Distinguished Faculty

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES

WRITTEN BY GANNON UNIVERSITY HONORS STUDENTS OF CRITICAL ANALYSIS & COMPOSITION CLASSES
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Many thanks go to Nash Library Archives Librarian Robert Dobiesz, who guided students as they individually studied documents, read testimonials, and selected photos. Also, thanks to Dr. Ann Bomberger, director of the Honors Program, who supported this project throughout the semester and Deborah West, Nash Library Reference/Instruction Librarian, who provided information about Faculty Senate. To faculty and staff in University Mission & Ministry; College of Humanities, Education, and Social Sciences; Villa Maria School of Nursing; and Occupational Therapy: thank you for insights on the use of appropriate titles and referencing. And to Annie Hatton: thanks for the cover photo. In matters large and small, students whose work you read here have proven themselves to be curious, insightful, and dedicated to sharing discoveries. In other words, they have approached research in admirable ways, and we're all the richer for it.

Carol Hayes, Department of English
Gannon University
Spring, 2014
Lining the hallway of the first floor of Gannon University’s Palumbo Academic Center are portraits of faculty members dating back through the decades. These portraits depict the recipients of Gannon’s annual Distinguished Faculty Award, starting from the mid-1980s, and continuing up to the current year. Despite the prestige of this decoration, many students, and even staff members, are unaware of the dedication and work that these teachers have shown throughout their careers at Gannon. In an attempt to rectify this oversight, Professor Carol Hayes introduced a project to her Honors Critical Analysis and Composition classes in which the students would research and document the accomplishments of the Distinguished Faculty, so that others would be able to access the information. Through the hard work of the students, under Professor Hayes’s guidance, the project was proudly displayed at the 2014 Celebrate Gannon festival.

Throughout the Spring 2014 semester, students researched the professors by visiting the campus archivist and conducting interviews. Next, the information was organized, and individual biographies were written, focusing on what the professor did while at the university, and what merited them the honor of Distinguished Professor of Faculty member. Research was also done concerning the nature of the award and its origins. Between 1955 and 1956, Gannon University established what is known as the Faculty Senate, whose mission is “representing the collective faculty view in matters of concern to the faculty as a whole assuring the effective means by which the faculty participates in the governance of the University.” One of the responsibilities that the Senate took on was to name a Distinguished Faculty member. Initially, more than one could be named per year, but this was narrowed down to a single award per year, making it that much more honorable. To be eligible, nominees simply need to have six years as a full time faculty member. To receive the award, however, the faculty member must show outstanding leadership, performance, influence, and dedication resulting in “growth and development, within the University and/or in the community.”

Obviously, these professors have earned the respect of the Gannon community, and it is important that they be honored appropriately. Looking back on the accomplishments of these professors and clergy members only makes it more exciting to see who will be next. We hope that this project will continue to document future Distinguished Faculty members out of respect for their dedication and for the good of the Gannon family.

By Evan Miller, one of 26 Honors students of Critical Analysis & Composition, 2014
Dr. Richard Beyer, born April 27, 1905 to Richard and Mary Beyer in Erie, Pennsylvania, attended Allegheny College and Illinois State University and achieved his doctoral degree in Colonial American History. He started his career at Gannon in 1946 and it only grew from there. More widely known as “Doc Beyer,” he was a history teacher, director of the Department of History, and the director of the Graduate Faculty of the Social Sciences. During his twenty years working at Gannon (1946-1966), Doc Beyer became well known for his teaching style that typically included chalk, a chalkboard, and his characteristic address towards the students: “Now, class.” In addition to his classroom teaching, Dr. Beyer also spoke at several organizations and moderated the Gannon Roundtable Series on the radio. Interestingly, Doc Beyer was the co-author of two books, multiple monographs, book reviews, and encyclopedias.

Dr. Beyer received the Distinguished Faculty Award due to his dedication to working with and truly teaching his students. In his memory, there is also an annual Richard Beyer Memorial Lecture in which a different speaker is invited each year. Until his death on August 7, 1966, Dr. Beyer was well known for his charity and comedy towards his students, which added to his eligibility for The Distinguished Faculty Award on April 29, 1984.

By Abby Wu
Dr. James Freeman

Dr. James Freeman was one of three to be first awarded the Distinguished Faculty Award by Gannon University on April 29, 1984. Born in 1913, Freeman was a native of Erie and passed away in 1980 due to cancer, four years before he was recognized with the award.

Dr. Freeman was the son of James and Jeanette Freeman and was married to Laura Bundy; they had five children. He attended Cathedral Preparatory School and earned his bachelor’s and master’s degrees in science from the University of Pittsburgh in 1935 and 1942, respectively. Additionally, he earned an honorary degree from Gannon College in 1978. Dr. Freeman taught at Cathedral Prep, Erie Tech, and Erie Veterans School as a math teacher until his transfer to Gannon College to become a professor of mathematics and eventually the director of the Mathematics Department. He was an active member in the community through his church, St. Luke’s Parish, and chairman of Erie Parking Authority. Dr. Freeman was recognized with the Distinguished Faculty Award for the numerous hours he dedicated to helping his students outside the classroom with mathematics as well as their personal problems. He was known for his ability to effectively teach African American students by earning their trust and confidence to help them succeed. Dr. Freeman held special programs to help further educate the African American students of Gannon in a time when segregation was still influential in our society. A memorial scholarship was established in honor of James Freeman by Gannon alumni in memory of the many lives he touched as a teacher, mentor, and friend. Dr. Freeman was described by colleagues as “A great man, a great Christian, and a great father with integrity, who lived what he said and was a real, wholesome person.”

By Mylinda Hartnett
Dr. John Fleming was awarded the Distinguished Faculty Award by Gannon University on April 29, 1984. He had served the university in various capacities for 36 years. Dr. Fleming, born in 1918, was a native of Erie and was the son of James and Helen Fleming. He was married to Mary Gallagher in 1946 and they had three children. He attended high school at Cathedral Preparatory School and moved on to Gannon University to receive his bachelor’s degree in 1936, then Fordham University to earn his master’s degree in 1951, and finally the University of Ottawa, Canada, to earn his doctoral degree in 1962, all degrees in psychology. Dr. Fleming was the chief clinical psychologist at the Erie Child Guidance Center from 1952 to 1964, Secretary of the Personnel Department at Gannon University, President of the Board of Directors of Stairways, a member of St. Andrew’s Catholic Church, the Erie Irish Cultural Club, the Erie Maennerchor Club and the East Erie Turners, as well as the Human Relations Commission. Before his death in 1998, he was a prominent member in the community, well known for his long-standing interest in parapsychology. He became established as Erie’s favorite “ghost buster.” Dr. Fleming was honored with the Distinguished Faculty Award for his numerous published articles dealing with parapsychology. He faced professional adversity during that time period, given the controversial nature of the subject, and his subsequent enduring strength and wisdom. He was known for his dedication and tolerance when it came to working with both students and colleagues, and his sense of fair play, which earned him the unequivocal respect and trust of all. In summary, Dr. Fleming was described by colleagues as “one of the best and most scholarly professors at Gannon.”

By Mylinda Hartnett
Prof. William N. Latimer

William N. Latimer was honored posthumously with the Distinguished Professor Award in 1985, a year after his death in 1984. He worked as a professor of accounting and was the chair of Gannon’s Accounting Department for twenty years. Prof. Latimer was also the first director of the Master of Business Administration program. In addition to playing such a pivotal role in the School of Business, he was a Certified Public Accountant who was certified in both Washington D.C. and Pennsylvania. Before joining the Gannon faculty in 1961, he worked as a forecast analyst at General Electric. Prof. Latimer received his education at Gannon University, being one of the first students to graduate with an accounting degree. He obtained his MBA from Western Reserve University.

By Amanda Bachman
Reverend Monsignor James McCullough received the Distinguished Faculty award on October 13, 1985. He received the award for his devotion to the care and direction of students, his humor and congenial gruffness in the classroom, and his way of showing how to live a way of life through the Lord. Father McCullough was originally from Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania. He attended Gannon for his education, graduated Cum Laude, and received a bachelor’s degree in math and philosophy in 1953.

On May 30, 1957, Father McCullough was ordained a priest at St. Peter Cathedral. He furthered his education by receiving a master’s degree in science in mathematics from the University of Michigan in 1959. Father McCullough started teaching in the Mathematics Department at Gannon in 1957 and continued to teach until 1995. When he started teaching, he was an instructor in math, and during his time at Gannon, he progressed to assistant professor of math, and then to associate professor of math.

Father McCullough was extremely involved with activities around campus. Some of those activities included serving for 12 years as a dormitory resident counselor and serving as Chaplain for the fraternity Pi Kappa Alpha. During his time at Gannon, he also received many awards, one very prestigious award being the Student Government Association Award for Outstanding Faculty Member in the area of Student/Faculty Relations. In 2000, he was named a Monsignor with the title “Chaplain of His Holiness.” During his free time, Father McCullough enjoyed writing verse, solving crossword and jigsaw puzzles, and playing golf.

By Katharine Ressler
Every once in a while, a student gets a streak of luck and meets someone who changes his or her life for the best. Sometimes this individual is a professor, other times an advisor or a mentor, or maybe even a friend. Professor Stanley J. Zagorski has been all of these things for his students. Before arriving at Gannon University in 1968, Prof. Zagorski received his education at Slippery Rock University, Rutgers State University, Edinboro State University, and Pennsylvania State University. He has been a teacher and research scholar in Gannon’s biology department since 1968, but his contributions to the university and the community do not end there.

To list all of Prof. Zagorski’s accomplishments is a feat that would take pages and pages due to his never-ending involvement and successes. At Gannon, he has served as the Associate Dean of the College of Science and Engineering, the director of several health and science programs, and dozens more activities and committees. On top of the 50-plus research grants and activities Prof. Zagorski has been involved in, he is also well-published. With more than a dozen publications, his public successes do not stop there. He has made several television appearances on programs including the Nightly News, the Today Show, and CBS. In addition, Prof. Zagorski is extensively dedicated to the local community, having been involved in innumerable workshops, symposiums, and boards. He has even held several county and state-wide offices including President of the Pennsylvania Academy of Science. In 1985, Gannon awarded Prof. Zagorski the Distinguished Faculty award due to his ceaseless successes and dedication not only to the university, but the community and ultimately the world through his environmental studies. He was recognized by students and fellow professors for his “enthusiastic spirit, delightful personality, and tremendous love of life” which makes him well-deserving of this award.

By Hannah Merrifield
Edward Rogers became a member of the Gannon faculty in 1964 for the purpose of teaching a “wide variety of subjects.” He taught for a total of 50 years, only retiring at the beginning of 2014. This has been the longest teaching career of anybody who has ever taught at Gannon University. He became an Associate Professor of Mathematics and was, for a while, the director of the Math Center. On May 3, 1987, he was awarded the Distinguished Faculty Award for his amazing work as a teacher. In teaching, he extended clarity, precision, and creativity, along with the ability to express complex mathematical concepts in an easy-to-understand way. He was also awarded this award for his availability, gentleness, and quiet but effective advice, even to the point of writing three books to further the understanding of his students and others. He is commonly regarded as a model for all who aspire to teach. As far as his creativity, he would often use clever ansatz to bring highly difficult subjects to his students in a fun and interesting way. An example is found in his teaching of Topology. A simplified version can be explained through a concept known as a neighborhood. In his classes, students learned about Mr. Rogers’ Neighborhoods.

By Paul LeVan
Dr. Berta M. Weber was born on May 19, 1921 in Hollabrunn, Austria. She received her Ph.D. from the University of Vienna and she came to Gannon in 1947. At that time, she was the only female faculty member and she was a professor of languages. Weber spent her whole career at Gannon University, and was always dedicated to her students. In the early 1970s she taught for a very small salary just to keep the German component of the language department alive. She volunteered herself to be advisor of all the foreign language major students and continued to help them get into graduate schools and receive jobs. One of the reasons she was such a great teacher was because she enjoyed teaching her native language and culture and looked at teaching as a hobby, rather than a job.

Berta Weber received the Distinguished Faculty Award in 1987. She had many accomplishments that led to her reception of this award. She was chairperson of the Foreign Languages department and President of the Faculty Senate. She was also a member of the Advisory Council of the College of Humanities and Chair of the University Review Council. In 1980 she became President of the Western Pennsylvania Chapter of the American Association of Teachers of German, and in 1986 she was named Educator of the Year by the Pennsylvania State Modern Language Association. Even though she retired from Gannon in 1997 and passed away in 2013, the memory of her excellent teaching still exists at Gannon University.

By Danielle Munsee
Dr. J. Jacob Young

Born on October 13, 1913, Dr. John Jacob Young, who often went by “Jay,” received the Distinguished Faculty Member Award posthumously on May 3, 1987. Dr. Young was born in Erie, PA and graduated from Cathedral Preparatory School before going to college at Georgetown University for English. He went on to receive his master’s degree from Boston University in 1936, after which he began working at Georgetown University as an English instructor. In 1941, Dr. Young returned to Erie and worked as the Program Director of the WERC Radio Station. On the radio, Dr. Young was best known for his book review session called “Let’s Read a Book” and also for his exciting commentaries on Erie Sailors baseball games. Dr. Young returned to teaching in 1956, this time as an assistant professor at Gannon, where he specialized in Shakespearean Drama and the history of poetry. Dr. Young earned his Ph.D. in English in 1968 from Western Reserve University and earned full professorship in English two years later at Gannon. He taught until an extensive illness took his life on January 22, 1974. While at Gannon, Dr. Young was involved in several committees, including the Faculty Senate and Graduate English Committee, and was appointed the first Secretary of the College in 1973.

Dr. J. Young was described as a “Master of English,” an exemplary teacher and scholar, a protector of his students, and it was said that, “he lived and breathed all that was true Christian Humanism,” all of which led to his receiving the Distinguished Faculty Award. To further prove Dr. Young’s impact on Gannon University, the former English Department building was named “Young Hall” in 1986 after Dr. Young. The Hall was demolished in 1994 and was replaced by what is now known as Friendship Green.

By Jacob Gorton
Dr. Matti Moosa is one of Gannon University’s Distinguished Professors for many reasons. He was a great teacher and very experienced in his field. In 1965, Dr. Moosa received his Ph.D. in history from Columbia University. Prior to his time at Gannon, Dr. Moosa was an attorney and political analyst in the American Embassy in Baghdad. He was also given multiple awards from the United Nations and the Egyptian Middle East Institute. Dr. Moosa was elected president of the Middle East Institute of Research because of his “scholarly reputation and well-known expertise in the area of Middle Eastern Studies.” Dr. Moosa stands out because of his love for foreign governments and issues abroad.

Dr. Moosa carried his knowledge to Gannon when he became an associate professor of history from 1966 to 1969. He then advanced to a full time professor from 1969 to his retirement in 1988, the year he was given the Distinguished Faculty Award. While Dr. Moosa was at Gannon, he wrote more scholarly books than any other faculty member. These books were regarding different political situations and religions in the Middle East. He also gave scholarly lectures that were open to the public. These were often recapped in Erie’s weekly newspaper. An interesting fact about Dr. Moosa is that he met Saddam Hussain while traveling. Dr. Moosa still expresses his love for research and continues to write books in his retired years.

By Annie Hatton
In 1988, Reverend Edward Q. Franz received the Distinguished Faculty Award for his philosophical approach to teaching, for his effectiveness as a teacher, and for the tremendous impact he had on his students. Father Franz was born in Erie, Pennsylvania, and was a graduate of Cathedral College in 1938. He attended the Catholic University of America where he earned his bachelor’s degree in 1940, his master’s degree in 1941, and his doctoral degree in 1950. Before earning his doctorate, he was ordained on May 10, 1945 at St. Peter Cathedral in Erie.

Father Franz started his teaching career at Gannon in 1946, and taught philosophy and theology from 1946 to 1955. He took some time off from teaching, but he returned to Gannon in 1982 and taught both philosophy and theology again until his retirement in 1988. Two of his favorite courses that he taught at Gannon were Philosophical Psychology and Catholic Tradition. In addition to teaching, Father Franz served as a pastor at many different Pennsylvania churches, including Holy Cross Church in Brandy Camp; Immaculate Conception in Clarion; and Our Lady Of The Lake in Edinboro. Father Franz wrote and published a book in 1949 called “The Thomist Doctrine on the Possible Intellect” and also wrote two articles for the New Catholic Encyclopedia. In addition, Father Franz was also a member of the Catholic Theological Society of America.

By Katharine Ressler
Dr. Charles Lundy

Dr. Charles Lundy was posthumously awarded the Distinguished Faculty Award in 1988. While presenting the award, Dr. Robert Nelson of the Counselor Education Program was quoted as saying Dr. Lundy was “one of the most colorful personalities on campus” and that Dr. Lundy was “a professional who never lost sight of his working class roots.”

Dr. Lundy taught in the education department for sixteen years with 1964 as his first year. During this time, Dr. Lundy was also the director of the Counselor Education Program, Counseling Services, and Upward Bound.

Dr. Lundy was an active member of 24 different professional and non-profit organizations and a consultant to many corporations like AMSCO, Zurn Industries, Penelec, and General Electric. He was also a consultant for the Booker T. Washington Center, the Bureau of Vocational Rehabilitation, the Diocese of Erie School System, and many more organizations. His education consisted of his earning a bachelor’s degree at the State University of New York at Geneseo and his master’s degree in consulting from St. Bonaventure. He earned his doctoral degree from Purdue University. At the age of 46, Dr. Charles Lundy died unexpectedly from a heart attack.

By David Batistic
Dr. David R. Eichelsdorfer

Dr. David Eichelsdorfer, known by many as Dr. E, is the son of Raymond and Charlotte Eichelsdorfer and he first began teaching at Gannon University in 1966. Prior to becoming a teacher, David graduated from Gannon in 1963 with a B.A. in Mathematics. While attending Gannon, Dr. Eichelsdorfer was involved in Pi Mu Epsilon, the Honorary Mathematics Fraternity; the Electrical Engineering Society, and Delta Sigma Phi. He was also involved in the Intrafraternity Council. After graduating from Gannon, the young Eichelsdorfer went on to SUNY-Buffalo to earn his MBA. Once he returned to Gannon, he taught many organization classes and business classes and was considered a great mentor by many of his students.

Dr. Eichelsdorfer was also involved at Gannon in many other ways. He was the chairman of the Management Department here at Gannon, the adviser of the Alpha Kappa Psi Business Fraternity which, under his guidance, won multiple awards, and was very involved in donating generous amounts of books to the Gannon College Library and Learning Resource Center. He taught at Gannon for 35 years before retiring, teaching for 12 of those years after receiving the Distinguished Faculty Award on April 21, 1989. Dr. Eichelsdorfer was also very involved in the local community. He was an avid supporter of the Erie Philharmonic and was a member of the Parish Council at St. Peter’s Cathedral in Erie.

By David Batistig
Dr. Elmer Frank Kohlmiller

The late Dr. Elmer Kohlmiller was a biology professor at Gannon University during the 1960s and 1970s. Born in Erie, Dr. Kohlmiller attended Gannon as a student for two years, before receiving his master’s degree from Western Reserve. After working in bacteriological research for a few years, he went on to earn his doctorate from Saint Thomas Institute in 1960.

As a professor at Gannon, Dr. Kohlmiller supervised cancer research, and became the head of the biology department in the spring of 1963. During his time at Gannon, Dr. Kohlmiller promoted the study of cancer and immunology, imparting his own knowledge and implementing new labs for students. He was very involved on campus as well, assisting or leading the Pre-Medicine Committee, the Medical Technology Program, the Science Program and the Future Physician’s Club. Dr. Kohlmiller was extremely dedicated to his field of study. In the fall of 1973, Dr. Kohlmiller published a review of a biology textbook, and he would continue to contribute other publications to the world of biology. His efforts would earn him the esteemed award of Outstanding Science Educator of 1982, given by the Pennsylvania Junior Academy of Science. In addition to his devotion and hard work, Dr. Kohlmiller was also a husband and father of four children, and he was very involved in the Church. Tragically, Dr. Elmer Kohlmiller died of a heart attack at the age of 61 in November of 1983.

It is no surprise that Dr. Kohlmiller was named a Distinguished Professor on April 21, 1989 for his regular contributions to scholarly publications, and for his strength in his faith and profession.

By Evan Miller
Dr. Dolores J. Sarafinski

Dr. Dolores Sarafinski is an outstanding teacher, faculty leader and scholar who has inspired and touched many throughout her journey. Dr. Sarafinski was a natural when it came to teaching, showing potential when she was a young adult. Shortly after graduating from Villa Maria College, she joined the St. Benedict Academy as a staff member. And soon after, only in her twenties, she became the principal.

Dr. Sarafinski earned her master’s degree from Notre Dame and her doctoral degree from Duquesne. When she joined the Gannon staff, she became known for her hands-on approach for her classes, especially in drama. She would often take her students to theaters, bringing alive drama and stories from books. She took students to theaters in Stratford and Niagara-on-the-Lake in Ontario, Canada, and Chautauqua Institute in New York, just to name a few. This approach translates and reflects her love and passion for the arts and has very successfully inspired her students with the love for drama.

Beyond these achievements, Dr. Sarafinski is especially known in the city of Erie for her project “Hooked on Books!” Hooked on Books! was introduced in 1991 by Dr Sarafinski to introduce knowledge and love for books to children that have difficulties or limited opportunities to experience literature. Having studied and mastered childrens literature, Dr. Sarafinski saw the importance of reading and developed the project in the hope that it will ultimately make these children fall in love with the sounds of words and the sound of language. Dr. Sarafinski has described reading as “discovering new friends and adventures every time you open a book.” The program has been such a motivation that it has attracted volunteer readers from all walks of life, from college students to professors and even political figures. Volunteers have credited the program for awakening their own love for reading and learning. The project has been so inspiring and influential that it has attracted attention from cities in other states. Hooked on Books! is currently housed in Erie’s Neighborhood Art House. In light of Dr. Dolores Sarafinski’s list of achievements, her influential passion for teaching, and her determination to make a change in the community, she became a rightful recipient of the Distinguished Faculty Award in 1990.

By Sabirah Chen
Rev. Msgr. Richard Sullivan

Reverend Richard Sullivan was a very important member of the community here at Gannon University; he was eventually named Monsignor. He began his educational experience at St. Bonaventure University, receiving his bachelor’s degree in philosophy in 1954. In 1964 he received his master’s degree in theology. After he was ordained in 1958, Father Sullivan served the Erie Diocese as a member and also as the secretary of the Diocesan Priests Senate and was an advocate on the Marriage Tribunal.

He worked at the early Gannon College as a priest and also as a professor in the Department of Theology. Father Sullivan was very involved on the campus of Gannon as it moved from being a small men’s college to the University that is ever growing nowadays. He was not only a priest and a professor at Gannon, but also the director of campus ministry and later the director of the graduate program in pastoral ministry. In his 32 years here at Gannon, Father Sullivan worked to have renovations made to the University Chapel and was able to see his work completed before retiring. He was awarded the Distinguished Faculty Award for all of his work throughout the campus on April 20, 1990.

By Rachael Luciano
Sr. Lucille DeStefano

Sister Lucille DeStefano was given the Distinguished Faculty Award in 1990. She has contributed many things to Gannon and to her community. Sister Lucille was born in Ridgeway, Pennsylvania. She was the valedictorian of St. Leo High School in 1945 and soon joined the Sisters of Saint Joseph, with whom she celebrated her 50th Jubilee in 1996. She graduated from Villa Maria College in 1957 and earned a degree in applied music. She received her master's degree in music education from the Chicago Musical College of Roosevelt University in 1962. She has done graduate work in humanities, aesthetics, and other related arts, and she has studied Psychology of Music and Music Therapy at Duquesne University among many other academic achievements.

While at Gannon, Sister Lucille developed innumerable programs, workshops, and shows that benefitted the university. She was chairperson of the Division of Arts and Humanities, member of Pastoral Musicians Association, the National Association of Humanities Educators, Erie Arts Council, and the Erie Diocesan Liturgical Commission. Nine courses in the catalogue were developed and taught by her. However, most of all, she contributed a kind and faithful spirit that inspired all those around her to be their best. Though Sister Lucille is now “retired,” she is on the leadership team at the motherhouse where she resides. Sister Michele Healy describes her as the “most hospitable, gracious person, the kind of person that makes you feel special.” Gannon University continues to remember everything that Sister Lucille DeStefano did, and is inspired by all that she has accomplished.

By Emma Oros
Dr. John Susko lived from July 8, 1910 until May 24, 1990 and was posthumously awarded the Distinguished Faculty Member by Gannon University in 1991. He received his B.S. degree in business administration from the University of Pittsburgh in 1932 and then began working on his M.S. in economics, which he received in 1934, also from the University of Pittsburgh. Dr. Susko then taught high school in the Snowden Township School District for two years before enlisting in the Air Force during World War II.

After his years of military service, Dr. Susko began his career at Gannon in 1948 by teaching business administration. He spent two years teaching at Notre Dame and then began working towards his doctoral degree from there as well. He worked on his PhD from 1960 to 1962 while also serving as a teacher and department chairman of the economics department at Gannon. After receiving his PhD in 1962, Dr. Susko continued teaching at Gannon while also teaching part-time at Penn State University and Villa Maria College until 1964, when he fully committed his time to Gannon University. Years later, in 1980, Gannon University awarded Dr. Susko an Honorary Doctor of Laws Degree. Dr. Susko was known as a man who loved teaching almost as much as he loved God. He was a Catholic man who, when asked when he wished to retire from teaching, answered, “God willing, the day I die.” Dr. Susko died May 24, 1990, just weeks after teaching his last semester. He was awarded the Distinguished Faculty Member Award a year later in 1991 for his dedication and love of his students and his profession.

By Jake Gorton
Dr. John S. Rouch lived from April 8, 1929 until May 22, 2010. In his 81 years of life, he won multiple awards including the Certificate of Excellence in the Teaching of English from the Modern Language Association in 1971 and Gannon’s Distinguished Faculty Award in 1991. Dr. Rouch started his teaching career at Gannon in 1959 in the English department. He finished his doctoral degree in English at the University of Cincinnati in 1961. While at Gannon he was well respected and was an advisor in many areas. He was Dean of the Graduate School for 15 years. However, even with all these awards and titles he held, his greatest accomplishment on campus was pushing students to think about their own original views on many topics. He held a belief that loving the students and discipline were the most important things that a teacher could do. In the Gannon University Magazine in the fall of 1991, he stated “A teacher must equally balance a love of the discipline with a love of students. If that becomes lopsided, the student suffers.”

As well as Dr. Rouch’s passion for English and the students in the classroom, he enjoyed fishing, hunting, golfing and cooking, all while being a father. Dr. Rouch retired from Gannon in 1991 and was seen on campus teaching part time until 2004.

By Greg Newman
Dr. Frank J. Pizzat’s passing away, in 1991, was a time of loss for Gannon, but the university never forgot him. He was awarded the Distinguished Faculty Member award just a year later, in 1992. Dr. Pizzat served Gannon’s community as a scholar. Those who knew him summed up his personality in three simple words “kindness, warmth, and scholarly.” He “lived the values consistent with Gannon’s mission.” He was a professor in the Graduate Program in counseling and psychology, and also maintained a practice in psychology the entire time he was teaching. He was the school’s Director of Psychological Services and also an active member in the graduate faculty from 1974 to 1991, when he departed. Dr. Pizzat was the Chairman of the Board of Psychologist Examiners for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and was especially active in his field of psychology, participating as a member in many other organizations, such as the American Psychiatric Association, the Pennsylvania Psychiatric Association, the Society for Clinical & Experimental Hypnosis, and the International Society of Hypnotists. Dr. Pizzat made great efforts for the young and was a consultant to Sarah Reed Children’s Center and Harborcreek Youth Services. He took part in opening a Marriage Counseling Program for the university. It was both a Graduate Counseling and Health Counseling Program. His works and legacy can still be found in the works he left behind including a book he wrote in 1972, Behavior Modification in Residential Treatment for Children: A Model of a Program.

By Yang Chen
Gannon University is a faith-filled moral place because of people like Reverend John P. Schanz. His contributions as a theology professor and priest have forever made Gannon a better place.

Father Schanz was also an exceptional German teacher. Inspiring students who embraced the challenge of taking his classes, he taught Foundations of Ecclesiology and Sacramentology. Not only did the education that he provided students change their understandings, but also it changed their characters. They gained a great deal from listening to such a great role model. He was given the Distinguished Faculty Award in 1992. As a member of the Gannon faculty from 1950 to 1996, Father Schanz published three books that he used as the textbooks for his theology classes. Being a national and international expert in his field of study, explaining Catholic practices and traditions was his specialty. He humbly recognized that although he had a firm grasp on theology, the studying does not end because there is always more to learn.

Ordained in 1950 in Erie, his hometown, Father Schanz had attended Cathedral Preparatory School and later attended several prestigious colleges on his way to achieve a Ph.D. at Western Reserve University in Cleveland. Students and professors alike remember Father Schanz for his remarkable grading scale: “God gets an A, the teacher gets a B, and the students start with a C.” His philosophy on life was diffused through everyone who got the opportunity to know him. Instead of taking a plain scholastic approach to teaching, Rev. John P. Schanz inspired Gannon by connecting theology to the everyday world around us.

By Daniel Hansen
Dr. Paul Ward Peterson

Dr. Paul Ward Peterson, an Erie native and graduate of the former Academy High School, served Gannon as both a faculty member and an administrator. This man of great honor and integrity won the Distinguished Faculty Award at Gannon University in 1993. While a senior in high school, he won first place in a foreign language contest sponsored by the University of Pittsburgh which earned him a scholarship there. He began his education at the University of Pittsburgh where he received his B.A. Following graduation, Peterson served four years in the U.S. Navy during World War II. He delayed entry into graduate school temporarily and began teaching at Gannon University in 1946 as an instructor in foreign languages.

He received his M.A. and Ph.D. degrees at New York University, and did graduate study at Columbia University and University of Texas. In 1950, he became an instructor in Classics at Gannon University. In 1951 he became Chairman, Department of Foreign Languages and in 1977 Peterson became Vice President for Academic Affairs. He also served as chairman of the Middle States Steering Committee during the mid-1980s when the University prepared a self-study report.

In 1966, he served as president of the Pennsylvania State Modern Language Association and subsequently was appointed as a delegate to the National Federation of Modern Language Teachers. He served as president of the latter in 1973 and also held the position of secretary-treasurer within the organization.

Dr. Peterson also won several awards while at Gannon. In 1967, he was awarded Outstanding Language Teacher in Pennsylvania. In 1986, then-Erie Bishop Michael Murphy presented him with the Knighthood of Saint Gregory the Great, a decoration awarded by Pope John Paul II. He also coached Gannon’s only Woodrow Wilson Fellow – Charles Emmons – in linguistics.

By Lisa Feranti
Professor Catherine Seibold was born on April 27, 1930 in Warren, Ohio, and grew up in Middlefield, Ohio. In 1952, Ms. Seibold graduated from Mount Union College in Alliance, Ohio, with a degree in biology and nursing. She completed her nursing education in 1955 at St. Luke’s Hospital in Cleveland, and would take up a job as an ambulance nurse.

She would earn her Master of Science in Nursing degree in 1988. Ms. Seibold had a 35-year long teaching career, having taught at Hamot, Penn State Behrend, Villa Maria, and Gannon University. She came to Gannon in 1981 as a member of the nursing faculty in order to continue to teach nursing students, and is remembered by many as a caring teacher and colleague. She would spend her extra time in individual and group sessions, providing extra help to students that needed it. She was also a person who quickly volunteered on committees, projects, and for community service.

Prof. Seibold was awarded the Distinguished Faculty Award on April 16, 1993 and an additional award for her 12 years of service to Gannon. According to Prof. Mary Sue Smith, “Cathy’s success in life and particularly in nursing has been her belief that all persons are to be treated with dignity and that each person deserves kind, considerate, and loving care and understanding.”

After retiring in 1993, she went on to work part time for the Arthritis Associates. Prof. Seibold passed away at the age of 83 on September 25, 2013.

By Samantha Dorn
Mr. Charles M. Murphy

Charles "Chuck" Murphy attended high school in Erie, Pennsylvania at Cathedral Preparatory School. After graduating high school he attended Gannon University to receive his bachelor’s degree in 1964, then attended SUNY Albany for his master’s degree in social work in 1968. To complete his formal education, Mr. Murphy graduated from the Academy of Certified Social Workers in 1973. The following year he was hired at Gannon University as the director of the Social Work Program. His initial task was to get Gannon’s Social Work Program accredited a task that he met with enthusiasm and great success. Named the Social Worker of the Year in 1986 by the National Association of Social Workers, Mr. Murphy dedicated his life to the Social Work Program at Gannon, instilling the students he taught with values that would benefit them throughout their careers. He said, "… social work has to do with transmitting values, to help students develop values that are helpful in working with a wide range of people."

Among his accomplishments are: being responsible for the development of the Human Resources Directory, which is a major resource tool for the Erie Area; serving as President of the Faculty Senate and Faculty Athletic Representative; and serving a brief stint as Dean of Humanities. Monsignor Lorei said of Mr. Murphy that he is, "firmly committed to the ideals and objectives of Gannon,” and added that this is particularly important in an area like Social Work, which abounds with “significant moral issues, implications, and sensitivities."

Mr. Murphy received the Distinguished Faculty Award in 1994. He retired from Gannon in 2008, though he continues teaching as an adjunct professor today.

By Avery Craig
Dr. Halit Kosar, was born in Istanbul, Turkey. He attended Istanbul Technical University, where he earned his degree in mechanical engineering and his Ph.D. in Mechanisms and Machine Dynamics. Dr. Kosar was no stranger to Gannon University, however. He was a post-doctoral fellow at Case Institute of Technology when he first started at Gannon and then a professor of Computer Assisted Analysis and Design in Robotics. He went on and became Chair of the Department of Engineering, and was promoted to Dean of the College of Science and Engineering soon after, where he served for 15 years, 1974 – 1988. Dr. Kosar also has done a lot of research and consulting work for many Erie-based companies. He even conducted a seminar in Turkey, where he was invited by the United Nations. After stepping away from the dean’s position, Dr Kosar returned to teaching and retired in 1995. With his outstanding achievement and qualifications, Dr. Halit Kosar won the Distinguished Faculty Award in 1994.

By Sabirah Chen
Reverend Monsignor Gerald L. Orbanek received the Distinguished Faculty Award in 1995 for his search for truth while keeping a commitment of faith and for helping people to seek understanding as they journey into God’s Kingdom. In 1996, he became Monsignor.

Father Orbanek grew up in Erie, Pennsylvania; he attended St. Mary’s Seminary in Baltimore, Maryland and received a B.A. in philosophy in 1962. He continued his education at St. Michael’s College in the University of Toronto where in 1971 he received a M.A. in theology and also started his doctoral studies. On May 19, 1966, in Erie, Father Orbanek became ordained at St. Peter Cathedral. Also in 1966, Father Orbanek started teaching at Gannon University where he was an instructor and was eventually promoted to an assistant professor. In 1974, he became the chair of the Theology Department. Father Orbanek taught many courses during his time at Gannon, and some of the courses included: Major Themes of the Old Testament, Introduction to Theology, Introduction to the Gospel, and Theology of Worship. Starting in 1977, Father Orbanek published a weekly Q and A column in the Lakeshore Visitor which was a weekly publication in the Erie Diocese. In addition to writing his weekly columns, he was a member of the Lakeshore Visitors Advisory Board. While in Ergenzingen, Germany on June 28, 2006, Father Orbanek was knighted and became a Knight in the Dukedom of Hohenberg, Germany. During the fall of 2008, Father Orbanek retired from Gannon.

By Katharine Ressler
Prof. Thomas J. Leonardi

Thomas J. Leonardi was born on May 14, 1944, in Erie, Pennsylvania. He had two sons, Craig and Andrew, with his wife Sandra Taraszki. He majored in sociology and minored in criminal deviance for his bachelor’s degree. He earned his master’s degree with a major in social science and a minor in corrections and criminal justice. He enjoyed sailing, kayaking, fishing, rollerblading, and cross-country skiing. He served in the U.S. Air Force from 1966-1972. He then began to teach at Gannon University in the criminal justice department until his death in 1995.

Shortly after his death, Gannon University named Prof. Thomas Leonardi a Distinguished Faculty Award recipient. He was known as being a helper to the students by listening to them, advising them with their problems, and actually taking the time to care about the people that they were becoming. He helped students make connections in the professional world because he had so many connections in the world of criminal justice. He helped Gannon University’s Criminal Justice Department grow from a small, struggling department to one of Gannon’s largest and most successful departments. Prof. Leonardi was an inspirational friend and father. During his last months he inspired people by telling them to, “Laugh hard, smile often, and love deeply.” Thomas J Leonardi died of cancer on March 18, 1995.

By Rachael Luciano
Dr. Michael L. Bucholtz

Dr. Michael Bucholtz has been a member of the Gannon faculty for more than 25 years in the chemistry department. In 1995, he was given the Distinguished Faculty Award. He received this award for his capacity for outstanding professional accomplishments which were often shown throughout his love of chemistry. He is known for his teaching of the challenging Organic Chemistry. He developed a widely acknowledged program. Students respect him for his engaging manner and the ability to make dry sciences come alive in interesting and challenging ways. He is also known for his availability to help students. Dr. Bucholtz has been quite active in organizations like the American Chemical Society, Sigma Pi Sigma, and Phi Kappa Phi. He served as treasurer of the Pennsylvania Academy of Science. He holds a doctoral degree from Florida State University. Through his work, Gannon received a grant from the Analytical Chemistry Society of Pittsburgh.

By Paul LeVan
Prof. Sally E. Schuster

Professor Sally Schuster began teaching at Villa Maria College as a registered nurse and a professor of nursing. Throughout her career, she became known for being not only extremely organized and rewarding well-done completed work, but also for her ability to mix creativity and the liberal arts with professional education while teaching her students.

She was featured in an article in the February 1994 issue of *Journal of Nursing Education*, which described a unique assignment in which she gave students an assignment to write haikus (a type of Japanese poetry) about their experiences working with both elderly patients and new mothers, and expressing their feelings about life and death. She even once helped deliver a set of twins while volunteering at the Shankar Seva Sansthan Charitable Health Care Center in northeastern India. Through this, and other traveling experiences that she had over her career, she helped to bring global culture and religious issues to the classroom.

Prof. Schuster won the Distinguished Faculty Award in 1996 for her work and impact on the students she taught. Shortly before her retirement in 1997, she also received a Service Award from Dr. Seigley—who was then the Dean of the College of Sciences, Engineering, and Health Sciences—for her work as an “excellent clinician and mentor for students.”

By Samantha Dorn
Dr. Samuel Lyle Hazen is the son of Charles Hazen and G. Roene Simons Hazen. He was born in Greenville, Pennsylvania and grew up in Waterford, Pennsylvania. He attended Penn State University and earned his bachelor’s degree in 1965. He then went on to earn his maser’s degree from the University of Buffalo in 1969 and his doctoral degree from the University of Michigan in 1975.

Before arriving at Gannon, Dr. Hazen worked at the Cornell Aeronautical Laboratory as an engineer from 1965 to 1976. He then went to work for RCA to work on the B-1 Bomber in Los Angeles, California. After working there from 1976 to 1979, Dr. Hazen decided he would rather teach and impact people’s lives than work on a bomber with such a great ability for destruction. Therefore, Gannon welcomed him in 1979. He earned tenure in 1981 and was promoted from Associate Professor to Professor of Electrical Engineering in 1983. While at Gannon, Dr. Hazen served as chairman of the Electrical Engineering Department for 10 years, developed and taught more than ten new courses, developed the Embedded Software option in the Graduate Engineering Program, and initiated a joint program with General Electric through which graduate students at Gannon are supported to complete their studies in Software Engineering. In 1987, Dr. Hazen spent six months teaching at Midwest Technical University in Ankara, Turkey. For all his accomplishments while at Gannon, as well as his influence on students beyond the classroom, he was awarded the Distinguished Faculty Award in 1997. He then went on to retire in 2000.

By Jesse Nych
Dr. Cherie Ann Haeger came to Gannon University in 1967 and from that moment she made immense impacts on the Gannon community. Although she passed away in 1997, her work at the university lives on. Dr. Haeger attended several colleges and universities to ultimately obtain her Ph.D. in English; two of the universities she attended were Duquesne University and The University of Michigan. While in school, Dr. Haeger specialized in Medieval and Renaissance British literature, a unique field that she pursued with passion. At Gannon, Dr. Haeger held various teaching positions in the English department, primarily as an associate English professor, a position that she held for the last 25 of her 30 years at Gannon. At the university she was honored with numerous awards and served on multiple boards, programs, and committees. She held a seat on Gannon’s Liberal Studies Committee and served as the Coordinator of Special Academic Events for the university, positions that she not only took seriously, but used to benefit her university immensely. Outside of Gannon, Dr. Haeger was successful in the Erie community and beyond. In addition to teaching summer seminars at Yale University, Dr. Haeger was on the executive committee of the Western Pennsylvania Symposium on World Literature, and was affiliated with the Modern Language Association (MLA). Furthermore, Dr. Haeger was an extensively published author of plays, short stories, poetry, and even photography. Not only was she published in several fields, but she also received notable awards in every area she pursued. Dr. Haeger received the Distinguished Faculty Award in 1998, the year after her untimely death. Although her time at the university was cut short, Dr. Haeger lived a fuller life than most and left impacts that many could not hope to achieve in several lifetimes.

By Hannah Merrifield
Professor Mary Sue Smith was born on July 23, 1939, in Edinboro, Pennsylvania, and died in 2011. She was the daughter of Sylvester James and Hazel Snyder. She earned a diploma in nursing from the Saint Vincent Hospital School of Nursing in 1960. From there, she went on to attain her Bachelor of Science in Nursing from the University of Pittsburgh in 1963. Afterwards, she attended Edinboro State College for graduate credits from 1964-69.

Prof. Smith began her career in the Villa Maria School of Nursing, now part of Gannon University, in 1967. She played a monumental role in transitioning Villa Maria into Gannon University. She was very involved in her time at Gannon University and held many positions. These include: Director of Continuing Education; Chairperson of the Department of Nursing; Associate Dean; Dean of the College of the Health Sciences, and Academic Director of the Advising Center.

She earned her Distinguished Faculty Award in 1998 for her continual involvement and achievements. These achievements included – but were not limited to – Outstanding Nurse of Erie County and Site Visitor for the Pennsylvania Department of Education. Loretta Siegley spoke fondly of Prof. Smith when she was given the Distinguished Faculty Award and stated that she was “a woman of highest integrity, who is truly dignified, and most certainly distinguished.”

By Amanda Mock
Prof. David J. Gustafson

David J. Gustafson, recipient of the Distinguished Faculty Award of 1999, is currently an associate professor of Biology at Gannon University and has held multiple positions at Gannon, including Chairperson of the Biology Department, professor of Ecology, and Director of both the Pre-Physical Therapy and Pre-Pharmacy programs. After teaching at Villa Maria College, Prof. Gustafson was assimilated into Gannon University and has been here ever since - a career with Gannon lasting over 32 years and counting. At Gannon, he has given his all to his institution and students. Being a lover of nature and adventure since childhood, Prof. Gustafson yearly takes a group of students to Yellowstone Park to study its ecosystem. Furthermore, according to Dr. Steven J. Ropski, Prof. Gustafson’s passion for his work is also responsible for forty to fifty freshman enrollments each year. His dedication to Gannon is also evident in his nearly 25 other teaching awards, including the Student Government Association’s Excellence in Teaching Award in 1995.

Prof. Gustafson also shines in service to his community. From studying limnology at Lake Erie as a graduate student, to serving as treasurer of the Presque Isle Audubon Society for eleven years, to chairing the Cascade Creek Wetlands Project of twenty researchers from seven different schools, Prof. Gustafson has been a key ingredient in Erie’s ecological community. He is also a routine speaker at local high schools on the topic of environmental issues and ecology. Underlying all of Prof. Gustafson’s career and life is his adventurous spirit and love of experiencing life. His hobbies include wildlife photography, trout fishing, underwater cave exploring, and mountain climbing, including climbing Mount Kilimanjaro. He has managed to bring his drive for nature and life to Gannon University and his students, and they will forever be thankful for his outstanding service.

By James Gruss
Dr. Mehmet Cultu

Dr. Mehmet Cultu is not just another smiling face walking around campus. Just take a stroll down to the Student Success Center in Palumbo and look up as you pass through the hallway. You will see Dr. Cultu, one of Gannon’s Distinguished Faculty, named in 2000. He has been teaching here since long before most of our students were born. Dr. Cultu is no stranger, especially in the engineering school. In fact, if you happen to drop by Zurn you would most probably bump into him helping out some students. He started his journey at Gannon in 1978 and got his tenure soon after. Ever since then he has been actively involved in many and various activities in and around campus.

Dr. Cultu has been in the IEEE committee, Electrical Engineering Professional Society, for years now and is still a very active member today. He has been awarded Man of the Year twice by the society. He is a branch counselor and has been awarded for his outstanding role. Dr. Cultu has also been the chairperson for the Electrical Engineering Department since 1994.

He is also very active in the Academic Advising Center. He never turns down help to students, including those from overseas. Dr. Cultu is always helping out international students in any way he can; he was once an international student advisor dealing with everything from visas to picking up students from the airport. But as well as all of these professional accomplishments, Dr. Cultu is a simple man who enjoys sports. He was once a youth soccer trainer and he enjoys collecting stamps. The next time you may need some help or just a chat about the school’s past, look him up.

By Yang Chen
Dr. Mahesh C. Aggarwal

Dr. Mahesh Aggarwal has been an extremely active and influential member of the Gannon community for more than 25 years. After receiving his Ph.D. in mechanical engineering from the University of Michigan in 1978, Dr. Aggarwal entered Gannon’s engineering department as a brilliant young mind with great ambition. Through his research and over the following decades, Dr. Aggarwal made great strides in the field of locomotive cooling. His work with General Electric Transportation yielded seven U.S. patents over the years for developments and improvements of cooling systems for a variety of locomotives including Tier 3, Tier 4, and Euro locomotives. A member of professional societies such as the American Society of Mechanical Engineers and the American Society of Engineering Education, Dr. Aggarwal has been a firm advocate for the promotion of the STEM subjects (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) in education. As such, he has published a number of educational materials for use in his field for a wide variety of age levels. With service as chair of the mechanical engineering department at Gannon, Dr. Aggarwal has dedicated his life to his work and betterment of his students and undoubtedly deserved joining the high ranks of Gannon’s Distinguished Faculty in 2001.

By Nicholas Erdland
If there were one word to describe Dr. Kenneth Andersen in his time here at Gannon, it would be dedicated. Throughout all his years serving the university as a biology professor, Dr. Andersen was an actively involved member of the Gannon community. Known for his calm and caring demeanor, Dr. Andersen was renowned for his research of bat species on the Andros and San Salvador islands of the Bahamas; of which he discovered two! His yearly trips to the islands were favorites of Gannon students, and their work, under his guidance, brought a greater understanding of the ecology of the area. Dr. Andersen also has been actively involved with the Gannon faculty, serving on the Academic Affairs Committee, Faculty Senate, and the University Retention Task Force. He was chair of the Compensation Committee. In acknowledgement of his years of hard work and dedication to the biology department, Dr. Andersen eventually was appointed acting dean of the College of Sciences, Engineering, and Health Sciences. But even with his seemingly overloaded schedule of commitments, Dr. Andersen remained dedicated to serving his community. In fact, he created a local program of moving science vans that take quality, up-to-date science equipment to high schools that otherwise wouldn’t have access to it. Dr. Kenneth Andersen, who was given a Distinguished Faculty Award in 2001, will always be remembered for his generosity and love for education. He is a prime example of a distinguished professor.

By Nicholas Erbland
Dr. Walter S. Minot was known as one of Gannon’s most challenging professors. Prof. John Young and the English Department nominated Dr. Minot for the Distinguished Faculty Award in 2002 by saying, “coupled with Dr. Minot’s high expectations is his unqualified respect for students.” He referred to students with the title Mr. and Ms. to voice his sincerity. Dr. Philip Kelly nominated Dr. Minot based on his scholarship and ability to make people laugh. Because of this, students encouraged other students to take his classes even though they were among the most challenging. His wit and humor was often repetitive but, Dr. Kelly said, “Walter’s predictability is much of his charm.”

Throughout his 36 years at Gannon, Dr. Minot held countless positions on committees such as President of Faculty Senate and Director of Writing Across the Curriculum. Among his contributions to Gannon was helping to develop the writing curriculum for the English Department. Outside of the classroom, Walter wrote pieces for *College Composition and Communication*, a national professional journal, as well as for the *Erie Today* magazine. He also was co-founder of the Robert Burns Scottish Club of Erie. An advocate of poetry, Dr. Minot studied Burns as well as many other poets. Gannon is proud to have had a man so honorable teach its students.

“Walt’s departure from the English Department marks the end of an era – the era of his trademark stamp on hundreds of English majors because of his guidance and direction,” said Dr. Kelly.

By Daniel Hansen
Dr. Michael J. Panza became recognized as a Distinguished Faculty member here at Gannon University in 2003, but many people know him by other means. Characterized by his quietness, Dr. Panza is known to be a very tough teacher, but is still well liked and respected by his students in the Mechanical Engineering Department. He works very hard for his students, even helping many to receive full scholarships through his work. On top of his contributions to his students he has made many improvements to the Gannon community as well. He has helped to improve department laboratories, prepare the department for accreditation, prepare for research, and provide funds for the ME faculty.

Some of the works that brought upon this accreditation within the campus were: rising to chair of the Mechanical Engineering Department, serving on Faculty Senate and university committees, and becoming an adjunct while teaching the same hours as a full-time and completing a dissertation simultaneously. Outside of his work known here, Dr. Panza has also been published, writing very highly acclaimed papers detailing research he has conducted. One was a technical, peer-reviewed paper that was published in the *Noise Control Engineering Journal*. Dr. Panza is one of 300 board-certified members that publish the journal. Also, he wrote a research paper titled “Euler-Maclaurin Closed Form Finite State Space Model for a String Applied to Broadband Plate Vibrations,” which was published in the *Journal of Mathematical Methods in Engineering*.

By Giona DiMarco
Dr. Majorie J. Krebs

Dr. Krebs was a Gannon University faculty member from 1986 until 2004, when she passed away from leukemia. She was honored with the Distinguished Faculty Award in 2004. She earned her bachelor’s degree at Pennsylvania State University and her master’s and doctoral degrees at the University of Virginia. She served as Sr. Research Scientist at both Northwest Institute for Research in Pennsylvania and Honeywell Inc. Systems and Research Center in Minnesota, where she designed aircraft cockpits. Before her time at Gannon, Dr. Krebs served as Assistant Professor of Psychology at New Mexico State University.

At Gannon University, she served as Associate Professor of Psychology from 1992 until 1994 when she became a Professor of Psychology. Her passion was teaching Cross Cultural Psychology and finding new and exciting ways to present the course material. She was responsible for the development and maintenance of undergraduate research curriculum in the Psychology Department. Dr. Krebs always encouraged her students to present their work to the Western Pennsylvania Undergraduate Psychology Conference, where she served on the board. She was also very interested in international affairs and traveling. In her lifetime, she travelled to Iceland, Greenland, South America, and Africa, where she photographed her experiences. She served as International Student Advisor for many years at Gannon, supported a successful Uganda Drive, and even started the “International Dinner” for students. Her leadership positions at Gannon include President of Faculty Senate, Director of Student Outcomes Assessment, and Chair of the Psychology Department. Gannon University greatly benefited from having Dr. Krebs as a member of the faculty.

By Amanda Mock
Dr. Terry Giles, an Erie local, came to Gannon in 1992 and has transformed the university since that moment. Not only has this Michigan State graduate been an outstanding professor of theology at the university for years, but he has held many notable positions including Director of the University Honors Program (‘96-‘98), Vice President and President of the Faculty Senate (‘03-‘05), and acting Dean of Graduate Studies (‘00-‘01). In addition, Dr. Giles is a local author and co-author of numerous books and journal articles in his field of study. He has worked with highly reputable authors and produced several works, some of which are distributed around the globe, and others used for bible studies in graduate schools. Beyond these successes, Dr. Giles has taught all over the world, serving as a guest-lecturer on four different continents.

Here at Gannon, Dr. Giles teaches courses on religion, specifically Hebrew Bible study and contemporary Protestantism. One fascinating aspect of his career is that Dr. Giles has hands-on experience, having participated in several archaeological excavations in Jordan and Israel. He uses the knowledge he gains from these experiences to help his students connect with biblical history. In addition to these shining characteristics, Dr. Giles is a family man and is adored by the Gannon community. He is noted for his “honesty, integrity, and formidable intellect” by colleagues. In 2005, he was given the Distinguished Faculty Award. Clearly, Gannon is lucky to have a professor as dedicated to his students and to his university as Dr. Terry Giles.

By Hannah Merrifield
Dr. Philip H. Kelly

Dr. Philip Kelly has been a member of the Gannon faculty, and at times the administration, for 46 years. In that time he has held numerous administrative positions and positions in professional organizations. In a time of need, Dr. Kelly is the man that Gannon has always leaned on. In 2006, he was given the Distinguished Faculty Award. He has served as Dean, Interim Provost, and Interim President of Gannon University. However, there is no question that Dr. Kelly’s first love is teaching and working with students in a spectrum of English classes, including poetry and mythology in literature.

As dean, he started the Academic Advising Center for students to receive individual assistance. It is still utilized tremendously today. The time and effort Dr. Kelly puts into his work is astonishing. Outside of Gannon he is the same honorable and determined man. He has several publications in different professional journals. When the weather is nice you can find him riding his bicycle to and from school. He also made it his goal to start a foreign exchange student program with China. According to many who know him, there are few men as well-rounded as Dr. Kelly is. He even played a role in athletics at Gannon as the Faculty Athletics Representative to the NCAA. His contributions to Gannon’s success made him the perfect candidate for the Distinguished Faculty Award. His English Department colleagues made a statement when he received the honor: “Phil may not have come to Gannon as the proverbial shooting star, but he has quietly emerged as the North Star, fixed firmly in the heavens of academe.”

By Daniel Hansen
Prof. Anthony J. (A.J.) Miceli

Professor Anthony J. (A.J.) Miceli started working at Gannon in 1974, making 2014 his 39th year at Gannon. Soon after arriving, he was moved up to some pretty important responsibilities. In 1975, he was asked to become the Manager of WETG-TV, which eventually became WFXP, Fox. He then accompanied this with being the advisor for WERG, Gannon’s on-campus radio station. In 1979, Professor Miceli was asked to become the chairman of the Theater and Communication Arts department. Throughout all of this, he continued working in the community; helping to pioneer Erie’s internet services with Erie-Net (now Velocity.net), as well as offering marketing seminars in E-Commerce. In November 1997, he was offered the Teacher of the Month Award for “inspiring his students and pushing them to do the best that they can.”

Throughout his career, Prof. Miceli was offered many and various awards, such as the Distinguished Faculty Award in 2007. He was nominated for the Distinguished Faculty Award for being a dynamic teacher and promoting Gannon spirit. He feels pride in all that he has done in teaching as well as challenging and caring for students. He feels honored and humbled from being given this award, and says that it is the best thing that has ever happened to him, being the highest honor somebody at Gannon can receive. He feels that the other people who have received this award are his heroes, and he is amazed to be up in their ranks. The things that are most important to him about the professor’s life are scholarship, service, and teaching.

By Paul LeVan
Reverend Robert P. Susa, winner of the Distinguished Faculty Award in 2008, has been known as one of the many great professors at Gannon. A graduate of Cathedral Preparatory School right here in Erie, Pennsylvania, Father Susa earned a bachelor’s degree in philosophy from St. Bonaventure University and later got his master’s degree in economics from the Catholic University of America. He was ordained into the priesthood in the diocese of Erie in 1961 and began working at Gannon that same year. He started in the economics department and rose to the positions of Assistant and Associate Professor of Economics, later becoming the department chair. He defined economics as a social science that explores ways people behave and organize themselves. While at Gannon, Father Susa served on more than five different committees and held several chair positions. He was the first director of the Gannon College Center of Economics Education. He was also director of the Honors Program, which originally was only offered in the Humanities. He believed that the Honors Program provided challenging classes to motivated and talented students. He worked with thousands of students and loved the interactions among them. He started every meeting in the Honors Program with the saying, “Breathing in, I calm myself. Breathing out, I smile.” He was director for 20 years. He was also very involved in the community and was passionate about his position as the associate national coordinator of Pax Christi USA, which is a peace movement that supports Christian nonviolence. Father Susa was also an avid runner. He incorporated health and well-being into his lessons. His outlook on the world and his passion for teaching shows why he is among the distinguished faculty at Gannon.

By Amanda Granata
Dr. Hamid Torab received his bachelor’s degree of science in mechanical engineering in 1977 from the University of Tehran, and then went on to receive both his master’s and doctoral degrees from the University of Michigan in 1979 and 1984, respectively. He became an assistant professor at Gannon University in 1984 and then became an associate professor in 1987. Dr. Torab reached Full Professorship in 1992 and has taught a variety of engineering courses such as Thermodynamics, Alternative Energy Systems, and Fluid Mechanics. Dr. Torab has also served as Director of the Graduate Engineering Program, Chairman of the Department of Mechanical Engineering, Director of the School of Engineering and Computer Sciences, and the Dean of the College of Sciences, Engineering, and Health Sciences. During his time at Gannon, Dr. Torab has assisted in developing several new programs: Sport & Exercise Science, Biotechnology, and Scientific and Technical Sales. Outside of Gannon, Dr. Torab is a member of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, American Society of Engineering Educators, American Society of Heating, Refrigeration, and Air Conditioning, and is a licensed Professional Engineer in Pennsylvania and Delaware. He has had 20 works published and has served as a private consultant for companies such as GE Transportation, Zurn Industries, AMSCO, Eriez Magnetics, and American Meter. Dr. Torab’s service to Gannon University and assistance in developing new programs earned him a Distinguished Faculty Award in 2008.

By Jacob Gorton
Dr. Thomas S. Ostrowski

Dr. Thomas Ostrowski is a professor of Political Science here at Gannon University. He was born in Erie, Pennsylvania, and graduated from Cathedral Preparatory School. After obtaining his doctorate in Political Science from the University of Houston in 1978, he began obtaining much experience in an academic setting as well as city and county governments. He began working under such institutions and organizations as Lee College, Texas Dept. of Corrections, Houston-Galveston Area Council of Government, Greater Erie Community Action Committee, and the Crime Prevention Association in Philadelphia. Originally working at Gannon as an assistant professor in 1976, he became an associate professor at Gannon in 1980. In the years following, he became Dean of Humanities; Provost and VP of Academic Affairs, and Acting President of Gannon. He has a wife, Barbara, and two sons, as well as several grandchildren.

Dr. Ostrowski received the Distinguished Faculty Award in 2009, especially because he "challenges students and creates an open dialogue to create opportunity for creativity and development of character," and because "he is one of the most knowledgeable and friendly professors at Gannon - everyone loves his class - [he is] a great guy!" Described by his peers as one of Gannon's "most experienced and broad-gauged administrators," Dr. Ostrowski was also commended by former Gannon president Monsignor Rubino, who said he "has been a strong and persistent voice in the decision-making arena and a herald for quality and progress in our academic life. He is committed to the Mission and core traditions of Gannon University."

By Avery Craig
The wonderful Professor Annmarie George, winner of the Distinguished Professor Faculty Award in 2010, has put in an astounding 40-plus years at Gannon. Prof. George graduated from Daemon College where she obtained a B.S. in Music Education. She continued her studies at S.U.N.Y. at Fredonia and obtained a M.S. in Music Education. During her years at Gannon, Prof. George has been a fine arts instructor and part of the Admissions Department. She is Professor of Fine Arts. While at Gannon, she has founded three successful programs that continue to be part of Gannon today, has served on nine different committees, and has published over ten pieces of work. Prof. George is also eager in community involvement. Although she has received many awards for her commitment and excellence, she said she feels that the love and little things about her students create a much deeper sense of happiness. Her passion for music started with a flat tire in front of the Erie Conservatory of Music when she was a child, and still burns with the same intensity today. She has a fire to share her passion with her students and watch them grow to love the arts as much as she does. In her free time, Prof. George does crafts and floral arrangements, gardens, draws, and has recently taken up pottery. Her involvement in the community and at Gannon, along with her many achievements, have made it recognizable why she is part of the Distinguished Faculty at Gannon.

By Amanda Granata
The Very Reverend Father Joseph C. Gregorek

The Very Reverend Father Joseph C. Gregorek, Ph.D., V.F is currently a professor of biology at Gannon University and has been with the university for more than 35 years in the biology department. Father Gregorek was born in Ambridge, Pennsylvania, to Chester Gregorek and Mary Dolecki and graduated from Cathedral Preparatory School in 1957. He then went on to pursue his undergraduate studies at St. Bonaventure University, receiving a B.A. in philosophy in 1965. He was ordained at St. Peter’s Cathedral on May 27, 1965, as a Roman Catholic Priest in the Diocese of Erie. Father Gregorek continued on to the Catholic University of America, where he received a M.S. in general biology, and then attended the Medical College of Virginia to pursue a Ph.D. While there, he did a groundbreaking dissertation on the pineal gland.

Father Gregorek began his teaching career at Gannon College in 1965 as an instructor in biology, and then took a leave of absence from Gannon, teaching at several colleges in California until 1992, when he returned to Gannon, where he remains today. He was awarded the Darbaker Award by the Pennsylvania Academy of Science in 1977 for his paper entitled “A Light Microscope Study of the Anatomic Development of the Golden Hamster Pineal Complex.” Father Gregorek was also selected as a member of the US-Orient exchange program in 1985, where he was one of 20 members of the American Association of Anatomists who lectured in medical schools in Hong Kong, Singapore, Djakarta, and Bangkok.

Father Gregorek was honored on April 8, 2011, as a distinguished professor of biology and his portrait was added to the wall of distinguished professors on October 7, 2011.

By Amanda Bachman
Dr. David C. Kozak received the Distinguished Faculty Award in 2011 for a myriad of reasons. He has a long, long list of impressive accomplishments. He was a member of Gannon’s 1966 graduating class and returned to Gannon as a professor in 1988; he has been teaching here ever since. During his time away from Gannon, Dr. Kozak taught at the Air Force Academy and The National War College in Washington D.C. He was a visiting professor at West Point Military Academy. Not only has he taught at these prestigious schools, but he also served as an Air Force officer from 1968 to 1988, wrote and contributed to 10 books, was a Congressional Fellow in 1981 and 1982, and has made several appearances on CNN. Dr. Kozak has also given speeches in countries such as Israel, Saudi Arabia, Australia, and Jordan.

Dr. Kozak has used all of these life experiences to be an exceptional professor. He always tries to bring influential figures and authors in to speak to his classes. Several years ago, he taught a class called The Ridge Governorship, and he brought in Gov. Tom Ridge to talk to his class; then he took his students to Harrisburg to hear Gov. Ridge and his Cabinet speak. He also uses the connections he has developed to help students. Fellow faculty member Dr. Thomas Ostrowski, stated, “The thing about David Kozak is he has gotten more students into graduate school and law school through his letters of recommendation than anybody I know. He also gets on the phone and calls.” Students are always his priority, and he does whatever he can to provide them with the best opportunities possible.

One of the reasons Dr. Kozak loves Gannon University so much is because this is where he met his wife MaryAnne. They are the first set of Gannon graduates to be married. In an interview, when I asked him why he decided to return to Gannon, he said it was like coming back home. He thinks the students at Gannon are great and enjoys the Catholic setting of the school. He does not credit all his personal accomplishments for being the reason as to why he received the distinguished faculty award, but believes that it honors all the people who have been a part of his network as well as all of his great students.

By Danielle Munsee
Berwyn Moore, Professor of English at Gannon University, was awarded the Distinguished Faculty Award in 2012. She was recognized for her excellence in teaching, writing and 25 years of service to the school.

Though she had a love for reading and writing from a young age, when college came around, a major in English was not the first option. Prof. Moore attended University of North Carolina for her Bachelors Degree and with a background in health care; she started off as a nursing major. But her love for reading and writing was just too great and in her senior year, she declared the major in English.

That sparked Prof. Moore’s writing career. After earning her Master of Fine Arts degree from Bowling Green State University, she began winning awards from poetry contests such as National Poetry Contest, a prestigious literary journal published by the University of Memphis. She has had her work published in many national journals and is the author of two books - *Dissolution of Ghosts* and *O Body Swayed*. Prof. Moore has been described as “a completely contemporary American poet” and praised for her clever and ingenious way of expressing herself in her poems.

When asked about her proudest achievement yet, Prof. Moore said that it was being named Erie County’s first poet laureate in 2009-2010. She was selected out of 16 applicants and chosen for her quality of poetry, experience and presentation. With the help and contribution of Erie residents, the book *Dwelling in Possibility: Voices of Erie County* was published in 2010.

Known by students and faculty alike as “Beri,” Prof. Moore displays her passion for teaching as she does with her writing. As she said in an interview, “It is extremely important to reach people in classrooms -- to give them a picture that connects life not just in academics but in understanding.”

By Sabirah Chen
Dr. Karinna M. Vernaza

Dr. Karinna M. Vernaza joined the Gannon Community in 2003 as a full time teaching faculty member and Assistant Professor in the Mechanical Engineering Department. Dr. Vernaza received the Distinguished Faculty Award in 2013 for being an excellent teacher, researcher, and colleague. She also agreed to serve as the Interim Associate Dean of the college of Engineering and Business.

She is the first and only tenured female associate professor in Mechanical Engineering at Gannon University. Vernaza is a native of Panama City, Panama, where she was educated as well as in the United States. She has taught courses on both the undergraduate and graduate level as well as developed and implemented new courses in the mechanical engineering department. She is acknowledged at Gannon for being enthusiastic, organized, dedicated, and knowledgeable in her profession. In addition to being a professor, Dr. Vernaza is a proactive advisor and helps her advisees to succeed in their programs of study. She directs students in student learning as well as research projects. She is very involved in the Gannon community, serving for nine years as mentor for the Gannon chapter of the Society for Woman Engineers (SWE). She has had 20 peer-reviewed, professional articles published. She is not only an outstanding professor, but is also a huge inspiration and mentor for young women seeking to be engineers. Through Dr. Vernaza’s immense amount of knowledge, determination, and hard work, she has strengthened not only the Engineering Program, but Gannon University as a whole.

By Lisa Feronti
Dr. Suzanne Richard

The 2014 recipient of the Distinguished Professor Award, Dr. Suzanne Richard, is a professor in Gannon’s Department of History and Archaeology as well as the Department of Theology. She is also the coordinator of the Archaeology and Public History Concentration and the Archaeology and Culture Minor. Lastly, she also directs the Archaeology Museum at Gannon. Beginning at the end of the 20th century, Dr. Richard has worked at Gannon for 16 years and has created a very well-rounded teaching experience with her scholarly recognition, national and international reputation, leadership and service, and her participation in many archaeological activities. As for her scholarly recognitions, she has written 85 scholarly articles, two books (both received “best book” awards), a Museum catalog, and 55 papers at various conferences. She also has two books currently in preparation as well. In addition to being the Director of the Collins Institute for Archaeological Research, she was also the first American woman to receive a permit for excavations in Jordan for an archaeological expedition.

Despite her shortage of free time, she participates in several activities outside of Gannon. She governs and does service work with the American Schools of Oriental Research as well as being on their Board of Trustees. Dr. Richard works with students to go on study abroad trips to Jordan and has become an incredibly revered professor at the university. She continues to strive for excellence for herself and her students. Her diversity in knowledge and activities ensure a cultivating experience in her classrooms.

By Abby Wu
APPENDIX

Aggarwal, Dr. Mahesh C. ................................................. 2001
Anderson, Dr. Kenneth ................................................. 2001
Beyer, Dr. Richard ....................................................... 1984
Bucholtz, Dr. Michael L. ............................................... 1995
Cultu, Dr. Mehmet ........................................................ 2000
DeStefano, Sr. Lucille ................................................... 1990
Eichelsdorfer, Dr. David ............................................... 1989
Fleming, Dr. John ........................................................ 1984
Franz, Rev. Edward Q. ............................................... 1988
Freeman, Dr. James ...................................................... 1984
George, Prof. Annmarie ................................................ 2010
Giles, Dr. Terry ............................................................ 2005
Gustafson, Prof. David J. .............................................. 1999
Haeger, Dr. Cherie Ann ................................................. 1998
Hazen, Dr. Samuel Lyle ................................................ 1997
Kelly, Dr. Philip H. ....................................................... 2006
Kohlmiller, Dr. Elmer Frank ......................................... 1989
Kosar, Dr. Halit ............................................................ 1994
Kozak, Dr. David C. ...................................................... 2011
Krebs, Dr. Marjorie J. .................................................. 2004
Latimer, Prof. William N. .............................................. 1985
Leonardi, Prof. Thomas J. ............................................ 1995
Lundy, Dr. Charles ....................................................... 1988
McCullough, Rev. Msgr. James ..................................... 1985
Miceli, Prof. Anthony J. (A.J.) ..................................... 2007
Minot, Dr. Walter S. ..................................................... 2002
Moore, Prof. Berwyn J. ................................................. 2012
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