The ongoing commitment of our donors to the values and ideals upon which St. John’s University is based reflects the enduring importance of St. John’s in their lives. It is a wonderful testament to their desire to show their appreciation to the University that has done so much for them, and for so many others.

St. John’s would not be what it is today without the generosity of the alumni and friends who share their resources with us. Every donor has a personal reason for giving, one that is uniquely his or her own. Some are committed to supporting athletics, others make gifts to enhance a particular campus or academic program and still others feel an affinity to a specific scholarship or fund. Yet whatever their motivation or interest, they all share the conviction that the University holds a singular place among their charitable goals.

The donors listed are among the University’s most generous. Their gifts allow us to continue to nurture our students by providing them with an academic, spiritual and cultural environment that is uniquely St. John’s. We are grateful for their exceptional generosity.
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“I’ve endowed a scholarship to honor Prof. Robert Esernio ’66CBA because I believe that contributions to the University should be made more often in recognition of a specific person or cause. Prof. Esernio’s pursuit of excellence and insistence on hard work set, by example, the standard for his students long after leaving St. John’s. I encourage others to contribute to St. John’s and to the Esernio Scholarship.”

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48 ST. JOHN’S UNIVERSITY ALUMNI MAGAZINE
Father Jose Pando C.M. was the best educational advisor I ever had. He was kind to every student he met in University College at the Schermerhorn Street campus. Fr. Pando had a sharp mind, a ready ear and an open door and he always treated the students with great respect. He helped many of us to realize and seek out our potential and to explore further professional studies — in my case it was medical school. Fr. Pando’s kindness is the reason I support St. John’s University with my gifts to the Fr. Jose C. Pando C.M. Scholarship Fund. It makes me glad that Fr. Pando’s legacy is still helping students today.”

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“Father Jose Pando C.M. was the best educational advisor I ever had. He was kind to every student he met in University College at the Schermerhorn Street campus. Fr. Pando had a sharp mind, a ready ear and an open door and he always treated the students with great respect. He helped many of us to realize and seek out our potential and to explore further professional studies — in my case it was medical school. Fr. Pando’s kindness is the reason I support St. John’s University with my gifts to the Fr. Jose C. Pando C.M. Scholarship Fund. It makes me glad that Fr. Pando’s legacy is still helping students today.”
“St. John’s has stayed true to its mission which is to help students who really need the boost, a wonderful gift. Alumni support ensures that St. John’s will continue to carry out its important mission. And personally, the scholarship and education that I received provided the foundation to have a successful business and personal life. I owe much to St. John’s in return.”

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“Supporting St. Johns University sustains a great cause towards human prosperity. The University offers a world class education to multicultural students in a diversified area of expertise. Being at the nucleus of one of the largest cities in the world, it also exposes students to the diversity of socio-economic fields, shaping the academic mind and offering a path forward to find out who would one like to be to bring the best in oneself.”

SALAH AHMED ’85GP, ’90PH.D.
We Appreciate Our Most Generous Donors

Golfers Support Scholarship for St. John’s Students

When St. John’s alumni enjoy the many university-sponsored opportunities to get together for a day of golf, they’re doing more than simply engaging in friendly competition while trying to make that elusive hole-in-one. Their support is providing much needed financial assistance to deserving students seeking to pursue their St. John’s education.

These popular events appeal to a variety of alumni within the University family. Some are sponsored by the Office of Alumni Relations, others by the School of Risk Management and still others by the Office of Athletic Development. During the past few months they have collectively raised more than $475,000 for student scholarships.

“Our golf outings are incredibly important,” noted Scott A. Williams, Associate Vice President, Office of Alumni Relations, “because without the resources that come in through these events, many of the students who are looking to come to or stay at St. John’s wouldn’t have that opportunity. And it’s a great way for our alumni to enjoy a day of golf and catch up with good friends, while at the same time doing something really important for the students who benefit from their support.”

Lisa Pinkard ’14CPS and Artiana Wynder ’16CPS are both recipients of financial assistance provided by The Long Island Alumni Golf Outing Scholarship Fund. Both acknowledge that without their scholarship, they would be unable to remain at the University.

Pinkard came to St. John’s as a transfer student hoping to earn a degree in Legal Studies at the College of Professional Studies. She is a single mother who works full-time to support herself and her three children while completing the requirements for her undergraduate degree. A hard-working student with a 3.7 G.P.A., she hopes to go to St. John’s School of Law if her financial situation improves.

In the meantime, she readily acknowledges that her scholarship is the difference that allows her to stay in school and complete her undergraduate degree.

“My scholarship is really a blessing from God,” she said. “Without that help I would not be able to attend college, and I’d never have the future that I’m envisioning for me and my family. As a single mom with three children, I need to work full-time to support them and pay tuition for their education as well. Every day is a faith walk for me, and I’m so grateful to the donors who make it possible for me to stay in school. They may not realize it, but they are really doing God’s work.”

Wynder’s scholarship has also had a significant impact for her and her family. A Sophomore majoring in Communications, her ultimate career aspiration is to become a Fashion Editor of a leading magazine.

She is currently active in many Campus Ministry initiatives, including participation in Midnight Runs, where she brings food and clothing to the homeless who live on the streets of New York City.

Her service activities are a way of showing her appreciation for what the University, through the generosity of its alumni, is doing for her.

“I can’t even explain how grateful I am to the alumni who so generously make these student scholarships possible,” she said. “I was never expecting to receive this award, and it was a wonderful surprise for me and my family. I love that the alumni are so generous and so willing to give back to St. John’s. This scholarship is helping me and my family very much, and I will appreciate it forever.”

Alumni participation in golf outings is all about having fun while doing good. And that’s a great combination!
Scholarships and Service Take Center Stage at President’s Dinner

It was a special night for St. John’s University as alumni and friends gathered at The Waldorf Astoria in New York for the 16th Annual President’s Dinner. The event raised more than $2 million for student scholarships and honored four alumni who embody the University’s mission of improving the lives of others with the prestigious Spirit of Service Award.

“It’s very clear that you believe in St. John’s, and in our efforts to make a lasting difference in our world,” remarked St. John’s University President Joseph L. Levesque, C.M., S.T.D. “It’s also clear that you believe in the promise that St. John’s will always offer hope to the hopeless and help to the helpless. Your support allows us to continue our 143 year commitment to educational excellence for our students and compassionate service to those in need.”

As is traditional at every President’s Dinner, the Spirit of Service Award is presented to exceptional individuals who have chosen to embrace the University’s long-standing mission of service as their own. This year’s recipients were particularly unique, as they were all St. John’s alumni.

The honorees included John P. Clarke ’55CBA, ’57L, Professor, St. John’s University; Robert Kalenka ’84CBA, ’91MBA, Corporate Vice President, Broadridge; and Peggy (’68Ed) and Bill Montgoris ’67CBA, ’88HON.

A member of the St. John’s family since the early 1950s, John Clarke began what would become a lifelong association with the University when he became an undergraduate student on the Schermerhorn Street campus in downtown Brooklyn. He continued his studies at St. John’s School of Law, and two years after earning his J.D. degree joined the University as Director of Alumni Relations. In 1967 he became a faculty member in the College of Business Administration as an Associate Professor of Law, a position he held for 30 years.

Clarke retired in 1997, but returned to St. John’s in 2006 as Chairman of the Department of Law at what is now The Peter J. Tobin College of Business. Known for his genuine concern for the students fortunate enough to study under his mentorship, he is considered one of the University’s most esteemed and respected professors.

Robert Kalenka earned his B.S. in Accounting in 1984 and his M.B.A. in Finance in 1991, both from St. John’s College of Business Administration. His highly successful career in the financial services industry began immediately after his undergraduate graduation and progressed through senior executive positions at a number of firms. In the true spirit of St. Vincent de Paul, he embraces his position at Broadridge as an opportunity to both manage and mentor his colleagues in caring, compassionate ways, helping them to achieve their greatest potential.

Kalenka serves as a gifted instructor in the Executive-in-Residence program, where he discusses current business issues with St. John’s honor students, inspiring them to follow in his footsteps. He is a member of The Peter J. Tobin College of Business Advisory Board, and offers valuable insights as a member of St. John’s Board of Governors, a group that advises the University’s President and Board of Trustees on strategic issues relating to St. John’s.

Both Bill and Peggy Montgoris reflect the St. John’s mission of service in a variety of ways. They support a wide range of institutions and initiatives, including Colby College, Dartmouth College, the Hackensack University Medical Center, the Immaculate Heart Academy and Covenant House, where Bill was a member of the Board of Directors for 10 years.
At St. John’s they are members of The Founders Society, the University’s most prestigious donor recognition group, and together served as Co-Chairpersons of The Campaign for St. John’s – Fulfilling the Dream, the most successful capital campaign in University history. Bill also shared his time and talents as a member of St. John’s Board of Trustees and its Executive, Fiscal Resource Management, and Facilities committees and as longtime Chair of the Institutional Advancement committee. He was named Trustee Emeritus in September 2009.

Supporting the President’s Dinner has always been a way for alumni to show their appreciation for how St. John’s helped them to develop the academic skills and personal values that have made a lasting difference in their lives. Their participation also allows them to make a connection with current and future students who will benefit from their help.

“I’ve been to a number of President’s Dinners,” remarked Arthur Bregartner ’72SVC, “and it makes me feel good to know that I’m doing something to keep the University strong and helping its students at the same time. For me, that’s what being a part of the St. John’s family is all about.”
For the members of The McCallen Society, the future of St. John’s University has already begun. They strongly believe in the University, and have invested in it by including St. John’s in their estate plans. And both their numbers and their generosity are on the rise.

At the Annual McCallen Society Recognition Mass and Luncheon, they were happy to learn that their membership has increased to an all-time high of 571, with 30 new members joining within the past year. Collectively, they contributed more than $2.3 million to the university during the past fiscal year, a striking reflection of their desire to keep St. John’s strong for years to come.

That exceptional generosity has had an immediate and lasting impact that has been felt throughout the University. In addition to supporting scholarship assistance for deserving students, it has provided much-needed resources for enhanced academic programs and improved campus facilities. It has also helped St. John’s to fulfill its Vincentian mission of reaching out to those in need.

“As members of The McCallen Society, you are ensuring that the values which we cherish so dearly will be passed along to our students, and our world, for generations to come,” noted St. John’s University President Rev. Joseph L. Levesque, C.M., S.T.D. “I know that our mission has touched each of us to the very core of our existence. Without your support, the University would simply not be what it is today. Thank you for all that you have done for St. John’s.”

Maintaining a strong connection to the Vincentian community and their commitment to serving the needs of others is nothing new to Jack Scheich ’63C, ’66L. During elementary school he served as an altar boy at St. John the Baptist Church in Brooklyn, and then went on to spend four years at St. John’s Preparatory High School. When it came time to move on to college, St. John’s was the natural choice.

With the generous financial assistance offered by the University, Scheich earned his undergraduate degree at St. John’s College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and his J.D. from St. John’s School of Law. His membership in The McCallen Society reflects his lifelong appreciation for what the University did for him so many years ago.

“I would never have been able to attend these great schools without their monetary aid, because my family just couldn’t afford it,” he said. “Back then, the powers that be always made sure my tuition was paid, so I want to return the favor. And to see what’s gone on at the University — the transformation of the campus, in particular — shows me that we’ve all had a very strong and meaningful impact.”

For additional information about The McCallen Society, please contact Susan Damiani ’87CBA, Director, Office of Gift Planning, at (718) 990-7562 or e-mail damianis@stjohns.edu
The Loughlin Society is the University’s leadership giving society whose members know that the future begins with today’s young men and women.

Become a member to ensure our students receive a world-class education.

Visit www.stjohns.edu/loughlinsociety to learn more.
A Hardwood Celebration of BIG EAST Proportions

Anticipation was through the roof as alumni and Red Storm fans celebrated the upcoming season at An Evening with St. John’s Basketball, raising $200,000 in support of St. John’s athletics.

Guests included a number of former St. John’s basketball players, in addition to student-athletes from the current men’s and women’s squads. And with the creation of a new BIG EAST Conference — one that embraces its basketball roots — the FOX Sports 1 “announcing A-Team” of Gus Johnson and Bill Raftery was on hand to serve as Masters of Ceremonies.

Throughout the night, Men’s Basketball Head Coach Steve Lavin and Women’s Basketball Head Coach Joe Tartamella ’04 MBA shared their thoughts on the upcoming season, while Val Ackerman, Commissioner of the BIG EAST Conference, spoke about what fans can expect from the conference in its inaugural year.

“The theme tonight is the celebration of the rejuvenated and refreshed BIG EAST,” said Director of Athletics Chris Monasch ‘81 SVC. “So we thought that there was simply no better way to celebrate than to have FOX Sports, our media partner, here with Gus and Bill, and have commissioner Ackerman in attendance as well.”

Jubilarian Society Dinner

Remember when regular gas was 30 cents a gallon, a first class stamp cost six cents and the World’s Fair was drawing crowds of people to Flushing Meadows? That’s what it was like 50 years ago, and if you’re a member of the Class of 1964, it probably seems like only yesterday. Come back and celebrate the 50th Anniversary of your graduation at The Jubilarian Society Dinner. If you’ve already marked this special milestone, we hope you’ll join us for a great evening of nostalgia with your former classmates.

Saturday, May 31, 2014

For complete details and to register for the event, please visit www.stjohns.edu/jubilarian

4 p.m. – Mass
5 p.m. – Cocktail Reception
6 p.m. – Dinner
8 p.m. – Dessert Reception

Queens campus
$100 per person
On the 12 Days of Christmas, what did St. John’s give to you?

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12

This Christmas, make a profound difference in students’ lives and give the gift of a St. John’s education!

Watch the music video our SJU students made and find out about all 12 Days and how you can give to them.

www.stjohns.edu/12days