Felician College Celebrates 512 Graduates!

A steady rain did not damper the spirits of the 512 graduating students, their families and friends who eagerly awaited the conferral of degrees during Felician College’s 49th annual commencement exercises on Sunday, May 19 at the John J. Breslin Theater on the College’s Lodi campus.

Faculty and administration in colorful regalia were led by mace bearer Dr. Anthony J. Scardino from the School of Business. Sahitarian Ann Sophia Scherer, Business major and inductee to the New Jersey College Business Administration Association Honor Society, gave the invocation.

The program, held at the John J. Breslin Theater in Ogal Hall on the Lodi campus, included the presentation of awards in several academic, service and leadership categories; the symbolic blessing of hands; and conferring of pins to recipients in the following programs: Graduate Nursing, Pre-Licensure BSN, and RN/BSN.

Dr. Murriel Shore, Dean and Professor, School of Nursing, also presented the Sister Mary Alma Distinguished Leader in Nursing Award to Nancy E. Hollock, Senior Vice-President of Patient Care Services, Barnabas Health System.

Felician College President Dr. Anne Prisco offered a message to the graduates.

“When you decided to become a nurse, you made one of the most important decisions in your life,” said Dr. Prisco.

“You made the decision to share your knowledge, your compassion, your love of human life and health and happiness with those who need it the most. You have answered a very special call to help others. May you do so with reverence, respect and joy always.”

President’s Scholarship Reception a Resounding Success

More than 200 friends and supporters of Felician College attended the inaugural President’s Scholarship Reception, held recently at The Venetian in Garfield. All proceeds of the evening benefited the Felician College President’s Scholarship Fund.

Jim Kirkos, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Meadowlands Regional Chamber of Commerce and a respected leader in the business community, was honored for his dedication to Felician College.

“I’ve known Jimmy Kirkos since he was a young guy,” said Tony Scardino, member of Felician’s Board of Trustees, who introduced the guest of honor. “He was an ambitious businessman but one who was always looking to help people succeed. He’s still that way, and it’s my honor to introduce him tonight.”

“What a wonderful way to recognize an important leader of the community and at the same time raise funds for our students who really need financial support,” said Felician College President Dr. Anne Prisco.

Reception co-chairman John Mazur offered the opening remarks and welcomed the crowd, who enjoyed a sumptuous buffet dinner and cocktails. Felician College student ambassadors were also on hand to meet and greet the guests.

Assemblywoman Sheila Y. Oliver was the guest speaker for the event. Before entering public service, Ms. Oliver devoted her professional career to community service and non-profit administration, and has been a longtime advocate of higher education in New Jersey.

Sister Christopher spent many years as an educator and has held various posts within the Felician Congregation, and is currently serving as Provincial Minister in Our Lady of Hope Province, Pennsylvania. She is a frequent speaker on the “gospel of green,” promoting environment-friendly renovations and sustainable practices throughout Pennsylvania.

Dr. Prisco reminded the graduates of the importance of wisdom and also of happiness. “Doing what you love is a gift,” she said. “Embrace what you’ve learned and be happy in all you do.”

Sister Christopher Moore offers the keynote address at the 2013 Commencement. Below: Graduating students prepare to march into the John J. Breslin Theater.

School of Nursing Recognizes 198 at Ceremony

Felician College honored 198 graduating students during its annual Recognition Ceremony for the School of Nursing.

The program, held at the John J. Breslin Theater in Ogal Hall on the Lodi campus, included the presentation of awards in several academic, service and leadership categories; the symbolic blessing of hands; and conferring of pins to recipients in the following programs: Graduate Nursing, Pre-Licensure BSN, and RN/BSN.

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Development

How to Give

Did you miss the reception? It’s not too late to donate to the President’s Scholarship Fund.

For information on how to give to Felician College, visit alumni.felician.edu and click on the “Ways to Give” link.
Who's New at Felician College

Francine Andrea
Vice President, Administration, Enrollment and Planning

Ms. Andrea comes to Felician with many years of experience in higher education. In her present role, she oversees the offices of institutional research, enrollment management, information technology and systems, compliance and government relations, financial aid and the registrar. She is also responsible for conference and events service and marketing and communications.

Ms. Andrea previously was the Executive Director of Strategic Alliances at Centenary College, Hackettstown, N.J. She served as the Chief Operating Officer for the New Jersey Higher Education Student Assistance Authority, Trenton, and was the Dean of Resource Management and Financial Aid at Fairleigh Dickinson University.

Howard Burrell, Psy.D.
Special Assistant to the President, Secretary to the Board of Trustees

Dr. Burrell is responsible for a host of administrative duties, including representing the president’s office at various meetings, and acting as liaison with students, faculty and staff, parents, alumni, vendors and other key internal and external constituencies. He is also responsible for investigating and resolving college administrative issues and processing special requests.

Dr. Burrell previously was an adjunct professor in the Department of Social Services at Centenary College, Hackettstown, N.J. He also served as Assistant Director in the Division of Employer Accounts for the State of New Jersey Department of Labor & Workshop Development, Trenton. Currently, Dr. Burrell also serves on the North Jersey District Water Supply Commission, a position appointed by the governor’s office.

James Fitzpatrick, Ed.D.
Vice President for Student Affairs

In his role at Felician College, Dr. Fitzpatrick oversees the offices of student development, career services, counseling, health services and athletics. In addition, he is also responsible for campus security, food services and transportation.

Before coming to Felician, Dr. Fitzpatrick was Vice President and Dean of Student Development at Brescia University, Owensboro, Ky., and Ohio Dominican University, Columbus. He also served as Dean of Students at Bethany College, Bethany, W.Va., and Pennsylvania College of Technology, Williamsport. He was also the Director of Student development at Gannon University, Erie, Pa.

Florence Study Abroad is Picture Perfect Trip

Eight students traveled to Florence, Italy, this summer, as part of Felician College’s Study Abroad program. The four-week course focused on photography and Florence is the ideal place to snap away, said Professor Mike Nylén, Chair of Art and Music at Felician.

“Their favorite, the Florence Galleria degli Uffizi, was visited only twice, so a fourth visit was a must,” Professor Nylén said. “They also took a lot of pictures that depicted the culture and lifestyle of the Italian people. They did a great job.”

Florence graduate Gina Lipere, Class of 2013, wrote a daily blog about her trip that included her photos.

“It was honestly the greatest experience of my life,” said Gina. “Making the choice to go was the best decision I’ve ever made. I would go back there in a heartbeat.”

Carlo Colechia, Director of Study Abroad, said the Florence excursion has opened the door for other travel possibilities in the future.

“Increasing international travel and study is one of [Felician President Dr. Anne Prisco’s] visions for the College,” said Mr. Colechia, who noted that this year students traveled to London, South Korea, Japan, as well as Nicaragua, Ireland and Italy.

“Our students have the opportunity to travel with us and experience different cultures and ways of life,” said Dr. Prisco. “This is an important part of the educational experience and adds to the richness of our students’ education.”

Felician Hosts Youth Leadership Conference

High school students from all over Bergen County attended the first annual Youth Leadership Conference on Felician College’s Rutherford campus. The two-day event took place on August 19 & 20.

Approximately 25 students participated in workshops and activities specifically geared towards effectively creating positive change among their peers in their schools and communities. The program was designed to help students work toward raising awareness about underage drinking and drug abuse, as well as creating a network of peer leaders with the ability to educate their groups, schools and communities.

Sponsors and presenters included Hackensack SOAR (Steering Out Alcohol Responsibly), Garfield EPIC (Empower Peers and Inspire Change) and the Bergen County Prevention Coalition Youth Task Force. Guest speaker was Dr. Michael Feinlin, a noted psychologist and presenter on issues of race, discrimination, and violence prevention.

Grad Students Visit Emerald Isle for Intense Course Work

Felician College graduate students in the School of Business embarked on an international venture that took them this past summer to Ireland.

Eighteen students from Felician’s master’s programs in Business Administration and Science and Healthcare Administration participated in the study abroad program held at All Hallows College in Dublin. The program offered intense 3-credit course work in several different topics including Policy Design and Analysis, Leadership and Management, Strategic Planning, and Social Enterprises.

“It was a wonderful experience and I highly encourage any future Felician student, graduate or undergraduate, to take part if they can,” said Tom Colban, one of the students who participated. Not only did I get to meet great people at different cultures and work with them on an exciting project, but I formed a bond with my fellow classmates that I expect to last a lifetime. And perhaps most importantly, Felician took excellent care of us in terms of travel and accommodation; I am extremely grateful.”

Felician College entered the program in collaboration with DePaul University, Chicago, and College of Notre Dame of Maryland.

“Grad Students Visit Emerald Isle for Intense Course Work”

Felician College graduated more than 170 international students, who spent several weeks on the Rutherford campus this summer as part of the Baker Study Tours’ global study initiative.

Students from Brazil, Italy, Spain, Kazakhstan and Poland took classes in Sammartino Hall, utilized our Student Union and Gymnasium, and spent their free time visiting the local attractions in New Jersey, Philadelphia and New York City. Felician College President Dr. Anne Prisco welcomed the students to campus as a big step in expanding the College’s mission to increase international study and use of the Rutherford campus.

“Grad Students Visit Emerald Isle for Intense Course Work”

Florence Traveling in Florence

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Felician's Education Honors Society is National 'Rising Star'

Alpha Zeta Rho, Felician College's chapter of Kappa Delta Pi (KDP), has received the national "Rising Star" award for achieving excellence during its inaugural year. Criteria for the award included advancements in leadership, programming, communications and membership growth. Felician’s Alpha Zeta Rho chapter was inaugurated in May 2012.

“The overall mission of KDP is to promote and advance scholarship, leadership and service in a community of educators,” said Professor Christine Ross, of Felician College’s School of Education, Undergraduate Department. “The Alpha Zeta Rho chapter takes this mission very seriously and uses it to guide everything we do. We strive to provide the college community, in particular the School of Education with a balance of service in the Franscicic tradition and professional development.”

KDP, the international honor society for education, connects top educators throughout the world by carrying out their mission of scholarship and excellence. Among the names that have made its celebrity “A” list are Albert Einstein and Eleanor Roosevelt.

Today KDP continues to reflect a diverse and active community of educators ranging from prospective teachers and higher education faculty members to retired educators.

“Having a Kappa Delta Pi chapter on campus is beneficial for distinguished students currently pursuing a degree in education,” said Professor Ross. “Over the past year, the honor society has grown and become an important resource for School of Education students. I am very proud of all of the hard work that our members do to make the chapter a success. It is so fulfilling as a counselor to see leadership bloom and grow.”

Students inducted into the honor society uphold a prestigious status, benefit from their chapter’s professional development events, and are well informed on contemporary topics in the field of education.

“Serving as President of the Alpha Zeta Rho Chapter has given me the opportunity to value the importance of professional development,” said Zachery Milkewicz, Class of 2014 and chapter president. “My serving as President of the Alpha Zeta Rho Chapter has given me the benefit from their chapter’s professional development events, and are Students inducted into the honor society uphold a prestigious status, benefit from their chapter’s professional development events, and are well informed on contemporary topics in the field of education.

Felician College Boasts Multiple Years of Student Teaching Success

Felician College’s School of Education is long known for its comprehensive approach to preparing students for a career in teaching. Now it is earning widespread recognition for success in that field.

For the second year in a row – and the fifth time since 2005 – a graduating senior in Felician College’s Teacher Education program has been honored as a Distinguished Student Teacher by the State of New Jersey Department of Education.

Frank Viola, Class of 2013, received this year’s honor. The Butherford resident was only one of 15 student teachers across the state to be named for the prestigious award.

“I was happy to be nominated but never gave it much thought that I would receive the award,” said Mr. Viola, who was recently hired for a position in the Palisades Park school system. “It’s an honor.”

Mr. Viola also is on the coaching staff at Butherford High School.

Edward Bodnar, Valedictorian of the Class of 2013, was second year’s recipient. Former Felician recipients hailed from the Class of 2005, ’07 and ’08.

“If it’s a great honor to have one of our students recognized in this way,” said Dr. Rose Budniński, Dean of the School of Education, “But to have back-to-back recipients says volumes about Felician’s teacher preparation programs.”

Dr. Budniński said that Felician prides itself on offering potential teaching candidates multiple opportunities throughout their college coursework to participate in different school settings and grade levels before student teaching.

“This affords them hands-on experience in diverse situations which better prepares them to meet the needs of the diverse students of the 21st century and opens a wide range of career opportunities for our graduates,” she said.

Alumni Honored at Annual Reception

The Felician College Alumni Association honored two of its own at a reception in May at the Stone Hill Inn, Hackensack.

More than 110 alumni, staff, faculty and friends of the College were in attendance for the event. The Honorable Leo McGuire ’76, ’80 was presented with the Outstanding Alumni Achievement Award. Sister Mary Rosita Brennan, provost and vice president of Academic Affairs, made the presentation.

The Outstanding Alumni Service Award was given to Jacqueline A. Mirandi ’03 of Cliffside Park. President of the Alumni Association, made the presentation.

The evening’s feature speaker was Marlene Bauer Pissott ’95, ’99, president of Ingroup, Inc., a Bergen County-based marketing and media communications firm.

“The event was a great success,” said Lori Walker, Felician College’s Director of Alumni Relations. “It’s always a pleasure to get together to honor our alumni and thank them for all they do for the College and for the community.”

Felician College’s Kappa Delta Pi Chapter Honored as National ‘Rising Star’

Felician’s chapter of the international honor society for education, KDP, was named for the prestigious award.

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“Coach Nor reached out to me in early May, letting me know that he wanted me to attend tryouts for the team in the upcoming weeks,” said Delva. “I had to attend three or four tryout sessions that involved former and current Red Bulls Academy players and basically just kept getting called back, making the last cut.”

Josh was one of 54 members to make the team, bringing his success from the Felician fields to Harrison N.J., where the Red Bulls home games are played.

The team enjoyed a successful season, posting a 7-2-1 record and eventually falling 2-1 in the semfinals against Greece Binghamton Futbol Club, the first place team in the Keystone Conference.

At the end of the League season, the Red Bulls 2131 team squared off in an international friendly match vs. Chelsea FC, a well-known soccer club team from London.

With this exposure, Delva has been contacted by other clubs about possibly joining them, but is still trying to figure out his future soccer plans.

“I just got my highlight tape created, so right now it’s about figuring out what I want to do next,” said Delva. “A lot of my teammates are going into Division I professional for their colleges, so I am weighing my options as I send my tape out to interested clubs.”

Before arriving to Felician, Delva was an All-County and four-time All- Area selection at Columbia High School, as well as receiving honorable- mention for all-state awards.

Delva chose Felician College because he liked how close it was to his home, approximately 30 minutes away, and was blessed with an athletic scholarship that was just too hard to pass up.

In his career at Felician, Delva is believed to be the first ever freshman captain in the program’s history, an exciting yet daunting honor.

“Coach [Patrick] Snyder and Coach Nor approached me about the idea towards the end of the preseason, saying they liked what they saw and wanted to give me more responsibility. I didn’t want my teammates to respond to that in a negative way, but after I talked to the coaches again wanted to give me more responsibility. I didn’t want my teammates to respond to that in a negative way, but after I talked to the coaches again wanted to give me more responsibility. I didn’t want my teammates to respond to that in a negative way, but after I talked to the coaches again wanted to give me more responsibility. I didn’t want my teammates to respond to that in a negative way, but after I talked to the coaches again wanted to give me more responsibility. I didn’t want my teammates to respond to that in a negative way, but after I talked to the coaches again wanted to give me more responsibility. I didn’t want my teammates to respond to that in a negative way, but after I talked to the coaches again wanted to give me more responsibility. I didn’t want my teammates to respond to that in a negative way, but after I talked to the coaches again wanted to give me more responsibility. I didn’t want my teammates to respond to that in a negative way, but after I talked to the coaches again wanted to give me more responsibility. I didn’t want my teammates to respond to th...
Humanitarian Mission Brings Perspective to Students

Eight students participated in Felician College’s fifth annual visit to Nicaragua, a humanitarian mission led by Dr. George Abaunza, chair of the College’s Philosophy Department.

The students experienced for themselves the people and culture of this beautiful country by visiting, learning about, and working side-by-side with Nicaraguans assisting through various organizations, including several orphanages and schools, a clinic, food pantry for children, and farming cooperative, said Dr. Abaunza.

“This year’s group enthusiastically and wholeheartedly immersed themselves in the activities, which included fertilizing and pruning papaya fields alongside farming families in Quisalajuaque, near Leon, assisting in the care and feeding of approximately 130 children in Managua’s Comedazo Hermano Pablo Maria, and building 30 wheelchairs at the warehouse facilities of The American Nicaraguan Foundation,” he said.

This trip constitutes the travel component and culmination of a spring semester course – Global Problems and Perceptions of Capitalism – in which students critically assess the history of capitalism in its various forms and its impact on Latin American and other developing nations.

In addition to first-hand access to the vibrant history of the political and economic struggles of this particular country, something one can only come closer to fully understanding and appreciating through such direct experience, students also enjoyed the breathtaking landscapes of the Pacific Ocean coast, immense lakes, and several active volcanoes.

“But perhaps the most rewarding aspect of this experience for me, and the past that makes me most proud as a Felician educator, is the many ways in which our students put our professed values into practice,” said Dr. Abaunza. “The experience allows them to practice compassion, service, and respect, and to experience diversity, joy, reverence, and solidarity with the poor.”

Some of their testimonies say it best. Jency Guerrero, a Teacher Education major, said: “I would like to incorporate aspects of this trip in my future as a teacher and use it as a reference point for when things aren’t going exactly as planned – always remembering that there are children studying without lights, fans, or the security of a meal.”

Shaina Plowman, also a Teacher Education major, commented: “It was clear that our help was very much appreciated and we were all glad to see the positive impact of our work.”

Caitlin Baard, a Communications (Film) major, observed: “Being in Nicaragua made me more appreciative of what I have but it also ignited this fire within me to be a better person. The courage and strength I saw from so many children, as young as five years old, was the most inspirational thing I have ever witnessed, and I can only hope to have a fraction of that courage and strength to help guide me through life.”

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Students are invited to join us for the sixth trip next summer, beginning with registration in the course next spring semester.

United Nations NGO Members Meet at Felician

Members of the executive committee of the United Nations Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) Department of Public Information, pictured above, held their annual retreat at Felician College on August 3.

Fourteen Board members met at the Castle on the Rutherford campus for an all-day working session. Dr. Mary Norton, Associate Dean and Professor, Global Academic Initiatives at Felician College serves as the First-Vice Chair.

Felician College is one of approximately 30 colleges and universities that have been granted prestigious NGO status. It led to the development of the UN Fellows Program. The program provides undergraduate and graduate students the unique opportunity to earn 3 credits while participating in specially designed lectures by UN experts, weekly briefings, and international conferences. Further, the program provides students and faculty, unprecedented access to participate in UN conferences and discuss contemporary world issues with international decision makers such as diplomats and ambassadors.

This program makes Felician College a destination for study abroad, attracting students from Europe, Asia and South America.

NGOs are the voices of civil society within the U.N. system and foster dialogues to address global issues such as human rights, extreme poverty, climate change, conflict resolution, security, economic development, terrorism, education, and health to name a few.

BASEBALL

Led by the play of all-region shortstop Aaron Brill and a stingy pitching staff, the 2013 Felician baseball team shook off a slow start to make a return trip to the Central Atlantic Collegiate Conference playoffs.

The Golden Falcons tied for fifth place in the 11-team CACC with a 10-10 league record. They then got by Philadelphia University in the playoff round before finishing third in the Conference tournament after entering as the No. 5 seed. It was the third trip to the conference playoffs in the last four years for Felician, which posted an overall won-loss record of 21-32.

Brill batted .352 on the season, the only Golden Falcon to top the .300 mark. His 70 hits rank third on the school single-season list. He amassed 10 doubles, four triples, 31 runs, 32 RBI and was second in the CACC with 60 strikeouts.

Vasto Lujan posted a league record of 9-17, good for a three-way tie for eighth place, but were left out of the postseason via tiebreaker. Felician was 15-29 overall.

The season was a success on several fronts on an individual level. Two players, junior Kolbi Ludwigsen and sophomore Taylor Parker, surpassed the 100-hit plateau for their careers. Parker batted .444 (59 for 133), a school record and third-best in the conference.

Parker was voted to the all-CACC team at third base, while first baseman Ciera Clark and designated player Tori Bradburn were honorable-mention all-league honorees. Clark hit .365 with four home runs and 21 RBI and set a school record with a 14-game hitting streak. Bradburn, limited by injury to 29 games, was at .288 with two home runs, 13 runs and 8 RBI.

Sophomore shortstop and leadoff hitter Aimee Lopez established all three Felician triple plays: 3 in a game, 7 in a season, and 10 for her career. She also set single-season marks for runs scored (38) and defensive assists (114). Parker’s 59 hits and 16 doubles were Golden Falcons records for a season as well.

Representing the pitching staff on the all-CACC team were second-teamers Vic Monteagudo and Jack Fowler. Despite a 3-4 record, Monteagudo was in the top ten in the league in both ERA (2.18) and strikeouts (55). Fowler, who made the team as a relief pitcher, broke his own school record by making 32 appearances. He was 5-5 with two saves, a .105 ERA, and was second in the CACC with 60 strikeouts.

Led by Fowler, Jerry Vasto (58) and Monteagudo, Felician pitchers ranked 18th nationally in Division II in strikeouts per nine innings (5.8). They were also 29th in hits allowed per nine innings (8.6). Vasto was chosen for the CACC All-Academic Team.
FALL 2013
The Office for Institutional Advancement, Felician College, publishes Focus on Felician. Visit us on the Internet at: www.felician.edu

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Kudos for the Castle

The Castle at Felician College is a stunning structure that has garnered the attention of all who visit the Rutherford campus. It has also earned the accolades of historians and preservation groups who recognize Felician College’s commitment to restoring the 1869 building to its original grandeur.

The Bergen County Historic Preservation Board in April selected the Felician College Board of Trustees and Administration to receive the 2013 Bergen County Historic Preservation Award in the category of Preservation Leadership for their dedication to the 14-year restoration project.

The award ceremony at the Church on the Green in Hackensack was held on May 9.

Also in May, the Castle received another award from the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Historic Preservation Office and the New Jersey Historic Sites Council for Interior Reroration and Adaptive Use.

The ceremony took place at the Hunterdon County Historic Courthouse in Flemington on May 16.

Recently, the Castle was also nominated for a national award.

The Castle houses a student café and lounge, the campus chapel and offices of admissions, institutional advancement and alumni relations.

Looking Forward

Construction is underway to renovate the former library on Felician College’s Rutherford campus to an Education Commons (back cover). The plans for the building include a Nursing Resource and Simulation Center, a high-tech library, and state-of-the-art classrooms and laboratories.

The project is made possible thanks in part to a $4,975 grant that has been earmarked for Felician College from several different sources, including the Building Our Future Bond Act that was approved by New Jersey voters last November.

Also, the time-honored tradition of Christmas at Felician will again take place on December 15. Mark your calendars for this festive holiday event!

The 28th Annual Felician College Golf Classic
Golf Tournament and New Golf Clinic

New to golf? Let members of the Felician Golf Team and the Club Pro teach you the basics at our new golf clinic!

Limited Space | Register Today!
Complimentary Cart | Contests | Prizes

SAVE THE DATE
OCTOBER 8, 2013

Glen Ridge Country Club | Glen Ridge, New Jersey

Lunch & Check In: 11 a.m. | Shotgun Start: 1 p.m.
Cocktail Reception and Awards Ceremony: 6 p.m.

Contact Susan Moore | 201.355.1429 | mooreSu@felician.edu

Focus On Felician Golf Tournament and New Golf Clinic

NEW TO GOLF? LET MEMBERS OF THE FELICIAN GOLF TEAM AND THE CLUB PRO TEACH YOU THE BASICS AT OUR NEW GOLF CLINIC!

Limited Space | Register Today!
Complimentary Cart | Contests | Prizes

FOCUS ON FELICIAN

Please e-mail: daidonea@felician.edu or write to:

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EDITOR’S NOTE

Hello, and welcome to a new issue of Focus on Felician. In addition to our regular publications, this “newsletter” version was created to keep you up to date with all the exciting happenings at the College this past summer. We hope you like it.

As always, we appreciate any comments and welcome your feedback. Thanks!

—AD