January 17, 2008

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Student billing goes paperless at SBU

The Business Office is pleased to announce that the University's new e-billing system is live. E-billing is a simple, convenient and paperless process that offers students and their families a safe means of receiving electronic billing statements and a secure method of making Web-based payments.

“Students are already able to apply for financial aid, schedule classes and check grades online. This is one more service that they can do online,” said University bursar Ann Belvees.

The e-billing home page is designed to provide a general overview of a student’s account. Included on the home screen is a link to their current account activity, summary information concerning the most recent bill, recent payments and financial aid.

Students also may designate access to a third-party, so that another authorized user, such as a parent, can view their statement or make payments.

When a new e-bill is available for viewing, students will receive an e-mail to their St. Bonaventure University e-mail account. To access the statement, students are linked to my.sbu.edu, where the student’s name and password are used for authentication. Payments can be made by check, electronic check or by credit card online.
The University has partnered with the firm CashNet to provide the e-billing service.

Get your game on - new SBU trivia games added to Archives' Web site

As the University advances into its 150th anniversary season, an appropriate feature has been added to the Archives’ Web page — games!

Find out how well you know Bona’s history at: http://web.sbu.edu/friedsam/archives/games/index.html.

“To date we have trivia games relating to the founding of SBU, its presidents, the football team and other general and athletic topics,” said University archivist Dennis Frank. “Links included with the games will take you to Archives’ and Athletics pages that will help you find the answers. For a few, you might just have to stop down to visit us.”

The pages were developed with the assistance of two future alumni, junior Mike Licata and freshman Jessica Bunting, who spend their working hours helping University Archives keep track of news clippings, work on the Web site, develop its video collection and anything else that may turn up.

Frank said the Archives’ collection continues to develop with the assistance of alumni and family donations. In the past year, the University has received yearbooks from the 1920s and 1940s, photographs of campus from the 1940s, a laundry box from the 1930s, T-shirts from the 2000s, several collections of newspaper clippings, and various odds and ends from a number of alums. Many of those pieces made an appearance at Bonagany last fall.

“Alumni contributions are always among those that attract attention there (Bonagany) and in the Archives when visitors stop by,” Frank said.

He welcomes donations of SBU memorabilia, which can be dropped off or mailed to the Archives Office in Friedsam Memorial Library.

Frank is particularly interested in student life, so scrapbooks of an alum’s time on campus is especially valuable.

“If you’re not ready to part with them, we’d be happy to accept photocopies or scans. We’re also happy to make those for you if you’re willing to loan your treasures to us,” Frank said. “Your contributions will be very helpful to the author of the 200th Anniversary History of St. Bonaventure!”

On April 1, St. Bonaventure will hold its 150th Anniversary Convocation in the Reilly Center Arena. Families of SBU founders Nicholas and Mary Devereux and founding friar, Pamphilus da Magliano, will attend and be honored at the Convocation.
Musician and humanist to perform at Quick Center

The highly acclaimed musician and songwriter Samite, a native of Uganda, will perform in concert at 7:30 p.m. Friday, Jan. 18, at St. Bonaventure University’s Regina A. Quick Center for the Arts.

The concert, part of the center’s new world music series, is presented in association with Friends of Good Music. It is also presented in conjunction with the exhibition “African Odyssey: The Arts and Cultures of a Continent,” which is on view at The Quick Center for the Arts until June 15.

Samite was born and raised in Uganda, where his grandfather taught him to play the traditional flute. His primary schooling was within the King’s Courtyard where the royal musicians played for the king. That influence permanently instilled within young Samite the rhythms and patterns of the traditional music of his people, the Baganda.

Recognizing his talents, a high school teacher in Kampala put a western flute in Samite’s hands, putting him on the path to become one of the most highly acclaimed flutists in East Africa. In 1982 he fled as a political refugee to Kenya, where he played with the Bacchus Club Jazz Band and the popular African Heritage Band.

Increasingly drawn to instruments and rhythms from the traditional Ugandan music scene, Samite eventually played solo at the Mount Kenya Safari Club in Nairobi. Delivering his mellifluous vocals in his mother tongue, Luganda, he mesmerized audiences with original compositions, playing on kalimba (finger-piano), marimba (wooden xylophone), litungu (a seven-stringed Kenyan instrument) and various flutes, traditional and western.

Samite immigrated to the United States in 1987 and now lives in Ithaca. He has performed across the country and his music is regularly enjoyed by radio listeners nationwide. He has released seven CDs and his most recent, “Tunula Eno,” has reached No. 2 in the College Music Journal New World Chart within the first months of its release.

Joseph A. LoSchiavo, executive director of The Quick Center for the Arts, heard Samite perform in New York City. “The gifted Samite is a master of the flute and a terrific vocalist. I immediately thought of engaging him to appear at The Quick Center while the exhibition ‘African Odyssey’ is on view here,” said LoSchiavo.

Examples of several of the instruments that Samite will be playing are displayed in the exhibition, which has been seen by some 1,770 visitors.

In 2002, Samite founded Musicians for World Harmony, a not-for-profit worldwide organization dedicated to enabling musicians to share their music to promote peace, with a special emphasis on the displaced or distressed. He often travels with other musicians to perform for severely disadvantaged children.

Samite composed the music for a documentary film on 2004 Nobel Peace Prize winner Wangari Mathai of Kenya.

This concert is sponsored by The New York State Music Fund, established by the New York Attorney General at Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors, and by The New York State Council on the Arts.
Tickets are $18 for general admission, $15 for St. Bonaventure staff and senior citizens, and $5 for students. For ticket information, call The Quick Center for the Arts at (716) 375-2494.

For this and all other performances, the museum galleries will open one hour before the start of the performance and remain open throughout the intermission. Regular gallery hours are Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday from noon to 4 p.m. Museum admission is free and open to the public, year round. Visit The Quick Center at www.sbu.edu.

New book by alumnus Rich Blake details incredible story of Buffalo firefighter who awoke from coma-like state

As a veteran journalist, Rich Blake is used to the goose bumps that tingle his arms when he comes across a great story he wants to write. But he was not prepared for the amazing message from his younger brother Shawn three years ago: “It’s a miracle, Richie. Donny Herbert woke up.”

Donny Herbert was the husband of Blake’s cousin Linda, and within 24 hours that spring, news organizations around the country were repeating this impossible tale. Donny Herbert was awake.

The hardworking Buffalo city firefighter was critically injured when a burning roof caved in on him in December 1995. A serious head injury and the deprivation of oxygen for six minutes combined to send Donny into a vegetative state for the next 10 years. Donny’s unexplained emergence from his coma-like state for a 16-hour period on April 30, 2005, stunned his family and captivated the nation. The Buffalo man returned to lucidity, rediscovering the world for a precious day.

In a new book, “The Day Donny Herbert Woke Up,” Blake explores the Herburts’ lives — from Donny and Linda’s blue collar, Catholic upbringings, to Linda’s struggle to care for her four boys while maintaining Donny’s care.

Blake is a Buffalo native and 1990 journalism graduate of St. Bonaventure University.

Some believe that divine intervention led to Donny’s awakening; others offer a more scientific explanation. For Blake, it was important to embrace all possibilities.

“There’s a subtle mystery here, no question, one that I hope readers will try to tackle for themselves in their own terms. There’s the Catholic Church’s very specific definition of what a miracle is, and then there’s the more general sense of something being miraculous because it’s inexplicable. I do think that in some identifiable way, the footprints of a higher power are everywhere in this story,” he said.

Those footprints take the reader through Linda’s daily prayers, the experimental drug cocktail Donny’s doctor gives him, and a number of connections to the late Buffalo spiritual leader Fr. Nelson Baker.
When Blake began his research for the book, he was more prepared to embrace science as the cause of Donny’s awakening. But as he explored the circumstances, he became convinced it was more than a medical miracle.

“I think the true miracle was that despite being vegetative so long, for the most part he became his old self again; his spirit returned to his body,” Blake said.

It was some six months after the Herbert family’s remarkable reunion that Blake and Linda discussed the possibility of sharing Donny’s story in a book. Linda approached Blake at a party celebrating the publication of his book about the Buffalo Bills. She asked what his next book would be about.

“I’d never thought about doing a book on Don but found myself blurt out, ‘I should do a book on Donny,’” Blake said.

Approaching this story as a family member was often difficult.

“Sometimes I had to venture into very sensitive territory. There were some painful memories I had to dredge up,” from Linda and her sons as well as Donny’s friends in the fire department, Blake said.

Since the book’s November 2007 release, it has received regional and national attention: It was excerpted in The Buffalo News over Thanksgiving, as well as in Reader’s Digest, and there was a “60 Minutes” segment tied into its launch. Blake also appeared on “Good Morning America” with Linda Herbert, and Warner Bros. has optioned the book for a movie.

Blake has received a lot of positive feedback on the book “from real people who were touched by it.”

“I feel satisfied. Whether it’s made into a movie or not, the experience of writing the book was awesome. As a journalist, it was an honor and privilege to tell this story. Clearly I’m standing on the shoulders of the amazing Herbert family. I’m proud of it,” he said.

A 1990 journalism and mass communication graduate, Blake studied under journalism school namesake Russell J. Jandoli for his four years at Bona’s. He is a veteran journalist and senior editor at Trader Monthly magazine. In 2004, Blake was nominated for a National Magazine Award in the reporting category and is the author of “Talking Proud: Rediscovering the Magical Season of the 1980 Buffalo Bills.” He lives in New York City.


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Matthew Tornambe recertified as a Certified Fund Raising Executive

Matthew J. Tornambe, associate vice president for advancement at St. Bonaventure University, has been recertified as a Certified Fund Raising Executive (CFRE).

Tornambe joins more than 5,000 professionals around the world who hold the CFRE designation. Individuals granted the CFRE credential have met a series of standards set by CFRE International, which include tenure in the profession, education, demonstrated fundraising achievement and a commitment to service to not-for-profit organizations. Candidates must pass a rigorous written examination testing the knowledge, skills and abilities required of a fundraising executive.

Tornambe provides leadership for prospect research, stewardship and special events, and fundraising communications staff members at the University. He is also responsible for major gifts, planned giving and a gift officer portfolio. Promoted to his current position in November 2007, Tornambe previously served St. Bonaventure as director of major gifts and planned giving.

Tornambe joined the St. Bonaventure community in July 2003. He holds a bachelor’s degree in community development from The Pennsylvania State University.

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Martin Luther King Day events announced

In celebration of Martin Luther King Jr. Day, the Diversity Action Committee, in coordination with the Damietta Dream, is hosting the second annual Martin Luther King Jr. Student Showcase on Monday, Jan. 21, at 7 p.m. in the San Damiano Room in Francis Hall.

This year's theme is, “...everybody can be great, because everybody can serve,” taken from King's speech The Drum Major Instinct. The showcase will be highlighting several of SBU’s student organizations dedicated to service, include a performance from the Step Team, and a dessert reception immediately following. An organized walk to Francis Hall will begin in Shay/Loughlen at 6:45 p.m. Faculty, staff and off-campus/commuter students should meet outside of Doyle Chapel by 6:45 p.m. if they'd like to participate in the walk.

Additionally, on Thursday, Jan. 24, at 8:30 p.m., Dr. Barry Gan and Dr. Mark Huddle will present “The Real Martin Luther King Jr.” at the Memorial Hall at St. Bonaventure Church in Allegany.

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Mt. Irenaeus, St. Bonaventure to host spirituality and ethics symposium

The director of the Bioethics Institute of New York Medical College will lead discussions on spirituality in healing and health care during a three-day visit to Mt. Irenaeus and the St. Bonaventure University campus.

Br. Daniel P. Sulmasy, O.F.M., M.D., Ph.D., a Franciscan friar, holds the Sisters of Charity Chair in Ethics at St. Vincent’s Hospital—Manhattan, and serves as professor of medicine and director of the Bioethics Institute of New York Medical College, Valhalla, N.Y.
On Thursday, Jan. 31, the University community is invited to join students in Clare College’s University Forum capstone course for Sulmasy’s 4 p.m. address in Dresser Auditorium titled “Ethical Issues in Care at the End of Life.” Sulmasy will also be the guest speaker during the noon Friday Forum on Feb. 1 in Doyle Hall Dining Room (open to faculty, staff and invited guests).

An overnight retreat at Mt. Irenaeus from Feb. 1 to Feb. 2 will offer students an opportunity to gather with Sulmasy and consider in depth the life, career and spirituality of healthcare professionals. The retreat will include group reflection, meditation and discussions.

St. Bonaventure offers a number of opportunities for students interested in health care professions: dual-degree programs in medicine, dentistry, pharmacy and physical therapy; a new bachelor’s degree in gerontology; and traditional pre-medicine and pre-health advisement.

(more)

“Mt. Irenaeus and St. Bonaventure continue to offer ways of reflection and learning expressive of our Franciscan heritage. Each session on campus and the retreat at Mt. Irenaeus draw upon Br. Daniel’s ability and interest to integrate learning with values, spirituality and compassionate care,” said Fr. Daniel Riley, guardian of Holy Peace Friary at Mt. Irenaeus.

Sulmasy has lectured worldwide on his research interests in the ethics of end-of-life decision-making, ethics education, and spirituality in medicine.

Sulmasy is the author of four books — “The Healer’s Calling,” “Methods in Medical Ethics,” “The Rebirth of the Clinic: An Introduction to Spirituality in Health Care,” and “A Balm for Gilead: Meditations on Spirituality and the Healing Arts.” He serves as editor-in-chief of the journal Theoretical Medicine and Bioethics. His numerous articles have appeared in medical, philosophical and theological journals.

Sulmasy received his A.B. and M.D. degrees from Cornell University and completed his residency, chief residency, and post-doctoral fellowship in general internal medicine at the Johns Hopkins Hospital. He received his Ph.D. in philosophy from Georgetown University, where he served on the medical faculty and as Senior Research Scholar of the Kennedy Institute of Ethics until 1998. He was appointed to the New York State Task Force on Life and the Law in 2005 and to the Ethics Committee of the Empire State Stem Cell Board in 2007.

Students interested in the Mt. Irenaeus overnight can sign up in the Thomas Merton Center. Transportation will be provided between campus and the Mountain.

Collaboration among a number of individuals and offices on campus helped shape and support the symposium: Br. F. Edward Coughlin, O.F.M, vice president for Franciscan Mission; Dr. David DiMattio, dean of Clare College; Dr. Michael Domboski, director of the Franciscan Health Care Professions Program; Dr. James Moor, director of the Bogoni Center for Aging Studies; Fr. Daniel Riley, O.F.M., guardian of Holy Peace Friary at Mt. Irenaeus; and SBU students Devin Patel, Shawn Sood and Emily Tanski.
For information on how to form a job-search network and upcoming career fairs taking place off campus during winter break, check out the latest issue of Directions, the Career Center’s monthly newsletter. [click here!]

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FRIDAY FORUM!

All SBU faculty, staff and administrators are welcome to Friday Forums.

**Date:** Friday, Jan. 18, 2008  
**Speaker:** Sandra Mulryan  
**Time:** 12:15 to 1:30 p.m.  
**Place:** University Club  
**Topic:** “Charlotte Perkins Stetson Gilman (1860-1935): The Woman Behind ‘The Yellow Wall-Paper’”  
**Cost:** $3

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Newsmakers

**Dr. Rodney Paul,** associate professor of economics in the Department of Finance, had the paper "Income Effects on the Trade Balance in the United States: Analysis by Sector" accepted for publication in the Journal of Agricultural and Applied Economics. The paper illustrates the key differences between the sectors of the U.S. economy (services, manufacturing, agriculture) in relation to permanent and transitory shocks to real income and the trade balance. Factors such as adoption of new technology and the extent of government controls explain the differences between the sectors.

**Dr. Paula J. Scraba’s** Build With Living Stones workshop on Dec. 7, 2007, in Oldenburg, Ind., was a special presentation on Franciscan Mission and the Franciscan Intellectual Tradition as part of a weekend celebration for the 25th Anniversary of the revision of The Rule and Life of the Brothers and Sisters of the Third Order Regular of St. Francis. The questions posed as in the time of Francis’s writing “Rugula Non Bullata” — who are we? how are we to live? what are we to do? — were posed to the Franciscans today along with the questions posed at the 2006 Association for Franciscan Colleges and Universities Symposium for Mission Today. On Saturday Dec. 8, 2007, the actual day of the 25th Anniversary, Sr. Margaret Carney, O.S.F., S.T.D., president of the University, presented an all-day program on the history of the revision of the Third Order Rule. Sr. Margaret is one of the original authors of this revised Third Order Rule.

**Dr. Chris Stanley,** professor of theology, traveled to Scotland in early December 2007 to deliver papers to graduate seminars at the University of Edinburgh and the University of St. Andrews and to speak at a Scottish seminary, Highland Theological College. The visits were funded by the UK Fulbright Commission. Stanley was working in the fall semester in Limerick, Ireland, on a Fulbright Fellowship.