

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Briscione gets aid down the backstretch

Paul Briscione, a senior Biology major at Belmont Abbey College, has been selected by the Quiet Winter Scholarship Fund as one of the first recipients to receive the award.

The Fund is sponsored by the Race Track Chaplaincy of America to help needy backstretch personnel to further their education.

He is employed during the summer at the Monmouth Park Race Track.

The award was presented on October 17, 1976 at the Hilton Inn in Eatontown, New Jersey.

Paul, the son of Mr. and Mrs. John Briscione, hails from Oceanport, New Jersey.

At the Abbey Paul is an exemplary student. He is a member of Phi Kappa Theta Fraternity where he has served as president. He is President of the Interfraternity Council on campus and is very active in intramural athletics. A dean's list student, Paul hopes to use the \$1,500 scholarship at Cornell University next fall studying veterinary medicine.

Soussi named All-South

Belgassam Soussi of Belmont Abbey College's soccer team, made the All South Soccer Team for the 1976 season. It was the third honor given to the All American candidate for his performance over the past season.

Soussi was the Crusaders' leading scorer for the season with 39 goals and 36 assists. He was also the National NAIA leading scorer.

"It will be a long time before we have another player of Belgassam's caliber," said Abbey head soccer coach Stan Dudko. "He has been a real pleasure to work with and I am going to miss him next season. He was a leader as well as a player."

Soussi, a leading candidate for the NAIA's All American team, was voted the Most Valuable Player in District 26 and to the All District team. It was the fourth time he had made the All District team.

He also has 123 career goals. That total makes him the all-time leading Abbey soccer scorer.

Judkin's will present Black Lung paper to Symposium

Dr. Bennett M. Judkins will give a presentation at the Fifth Vanderbilt Symposium on Frontiers in Sociology. His talk will be on "The Black Lung Movement: Social Movement Organization and Their Environment."

The general topic of the conference is the Dynamics of Social Movements. It will be held at Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tennessee on March 17-18, 1977, and is under the direction of Mayer N. Zald from Vanderbilt and John D. McCarthy of Catholic University, Washington, D. C.

The symposium is being made possible through grants from the National Science Foundation, Shell Foundation and the Vanderbilt University Research Council.

In his first year at Belmont Abbey as chairman of the Department of Sociology, Dr. Judkins' brief presentation is a related topic to his doctoral thesis.

Before coming to the Abbey, Dr. Judkins was assistant professor at North Carolina A & T, U.N.C.-Greensboro, and Ohio University. His other research includes work on a H.E.W.

project studying nursing homes in West Virginia.

"I Am A Women Theologian"

Dr. Lauree Meyer, instructor in the Theology Department at Belmont Abbey College, will participate in a seminary course and discussion in March and April at Bethany Theological Seminar near Chicago.

March 13 and 14, April 1-2, and 14-15, she will conduct a course on Augustine at the seminary, operated by the Church of the Brethren. She will lecture and lead a discussion March 31 at a meeting of the women's group of the Chicago Cluster of

Theological Schools at the seminary. Topics for discussion will be "I Am A Theologian" versus "I Am A Woman Theologian."

She will lecture on Galatians at the annual conference of the Church of the Brethren to be held June 22-25 in Richmond Va.

Dr. Meyer teaches Drama of Christian Dogma at B.A.C.

Creemers named public relations director

Harry P. Creemers has been named Public Relations and Alumni Affairs Director at Belmont Abbey College here.

A 1974 graduate of B.A.C., he most recently has been Communications Director for the Diocese of Charlotte. Prior to

that, he was Business Editor of "The News," a morning daily newspaper in Lynchburg, Va.

While a student at Belmont Abbey College, he was named to the Dean's List and the 1974 edition of Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges; was president of the Student Government Association, and was a resident assistant in a dormitory.

In his position at the college, Creemers will be in charge of media relations; write press releases and college brochures; promote the college in the Mecklenburg-Gaston area, and coordinate alumni activities, including Homecoming and the alumni newspaper, "Crossroads."

Creemers and his wife, Martha Groblewski, live at 432 Sinclair Street, Gastonia.

Fr. Lawrence Willis

Adding Color to the Classroom

A recent visitor to the second floor of the Administration building was startled to hear the sounds of a Wagnerian operatic aria erupting from classroom 210 which had been darkened for the latest sound and light production of our budding cinematographer, "Lorenzo il Magnifico," alias Fr. Lawrence Willis, O.S.B. Students have now become accustomed to the unpredictable in his creative use of audio-visual media to enliven his lectures in Spanish and Western civilization courses. Endowed with phenomenal powers of memory and recall, Fr. Lawrence never ceases to astound his classes with a dazzling array of colorful details and background information to support the matter under study.

SPOTLIGHT

By FR. JAMES SOLARI, O.S.B.

The story of Fr. Lawrence Willis began back in November of 1939. Born under the sign of Sagittarius, he was given the name Roger. At that time his parents were living in Greensboro but moved to Winston-Salem while he was still a boy. It was there that he grew up, attended public schools, was a faithful member of Sunday School at the Methodist Church which the family attended. While in high school he became interested in Catholicism while reading the biography of Mary Queen of Scots. He took instruction and was received into the Catholic Church in 1955. Upon graduation from Reynolds High in 1957, Roger applied for acceptance as a Freshman at Belmont Abbey College. After completing two years of college, he decided to try out his vocation to be a Benedictine monk and entered the novitiate, taking the religious name of Lawrence. After pronouncing his triennial vows he returned to his undergraduate studies and was inducted into the Delta Epsilon Sigma honor society. During these years he was a regular contributor to the college newspaper, then known as the Contact. In 1962 he was awarded the bachelor's degree in history and enjoyed the distinction of finishing at the head of his class.

As was customary, he then began his theological studies for the priesthood in the Abbey seminary. During this year, 1962-1963, he also taught in the now defunct Freshman Reading Program which was designed to expose the newcomers to college to some of the more important literary works. Singled out by Abbot Walter Coggin to continue his theological curriculum in Rome, he set out in October for the College of St. Anselm on the Aventine. The next four years saw Lawrence becoming Italianized -- he fell in love with all of the spectacular sights of the peninsula from the sun-drenched hills of Sicily to the romantic lagoons of Venice. He received ordination to the priesthood in Assisi in July of 1966 and completed his licentiate in theology the following year. During the summer vacation periods he made trips to Spain and Germany in order to learn those languages and to get to know their history, art, and customs. Whether tramping about within the crater of the dormant volcano Vesuvius, exploring the interior of an Etruscan necropolis, or quaffing a Krug of Bavarian dunkel, he was storing up the myriad details which he revives to embellish his classroom lectures.

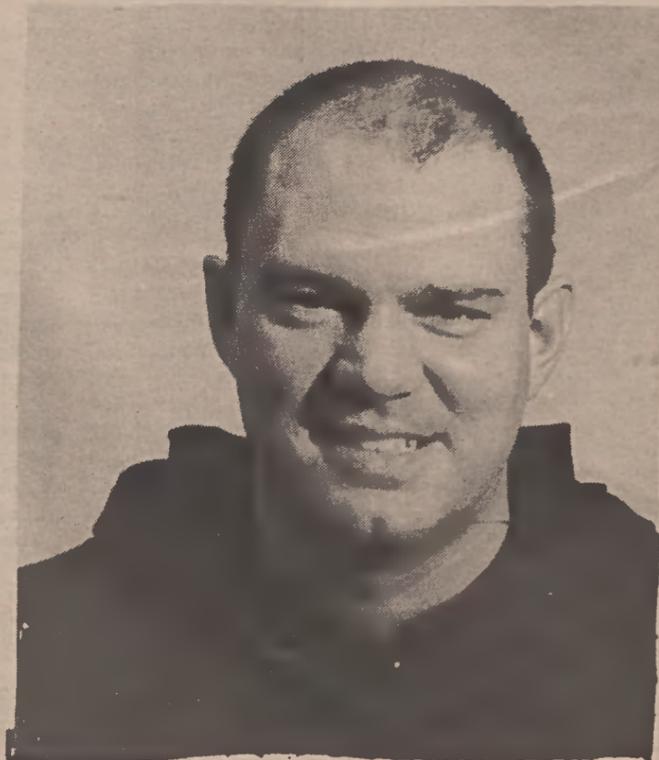
Returning to Belmont Abbey to join the faculty in 1967, he was given teaching assignments in theology, Spanish, and history. He is equally at home in these diverse subjects and claims to relish the variety. In the summer of 1970 he was able to return to Europe for a tour and among the various places he visited was Norway -- the homeland of his very favorite novelist, Sigrid Undset. While

reveling in the breathtaking scenery of the fjords, he managed also to acquire copies of her works both in the original and in English translation. The summer of 1972 found him once again in his beloved Italy thanks to a study grant. This time he was in Perugia at the Italian Institute for Foreigners to study the Etruscan history and pre-Roman antiquities.

His interest in Spanish language and literature has now blossomed into graduate work toward a Master's degree in this subject at the Universidad Ibero-Americana in Mexico City. For the past several summers he has been taking courses there while becoming familiar with Mexican history and geography. This has afforded him the occasion to explore some of the Mayan remains in the Yucatan peninsula and in Guatamala. There is a persistent rumor -- among the students -- so far unsubstantiated -- that he has discovered where the Aztecs hid their gold!

He has been nicknamed "El Tigre" by some of his students who delight in pulling practical jokes on him. His hobbies include a passionate interest in classical music and opera. He takes time for a daily exercise of swimming in the pool out in the Wheeler Center -- but the effects are sometimes nullified by his delight in Italian and Mexican cuisine.

The college is fortunate to count a "Renaissance" person in our ranks and the students profit by the breadth of his learning in so many fascinating areas of the humanities. To Fr. Lawrence Willis, O.S.B., his colleagues and friends wish "Auguri," -- best wishes for a long and distinguished teaching service.



FR. LAWRENCE, "Lorenzo the Magnificent," adds color and interest to his classes through the effective use of audio-visual aids.