

# An unbroken bond

## Alumni-student connections link past and future

By Mary Shafer

**W**hether it's because of the small and intimate class sizes and campus setting, the emphasis on the liberal arts or simply the caliber of students Moravian attracts, Moravian College graduates have a habit of reaching back and helping students.

The flow of Moravian knowledge began with the first faculty and continues today in the same spirit of intellectual curiosity. Not surprisingly, some of Moravian's most dedicated teachers are themselves Moravian graduates. **Joe Shosh** graduated summa cum laude from Moravian in 1988 and currently serves as chair of the education department and director of graduate education. He believes outreach and ambassadorship have always been an implicit part of the Moravian teaching contract.

"We just see it as part of our role," he explains. "When we're working with Moravian students in the classroom, there's a sense of community, of mutual growth and support. My uncle graduated from Moravian in 1972, and I remember being a kid on campus and having that feeling of belonging."

This sense of community flows through the students, to each other and into the world beyond campus as they graduate and move on to their vocational pursuits.

One of those students, **Rob Verrone** '90, went to work right after graduation as a real estate analyst associate for Bear Stearns. Four years later, he moved to Wachovia Bank, where he ran the real estate division for 14 years. During that time, he brought in **Borko Milosev** '04 as an unpaid intern, after Milosev reached out to him.

"He commuted two hours each way (from Bethlehem to New York City)," recalls Verrone. "Some nights, he slept under his desk." Shortly after graduation, once he was getting paid, Milosev moved into a one-bedroom apartment, where he lived with two other Moravian alums. "I saw that he was really smart, passionate and focused," Verrone says. That's why, when he left Wachovia to start Iron Hound Management, a real estate consulting, advisory and brokerage firm, in 2008, he took Milosev with him.

Now Verrone participates in alumni networking events and sometimes speaks to senior classes, sharing his knowledge and experiences.

Milosev's ambition led him to form his own real estate investment firm, Post Road Management, several years later. Rather than take umbrage, Verrone became an investor. "He deserves to be successful, and I wanted to support him," Verrone explains.

When things got busy, Milosev reached out to Moravian's of-



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Amy Saul works with Lauren Orchard in the Career Center.

fice of career development, knowing he'd find high-caliber intern candidates there. "I look for people who are hungry and smart and who care about their work. I know Moravian graduates are prepared to work," he says.

And that's how Milosev found **Greg Scarlato** '12. He was impressed with Scarlato's hustle and dedication. "We work long hours and I need someone who's going to be alongside me 24/7 if I need them. A lot of other things I can teach, but I need someone who cares and will do their job well, not someone who just wants the paycheck. I saw that willingness and ambition [in Scarlato], and hired him." Scarlato is now the general manager of Milosev's nine-employee firm.

Meanwhile, Milosev spends a good deal of time and energy giving back to Moravian through service on the Leadership Council. "Amy Saul [director of career development] and I joke that I'm on campus almost every month," he says with a chuckle.

"I owe a great education to Moravian, as well as the introduction to Rob Verrone," he says. "The only way I can pay that back is to work with Moravian students and grads and pass on that success, help out on campus and provide some financial support."

### Developing opportunities

It all starts in Moravian's Career Center, where director **Amy Saul** provides opportunities for current students to plan for life after graduation. She supervises the center, arranging individual career counseling, advising and assessment, and coordinates special programs while directing on-campus employer recruitment efforts.

Events involving students and alumni, including Backpack to Briefcase, Coffee & Connections and off-campus networking



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events, all help students turn their eye toward the future and make crucial connections that often serve them well.

In addition to participating in formal and informal networking events, alumni are encouraged to give back through service on the Leadership Council. With a current roster of 40, and plans to add 20 more alumni in the near future, the Leadership Council advises the Board of Trustees in ways to fulfill the College's mission. The Council also works closely with the Career Center in matching up students with appropriate internships and jobs.

Beginning in the fall, students will have the chance to participate in a new externship program. Interested current students will be paired with Council members in their area of interest, and will visit them on the job for a full day of observation and on-the-job learning. These experiences are expected to help students more fully understand their potential careers and possibly return to the company as interns or even paid employees.

"The Leadership Council is an organized group dedicated to supporting the College's mission, asking their classmates to get involved, and making it a priority to provide career opportunities for graduates through recruitment fairs and similar events," says **Julia Gasdaska '07** assistant director of leadership giving and council liaison. "They are making a difference for our students in career development, enrollment and fundraising."

### Continuing a legacy

Innumerable alumni are similarly motivated, acting as ambassadors for the College and creating new connections in countless ways. Some of these connections go back many decades, such as with recent graduate **Dylan Stroup '10**. He attended Moravian through the influence of his fifth-grade teacher, **Molly Dinneen '64**, who was a graduate of Moravian's teaching program. She, in turn, was encouraged to study at Moravian by her high school teacher, **Harriet Hoy Moyer '34**.

Stroup, now a financial professional with AXA Advisors LLC, in Bethlehem, found his position through an interview during Moravian's annual career fair. "A professor mentioned this company, I contacted Amy Saul, and she

helped me train for interviews and refine my first résumé," says Stroup. "Most importantly, she reinforced the connection between me and the manager at AXA Advisors, which helped greatly in getting an offer."

Stroup now sits on the Leadership Council, and his office currently has four Moravian College students working on various projects and shadowing advisors. It's all part of his belief that alumni should give back whenever they can. "I speak with the Career Center at least once a month to make sure I am doing all I can to provide insight into my field to both students and alumni," he says. "I feel Moravian College does an excellent job providing opportunities for alumni, students, faculty and staff to help one another."

He also nurtures a hope that, at some point, he'll be able to leverage the frequent trips he makes to local high schools into an opportunity to become an active ambassador for Moravian. "I always see posters on the walls for other colleges and logo pendants and key rings the career counselors give away to students. I'd love to be able to leave these kinds of things with the Moravian logo to make them more aware of the great option they have in choosing this school." \*

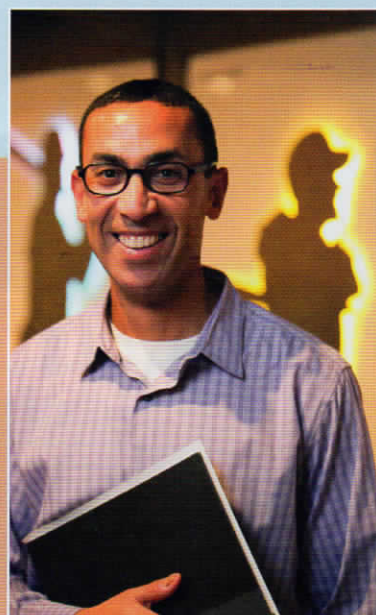
## A Major League advantage

After graduating in 1992, **John Quinones** spent the summer working at Butler Service Group, a technical recruiting firm. During that internship, sponsored by Moravian psychology professor Robert Brill, Quinones got an introduction to the basics of human resources management. He went on to get his Master of Science degree in industrial labor relations at Baruch College. He's now vice president of recruitment for the Office of the Commissioner at Major League Baseball (MLB), where he's been since 2008.

Last year, he met **Jenelle Mirro '11** through Backpack to Briefcase. "She was impressive from the moment I met her," he recalls. They agreed Mirro would spend a day shadowing him at work, and he arranged for her to meet with colleagues from MLB's licensing and special events department for informational interviews. He encouraged her to apply for a summer internship and she became possibly the first Moravian student to intern at MLB.

Her credentials got her the internship, Quinones says, "But her relationship with me through Moravian helped put her on the radar. I meet a lot of talented students with varying levels of skill and presentation every day, and coming in with that kind of potential door opener helps them stand out from the crowd."

Quinones helps assure Moravian will be able to continue giving graduates that leg up in the employment marketplace by sitting on the Leadership Council and participating in alumni networking events. "I was really fortunate that Moravian gave me an opportunity 20 years ago, and I have the moral obligation to help pay it forward. I'm proud of my Moravian education and I want to share that with others," he says.



John Quinones '92.