



**INSIDE THIS ISSUE**

Meet Two Recent Graduates: Achieving Goals, One at a Time	1
Why Get an Associate's Degree at Immaculata?	1
Importance of Networking	2
Notes From Financial Aid	2
Did You Know??	3
IHM Student Center Under Construction	3
CAPS Commencement 2018	4

# Meet Two Recent Graduates: Achieving Goals, One at a Time



Michael Conlan '18 celebrates his graduation with his mom Lynne Conlan '03. Both Mike and Lynne enrolled in Immaculata's College of Adult Professional Studies through a Wawa cohort.

Following in the footsteps of his mother, Lynne Conlan, who graduated from Immaculata as an adult student in 2003, Mike Conlan decided to give college another try as an adult. Enrolling at Immaculata as part of a cohort of Wawa employees, he initially earned an A.S. in Business Administration in 2015. Conlan describes the cohort experience as "amazing," emphasizing the community aspect of a cohort-based education. He enjoyed the experience so much that he continued his education and received a B.S. in Business Management this year – graduating magna cum laude.

In similar fashion, Kathleen Santana completed an A.S. in Business Administration in 2016 and then earned a B.S. in Business Management and Human Resource Management too. At first convinced that she lacked the time and financial resources necessary, Santana was hesitant about pursuing a college career. She heard about Immaculata from an acquaintance, but did not enroll as a student until she found herself working at Camilla Hall, the nursing home for the IHM Sisters. Believing it to be kismet, Santana felt that fate was pointing her to Immaculata. She registered for classes and began working toward her degree.

Both Santana and Conlan received recognition for all of their hard work, including induction into several honors societies. Conlan looks back fondly at his time with Immaculata, saying, "I am really grateful... I can't imagine what my life would be like today if I hadn't gone to college and attended Immaculata."

Santana says that her education allowed her to accomplish goals she never thought she would achieve. She credits this to Immaculata's CAPS program: "Immaculata University's faculty work with their CAPS students to make sure that they're successful."

Building from that success, Santana is actively working in her field as the director of Human Resources for the St. Martha Center in Downingtown, PA and is currently pursuing her master's degree.

Conlan plans to stay with Wawa and is optimistic about his options within the company. When asked if his children might consider carrying on the Immaculata family tradition, his answer was an emphatic yes: "My mother and I would love it if a third generation of our family attended Immaculata."



Kathleen Santana '18 gets a hug from her son Michael, after the College of Adult Professional Studies Commencement ceremony.

## Why get an Associate's Degree at Immaculata?

Check out the associate programs at Immaculata University. If you are unsure about the benefits of such a program, here are five great reasons to pursue an associate degree:

1. Checking "YES" to the question, "Do you have a college degree?" on a job application.
2. Increasing your earning potential.
3. Earning a degree in half the time as a bachelor's degree, and for less money.
4. Advancing seamlessly into a bachelor's program.
5. Owning that irreplaceable sense of personal accomplishment.

Some of the most popular associate degree programs at Immaculata include Business Administration; Information Systems; Communication; and Education.

# Importance of Networking

## The word networking gets thrown around a lot. But what does it actually mean?

According to the webpage for Immaculata's Office of Career and Professional Development, networking is a process in which you build and expand relationships with the intent of obtaining more opportunities, both professionally and socially. As the old adage says, it's all about who you know – and who might help you achieve your career goals.

The good news is that it is a skill that can be learned. In a 2016 Harvard Business Review article entitled, "Learn to Love Networking," authors Casciaro, Gino, and Kouchaki offer research-based tips on successful networking. They suggest:

It may sound simple on paper, but networking is not always easy. Even outgoing people who thrive in social settings may sometimes struggle to network effectively.

### 1. Focus on Learning – Resist your instinct to hide in the corner.

Try to approach networking with an open mind and curiosity about what possibilities might arise. Ask questions and listen to the responses.

### 2. Identify Common Interests – The best connections are made between people who work on projects together. Practically speaking, this means sharing ideas and getting involved.

### 3. Think Broadly About What You Can Give – Even if you're speaking with someone with a higher perceived rank, you probably have something to offer. Can you help organize an event, help make others feel welcome, or offer fresh perspective to an idea?

### 4. Motivate Yourself by Finding a Higher Purpose –

People sometimes find it easier to put themselves out there when they are representing a higher purpose. For example: Is your gender, generation or ethnicity under-represented in your field? Consider how your personal presentation may help to shift stereotypes.

### 5. Say Thank You – Don't forget to say thank you or send a note when you're on the receiving end of a mentoring exchange. People like to be appreciated.

**Learn more about networking** – both in person and by using tools like LinkedIn – at the Immaculata Office of Career and Professional Development at [www.immaculata.edu/academics/career-professional-development](http://www.immaculata.edu/academics/career-professional-development); by email at [careerdevelopment@immaculata.edu](mailto:careerdevelopment@immaculata.edu); or call 484-323-3506.

## Notes from Financial Aid

### PELL

Continuing into the 2018-2019 award year, eligible students may receive up to 150 percent of the student's Federal Pell Grant scheduled award. To be eligible for the additional Pell Grant funds, the student must be eligible to receive Pell Grant funds for the payment period and must be enrolled at least half-time, in the payment period(s) for which the student receives the additional Pell Grant funds in excess of 100 percent of the student's Pell Grant scheduled award.

For example, a student attends full-time in the fall semester and full-time in the spring semester, fully utilizing the initial scheduled Pell award. If the student attends summer full-time, that student would receive an additional 50% of Pell award for that year. Please note that the student must be enrolled at least half-time for the payment period in which any funds in excess of the first scheduled award will be used. Please contact your Financial Aid counselor for guidance on this new policy.

### PHEAA

In order to be eligible for the PHEAA State Grant, the FAFSA was to be completed by May 1, 2018. You would also need to meet the below requirements.

- For Pennsylvania, the deadline is May 1
- Be a Pennsylvania resident for at least 12 consecutive months
- Meet criteria for financial need
- Be enrolled for at least six credits as an undergraduate student
- Earn, through classroom instruction, at least 50% of the total credit hours required for completing the program of study
- Maintain satisfactory academic progress (as defined by PHEAA)
- Not have previously earned a bachelor's degree or its equivalent



- Not be in default on an educational loan
- Summer PHEAA grants require a separate application located on the PHEAA website, which becomes available in April of each year

### Withdrawing out of Courses

Please note that students must make quantitative and qualitative progress toward their educational goals each academic year to receive assistance. Student must maintain a 2.0 Grade Point Average but also complete 75 percent of the credits that are attempted. Failures and withdrawals are courses attempted, not completed.

## Did YOU Know???

### Fall registration is now open.

To search for available courses, log onto SSIU, Registration and Look Up Classes. CRN's for courses offered within a cohort are not published, but have been emailed to students.

### Have questions?

Contact your academic advisor.

### Important Dates:

#### August 22

New Student Orientation, 6 - 8 p.m., Green Room in Villa Maria Hall

#### August 22

Degrees conferred to August graduates

#### August 27

Fall courses begin

#### Fall full payment due by Aug. 3

or Payment Plan due dates:

Aug. 3, Sept. 2, and Oct. 2

### Graduation

Immaculata awards degrees three times a year, in August, January and May. Students must apply to graduate through SSIU. The online application for August 2018 graduates is open until July 31. The graduation application for January, May and August 2019 will open at the beginning of the Fall 2018 semester. Commencement exercises are held for all graduates in May of each year.

## Fall Fest October 2018 –

Watch your email for details!



### Refer a Friend!

Share your IU experience with a friend. **For any referral who enrolls, we'll say thank you with an IU sweatshirt!**  
Inquiry@immaculata.edu

# IHM Student Center Under Construction

Attending school as a working adult is challenging, but the new IHM Student Center will make some aspects of college life easier and more fun!



Imagine stopping in before class to pick up a snack in the dining area that includes a self-serve counter for beverages including milkshakes. If you didn't get a chance to hit the gym, you can work off that milkshake on the new state-of-the-art exercise equipment – while streaming your favorite shows at the same time.

Designed with students of all ages in mind, the new student center will feature a variety of recreational spaces. So if you need a place to study, consider the spacious lounge with a huge fireplace and comfortable seating.

All studied out? Take advantage of the new game room, which will feature two electronic gaming stations, and tables for shuffle-board, ping-pong, and billiards.

Construction is slated to be complete before the end of the fall semester, and will be followed by a dedication ceremony. If you find yourself on campus after a long day of work and school, stop by the new IHM Student Center and treat yourself to some rest and relaxation before that long commute home.



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## CAPS Commencement 2018



CAPS students ready to reunite with family and friends after receiving their diplomas at the Commencement ceremony.



IU alumna Theresa Payton '89 gave a presentation on cybersecurity issues. After, she signed her books for guests.



Congratulations to College of Adult Professional Studies graduate Christopher Mumford who received the Anderson Medal for Mathematics during the 2018 Commencement ceremony.



Honors Convocation 2018: Students were recently inducted into various honor societies at the annual induction ceremony.