Quick Center's LoSchiavo, Brunner serve as judges at Liederkranz Competition

Joseph LoSchiavo, executive director of the Regina A. Quick Center for the Arts at St. Bonaventure University, and Ludwig Brunner, the center's director of programming, served as judges at the prestigious Liederkranz Competition for young singers, held Jan. 7-13 in New York City.

The annual Liederkranz event is one of the most important competitions for young singers in the United States. It awards prizes in three different categories: General Opera, Lieder and Wagner singing. This year, over 400 singers were heard.

LoSchiavo was a finalist judge alongside the illustrious former Metropolitan Opera stars Marilyn Horne, Mignon Dunn, and Arlene Saunders, as well as F. Paul Driscoll, editor in chief of the magazine Opera News, and Vincent LaSelva, music director of the New York Grand Opera.

LoSchiavo has served as a finalist judge of the Liederkranz Competition since 2000. He is a noted arts administrator, producer and operatic stage director and has directed productions for the New York City Opera National Company, Arizona Opera, Kentucky Opera, Wolf Trap Opera, Shubert New Haven Opera and the Lake George Opera Festival among many others. He is a frequent adjudicator of vocal competitions and has served as a member of the National Screening Committee for the Fulbright grants in voice.

Brunner has served as preliminary judge of the Liederkranz Competition since 2001. As an artist manager for opera and concert singers in New York, and a former artistic consultant to the Deutsche Oper Berlin and the Bregenz (Austria) Festival, he also organizes and adjudicates the New York round of the International Belvedere Competition of the Vienna Chamber Opera.

The Quick Center for the Arts established a Performance Prize at the Liederkranz Competition in 2006. The first winners include Jesse Blumberg, baritone, who appeared at The Quick Center in February of 2007, and Tehila Nini Goldstein, soprano, who will present her award recital March 9 at the Temple B’Nai Israel synagogue in Olean.
Lanier honored by Civil Rights Museum

St. Bonaventure and NBA legend Bob Lanier was honored Monday in Memphis by the National Civil Rights Museum for his contributions to civil and human rights.

Lanier and fellow NBA Hall of Famer Kareem Abdul-Jabbar received the National Civil Rights Museum Sports Legacy award during the Sixth Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Day Game and Celebration.

Service group spends week assisting Bahamian community

“If you give a man a fish, he’ll eat for a day; if you teach a man to fish, he’ll eat for a lifetime.”

With that age-old proverb in mind, 52 St. Bonaventure University students and five faculty members headed down to the island of Grand Bahama for 10 days in early January, on what may be the single largest international entrepreneurial service trip in the world.

These students are part of SBU’s Students in Free Enterprise (SIFE) organization. Led by School of Business professor Dr. Todd Palmer, SIFE’s mission focuses on youth development and economic empowerment through service projects; its main project is the Bahamas trip.

On the organization’s fourth annual trip to the Bahamas, students and teachers left a profound impact on the community. They helped paint and set up computers at a YMCA, a project that its director told Bahamian media was “an answer to her prayers,” and that what SIFE members did in one day would have taken an entire year to complete without their help.

SIFE members also converted an old building into a library for a local elementary school, also outfitting it with more than 3,000 books.

Nine schools throughout the island were given a SIFE group who worked with the school for the week. The groups taught a mix of business, journalism and computer classes, simulated entrepreneurial situations, such as a lemonade business, and set up computer labs.

SIFE graduate assistant Hallie Steube, along with junior J/MC major, Lindsay Pohlman, taught a newspaper-writing class to a group of high school seniors. Steube explained that this class of 12 had once been a class of more than 300 just four years ago, and that average GPA for the school was a mere 0.4.

“We were only supposed to be there for one period.” Steube explained, “but the kids were so excited and interested that they stayed through their break and then through the remainder of the school day.”

The two St. Bonaventure women helped start a school newspaper and set up a computer and two digital cameras for the students.

While SIFE gives so much to the people of the Bahamas, the giving doesn’t just go one way. SIFE co-president and senior marketing major Brendan Keating explained what he learned in the midst of teaching others.
"I was able to see how simple things like family and religion are the most important things in the world. Being a citizen of the U. S., it is easy to place monetary value on success. The Bahamians show me year in and year out that a solid family lifestyle is all one needs," Keating said.

Keating also thinks that his experience planning the trip will be beneficial to him in the “real world.”

"From an organizational standpoint I was able to learn to deal with and work through the many difficulties that tend to occur as a result of different personalities working together,” he said.

SIFE has been going on this trip for the past four years, since the organization’s establishment at SBU.

“We have a long-term relationship with the area,” Palmer said. “We’ve helped them through three hurricanes and have become very involved with their youth development programs. …Bona’s has a really great brand down there.”

The Bahamas trip proved to those who went that it’s not where you are, but it’s who you’re with that matters. The Franciscan credo of respect for others and the awareness that community and relationships foster individual potential, all of which are so visible on campus, was also made visible more than 1,000 miles away. “We are the personification of the Franciscan mission,” Palmer said. “Whatever SBU is, we are the best of it.”

Why?

“We have great students and a dedicated faculty and administration,” explained Palmer. “They are the essence of what St. Francis and St. Clare were all about.”

By Kathleen M. Moulton

Public invited to view film 'Sicko' and determine their own prescription for health

In his documentary “Sicko,” filmmaker Michael Moore critiques the U.S. health care system, describing the problems of both the insured and uninsured. Twin Tiers residents will have the opportunity to view an upcoming screening of the film and offer their own views on health care issues.

St. Bonaventure University’s School of Arts and Sciences and the Health Care Access Coalition have teamed up to co-sponsor the upcoming health care forums, which will include three viewings of “Sicko” and a panel discussion titled “Prescription for Health.”

The film can be seen at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 23, in Dresser Auditorium of the John J. Murphy Professional Building, St. Bonaventure University campus; 1:30 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 3, at Olean Public Library; and 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 5, at Olean Public Library.

The panel discussion will be held at 2 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 10, in Dresser Auditorium at SBU. Panelists will include: Gilbert Witte, M.D., pulmonologist with Olean Medical Group; a representative from BlueCross BlueShield of Western New York; Shawn Sood, SBU student; Russell Woodruff, Ph.D., philosophy professor and ethicist; and Athena Godet-Calogeras, chair of Health Care Access Coalition. Steve Stahl, Ph.D., dean of the School of Arts and Sciences at St. Bonaventure University, will moderate the discussion.
Issues to be discussed by the panelists include the following questions:

- Is health care a right or a privilege?
- How are people suffering from our health care system?
- How can we pay for universal health care?
- What’s good about the system we have?
- Can we fix the present system or do we have to overhaul it, and how?
- Does health care matter to college students and young adults?
- What do our presidential candidates intend to do about health care?

There will be a question and answer session following the panel as well as tables displaying available health care resources and suggestions for action. Those with questions they would like the panel to address should e-mail them to Athena Godet-Calogereras at athenagc@verizon.net by Feb. 8.

The Health Care Access Coalition is a project of the Labor-Religion Coalition of Southwestern New York, a growing alliance of unions, religious institutions, youth groups and individuals who share a commitment to challenging economic injustice.

Career Center news ...

For more information on practice graduate school tests and teacher recruitment days, check out the Career Center's Events Page!

Join us for this week's FRIDAY FORUM!

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

Date: Friday, Jan. 25, 2008  
Speaker: Steve Watson, director of athletics  
Time: 12:20 to 1:30 p.m.
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Place: University Club
Topic: "Intercollegiate Athletics at St. Bonaventure University - Success in the community, in the classroom, and on the playing field"
Cost: $3

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Newsmakers
