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## **Daughter Defends Dad**

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by **Kathryn Wickenheiser**

To the Editor:

In the past nine years I have lived in Olean N.Y. I have never in my life seen such a negative attitude towards one man so undeserving as my father, Robert Wickenheiser. So quick is this university, and this town, to judge the rectitude of one man, before listening to his words. So quick are people to turn the finger towards a man and his son while overlooking the big picture.

Wickenheiser gave inspiration to St. Bonaventure, which it never had seen before. The catholic institution and values that so many people here try to instill in each student is held with the highest regard in my father's heart and mind.

Everyone wants the Franciscan values" to be a big part of the bona venture, but recently my father and brother have experienced very little of what this university claims it holds.

My father believed in everything he has achieved. None of us would be here at this wonderful university if it, were not for his hard work and dedication.

Many profound accomplishments are the result of my father's presidency here at St. Bonaventure.

We stand here today, as the Bonaventure family, because back in 1994 he saved this university from 'bankruptcy. The closure of this school was almost the inevitable picture in many minds but the man being ridiculed saved this wonderful 'home we have all come to love. 'Many jobs were saved, and-the community as a whole was saved. This university brings great business to the area, and any Bona Alumni's heart would be deeply saddened if the university had closed. To all the students, this university offers a liberal arts education. Such an education is what most colleges and universities strive to provide for their students, and few have met that goal. He not only has helped this university meet such a highly regarded education, but also supported the development of Clare College, the basis of knowledge of "Franciscan values." Experts have called the curriculum "ground-breaking" and referred to it as a national model. Many students dont know how lucky they are to receive the education St. Bonaventure has to offer, in comparison, to some other schools.

Many students enjoy the "Buddy Program" that University Ministries has to offer. Many students enjoy the involvement that it offers; anything from going to a third world country to help building a house for some family, or from coming together in a time of need as the world prepares to enter into war.

Again, the Franciscan values that my father holds true for this university were upheld by the position of vice president of University Ministries being established. Also, many of us overlook and take for granted the luxuries we live with, and live in, day in and day out. Many are involved in Garrett Theatre that was preserved during my father's nine years here. The housing and dormitories we enjoy were also the establishment of my father.

My father was named president at a college long before St. Bonaventure University came into our lives, and for well over 20 years he has shown great leadership and prime qualities that few find in a university president. He has played the role of friend to many of your fellow students, a leader in his field of business, a strong supporter for all athletic departments, a true believer in each and every one of us, and a strong believer in the morals and values that every parent wants their child to have instilled upon them while at college.

Much gratitude and appreciation for his accomplishments were overlooked and thrown on the back burner the past two weeks.

One thing I have learned from my father, that I hold true to every person I meet, is to never judge the integrity of one man by the ignorance of another. Many people need to take heed of those words.

Instead of ridiculing his resignation as president of this university, maybe people should look to their values and beliefs, to all the beauty they see around them when walking to and from class, to the excitement on the court after a Bonnies game, and to the wonderful professors we have here to help us through four years of our lives.

Without my father, all of us would never know what strong education will do for us in the future, and what comfort and love you can find here within the Bona Bubble that so many students have grown to love.

Kathryn Wickenheiser, freshman