

Rochester Institute of Technology  
Saunders College of Business  
107 Lomb Memorial Drive  
Rochester, New York 14623-5608

R·I·T

Until his death in 2003, Mr. Vanden Brul continued to pursue his business interests. He served on the boards of Ormec Systems, Inc., and the Genesee Valley Trust Company, Inc., and was active in the cultural and educational life of the Rochester community. Mr. Vanden Brul and his wife Joan, who passed away in 2007, had a long association with RIT and were active members of the Nathaniel Rochester Society. Their two sons attended RIT.

Following his military service and earning a juris doctor degree from St. John's School of Law, Rochester native Herbert W. Vanden Brul returned to his hometown in 1951 to begin his new career practicing law. An entrepreneurial visionary in Rochester, Mr. Vanden Brul co-founded several business ventures in the region. One of his most successful, RF Communications, Inc., has since become a division of Harris Corporation. Another, the Culver Management Corporation, acquired nearly one million square feet of local industrial space to become the home of many small start-ups companies who have improved the local economic climate.



HERBERT W. VANDEN BRUL

# Herbert W. Vanden Brul

## ENTREPRENEURIAL AWARD

2016

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SAUNDERS  
*College of BUSINESS*

## Herbert W. Vanden Brul Entrepreneurial Award Recipient



### Thomas F. Bonadio

*CEO & Managing Partner, The Bonadio Group*

Tom Bonadio is the founder and chief executive of The Bonadio Group, Upstate New York's largest accounting and consulting firm. In 2015, the firm was ranked Number 40 on the Accounting Today list of the nation's Top 100 Firms. He reached those milestones by being one of the first to recognize and act on trends that are still changing the entire industry.

Tom spent his early working years at Arthur Andersen before starting his own firm in 1978—beginning with his mother and just one partner. He grew the firm from the ground up by carefully listening to his clients, understanding their needs and methodically building an organization to serve them. Today, the firm has 74 partners and more than 750 total employees in 10 offices. The Bonadio Group's annual revenue tops \$100 million, while the firm serves more than 20,000 clients. The firm's rapid growth over the past several year is attributable to a combination of three actions: acquiring new clients, offering value-added services through the firm's nine subsidiary organizations, and completing mergers with other high-quality, like-minded CPA firms in New York and Vermont.

Tom is a visionary in an industry that once was slow to change; he learned early on how to perform high-quality work, create loyal referral sources and hire the best talent to help do more of the same. He and his partners have built a company that serves thousands of clients and helps organizations of all types optimize their financial performance. In addition to the firm's many awards and milestones, Tom personally has been recognized with these distinctions:

**2013 Managing Partner Elite List, Accounting Today**

**Class of 2010 Rochester Business Hall of Fame**

**2009 Business Person of the Year, Small Business Council of Rochester**

**2006 100 Most Influential Practitioners, CPA Magazine**

**2004 Honorary Doctor of Laws Degree, St. John Fisher College**

**2004 CEO of the Year, Public Relations Society of America Rochester Chapter**

Tom is very active in supporting the Rochester community, and encourages the Bonadio partner group to do so all of the firm's markets. Each year, The Bonadio Group has donated approximately \$1.5 million to charitable organizations throughout our service area.

He is a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and New York State Society of Certified Public Accountants. He is active in community life, serving as a Commissioner of the Monroe County Case Commission, Monroe County Jobs Creation Task Force and on the St. John Fisher College Alumni Activities Committee. Tom has served on the adjunct faculty of the Rochester Institute of Technology and as a Trustee and Chairman of the Accounting Advisory Board of St. John Fisher College. Over the years, he has served on the boards of a number of companies, both public and private. He also is a past Chairman of the Board of Trustees of St. John Fisher College, and a graduate of St. John Fisher College with a bachelor of business administration degree in accounting. He has been a certified public accountant since 1973.

Tom lives in Pittsford with his wife, Heather Farnsworth. He has two daughters, Renee Celeste and Danielle MacGowan; and four grandchildren, Celeste, Thomas, Lucas and Spencer.

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## ABOUT THE AWARD

The Herbert W. Vanden Brul Entrepreneurial Award was created in 1984 through an endowment fund established by Mr. Vanden Brul in conjunction with RIT's Saunders College of Business. The award is presented annually to an individual or business that has improved the economic life of greater Rochester or whose innovative management skills have changed the course of an existing business. The award recipient is selected by a committee of area civic and business leaders and RIT faculty. Saunders College is excited that the Herbert W. Vanden Brul Award symbolizes the links that join RIT and the Rochester Business community.

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A photograph of the Saunders College of Business building at RIT, featuring large glass windows and brickwork, with the award title overlaid.

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