology and was named a distinguished honors scholar. Krista had sidelined her college education in the 1980s in favor of starting a family but decided to return to the classroom after many years running a natural and organic food store.

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30
bonaventure scholars

296
undergraduates received degrees

22
different states and territories

64
additional honors scholars

2 students from foreign countries

296 undergraduates received degrees

72 graduate degrees received

22 different states and territories

64 additional honors scholars

30 bonaventure scholars

8
students from foreign countries
Ventures onto the MacHugh Stage

Quincy University’s Theatre Department wowed and delighted children of all ages in May when they presented a live stage production of Alice in Wonderland in QU’s MacHugh Theatre in the lower level of Francis Hall. Children in the audience were invited to participate from their seats as well as on stage, resulting in a great time for both the cast members and the audience.

Quincy University’s Theatre Department, headed by Director Connie Phillips, lecturer in theatre, believes that letting children participate in the play is a wonderful way to cultivate their love for the arts.

“It is so exhilarating to have all these school children in the audience and participating on stage. I know they are our future actors and arts-lovers,” Phillips says. “Children’s theater is my favorite genre to direct.”

The all-student cast leads were Ann Schuhriemen ’16 as Alice, Cody Pezold ’15 as White Rabbit, Hale Brown ’17 as March Hare, Cameron Walker ’16 as Mad Hatter, Suzanne Molinaro ’15 as Tweedle Dum, Colleen McCormack ’15 as Tweedle Dee, Linda Bellamy ’15 as Caterpillar, Jessica Freelman ’17 as Queen of Hearts, Emily Freier ’15 as Duchess, and Jennifer Williams ’17 as Cheshire Cat. Other cast members were Corrina Ordonio ’17, Bola Osundairo ’15, Kirk Brown ’16, Lanie Wade ’15, Connor Dumoulin ’17, Torie Olson ’17, Jevante Francis ’15, Cory Smith ’15, and Bridget Bicek ’15.

POETRY Slam in Motion

Members of the Brothers of Unity and Portraits of a Lady student organizations united to host the Poetry Slam each semester.

by Ian Howell ’16

Quincy University student organizations Brothers of Unity and Portraits of a Lady hosted the biannual Poetry Slam on April 18. This event provides an avenue for students on campus, as well as faculty, staff, and friends, to showcase their talents by way of poetry and song. The evening culminated with a traditional open mic setting to allow for and encourage all performers.

“It is very therapeutic for me to be able to express myself in a way that some may enjoy,” Sherika Smiley ’15 said following her performance of an original piece entitled, “A Moment Within.” “Events like this are important to the campus … some may not like to get up on stage and perform but may enjoy listening and being around others who enjoy the art.”

The most recent showcase even included a live band, Syncopated Sound, and attracted people from throughout the community.

In conjunction with the Office of Student Engagement, both Brothers of Unity and Portraits of a Lady are hoping to build the event in the years to come.
Following the wisdom of the age-old “How do you get to Carnegie Hall?” joke—the answer? Practice, practice, practice—members of the Quincy University Concert Choir did just that and performed at the historic New York City venue in March. Joining other choirs, soloists, and a professional orchestra, the students performed Mozart’s “Coronation Mass” under the direction of Z. Randall Stroope, one of the leading choral conductors and composers in the country.

“The experience of going to New York was amazing. I never thought I would get to go to New York, at least in college,” Cameron Walker ’16 says. “Performing in Carnegie Hall was surreal. It was something that most people dream of, but we actually got to live that dream out!”

Following their performance, the nine students and Allen Means ’98, assistant professor of choral music, toured Radio City Music Hall, saw Phantom of the Opera on Broadway, and even hung with the legendary Radio City Rockettes!

“Getting to stand on the field and sign in front of all those people was a spectacular feeling,” sophomore Jessica Fleeman says. “I would do it all over again if I could!”

Prior to the game, members of the club and their guests were invited to a special reception with fellow students, alumni, and friends of Quincy University. Fans of the hometown Redbirds were treated to a 2-1, nationally televised victory over the visiting Cincinnati Reds.

by Ben Braun ’07
Quincy has reason to be proud of its history in diversity. After all, Augustus Tolton, the first African American Catholic priest, is an alumnus of St. Francis Solanus College, QU's forbearer. So, although the university's history on diversity has had its fits and starts, QU can claim to have been integrated as early as the early 1880s.

Women swept onto campus in 1932 under the auspices of Fr. Vincent Frochtman, OFM, president of the until-then male-only school. In retrospect, he explained that he welcomed the women because "no Catholic college within a 100-mile radius allowed women." And Quincy's basketball coach Harry Forrester was well ahead of the national curve, when he integrated both black and white basketball players beginning in 1954.

But today diversity looks different. It isn't just a matter of treating women and students of color equally. It is, in fact, simply more diverse. Diversity can mean embracing economic, cultural, gender, religious, and physical diversity.

"A robust commitment to diversity as a policy and aspiration for our QU community is the practical expression of our core Franciscan value of respect for each individual," President Robert Gervasi says. "We are all God's sons and daughters in the human family, so we celebrate our unity as well as our diversity. That is the spirit we aim to promote at QU."

Current Portrait of the Quincy Student Body.

- **56% women**
- **44% men**
- **71% white**
- **29% minority**
- **33% Catholic**

Graduates Linzy Honleibt '15, Rally Nguyen '15, and Leon Spears '15, along with members of the Nguyen family, gather in the Francis Hall courtyard following the May 17 Commencement.
hat philosophy has translated into policy, emanating from the Diversity Action Council, which sprouted as a grassroots ad hoc committee of minority faculty and staff. Chaired by associate professor of counseling, Dr. Ken Oliver, the group was brought under the university’s official umbrella in 2014. By the end of the year, the group had crafted the five-pronged Diversity Action Plan.

Program implementation at the co-curricular level as well as promotion of new academic programs that are diversity-centric

Pertains to recruitment, hiring, and retention

Diversity-centered inclusion in university-wide strategic planning initiatives

Graduation

Community engagement as well as diversity-centric community building on campus

While the plan is ambitious, ultimately, even branching into the community, it will begin with something measurable and achievable: improving the retention and graduation rates of minority students.”

Having identified this first prong for action, Oliver explains that they are evaluating the data so they can form a clear picture of the profile of students unlikely to graduate. Then they can tailor programming, such as linking each student with an advisor who will stay with them from their first day on campus to the day they toss their tassel. That advisor or mentor can help the student navigate the complexities of college life, including living away from home and managing finances. These are tough issues for most kids but even tougher for minority students who are apt to be the first in their families ever to attend college.

Oliver is aiming for a culture that not only welcomes a diverse student body but also supports it.

Sherika Smiley ’13, a graduate assistant in the Office of Multicultural Leadership, points to organizations—both fledgling and well-established—that represent and mirror the school’s increasingly diverse population. For example, she says, the school now has an organization called GILSEN, which is the Gay, Lesbian, and Straight Education Network moderated by Fr. John Doctor, OFM ’71, vice president of mission and ministry. Smiley describes it as “an environment for students who might not identify as heterosexual.”

In 2014, it is an on-campus organization that meets weekly to talk about the LGBT [lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender] community. They talk about anything that they might feel uncomfortable talking about elsewhere.”

During the last academic year, students could participate in Conversations in Color, African-American history through poetry; Women’s Empowerment Week, focusing on women’s history and struggles for equality; and National Hunger and Homeless Week, when students, faculty, and community members gathered in a makeshift shanty town to talk about what it’s like to have no home and to struggle each day with food insecurity.

“He is the campus spreading its arms wide open.”

Smiley says that diversity wasn’t a big issue when she searched for a college, but she did consider it. Of Quincy, she says, “As far as my own experience, this university has provided me with everything I need. I feel like I belong. I felt that way from the moment I got here.”
“At home it never goes below fifty degrees,” Ka’ai’ai says. “When I first got here I was like, ‘It won’t be that bad. I’ll just throw on a hoodie.’ Luckily, Chelbie Hanohano ['14, former women’s volleyball player and fellow Hawaiian] and I went shopping for actual winter clothes.”

Ka’ai’ai came to QU with an interest in aviation after growing up in a family that traveled constantly. His mother has family in San Francisco and his father often flew to other areas in the Pacific region. At the same time, Ka’ai’ai was able to tour the United States, Japan, and Australia with his club volleyball team through various camps and tournaments.

Aviation majors must dedicate countless hours to their craft both on the ground and in the air. And adjusting such a rigorous schedule around that of the volleyball team was not always the easiest task. Ka’ai’ai says he has not been able to go back to Hawaii in several years because he needed to catch up on his flight hours.

“Usually, we fly two times a week, but since [the volleyball team] left consistently on Thursdays, I was only flying once a week,” he says. “It’s pretty intensive. I would say our flight hours are like our lab. I had to make sure I was on top of all my studying and make sure I retained the information for my one flight a week.”

Four years on the mainland have not touched Ka’ai’ai’s Hawaiian core. On his volleyball senior day, he presented each of his senior teammates and members of the coaching staff with traditional Hawaiian leis. He welcomes questions about his home state of Hawaii—even if the inquiries are not always the brightest. “One of the crazier questions was, ‘Do you use American cash?’” he recalls with a smile. “Yes, we’re still the fiftieth state.”

With his undergraduate education and volleyball career completed, Ka’ai’ai is able to focus on his career goals as he continues his licensure process. Ka’ai’ai currently interns at Quincy Regional Airport, where he assists with parking and refueling planes while absorbing all he can about the aviation industry. He is also continuing the licensure and certification processes that will allow him to eventually become a commercial pilot. One day, Ka’ai’ai hopes to fly cargo planes or passenger planes for Honolulu-based Hawaiian Airlines.

On his decision to become a pilot, Ka’ai’ai says “I love traveling, so I thought instead of paying to go somewhere, why not fly myself there and they’ll pay me?”

When home is referred to as “the islands,” you know you’re likely to encounter a literal change in the weather when you relocate to the banks of the Mississippi River in Quincy. No one told QU men’s volleyball player Charles Ka’ai’ai ‘15, a native of Honolulu exactly how much of change that would be.
Meet the Newest and Youngest Lady Hawk

It wasn’t until midway through the 2015 season that the Quincy University softball team made its biggest signing of the year: On April 29, eleven-year-old Sydney Mead of Durham, Missouri, signed her letter of intent to an exclusive standing-room-only press conference. Mead, who has been diagnosed with acute lymphoblastic leukemia (ALL), donned a number twenty-four jersey as she fielded questions from the media like a seasoned veteran.

The Lady Hawks and Mead were first introduced during a “Team Sydney” Hit-A-Thon benefit this past January. Associate head coach Carla Passini ’12 says that Mead connected with the players right away. “Sydney asked if she could hit in the cages, and our players had a blast seeing her laugh and smile, knowing that she came home from treatment a couple weeks before,” Passini says.

Shortly after, Passini contacted Team IMPACT, an organization that pairs children facing life-threatening and chronic illnesses with college teams, to discuss the possibility of making Sydney an honorary Lady Hawk. Passini and head coach Charlene Obert ’81 selected Rebecca Powers ’16, Samantha Ledbetter ’16, Krista Reese ’17, Lindsey Greene ’17, Meghan Quirk ’18, Karli McLaughlin ’18, and Geri Westerhoff ’18 as team advocates for Sydney leading up to Team IMPACT Draft Day.

“Sydney is a spark—at her age, to be dealing what she is dealing with and to be a ball of energy who is always smiling. On a team, you need someone like that to keep everyone’s spirits high,” Passini says. “It has been a great experience for everyone at Quincy. I think it is more than just our players. There is a greater population at QU that is being touched by Sydney. The way that this community has responded is a true testament to our Franciscan values here at QU.”

“Sydney is a member of this team,” Coach Passini explained. “She can come to games, practices, Blessing of the Athletes, and all other team events. We are excited for Sydney to be a part of our family.”

A large, wooden softball with Sydney’s name and number now graces the outfield fence alongside those of her teammates. She also has her own locker filled with QU gear in the softball locker room at North Campus. Throughout Mead’s treatment, the Lady Hawks would often send letters of encouragement to their youngest teammate. Some even went as far as to decorate the Meads’ house with balloons, handmade posters, sidewalk chalk drawings, and gift baskets containing some of Sydney’s favorite treats.

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In June, Felderman, an aviation and aviation management double major, along with QU alumna Casie Schaffer '11, became the first Quincy University-affiliated team to enter the historic Air Race Classic—a cross country air race exclusively for female pilots.

Now in its thirty-ninth year, the race spans 2,400 miles with ten nationwide checkpoints or “fly-bys” along the way. This year’s course kicked off in Fredericksburg, Virginia, and concluded in Fairhope, Alabama. Teams are given a maximum of four days to complete the journey.

In their first year, the Lady Sky Hawks finished in thirty-second place out of forty-nine teams, completing the course in just under sixteen hours in the air.

The great-niece of a World War II fighter pilot, Felderman credits her family for sparking her interest in aviation at a young age.

“My parents fueled my passion for aviation by taking me to air shows across the Midwest,” she says. “Then one day I got the opportunity to fly, and it was one of the best experiences of my life.”

Felderman currently serves as a reserve goalkeeper on the QU women’s soccer team, and was a member of the squad that advanced to the NCAA Division II Sweet 16 in 2013. In the classroom, Felderman maintains a 3.96 GPA and has hopes of one day being a corporate pilot.

“It means a lot to be a part of the Lady Hawks soccer team,” Felderman says. “It definitely adds a lot of challenges being an athlete and an aviation major, but I have a great coach [Dave Musso ’04] who fully supports my aviation adventures. One thing I love about aviation is that there is always something new to learn.”

The Lady Hawks usually don’t start soaring until the season begins. This summer, however, junior goalkeeper Krystal Felderman took things to a new level. A level more than 5,000 feet off the ground, actually.

“It was a lot harder to race as a first-timer. There is much to learn and understand about the race that is not in the rulebook. There was never a dull moment,” Felderman says.
AND YOU WILL GROW

by Megan Duncan ’14

STUDY ABROAD

SEMESTER
an entire semester of study dedicated in another country

SHORT TERM
eight-week course on destination, followed by trip to study location

STUDY AWAY
course at QU with a ten-day trip to study location
FAR FROM CAMPUS, Quincy University students are living the mission to become global leaders. From an entire semester abroad to a short term study, classroom borders have expanded over oceans and through rough terrains.

QU’s study abroad program is giving students legs for a journey into worldwide studies. Carly Schmitt ‘15 finished her degree in May at Macquarie University in Sydney, Australia. During her tour, Schmitt was enrolled in three classes at Macquarie and participated in worldview-enhancing programs, which were instrumental in her growth as a student and a person. “I had the opportunity to participate in a global leadership program here and that has really opened my eyes to other cultures and the importance of being a global citizen,” Schmitt says. “Studying abroad enhanced my educational experience and was the perfect way to end my undergraduate career.”

Quincy University’s long-standing partnership with the College Consortium International Studies (CCIS) makes semester abroad trips possible. Because CCIS provides study locations on six continents and in thirty countries, students like Carly can choose from an elaborate list of locations. They are also able to browse ninety-four academic programs and decide which best meets their educational goals.

Such a task might become overwhelming without the help of Kristen Liesen, ‘98, director of career services, who has been working with the study abroad program for several years now. Liesen begins to work with students as early as their freshman year to prepare them to study abroad.

“Students sign up for the CCIS program through Quincy University, and we help them choose and enroll in classes,” she says. “We usually have sophomores go because there are more elective classes to sign up for, but in Carly Schmitt’s case it worked for her to go during her senior year. What is great about us being a small school is that we can work on that case-by-case basis to give a full experience.”

Liesen says options also exist for students who cannot get away for an entire semester. The SHORT-TERM STUDY ABROAD PROGRAM teaches students about their destination in a course taken during the final eight weeks of the semester, the class then travels to the location for an unforgettable experience.

The last eight weeks of 2013’s fall semester, Danielle Dunn ’14 took a history course titled Cultures in Comparison: The London Experience. She then traveled to London — with a weekend trip to Paris — in January 2014.

“We researched connecting our culture with London’s culture. We each decided on a topic to talk about and then presented the project while we were on the trip.”

Dunn gave her presentation 443 feet above London aboard the London Eye (the fourth-tallest Ferris wheel in the world), which sits on the South Bank of the River Thames. “It was cool to talk about what I had researched while I was actually standing on it,” she says.

The eight-week course did more than prepare students for presentations. Dunn said it gave her an entirely different perspective than the usual tourist might have. Armed with knowledge of the culture, she had a deeper understanding of her surroundings.

“The course made me pay more attention to the people—the natives—and how they interacted with us.”

Each experience, Dunn said, contributed to a heightened worldview and gave her a new perspective. “It makes you more humble and grateful. With group travel, you can’t be selfish or narrow-minded. You have to be willing to work and survive with others for a period of time that is something a lot of people could stand to learn,” she says. “It doesn’t matter where you go, just go, and you will grow as a person.”

Liesen also said students can grow spiritually while connecting with QU’s Franciscan roots offered in a three-credit-hour theology course: the Pilgrimage to Assisi.

Fr. John Doctor, OFM ‘72, vice president for mission and ministry, and Fr. Ken Capalbo, OFM ‘70, travel with students to Italy every two years to walk in the footsteps of St. Francis through Assisi, Florence, and Rome.

Spending time across seas, Liesen said, is not the only study abroad option. Though open to all students who academically qualify, financial restrictions or time limitations encumber some students. The regional culture in the United States is an enriching and more affordable experience that Quincy University now offers.

The program— THE STUDY AWAY PROGRAM—currently offers a course on Washington, D.C., capped with a ten-day trip to the nation’s capital. Liesen said more opportunities are to come. “We want to expand on the Study Away,” she says. “Whether it is in New York, Chicago, or wherever, a study away in the states is as big of an impact on some people as a study abroad.”

As student horizons expand, cultural divides unite through education, understanding, and a heightened worldview. Be it a short-term abroad trip, an entire semester away, or a regional study of the United States, Quincy University’s dedication to creating global leaders is met through the study abroad program.

‘40s

Luella Ackelson Hall ’49 and her husband, Charles, celebrated sixty-five years of marriage on December 24, 2014, in Quincy.

Leo Stegeman ‘49 and his wife, Marilyn, celebrated sixty-five years of marriage on April 29, 2015, in Quincy.

‘50s

John Ley ’56 and his wife, Betty, celebrated fifty years of marriage on February 14, 2015, in Quincy.

George Schmitt ’51 and his wife, Jovita, celebrated sixty years of marriage on May 26, 2015, in Quincy.

Daniel Cook ’62 of Quincy reports the passing of his brother, Joseph Cook, on February 21, 2015, Racine, Wis.

John Miller ‘65 of Whitehall, Mont., reports the passing of his mother, Mathilde Miller, at age 101 on April 10, 2015, Butte, Mont.

Signe Jacobson Oakley ’65 reports the passing of her husband, Peter “Tony” Oakley, on January 23, 2015, Quincy.

Ann Mahoney ’66 of Prospect Heights, Ill., is retired from the United Airlines after thirty-eight years. She was service director in the United Club.

Carol Davis Meierotto ’67 is the owner of Mieirotto Midwest Jewelry in Kansas City, Mo.

‘60s

Beth Young ’69 of Quincy received the 2015 QU Franciscan Service Award at the QU end-of-the-year reception. Beth is a part-time adjunct instructor for the school of education at Quincy University.

Dennis Steinkamp ’70 and his wife, Marcia, celebrated forty years of marriage on November 9, 2014, in Quincy.

Judy Brock Teichlein ’70 of Warrenville, Ill., reports the passing of her mother, Madelyn Brock, on August 6, 2014, Bolingbrook, Ill.

Fr. Thomas Naini, OFM, ’71 is the ecclesiastical advisor of the International Catholic Committee of Nurses and Medical-Administrative Assistants in St. Louis.

John Doctor, OFM ‘72, vice president for mission and ministry with Quincy University, was presented the Five Years of Service Award during the 2014-2015 academic year.


Patricia Ferguson Schley ’72 is a retired literacy coach with Pinellas County School System in Largo, Fla.

Nancy Knoche Crow ’73, assistant librarian with Quincy University, was presented the Fifteen Years of Service Award during the 2014-2015 academic year.

Susan Quackenbush Metternich ’73 reports the passing of her father, Derek “Van” Quackenbush, on January 25, 2015, Valley Center, Calif.
Beyond his volunteer work and time with his family, Camacho enjoys having two adult children—Carrie and Chris—and seven grandchildren. "I got a faith foundation based on the teachings of St. Francis. My classroom was a comfortable setting where everyone felt secure and valued, and everyone had a voice." That atmosphere, instilling self-worth in students, became a template for Camacho, who modeled his own classes in that fashion during his thirty-nine-year teaching career.

Although Camacho is retired today, he is an assistant coach for the Quincy University's soccer team. He brings many of his former coach’s qualities into his own life. Soccer star Mario Camacho explains, "I got a faith foundation based on the teachings of St. Francis. My classroom was a comfortable setting where everyone felt secure and valued, and everyone had a voice." That atmosphere, instilling self-worth in students, became a template for Camacho, who modeled his own classes in that fashion during his thirty-nine-year teaching career.

While he was in Quincy, Camacho, along with his brother Edmundo, played on the soccer team that won the 1971 championship, led to victory by GU soccer coach Jack Mackenzie. Camacho says that his former coach has been a lifelong mentor and he has embedded many of his former coach’s qualities into his own life. Soccer star Mario Camacho was inducted into the GU Athletics Hall of Fame in 1998. His love of soccer spans his entire life.

Alumni Class Sandstrom has always had an interest in being active through sports and exercise. "It was logical that I ended up as a physical education teacher," says Sandstrom, who began his teaching career in 1995. "I get the pupils interested in how physical activity, food, and sleep affect their well-being now and in the future," he says.

For the past three years, Sandstrom has instructed students in sixth to ninth grade at Applewild School, a school in Stockholm, Sweden. Born and raised in Sweden, Sandstrom and friend Tor Dunér ’84 found Quincy by way of the US Soccer Federation and writing letters to more than twenty colleges offering soccer scholarships.

“We were impressed by how Quincy’s soccer program was presented to us,” Sandstrom says. “It was a choice we never regretted.”

Sandstrom credits his education in international business and the lessons he learned in college for his successes. He worked in sales for Digital Equipment Corporation for eight years before applying to the Swedish School of Sport and Health Sciences and beginning a career in education.

Sandstrom and wife, Madeline, have three children, all young adults: Markus, Therese, and Erik—and in October, the Sandstroms visited Quincy to be a part of the annual Hall of Fame ceremony. Already a member of the 1994 induction class, 2014 marked the induction of the entire 1981 National Championship soccer team.

"It was great to meet with good friends and to experience and be reminded of the generosity and warmth that I think personalizes my time at Quincy College," Sandstrom says.
90s | Profile

Kathy Bianchi ‘91

Thinking back to how Quincy University shaped her life and best prepared her for her career, Kathy Bianchi says it was something more than the classroom education; it was also a summer internship in the Dean of Students’ office at Quincy University.

“It really prepared me for the ‘back-to-anything-that’s-dropped-on-your-plate’ aspect of business and life in general,” she says. “We’ve thrown curveballs all the time, and I feel like my experience that summer taught me how to deal with them.” Bianchi spent fifteen years in executive recruitment in the United States and Europe, most recently as the recruitment director in the London office of Ernst & Young, an audit and tax practice firm. But her focus changed after finding success in purchasing flats, fixing them up, and selling them. She successfully “flipped” five residential flats in central London over the course of just six years.

“When property development started paying off better than my day job, I felt like I could be a property developer,” she says. “I think I was a little bit ahead of my time.”

Bianchi currently lives in Mexico City (and has a second home in Acapulco) with her two pets: a dog and a cat. She travels back to the United States a few times a year to catch up with family. In her free time, she enjoys lounging on the beach, trying new foods and wines, and visiting the United States a few times a year to catch up with family. In her free time, she enjoys lounging on the beach, trying new foods and wines, and visiting the laptop computer in central London over the course of just six years.

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Alonso Marroquin ’10

Through his education at Quincy University, Alonso Marroquin gained the knowledge and skills to enter the global retail market. “Earning a degree from Quincy University helped me to possess an understanding of what makes the business world work and what makes it fail,” Marroquin says. Marroquin, who also studied at Universidad Politecnica de Catalunya in Barcelona, currently works as division manager of innovation and business development for PORTA, a Peruvian company that develops backpacks, lunch bags, and travel bags. At PORTA, Marroquin heads a team of product managers, designers and analysts and is responsible for the development of products in all categories of the company.

“I have very good memories of all faculty [members] of the university, especially Dr. Cynthia Haliemun and tennis coach Bill LaTour,” Marroquin says. “They both taught me that hard work and being responsible for the development of products in all categories of the company...”

Chrisy Mueller ’11 married Grant Bailey on April 25, 2015, Columbus, Ind.

John Parrish ’11 is an adjunct faculty in the school of business at California State University, Stanislaus in Turlock, Calif.

Jacob Venvertloh ’10 and his wife, Ashley, announce the birth of a son on February 19, 2015, Quincy.

Charlie Breder ’12 married Kals Griffin ’16 on December 13, 2014, Quincy.

Cody Counter ’12 married Elisa Scheck on October 3, 2015, Marine, Ill. Cody is a bodybuilding regional amateur champion.

LaRon Grant ’12 of Bolingbrook, Ill., is a teaching artist fellow with Red House Arts in Syracuse, N.Y.

Alexandra Rozanski ’10 is a certified registered nurse anesthetist for Raceine Anesthesia Services at Wheaton Franciscan All Saints Hospital in Racine, Wisc.

Jordan Slei ’10 and his wife, Shannon, announce the birth of a daughter on January 28, 2015, Quincy.

Samantha Poppe Wilson ’10 is a physical therapist with Quincy Medical Group in Quincy.

Justin Dietrich ’11 is a licensed certified public accountant with Skich LLP, in Springfield, Ill.

Josh Gain ’11 is a financial analyst with Document & Network Technologies in Fenton, Mo.

Whitney Heinecke Hays ’11 and her husband, Travis, announce the birth of a son on December 25, 2014, LaGrange, Mo.

Gavin Huber ’11 married Elizabeth Young on December 21, 2014, St. Charles, Mo.

Jane Schroer Mirose ’11, instructor of interpreter training director, interpreter training program with Quincy University, was presented the Five Years of Service Award and the 2015 QU Franciscan Service Award during the 2014-2015 academic year.

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Ashton Dunlap '14 is employed at Adams Telephone Cooperative in Golden, Ill.

Tabitha Ensinger Durdle '14 is a program manager at KCDCD in Quincy.

Morgan Elmer '14 is a logistics specialist with the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation in Independence, Ky.

Robbi Fergus '14 is a third-grade teacher with Barrian Elementary School in Quincy.

Nancy Rigsbee Geissler '14 is a high school teacher with Barrian Elementary School in Quincy.

Tabitha Ensminger Durdle '14 is employed with St. Louis.

Matthew Kasate '14 is a transportation safety analyst with the Quincy School Department of Transportation.

Elijah Hibbert '14 is an overnight product scientist with Integrated DNA Technologies in Iowa City, Iowa.

Joey J. Simeone '43 was President of the Quincy University Retirees Association. He was a loyal friend, colleague, and student and had recently completed a term as President of the Quincy University Retirees Association. He provided leadership and served the university well for many years.

Linda Godley (1949-2015)

For many years, she faced her own health-related adversity with grace, resilience, and courage. She was a trailblazer in her field, and her contributions to the university and the community were immeasurable.

Linda served as Quincy University’s Dean of Academic Support during her tenure at the university. In recognition of her service, the university established the Linda Godley Memorial Scholarship. Visit quincy.edu/support-qu for details.

IN MEMORIAM

Ralph A. Bonaccorsi '57 on April 21, 2014, Elmwood Park, Ill.

Joan Mary Rupp Casor '48 on January 29, 2015, St. Augustine, Fla.

Joseph E. Cook '51 on February 21, 2015, Racine, Wis.

Robert O. "CZ" Czarzewski '71 on May 2, 2015, Ocean Gate, N.J.


Robert B. Fisher ‘64 on February 6, 2015, Bradford, Ill.

John P. Gorman '57 on March 21, 2015, Marion, Iowa.

Mark S. Harris, Jr., on April 19, 2015, St. Louis.

Fr. Peter J. Heidenreich ‘72 on February 11, 2015, Chicago.

Carl William "Bill" Humke '58 on February 20, 2015, Quincy.

John J. Jardine '70 on March 28, 2015, Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

Fr. Kieran Kenney '55 on January 12, 2015, Quincy.

Christine M. Knuffman ‘82 on February 19, 2015, Liberty, Ill.

Mary Susan Fehling Loftus '68 on December 6, 2014, Chicago.

Linda Marie Kelch Landborg '70 on November 15, 2014, Crystal Lake, Ill.

Joseph E. Matticks '39 on January 7, 2015, St. Louis.

Earl Terwische '64 on February 11, 2015, Chicago.

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Robert R. McDonald Sr., ‘44 on March 27, 2015, Naples, Fla.

Thomas J. Nace '72 on January 4, 2015, Highland Village, Tex.

Joann M. Schmidt Naunitz ‘57 on December 30, 2014, Houston.

Dr. William F. Nolan '56 on January 4, 2015, St. Peters, Mo.


Timothy J. O’Rourke ‘70 on January 28, 2015, Bonita Springs, Fla.

Ann F. Ostrom Pogue ‘76 on January 17, 2015, Quincy.

Joseph J. Simione ‘43 on May 1, 2015, St. Louis.


Matthew C. Stormer ‘98 on January 24, 2015, Quincy.

Earl Terwische ‘64 on February 22, 2015, Jacksonville, Ill.

Richard M. Williams ‘63 on December 29, 2014, Ballston Spa, N.Y.

Ken Nesbit (1932-2015)

A 1963 alumnus, Ken Nesbit of Quincy served his alma mater for thirteen years as a visiting professor of finance and completed three terms as a member of Quincy University’s Board of Trustees. He spent forty years as a partner with Gray Hunter Stern certified public accounting firm where he cared deeply and worked hard for his clients. He was a devoted family man and he loved his family deeply.

Memorial gifts in honor of Ken can be made online at quincy.edu/support-qu.

Linda Godley (1949-2015)

Linda served as Quincy University’s Dean of Academic Support from 1975 until her retirement in 2011, helping thousands of students find success both in the classroom and professionally along the way. Linda cared deeply for the university, her colleagues, and students and had recently completed a term as President of the Quincy University Retirees Association. For many years, she faced her own health-related adversity with courage and dignity. She is survived by her mother, father, sister and two nieces.

Memorial gifts in honor of Linda can be made to the Linda Godley Memorial Scholarship. Visit quincy.edu/support-qu for details.
Believe in your Dreams
Invest in a student today.

by Megan Duncan '14

Jay graduated in May with a degree in marketing and a minor in sport management. He served as president of Delta Tau Delta for two years and was a co-founder of the First Year Leadership Experience program. An Honors student and Bonaventure Scholar, Jay’s accolades include Quincy University Emerging Leader (2012), Outstanding Leader (2014), and Greek Man of the Year (2015). He is now the President of his own startup company, InitialSignatures, based out of Kansas City.

Jay is a four-time recipient of the John Duns Scotus Scholarship.

“Believe in your Dreams. Support a Dream. Invest in a student today.”

“The Fulbright Program aims to bring a little more knowledge, a little more reason, and a little more compassion into world affairs and thereby increase the chance that nations will learn at last to live in peace and friendship.” — Senator J. William Fulbright

Fulbright Program Recognizes MEGAN BOCCARDI

Dr. Megan Boccardi, assistant professor of history and 1999 Quincy University alumna, will spend the 2016 spring semester teaching abroad in Venice, Italy, thanks to her receiving the Fulbright scholarship. There, she will teach two graduate classes at Ca’ Foscari University of Venice. A top international educational exchange, the Fulbright Program awards grants based on academic merit and leadership qualities. This high honor is one that Boccardi believes will benefit her as well as the QU community.

“They look at who could teach cross-culture and I was honored to be chosen,” Boccardi says. “I hope to form a relationship with students there and then bring that connection home to our students. I want to broaden that horizon for QU.”

Boccardi’s résumé already includes cross-cultural leadership qualities through her participation in Campus Ministry and QU’s Study Abroad program. From mission trips to study abroad trips, Boccardi has traveled with students to cultivate cultural understanding and awareness. She believes that cultural gaps are bridged as they cross state borders or the seas.

In her first trip to New Orleans in 2013, Boccardi helped fifty-one students serve the New Orleans community as they rebuilt a food shelter, washed windows, and helped organize storage rooms at the NO AIDS Task Force headquarters. In 2014, she helped with Hurricane Sandy recovery through home restoration and repairs in Long Beach, New York. With several other trips under her belt, Boccardi says her goal is to participate in one service trip per year.

“I really like traveling with students and doing service work. It is a cool experience to see students learning about what issues are impacting our country.

She has also traveled overseas with students through Quincy University’s Study Abroad program. Teaching the eight-week class students take before embarking on their trips, Boccardi says she loves to watch students embrace the destinations they visit.

In 2014 Boccardi received QU’s “Excellence in Teaching Award” and was featured in the Quincy Herald-Whig’s “20 under 40” section, which annually chooses young individuals who have made an impact on the Quincy community.

“My leadership roles taught me the importance of empathy, acceptance, and understanding. I learned so much about digging deeper into the motivations of others. That skill helps with everything I do now.” — Jay Austin ’15

Kansas City, Missouri

Jay graduated in May with a degree in marketing and a minor in sport management. He served as president of Delta Tau Delta for two years and was a co-founder of the First Year Leadership Experience program. An Honors student and Bonaventure Scholar, Jay’s accolades include Quincy University Emerging Leader (2012), Outstanding Leader (2014), and Greek Man of the Year (2015). He is now the President of his own startup company, InitialSignatures, based out of Kansas City.

Jay is a four-time recipient of the John Duns Scotus Scholarship.
“Coming to QU from the west side of Chicago, my family had little to no resources to afford the cost of me going to a private college. Through the support of others, the college was able to help me with the financial support I needed to attend. I feel it is important for me to support QU today because I know my support can help a student have the opportunity to have the college experience my alma mater offers.”

President’s Club member, Sam Banks ’76, recognizes the importance of contributing to Quincy University and investing in the future of QU students. And now, it’s easier than ever. With Quincy University’s recurring gift feature, you are able to safely and securely support at any level on an annual, semi-annual, quarterly, monthly, or weekly basis.

“Now, I am able to make an ongoing commitment to QU in a way that I don’t have to think about to make sure my commitment is fulfilled. My contribution is taken care of on a quarterly basis without having to do anything but read very nice thank you notes.”

set up your continuing gift
at www.quincy.edu/support-qu
or call 217-228-5227

Your gift—large or small—matters.