

## DePeters Family Center for Innovation and Teaching Excellence



### **\$2 Million Gift to Establish the DePeters Family Center for Innovation and Teaching Excellence at St. John Fisher College**

St. John Fisher College announced on September 9, 2020, the creation of the DePeters Family Center for Innovation and Teaching Excellence thanks to a \$1 million gift from Jack '73 and Donna DePeters. Jack retired from Wegmans Food Markets after 52 accomplished years of service to the food company, and in honor of his retirement, Wegmans matched the \$1 million gift in December 2019.

"The establishment of this Center will further our commitment to teaching and learning in a student-centered educational environment in state-of-the-market learning spaces that utilize the latest technology, design elements, and furnishings, and enable the transformation of all of our campus classrooms. There has never been a more important time to support innovation and thought leadership in higher education, and I am grateful to Jack and Donna for their belief in Fisher and their continued commitment to our students, our faculty, and our mission," said Gerard J. Rooney, president.

## Catalyst for Innovation

The DePeters Family Center has received additional support in its inaugural year from donors, grants, and foundations alike to support the innovative projects underway.

- Davenport Hatch Foundation awarded the Center with **\$225,000** to support the creation of a Professional Development and Prototype Classroom.
- Emerson Foundation awarded the Center with **\$300,000** to support the renovation of three innovative learning spaces in Basil Hall, adjacent to the Center.
- HECap Grant awarded the Center with **\$52,000** to support the purchase of active learning furniture for nine classrooms in Basil Hall.
- A generous donation of **\$350,000** from Randy and Susan White was received to support the iFisher: Next Generation Learning Initiative.



“Susan and I are very pleased to make our gift in support of Fisher’s campus community, enabling connection to each other, our community and the world, through a comprehensive mobile technology ecosystem. The iFisher initiative will transform the living and learning environments on campus to support the four C’s of a 21<sup>st</sup> century education: communication, collaboration, critical thinking, and creativity. With an expanded toolbox of resources, we are excited to see what academic innovation evolves through the implementation of this technology. The iFisher initiative will be a game changer and a market differentiator for St. John Fisher College and all who are associated with the College,” said Randy White.

## Meet the Team



**Katie Sabourin, Director**

Katie oversees the Center operations and project planning with a special emphasis on the iFisher initiative and learning space renovation.



**Emma Daitz, Educational Technologist**

Emma provides training and support on Blackboard, among other tools. She is also a point person for the use of iPads in the classroom.



**Robin Schmid, Senior Training Support Specialist**

Robin is a technology expert and provides training to faculty, staff, and students on a number of tools used across campus.



**Tyler Woodward, Educational Content Developer**

Tyler provides support to faculty teaching online and hybrid courses, and partners with faculty on the creation of courseware modules.

# Educational Technology & Pedagogical Support

**64**

## WORKSHOPS

offered on a variety of topics such as Blackboard, Zoom, and Fundamentals of Online Teaching

**500+**

## ATTENDEES

Including faculty, staff, and students who participated in the events offered by the Center

**170+**

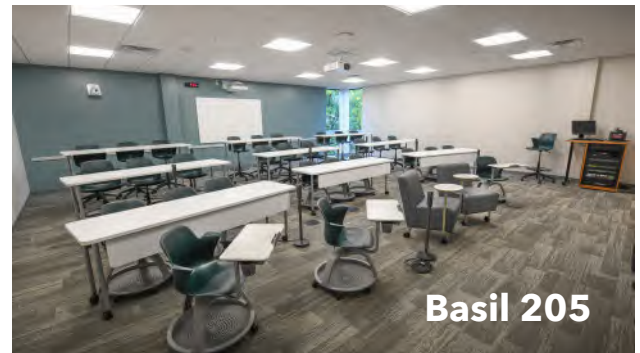
## 1-ON-1 CONSULTATIONS

with Center staff on topics such as New Employee On-Boarding or a pedagogical question

## Innovative Learning Spaces

The summer of 2021 was a busy time for renovation for the DePeters Family Center. Construction began on the physical Center in the upper level gateway of Basil Hall. The Center will include a reception area, staff offices, recording studio, and the professional development and prototype classroom.

Renovation also began during the summer of 2021 on three classrooms adjacent to the Center. These innovative learning spaces have been outfitted with active learning furniture that allows for flexible classroom configurations, as well as enhanced technology including multiple screens, cameras and microphones, and easy projection from mobile devices. The rooms also includes power throughout the floor, so any seat can quickly connect to a power source at any time. These rooms have been well received by faculty and students for their comfort, versatility, and energy.



**Basil 205**



**Basil 206**



**Professional Development & Prototype Classroom**



**Basil 207**



# iFISHER NEXT GENERATION LEARNING INITIATIVE

The iFisher initiative provides an iPad kit, including an Apple iPad, keyboard case and Apple Pencil to all on-campus undergraduate students to be used inside and outside the classroom. Faculty and staff with teaching responsibilities are also eligible to receive the same iPad kit to be used to deliver instruction and support a variety of teaching and learning activities. In order to retain their iPad kit, faculty and staff must complete the required training, **Fisher Apple Academy 1.0**, which consists of a three-week professional development experience to learn how the iPad can be used to enhance their classes. Part of this training includes self-paced modules developed by Apple that lead to an **Apple Teacher Certification**. In addition to this training, the Center offered a more advanced training, **Fisher Apple Academy 2.0**, for interested faculty to dive deeper into the ways the iPad could transform their teaching and their students' learning experiences. The numbers to the right indicate the amount of faculty/staff who have completed each level of training and/or certification. Thanks to all our campus partners, especially OIT, for their efforts to deploy over 2,500 iPads to students for the start of the 2021 academic year.



258

**Fisher Apple Academy 1.0 Completions**

115

**Fisher Apple Academy 2.0 Completions**

208

**Apple Certified Teachers**

## Pandemic Teaching and Learning

The global pandemic has caused a massive disruption to the traditional ways teaching and learning take place on a college campus. The transition to remote instruction in the spring of 2020 was a major undertaking by both faculty, staff, and students alike. The staff in the DePeters Family Center have been diligently providing support, training, guidance, and advice to faculty throughout the pandemic on pedagogical best practices and educational technologies to assist in this unique period of time in the history of higher education. The staff have offered training on best practices for the delivery of online, hybrid, hyflex, and remote courses. We have also supported faculty in the best ways to organize and maintain a socially distant classroom environment for those teaching in-person. The DePeters Family Center staff will continue to play a vital role in the support of continuity of instruction provided to Fisher students during this and any other emergency situation.

