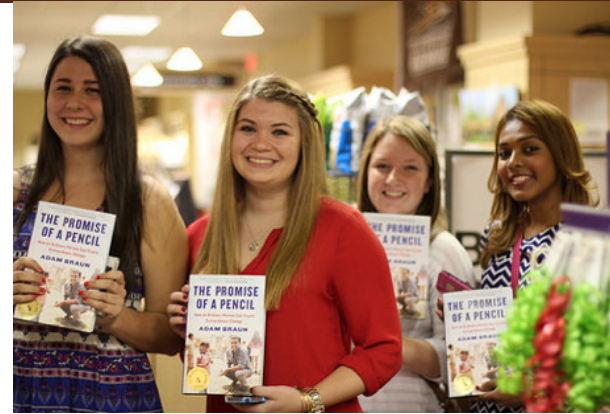


# The Wolfpack

October 2014  
Vol. 2 Issue 2

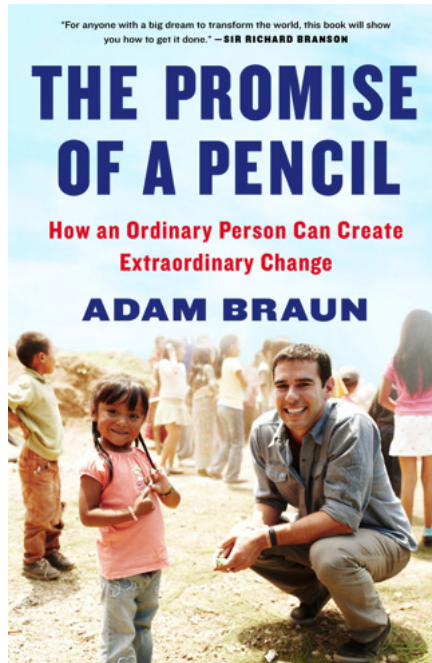




# The *Wolfpack* ▶▶ from the *cover*

## All Bonaventure Reads author Adam Braun visits campus

by Shannon West, '18



St. Bonaventure University welcomed Adam Braun, social entrepreneur and author of “The Promise of a Pencil,” to campus Sept. 29.

“The Promise of a Pencil” was this year’s All Bonaventure Reads selection for freshmen. Braun’s speech placed his book in the context of his goals for the future of his organization, Pencils of Promise. Braun told students how one step can turn a person’s biggest ambitions into reality.

The questions he presented to his audience, especially the freshmen, were informed by knowledge he acquired during his college years. He spoke to students casually, and students said they could relate to him as a person. Although Braun’s commitment to performing service and providing access to education was made possible through the wealth of his parents, the connection of hard work and dedication helped him inspire the student audience.

“The real richness of my Brown University college experiences was actually in the conversations that occurred in the cafeteria where we would have discussions about life,” Braun said. “That’s where I truly found where my passions lie. What I can assure you is that this is the place that you will form character that will define the person you will become throughout the rest of your life.”

His emphasis on connections through others and friendships was a significant point throughout his speech.

“I can assure you the friends who you cherish, the friends who endure, are people that you will be able to learn from,” Braun said. “It’s because of my friends that I felt pushed to become a more successful person. Think about the friendships that you will form over the next four years because they will help you grow.”

## Midterm grades: indications and strategies

*by Chris Brown, Director, FYE Program*

**“We have researched midterm GPAs for many years at St. Bonaventure and consistently find them to be important markers of success.”**

On Monday, Oct. 20, students received midterm grades, reflecting their academic progress halfway through the fall semester. If your student signed a Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) release form, you should receive a copy of those grades in the mail shortly. Midterm grades are intended to provide a realistic snapshot of how well a student is doing. Students can gauge their midterm grade point average (GPA) by using the GPA Calculator on the St. Bonaventure website.

We have researched midterm GPAs for many years at St. Bonaventure University and consistently find them to be important markers of student success. Even though the midterm GPA is not completely predictive, if a student's midterm grades are good, there is about a 95 percent chance that her end-of-semester grades will also be good. The flip side: If a student's midterm grades are below a C, there is a 60 percent chance that her end-of-semester grades will be less than a C. While midterm grades can help predict a student's final grades, it is not too late for students to change their performance.

If your student is doing well, we encourage you to challenge him or her to keep up the good work. While congratulations are in order, every student has room to improve. Students need to continue (or even increase) the amount of effort they are putting toward their classes to make sure their final grades are as good – if not better – than their midterm grades. Time management can become especially difficult as your student's involvement in clubs and organizations will tend to increase in the second half of the semester. Do not stop encouraging your student to prioritize academics. We hope to see many students achieve the Dean's List, a GPA of 3.25 or higher, this semester.

If your student is not happy with his or her midterm grades, suggest he or she try the following steps:

**1. Speak with the professor** to discuss any issues, problems or concerns she may have. Often, the professor can provide the student with helpful advice and materials; some professors may offer extra-credit opportunities.

**2. Attend every class** between now and the end of the semester. Class attendance will increase the chances of understanding the course material, and will help prevent your student's grades from slipping even further.

**3. Seek support resources** such as the Teaching and Learning Center (TLC), located in the basement of Doyle Hall. The TLC provides tutoring for most introductory classes and hosts a peer editing service called the Writing Lab. Students can set up appointments by visiting the TLC in person or emailing [TLC@sbu.edu](mailto:TLC@sbu.edu). The Plassmann Writing Center also reviews student papers, and the Math Lab hosts regular support for any math class.

**4. Develop a regular schedule** for studying and re-evaluate time management skills. Encourage your student to use the student planner he or she received to schedule the times he or she is in class, when he or she needs to study and when her assignments are due.

**5. Become knowledgeable of your Financial Aid package.** It is important to know the GPA requirements your student must meet for any aid, including grants and scholarships.

**6. Encourage your student to speak with a Peer Coach, a counselor in the Wellness Center, a Resident Assistant or Residence**

**Director** if he or she is having any issues outside the classroom that may be impacting academic performance. Issues like irresponsible alcohol use or roommate problems need to be addressed so that academics emerge as his or her number-one priority

Lastly, all students are welcome to meet with the staff in the First-Year Experience office. We are excited to offer one-on-one sessions with students to help create an improvement plan for courses of concern. Students can email [cbrown@sbu.edu](mailto:cbrown@sbu.edu) or call 716-375-2692 to set up an appointment.





# First-Year Experience office changes location

by Riley Eike, '17

During the summer, renovations were made to Robinson and Falconio freshman residence halls. With these changes, many offices were also shuffled to be more useful for the students. The First-Year Experience (FYE) office was one of those offices.

The FYE office was housed in Doyle 108 until the recent renovations. It has since moved to Falconio rooms 128 and 116.

"The planning committee wanted to target offices that would make sense to be inside a freshman residence hall. Since the FYE Office works mostly with freshmen, it made sense that our office would relocate into Rob/Fal," said Chris Brown, the director of the First-Year Experience program.

Brown and Kim Majot, secretary of FYE, packed up the old office at the end of the summer.

The move was spread across a couple of weeks during the beginning of the school year because this is the most hectic time for FYE. Many freshmen assisted by moving boxes from one office to another as their "day of service" activity during Welcome Days, said Brown.

"I like how our new locations puts us in the middle of the freshmen. We are also right next to the new study rooms, so we will have the ability to enhance some of the academic support resources our office offers by offering programming about study skills," Brown said.

With the new card readers monitoring the doors of Falconio, the FYE director worked with Safety and Security and the Residence Life departments to make sure all students have access to the building. During business hours, each ID card will grant students, faculty and staff access to Falconio to get to the FYE office.

To make room for the FYE offices, the RD office moved to the main entrance to Falconio and the RA office has moved to the main entrance of Robinson. "This increased the amount of visibility for the RAs and put them more in the center of Rob/Fal," said Brown.

Doyle 108 now houses the Events Office, which moved this summer from the Regina A. Quick Center for the Arts.



# Freshmen to register for classes soon via My.SBU.edu

by Krista Brower, '16

Registration is creeping up slowly: This may be hard to believe, but your student is already halfway through her first semester of college. By early November, your student will be registering for spring semester classes.

People don't joke when they say college goes by quickly. Registration for spring semester will start Oct. 31, with registration for freshmen about two weeks later. The course listing for spring 2015 is currently up on my.sbu.edu.

Time to return to your store of Wise Parental Counsel. Remind your student that the answers to many or most registration questions can be found in one of two places: the office of his adviser or my.sbu.edu.

Your student should start with my.sbu.edu, the University's intranet. There, he will find a link to "degree audit." From there, he can find the courses he has already taken as well as the ones he still needs to take, whether that be for his major or general University requirements. Your student should check his degree audit to see if AP or college credits from other schools have been applied. If not, he should talk to his adviser. Perhaps transcripts have not been received at SBU or credit has not been applied because a substitution form has not been submitted to the Registrar's Office.

Your student must schedule an appointment with her academic adviser to review her degree audit and discuss plans for the coming semester. (Your student will not be able to register without that meeting.) Before meeting with the adviser, your student should make a desired schedule of courses she would like to take next semester. Being a freshman means your student will register last, so many courses will already be at maximum capacity. She should make sure she has back-up plans in case she cannot get into her first choices.

On the registration date, your student should log into my.sbu.edu and click the academics tab. On the right hand side, follow the Register for Classes link. Click the Search and Register link. From there, your student will select the term for which she is registering and enter course subject and levels. Once she has selected courses, she clicks Register and Drop under the label Action. She should then scroll to the bottom and click Submit.

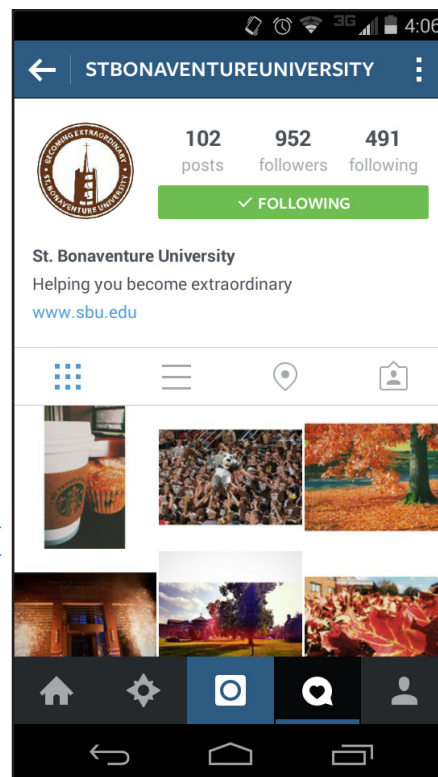
Any issues, such as registration restrictions, time conflicts and/or necessary prerequisites will be addressed in red at the top of the screen and can be adjusted as necessary. Once that is completed, your student is officially registered, although she can change her schedule through the end of add/drop (the first week of school each semester).

## Student Records Office Services

- [My Class Schedule](#)
- [Grades Online](#)
- [Degree Audit](#)
- [Unofficial Transcript](#)
- [Register for Classes](#)
- [Catalogs](#)
- [Graduate Graduation Application](#)
- [Baccalaureate Graduation Application](#)
- [Dual Degree Graduation Application](#)



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## Freshman class elects class officers

by Amelia Kibbe, '17

The new freshman class leaders have already begun setting goals for their class, after they were announced Oct. 6 as winners of the class election.

Students campaigned throughout September and voting took place the last week of September and the first week of October. Members of the class of 2018 were encouraged to vote online through a link on my.sbu.edu, the University intranet.

Elected were Denis Riordan, president; Hannah Schaefer, vice president; David Lefebre, secretary; and Joyce Tristan, treasurer. The Student Government Association (SGA) inducted the four new members on Oct. 8.

Riordan, the new class president, is a history major from Braintree, Mass. He decided to attend St. Bonaventure University because of the community feel.

"I came to St. Bonaventure because of the community," Riordan said. "The community is friendly, close and strong. There is always someone willing to give you a helping hand, whether it comes from a teacher or a fellow student. St. Bonaventure is the home away from home and everywhere I go I always feel welcomed."

Although this is Riordan's first time as an elected official, he said he is ready to handle the challenge.

"I love it here and I just want to help the school grow and thrive and have the students' voices heard," Riordan said. "My position means that I hold the responsibility to be the best representative of the freshman class and uphold my duties to the best of my abilities."

Schaefer, a Lorain, Ohio native, is the class of 2018 vice president. She explained that her love of campus involvement and previous experience as a class officer motivated her to run for election.

"I love to be involved in various clubs and organizations," Schaefer, an international studies major, said. "In high school, I was the president of a service organization and I was also the class representative for my school's student council. With my past experience, student government has been a favorite of mine. As a new student in this school I am anxious and ready to voice my opinion as to what can make St. Bonaventure an even greater place."

She added the Franciscan values held by St. Bonaventure were a major influence in her college choice.

"I came to St. Bonaventure for the Franciscan values readily present on this campus," Schaefer said. "I also came for the many opportunities to live and thrive in my Catholic faith."

Lefebre, the class secretary, is a finance major from Rochester. Lefebre said his outgoing attitude and open mindedness will help him in his position.

"I ran for student council because I felt that I could make a difference," Lefebre said. "As class secretary, I can bring an open mind to the table... I will listen and discuss any possible situation that someone wants to bring to the table. Also, I am very outgoing and talk to everyone around campus, and therefore I can bring ideas from people who aren't on student council to the discussions."

Lefebre also selected St. Bonaventure for its friendly atmosphere.

"Most colleges say stuff about being a family, but St. Bonaventure really showed and has proven to me that everyone is family here," Lefebre said.

Elected as class treasurer was Joyce Tristan, an accounting major from Elba, NY. Not only does she have previous experience as an officer, Tristan hopes the new position will give her valuable experience for her future.

"I ran for treasurer because I love working with numbers," Tristan said. "I loved being treasurer in high school and it has an auditing feel for it with bookkeeping. That is my dream job, so it is great practice."

Tristan added she hopes the class can work together to make a difference in the Bonaventure community.

"One goal for our class would be really uniting, thinking of a cause we all care for and fundraising for that cause. We all came to college to grow into someone we can be proud of, and I think this would be a great start."

The class officers are already making plans to better the community. During SGA meetings, they want to talk about the representation of smaller clubs on campus to make sure they are not overlooked and are given the finances they need. The first event hosted by the class will be the Bona Fan Jam on Oct. 25 at 5 p.m. on the Reilly Center's outdoor basketball courts. The festival-style event will feature live music, food vendors and game, and kicks off the 2014-15 basketball season.







**READY FOR FAMILY  
WEEKEND 2015?**

**SAVE THE DATE: SEPT. 25-27**



### ***Wolfpack Staff***

Carole McNall, faculty adviser

Chris Brown, First-Year Experience director

Emily Steves, '15, editor/designer

Andrew Bevevino, '16, managing editor

Krista Brower, '16, contributor

Amelia Kibbe, '17, contributor

Shannon West, '18, contributor

#### **FYE Newsletter Committee:**

Jean Ehman

Craig Sinesiyou

Clarence Picard

MJ Telford

Questions? Comments? Ideas?

Email: [parents@sbu.edu](mailto:parents@sbu.edu)