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Working around travel bans and eight-foot-high drifts, student and faculty members of Bona Responds helped Buffalo-area communities dig out from the snowstorm that blanketed the area in mid-November.

BonaResponds members enacted their snow removal effort from Nov. 21 to Nov. 23 to towns such as Cowlesville and West Seneca to help dig out driveways, fire hydrants, cars, roofs and anything else buried by the snow.

BonaResponds specializes in helping after disasters. But members also offer help to anyone who asks for it.

West Seneca, in Erie County, received 78 inches of snow. Cowlesville, in Wyoming County, topped that with 88 inches of snow. People in both towns called for help.

Jim Mahar, the club’s adviser, found alternative routes to get to Buffalo while abiding by travel bans.

Carolyn Ryer, sophomore education major, was among volunteers who helped clear the snow.

“I worked until I couldn’t anymore,” Ryer said. “The snow was over my head. We cleared eight-feet-tall, full-of-snow driveways, walking on top of cars we didn’t even know were under us.”

But even the cold and sometimes deadly conditions didn’t keep the people of the Queen City down.

“The people were so happy!” Ryer said. “They fed us and let us warm up in their homes. The elders were so happy too. They had been trapped for days, many without heat.”

On the second and third days, the roads to Buffalo were mostly clear and traveling there was not a major concern, said Ryer.

BonaResponds reached out to St. Bonaventure alumni and nearby residents through Facebook and Twitter before each day of volunteering.

The shovel crew included alumnus Gregory Faughnan, a 2014 graduate from Endicott, who drove from SUNY Upstate Medical University to Buffalo to help.

Faughnan, who was part of BonaResponds in his junior and senior years, said he keeps a close eye on the Facebook group and was prompted to travel to Buffalo by the pictures of the snow.

“We had a pretty good group of people from Bonas, probably in the 50s,” Faughnan said. “A lot of alumni that are now living in Buffalo or Rochester showed up; it was great to see everyone again.”

“We helped to clear 29 driveways, about 15 fire hydrants, several roofs, doors and walkways,” Faughnan said.

BonaResponds is always looking for more people to join and help with their jobs.

“The most important thing is we need and want people to help all the time!” Ryer said. “We do something pretty much every weekend.”
by Krista Brower, '16

Whether it’s a final exam, 10-page paper or a presentation, some students do not know how to prepare for final exams. Here, we offer suggestions for your student in finding his own space or spot on campus that will help him focus. Finding that sweet study spot can make all the difference while preparing for final exams.

On- or off-campus, optimal environment depends on what helps your student study and focus. The library is the primary spot for finals, offering a quiet sanctuary. But because it’s a popular spot for studying, the library can also occasionally become noisy and distracting.

Your student might also consider a warm cozy spot next to the fire with a cup of coffee. Both are easily available at Café la Verna. As a bonus, La Verna stays open an hour later than the library: 2 a.m.

Upperclassmen will often recommend the Loft, on the third floor of the Quick Arts Center. The area offers spaces for group study or a beanbag for one.

When it comes to actually studying and learning the information, it’s different for each student. Suggest that your student try several different methods of studying to see what works best.

Flashcards are a great approach for vocabulary words, memorization of names, etc. Using flashcards allows a student to quiz himself and not have to ask a friend.

Papers tend to be a bit trickier. Suggest that your student write an outline. Once he gathers and lays out his information, he should start typing a rough draft, without worrying about editing. Revise after that first draft is completed. Suggest that your student do this a couple of times or ask a friend to look the paper over.

But amidst all the studying, breaks are vital, too. Remind your student to take breaks from studying occasionally for best retention.
The holiday season is fast approaching, and it’s time again to begin buying presents.

During a student’s first semester at college, he or she can change a lot. Students mature and so do their tastes.

Raevin Melendrez-Wood, a sophomore theology major, said she matured during her first semester last year. What she wanted for presents was a bit different from what she wanted when she was in high school.

“Of course, all my interests stayed the same,” Melendrez-Wood said, regarding her transition from high school to college. “I still loved Lord of the Rings and Harry Potter and all of that stuff, but I didn’t just want games and movies anymore. I wanted clothes and useful things and things to decorate my dorm with because I now had a space that was my own and not shared.”

If you’re at a loss for what to get your favorite college freshman this year, consider combining his or her interests with usefulness. Gift cards are a great option for this. Places in the surrounding area, such as Walmart or stores at the Olean Center Mall such as F.Y.E. and Kohls give students the option to go out to purchase something they’ve really wanted but didn’t want to ask you for.

Sometimes a break from Hickey Dining Hall is needed, and students want to go out to eat. Jared Hotchkiss, a junior accounting major, said he would have loved to have extra money to go out to restaurants with friends during the semester.

“I don’t like asking my parents for money when it’s not something that’s necessary, but if I had a gift card, I wouldn’t need to,” Hotchkiss said. “It’d be great to go out with friends on the weekend for dinner and not have to eat at the Hickey, even if it’s just for one meal.”

If your son or daughter loves to ski or snowboard, St. Bonaventure is right around the corner from Holiday Valley and a season pass could prove to be a great gift.

Emily Jo Manchester, a junior women’s studies major, said she would enjoy movie tickets from Carmike Cinemas.

“Even if my parents gave me a four pack of tickets, I’d treat my friends to a movie night,” Manchester said. “It’d be a fun night out.”

But what students said they’re looking for most out of the winter break might surprise parents.

“I just want to see my mom,” Melendrez-Wood said. “A lot of kids really just want to go home, see their family and pets, eat food and hang out.”

Manchester added, “Since I’m from Louisiana, I don’t get to see my family on other breaks like many students do, so I can’t wait to get back to my parents and sisters. It’s not really about the presents.”

Hotchkiss, a first-semester transfer student, agreed.

“This is my first semester away from home,” Hotchkiss said. “I mean I’ve seen my family throughout the semester on various trips back home, but there’s something different about Christmastime. I can’t wait.”

If you want something you can wrap, St. Bonaventure gear from the bookstore, Allegany’s Studio 4 East or Olean’s Sports Locker might do the trick. There, you can buy hoodies, T-shirts, hats and even more to equip your student with Bona pride.
The Bona’s-to-home transition

by Alicia Maldonado, ’16

St. Bonaventure University is not just a place on a map; it is a home to your student. When she was dropped off, she took another step toward independence. Her arrival home for winter break can be a drastic change from her life at college. For both sides, it helps to realize things have changed and that’s OK.

One adjustment: Begin to treat your student as an adult. At school, she has had to make her own decisions. She chooses whether or not to skip breakfast, do laundry or do her own homework without a parental figure nearby. When she comes home, try to give her some of that same flexibility.

Stephanie Lu, a junior sociology major, went through this with her mother. When she returned home to New York City on her first Christmas break, she realized her mom had started to give her more responsibilities.

“No longer did she do my laundry or make me dinner every night,” Stephanie said. “I had to begin to step up because I am eventually going to become an adult.” She added it felt good having responsibilities at home, as she does at school.

Another adjustment is to give your child more trust. At one time, more guidelines were needed, but things have changed.

Lena Silva, a sophomore education major, noticed her parents “were not as strict toward me. They let me do whatever I wanted as long as I told them what I was doing.” The high school guidelines are no longer the right ones for your student.

Also, try to be open minded and accepting about what occurs at college. College is a place where students begin to learn who they are and what they are meant to be. Many people at St. Bonaventure are willing to help guide your student on that journey, but they still need to feel comfortable talking to you about it.

Katelynn Brown, a sophomore education major, encountered this with her parents. “My parents were very open minded about the choices that I made in school,” she said.

With the upcoming break only stretching into mid-January, the time spent with your student will be a taste of what the break over summer 2015 will be like.

The Bona’s-to-home transition

The Teaching and Learning Center sponsored “The Good, The Bad, The Bonaventure” on Nov. 20, a meet-and-greet for freshmen to attend. Graduate students Madeleine Gionet, Lauren Caulfield, and Joel Rosencrance set up the event, asking upperclassmen to attend and serve as ambassadors for their respective majors.
St. Bonaventure basketball: How to keep up with the Bonnies

by Shannon West, ’18

Wins last week against Colgate University (the women’s team) and SUNY at Buffalo (the men’s team) have increased the interest in the St. Bonaventure basketball season. If you want to follow the teams as they move through their Division I schedules, the University offers a variety of ways to do it.

The men’s basketball game schedule consists of 16 home games and 14 away games; at this writing, 10 home games and 13 away games remain. The women’s basketball schedule contains 13 home games and 18 away games; nine home games and 14 away games remain. You can catch up with all the most recent sports via GoBonniesTV, the YouTube channel. Each video records highlights of the athletic team games, including men and women’s basketball.

The away games can be also followed via many means of multi-media, which include social media, video streaming, audio streaming and Live Stats. Social media websites, such as Twitter and Facebook, can help, since St. Bonaventure’s Athletics posts to both. Video streaming can be found on the official Atlantic 10 conference home page, atlantic10.com. Audio streaming for the basketball games can be heard through 95.7 The Pig, the Olean-based radio flagship of the men’s basketball network. Audio streaming for the women’s games can also be heard online via WGWE, 105.9, based in Salamanca. Live Stats is a link on the Athletics homepage where viewers can follow their favorite teams on any device using PrimeTime.

For those who are interested in purchasing tickets for the home games, non-game day tickets are available at the Reilly Center ticket office, which is open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. Tickets can also be purchased online by logging on to the newly designed GoBonnies.com/tickets website. The ticket office is located on the first floor of the Reilly Center, across from the bookstore. The ticket office opens two hours before tip off and remains open until halftime for future game sales. A photo ID is required to pick up tickets. General parking is available at no cost on a first-come, first-serve basis in lots near the west entrance of St. Bonaventure’s campus grounds. When coming to park near the Reilly Center, appropriate state-issued hang tags or license plates are required to attain parking.

To contact the ticket office, please call 716-375-2500 or 1-866-STBONAS, or email tickets@sbu.edu. Information about the basketball teams can be found on the St. Bonaventure Bonnies Athletics homepage: http://gobonnies.sbu.edu/.
SBU Parents Council forming

The SBU Office of University Advancement is forming a Parents Council and is seeking volunteers to get involved.

The council’s purpose will be to establish lasting and meaningful relationships between St. Bonaventure parents and the University. Your involvement will help ensure the success of our current and future students.

Parents of current Bonnies can serve the council in a variety of ways, from providing guidance in planning events and programs of particular interest to parents, to serving as ambassadors of the University and assisting the Office of Admissions in their recruitment efforts.

Members of the Parents Council will be asked to lead by example. Priorities include hosting receptions to welcome incoming students and their families into the Bonaventure community, attending fall and spring Parents Council meetings, providing career and development opportunities for students, and making gifts to The Bonaventure Fund in support of the University’s mission.

For more information or to volunteer please contact Clarence Picard at cpicard@sbu.edu, or 716-375-2253.

Discover Extraordinary Goodness

St. Bonaventure University has launched the above campaign to give anyone who has been touched by the University a chance to tell that story! Participating is easy. Stop by this video booth (located outside the bookstore in the Reilly Center), touch the screen inside to begin and follow the directions to record your video. Record as many takes as you want and have fun! The University will use these videos online, in social media and for video productions projects to help with recruitment and fundraising efforts.

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