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Frank Sementino '65 has spent much of his life doing what he loves most: teaching and helping students discover confidence in themselves through learning. Over the course of a career that spanned more than four decades, Sementino taught mathematics at both Bishop Kearney High School and Aquinas Institute, worked in computer systems at Eastman Kodak, and later taught continuing education mathematics courses at Rochester Institute of Technology.

A lifelong Rochester resident and graduate of McQuaid Jesuit High School, Sementino says his love of learning and education began early, inspired in part by a seventh-grade teacher at St. Michael's School.

That path ultimately led him to St. John Fisher University, where he received a scholarship and found both academic challenge and inspiration.

"Fisher prepared me very well," he said. "I had to study hard. I spent a lot of time preparing."



As a mathematics major, Sementino immersed himself in rigorous coursework in math, physics, languages, and the liberal arts, graduating cum laude before continuing on to graduate studies at the University of Notre Dame on a National Science Foundation scholarship. He credits Fisher's academic foundation with helping him succeed at one of the country's top universities.

"By the time I got to Notre Dame, I felt very prepared for my studies there," he said.

Several faculty members left a lasting impression during his years at Fisher, including chemistry professor Dr. Sirotenko, who encouraged him to pursue chemistry, English professor Mary Sheehan, and mathematics department chair Richard Pegis. Although others saw potential for him in science, Sementino knew mathematics and teaching were where he belonged.

Throughout his professional career, Sementino says the habits and discipline he developed at Fisher stayed with him.

"I'm a planner," he said. "Even today, I like to approach things almost like a lesson plan."

He also recalls Fisher's early investment in computer systems and programming, which sparked an interest in technology and

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introduced him to FORTRAN programming long before computers became commonplace in higher education. That experience later helped prepare him for his work at Kodak.



Sementino, foreground, as a student working on a computer at Fisher.

For Sementino, remaining connected to Fisher has been both meaningful and inspiring. Over the years, he has become a regular attendee at the University's First Friday lecture series, where he has enjoyed hearing about the ways Fisher continues to evolve to meet the needs of students and the broader community.

"I like how Fisher has developed programs that really meet the needs of the community," he said. "Nursing, pharmacy, sports management — they've really kept up with what people need."

One lecture from the chair of the nursing department particularly stood out to him.

"When I left that lecture, I wanted to be a nurse," he joked.

Sementino also values the University's continued commitment to its Basilian tradition and faith-centered mission. He regularly attends Mass at the Hermance Family Chapel of St. Basil the Great and says the chapel has become especially meaningful to his family over the years.

"The fact that Fisher has kept the Basilian tradition alive means a lot to me," he said.

As a member of the Spire Society, Sementino supports Fisher because he believes deeply in the value of education and the importance of creating opportunities for future generations of students. His philanthropy reflects both gratitude for the education he received and confidence in the direction of the University today.

"I've always believed that every student should have the opportunity for a strong education," he said. "Hopefully students who otherwise could not afford to come here will be able to."

"The fact that Fisher has kept the Basilian tradition alive means a lot to me"

Today, Sementino continues encouraging fellow alumni to stay connected and engaged with Fisher, often inviting others from his generation to attend campus lectures and experience firsthand the growth and momentum of the University.

"I tell people about the great things Fisher is doing," he said. "There's still a very strong community atmosphere here."



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When Jim Stanton '78 graduated from St. John Fisher College, he embarked on what he jokingly describes as a cross-country "experiment."

At a time when few graduates ventured far from home, Stanton left Upstate New York for the Pacific Northwest, where he would build a career spanning urban planning, corporate real estate, energy transformation, and affordable housing. Along the way, he earned a Master of Urban Planning from the University of Washington, held leadership positions with GTE Sylvania, the City of Redmond, Washington, and spent two decades at Microsoft overseeing major infrastructure and development initiatives.

While his career path may have taken him thousands of miles from Rochester, Stanton credits his Fisher education with helping prepare him for opportunities he could never have imagined as a student.

"I leveraged my liberal arts education at Fisher while gaining new skills along the way," he said.

Beyond the classroom, Stanton became actively involved in campus life and formed friendships that have endured for decades. "I still have lifelong friends from that period," he said. Despite spending most of his career on the West Coast, he remains connected to classmates and University leaders and makes a point of returning to campus when he visits Rochester.

Several professors played an important role in shaping his future, particularly political science faculty members Dr. Richard Hillman and Dr. Lou Buttino.

"Dr. Hillman was my advisor, and Dr. Buttino was an inspiration and energetic influence on what I would do later," Stanton said.

Stanton says some of the most valuable lessons he learned at Fisher had less to do with any particular course and more to do with how to think, collaborate, and solve problems.

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"Critical thinking skills, combined with collaboration and common sense," he said. "I managed to learn both technical information and the soft skills in navigating with other people through my time at Fisher."

Throughout his career, he found that those skills often mattered just as much as technical expertise.

"You don't have to be the smartest in the room to get things done," he said. "Bold ideas need an implementation plan."

His connection to Fisher deepened through his late wife, Laurie Haywood Stanton '78, a fellow Fisher graduate. In 2006, Stanton established an endowment fund in her memory that has helped provide scholarships to Fisher students for nearly two decades.

"It's been great to be able to support scholarships for students over the years," he said.

Today, Stanton is retired from Microsoft and operates his own planning consulting firm focused on private funding for affordable housing projects. He also volunteers with Habitat for Humanity and a variety of other nonprofit efforts..

As a member of the Spire Society, Stanton's philanthropy is driven by a desire to help students overcome the growing financial challenges of higher education.

"I think if students have the ability, we should enable them to have the opportunity," he said.

He believes strongly that alumni have a responsibility to help create opportunities for future generations.

"I think many of us at the end of our careers can trace our success, in part, to Fisher as a launching pad," he said. "As a result, I think we have an obligation to help students be successful in their chosen fields and support them to become tomorrow's leaders in their professions and their communities."

In addition to philanthropy, Stanton sees value in the many ways alumni can contribute to the University.

"I think there's an opportunity for the University to tap into the expertise of its alumni," he said. "There are people with a wide variety of experiences who would be more than willing to devote their time and knowledge to help Fisher continue to grow and succeed."

What makes Stanton most proud to be a Fisher graduate today is that the University continues to remain grounded in the values that shaped his own experience as a student.

"I appreciate that Fisher is fundamentally still a values-driven organization with a clear mission," he said.

For Stanton, Fisher's continued commitment to its mission and values is one of the reasons he remains proud to support the University. He believes the same qualities that shaped his own experience—critical thinking, collaboration, service, and leadership—continue to prepare students to make meaningful contributions in their professions and communities.



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More than four decades after graduating, John and Leslie Barden, both Class of 1983 alumni, still point to St. John Fisher University as the place that shaped their lives, their careers, and their values.

"When I look at Fisher, I look at it as a family," John says. "The people are genuine. They are real. That is something special, and it carries through to the students."

Both John and Leslie arrived at Fisher with ambition and determination, supported by financial aid that made their education possible. That opportunity remains central to why they continue to give.

"Both John and I came from modest backgrounds, and affording college was a challenge," Leslie says. "We are incredibly grateful for the support we received. It is an honor to give back and help create those same opportunities for today's students."

A Foundation That Lasts

John credits Fisher with shaping both his professional path and his confidence.

"Fisher gave me confidence. That was one of the biggest things," he says. "If it was not for Fisher, there is a very good possibility I would not be where I am today."

After earning his accounting degree, John built a successful career and now serves as Dean of Executive Education and Associate Dean and Clinical Professor of Executive Education for the Naveen Jindal School of Management at the University of Texas at Dallas. He points to the people at Fisher as a defining influence.

"It was not just what I learned in the classroom. It was the people. They opened doors for me."

For Leslie, those relationships created lasting

opportunity. A connection made through Fisher led to a mentorship that helped launch her career in healthcare administration.

"That experience taught me a lifelong lesson in networking, telling your story, and building relationships," she says.

Today, Leslie serves as CEO of the Southern Atlantic Healthcare Alliance, where she leads strategy and partnerships to improve healthcare delivery and outcomes.

A Lifelong Connection

The Bardens' connection to Fisher extends well beyond their time on campus. It is reflected in friendships, professional networks, and their own story as a couple.

"The friendships I made at Fisher have stayed with me throughout my life," Leslie says. "And my most important connection is my husband. We started dating there."

That sense of connection is something John believes defines the Fisher experience.

"It is about relationships, trust, and the foundation that was set for you," he says.

Giving Back and Paying It Forward

As Spire Society members, the Bardens support Fisher because they believe in its impact and its future.

"I think it is important to give back to the place that helped you get where you are today," John says.

They have also been encouraged by how the University continues to evolve.

"Fisher gave me confidence. That was one of the biggest things. If it was not for Fisher, there is a very good possibility I would not be where I am today."

"We have been impressed with how Fisher continues to invest in relevant programs, partnerships, and facilities while staying true to what makes it special," Leslie says.

For them, giving is both gratitude and responsibility.

"When I think about supporting Fisher, I ask myself if I would be where I am today without it," John says.

A Message to Fellow Alumni

John offers a simple perspective for alumni considering reconnecting.

"What did Fisher do for you?" he says. "When you think about that, it really puts things into perspective."

For John and Leslie, the answer continues to shape their support today.

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Jeffrey Kyles '92, '97MBA has built a distinguished career in accounting and finance, applying his expertise across industries that range from healthcare and manufacturing to global food production and industrial engineering.

Along the way, he has held leadership roles with organizations including PricewaterhouseCoopers, Eastman Kodak, and Bausch + Lomb. Most recently, Kyles accepted the role of Chief Financial Officer at APD Engineering & Architecture, Integrated Design Services, a regional engineering and architecture firm based in Victor, New York.

While his professional path has taken him across industries and around the world, Kyles says the foundation for that journey began at St. John Fisher.

A native of Horseheads, New York, Kyles was drawn to Fisher because of its size, sense of community, and opportunity to compete as a student-athlete in both football and lacrosse.

"I knew I wanted a small school," he said. "I needed that interaction with my professors. That was really key for me to enhance my learning."

That close-knit environment left a lasting impression. In addition to earning both his bachelor's degree and MBA from Fisher, Kyles built friendships that remain central in his life today.

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"I've made friends that I still am very close with today that I met at Fisher," he said. "My best man in my wedding is probably one of my best friends outside of my spouse."

After graduating in 1992, Kyles began his career at Rochester General Hospital before returning to Fisher to complete his MBA in 1997. Although he considered other graduate schools, he says Fisher's faculty made the decision an easy one.

"The professors seemed to take a genuine caring interest in the students," he said. "You got that personal feel."

Following graduate school, Kyles joined PricewaterhouseCoopers and launched a career that would eventually span executive leadership positions in finance, accounting, operations, and internal audit. His work has taken him to 34 countries and exposed him to industries ranging from frozen food manufacturing and utilities to global engineering and industrial filtration.

"It's been a really rewarding experience," he said. "A lot of different things, a lot of different industries, but all very fun, and I learned a lot from each one of those roles."

Throughout his career, Kyles says the values he learned at Fisher have remained a constant guide.

"Teach me goodness, discipline, and knowledge — I carry that with me every day of my life," he said. "I can always lean on one of those, or all three of them at the same time, as part of my moral compass."

He also credits several faculty and coaches with helping shape his experience, including Professors Michael Fedoryshyn, Dr. Jason Berman, and Ed Stendardi, as well as legendary Cardinals football coach Paul Vosburgh.

"Teach me goodness, discipline, and knowledge — I carry that with me every day of my life."

"He really wanted you to be the best," Kyles said of Vosburgh. "He got more out of you than maybe you thought you could ever achieve on your own."

Today, Kyles remains actively connected to Fisher through philanthropy, mentoring, and engagement with students in the accounting program. His support of the Spire Society, he says, is rooted in both gratitude and a desire to help prepare future generations.

"I always like to help people," he said. "I think I make more of an impact when I'm helping the youth and trying to be a good person in society."

Kyles believes his support helps today's students gain not only technical skills, but also the adaptability and values needed to succeed in an evolving world.

"We want to produce graduates that we're proud of," he said, "future leaders in our community and the communities wherever their careers may take them."

For Kyles, supporting Fisher is also about strengthening the institution that helped shape his own success.

"The more Fisher grows and expands what it has to offer, that says a lot about the degree that I got," he said. "It brings value to the organization and value to your degree as an alum."

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For Marcie Doser '04, St. John Fisher University was the place where her interests, ambitions, and career path came together.

Today, Marcie is head of influencer marketing at Syneos Health, where she helps lead communications and awareness campaigns for pharmaceutical, biotech, and consumer health brands. Over the course of her career, she has worked on major public health and consumer campaigns, collaborating with everyone from patient advocates and healthcare professionals to celebrity influencers and nationally recognized public figures.

While her professional journey included time in New York City and eventually led to a leadership role within a global healthcare communications company, Marcie says the foundation for that success was built at Fisher.

Finding the Right Fit

After transferring to Fisher, Marcie quickly realized she had found the type of academic environment where she could thrive.

"The smaller classes and more focused coursework made a huge difference," she says. "It helped me see what was possible."

That clarity came into sharper focus through a public relations course taught by Jennifer Roberts.

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"That class was life-changing for me," Marcie says. "It helped me understand what PR actually was and how it worked in the real world."

As she continued through the communications program, internships and faculty mentorship helped connect classroom learning with professional experience.

"It was Fisher that really locked it in for me," she says. "And the internships I had gave me the experience I needed to get my first job."

Marcie credits Fisher's close-knit environment with helping students build both confidence and meaningful professional connections.

"It's the community, the access to professors, and the connections they help you make," she says. "It was the kind of place where people knew you and pushed you in the right ways."



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Reconnecting with Fisher

While Marcie always appreciated her Fisher experience, reconnecting with the University became more personal when her niece chose to enroll as a nursing student.

"I found myself encouraging her to go to Fisher," she says. "And then I realized it was because I had such a positive experience there."

That experience prompted Marcie to reconnect with the University and become more involved through the Spire Society.

Looking back, she says Fisher provided the kind of support system and opportunities that helped shape both her career path and her confidence.

"If you're a student who wants to learn and set yourself up for success, from my experience, it was the best thing I could have done for myself," she says.

Today, Marcie hopes her support helps create those same opportunities and experiences for current and future Fisher students. She believes the combination of mentorship, internships, faculty support, and professional connections available at Fisher can have a lasting impact on a student's future, just as it did on hers.



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Morgan Rulison Hastings '11 spends her days helping students navigate challenges, build confidence, and develop the skills they need to succeed both in and out of the classroom. As a school social worker with the Rochester City School District, she works with students by providing counseling, conducting evaluations, and connecting families with resources that support student success.

Nearly 12 years into her career, Hastings says one of the most rewarding aspects of her work is watching students grow.

"I absolutely love the variety," she said. "I get to see students grow, and then I get to see what they do after high school and after college. It's really amazing."

Hastings credits her education at St. John Fisher University with helping her develop many of the skills she relies on today.

"Fisher taught me how to become more professional," she said. "It taught me communication. It taught me the importance of relationships. Those are things that have continued to grow as I've gotten older."

A sociology major with a minor in psychology, Hastings explored a variety of academic interests before finding the path that ultimately led her to a career in social work. After graduating from Fisher in 2011, she earned a master's degree in social work from Marywood University and returned to the Rochester area to begin her professional career.

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While her own Fisher experience began as a student, her connection to the University stretches back much further. Growing up, she spent time on campus and watched family members, including her father, Joseph Rulison '78, remain actively involved with the University.

"I've always said, since I was a little girl, 'I want to go to Fisher,'" she recalled. "It just felt very familiar and comfortable. It felt like a second home."

That familiarity made Fisher an easy choice when it came time to apply to college. "I knew this was exactly where I wanted to go," she said.

During her time as a student, Hastings embraced opportunities that pushed her beyond her comfort zone. She served on the committee for Teddy Dance for Love and later as a subcommittee co-captain, gaining valuable leadership experience while helping support one of Fisher's signature student traditions.

She also participated in the Washington Center program, spending a semester living and working in Washington, D.C. The experience provided an opportunity to develop greater independence while building professional skills and relationships beyond Rochester.

"It gave me independence, professionalism, and relationships with people outside of Rochester that I still talk to 15 years later," she said.

Several professors left a lasting impression during her time at Fisher. Hastings credits Professor Barbara Rockell's criminal justice course with helping her better understand people and the ways they think and interact. She also remembers the genuine support and encouragement she received from faculty members who took a personal interest in their students' success.

In addition, business professor Howard Berman left a lasting impression through his emphasis on transparency, communication, and authenticity—qualities that continue to influence her professional life today. Drawing from his experience in the business world, Berman encouraged students to ask questions, communicate effectively, and lead with passion.

"He taught the most important skills," Hastings said. "How to present, how to ask questions, and how to show your passion."

Today, Hastings remains actively engaged with Fisher as an alumna, member of the Alumni Board of Directors, and supporter of the Spire Society. She says the University's sense of community is what continues to bring her back.

"I want students to look back and think, 'People from the Class of 2011 are still showing up for us because they're invested in our education.'"

"The Fisher pride and Fisher community is so strong," she said. "You can travel anywhere and almost always see someone wearing something related to Fisher."

Seeing alumni from earlier generations remain connected inspired her to stay involved as well.

"I want students to look back and think, 'People from the Class of 2011 are still showing up for us because they're invested in our education.'"

As a member of the Spire Society, Hastings supports Fisher because she wants future generations of Cardinals to experience the same sense of connection and community that has shaped her own Fisher journey. "I hope it inspires students who are currently enrolled at Fisher to want to continue to be involved in Fisher in the future," she said. "I want them to continue to feel a part of that Fisher community years after they graduate."

For Hastings, what makes her most proud today is seeing Fisher continue to evolve while maintaining the close-knit community that first drew her to campus years ago.

"Fisher continues to evolve and make such a great impact in our community," she said. "I'm proud to be part of that impact."



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For Class of 1996 alumni Dan and Carmelanne Schmitz, St. John Fisher University was where they built lifelong friendships, launched their careers, and met one another. Nearly three decades later, their daughter, Anneliese Schmitz '24, followed in their footsteps, becoming the third member of the family to call Fisher home.

While each arrived at Fisher through a different path and pursued different careers, all three describe the same feeling when they think about the University: community.

"I think it really just comes back to the community in general," Anneliese said. "Everyone is so welcoming. Everyone wants to talk to you and know your story. It's amazing."

Today, Anneliese works as a registered nurse at Strong Memorial Hospital, where she cares for adult patients on a medical-surgical unit. Although she graduated just a year ago, she has already earned recognition for her leadership and clinical excellence as a nominee for both the Clara H. Wagner Excellence in Clinical Practice Award at Fisher and a Rising Star Award at Strong Memorial Hospital.

During her time at Fisher, Anneliese took advantage of opportunities both inside and outside the classroom. Clinical placements connected her with healthcare professionals across the Rochester community, while experiences such as a nursing capstone trip to Belize expanded her understanding of healthcare delivery in different cultures.

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"Fisher offered so many opportunities," she said. "You could really explore different directions and discover what interested you."

Her mother, Carmelanne, also found her calling through Fisher's nursing program.

After earning her nursing degree, she began a career in ophthalmology, a field she has remained passionate about throughout her professional life.

"Nursing is very versatile," she said. "It's been wonderful. I was able to raise our family, be home with our children, and still stay involved in the profession."

Carmelanne credits Fisher's nursing program not only for preparing her clinically, but also for teaching skills that continue to shape her approach to patient care.

"You learn compassion. You learn patience. You learn how to listen to people," she said. "Those things stay with you."

Dan's path took him in a different direction. Originally from the Buffalo area, he was introduced to Fisher through a college representative who visited his high school. "Once I visited campus, it just felt like the right fit," he said.

After graduating in 1996, Dan entered the financial services industry and went on to found OakWood Financial Services, where he serves as president. Throughout his career, he has remained connected to Fisher through friendships, alumni engagement, and relationships with faculty members who helped shape his professional journey.

One of those influences was Professor Ed Stendardi, who encouraged Dan to explore financial services as a career. Years later, Dan returned to campus as a guest speaker in Stendardi's classes, sharing his experiences with Fisher students preparing to enter the profession.

Today, Dan continues to give back to the University through his service on the Alumni Board of Directors, helping support and strengthen connections among generations of Fisher graduates.

For the Schmitz family, however, Fisher's greatest impact extends beyond degrees and careers. "It's the people and the experience," Dan said.

Over the years, the friendships they formed as students have endured through marriages, careers, children, and family milestones, creating a network that continues to enrich their lives.

> "I had the most amazing four years. Giving back helps ensure that everyone else who goes to Fisher can have those same opportunities."

"We've stayed connected all these years. That's what I love about Fisher," said Carmelanne.

Those relationships also helped shape Anneliese's experience growing up. While her parents never pressured her to attend Fisher, she spent years hearing stories, meeting alumni, and watching the role the University continued to play in their lives.

"I just remember walking around campus and thinking it felt right," she said. "It felt very familiar and comfortable."

Today, all three remain active supporters of Fisher through the Spire Society, motivated by a shared belief in the power of education and the importance of creating opportunities for future generations.

For Anneliese, support means helping future students enjoy the same transformative experiences she enjoyed as a student.

"I had the most amazing four years," she said. "Giving back helps ensure that everyone else who goes to Fisher can have those same opportunities."

For Carmelanne, philanthropy is rooted in helping students access an education that might otherwise be out of reach.

"No one should be denied an education because of the cost," she said. "If we can help give someone that opportunity, that's what's important to me."

Dan views his support as an investment in Fisher's future and its ability to adapt and thrive in a rapidly changing world.

"I hope Fisher can continue to stay on the cutting edge," he said. "The value that it provides is so important."

Together, their story reflects the enduring impact of a Fisher education, one that spans generations, strengthens communities, and continues long after graduation.



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