The new Student Success Center brings together a group of services that had been physically distributed across campus. The physical relocation to the first floor of Plassmann Hall allows for students to more easily access services available to them and for the staff in these offices to more fully integrate their activities.

The Student Success Center will house the:

- Disability Support Services
- First-Year Experience
- Higher Education Opportunity Program
- Learning Center
- Online and International Student Services

Renovation of Plassmann Hall has gone on throughout the summer. We anticipate moving into our new home in mid-September. Look at the most recent photos:
TUTORS GAIN NEW CERTIFICATION

As the Learning Center brings its assistance into the Student Success Center's sunlight, we plan to maintain our popular offerings while concurrently piloting new programming.

Starting this month, all tutors and Supplemental Instruction Leaders will be certified via TutorLingo, an Innovative Educator product many colleges employ to enhance tutoring quality.

Peer tutoring with new curriculum courses will be literal: if we have a request for tutoring in a new course, we will ask faculty members for recommendations of current students who might assist their classmates. We also plan to offer drop-in tutoring in several curricula with high-volume peer tutoring. These drop-in sessions will not require appointments – we envision some steady traffic as well as vibrant, prior-to-exam, usage. Campus writing assistance has been consolidated and all offerings will stem from the Learning Center and the Math Lab will emulate from the Learning Center, as well. Supplemental Instruction will migrate from its FYE nest into its neighboring LC’s domain.

We sincerely appreciate faculty members' assistance and suggestions as we unite to help our students achieve academic success.

FYE CELEBRATES ORIENTATIONS

Orientation received positive reviews from new students and their parents; students walked out feeling more comfortable with the University and its resources. According to the evaluations students filled out after completing their orientation session, 100 percent felt welcomed on campus and 100 percent met a faculty or staff member whom they would feel comfortable asking for assistance in the fall. Through the orientation programming, students interacted with students from different areas and majors and 97 percent felt they better understand the importance of interacting with diverse others. Ninety-seven percent of students reported gaining a better understanding of graduation requirements. All of these things are correlated with success at St. Bonaventure, setting a solid foundation for the trend that students who attend orientation are more likely to persist to their second year.

Incoming freshmen break the ice at orientation. (Photo courtesy of University Relations.)

The Welcome Days program, to take place Aug. 24-27, continues to help incoming students become acclimated to campus before classes start on Aug. 28. A highlight of the program is the Candlelight Induction
Ceremony in which the Class of 2021 will be officially inducted as St. Bonaventure students. During Welcome Days, students will attend workshops with their academic department and will discuss topics including student success skills, appreciating diversity, preventing sexual violence, and responsible alcohol use. Welcome Days is capped off with a Day of Involvement where clubs and organizations host workshops showcasing opportunities to engage with the campus community.

SBU 101, Community of Learners, will be a common academic experience for all freshmen. As a course within the university’s new general education requirements, students will explore themes of community, learning strategies, and well-being. The topic of community will be examined, in part, by studying the 2017 All Bonaventure Reads text, “Nobody,” by Marc Lamont Hill. Hill will address the Class of 2021 and the university community on Monday, Sept. 25 at 7 p.m. in the Reilly Center Arena.

**Making Arthur O. Eve Proud**

The St. Bonaventure University Arthur O. Eve Higher Education Opportunity Program (HEOP) is a comprehensive program, jointly sponsored with the state of New York, to assist in providing access for all New Yorkers to the state’s private colleges and universities. This program is designed for students who have the potential and interest in furthering their education but due to certain life circumstances, financial and educational, higher education may not have initially been an option. Our HEOP staff works to make sure that each student’s individual needs — academic, personal and financial — are met through counseling, tutoring and a comprehensive financial aid package.

With a five-year graduation rate of 82.6 percent for the Fall 2012 cohort and a retention rate of 100 percent for the Fall 2014 cohort, our program has been very successful. To highlight a few of our students’ most recent accomplishments:

David Bryant, class of 2017, received the Ideal Bonaventure Man award. David earned a bachelor’s degree in English and a minor in journalism and mass communication. David was accepted to graduate school at NYU but has deferred for a year to accept a job teaching English in China. David Bryant is also our first ever HEOP student to complete the Honor’s Program.

Dyanna Moreira, a HEOP Junior was awarded the 2017 Independent Sector Student Community Service Award by CICU. In addition to this award, she was the recipient of the Community Service Award at SBU’s Spring Award Ceremony.

Our students excel outside as well as inside the classroom. Our HEOP students completed a total of 1,861 hours of
community service for the 2015-2016 academic year. Our students are also highly involved in various clubs and organizations on campus.

**DISABILITY SUPPORT SERVICES**

Disability support services provides services and accommodations for students with documented disabilities. Disabilities could be learning, attention deficit disorders, physical, psychological or medical. Students submit documentation and request the accommodations they feel will help them most in classes. These could include extra time for testing, alternate location, access to audio books, note taking software, test readers, and scribes. We use the submitted documentation and requests to determine what accommodations are most appropriate for each student. Not every student needs every accommodation and may utilize some for one class and not for others.

If a student needs accommodations for classes, they will provide their faculty member with a Notice of Accommodations and Disclosure Letter (Accommodation Letter) which lists the accommodations the faculty must provide. We encourage students to have a conversation with each of their professors to explain their needs in detail. Professors and students can discuss the best way to implement the accommodations, specifically how to ensure extra time and an alternate location since those are the most requested accommodations. Testing space is available for students when they schedule an exam using the Exam Proctoring Forms, through our office.

Stay tuned next issue to learn the differences between an Emotional Support Animal (Housing Accommodation) and a Service Animal.

**GUIDING STUDENTS FROM ACROSS THE GLOBE**

The Office of Online and International Student Services is here to give support and guidance to the unique needs of international students, and to support students in our online graduate programs.

The office provides a full range of services for our international students, from acceptance to graduation. We assist accepted students as they plan and prepare to come to the
United States, including the issuance of the I-20 form (required for all international students), and we guide students on visa and other issues prior to arrival. Students can receive advice about Department of Homeland Security regulations, employment, and other issues international students encounter.

Online and International Student Services also offers our international students a comprehensive advisement experience, which takes into consideration the restrictions and rules as mandated by United States Citizenship and Immigration Services. We work closely with academic advisors to include the needs of international students.

As SBU’s online graduate programs continue to grow, our office provides support to online students, from enrollment, student success coaching, to facilitating assistance with other student success center departments such as disability services and academic support through the Learning Center. We help provide a personal Bona touch for online students as their link to campus resources.

**THANK YOU!**

Thank you for reading this inaugural issue of the Student Success Center Newsletter. Keep your eyes open for future releases. In the meantime, here are more photos of HEOP students from this summer: