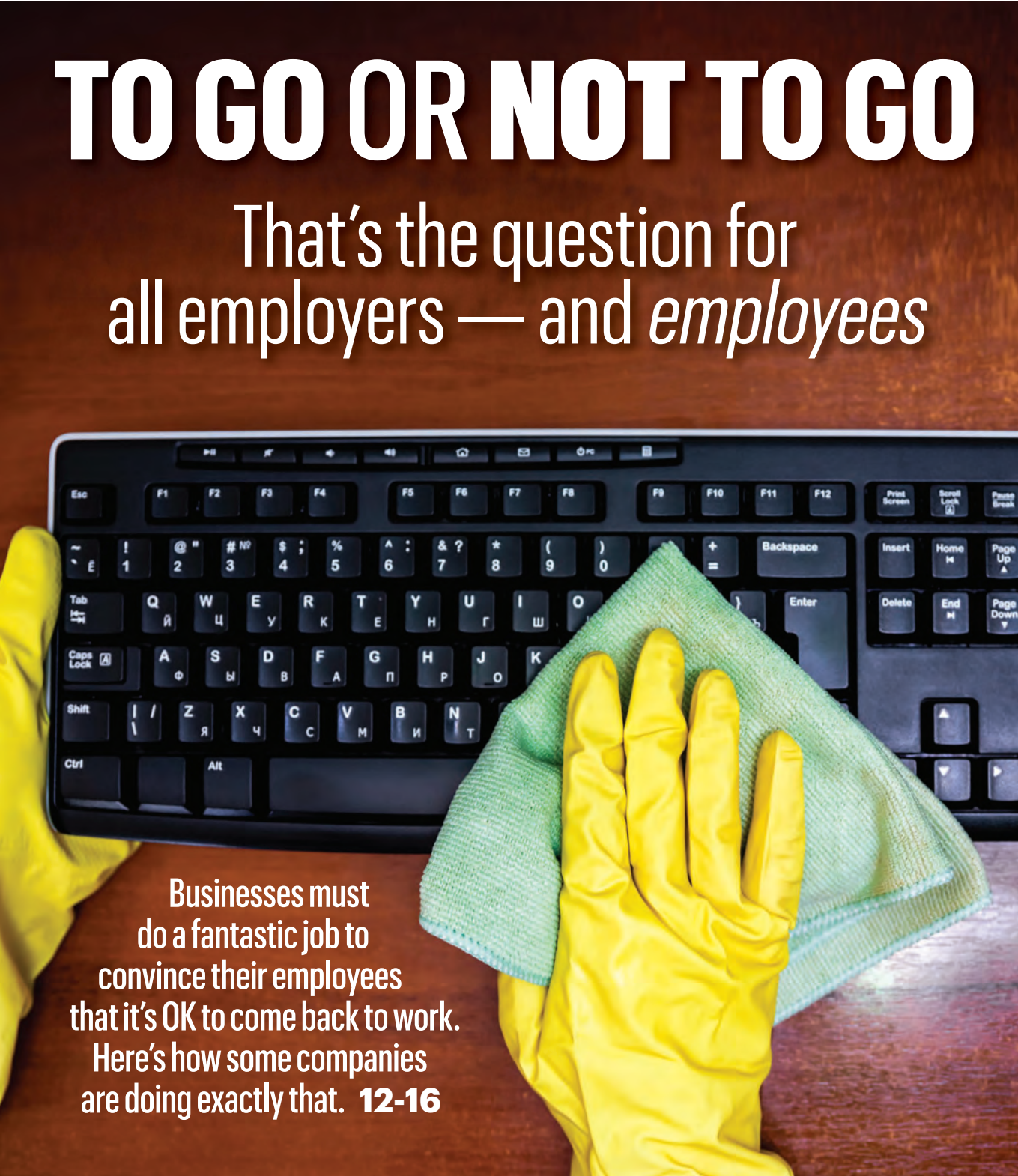


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That's the question for
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Businesses must
do a fantastic job to
convince their employees
that it's OK to come back to work.
Here's how some companies
are doing exactly that. **12-16**

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STATLER CITY

Doug Jemal extends buying spree

Maverick developer adds 1923
former hotel to his portfolio of
Buffalo landmarks in need of
renovations. His plans are fluid but
he's charging ahead.
JAMES FINK, 6-7

GRADUATION GUIDE

CELEBRATING SENIORS WHILE SOCIAL DISTANCING

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**BUFFALO
BUSINESS FIRST**

June 5, 2020
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SPOTLIGHT: GRADUATION GUIDE

Joyce Banagis and Sarah Humphrey, co-owners of Champion Graphics and Gifts in Wilson, have been quite busy printing lawn signs to congratulate graduates.



JOED VIERA

Business of commencement

COMPANIES TRY TO CATER TO GRADUATES' WISHES DURING PANDEMIC

BY PAUL LANE
plane@bizjournals.com

High school and college students are making the best of an unusual graduation season and so are businesses whose summer sales commence around this time.

Sarah Humphrey falls into both camps. Her daughter, Elizabeth, is set to graduate as salutatorian from Wilson High School and become a music therapy major at Nazareth College. Sarah Humphrey also owns Champion Graphics and Gifts in Wilson.

She expected to spend the spring preparing for her daughter's graduation and filling typical orders of construction signs, company shirts and festival banners.

With those jobs curtailed by the coronavirus, she got into the graduation sign and banner business when she saw families using them to honor students who couldn't celebrate with the usual pomp and circumstance.

As of late May, she had printed 10 senior banners and 350 yard signs – including 100 for a school in Virginia that caught wind of her services on a Facebook Covid-19 group.

"It helps, but this time of year we're normally insanely busy, so there's still some loss of business," she said. "I'm a graphic designer first, so it's really important that I try to make

each design very specific to each school. For not getting all the normal celebration, this gives them some."

Actual commencements are taking on a different look as well, since schools have been closed since March and aren't hosting mass gatherings. When schools had that need, the Transit Drive-In found had the opportunity to host more events, since it was just allowed to open for the season but is only hosting a handful of single screenings per night at 50 percent capacity.

Drive-in owner Rick Cohen said he heard in April and May about counterparts in parts of the country hosting graduations. Once he started fielding calls from schools in May, he had a game plan in place. The drive-in hosted its first high school graduation May 28 and has six to 10 per weekend booked through June.

Since some of the venue's five screens have remained dark due to Covid-19 precautions, he's able to host a commencement on one screen while movies are showing on others.

"We're just trying to serve the communities and give the students a safe, memorable graduation," he said.

The Town of Lockport venue takes a negligible fee, but Cohen said he's charging less than he'd make if he were showing another movie. The snack bar is open with social distancing

protocol in place.

"Right now, we're just going week to week," said Cohen, who noted that he'd be open to hosting graduations in post-pandemic years.

As for Kimberly Hammerl, owner of two restaurants and Buffalo's Best Catering in West Seneca, she said she's had to cancel almost every event until July.

"At this point, we'd basically be going through 20 to 25 orders on a typical weekend in other years. Now, it's one to five orders," said Hammerl, who has laid off all but three employees. "Right now, the state is allowing gatherings of up to 10 people. How's that going to benefit anybody at all? We'd have parties with a minimum of 50 people and up to 500 people or more normally at this time of year."

Most years, Hammerl said her businesses usually would host about 500 graduation events with through offsite catering or in her venues.

Many brides and grooms planning a summer 2020 wedding have delayed the big day. Hammerl said her businesses can hang on through the summer if, at some point, they can operate at 50 percent capacity.

"There are a lot of details that are still uncertain at this point. Will servers have to wear masks?" she said. "I don't know what the new normal is going to be."

Congratulations to the history-making Class of 2020 - the future scientists, engineers, artists, teachers, medical and business professionals, may you continue to embody SEM's ideals of character, intellectual independence, creativity, service, and leadership for life. You have been tested as few of the classes in our 169-year-history have. You are resilient, resourceful thinkers and we're proud of you.

#OnceaSEMGirlAlwaysaSEMGirl #SEMClassof2020

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Victoria Giaquinto
Brigid Gorman
Joseph Guagliardo
Madison Haff
Meghan Heitmann
Imani Iveys
Chinedu Iwuji
Rebecca Karaszewski
Summer Kilbourn
Nicholas Kraus

Lori Lachowski
Maitland Langworthy
Mikia Lewis
Kexin Li
Kathryn Liotta
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With love to our graduates, you are sure to do amazing things for the world. #NardinTogether

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Hamzah Ahmed

Sylvia Anthony

Lay Mya Aye

Jake Bard

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Charles Newman

Dana Nigrin

Olivia Nolan

Carson Ortolani

Romy Paolini

Lauren Paradis

Arnav Parashar

Owen Parker

Elliot Porter

William Reardon

Ethan Redden

Cameron Ricotta

Gabriel Robare

Paige Rosenblum

Gwendolyn Ryan

Isabelle Sanchez

Maxwell Saperston

Gabriel Schuelefund

Brandon Scott

Isabella Simoncelli

Alexandra Snow

Cortney Staniszevski

Ethan Stoffman

Noah Szretter

Henry Telford

Samuel Thompson

Anthony Tuber

Caillin Wagner

Isabella Warner

Joseph Watroba

Sydney Wells

Sydney Wingard

Junqi Wu

Elizabeth Wyckoff

Erica Yatsynovich

Keerti Yendamuri

Walter Zacher

CONGRATULATIONS

Class of 2020

MEMBERS OF THE NICHOLS SCHOOL CLASS OF 2020 WILL ATTEND:

Avon Old Farms (PG)	D'Youville College	Princeton University	University at Buffalo
Bentley University	Fordham University	Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute	University of Chicago
Boston College	Hamilton College	Rochester Institute of Technology	University of Colorado - Boulder
Boston University	Hobart & William Smith Colleges	Rollins College	University of Dayton
Bryn Mawr College	Junior Hockey	St. Lawrence University	University of Massachusetts - Amherst
Canisius College	Kent State University	St. John Fisher College	University of Notre Dame
Castleton University	Loyola University Chicago	Singapore Army	University of Pittsburgh
Clarkson University	Masaryck University (Czech Republic)	Stanford University	University of Rochester
College of the Holy Cross	Miami University - Ohio	SUNY at Fredonia	University of Vermont
Columbia University	New York University	Swarthmore College	Utica College
Cornell University	Niagara University	Syracuse University	Wake Forest University
Daemen College	Northeastern University	The Ohio State University	Yale University
Drexel University	Oberlin College	The University of Tennessee - Knoxville	
Duquesne University	Pennsylvania State University	Tufts University	

ST. MARY'S HIGH SCHOOL

THANK YOU SENIORS - CLASS OF 2020!



Francesca Amatura
Megan Anderson
Matthew Ash
Zachary Ash
Jacob Balogh
Curtis Barry
Skylar Baun
Kayla Bestpitch
Sara Bojarski
Olivia Bonuito
Jasmine Brundage
Samantha Carlson
Hannah Carrow
Zachary Charvat
James Chmurzynski
Jacob Ciancesa
Maranda Cichocki
Zachary Ciesielski
Kelly Cleversley
Allison Cole
Tyler Cruz
Samuel Dantonio
Kaylei Dejac
Peter Duane
Scott Dugas
Shelby Fisher
Victoria Florczak
Brooke Fumerelle
Vito Gallo
Alexis Giardina

Devin Golovin
Gianna Grasso
Thomas Haefner
Yuying Amity Han
Leah Hapeman
Grace Haxton
Janair Henderson
Paul Henry
Jing Jenny Huang
Yu Bruce Huang
Torrie Jenkins
McKenzie Jensen
Marguerite Kellner
Jenna Kladke
Julianna Kladke
Christopher Kmiotek
Ellen Knospe
Christopher Kobis
Joseph Kupczyk
Hannah Kwasniewski
Vincenza LaMagna

Elijah LaVarnway
Jennamae Lipiarz
Haoyi George Liu
Julia Livingston
Riley Malicki
Parris Maroney
Daniel May
Wylie Maziol
Jadon McCartney
Sara Micholas
Samuel Mickel
Alexander Miller

Ava Miller
Zachary Miller
Isabella Morcelle
Thomas Moss
Brendan Murty
Lauren Nawojski
Cali Nazzarett
Christopher Neino
Caitlynn Nowak
Madison Nuttle
Megan O'Brien
Rebecca O'Connor
Teagan O'Rourke
Mary Owczarczak
Noah Paterek
Mckya Perry
David Persico
Caleigh Pfalzer
Joshua Pierson
Rachel Pokornowski
Anna Radoszewski

Emily Ratcliff
Daniel Reif
Marie Rhodes
Emma Ridolfi
Giavanna Sacco
Destiny Severn
Jessica Sheffield
Meadow Slade
Jerome Stachura
Isaac Stearns
Carolynn Steffens
Kerry Sullivan
Maxwell Swiatek
Luke Szablewski
Jillian Szeluga
Levi Taberski
Noah Trzaska
Michael Vallone
Andreas Vukas
Anthony Walczak
Brendan Walsh
Michael Walter
Yunji David Wang
Grace Welch
Alexander White
Noah Winiarski
Zhuofan Sam Xiong
Jeffrey Zoyhofski

112 Members of the Class of 2020
15,000 Hours of Community Service
\$23 Million in Scholarships offered from
87 Different Colleges & Universities
21 Athletic Championships
10 Kenny Award Nominations
7 Business First Academic Rankings of WNY High Schools
4 Unforgettable Years ...



Thank you for all you've done. Thank you for being a part of our family and the 116-year legacy that is St. Mary's High School.
Thank you for giving us your very best.



#LancerStrong **#SMH2020**

Discover all the benefits of a St. Mary's education at smhlancers.org ... consider a private education for your child. Contact Andrea in Admissions at adrabik@smhlancers.org or (716) 683-4824 for more information.