

Goin' to the Chapel of Love

To Rich Behr '08 the Our Lady of Angels Convent Chapel held many memories. It was in that sacred spot that he attended his commissioning masses while he was a member of the Knights basketball team. He was also present at the confirmation of his roommate, Chris Martinez, which was also held in the chapel.

For Behr's fiancée, Kelly Offreda, the Our Lady of Angels Chapel will always mean only one thing — the sentimental location where they got engaged.

On March 12, the couple traveled from northern New Jersey to Neumann's campus for the annual Brendan P. Kelly '87 Weekend. Behr was playing in the alumni basketball game held in the University's Mirinda Center for Sport, Spirituality and Character Development.

Behr and Offreda had been dating for more than a year and he knew he had found his soul mate. He wanted to ask her to be his wife but wanted to do it in a special way that would touch her heart.

"I always remembered the convent chapel being so beautiful and I thought it would be a great spot to ask Kelly to marry me," he said. "I just thought that because I had a great experience at Neumann. It shaped me as a person. I felt that I should choose the chapel to be my venue."

Behr set the wheels in motion by emailing Sr. Marguerite O'Beirne, OSF '70, vice president for mission and ministry at Neumann, and asking her to get them into the chapel during their visit. Sr. Marguerite was more than happy to help hatch Behr's plan and agreed to give the couple a tour of the convent.

"He said he was coming for Kelly weekend and he would like me to show them the chapel. Rich was a great citizen of the campus. The chapel had been special to him because of the evenings of reflection and the commissioning masses. It was humbling and exciting for me to be a part of (the engagement)," Sr. Marguerite said.

Prior to embarking on Sr. Marguerite's tour, Behr wanted to introduce his soon-to-be fiancée to some of his former professors. They ran into Dr. Ed Hastings, director

of the Institute for Sport, Spirituality and Character Development, and the entire plan almost went belly-up.

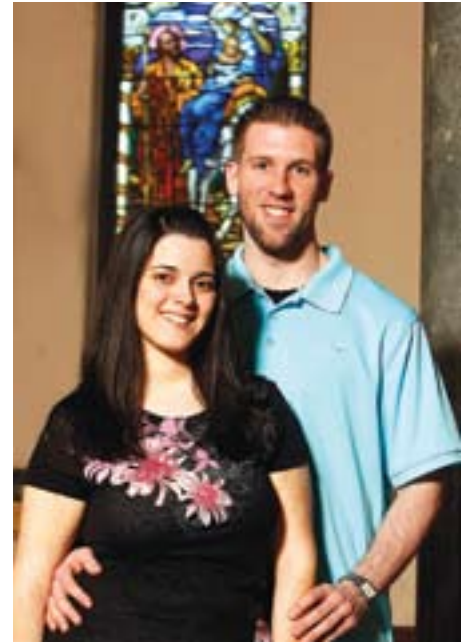
"Dr. Hastings almost let the cat out of the bag. He came up to us and said 'Congratulations!' I'm sure he was sweating because he thought he blew it," Behr said.

As Sr. Marguerite led the couple into the chapel, she made up a quick excuse and stepped out for moment. It was show time for Behr, and he felt the pressure mounting.

"We made our way to the front of the chapel. My heart was racing and my knees were knocking. I grabbed her hand and told her how I felt about her. She said my hands were shaking," Behr recalled.

Offreda was caught totally off guard. While the couple had been talking about getting engaged, she expected it to happen during the summer months.

"I had no idea and I was totally surprised. I kept asking him if he was okay. His face was red and he was shaking. Then he got down on his knee and I knew," she said.



Rich Behr '08 and his fiancée Kelly Offreda inside the church where they will be married — St. Joseph's in East Rutherford, NJ.

The happy couple is in the process of planning their spring 2012 wedding, which will be held at Saint Joseph's Church in East Rutherford, New Jersey.

Dear Alumni,

My sincerest thanks on behalf of the Alumni Association for a stellar year of Alumni involvement. During the last 12 months, Neumann enjoyed record attendance at events such as Homecoming, Charter Day, Brendan P. Kelly '87 Memorial Weekend, on- and off-campus sporting events and reunions, numerous alumni receptions and most recently, the Brendan P. Kelly '87 Neumann University Celebrity Golf Classic.

In addition, graduate involvement included new initiatives in career and professional development, participation in advisory boards, increased annual giving donations, alumni and event committees, and much more. Each act of giving back to Neumann strengthens the Alumni Association. You cannot buy this type of loyalty or pride. It is the result of a strong passion and belief that Neumann is worth the investment.

Thank you for making the academic school year of 2009-2010 a year by which all other years will be measured!

Have a safe and happy summer! We hope to see you soon.

Judi Stanaitis

Judi Stanaitis '07

Director of Alumni Relations and Special Events



Honoring Betty Neuman

On April 15, Neumann nursing alumni gathered for a reception honoring Betty Neuman whose system model for nursing is used by Neumann students. Pictured from left to right are Fay McManus '84, Kate Pearson '91, Betty Neuman, Jennifer Mays '95, '04, and Mary Ann Hill '91.



Alumni Games

Get your competitive juices flowing when you return to campus for Homecoming 2010 in October. The Alumni Association and Athletic Department are organizing alumni games in lacrosse, field hockey, softball and other sports. To join a team, email alumni@neumann.edu. Pictured here are Brandy Bastista '06, Adrienne McCrae '11, and Kerri Sinclair '10.



Blue Rocks

The Neumann University Alumni Association hosted a night at the Wilmington Blue Rocks on April 30 at Frawley Stadium in Wilmington, Delaware. Alums Bernadette (McKenzie) Kutufaris '99 and Andrew Kutufaris '04 with their children Benjamin, Nathan, and Jason joined the Rolston family — Maria (Chiesa) '01, '04, Chad '01, and their children Gabriella, Christopher and Brayden.