



SAINT VINCENT COLLEGE

FALL '23 — ISSUE III

# McKENNA Message

Alex. G. McKenna School  
of Business,  
Economics,  
and Government

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## A NOTE FROM THE DEAN

It is hard to believe how quickly the Fall semester has been progressing. It seems like our students just moved onto campus and now we are quickly approaching Christmas break – it will be here before we know it! It’s amazing to me how fast time flies. I can recall back to when I was a student at Saint Vincent and also to when I was first hired as a faculty member in the McKenna School. Both seem like yesterday even though I’m coming up on my twentieth class reunion.

Talking with some of our seniors, many also feel like time is going by quickly. While eager to start their post-SVC careers, many of the students that I’ve spoken with are also a little sad to graduate from Saint Vincent. That feeling is understandable, of course. Saint Vincent is a special place and it’s very difficult to leave it.

But, the good news is: “once a Bearcat, always a Bearcat.” I certainly returned back and all of our alumni are always welcomed back. In fact, this Homecoming, we had a “Friends of McKenna” Welcome Back Reception on the

ground floor of Aurelius Hall and were happy to have more than 70 McKenna alumni join us. We hope to continue this tradition and would like to see you there next year.

This issue of *McKenna Message* is all about coming home—whether someone is coming back to campus after graduating or starting their college journey as a newcomer to Saint Vincent. It features an article about several new McKenna School faculty members—three of whom are McKenna alumni and two of whom had previously adjuncted for us. I believe that they feel like Saint Vincent is home. It also features articles about new opportunities for incoming Economics students and details about our recent High School Leadership Academy – both of which highlight our excitement in welcoming the next generation of Bearcats to Saint Vincent. Hopefully, they will also come to view Saint Vincent as home.



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# SAINT VINCENT ANNOUNCES NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR ECONOMICS STUDENTS



**Dr. Andrew Herr, Chair of the Economics Department**

Saint Vincent College is pleased to announce two new opportunities for students studying economics in the Alex G. McKenna School of Business, Economics, and Government.

Over the summer, Dr. Andrew Herr, chair of the Economics Department and professor of economics, and Dr. Michael Urick, dean of the Alex G. McKenna School of Business, Economics, and Government and professor of

management and operational excellence, worked with colleagues from the John Chambers College of Business and Economics at West Virginia University to develop a partnership. This new partnership allows any Saint Vincent economics undergraduate student with a 3.0 or higher to receive automatic admission into WVU's Master of Science in economics.

"We are excited to partner with WVU on this new initiative. It highlights the strength of our economics program, students, and faculty. We have had several of our alumni go into WVU's economics graduate program and all of them have excelled. This partnership is but one of many opportunities that our alumni have upon graduating with an economics degree from Saint Vincent College," remarked Urick.

Economics alumni have had a high placement rate in prestigious graduate programs following their studies at Saint Vincent.

In addition to this new partnership with WVU, Saint Vincent will now also offer a new scholarship for incoming first-year economics students. All incoming first-year students that identify economics as a major or minor area of study will be considered for this new McKenna economics scholarship. Awardees will be selected based on merit (as illustrated by their high school GPA and class rank) as well as background or interest in economics. Awardees are expected to be notified of their scholarship early in the spring semester.

## A NOTE FROM THE DEAN

CONTINUED FROM P. 1

This issue details a variety of other exciting news including profiles of a graduating star Accounting student as well as of an exceptional alum. It also highlights a recent student trip to Panama. In this newsletter, you'll see some highlights on many of the activities that have been happening in the McKenna School. It's certainly been an eventful semester.

We're also happy to announce that, to continue to be able to welcome both new and returning Bearcats to campus and to be able to offer the events and activities that help make our programs unique, we will be launching some crowdfunding opportunities. These initiatives will help to provide funding for students traveling abroad, support for experiential learning, and some small improvements to our McKenna facilities. Please connect with us on social media (LinkedIn, Facebook, Twitter/X, and Instagram) to see more details as we launch these opportunities. We hope that you will support McKenna in these and other initiatives using your time, talent, and treasure.

We look forward to welcoming you back on campus whenever possible. ♦

"We are thrilled to be able to offer scholarship money to talented incoming students who are interested in studying economics. We had a similar scholarship in the past and were able to attract many outstanding students to Saint Vincent College. We are confident that this new economics scholarship will produce similar results," commented Herr.

Taken together, the new scholarship for incoming first-year students and WVU partnership for graduating economics students represent an increased commitment to Saint Vincent's economics program to help encourage additional students to study in this crucial field. ♦



# FIVE NEW FACULTY MEMBERS HIRED IN THE ALEX G. MCKENNA SCHOOL OF BUSINESS, ECONOMICS, AND GOVERNMENT

## ABOUT THE NEW FACULTY MEMBERS



**Paige Parsley**

Paige Parsley was named as an instructor of criminology, law, and society. She is currently finishing her doctoral dissertation in criminology at the Indiana University of Pennsylvania. She also has her Master of Science in criminology and undergraduate degree in English (with a history minor) from Saint Vincent College. Her teaching and research interests include police health and psychology, biosocial criminology, and the psychological roots of crime. In her spare time, Instructor Parsley enjoys do-it-yourself projects, exercising, and baking. She also has two rescue pit bulls with Saint Vincent inspired names.



**Mark Kachmar**

Mark Kachmar joined the faculty as an executive in residence. He brings over 30 years in global executive leadership roles related to operational excellence and project management. In addition to being Lean/Six Sigma Black Belt certified, Kachmar also holds advanced degrees from the University of Pittsburgh in business and chemical engineering. Prior to joining Saint Vincent full-time, Kachmar has adjuncted for the College for seven years. Kachmar enjoys music and has played and instructed the drums for more than 15 years.



**Caitlin Michael**

Caitlin Michael was named as an instructor of marketing. She is finishing her PhD in marketing from West Virginia University. She also holds master's degrees related to educational leadership and marketing from Saint Francis University. Her undergraduate degree from Saint Vincent College is in marketing and management. Her specializations include consumer well-being, prosocial behaviors, charitable giving to nonprofit organizations, and opportunities to enhance donation solicitations. Instructor Michael is a dedicated animal rescuer and hospice foster. She currently cares for three small dogs, five black cats, a bearded dragon, a ball python, and more than eight crested geckos.



**Dr. Mary Regina Boland**

Dr. Mary Regina Boland has joined Saint Vincent College as an assistant professor of data science and business data analytics with a joint appointment to the McKenna School and the Boyer School of Natural Sciences, Mathematics, and Computing. Dr. Boland holds a PhD, master's in philosophy, and Master of Arts in biomedical informatics from Columbia University. Her undergraduate degree is in bioinformatics (with history and computer science minors) from Saint Vincent College. Dr. Boland has spent 7 years at an academic medical center in Columbia University and 6 years at a similar center in the University of Pennsylvania. For fun, Dr. Boland enjoys playing the pipe organ.



**Christina Gibson**

Christina Gibson has joined the McKenna faculty as an instructor of accounting. Her MBA is from Carnegie Mellon University and she also has a degree in accounting from Duquesne University. Instructor Gibson is an active CPA and has spent over 20 years in finance leadership roles. Prior to joining the faculty full-time, Instructor Gibson adjuncted at both Seton Hill University and Saint Vincent College.

The Alex G. McKenna School of Business, Economics, and Government recently welcomed five new outstanding full-time faculty members that started at the beginning of the 2023-2024 academic year. They are: Paige Parsley, Caitlin Michael, Mark Kachmar, Christina Gibson, and Dr. Mary Regina Boland.

Together, these five new faculty members, along with all of the exceptional faculty members at Saint Vincent College, will provide an excellent learning experience for students. ♦

# SAINT VINCENT COLLEGE DEAN TO BE FEATURED ON THE BBC

Dr. Michael Urick, dean of the Alex G. McKenna School of Business, Economics, and Government and professor of management and operational excellence at Saint Vincent College, was featured by the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC). Dr. Urick recorded comments for the “What makes a good boss?” episode of the BBC World Service audio program entitled “The Forum.” The show is streaming at <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p004kln9> and is also available as a podcast.

Urick’s comments for the BBC relate to his work on learning about management and leadership through popular culture. His comments largely focus on his works in the “Exploring Effective Leadership Practices in Popular Culture” book series. Through this series, Urick authored and co-authored books on learning leadership through the “Star Wars” franchise, the works of author J.R.R. Tolkien, and the “Game of Thrones” television show. Urick also published academic articles related to leadership and other areas of popular culture including on superheroes such as “The Avengers” and “Wonder Woman” in various peer reviewed journals.

Previously, Urick’s work on learning leadership through the works of J.R.R. Tolkien (including “The Hobbit” and “The Lord of the Rings”) has earned attention from a variety of academic and media outlets. In 2022, he presented his work at

the University of Oxford in the UK and was featured in an article in *The Wall Street Journal*. Earlier in 2023, he was named as an Inklings Fellow through the McGrath Institute for Church Life at the University of Notre Dame. The Inklings were an informal literary group that met at local pubs near the University of Oxford to share their writing. In addition to J.R.R. Tolkien, author C.S. Lewis was also a member of the Inklings. The Inklings Fellowship at Notre Dame is comprised of a selected group of international interdisciplinary scholars that examine how the works of Tolkien and Lewis can inform a variety of fields.

In Spring 2024, Urick will offer a core course at Saint Vincent College related to his work on leadership and popular culture entitled “Leadership for Jedi, Wizards, and Superheroes.” ♦



Dr. Michael Urick

## SVC HOSTED LEADERSHIP EVENT FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

On Friday, October 20, 2023, the Alex G. McKenna School of Business, Economics, and Government hosted a leadership academy for high school students in the Fred Rogers Center on Saint Vincent College’s campus in Latrobe, Pennsylvania.

“The McKenna School is comprised of programs related to Business, Economics, Criminology, and Political Science. One of the things that is a common thread in each of these disciplines is that they all examine the concept of leadership in some way. So, it makes sense that we would host an interdisciplinary leadership event,” remarked Dr. Michael Urick, dean of the McKenna School and professor of management and operational excellence.

The morning began with brief remarks on leadership from Urick before an expert group of McKenna faculty hosted a series of breakout sessions. The faculty involved were

Dr. Eric Kocian (criminology); Dr. Jerome Foss (political science); Instructor Caitlin Michael (marketing); Dr. Terrance Smith (management and operational excellence); Instructor Paige Parsley (criminology); Instructor Mark Kachmar (executive in residence); and Dr. Andy Herr (economics). The topics were interdisciplinary in nature and included sessions on varied themes such as conflict management, leadership in marketing, operational excellence, and learning leadership from examining history. Each session was interactive in nature.

Following the breakout sessions, participants attended a lunch and panel discussion showcasing perspectives of what makes a good leader.

Attendees could also participate in an optional competition following the event where they prepared a project related to leadership in their community to be judged

by McKenna faculty members.

“This a great way to connect with regional high school students. The McKenna School already engages in outreach to our local community, and this is another example of how we can create tighter connections with our local schools. The sessions will be of value to students because they are career-oriented and will give students a glimpse of opportunities in a variety of fields,” stated Urick. ♦



Leadership Day was held in the Fred Rogers Center.



## STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

# SEAN CALLAHAN

By Madison Kozera, C 24, of Abingdon, MD

Sean Callahan, senior accounting major, swiftly realized that Saint Vincent College has a different atmosphere compared to other colleges, one that not only drew him closer to the school and inevitably led to him committing to it, but one that also allowed him to find long-lasting connections.

Callahan recalled, “At my local college fair, my parents pointed out SVC. I went to the booth just to say I did, and I left feeling hooked immediately. I visited the college curious, and I left knowing it was my number one choice. It was the only school I ever applied to.”

Despite his initial unawareness of the college, Callahan quickly fell in love with the school. One of his favorite aspects of the college is its close connection with the Catholic faith, and especially how open and welcoming the community is.

“I was in a conflicting spot with my faith during my senior year of high school, and again through my first few years at SVC,” he explained. “SVC was exactly what I needed before I knew it was what I needed. I can decide what I want my faith to look like, and because of this, I would argue it has never been stronger.”

The smaller class sizes and campus are another feature of the college that Callahan loves, as it allowed him to gain personal connections with each of the students and staff, helping him feel more connected with the rest of the college.

“The professors [know] me as more than just another paper to grade,” he said. “And I know the campus as well as my home neighborhood.”

Callahan will be working a full-time internship as a tax services intern for the Pittsburgh branch of RSM US, beginning in January. With plans to move to Pittsburgh and pursue a career in accounting after graduation, Callahan is hopeful to gain a full-time position at RSM US following his internship, though he’s open to simply following whatever path is laid out before him.

“I am trying to leave the door open for where my career may take me, since accounting has many applications,” he noted. “I enjoy the flexibility it offers for job options, and I am open to pursuing graduate school in the future.”

Although Callahan loves the challenges that come with accounting, he also has numerous interests that fill his time when he’s not busy with schoolwork.

“Outside of numbers and statistics, I love writing,” Callahan further expressed. “When I’m not daydreaming about what to write next or the characters I’ve made, I love taking walks,



binging TV series, watching the NFL and NBA religiously, and playing a good video game occasionally.”

Alongside his many hobbies, Callahan is the Editor-in-Chief of SVC’s student-led paper, *The Review*, the current president of the Writers’ Club, and a member of both the AV Club and the Finance and Accounting Club. Callahan noted that all of these positions and accomplishments were formed as a result of his reaching out in an attempt to form new connections, even if he was uncertain of where it may have led.

With the fall semester underway, new students will begin with a blank slate, ready to form new connections with other students, their professors—and perhaps even their faith, much like Callahan did his freshman year. Together with the support that Callahan has found over the last few years, we can’t wait to see what he does in the upcoming semester and beyond. ♦

## ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

# CAMERON HYDE

By Madison Kozera, C 24, of Abingdon, MD

When students begin searching for a college, they hold onto the thought that they will be spending the next four years at their chosen location, away from home and family for likely the first extended period of time. Cameron Hyde, a 2023 graduate with a major in accounting and minor in finance, began his search for a college with that same thought in the back of his mind, looking for a college that would alleviate some of the gravity that came with being away from home; Hyde found his answer in Saint Vincent College (SVC).

“The first time I stepped foot on campus, I felt that I was at home,” Hyde mentioned when asked why he decided to come to SVC. “The community atmosphere that SVC has built up is incredible and

welcoming to anyone who comes to campus, not just students. Both of my parents graduated from Saint Vincent, so it was very special to me that I fell in love with SVC, just as they did when they were in college.”

Hyde revealed that the campus layout and the “breathtaking views” it provides not only aided in his decision to come to SVC, but it remains one of his favorite aspects of the college.

“Everything is in one place, with all the sports fields in the middle of campus, making it very easy for

everyone to gather and cheer on the Bearcats,” he said. “I also love the dedication that the professors show to their students. These people put in a lot of time and effort to ensure that students are best suited for success.”

Like many students, Hyde began his time at SVC with ideas for one major before swapping for another, finding a path that he otherwise had never considered previously.

“I originally started college as a finance major but switched to accounting after my sophomore year,” Hyde noted. “I chose accounting because I love the problem-solving aspect of the work in the industry.”

Hyde credits Dr. Rob DePasquale, professor of accounting in the McKenna School of Business, Economics and Government, with helping him find an interest in accounting, as well as for the memories he has of them talking about baseball together.

With many interests, Hyde formed a number of memories across his time at SVC as he continued to become involved on campus.

“During my time at SVC, I picked up playing pickleball with my friends as a hobby, which I still play today,” he recalled. “One of my favorite memories was winning the Intramural Flag Football Championship my senior year, with most of my teammates being the very first friends that I made at SVC during my freshman year. Baseball has also given me some great memories, such as making the Championship Game in two out of three seasons we played.”

While a student at SVC, Hyde also took charge as a part of the Student Government Association (SGA), bringing the campus and its students together through numerous events, such as Casino Nights in the Carey Lounge or taking trips to PNC Park to watch the Pittsburgh Pirates. During his senior year, Hyde took on more leadership roles, serving as both the SGA senior class president and the captain of the senior varsity baseball team.

After his recent graduation, Hyde has begun working as a tax analyst at Schneider Downs and is studying for the CPA Exam to become a certified public accountant.

We look forward to seeing where Hyde’s future takes him, knowing that he’ll always have a place to return to. ♦





# SAP BUSINESS ONE STUDENTS TRAVEL TO PANAMA FOR ANNUAL SAP SMALL AND MIDSIZE ENTERPRISES (SME) INNOVATION SUMMIT



Every year, students from Saint Vincent College who are enrolled in the SAP Business One Program travel to attend the SAP SME Innovation Summit. This year, the Summit was held in Panama City, Panama, where Mr. Robert Markey, instructor of business administration in the Alex G. McKenna School of Business, Economics and Government, attended with four students to learn and network with other SAP professionals.

Markley, director of the SAP Business One program in the McKenna School, has been taking students to the North American Summit previously held in Orlando, Florida, for the past eight years. The three-day Summit was held in the spring just after commencement.

“Because the Summit is partner-specific, meaning that small-to-medium sized companies are in attendance, it’s a really great opportunity for our students to network and learn about SAP work with Business One,” said Markley. “These are the companies who will hire our students.”

With a little extra time in their trip, the group toured around the city and even visited the Panama Canal. The students in attendance at the conference included Nicolena Yanosick, junior economics major, Ben Wohlin, senior finance major, Evan Rega, senior management major, and Dustin Logue, senior marketing major. Each student worked at SAP Business One internships over the summer. ♦

## OUT AND ABOUT

Senior McKenna student Julie Zhu participated in a study at sea program during the fall semester. In addition to many other locales, she’s had adventures in Barcelona Spain where she met up with Matthews Grimesley from Ireland who studied at Saint Vincent last year.

In early October, Drew Johnson, C’20, hosted the Saint Vincent College SAP Business One students at SAP’s North Shore office and shared his career advice.

On September 29, students in our sports management program went to PNC Park to network with and learn from Pittsburgh Pirates representatives and other sports industry professionals about career opportunities.

Congratulations to SVC alumni Elizabeth Hall and Berti Papp who got engaged right before the McKenna School Reception at Homecoming in September. Elizabeth is a McKenna accounting grad.

The McKenna School’s SAP Business One students visited Alumicore in Monessen, PA. Alumicore is an industrial aluminum recycling company. Students included Alissa Miner, Maddie Smith, Oliyia Matha, Gina Aiello, Derek Hald, Adam Liston, and Wiley Purry.

Joel Quiroz, a junior business administration major, had a summer internship with US Steel in the Logistics and Administration Department. He worked closely with Sarah Alessandrino and Allie Satterfield (both

McKenna alumni). His manager, Mike Arabia is also a McKenna alum, co-coach of Mock Trial, and a current SVC adjunct.

Dr. Mike Urick and Instructor Bob Markley (along with Dr. Jeff Mallory and Aubrey Cintron and Maria Morgan from the Office of Philanthropy and Alumni Relations) traveled to Arizona in August. While there, Mike and Bob toured Arizona Fireplaces and met up with Kaitlyn Hinds, class of 2020. They also met up with Derek Hile and Anne Mulloy, both class of 2017, at a local micro-brewery. The trip culminated with a reception of nearly two dozen (mostly McKenna) SVC alumni living in Arizona.

# STUDENTS, FACULTY, AND STAFF ON THE MOVE AND IN THE NEWS



Instructor of Accounting Christina Gibson traveled to Laurel Highlands High School on October 5 to talk to accounting classes about careers in accounting. Instructor Gibson shared with the students some of her 25+ years of work experiences prior to joining SVC.

Dr. Bill Hisker (Management) and Professor Tom Holowaty (Accounting) were named Emeritus Professors by Saint Vincent College. This is a very much deserved honor for their nearly 50 years each of service to the institution.

This summer, Dr. Kayla Jachimowski (Director of the MS in Criminology) piloted using virtual reality in her courses.

She hopes to leverage this technology in some of her upcoming classes this academic year.

The University of Pittsburgh School of Law recently awarded the Susan Yohe Pittsburgh Legal Diversity & Inclusion Coalition Scholarship to Anne Darla Pamphile, a 2021 criminology graduate of Saint Vincent College.

Chief Legal Counsel and Founder of the Criminology Program Professor Bruce Antkowiak has been featured as a legal expert in numerous national media outlets (including the *New York Times* and various television news programs) concerning the Tree of Life trial.



## Senior

**international business major Taylor Wahl became an entrepreneur by buying the Hofius House, a historic building and the future home of Wahl's new sewing business, in downtown Bedford.**

Delta Mu Delta, an international business honor society that recognizes the academic distinction of students, has honored Saint Vincent McKenna student Stacie Renee Ramos with a scholarship. Stacie received the award because of her outstanding achievements in the classroom.

# EXTRAORDINARY EVENTS

Jonathan Petrie, a 2005 finance alum, delivered a dinner lecture on leadership, the healthcare industry, finance, and how Saint Vincent helped his career. Jonathan is the CFO of both Magee and Mercy Hospitals in the UPMC system.

The Women in Business Club co-sponsored a dinner lecture featuring Carl Lewis from Vision 33 presenting on Digital Transformation. Also in attendance was Heather Matthews, VP of University Alliances at SAP.

On October 4, Dr. Kevin Hassett, former professor at the Columbia Business School and senior economic presidential advisor, delivered a lecture to the Center for Political and Economic Thought.

Dustin Logue (a senior marketing major) shared details about Saint Vincent's Operational Excellence Lab with visiting high school students on September 29. Dustin worked closely with faculty and other OE students to develop and test the lab before its launch over the summer.

On September 20 at the annual McKenna Town Hall gathering, students learned a

lot about all of the great things we have planned for this upcoming year. Presenters included students Maci Rogers, Taylor Hochard, and Evan Rega (who lead several of our McKenna clubs) in addition to representatives from the Small Business Development Center, Career Services staff, and McKenna faculty.

Over 70 McKenna alumni came back to campus for our "Friends of McKenna Reception" in Aurelius Hall during Homecoming weekend.

The Criminology, Law, and Society Department hosted a Welcome Coffee Social for new Criminology graduate students on September 19.

In September, author Dr. James Patterson provided a Constitution Day presentation for CPET on the concept of Americanism.

Paige Casario, Derek Hile, Brianna Baum, and Katie Byers presented in Instructor Bob Markley's SAP Business One classes this semester. Paige, Derek, and Brianna are graduates of McKenna. Paige and Brianna work for SAP and Derek works for Stellar One in Phoenix, AZ. Derek

managed two SVC interns this summer. Paige is also a member of the McKenna Advisory Council and Brianna has returned to speak on campus for 10 years. Katie works in Saint Vincent's Career Services department.

Our graduate programs in management: operational excellence and criminology are recruiting new students. This summer, we launched a graduate certificate in project management. We also offer a graduate certificate in operational excellence.

The new Operational Excellence Lab and Classroom are now open. In late spring, we started using the lab in our operational excellence courses. This summer, we opened the doors for our first training session for an off-site organization. We are now offering a variety of trainings and simulations through the Lab.