

GRIFF NOTES & UPDATES

FALL AND WINTER OF 2025



CANISIUS
UNIVERSITY

GRIFF NOTES

1950s

'55 BA, HON '03 Gene F. Jankowski released his book *Behind the Eye: My Life in Media* on September 18, 2025.

1970s

'71 BA, HON '97 Anne P. Gioia was recognized by Buffalo Business First for fundraising over \$650 million for cancer research at the Roswell Park Alliance Foundation. Anne is a former trustee of Canisius University.

'74 BS, MBA '81 Thomas F. Keenan was recently appointed to the board of the Buffalo Fiscal Stability Authority.

'77 BA J. David Sampson, who served for ten years on the New York Court of Claims, was recently nominated by Governor Kathy Hochul and confirmed by the New York State Senate to serve as a Supreme Court Justice in the Eighth Judicial District, based in Buffalo, NY.

'79 BA Dr. Richard G. Battaglia was named chair of the board of trustees at the Health Foundation for Western and Central New York.

'79 BS David J. Nasca was elected to the Patrick P. Lee Foundation Board of Directors and will serve as the Vice-Chair of the Investment Committee.

1980s

'80 BA Michael J. Vavonese was honored with the Alumni Association's Purple and Gold Award by Christian Brothers Academy.

'83 BS, MBA '93 James F. Dentinger was recently appointed as the vice president and Buffalo regional director for the Golisano Institute, in Buffalo, NY.

'88 BA Dr. John D. Hall became a Knight of Malta, meaning a life of service, faith and charity within the Catholic church.

'88 BS, MSED '91 Donnamarie Schupp has been recognized as one of the top 25% math teachers in North Carolina for the fourth year in a row.

'88 BA Cherylyn Harley Lebon is delighted to share that she is a contributing writer on the newly published book, *Mastering the Corporate Chess Game*. The book is written for recent college graduates and young women beginning their careers.

1990s

'90 BS Dennis A. Layman was promoted in August of 2025 to Senior IT Project Manager at UT San Antonio. Dennis was previously an Intermediate IT Project Manager at UT Health San Antonio.

'90 BA Aileen Woodrich is a registered nurse and currently the nurse informaticist for Hospice of the Piedmont in Charlottesville, Virginia.

'91 BA, MBA '97 Daniel P. Mecca has been elected to a three year term on the Board of Directors at the Buffalo Club.

'92 BA Brian M. Melber takes Office as 119th President of the Bar Association of Erie County.

'93 BS, MBA '96 Allegra C. Jaros, president of Wolfson Children's Hospital, was named one of Becker's Hospital Review's "209 Women Hospital and Health System Presidents and CEOs to Know."

'94 BA Rosanna Berardi of Berardi Immigration Law wins a C-Level Award from Buffalo Business First.

'94 MS Janet R. Wojcik, Ph.D., FACS, ACSM-EP, Professor and Program Director, Exercise Science, Winthrop University was selected for the annual Kinard award for excellence in teaching.

'95 BS James M. Bellanca was promoted to Managing Director at Deloitte Consulting LLP, where he began his career in 1996. He leads enterprise-wide ERP Cloud and AI transformation initiatives for clients in the Healthcare Provider sector, helping them improve performance and deliver value, with a particular focus in supply chain.

'96 BA Kevin J. Cross Esq. was elected secretary of the Board of Directors at the Buffalo Club.

'96 BS Craig M. Horbinski MD, PhD is the new Chair of the Department of Laboratory Medicine and Pathology at Mayo Clinic Florida.

'97 MBA Michelle A. Waddell, Senior Accounting Services Specialist, has been elected as first ever elected Treasurer to the Mohawk Place Board of Directors.

'97 BS, MBA '01, Thomas F. Grzebinski II joins Gantry's commercial mortgage banking executive committee.

'98 BA Rebecca D. LaCivita Esq. has been elected to a three year term on the Board of Directors at the Buffalo Club.

'98 BS Jason B. Krempa was recently named the new Buffalo regional president of Five Star Bank.

'99 BA Marianne G. Caswell was awarded the Executive Excellence award at InvestmentNews Women to Watch Awards this year.

2000s

'01 BS Keith R. Kwiatkowski received the 2025 Erie County Bar Association Police Officer Award for his dedication to fostering positive connections between law enforcement and the community he serves. He also serves as a board member and director of the New York committee for Micah Hyde's Imagine for Youth Foundation.

'01 MS Ann Elder Regan is the Executive Director for Rush to Crush Cancer.

'02 BS Timothy D. Calkins, CFA, is the recipient of the Dr. Bernard L. Martin Award that was given by Wehle Business School at Canisius University in September of 2025.

'02 BA Brendan R. Sweeney was elected as a Town Councilman to the Town of Stanley, NC.

'03 BS Keia Clarke was recognized by Essence as CEO of the year in October of 2025.

'04 BS Julie Anna Golebiewski, PhD, is the recipient of the Rev. Thomas E. Fleming, S.J. Distinguished Service Award that was given by Wehle Business School at Canisius University in September of 2025.

'05 BA Chelsea Koehnke Gill received her Associate Professional in Talent Development (APTD) Certification in May of 2025.

'08 BS Ashley (Kasper) Engl joined Walsh Duffield Companies, Inc. in Buffalo, NY as the new Director of Technology Learning & Innovation in July of 2025.

'09 BA Charles C. Konesky graduated with an MBA from the Jack Welch Management Institute at Strayer University in December 2020, and graduated from the University of Southern California (USC) in August 2025 as a Doctor of Education (EdD) in Organizational Change and Leadership. Charles was hired as the Chief Client and Growth Officer at Taste Specific in July of 2025.

'09 BA Ricky P. Luthra joins Lippes Mathias as a partner on its corporate practice team, where he leads mergers and acquisitions for buyers, sellers, and investors, managing all phases from letters of intent through closing.

'09 BA Jovan Robinson was inducted in the Boston College High School Athletic Hall of Fame in December of 2025.

2010s

'10 Sean P. Carroll is the new Director of Fleet Logistics and Technology for Modern Disposal, a promotion that relocates Sean and his wife back to WNY.

'12 BS Christopher J. Hyzy was recently promoted to Assistant Director of Creative Services at Buffalo Toronto Public Media, where he oversees all brand and creative design for three TV stations, four radio stations, all local productions, and corporate affairs.

'13 BS, MS '20 Kareem Gray and his wife, **Alexandrea Gray, '12 BA** celebrated their 13th wedding anniversary. The two met at the library on campus. They have six beautiful children and during the summer, Kareem was promoted to a Captain in the US Army. He will be celebrating 12 years of service this new year.

'13 BA Nick P. Veronica was named the Director of Engagement at Sports Business Journal. He was previously the digital executive producer at WIVB-TV.

'15 BS Michael D. Booth finished his orthopaedic surgery fellowship at Harvard/Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston for Adult Hip and Knee Reconstruction. Michael will be starting his career at Ohio State University in the orthopaedic surgery department.

'15 BS, MEd '20 Michael W. Ertel earned his Ph.D. in Physical Education from the University of South Carolina. He was recently appointed as an Assistant Professor of Physical Education Teacher Education in the Department of Kinesiology at California State University, Long Beach.

'16 BA Michael Hockwater celebrated several accomplishments since graduating from Canisius in 2016. In 2024, Michael married Katherine Lipczynski and earned his Ed.D in Educational Practice and Innovation from the University of South Carolina. In 2025, his debut middle grade novel, "Carter Knox and the Lost Legacy" was published by NFB Publishing. He also joined the faculty of the literacy department at SUNY Cortland. In 2026, he will become an assistant professor of education at Alfred University.

'16 BS, MBA '17 Dylan Moscato was promoted to Partner at Moscato CPA LLP, January of 2026.

'17 BS Andrew P. Beiter returned home to Buffalo and is a practicing comprehensive Ophthalmologist at Southtowns Eye Center in Orchard Park.

'17 BS Morgan Saidian Williams has been promoted from a full-time zookeeper to Zoologist at Seneca Park Zoo in Rochester, NY. Morgan is currently a member of the hoofstock team, primarily working with African elephants.

'18 BA, MS '20 Anne-Marie Priola accepted a position as an LMSW II at NYS Office of Mental Health at Buffalo Psychiatric Center.

'19 MS Andrew D. Bennett, was named Vice President, Intermountain Foundation, Desert Region at Intermountain Health.

'19 BS Kathryn Caroland-MacConnell was appointed Lead Pastor of Eastside Church in the Free Methodist denomination.

'19 BA Branwyn Wilkinson Fox received a promotion from assistant director of alumni engagement to director of alumni engagement at Roberts Wesleyan University. Branwyn also received a Masters of Strategic Leadership (MSL) degree from Roberts Wesleyan University in May of 2025.

2020s

'25 BS Katie Castiglia is currently in an active year of service in the Jesuit Volunteer Corps in Oakland, CA!

'25 BA Rebecca Nagel is the new social media coordinator for the Kenmore Village Improvement Society (KVIS) team as of the Spring of 2025.

'25 Erik Schneider is part of Toastmasters District 65 serving Western and Central New York. Erik was selected as the District 65 Area 11 Director. His duties include helping area clubs, providing support, and facilitate area speech contests as members move on to the next level of competition. Erik was also inducted into the Lockport High School Distinguished Alumni Class of 2025 on August 20, 2025. He was the first person in his immediate family to receive this wonderful recognition, also the first person in his senior class and the youngest inductee.

If you are interested in submitting a professional or life update, weddings, or baby Griffs, please fill out the form [linked here!](#)

Matthew A. Skok '13
married Grace E. Gorham
on May 30, 2025.

Sean P. Stonish '15, MBAACC '16
married **Bethany D. (Wolf) Stonish '15** on July 19, 2025.

Nick P. Veronica '13
married Kelsey Anderson
on July 19, 2025.

Branwyn Wilkinson Fox '19
married F. Griffen Fox
on October 10, 2025.

Ashleigh E. Pagano '20
married **William P. Kellner '21**
on October 11, 2025 in
Annapolis, MD.



Sean P. Stonish '15, MBAACC '16 married Bethany D. (Wolf) Stonish '15 on July 19, 2025.



Nick P. Veronica '13 married Kelsey Anderson on July 19, 2025.



Branwyn Wilkinson Fox '19 married F. Griffen Fox on October 10, 2025.



Bridesmaids: Kathryn Caroland MacConnell (nee MacConnell) '19, Emyle Watkins '20 and Francesca McKernon '20.



Matthew A. Skok '13 married Grace E. Gorham on May 30, 2025.



Ashleigh E. Pagano '20 married William P. Kellner '21 on October 11, 2025.




Anne-Marie Priola '18, MS '20 married Justin Priola on March 23, 2024 in Buffalo, NY.




Heidi (Beil) Maines '07,

welcomed a daughter,

 Clara Madeline Beil born on June 7, 2024.


Courteney Miller Tinch '08,

welcomed a son,

 Lennox Arrow Tinch born on April 29, 2024.


Phil Ciallela '07, MS '15 and

Britney Godfrey welcomed a son,

 Bennett James born on August 7, 2025.

Anne-Marie Priola '18, MS '20

and Justin Priola welcomed a son,

 Gionni Priola born on April 4, 2025.

Kathleen Johnson '14

and **Nicholas Wiltsie '13**

welcomed a baby girl,

 Claire Josephine Wiltsie born on July 19, 2025.

Clara Madeline Beil

born on June 7, 2024 to

Heidi (Beil) Maines '07



Bennett James

born on August 7, 2025 to

Phil Ciallela '07, MS '15 and Britney Godfrey



Gionni Priola

born on April 4, 2025 to

Anne-Marie Priola '18, MS '20 and Justin Priola



Claire Josephine Wiltsie

born on July 19, 2025

Kathleen Johnson '14 and Nicholas Wiltsie '13



IN MEMORIAM

Kevin D. Cox '50	Sr. Suzanne Simo '65	Joan F. Heuer MS '75	Ann Kolkman MS '88
Jack F. Toolen '50, MS '55	Art J. Smith MS '65	Ed A. Abdella MS '75	Margaret A. Pagano '90, MS '93
Tom R. Sweeney '50, MD	Tony J. Sammarco '65	Dan C. Martin '75	Anne W. Burrell '91
Ed D. Demer '50	Rich A. Braas '65	Mark M. Schuetze '76	Lois L. Palmeri '92
Bob J. Barton '51	Joe M. Cercione '65	Claudia M. Schnorr '76	Eric G. Brunger MS '93
Paul J. Morgante '51, MBA '72	Al E. Small '66	Sharon J. Puglia '77	Rosemary Sortino '93
Jack J. Joyce '52, MA '60, PhD	Joe F. Enright Jr. '66, MS '70	Joe A. Damske '77	Carolyn M. Ostrzynski MS '94
Jim J. Ryan '53	Russ L. Certo MS '66	Dave G. Nease MS '77	Jeff M. Stover '94
Ed J. Hassenfratz Jr. '53	Tad B. Taberski '66	Bill C. Gwizdowski '77	Constance L. Otteni MPA '96
Nick L. Schmitt '53	Jim E. O'Connell '66, MS '68	Margaret O. Cabana MS '78	Jason M. Beckman '96
Don R. Bernick '55	Merrill E. Trefzer MS '66	Dave E. Graf MBA '79	Milton M. Moeller MS '97
Steve E. Lojano '55	Bill J. Moslow '67	Mike A. Naples '79	Jimmy J. Maisano Jr. '00
John A. Seemueller '55, MS '59	John W. Pelava '67	Mary O'Connor '80, MS '86	Ken J. Kowal MS '00
Ralph R. Roll '55	Ken J. Simmons '67	Jim P. Scinta '80	Kimberly M. Nauratil '11
Leo A. Bradley '56	Rich P. Sweeney '69	Karl J. Iggers '81	
Carl Carballada '56, HON '81	Joan M. Stoll MS '69	Marcia N. Richmond MS '81	
Joe G. Antkowiak '56, MD	Sally A. Cramer MS '69, MS '83	Terry M. Metzger '82	
Fred J. Scherer '56	Dan C. Vaccaro '70	Lisa A. Slade '84	
Vic G. Badding '57, PhD	John H. Thurston '70	Dominic A. Cimato '84, MS '86, DO	
Ken J. Schueler '58	Kevin M. Whelan '70	Sr. Barbara M. Juskiewicz '85	
Fran A. McGarry '61, MS '67	Sue M. Cimasi MBA '72	Lori A. Hogg '85	
Matt J. Fruth '62, MS '70	Tom J. McNamara '72	Thomas P. Feron '86	
Dan J. Kovach '62	Mark W. Davison '73	Jeff S. Eberhard '86, PhD	
Joe A. Tomasino '63	Ron M. Reznik '73	Greg Owczarczak '86	
Warren F. Glover MS '64	Lou J. Cercione '73, MS '78	Barb A. Phalen '86	
Chet E. Borczynski '65	Nestor B. Procyk '74	Pat J. Betzler '87	

Names included in the In Memoriam section were received from May 13, 2025, through December 5, 2025.