The Gift of Education

A noble and lasting gift

Plus:

Longtime Faculty Reunion Celebration
Applications Increase
Helping Vets
More than 200 St. John’s University alumni, students, faculty, administrators, staff and friends received a warm welcome from the crowds when they marched in the 247th Annual St. Patrick’s Day Parade in New York City.
Dear Friends,

One of the aspects of commencement at St. John’s University that I most enjoy is looking out over the new graduates and realizing how much their lives have been changed since their earliest days on campus. Each of those eager young men and women came to us filled with hopes and dreams, trusting that we would give them the means to have their hopes fulfilled and their dreams realized. I have no doubt that as they go forth from commencement they do so bearing the gift of education, a precious treasure that will remain with them for the rest of their lives.

The educational experience at St. John’s is not limited to the classroom, although that is where a significant portion of it takes place. Rather, it is an all-encompassing transformation that is part of everything we do at the University. It can be found as students and faculty chat informally while going to and from class. It is there every time our student-athletes strive for success on the playing field or court. And it is with us as we pause for a private moment of spiritual renewal within the serenity of St. Thomas More Church.

The articles that appear in this issue attest to the reality that the gift of education is a profoundly collaborative effort in which the roles of our alumni, faculty, administrators and students are inextricably linked.

You will be moved to read of the many ways in which the generosity of our alumni donors has impacted the lives of St. John’s students, allowing them to carry that generosity into the world as they share their Vincentian values with others in their personal and professional lives. Every difference that we make in the life of a single student is magnified a hundredfold as that student extends the St. John’s mission into his or her personal and professional communities.

The gift of education is offered to our students through the enthusiastic dedication of our outstanding faculty, and in this issue we tell the story of a few who have been changing our students’ lives for 40 or more years.

Ultimately, it is the University’s mission of caring and concern for others that makes us unique, and it is that uniqueness which makes the gift of education even more precious. We have a right to be proud of St. John’s, and we have a right to be proud of the young men and women who have embraced our mission as a vibrant and everlasting part of their lives. That is what we willingly and joyfully give to our students.

I am pleased to share this issue of the St. John’s University Magazine with you, and I wish you a happy, healthy and productive summer.

Donald J. Harrington, C.M.
President
The generosity of alumni and friends enables St. John’s to remain true to its mission.

The service of longtime University faculty is a testament to their love of teaching and St. John’s.

Consistent with the University’s mission as a Catholic, Vincentian and metropolitan institution of higher education, the University abides by all applicable federal, state and local laws which prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, religion, color, national or ethnic origin, age, sex (including sexual harassment), sexual orientation, marital status or disability in admitting students to its programs or in administering its educational policies, admissions policies, scholarships and loan programs, athletics and other institutionally administered programs or activities generally made available to students at the University. In accordance with these laws, the University also prohibits retaliation against anyone who has complained about discrimination or otherwise exercised rights guaranteed under these laws. In addition, the University continually strives to fulfill its educational goals by maintaining a fair, humane, responsible and non-discriminatory environment for all students and employees. All University policies, practices and procedures are administered in a manner which preserves its rights and identity as a Catholic and Vincentian institution of higher education.
Reunion Celebration Weekend 2008 will be an event to remember so make sure you don’t miss out on the fun June 13 – 15. It’s a special time for those who graduated in a year ending in “3” or “8” but all are invited to attend. Take advantage of our overnight accommodations and stay on campus in the beautiful Residence Village and enjoy an array of complimentary events including campus trolley tours and a student art exhibition all while sharing memories with fellow alumni.

Come honor some of St. John’s best and brightest at Alumni Convocation which will be the opening event of Reunion Celebration Weekend 2008. The special ceremony will highlight the accomplishments of these exceptional men and women who have lived their lives in the Vincentian spirit of caring and concern for others while making a significant difference in our world. The Convocation will be followed by a celebratory dessert reception where you can mingle with the honorees and other guests.

Other Friday night activities are also available for your enjoyment. Visit the Great White Way at a Broadway showing of South Pacific for $100 per person. If sports are more your taste, come root for your favorite team when the New York Mets take on the Texas Rangers at a baseball game. Tickets are $35 per person. And for our more recent graduates, there’s a chance for a little friendly competition when you dust off your bowling shoes and enjoy Red Storm Bowl-A-Rama in New York City for $30 per person.

The highlight of the weekend will be the Gala Dinner Dance on Saturday night where guests will enter the spectacularly transformed Taffner Field House for an evening of great food and music. St. John’s University President Rev. Donald J. Harrington, C.M. will host this incredible event and address the many past successes and future initiatives of our beloved University.

Prior to the Gala Dinner Dance, relax on Saturday morning with a rejuvenating, complimentary yoga session on the lawn of the University’s beautiful Residence Village before heading over to the Continental Breakfast. Hop aboard the Campus Trolley Tour to view all the changes on campus since you were a student and be sure to stop by the Department of Fine Arts Annual Student Exhibition for an insight into their creativity. In the evening, a special thank you reception will be held for members of the Loughlin Society and Class of 1958.

A special Mass at the beautiful St. Thomas More Church on Sunday will be followed by a Champagne Brunch to be held in Montgoris Hall. The Mass and brunch will conclude the weekend and will be a time to say goodbye, make promises to keep in touch with fellow alumni and friends and plan to attend next year’s reunion.

Alumni who graduated 50 years ago or more are a part of a new group, the Golden Johnnies, and Reunion offers the opportunity to relink with your fellow Golden Johnnies.

So plan to revisit alma mater by attending the Reunion Celebration Weekend 2008. For more information, contact Michelle King in the Office of Alumni Relations at (718) 990-6035 or e-mail kingm1@stjohns.edu

To make reservations, contact the Office of Advancement Events at (718) 990-1504.

Visit www.stjohns.edu/reunion for complete details.
Friday, June 13
8 p.m.
Alumni Convocation and Dessert Reception
Taffner Field House
Complimentary

Saturday, June 14
5:30 – 7 p.m.
Loughlin Society Reception and 50th Anniversary Medal Ceremony
Marillac Terrace
Complimentary
(for Loughlin Society members and Class of 1958 only)

7 p.m.
Gala Cocktail Reception and Dinner Dance
Taffner Field House
$150 per person

Sunday, June 15
Noon – 2 p.m.
Champagne Brunch
Montgoris Dining Hall
$50 per person
Freshmen Applications Soar

St. John’s remains a sought after destination for students seeking a quality education as evidenced by the University this year recording the largest increase in freshman applications among colleges and universities in New York City.

More than 39,000 applications have been received which marks a more than 44 percent increase from last year. New York University was up 8.5 percent followed by Fordham University at seven percent and Columbia University at four percent. The news was welcomed with enthusiasm by St. John’s officials who have noted an expansion for several years. “The increase in Fall 2008 applications continues a trend that began in 1999 when St. John’s began its transformation from a commuter school serving the citizens of New York, to a residential university that would attract students from across the country and around the world,” said James P. Pellow, Ed.D., Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer at St. John’s University. “In the past 10 years, demand has exploded with applications increasing five-fold, from about 7,000 to over 39,000 for this year’s class. Students now come from 46 states and 130 countries and yet they seem to embrace immediately our Vincentian charism, especially our focus on civic engagement and service to New York City.”

“In the past 10 years, demand has exploded with applications increasing five-fold, from about 7,000 to over 39,000 for this year’s class. Students now come from 46 states and 130 countries and yet they seem to embrace immediately our Vincentian charism, especially our focus on civic engagement and service to New York City.”

– James P. Pellow, Ed.D., Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer

Field-based research which is performed locally throughout New York City, nationally with partners in New Orleans, Philadelphia and Chicago, and even internationally through our network of study abroad locations in Italy, France, Vietnam and Cameroon, among others. Discover The World is a unique St. John’s international program which allows students to study and participate in service opportunities in other countries.

Incoming freshman Peter Alaimo said he is very excited that he will be a St. John’s student in the fall. The Hillsborough, NJ native plans to major in Risk Management and said he researched the University via the website prior to making a visit to the Queens campus. “I really liked the campus and the Risk Management program attracted me,” he said. “I like that the University is in New York because I love the city. The location is also great for internships and my career once I graduate. That definitely is something else that attracted me to St. John’s.”

Students now come from 46 states and 130 countries and yet they seem to embrace immediately our Vincentian charism, especially our focus on civic engagement and service to New York City.”

Dr. Pellow pointed out that potential freshmen are attracted to several aspects of the University, including its commitment to service. “One interesting trend that we learned was the growing interest of students from all locations to be directly engaged in academic-service opportunities,” he said. “Surprisingly, one of our most successful recruitment strategies was the funding of a scholarship based on a student’s history of, and commitment to, service. If students qualify, they receive a scholarship to engage in academically related service and
Founder’s Week 2008

The 14th Annual Founder’s Week was filled with reflections and activities centered on the University’s Vincentian heritage. Themed “Vincentian Beyond Borders: Building a Civilization of Love,” the last week in January included various lectures, luncheons, reflections and honored guest speakers at the Queens, Staten Island and Manhattan campuses as well as at the University’s Oakdale location.

The week began with a special Founder’s Week Mass and Student Recognition Awards held in St. Thomas More Church on the Queens campus where University President Rev. Donald J. Harrington, C.M. served as the presiding celebrant and Rev. John Kettelberger, C.M. delivered the homily. The event was held in honor of the Feast of the Conversion of St. Paul and Fr. Harrington extolled the importance of the University’s tie to St. Vincent de Paul. “We recognize that because Vincent founded the Vincentian community, we are a different University,” said Fr. Harrington. “A University which is blessed in a very special way to have his spirit thriving among us.”

Fr. Kettelberger’s remarks focused on conversion – the conversion of Saul who became Paul, the conversion of St. Vincent de Paul in 1617 who found his life’s work in aiding those in need after hearing the confession of a poor man and the conversion story of those present. He encouraged those present to continue on their journey of conversion. “God is calling for us to experience conversion within our hearts,” he said. “Calling us to look deep within our hearts to see where it is we best encounter the living God.”

Most Reverend Nicholas A. DiMarzio, Ph.D., D.D., Bishop of Brooklyn, delivered the Vincentian Chair of Social Justice Lecture at the School of Law. An internationally acknowledged expert on immigration, Bishop DiMarzio serves as the Chairman of the Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc. and is a consultant to the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops Committee on Migration. He stressed that the plight of immigrants is not solely the responsibility of social service or government agencies but rather a challenge that must be embraced by caring individuals on a basic and personal level. “The innate dignity of the individual is the cornerstone of our Catholic social teaching,” he said. He urged those in attendance to remember the Vincentian values that lie at the foundation of the St. John’s mission reminding them that “Vincent de Paul had a heart that burned for charity and justice in the world.” Another highlight of the activities was a lecture by Rev. Peter Le Jacq, M.M., M.D. ’76C, a medical doctor and Maryknoll missioner who spoke at the Queens and Staten Island campuses.

Fr. Le Jacq’s speech, titled “Building a Civilization Without Borders,” focused on erasing borders by using examples of modern day acts that emulate the experiences of St. Vincent over 400 years ago. “The call to heal the sick as a sign of gods love in the world, regardless of location, or borders, was given to Christians by Jesus Christ throughout the gospels,” he said. “For the church today... it’s HIV and AIDS, that’s where St. Vincent would be today and that’s where the Vincentians are. The St. John’s University community has continued to adapt the gospel call to heal, not just physically — emotionally, spiritually, psychologically — during your four years here and for the rest of your life.”

Founder’s Week 2008 drew to a close as hundreds gathered in St. Thomas More Church on the Queens campus for the Vincentian Convocation. The honorees were: Theresa C. Cantarella ’73NDC, ’77GEd, Director, Office of Student Services at the Staten Island campus, recipient of the Vincentian Mission Award; Alice Sinclair, senior volunteer with Catholic Charities of Brooklyn, recipient of the President’s Medal; Rev. John B. Freund, C.M., Director of International Internet Operations for the Congregation of the Mission, recipient of the International Medal; Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of New York, the Caritas Medal (accepted by Msgr. Kevin L. Sullivan, Executive Director); Anita Brennan, humanitarian and University benefactor, recipient of the St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Medal; and Ambassador Oscar de Rojas, Director of Financing for Development, United Nations, recipient of the St. Vincent de Paul Medal. Two honorary degrees were also conferred during the Convocation. A Doctor of Humane Letters was conferred upon author, lecturer and human rights advocate Immaculee Ilibagiza and a Doctor of Sacred Theology was conferred upon Most Reverend Nicholas DiMarzio, Ph.D., D.D., Bishop of Brooklyn.

Rev. Donald J. Harrington, C.M. was the presiding celebrant at the Founder’s Week Mass.

Honorees gathered for the Vincentian Convocation.
Sometimes it is easy being green.

The crowds cheered, clapped and chanted “Let’s Go Red Storm” as members of the St. John’s University community marched in New York City’s 247th annual St. Patrick’s Day Parade held in March. More than 200 alumni, students, faculty, staff, administrators and friends of the University sported red sashes and green St. John’s baseball caps as they marched up Fifth Avenue. The group waved and smiled as they displayed their St. John’s pride to a crowd who shouted out greetings and encouraged them along their way. The parade, which has been known to attract millions of spectators, is one of the oldest and largest in the country. Adrian Kerrigan, Vice President for Institutional Advancement at St. John’s, marched and said he enjoyed the enthusiasm of those present. “It’s a beautiful day for St. John’s and for New York City,” he said. “It’s a wonderful combination. We had a great contingent and I’m very excited about the day.”

It’s a day when everyone is Irish and it began with a special breakfast held at The Westin New York at Times Square where McCallen Society and Loughlin Society members joined other alumni to mingle and kick off the festivities. Loughlin Society member James Shannon ’87CBA attended with his youngest son, Aidan, and said he wouldn’t have missed it. “I have three children, my wife (the former Anissa Mitrano ’91Ed) also graduated from St. John’s and Aidan does attend the basketball games with me, but sometimes he misses out on all the fun,” he said. “I figured this would be the perfect thing. With his name, Aidan Shannon, this is his event.”

Elizabeth Hassan Meismeyer ’57CBA is a member of the McCallen Society and said she attended because of her love for alma mater. “St. John’s has made a big difference always in my life, so I wanted to come and show support for the University,” she said.

Longtime St. John’s professor Frank LeVeness ’63Ed, ’64G, ’68Ph.D. said the last time he was at the parade was when he was in high school. “I’m so happy to be marching with St. John’s,” he said. “It’s great that we are in the parade and representing the University.”

Jacob ’11P is the President of the Future Alumni Association and said she and other students welcomed the opportunity to meet alumni. “We get to see how much of a common spirit we have because whether we are future alumni or alumni, we still share that same passion for St. John’s,” Jacob said. “It’s nice to interact with people who are like minded.”

Brian Browne ’93C, ’97G, Assistant Vice President for Government Relations and Executive Director of the Manhattan campus, said the number of participants continues to grow every year as more and more people want to come out to show their pride in St. John’s red among the sea of green. “I think it’s a great turnout,” he said. “It gets bigger and bigger every year. We’ve got a good mix of students, faculty, staff, administrators and alumni. It’s great.”
Spreading the Word on Safety

In February the Queens campus was the site of a two day conference dealing with campus safety and emergency preparedness.

More than 200 representatives from colleges, universities, government agencies, the military and the private sector attended “Urban Hazard Forum IV: Campus School Safety and Emergency Preparedness.” The event was hosted by the University in partnership with the United States Department of Homeland Security, FEMA Region II. James P. Pellow, Ed.D., Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer at St. John’s, welcomed attendees and said events of campus shootings around the country and the gunman incident at St. John’s last September underscored the need for such an event. “This unfortunate reality of the potential for large scale tragic events is a threat for all of us,” Dr. Pellow said. “Like all of you, we want to do everything in our power to keep our students, faculty and employees safe. Our team looks forward to sharing with you over the next two days, to learn from you and hear from our wonderful speakers.”

Stephen Kempf, United States Homeland Security FEMA Region II Regional Administrator, also offered welcoming remarks. Kempf has more than 30 years experience in emergency management and his New York City headquartered office oversees agency operations in New York, New Jersey, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. He said cooperation among the various industries and agencies is key to maintaining safety, especially in these uncertain times. “As you know, we face threats from many, many different sectors in the world that we live in today,” he said. “We’ve pondered for many years how do we address some of these unique, challenging and problematic situations that confront us almost on a daily basis. None of us can do it alone.”

The forum attracted several high profile and noted speakers in fields ranging from psychology to logistics including alumnus Robert J. Sica ’78VC, Deputy Special Agent in Charge – New York Field Office with the United States Secret Service, who presented “Threat Assessment in Schools: A Guide to Managing Threatening Situations and Creating Safe School Climates.” Over the two day period, attendees had the opportunity not only hear from the experts, but to also network and share their own experiences and ideas.

Thomas Lawrence, Vice President for Public Safety at St. John’s, said the University was the ideal site for such an informative and timely conference, given its location and the attention it received over the handling of an incident last September when a troubled student brought a loaded rifle to the Queens campus. The University had earlier implemented an emergency response system that proved to be helpful and Lawrence said he hoped other schools would find value in St. John’s experience. “There were lessons we learned that we wanted to share with other universities and colleges,” he said. “I hope they take away some ideas to make their universities and colleges safer.” Gerard McEnerney, Assistant Vice President and Executive Director of the Staten Island campus, is responsible for emergency management throughout the University and said the subtext of the conference was “engaging critical partners.” For that reason, organizers reached out to a variety of agencies and organizations to participate. “It’s very important in emergency management that we deal with our colleagues from other institutions as well as professional emergency managers,” he said. “As a number of speakers said, no institution has all of the answers so we walk away with the best practices and hopefully they will bring it back to their institutions and apply it.”

School of Ed Has a Ball

The School of Education hosted a Centennial Prelude Ball in February at Villa Lombardi’s in Holbrook, Long Island where guests including alumni, administrators, faculty, and students from throughout the University enjoyed delicious food, musical entertainment, awards, and raffles.

Those receiving awards were: Patrick Dunphy ’73CBA, ’77MBA who received the Award of Excellence for Administration; Francine Guastello ’79Ed, ’82GEd, ’88Ed.D who received the Award of Excellence for Faculty; Felicia Muri who received the Award of Excellence for Staff; Kristen Doheny ’08Ed and Julianna Cohen ’08Ed who received the Award of Excellence for Outstanding Student; and Charissa Gigatti ’05CPS, ’07GEd who received the Award of Service.

The event served as a fundraiser for scholarships. The School of Education is celebrating its 100th anniversary during the 2008-2009 academic year which includes an array of activities such as lectures, seminars and a planned gala. For more information and to learn how you can participate, visit www.stjohns.edu/education/celebrating100years
Wining and Dining

A special thank you was held in February for members of the Loughlin Society and McCallen Society who were treated to a sumptuous evening at a restaurant in Astoria, Queens.

The Romance of Italian Food and Wine was held at Trattoria L’Incontro and participants gathered in the wine bar to learn interesting facts while tasting some of the venue’s delicious offerings. As scenes of Sicily and Italy played on wide screen televisions, attendees mingled and sipped sparkling wine before Rev. Kevin Creagh, C.M. ’91SVC, ’04PD, Assistant Vice President, Branch Campuses and Assistant to the Vice President for Institutional Advancement, offered a prayer. Fr. Creagh spoke of several exciting initiatives at the University including Discover the World which allows students to travel, study and complete service opportunities abroad.

St. John’s faculty members Annalisa Sacca, Ph.D. and Heidi Sung, Ph.D., CHE offered presentations about food and wine. Sacca, Director of the Italian Studies Program Languages and Literature Department and for the Center of Global Development, entertained those present with interesting trivia regarding the origins of some well known regional foods from Italy as well as information about the history and culture surrounding some of the foods and wine. Sung, Director of the Hospitality and Tourism Management Division of Hotel, Restaurant, Sports, Travel and Tourism in the College of Professional Studies, gave remarks about various wines and offered those present a brief glimpse into the wine appreciation course she teaches at the University.

The menu included multiple tasting courses, each accompanied by a wine chosen to complement the dish. Thea Graves Pellman ’57CBA is a Loughlin Society member and said the evening provided the perfect mix. “I like wine, I like St. John’s, I like the food and I enjoy the company,” she said. “I loved the explanations of the food.” Prof. John P. Clarke ’55CBA, ’57L is a member of both societies and said he found the presentations “very interesting and entertaining.” “I’m looking forward to learning about the wines because I’m teaching in Rome this summer,” he said. Henry Lung ’99L said he felt fortunate to be a member of the Loughlin Society. “I’m very grateful to the University because I went to the School of Law on a scholarship,” he said. “It’s always been a top priority to always want to give back to the community from when I came.”

Students of both Dr. Sacca and Dr. Sung were on hand to mingle with attendees and Elisa Sansone ’08C treated the crowd to a rendition of “On My Own” from Les Misérables. The evening was held in appreciation of the commitment and generosity of members of the McCallen and Loughlin Societies. The McCallen Society is comprised of esteemed donors who have remembered the University in their estate plans. The Loughlin Society recognizes those who have made leadership gifts of $1,000 or more within a fiscal year. For more information on or to join the Loughlin Society, contact Stacey Philips Varghese, Associate Director, Loughlin Society at (718) 990-2982 or e-mail philipss@stjohns.edu.

For more information on the McCallen Society, contact Susan Damiani, Director, Gift Planning, at (718) 990-7562 or e-mail damianis@stjohns.edu.
Acclaimed Author Speaks at Queens campus

By Everton Bailey ’10CPS

In April, award-winning author Joyce Carol Oates lectured at the Queens campus. The event was part of the Fourth Semi-Annual St. John’s College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Speaker Series.

Oates has written numerous novels, poems, essays and short stories over her career including Black Water, a novella that was nominated for a National Book Critics Circle Award and a Pulitzer Prize, and We Were the Mulvaneys, which was picked as an Oprah Book Club selection in 2001.

Oates opened her lecture by reading an excerpt from her 2003 literary essay, The Faith of a Writer: Life, Craft, Art. “I believe that art is the highest expression of the human spirit,” read the critically acclaimed author. “I believe that we yearn to transcend the merely finite and ephemeral; to participate in something mysterious and communal called culture.”

Oates also read more pieces from her published work including passages from Blonde, a novel based on the life of Marilyn Monroe. Oates recalled that the book was written out of sympathy for Monroe and explained that the late actress’ tale, as well as those of modern day celebrities, may not always be what they appear in the public eye. “We see their lives as glamorous but in reality, it is a lot to deal with,” Oates said.

“When people become famous they think they reach a plateau where they think they can be at ease, but it’s the opposite.”

Oates career has been filled with accolades and her more recent honors include receiving the American Humanist Association’s Humanist of the Year award in 2007 and a Chicago Tribune Literary Prize in 2006. A question and answer session followed the lecture and a reception was held in Bent Hall, where Oates spoke with audience members and signed various copies of her works throughout the years.

Many of those in attendance left Oates’ presentation with a favorable impression. “I loved what she said about the writer bearing witness for the reader, that they open a window for us to see things through the eyes of the subject,” said Veronica Maggi, a Senior Counselor for the Staten Island campus. Elise Schonberger, who accompanied Florence Levine ’82G, found the lecture to be “very inspiring” and was impressed by how Oates’ voice and mannerisms during the reading “made her writings come alive.” Qortni Lang attended and said she found it fascinating. “[Oates] helped give a new perspective on the topic,” she said. “We, the general public, put [celebrities] on such a high pedestal, we hold them a little higher than we hold ourselves. She made them appear more human.”

A Metropolitan University

The University’s Board of Trustees has approved a change in the wording of the “metropolitan” component of the University’s mission statement. The need for the change emerged during a daylong session on strategic planning held in January in which the Board’s Executive Committee and senior administration participated. New language was developed by a team of senior leaders and reviewed by the University’s Executive Planning Committee before being adopted by the full Board of Trustees.

The change is designed to assure that the mission statement more accurately reflects the ever-increasing global nature and presence of the University. While at the outset, St. John’s had an international presence only in Rome, the University, through such programs as Discover the World, is now providing opportunities for students to study and serve in many diverse cities. The new language reflects that expanded outreach.

The new language also more accurately reflects St. John’s commitment to active collaboration with the metropolitan communities of which it is a part. The original language, “we encourage these metropolitan communities to use our resources to serve their needs,” has been augmented by language that expresses the outreach and engagement exemplified by so many of the University’s programs and activities.

The full text of the revised section of the statement is as follows: St. John’s is a metropolitan university. We benefit from New York City’s cultural diversity, its intellectual and artistic resources, and the unique professional educational opportunities offered by New York, Rome and other cities throughout the world where our students study and serve. With this richness comes responsibility. We seek and welcome opportunities to partner and plan with our metropolitan communities. We encourage them to use our intellectual resources and professional expertise in developing solutions that address strategic issues of mutual concern. On the local, state, national and international levels, our alumni serve as effective leaders and responsible citizens. We pledge to foster those qualities required for anticipating and responding to the educational, ethical, cultural, social, professional, and religious needs of a dynamic world.
In April, The School of Education celebrated the accomplishments of five leaders in the field of education on Staten Island at the Leaders in Education Awards Dinner (LEAD). The honorees were Dr. Gregory Rossicone ’72GEd, ’78PD, ’85Ed.D., Principal, Notre Dame Academy High School; Mary Chiapperino ’97GEd, ’02PD, Principal, Our Lady Help of Christians; Natalie Hendrix ’02Ed, ’03GEd, Teacher, P.S. 58; Lois Nicotra ’77NDC, ’83GEd, Chairperson/CEO of The Nicotra Group and a former elementary school teacher, and Grace Dondero Ed.D., ’70Ed, ’71GEd, Retired Associate Professor, St. John’s University were each recognized for their commitment to education.

The School of Education held its third annual Alumni Association Career Forum: Count on Alumni for Career Help (COACH) in April. The six alumni who served as panelists were: Ryan Murphy ’03Ed, ’06Ed a teacher at I.S. 75; RoseAnn Mezzacappa ’71Ed, Principal, P.S. 5B; Natalie Hendrix ’02Ed, ’03GEd, a teacher at P.S. 58; Tim Behr ’94PD, retired Principal from P.S. 35; Patricia Campbell ’54 NDC, an Associate Professor at St. John’s University; and Anna Castley ’89GEd, Principal, P.S. 54. The forum is designed to provide students with insight and practical skills when interviewing for a profession in the field of education.

The School of Education launched the Staten Island LEAD in 2005 to honor those who have garnered significant accomplishments in the fields of education and educational administration. The award honors teachers, principals and counselors from throughout Staten Island. The event has grown each year and there is now a Staten Island School of Education Scholarship Fund.

From L. Narducci (accepting for Grace Dondero); Rossicone; Chiapperino; Nicotra and Hendrix.

Our Lady of Christians; Natalie Hendrix ’02Ed, ’03GEd, Teacher, P.S. 5B; Lois Nicotra ’77NDC, ’83GEd, Chairperson/CEO of The Nicotra Group and a former elementary school teacher, and Grace Dondero Ed.D., ’70Ed, ’71GEd, Retired Associate Professor, St. John’s University.

Our Lady Help of Christians; Natalie Hendrix ’02Ed, ’03GEd, Teacher, P.S. 5B; Lois Nicotra ’77NDC, ’83GEd, Chairperson/CEO of The Nicotra Group and a former elementary school teacher, and Grace Dondero Ed.D., ’70Ed, ’71GEd, Retired Associate Professor, St. John’s University.

St. John’s University Board of Trustees member Sister Carol Keehan, D.C. ’01HON finished first in the sixth annual reader poll of the 100 most powerful individuals in healthcare. The poll is conducted by Modern Healthcare magazine and Sister Carol’s selection marked the first time a woman has topped the ranking.

Sister Carol is President and Chief Executive Officer of the Catholic Health Association of the United States (CHA) which is the nation's largest group of not-for-profit health care sponsors, systems and facilities. A Daughter of Charity for more than 43 years, Keehan led notable list-makers including California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger and former Massachusetts Governor and Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney. The magazine cites Sister Carol’s efforts to build consensus around health system reform and mentions CHA’s efforts to develop a set of principles to assess competing reform proposals. Modern Healthcare reporter Cinda Becker said “In her capacity as a devoted consensus builder working with an eclectic group of organizations to resolve the seemingly intractable problem, Keehan, who came in at number 26 a year ago, has somehow managed to connect with all the disparate interest groups without alienating any of them.”

Prior to assuming the position at CHA, she had chaired the board of Sacred Heart Health System in Pensacola, FL, and also formerly headed Providence Hospital in Washington, DC.

St. John’s University
March 2012

Sister Carol Keehan, D.C. ’01HON
Basketball Alumnae Gather

A group of former basketball players met for the annual Alumnae Day prior to the St. John’s vs. West Virginia women’s basketball game in January. More than 20 women attended the reception where they shared memories of their time as student-athletes.

The group included players ranging from the 1974-75 season to the 2005-06 season and they enjoyed a buffet lunch held in the President’s Room at Carnesecca Arena. A bit of history was present as two of the first recipients of women’s basketball scholarships at the University, Dorothy Giordano Pace ’78Ed, ’81GEd and Susan Bretthauer ’789SVC, joined their former coach Victoria Porter for the event.

Former teammates Tara Nelsen ’84SVC and Barbara Rapp ’85SVC said they enjoyed catching up with each other and seeing the changes on the Queens campus. “I really liked the new Taffner Field House,” Nelsen said. “I got to see my friend [Rapp] who I haven’t seen in over 20 years. I had a great time here today and this just brings back so many great memories for me.” Rapp agreed. “I thought the event was very nice and I’ll be back next year,” she said.

“It was great to see Tara. We were laughing about all the memories — all the suicides we had to run and all the stories we keep talking about. It was a lot of fun.” “Suicide” refers to a type of running drill used to train athletes in basketball.

Newly Elected Provincial

Rev. Michael J. Carroll, C.M., Executive Vice President for Mission and Branch Campuses at St. John’s, has been elected Provincial of the Eastern Province of the Congregation of the Mission effective June 15, 2008. The announcement of the new position for the longtime administrator was met with congratulations by members of the University family.

“I know that I speak for our entire University community in expressing gratitude to Fr. Carroll for his service at St. John’s, especially in his most recent role as Executive Vice President for Mission and Branch Campuses,” said President Rev. Donald J. Harrington, C.M. “Fr. Carroll has also been responsible for many initiatives, including spearheading the development of the Vincentian Mission plan and inspiring the creation of the Vincentian Mission Certificate Program, a 16-month program of personal and professional development for St. John’s employees. His new position will find him based in his hometown of Philadelphia, PA, where he attended Bishop McDevitt High School before going on to St. Joseph’s College in Princeton, NJ, and obtaining a bachelor’s degree from Niagara University. He later earned a master’s in Divinity and Theology from Mary Immaculate Seminary, was ordained in 1977, and subsequently received a Master of Pastoral Studies from Loyola University of Chicago, IL.

Over the years, he has held a variety of positions including Director of Students at St. Joseph’s Preparatory Seminary in Princeton, NJ; Rector of Vincentian House, College Seminary of the Vincentian Fathers in Ozone Park, NY; and President of St. Joseph’s Preparatory Seminary in Princeton, NJ. At St. John’s he served as Vice President for Campus Ministry, Vice President for the University’s Rome Campus, and Executive Vice President for Student Services.

He has also served on the Board of Trustees for the Seminary of the Immaculate Conception on Long Island and the Board of Members for St. John’s Bread & Life in Brooklyn. He was a member of the Provincial Council of the Congregation of the Mission from 1995 thru 2004 and was once again asked to serve on the Council in 2006.
Law Alumni Honored

The School of Law held its annual Alumni Association Luncheon in February at the New York Hilton and Towers in New York City. The event was attended by more than 275 alumni, students and friends.

Alumni Association President Mary Kay Vyskocil ’83L began the program by extending a warm thank you and appreciation to School of Law Dean Mary Daly, Richard Hans ’93L who chaired the luncheon, event sponsor Speiser Krause Nolan & Granito, and awards sponsors Robert DeBoissiere ’59L and William Gallina ’67L. This year’s honorees were Terence Winter ’88L, a four-time Emmy winning writer and former executive producer of HBO’s “The Sopranos” who was awarded the Dean Harold McNiece Award; Associate Academic Dean Andrew J. Simons ’65L who was the recipient of the Dean John J. Murphy Award; and Donna Aldea ’98L, counsel for special litigation in the Queens County District Attorney’s Office, who received the Recent Graduate Service Award.

Winter cited Professor Margaret V. Turano ’77L as one who encouraged his writing career and facilitated his first law job. He said that after briefly practicing law in New York City he headed to Los Angeles to embark on a television writing career where he enlisted a fellow St. John’s Law alum with whom he created a nearly fictitious talent agency to gain entrance into the often impenetrable world of Hollywood. Dean Simons said he was moved by being honored and told those gathered “My only mission in life is to make St. John’s the best it can be and I will be loyal to that mission forever.” Aldea also expressed her appreciation for the award. “It is a great honor to have the privilege to shape the future of St. John’s successes, and an even greater honor still to be recognized for that,” she said.

The Dean Harold McNiece Award is given to a graduate in recognition of an outstanding career in a non-law related field. The Dean John J. Murphy Award is bestowed in recognition of distinguished service to the public, the profession and the Rule of Law, and the Recent Graduate Service Award is conferred for outstanding service to St. John’s University School of Law and the Alumni Association.

Pre-Game Receptions A Ball

During the St. John’s Red Storm basketball season, a series of pre-game receptions were held both home and away which drew alumni and friends to cheer on the team. Sponsored by the Office of Alumni Relations, events were held in Syracuse, NY, Tampa, FL, Storrs, CT, New Brunswick, NJ, Washington, DC, and Jamaica, NY as well as at Madison Square Garden in New York City.

Attendees enjoyed the private receptions where they dined on hors d’oeuvres, enjoyed drinks and chatted in anticipation of the action with the men’s basketball team on the court. Alumna Doreena Hamas ’67Ed attended the Syracuse event and said “No matter where I go and when I meet alumni, I feel a good connection.” “I enjoy these receptions and love catching up with fellow alumni,” said Keith Peterson ’80SVC who participated in the reception before the game versus Villanova University held at Madison Square Garden in February. “You never know who you will meet and I always have a fun time.”

The Office of Alumni Relations held a total of 10 pre-game receptions.

Meeting the President

St. John’s University President Rev. Donald J. Harrington, C.M. met with alumni in California in January.

Beginning in San Francisco, a cocktail reception was held in the Banker’s Club at the Carnelian Room Restaurant. The event was held thanks to the generosity of alumni James P. Kelly ’51C, ’99HON and Donald F. Reid ’58CBA, ’62L, ’87HON and included a presentation of a general overview of the University as well as a report of the number and activity of the alumni in Northern California. Alumnus Reid spoke eloquently of loyalty, tradition, and the importance of remaining in touch with alma mater.

A private dinner was hosted by Mr. and Mrs. Kelly and Mr. and Mrs. Reid where former St. John’s and NBA basketball player Chris Mullin ’85CBA spoke to those gathered.

In Los Angeles a reception was held courtesy of James (’63CBA, ’07HON) and Eileen Gaffney. About 50 alumni were in attendance and enjoyed learning of the many new initiatives at the University. A private dinner hosted by the Gaffneys was also held in Los Angeles where Edward Romano ’63CBA, Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer for Warner Bros. Entertainment was in attendance.
From l. Peter D’Alessandro, Esq. ’90SVC; Reid; Helen Reid; Mullin; Rosaleen Kelly; Kelly; and Rev. Donald J. Harrington, C.M. enjoyed the dinner held in San Francisco.

Former United States Secretary of State, White House Chief of Staff and Retired General Alexander Haig spoke with Thomas J. Browne ’57CBA during a reception held at the Breakers Hotel and Resort in Palm Beach, FL.

From l. Gaffney; Rev. Donald Harrington, C.M.; Romano; Murphy Romano; and Robert Wile ’99SVC, Chief of Staff for the Office of the President at St. John’s, at the dinner held in Los Angeles.
To show our appreciation, St. John’s Annual Contributors receive special discounts and benefits with the following partners:

1-800-Flowers.com
AmeriHost Inn
Avis
Bank of America
Baymont Inns
Calico Jack’s Cantina
Cigna Dental
Club Quarters
Data Storage Corp.
Days Inn
Diploma Display
Howard Johnson
Jos. A. Bank
Knights Inn
Lenovo
Liberty Mutual Insurance
Marsh Alumni Services
McFadden’s Restaurant
Mickey Mantle’s Restaurant
Patsy’s Restaurant
P.C. Richard & Son
The Princeton Review
Ramada
Savanna Steak
St. John’s University Bookstore
Super 8
Travelodge
The Williams Club
Wingate
Wyndham Hotels

Become an Annual Contributor

As a St. John’s University Annual Contributor,
your gift has an immediate and direct impact on our more than 20,000 students.

It gives them the superior education that only a world-class university like St. John’s can provide today — so that they can take their places as the leaders who will shape our world tomorrow.

Our students are grateful for what you do for them, and so are we.

For more information, visit
www.stjohns.edu/annualcontributor
St. Vincent de Paul used every means at his disposal to serve the poor. He enlisted the aid of the powerful and influential as well as the humble and dedicated. Living without the conveniences of modern technology, he used the available resources so skillfully that his teachings spread throughout the world during his lifetime.

With the advent of the internet, those who embrace Vincent’s mission have continued his innovative approach to serving those in need by using the technology at their disposal. One of the most notable examples is FAMVIN, the international Web site of the Vincentian family. Created in 1998 by Rev. John Freund, C.M., FAMVIN fosters collaboration among the various branches of the worldwide Vincentian community in ways that could never have been imagined in Vincent’s day. An invaluable resource to all who are inspired by Vincent's concern for those in need, FAMVIN has evolved into a vital community reaching out to more than two million people in over 120 countries. It is a clearinghouse for information, a forum for discussion and an educational tool that is directly descended from Vincent’s pioneering ideals.

Vincent believed evangelization was inextricably linked to service, and organizations such as the Congregation of the Mission, the Daughters of Charity and the Society of St. Vincent de Paul were created to further his message. Through FAMVIN, branches of the Vincentian family in every corner of the world can collaborate on global initiatives and learn what individual communities are accomplishing. Currently available in four languages (with more to be added), FAMVIN has consistently remained on the cutting edge, utilizing the latest technology to bring together Vincentians everywhere, allowing them to communicate with each other using tools such as online forums, embedded video, RSS feeds and famvin2007, its own “channel” on the extremely popular YouTube Web site.

In 1996, Fr. Freund developed the official Web site of the Vincentian Center for Church and Society at St. John’s University and began the effort to establish FAMVIN. His vision was to create a Web site that would bring Vincentian leaders together to share best practices and to help them understand the changing times in which they were living. The result was FAMVIN, a project that has grown far beyond his expectations.

Fr. Freund has given workshops throughout the world, promoting the use of the internet and consulting with other branches of the Vincentian family, aiding them in their own Web development. Sr. Margaret John Kelly ’64G, ’67Ph.D., Executive Director of the Vincentian Center, described Fr. Freund as a pioneer. “He’s very creative. He has the gift of communicating, setting up systems and identifying resources,” she said. “He has a great enthusiasm for utilizing the enormous potential to bring Vincent’s message into the 21st century, and that enthusiasm captivates others.”

It’s laborious work, but he sees it as part of the mission — getting the message out there.”

Soon after he developed FAMVIN, Fr. Freund was thrilled to hear the words of Pope John Paul II directing all those involved with evangelization to launch “out into the deep.” “I immediately translated that in my own mind as meaning the deep of the internet,” Fr. Freund recalled. Shortly thereafter he discovered that the Pope had made the same connection explicit in one of his annual messages for World Communications Day. “As the world moves forward towards a more information-based economy,” Fr. Freund observed, “the measure of wealth and power has become access to information.” Fr. Freund added that the poor would be further marginalized as their access to technology is blocked, something he sees as a new social justice issue for the 21st century.

Thanks to FAMVIN, the various branches of the Vincentian community have gotten to know each other better and have collaborated on many projects as they learn more about their common history. “We realize we have a common DNA,” Fr. Freund stressed. “We recognize our common heritage. So often we’re working in our individual silos. Through FAMVIN we retain our unique identity but we can do things more effectively together.”
Distance Learning Offers Opportunity

by Joanne Novarro

Whether it is picking up where they left off or completing an advanced degree, alumni and former students are taking advantage of the vibrant online learning available at St. John’s.

With just the tap on a keyboard and the move of a mouse, prospective students are able to take classes online and benefit from the University’s robust curriculum no matter where their location. Jeffery Olson, Ph.D., Associate Provost for Online Learning and Services and Director of Library and Information Science, says the online program is drawing many back. “They are reconnecting with St. John’s,” he says. “It’s wonderful.”

Patrick Conlon ’08CPS did. He left St. John’s in 1990 to join the military and later tried another school but was “not impressed.” He returned to St. John’s to take night classes but was once again sidetracked by circumstances that required him to move upstate. In 2005, his brother told him about a new online program at St. John’s. “When I realized that the degree that I had been working on for so long was still possible after all this time, my outlook changed,” Conlon says. “Opportunity was knocking and you better believe I was going to answer. I enrolled.”

Dr. Olson says various offices from Admission to Financial Aid work closely to ensure that the process goes smoothly for those who participate. “Often when people are going back to school, there are some additional challenges,” he said. “You’re an adult, you’ve been away for awhile and there’s some apprehension. It’s worked out well.”

“Opportunity was knocking and you better believe I was going to answer. I enrolled.”

March 2008

Dr. Olson says various offices from Admission to Financial Aid work closely to ensure that the process goes smoothly for those who participate. “Often when people are going back to school, there are some additional challenges,” he said. “You’re an adult, you’ve been away for awhile and there’s some apprehension. It’s worked out well.”

“Opportunity was knocking and you better believe I was going to answer. I enrolled.”

Patrick Conlon ’08CPS

Thirty-nine students were enrolled in St. John’s online undergraduate programs during the Fall 2007 semester, the largest number since the undergraduate programs were first offered in 2004. Graduate programs began being offered in 2003 and individual classes were offered for the first time in 2000. “The same faculty, the same curriculum, the same calendar,” explains Elizabeth Alexander, Assistant Director of Online Learning and Services. In addition to the accessibility to financial aid, every full-time student in the University’s online degree program receives a free laptop and can take advantage of the many other “perks” offered to on-campus students. That includes an assigned academic advisor, the ability to apply, register and pay your bill online and access to the library resources, Counseling Center and Career Center.

Students who are contemplating a transfer from another college or university might also consider online learning with St. John’s. And those who have earned an associate degree from a community college should be aware that they are also eligible for financial aid consideration from St. John’s, Alexander notes.

Conlon, who is poised to graduate this year with a bachelor’s degree in Criminal Justice, says one of the greatest benefits of the program is its flexibility. “You don’t have to attend classes at a scheduled time so any scheduling conflicts are virtually eliminated,” he says. “You still have to put in a great deal of work, but if 6 p.m. every other Thursday isn’t good for you, and if this is the type of thing that has kept you from pursuing your degree, the answer you have been waiting for is Distance Learning.”

“You still have to put in a great deal of work, but if 6 p.m. every other Thursday isn’t good for you, and if this is the type of thing that has kept you from pursuing your degree, the answer you have been waiting for is Distance Learning.”

– Patrick Conlon ’08CPS

To learn more about distance learning, visit www.stjohns.edu/academics/undergraduate/distancelearning

To learn more about distance learning, visit www.stjohns.edu/academics/undergraduate/distancelearning
Serving Service Men and Women

The Center for Psychological Services at St. John’s University is reaching out to members of the military and their family with a new initiative that offers free mental health services.

The Military Services Initiative (MSI) was designed to address the multiple psychological issues and stressors United States soldiers and their families face before, during and after deployment. Increases in the number and duration of deployments resulting from Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom have led to significant separation stresses for military personnel and their families. Richard Morrissey, Ph.D., Director of the Center, says the help offered is confidential for those involved and very much needed, especially for those serving in the reserves. “The [Veterans Administration] system traditionally has not been geared to meet the needs of reservists and National Guardsmen,” he says. “And in contrast to active duty people, who generally speaking are located on a base and have kind of a support system built in, reservists and the National Guard are living just like you or I out in the community. We felt they had a particular need for this sort of service.”

Morrissey says the idea came about after an assistant director at the center whose husband is a veteran of Vietnam inquired as to whether there was anything the center could do for the current returning veterans. “We thought about it, we talked about it and decided that yes we could and should,” Morrissey said. “This was really our effort to give something back to those that have served our country.” Working with Associate Professor of Psychology Elissa Brown, Ph.D., Director of the PARTNERS Program, who is a national expert on childhood trauma, those at the center pulled together a program which offers a variety of services to those that needed it including the children of military personnel. They also received intensive training in military stress from Dr. David Riggs, Executive Director of the Center for Deployment Psychology in Bethesda, MD. “He did a full day training with our staff and a number of the graduate students who work here at the center who had a specific interest in providing services to the military,” Morrissey says. “He gave us military languages 101 and military culture 101 and then went on to talk more in detail about deployment stress. The stresses that men, women and families feel prior to, during and post deployment.” Armed with that, the center announced the initiative — appropriately enough — last Veteran’s Day.

The Center for Psychological Services was established in 1986 with the purpose of providing psychological services to the community and training opportunities for graduate students of the University’s clinical and school psychology programs. Students are supervised by full-time and adjunct faculty members of the University’s Department of Psychology and receive opportunities to conduct research in order to further their learning. Captain Tremaine Sayles ’09Ph.D. has served for 16 years as an Army Reservist and as a St. John’s student is involved with MSI. A licensed social worker, he says there is sometimes a slight resistance among the military to seek help. “As a soldier, there’s always a drive to just move forward,” he says. “It’s difficult to reach out and talk to someone.” Part of the hesitation could stem from the concern that seeking mental health treatment or psychological services might in some way impact a soldier’s career so Sayles says the center’s program is especially helpful. “If you can go and talk to someone on the outside, it’s even better,” he says. “I’ve seen first hand some of the difficulties they go through so any and all opportunities to extend assistance to a service member is a good thing.”

“As a soldier, there’s always a drive to just move forward. It’s difficult to reach out and talk to someone. If you can go and talk to someone on the outside, it’s even better. I’ve seen first hand some of the difficulties [soldiers] go through so any and all opportunities to extend assistance to a service member is a good thing.”

– Captain Tremaine Sayles ’09Ph.D.

Dr. Richard Morrissey, Director of the Center for Psychological Services.
One Hundred Years on the Court

by Jim O’Connell and Paul Montella

From signs announcing tryouts for a new sport to standing room only crowds at Madison Square Garden.

From Father James Chestnut in an age of invention through three Hall of Fame coaches to Norm Roberts in an information-filled Internet world. St. John’s has celebrated 100 seasons of basketball and celebrate is the key word.

There have been championships, Final Fours, almost 1,700 wins, just over 800 losses, buzzer-beaters, blowouts and defeats that will never stop hurting. From playing in buildings with low ceilings and a few rows of bleachers to being the home team in the “World’s Most Famous Arena,” St. John’s basketball players have entertained, thrilled and made proud students, an ever-growing alumni base, countless New Yorkers and a nation of college basketball fans who have come to know and appreciate a Catholic university through its ambassadors on the court.

Dr. James Naismith hung the peach baskets in 1892 as a way to keep physical education students occupied during the winter months. Just 15 years later, St. John’s was among the schools which decided to compete on an intercollegiate level in the new sport.

No one knows how the first students were recruited to play a game much more physical than the version we’ve come to know, but those who answered the call didn’t take long to establish a tradition that would make the first 100 years of St. John’s basketball an unqualified success.

The 1910-11 team went undefeated and was declared national champion by the Helms Foundation. A number of unofficial Eastern championships filled the decades until the National Invitation Tournament came along to decide a national champion and the Redmen won it all in 1943 and 1944. In the years when the NIT and NCAA tournament shared equal status, St. John’s won the former in 1959 and 1965, and reached the championship game of the latter in 1952. The Redmen made their second Final Four appearance in 1985 and won the NIT in 1989 and 2003 to add to their record six titles in the tournament.

Few schools have a coaching legacy like St. John’s with Hall of Famers Joe Lapchick, Frank McGuire and Lou Carnesecca all having been in charge of the program along with one of the sport’s great innovators in Buck Freeman. Those who have worn the red and white include national players of the year like Chris Mullin and Walter Berry and All-Americans such as Harry Boykoff, Bob Zawoluk, Alan Seiden, Tony Jackson, Sonny Dove, Mark Jackson and Malik Sealy.

To show their dominance of the sport in the city that claims basketball as its game, almost one-third of the 74 Haggerty Awards presented to the outstanding college player in the New York metropolitan area have gone to St. John’s players. And the award is named for a St. John’s player, Frank Haggerty, a 1940 graduate who was killed in action in World War II.

Any list relating to St. John’s basketball is almost impossible to compile. Try to pick the best of anything and there’s a good chance an argument will follow.

From a time when there was a jump ball after every basket to the days when players seemed to fly above the rim. From the days where a bounce pass was an innovation to a time when a nod leads to an alley-oop pass. From a time when the only people who saw a game were those in the building to the days when every game is broadcast and available to millions.

St. John’s has spent 100 seasons among the top programs in college basketball and every player and coach has shared in its success while every student, alum and fan has enjoyed the ride.


Ringing the Bell

Hall of Fame Coach Lou Carnesecca ’50C, ’60GEd, ’00HON stood surrounded by alumni, friends and his former players as he rang the closing bell at the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) in March. Alumni and dignitaries present were treated to a pre-event reception hosted by Thomas E. Veit, Senior Vice President, NYSE.
The Women’s Basketball Team advanced to the Women’s NIT Quarterfinals for the first time in the program’s history.

The team advanced after defeating Boston College, 65-56, at Carnesecca Arena in March. Junior Monique McLean led the way with 21 points and 10 rebounds en route to her third double-double of the season. Senior Kia Wright also had a solid performance with a 15-point contest, 13 of which came in the final frame. Sophomore Recee Mitchell rounded out the double-figure scoring with 10 points, netting her fourth double-digit scoring effort of the season.

During the second half, the Eagles slowly chipped into the lead and came within seven, 48-41, with 10:26 remaining. St. John’s did not let Boston College stay close for long and countered by scoring six unanswered points. The Eagles tried to make one last comeback and cut the lead to 60-53 with 2:05 remaining, but the Red Storm was strong down the stretch from the free throw line, going 5-of-6, to clinch the win, putting them in the quarterfinals.

The Red Storm then faced North Carolina State at Reynolds Coliseum in Raleigh, NC, where the Red Storm team fell with a final score of 63-61 during a hard fought game.

Growing up in Brooklyn, my parents aspired to give their children the best possible education. Thanks to the generosity of the alumnae of Notre Dame College, I was awarded the Notre Dame College Alumnae Association Sister Helen Flynn Scholarship as well as being awarded a St. John’s University Scholastic Excellence Scholarship. St. John’s gave me a rare chance to pursue my dreams, and I work hard every day to earn the scholarships that I received.” — Michele Trizzino ‘10CPS

SCHOLARSHIPS MAKE A REAL DIFFERENCE IN THE LIVES OF REAL PEOPLE.

Give the gift of education today — and make a difference in all of our tomorrows. For more information visit www.stjohns.edu/alumni/give/0109.stj or call (718) 990-1816.
Students work in The Financial Information Lab.
Giving has always been an intrinsic part of St. John's University.

The generosity of St. John's alumni and friends is invaluable at a time when more and more students are striving to carve for themselves a place in an ever changing world. Without the giving hearts of University supporters, dreams would remain unfulfilled, destinies would be forever changed and thousands of students would be denied the opportunity to study and grow at an institute of higher learning which not only seeks to teach, but also allows every individual who passes through its doors to reach out to others and affect their lives. It’s for that reason that well after graduation, so many have reached back to offer a helping hand. “At the end of the day, there’s nothing more rewarding in life than to help others,” says Nick Davatzes ’62C, ’64G, ’95HON, Chief Executive Officer Emeritus of A&E Television Networks who with his family has generously endowed three scholarship which offers support to multiple students. “Especially when you are helping young people.”

Never has that help been more needed. A recent study titled “Getting Ahead or Losing Ground: Economic Mobility in the United States in America” found that colleges and universities can play a powerful role in helping individuals to better themselves. Sponsored by the Pew Charitable Trust and authored by scholars at the Brookings Institution in Washington, DC, the study found that “educational attainment affects how adult children move up or down the income distribution relative to their peers.” It also found evidence that widening gaps in higher education between the wealthy and the poor could lead to lessening opportunities for the disadvantaged.

According to the study, “Without a college degree, 45 percent of adult children with parents in the lowest income quintile remained at the bottom, more than twice the level that would be expected if there were no relationship between parents’ and adult children’s income. By contrast, only 16 percent of adult children with a college degree remained in the bottom quintile. In this case, education contributed to a boost in economic status for adult children from poor families.”

Those findings further enhance the value St. John's steadfast mission to educate and offer opportunity to those most in need. That education is vast in its scope and includes top notch academic programs, state-of-the-art facilities, talented faculty and a unique focus on service that encourages not only the students’ learning experience, but also their life experience. “I've gotten to do some incredible things,” says Melissa Andrade ’09C, an endowed scholarship recipient. “I've volunteered with St. John's Bread & Life, I tutor adults in reading and math comprehension, I've worked with HeartShare through Academic Learning, I participate in Big Brothers and Big Sisters, I’m in the Speech Pathology Club and I am President of Delta Phi Epsilon Sorority. The scholarships I have received have really helped and I am able to be very involved with St. John’s.”

As of Fall 2007, the Office of Financial Aid processed more than $337 million in financial assistance for almost 95 percent of the student body in the form of scholarships, loans, grants and work-study programs — an increase of 6.9 percent over the previous year. One special form of aid is the endowed scholarship which allows a donor or donors to leave a lasting legacy for
generations to come. With a current beginning funding level of $25,000 which can be established through a one-time gift or a pledge paid over five years, the scholarship can be made in the donor’s name, the name of a loved one or the name of someone who has made a significant difference in their life. In 1997, St. John’s total endowment had a market value of $154 million. A decade later, it has grown to have a market value of more than $366 million.

For Nick Davatzes and his wife, an endowed scholarship offered an opportunity to honor their beloved son, Christopher, whom they lost at a young age to leukemia. They began an endowed scholarship fund to offer support to students who are survivors of or are battling cancer and they also founded the Dorothea Hayes Davatzes Scholarship Fund to benefit qualified School of Education students and the Nickolas Davatzes Scholarship Fund to provide funding for qualified graduate students studying history. “My wife and I and our families know that education, more than anything else, is what you can give to individuals to help them get ahead in life and be able to make greater contributions
“We have alumni who have earned their money and their own way. Our funds really represent giving back even more than heavily endowed schools that have a broader financial base.”

– Prof. John P. Clarke ’55CBA, ’57L

Owen Youn ’10P says he aspires to one day be able to aid a student as he has been helped. He is the recipient of the William Randolph Hearst Foundation Scholarship and says he is extremely thankful. “Financial assistance is really needed these days for college,” he says. “I really appreciate it and I am fortunate to receive it. After I graduate, I want to do exactly the same.”

Prof. John P. Clarke ’55CBA, ’57L understands that sentiment well. He is the chair of the Law Department at The Peter J. Tobin College of Business and says he endowed a scholarship three years ago in honor of what he received more than half a century before. “I came to St. John’s with financial aid more than 50 years ago,” he recalls. “The Vincentians were very good to me. It’s pay back time.” Clarke says he believes the generosity of St. John’s alumni is even more meaningful because of the background of so many who were not children of privilege. “We have alumni who have earned their money and their own way,” he says. “Our funds really represent giving back even more than heavily endowed schools that have a broader financial base.”

St. John’s has long been known for hard working students, many of them who must balance studies with employment. That tradition led Charles J. Antonucci, Sr. ’78CBA to sponsor a special endowment which enables qualified College of Professional Studies students to take internships they might otherwise have to turn down because they have to work. He well remembers having to tackle both a job and the school books. “I went to school part time and I always felt St. John’s was very accommodating to those who had to work,” says the now President and Chief Executive Officer of the Park Avenue Bank. “Fortunately for me, my company paid for me to go to school.” Antonucci says he believes St. John’s students are even more appreciative because they recognize the value of a degree. “I’m very grateful for what St. John’s did for me and I see that in these students also,” he says. “I believe St. John’s students work twice as hard as students at other colleges and universities and that makes them better people in life and in business.”

Several of the student recipients were able to express their appreciation in April at the Endowed Scholarship Donor Brunch. Students and donors mingled in the Mattone Atrium of the School of Law where they shared their experiences and enjoyed the opportunity to meet. St. John’s Provost Julia A. Upton, RSM, Ph.D. ’73G, ’75G spoke of the humanitarian focus that underscores on a daily basis every aspect of life at the University and she urged the scholarship recipients to remember the generosity bestowed upon them by the donors and to use that as a springboard to effect positive change in the world. “We, each in our own way, must become St. John’s ambassadors for change,” she said.
Christopher Borgatti ’10C spoke to those gathered and expressed the feelings of many of the recipients. “I’m honored to be here with an opportunity to say ‘Thank You,’ not only from me, but on behalf of every scholarship student at St. John’s,” he said. “You’ve reached out to us in a very real way that none of us will ever forget, and I promise you that your investment in us will reap great dividends as we go out to make our world a better place.” Borgatti, who grew up a stone’s throw from Niagara University in Lewiston, NY, said he really wanted to go away to school but finances made it all but impossible. Thanks to the endowed scholarship he received from St. John’s, he said, he was able to fulfill his dream. “My scholarship opened the door to St. John’s and St. John’s is opening the door to the world,” he said. “There are so many stories just like mine at St. John’s, because St. John’s is all about opportunity. The opportunity to learn, the opportunity to grow, and the opportunity to achieve things that young people like me never thought possible.”

Rosemary McHugh ’05Ed, ’09GEd is a first grade teacher at St. Peter of Alcantra School of Port Washington, NY, and was able to travel to Brescia, Italy in 2006 and earn three credits thanks to the Josephine Pacini Endowed Scholarship. “It was the most unbelievable experience to not only get to experience a different educational style but also a different country and lifestyle,” McHugh says. “As a teacher, in terms of money I don’t have it but I do have the passion to go and learn and explore and the scholarship gave me the ability to do that.” McHugh says Pacini also assisted her in meeting and networking with other School of Education graduates. When the pair met, McHugh shared photos, memories and her gratitude. “Of course I thanked her,” McHugh says. “It was wonderful to be able to meet her and say that.”

Another student who shared a similar experience is Dienna Ching ’08L. She is the recipient of the Ruth W. Fine Scholarship Fund, founded in memory of her mother by alumna Erica Fine ’82L. The younger Fine works for BAR/BRI BAR Review, a study program designed to assist law students to prepare successfully for the bar exam and Ching says the connection has been invaluable. “I’m nearing the bar exam and I now have someone I can go to for advice,” Ching says. “That’s very important when you are a third year law student. She’s great.”

The desire to help also crosses school affiliations. Joseph Scharfenberger ’69C was a liberal arts student at St. John’s College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and is endowing a scholarship to benefit students from The Peter J. Tobin School of Business. A successful executive who retired as Executive Vice President with JP Morgan Chase, Scharfenberger has directed his efforts towards students entering into the business field. St. John’s has a special place in his heart and he says he still has some of his college textbooks resting on a bookshelf at home. He views the college experience as “the first time you are really challenged” and says it is his wish that students take away with them “the strong comprehensive education anchored in hard work that I enjoyed there. I hope that they can enjoy
Pharmacy students work in the Rite Aid Community Pharmacy Laboratory.
the entire St. John’s experience, both academically and socially,” he says. “The campus life, the people you meet, the friends you make, that all stays with you for life.”

The immersion in University life which results in fond memories does indeed follow a student well after graduation. The bonds forged in the classrooms and on the campuses have led many alumni to tremendous acts of generosity and the campuses bear witness to their commitment. The Claire and Joseph Smetana Gallery of the Insurance Hall of Fame at the Manhattan campus and the DaSilva Academic Center on the Staten Island campus are just two examples of alumni and friends enriching the St. John’s experience through their giving. The multimedia gallery houses portraits of Insurance Hall of Fame members and was the gift of Joseph Smetana ’69TCI, ’06HON, Retired Vice President, American International Group, Inc., and his wife. Mr. Smetana is not only a generous financial supporter of the University, but he gives of his time as a member of the St. John’s Board of Governors and the Executive Advisory Council of the School of Risk Management, Insurance and Actuarial Science. The DaSilva Academic Center is a three-story, ultra-modern facility with classrooms, student lounges, computer labs, a communications arts suite, a multimedia production lab and faculty offices all made possible by a magnanimous gift from Leon DaSilva ‘99HON, a dear friend of the University whose late son, John, was a 1980 graduate.

Even more facilities on the Queens campus have resulted from the generous support of alumni, friends, foundations and corporations who have made the University’s mission their own. Included on the long list of these are the Belson Moot Courtroom in the School of Law, the Financial Information Lab used by students of The Peter J. Tobin School of Business, The Rite Aid Pharmacy Lab which prepares pharmacy students and the Institute for Writing Studies where both students and faculty learn to become better writers.
It is a mission which extends beyond the various campuses. Daphne Vanessa Pierre ’09TCB was born and raised in Mississippi, graduated from high school in Haiti and has spent time in the Dominican Republic and Venezuela. At St. John’s, she is a student ambassador, has worked on initiatives for global awareness, has visited the United Nations and says she is amazed at the global focus she has experienced while a student. “I’ve never seen another University that gives back to the international community so much,” she says. “Because of globalization, and what’s going on in the world, I think that’s really important. We need to give back to the global community as well as be concerned with what’s happening in our own backyard.”

The global initiatives have also resulted in more avenues for giving to have a direct impact on students. The Discover the World program has made the globe a classroom for all students as they can travel abroad to study and serve. Other giving opportunities are also plentiful and such support is not only greatly needed but has made all the difference to those who are in receipt. The stories included here mark only a small percentage of the many acts of generosity from alumni who have so graciously joined with alma mater to continue its mission. The open hearts of alumni have produced a gift for which the students are forever grateful.

St. John’s University President Rev. Donald J. Harrington, C.M. concluded the Endowed Scholarship Brunch most eloquently when he noted that the recipients are very much aware of what has been done for them and that they embrace their responsibility to reach out to others. “Our students know that their lives have been changed by their scholarship to St. John’s,” he said. “And they know that they cannot just take, but that have to give back to the world.” It’s a charge that they eagerly await.

For additional information on endowing a scholarship, contact James Monnier, Director of Development (718) 990-2421 or e-mail monnierj@stjohns.edu

For a full listing of the endowed scholarships, visit www.stjohns.edu/endowedscholarship

The Fitness Center in Carnesecca Arena.

How We’ve Grown

St. John’s total endowment market value (in millions)

1997 $154

2007 $366

The open hearts of alumni have produced a gift for which the students are forever grateful.

St. John’s University President Rev. Donald J. Harrington, C.M. concluded the Endowed Scholarship Brunch most eloquently when he noted that the recipients are very much aware of what has been done for them and that they embrace their responsibility to reach out to others. “Our students know that their lives have been changed by their scholarship to St. John’s,” he said. “And they know that they cannot just take, but that have to give back to the world.” It’s a charge that they eagerly await.

For additional information on endowing a scholarship, contact James Monnier, Director of Development (718) 990-2421 or e-mail monnierj@stjohns.edu

For a full listing of the endowed scholarships, visit www.stjohns.edu/endowedscholarship

The Fitness Center in Carnesecca Arena.

How We’ve Grown

St. John’s total endowment market value (in millions)

1997 $154

2007 $366

The open hearts of alumni have produced a gift for which the students are forever grateful.

St. John’s University President Rev. Donald J. Harrington, C.M. concluded the Endowed Scholarship Brunch most eloquently when he noted that the recipients are very much aware of what has been done for them and that they embrace their responsibility to reach out to others. “Our students know that their lives have been changed by their scholarship to St. John’s,” he said. “And they know that they cannot just take, but that have to give back to the world.” It’s a charge that they eagerly await.

For additional information on endowing a scholarship, contact James Monnier, Director of Development (718) 990-2421 or e-mail monnierj@stjohns.edu

For a full listing of the endowed scholarships, visit www.stjohns.edu/endowedscholarship

The Fitness Center in Carnesecca Arena.
forty years or more of devoted service to the University they love

St. John’s Provost Julia A. Upton, RSM, Ph.D. ’73G, ’75G puts it, “…our long-time faculty are a part of the history of St. John’s, and the University is a part of their personal history as well. They are the institution.” Dr. Upton acknowledges the many changes that have taken place in the 30 years that she has been a part of the University community. “Although it’s got the same name, St. John’s University isn’t anything like the institution that I came to 30 years ago. It’s much more Vincentian and it’s much more Catholic. It has a very special sense of itself, which is reflected in an incredible life force throughout the University.”

She believes that St. John’s unique mission of reaching out to those in need resonates among the faculty, especially among those who have been here for so many years. “The faculty really appreciate our mission and they communicate that appreciation to their students. Our students today are really aware of the Vincentian mission because the faculty have done so much to make them aware.”
Dr. Upton, Physics Professor Robert Finkel, Ph.D. has also witnessed many changes since joining the University family in 1962. He is quick to point out that St. John’s dedication to excellence has remained constant throughout those intervening years. “Happily, the University’s commitment to superior teaching has not wavered over the decades,” he says. “More recently, the commitment to technology has transformed this University in many positive ways.” Finkel notes that technology in the classrooms and laboratories has made learning an exciting and innovative experience for his students, and has also aided faculty members in simple but important ways. He remembers that “…when I began teaching here I had to hand grade about 100 multiple choice final exams.” And he credits the presence of dormitories on campus for many of the significant changes that have taken place at St. John’s in recent years and adds that the student population “…has morphed gradually but substantially into the eclectic mix we see today, where most ethnic, religious and cultural backgrounds are seen.”

Professor Jack Franzetti ’45UC, ’45G, ’56Ph.D., the most senior member of the University’s faculty, agrees that the diversity of the current student population has had a positive influence on St. John’s. “We have a more diverse student body today than ever before, which I find is an asset and makes for a more interesting campus” he says. Franzetti believes senior faculty have a special connection to the University because of their longevity at the institution they obviously love so dearly. “Those of us who’ve been here all these years have a special affinity with the University” he says. “We’re happy being here because we feel we’re doing something important. We’re fulfilling a mission.”

The uniqueness of that mission is very important to Franzetti, both personally and professionally. Having first been exposed to the mission as a student at the Brooklyn campus on Schermerhorn Street, he sees it as a constant that has always served as the foundation for St. John’s success. “Our mission has remained constant over all the years that I’ve been here” he says. “We continue to reach out to people who need help, which is a powerful motivator for
all of us to do our very best every single day.” He credits the wonderful sense of camaraderie as being a major factor in his decision to remain at the University for so many years and he points out the many additions to the academic environment that have taken place since he joined the faculty in 1956. “We’re doing a great deal more than we did many years ago,” he says. “We have a Career Center, a Writing Center, internships — things that we never had when I first came here.”

**Hogan, Ph.D. ’60C** is a Professor of Psychology who also began his affiliation with St. John’s as a student. After completing his undergraduate education, he moved away to pursue doctoral studies, only to find himself back at alma mater as the result of a wonderful coincidence. On one of his trips home to visit his family, he noticed an advertisement for a faculty position at St. John’s. Hogan decided to apply, more as an exercise in interviewing than anything else. Happily, the interview went well, and he came home to St. John’s as a faculty member. Today, more than four decades later, his enthusiasm and dedication are readily apparent.

Hogan agrees with his colleagues that the presence of residence halls on campus has allowed St. John’s to attract the finest students from locations across the country and around the world. And he says that although today’s students are more technologically sophisticated than those of years ago, they possess the same eagerness to learn that has always been a defining aspect of the St. John’s student personality. “Technology is such a part of today’s learning experience” he said, “both inside and outside of the classroom. I find that if I ask a question during a lecture, a student will immediately have the answer by checking it out on his laptop. That’s instant information, and it makes the entire learning process so much more exciting.”

Hogan also credits the formation of the Institute for Writing Studies as a major factor in the enhancement of the academic culture of the University. “I think that the Institute for Writing Studies is a terrific addition to St. John’s,” he says. “Writing is one of the most basic skills that we all need, and I know for a fact that our students are definitely using the Institute to great advantage. We have wonderful students here, and the university is doing so much to help them maximize their abilities to the fullest.” A prolific writer and researcher, Hogan is grateful to St. John’s for providing an opportunity for him to pursue these professional activities. He strongly believes that it has allowed him to remain on the cutting edge of his profession, ultimately making him a better professor. He sees this as one of the many indications of St. John’s well-deserved reputation for excellence, which he attributes to the dedication and creativity of the senior administration.

“This University is very, very innovative” he says. “We’re blessed with great leadership from Fr. Harrington right on down. The administration is constantly developing new ideas and challenging us all to get better and better. It’s really an exciting place to work. They [the administration] really have vision, and that makes me want to come to work every day.”
John Brennan, Ph.D., Director of the Honors Program and Associate Professor of History at the Staten Island campus, the ability to work at an institution which has such a strong Catholic identity has been a blessing. He began working at the University full time in 1960 and has taken great joy in his role at St. John’s. “I’m very much committed as a Catholic,” he says. “At St. John’s, I like the academics, the tradition, the heritage and the Catholic identity.” He also very much enjoys interacting with the students. “That’s been the best part for me,” Brennan adds. “Helping the students to grow and learn to think more analytically, that’s very, very fulfilling for me.”

Frank Coppa, Ph.D., a Professor of History and an acknowledged international expert on the Papacy, has been a faculty member since 1965. When asked about his longevity, he simply states “I’ve always liked the atmosphere here. When I came it was a different world. There were no women in St. John’s College [of Liberal Arts and Sciences]. We didn’t have on-campus housing. Male students had to wear jackets and ties on campus, and women students were only allowed to wear pants when the outside temperature dropped below 30 degrees.” Smiling, he adds “Things have changed a lot in 40 plus years, as well they should.”

It is, without a doubt, a remarkable achievement to serve as a faculty member at an institution for more than 40 years. The reasons are unique to each professor, and as the University has grown and changed, so have the lives of those who serve it. “My three children were born during my tenure and all attended St. John’s and went on to illustrious careers,” says Dr. Finkel. “Three generations of my family were affiliated with St. John’s and we have roots here. Simply put, St. John’s appreciates my efforts and I am happy here.” Many of those who have enjoyed longevity at St. John’s say they can’t imagine being anywhere else. With his typical quiet elegance, Dr. Franzetti summed up his lifetime of affection for St. John’s by remarking that “When the time comes for me to say goodbye, it won’t be a happy day.”
The Art of Letters

By Blythe E. Roveland-Brenton, Ph.D. ’00G

When the University was established, rhetoric and composition were foundations of the curriculum of St. John’s. Somewhat later, literature and then creative writing classes were added. For virtually the entire time of the University’s existence, students have taken it upon themselves to cultivate their interests in literary appreciation, criticism and expression outside the formal curriculum. From clubs and fraternities, to writing workshops and literary magazines, students have found, and in some cases created, outlets for their devotion to the written word.

In 1872, the school’s very first student organization, St. John’s Literary Union, aimed “to foster the love of literature in the minds of the members…and enable them to speak with ease, grace, and propriety.” Its first public exhibition in January 1873, soon after the organization’s founding, featured student speeches. Debating and elocution were an important part of the early literary societies and oratory and declamation were notable in the curriculum as well. In the early decades of the school, a number of student groups followed in the footsteps of the Literary Union, including the Crescent Literary Society, Perboyre Literary Union, and Newman Literary Society. These groups hosted debating contests, sometimes tackling literary topics like “Resolved: Hawthorne is a Better Writer than Washington Irving.” The Sparks Literary Society, organized in 1890, launched a monthly magazine, Sparks, that published original poetry and prose as well as humor and academic essays. By the 1910s, literary and dramatic societies garnered immense student interest — surpassed only by the fervor surrounding athletics — so that nearly every college and high school class formed its own literary
society. When the Vincentian yearbook began in 1918, short story and poetry contest winners’ work appeared in this new publishing outlet. From that time onward it was not uncommon to find student creative writing featured in the various student newspapers and yearbooks of the University.

Also in the late 1910s, the Sparks Literary Society, which had foundered for awhile due to student interest being directed more towards athletic and social events, reawakened as the College Literary Society. Another group, the Joyce Kilmer Literary Fraternity, named for the Catholic poet who died in battle in 1918, was “designed to create and foster a genuine love of good literature.” Its purpose was built upon the idea that “no educational institution is properly fitted for its high purpose which does not encourage literary organizations among its students.” It enjoyed a brief existence through the early 1920s, largely as a social group. In 1920, the College purchased property for the Joyce Kilmer Fraternity in French’s Woods near Hancock, NY. Fraternity members and other high school and college students enjoyed summer activities at “Camp St. John’s” like boating on the renamed “Lake Kilmer.” Another group, the St. John’s College Fraternity, later called Sigma Zeta Chi,
was founded in 1922 and continued through the 1930s. It supported fraternalism, loyalty to *alma mater* and, tangentially, literary interests. The group donated a medal to be awarded to a graduating senior majoring in English who held the highest average.

Despite the early zeal, by the late 1920s there were no active literary societies at the University. This fact prompted a push by students to found a new literary organization in the fall of 1929. *Sigma Tau* Literary Fraternity was established in November, its name chosen to honor St. Thomas Aquinas. Among its activities during the first year, was securing the Catholic writer C.K. Chesterton as an honorary member and donating a book a month to a special shelf in the school’s library. A column in *The Torch* titled “From the Third Shelf” discussed these books. In March 1954 *Sigma Tau* and the Marian Year Committee sponsored a University-wide poetry contest as a tribute to the Blessed Mother. The fraternity, later known as *Sigma Tau Alpha*, was active for decades through the 1970s. Through the years, the group sponsored student contests for the best one-act play, short story and poetry and hosted literary lecture series. From 1951 through the 1970s,
the fraternity published the *Aquinnian* literary quarterly.

By the early 1930s, the English curriculum expanded beyond standard literature and composition courses to include creative writing classes. At that same time, students organized several groups and publications that echoed this new direction. Students and alumni organized the Catholic Poetry Society, a chapter of the national society, to nurture poetry writing and appreciation. It only existed through the early 1940s, but some of the writings from club members made it to a new publication. In the spring of 1934, *Sequoya*, emerged as a new literary publication which sought "to be a free, clear avenue for literary expression." In the late 1940s the organizers introduced a workshop series for aspiring writers to discuss with the editors issues encountered during the creative process. The group actively exchanged its magazine with counterparts on other college campuses throughout the country. The magazine is still published. The student literary publication, *Epitome*, has had a run nearly as long as *Sequoya*. This self-described "semi-literary" magazine was launched by the students of the College of Arts and Sciences of the Borough Hall Division in 1936 and continued on the Staten Island campus through the 1990s.

In the fall of 1947, another group formed a chapter of the National Catholic Poetry Society, this time at the University College. Calling themselves *Ars Poetica*, members met on Monday afternoons to discuss poetry and literature, and they sponsored poetry contests, lectures and seminars. However, by the early 1950s, the club had ceased to exist.

During the University's history, numerous student organizations and publications have emerged to encourage literary appreciation and creative writing — some lasting but a brief time and others for decades. *Proteus*, the Staten Island campus magazine of poetry, short stories and essays has been publishing work by student contributors and others for the past 30 years. It is now produced by the Creative Expressions Guild. Other campus groups like the Literary/English Seminar and Hi-Fi Seven Arts (Brooklyn Center), the Literary Society (Queens) and Scriptum (Staten Island) were formed to promote the literary arts. *Culture Voice*, a more recent publication emphasizing multiculturalism, has encouraged student poetry and stories.

Since 1980, *Sigma Tau Delta*, the International English Honor Society, has distinguished St. John's students in literature, language and writing, continuing a long and fruitful tradition of student literary pursuits.

*Blythe Roveland-Brenton is the University’s archivist.*

Do you have photographs, programs, or other memorabilia that you would like to share? To discuss a possible donation, write to: St. John’s University Archives, Library, Room 430, 8000 Utopia Parkway, Queens, NY 11439; call (718) 990-1465 or e-mail archives@stjohns.edu
Members of the Vincentian community are now living comfortably in their new residence. The Rev. John B. Murray House is located near St. Thomas More Church on the Queens campus and is currently home to 16 members of the Congregation of the Mission who moved in this past winter.

The spacious, three story building boasts a common living room with a working fireplace, a reading area/library, chapel, dining room and outdoor tables and chairs. Each floor also contains a laundry and trash area and the residents have private bedrooms. The house was named for the late Rev. John B. Murray, C.M. ’05HON, a longtime member of the University community. He founded St. John’s Department of Psychology and served as its chair for 18 years. Lovingly known as “Father Bud,” he was awarded an honorary Doctor of Pedagogy degree in 2005 and was also the recipient of the Andrew J. Bartilucci Award and the Gold Medal, the University’s highest honor.

The Vincentians had previously lived in St. Vincent Hall, a space which will be converted into additional student living spaces for Ozanam Scholars. The Congregation of the Mission, more commonly known as the Vincentians, is a Roman Catholic apostolic community of Priests and Brothers founded by St. Vincent de Paul to follow Jesus Christ, evangelizing the poor.

The residence was made possible through a number of generous leadership gifts to the University in memory of Fr. Murray.
The Patient Assessment Laboratory in St. Albert Hall is home to two guys who are a rarity on many college campuses. The lab consists of a classroom and an adjoining room which houses two “SimMen®,” simulated mannequins who with their head to toe pulses, heart sounds, lung sounds and ability to give blood pressure reading and accept injections are ideal for students to learn how to assess a patient’s vitals and practice care.

Part of the College of Pharmacy and Allied Health Professions, the lab was dedicated in 2003 and funded by the Institute for the Advancement of Community Pharmacy and its partners the National Association of Chain Drug Stores and the National Community Pharmacists Association. About a year ago, the “SimMen®” were added as part of a grant from the Department of Health and Human Services Health Resources and Services Administration. Lab Director Bill Maidhof ‘99P, ’03Pharm.D. says the presence of the mechanical patients, which cost about $45,000 each, is a boon to the University as such high tech equipment is usually only housed at medical and nursing schools. “It's pretty exciting that we are one of the first pharmacy schools to have our own,” he says. Maidhof says fourth, fifth and sixth year pharmacy students who are participating in the community pharmacy laboratory and critical care students utilize the lab and practice their assessment skills.

Lab Coordinator Nissa Mazza ‘06Pharm.D. says the laptops connected to the mechanical patients contain state-of-the-art software and a microphone in the mouth allows the operator to interact with the student by “speaking” symptoms. “You can actually tailor the program to a specific case,” she says. “You can develop a case on how you want the patient to present, and then based on how the student recommends you treat them, they can see the physiological changes depending on the medicine they give. It's a good training tool for the students.”

---

The Peter J. Tobin College of Business Deans and Faculty, along with prominent members of the financial community, would like to cordially invite all alumni to attend the

**2008 Financial Services Institute Symposium**

**“Re-Examining Risk”**

*Papers on related topics will be presented.*

**Date:** Friday, September 12, 2008

**Time:** 8 a.m. – 7 p.m.

**Location:** Manhattan Campus
101 Murray Street
New York, NY 10001

For more information, contact Dr. Igor Tomic, FSI Academic Director, at Tomic@stjohns.edu, or view the event online at www.stjohns.edu/tobin and click “News and Events” section.
SRM Dinner Breaks Records

The 13th Annual Insurance Leader of the Year Dinner held in January served to honor esteemed alumnus James J. Schiro ’67CBA, ’95HON while raising $2.4 million for student scholarships and program initiatives.

More than 1,400 industry leaders attended the dinner at the Marriott Marquis Hotel in New York City. The event is a premier one for the School of Risk Management, Insurance and Actuarial Science, a part of St. John’s The Peter J. Tobin College of Business (TCB). Schiro was named 2007 Insurance Leader of the Year. “The Insurance Leader of the Year Award was established in 1995 to recognize outstanding individuals whose leadership in insurance sets them apart from their peers,” said Ellen Thrower, Ph.D., Executive Director of the School of Risk Management. “This year’s distinguished honoree, Jim Schiro, truly exemplifies the kind of leadership this award was created to recognize and we are especially proud that Jim is a devoted alumnus of St. John’s University.”

Schiro, Chief Executive Officer of Zurich Financial Services, announced at the ceremony that Zurich has established the Zurich Chinese Scholars Fund at the School of Risk Management, a scholarship program that will fund the enrollment of Chinese students in the Master of Science degree program in Management of Risk. The $300,000 scholarship program will cover all costs associated with three Chinese students attending the one-year program for each of the next three years, helping to contribute to the overall development of the Chinese insurance market. “This scholarship program is intended to prepare high-potential Chinese students and professionals for future leadership in the insurance and risk management industry,” said Schiro. “It epitomizes Zurich’s commitment to training talented insurance individuals to compete in the changing global economy.”

Schiro joined Zurich Financial Services as Chief Operating Officer – Finance in 2002, at the same time becoming a member of the Group Executive Committee. Later that same year he was appointed to his current position of Chief Executive Officer.

At St. John’s, he is a Board Member Emeritus of the Board of Trustees and has served as a member of the Executive Committee and chair of the Audit and Compensation Committee. He has also been a member of the College of Business Administration’s (now TCB) Board of Advisors’ Executive Committee, co-chair of the 125th Anniversary Celebration, a member of the Rome Board of Advisors and served as chair of the inaugural President’s Dinner in 1998.

The School of Risk Management, Insurance and Actuarial Science was founded in 1901 as The Insurance Society of New York and, over the years, evolved into the fully accredited The College of Insurance. In June 2001, the College merged with St. John’s University and became a part of TCB.

“This year’s distinguished honoree, Jim Schiro, truly exemplifies the kind of leadership this award was created to recognize and we are especially proud that Jim is a devoted alumnus of St. John’s University.”

– Dr. Ellen Thrower, Executive Director of the School of Risk Management
Centennial Celebration

As The School of Education celebrates its 100th anniversary during the 2008-2009 academic school year, a group of alumni, administrators, staff and friends have volunteered their time as members of The School of Education Centennial Leadership Committee. The group is firmly committed to aiding in the raising of scholarship funds and increasing participation in the Centennial celebration.

A full roster of activities is planned during the year including a gala dinner to be held September 27, 2008, in New York City. There are also plans for professional development seminars, lectures and networking events. Founded in 1908 as The School of Pedagogy, St. John’s University School of Education has educated many leaders in the field and continues to find innovative ways to prepare the next generation of educators and administrators. For more information on the centennial year celebration, visit www.stjohns.edu/education/celebrating100years

Those serving on The School of Education Centennial Leadership Committee are:

- Lawrence Burke ‘73Ed, ‘77GEd
- Patricia Campbell ‘54NDC, ‘60GEd
- Deborah Carr Saldana
- Patricia A. Castel, Esq. ‘74Ed, ‘77L, ‘04HON, St. John’s University Board of Trustees
- Margaret D’Angelo ’70Ed, Chair
- Geraldine DeMilt ‘63Ed, ‘68GEd
- Frank Dinger, Jr. ‘71MBA
- Geraldine DiPersia ‘65Ed, ‘67GEd
- Linda Faucetta ‘75GEd
- Carol Gresser ‘59Ed
- Gloria Henn ‘64Ed, ‘65GEd
- Madeleine Larsen
- William Lipson
- Anna Lukachik ‘80Ed
- Rosemary McHugh ‘05Ed, ‘09GEd
- Mildred McSkimming ‘63Ed, ‘80PD
- Anna Maria Montouri
- Marguerite Moran ‘92GEd

Storm Trackers Want You

We want to know what’s new with you since you left St. John’s. Have you been promoted? Changed jobs? Received an award? Moved? Started a family? Retired? Please use this form as a guide for submitting personal anecdotes and updated information.

Mail your submission to: St. John’s University, c/o Alumnotes Editor, St. John’s University Magazine, 8000 Utopia Parkway, Queens, NY, 11439, fax it to (718) 990-6873, e-mail alumnotes@stjohns.edu or enter online at www.stjohns.edu/alumni/alumnotes

Name: ________________________________ SS#: ________________________________ Year: _________ School: ________________________________

First Middle/Maiden Last (Used for graduation verification)

Home Address: __________________________ Apt. #: __________________________ if new address, as of: __________________________

City: __________________________ State: _________ Zip: __________________________ Phone: (______) ________ E-mail: __________________________

Business: __________________________ Title: __________________________

Business Address: __________________________

City: __________________________ State: _________ Zip: __________________________ Phone: (______) ________ E-mail: __________________________

Tell us your news:

____________________________________

____________________________________

In Holy Matrimony In The Family Way
Spouse’s Name: __________________________

First Middle/Maiden Last Year/School (if also an alum)

(For “In Holy Matrimony”) (For “In The Family Way”) Year/ School (if also an alum)

Wedding date: ____________ Child’s Name: ____________ Date of birth: ____________

☐ Son ☐ Daughter

In Memoriam

Yr./School: ____________ Date of death: ____________

(If other than family member, guardian or legal executor, submissions to In Memoriam must include a printed obit).

I would like information on: ☐ Arts & Enrichment Series ☐ Annual Giving Opportunities ☐ Chapter Gatherings ☐ Other ____________

News submissions will be published in the order received. Submissions may be edited for space and style.
Baseball Great Headlines Banquet

The second annual St. John’s Baseball Bullpen Winter Banquet held in January at the New York Athletic Club attracted more than 250 people and raised funds to benefit the University’s baseball program. New York Mets All-Star third baseman David Wright was the premier guest for the evening and met privately with the St. John’s team and coaching staff prior to the event.

Wright, a two-time National League All-Star who was recruited out of high school by St. John’s before being drafted by the Mets, said “I have some really close friends involved in the St. John’s baseball program.” Wright offered some words of wisdom to the student-athletes and then took to the dais at the banquet. It was a memorable experience for him, he said.

“I was excited to be asked to come and speak,” he said. Head coach Ed Blankmeyer hailed Wright for his involvement. “Our players really enjoyed having David come and speak with them,” Blankmeyer said. “I also thought that David was an extremely gracious host and took the time to sign autographs and take pictures with the many in attendance.”

In addition to Wright’s appearance, an auction was held for items including hats, jerseys and baseballs autographed by Wright, a pair of Mets tickets, a VIP ticket package at a New York Islanders game and the opportunity to sit in the dugout as an honorary coach of a St. John’s game during the 2008 season.

Brian Colleary, Senior Associate Athletics Director, External Affairs said the banquet is well on its way to becoming a premier event. “It was a tremendous night for St. John’s alumni, friends and baseball student-athletes,” Colleary said. “That we can have a guest of David Wright’s stature proves what a first class event the Bullpen Winter Banquet has turned into in a very short time.”

Celebrating Women

Celebrating the Women of St. John’s was held in March in honor of Women’s History Month. Generously sponsored by Victor Muro ’87CBA, ’89MBA and his wife, Anne Marie, the day was held at the Queens Museum of Art in Flushing Meadow Corona Park and included a luncheon and remarks by Muro.

The day brought together alumnae from the McCallen Society and the Loughlin Society as well those from University College and the Lewis Avenue and Schermerhorn Street campuses. Attendees arrived and strolled the museum where they enjoyed the various exhibits and The Panorama of the City of New York. The Panorama is a more than 9,000 square foot architectural model which includes every building constructed before 1992 in the five boroughs of the city. Those present mingled over drinks and hors d’oeuvres in a festive space decorated with a few of the museum’s modern art pieces.

Susan Damiani ’87CBA, Director, Gift Planning, McCallen Society, and Stacey Philips Varghese ’99C, Associate Director, Loughlin Society, welcomed everyone and introduced Mr. Muro. Muro gladly welcomed the mantle as the sole male attendee and inspired the audience with a speech on female financial empowerment. “We believe that celebrating Women’s History Month and especially the women of St. John’s complements the changing face of America and how the female professional force is excelling,” he said before the event. “It’s the right thing to do and we are proud to be part of it.”

Friends Theresa Golinski ’88Ed, ’98MLS and Diane Pistey ’74C enjoyed the day and said they were anxious to hear the speaker. “St. John’s gave me a good education and as my alma mater I feel I should remain close,” Pistey said. Carmencita-mia Quesada-Fulgado ’02C, ’03G said she welcomed the opportunity to celebrate Women’s History Month with fellow alumnae. “Having seen how much [St. John’s] has grown and expanded I just appreciate how much they put an effort into recognizing certain communities, whether it be women or people of different ethnicities,” she said. “I like to support that whenever I can.”

The event also included lunch and a guided tour of the museum. For more information on the McCallen Society and its events, contact Susan Damiani at (718) 990-7562, e-mail damianis@stjohns.edu or visit www.stjohns.edu/giftplanning

For more information about the Loughlin Society and its events, contact Stacey Philips Varghese at (718) 990-2982, e-mail philipss@stjohns.edu or visit www.stjohns.edu/loughlinsociety
The Board of Trustees, 
President of St. John’s University 
and the Dinner Chairs 
cordially invite you to attend the

11th Annual 
PRESIDENT’S DINNER

Thursday, October 30, 2008 
THE WALDORF = ASTORIA 
NEW YORK CITY

Rev. Donald J. Harrington, C.M. 
President 
St. John’s University

Dinner Co-Chairs 
Lesley H. Collins ‘83SVC 
and 
William L. Collins ‘76C 
Chairman and CEO 
Brencourt Advisors, LLC

2008 Spirit of Service Award 
Honorees 
Maria Schwartz 
and 
Joseph H. Schwartz ‘70C, ‘72MBA 
Partner 
Wellington Management Company 

Additional Honorees will be announced

2008 Master of Ceremonies 
Bruce Beck 
WNBC TV

For more information, please contact 
Jeanne M. Umland at (718) 990-6776 
or email umlandj@stjohns.edu
30s
ALFRED BESUNDER ‘30L has been admitted to the Bar for more than 76 years and attained the age of 99 last October. The first Director of the Mental Health Information Service for the state of New York which is now known as Mental Hygiene Legal Services, he retired in the 80s and as recently as last summer served as a referee in lawyer disciplinary matters in Suffolk County, NY.

60s
LAWRENCE ANDERER ‘63C retired after serving more than 15 years as a former chairman and longtime member of the Board of Directors at the Ronald McDonald House of Long Island in New Hyde Park, NY.

CATHERINE CAMERA ‘65CBA is the Managing Director and Chief Operating Officer for the Alzheimer's Drug Discovery Foundation in New York City.

50s
DONALD FURCI ‘58P received the Bridget Wagner Humanitarian Award at the Ohio Osteopathic State Convention in Columbus, OH. He is currently a doctor for the Family Practice Center at Doctors Hospital in Grove City, OH.

CHARLES PENDOLA ’66CBA is Of Counsel in the Health Services Practice Group for Rivkin Radler LLP in Uniondale, NY.

JAMES GAW ’67G is a Vice President at Support Services Alliance, Inc. in Schoharie, NY.

FREDERICK BRAID ‘68CBA, ’71L is a Partner at Holland & Knight LLP in New York City, was selected by his peers for inclusion in The Best Lawyers in America and was honored with the designation as a New York Super Lawyer.

EDMUND DONOVAN ’68C was the Grand Marshall of the 2008 St. Patrick’s Day Parade in Throggs Neck, Bronx, NY and is Colonel/Chairman of the Science Department at Salesian High School in New Rochelle, NY.

Returning Home
SISTER JANE DURGIN, CIJ ’52P, ’65G, ’79Ed.D. has come back to the United States after serving for two years as one of the original faculty members of the Kisubi Brothers Center of Uganda Martyrs University in Uganda. While there, she taught communications, health science, curriculum development and evaluation and pastoral care and counseling. She is shown here last year with the first ever graduating class of 30 students. She is currently serving as the nurse in residence for the Brothers of Christian Instruction in Alfred, ME.

Judging Greatness
HON. DIARMUID O’SCANNLAIN ’57C (r.) and his wife Maura (l.) were designated by Pope Benedict XVI as Knight and Lady of The Order of St. Gregory the Great. The medals and Vatican scrolls were presented in ceremonies at St. Mary’s Cathedral in Portland, OR. The Order of St. Gregory is one of the highest papal honors that can be awarded to a layman. Judge O’Scanlain serves on the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, the federal appellate court for the western United States. Joining the couple is the Most Rev. John G. Vlazny, Archbishop of Portland in Oregon.
70s

RICHARD FIANO '70C is a Program Manager for Northrop Grumman in Chantilly, VA.

WILLIAM LUCKEY '70C is a Professor of Political Science and Economics for Christendom College in Front Royal, VA.

PATRICIA HILT '71UC is a Vice President in the International Treasury Services, Financial Services Group for the Federal Reserve Bank of New York in New York City.

JESSE DINER '72L was named President-Elect designate of The Florida Bar and will be sworn in June 2009. He practices with the law firm of Atkinson, Diner, Stone, Mankuta & Ploucha in Fort Lauderdale, FL.

HON. RANDALL ENG '72L, the first Asian American Justice of the Supreme Court of Queens County, has been appointed as a Justice of the Supreme Court of the State of New York Appellate Division, Second Judicial Department.

ALAN FERAYORNI '72C is Vice President, IT Infrastructure for US Airways in Phoenix, AZ.

PETER MURPHY ESQ. '74L is Of Counsel and a member of the law firm Holland & Knight's National Security Team in Washington, DC. Prior to joining the firm, he served 20 years as General Counsel of the United States Marine Corps and has also served in a number of positions including Navy Assistant General Counsel, attorney for the Saudi Navy Expansion Program and as a member of the United States Defense Department's senior leadership with the Department General Counsels.

JAMES CLARK '75P is a Director of the Atlanta Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Decatur, GA.

ROGER DOSTALL '75SVC is a Director, Success Center, Learning Technologies at Fayetteville Technical Community College in Fayetteville, NC.

MARIE BRACCIA '76PD, '81Ed.D. retired after 22 years as Principal of the Stewart School in Garden City, NY.

A Premier Leader

JOSEPH TUFANO '73C, '75G, St. John's Vice President and Chief Information Officer, was selected by Computerworld as one of its 2008 Premier 100 IT Leaders. The candidates were asked about a range of topics, including their backgrounds, work experiences, special accomplishments and leadership styles. Tufano joined the University in 2002 and the following year led the charge when St. John's launched its Academic Computing Initiative which enabled students to receive their own laptops upon enrollment. More than 14,000 laptops have been issued in the past five years while other components of the initiative include the creation of a campus-wide wireless network and a student web portal called St. John's Central. The University has also made a significant investment in technology by spending more than $50 million over the last decade in classroom technology (podsium and audio visual equipment), academic software, campus network infrastructure, student computer labs and safety measures with the installation of surveillance cameras, e-boards and a campus-wide text messaging system.

JO-ANN METZDORFF '76Ed received her Doctor of Ministry Degree from the Seminary of the Immaculate Conception in Huntington, NY and is a Pastoral Associate at the Church of St. Mary in Manhasset, NY.

DON HOLST '77P, '81GP is a Manager, Walgreen’s Community Pharmacy Patient Care Centers for Happy Harry’s Discount Drug Stores in Newark, DE.

JOSEPH MAHADY '77P was elected to the position of President, Wyeth Pharmaceuticals and Senior Vice President of Wyeth in Madison, NJ.

STEPHEN VON HAGEN '77CBA is a Vice President of Operations for L-3 Communications Narda-East in Hauppauge, NY.

CAROLYN ANGIOLILLO '78C, '83G is an Office Manager for Pines of Sarasota Foundation in Sarasota, FL.

THOMAS CARCHIETTA '78CBA is a Staff Analyst for the Staten Island Borough President’s Office in Staten Island, NY.

JAMES GIORDANO '78CBA is a Director, Compliance and Ethics for The Mount Sinai Medical Center in New York City.

MARK LOEWE '78C is General Manager for Penn National Gaming, Inc., at its Sanford-Orlando Kennel Club facility in Longwood, FL.

RICHARD ZELKOWITZ '78GP is President and Chief Operating Officer of Pharmacon Corporation in Eastchester, NY.

JOHN CUSHMAN '79SVC is an Executive Director, eSales and Services for AT&T in Bedminster, NJ.

80s

PHILLIP MONACO '81P is an Associate Vice President, Clinical and Pharmacy Operations for Liberty Medical Supply in Port St. Lucie, FL.

IRA SILVER '81P graduated with a Pharm.D. from The University of Florida, College of Pharmacy in Gainesville, FL.

JOSEPH TOCK '81SVC, '83L has 25 years litigation experience with the Bronx Assistant District Attorneys office in Bronx, NY and is the owner of the Law Offices of Joseph J. Tock in Mahopac, NY.

DONALD CANTALINO '82P is President for the Uniondale Chemists Inc. in Uniondale, NY and was elected to serve as President of the Pharmacists Society of the State of New York for the 2007-2008 year.
RICH IORIO ’82CBA is a Market Leader for Towers Perrin in Chicago, IL.

STEPHEN KESSINGER ’82P, ’86GP is a Pharmacy Director for Lee Memorial Health System at Cape Coral Hospital in Cape Coral, FL. He was honored as Pharmacist of the Year by the Florida Society of Health System Pharmacists at the 41st Annual Meeting in Orlando, FL.

BRENDAN PRYOR ’82SVC is an Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer at New Hampshire Higher Education Assistance Foundation Network Organizations in Concord, NH.

JOHN DONNELLY ’83SVC is a Resident Agent for the Drug Enforcement Administration’s Fresno Office in Fresno, CA.

MARK MARTINELLI ’83CBA is an Executive Vice President and Chief Auditor for HSBC Bank USA, National Association in New York City.

MICHAEL MIGLIORE ’83P is a Director of Pharmacy at Chenango Memorial Hospital in Norwich, NY.

BETH SEXTON ’83C is an Associate Project Manager for The New York City Department of Environmental Protection in Corona, NY.

ANGELA MANGIARACINA ’84CPS is a Manager of Corporate and Community Relations for the Family and Children’s Association in Mineola, NY.

EDWARD MCGUIRE ’84SVC is Executive Vice President of Football Operations for the San Diego Chargers in San Diego, CA.

ERNEST BAPTISTE ’85SVC is Chief Operating Officer at St. Francis Hospital in Wilmington, DE.

JOHN BERGEMANN ’85CBA is Director of Human Resources at Crouse Hospital in Syracuse, NY.

JOHN SCANLAN ’85CBA is Senior Vice President, Finance at Maimonides Medical Center in Brooklyn, NY.

ANTHONY SORRENTINO ’85SVC is Vice President, Investigative Services Northeast for the Bank of America in Forest Hills, NY.

EDWARD BEDNARCZYK ’86CBA, ’86MBA is the General Manager for MV Transportation in Visalia, CA.

JOHN GANNON ’90L is the Senior Editor at HealthEd in Clark, NJ.

LOUIS CIOFFI ’86SVC (r.) is an editor with the Showtime Television show “Dexter” in Los Angeles, CA, and discovered that director of photography, Romeo Tirone (l.), and Marcos Siega, who directed three episodes last season, were former St. John’s students. Cioffi stays in touch with his former professor Donald Finamore and he mentioned that one of his former students was also employed by the hit television series. “What are the odds of the three of us ending up working on the same show?” Cioffi says.

PASCAL DESROCHES ’86CBA is a Senior Vice President and Controller for Time Warner Inc. in New York City. He also serves on the Board of Directors of New Alternatives for Children in New York City.

LINDA DOHERTY ’86SVC is a columnist for The Charlotte Observer in Charlotte, NC.

PAMELA SHEA-BYNES ’86SVC, ’90G completed a doctoral degree at the Seminary of the Immaculate Conception in Huntington, NY.

BARBARA DUFFY SPENCER ’87Ph.D. is the Executive Director of Productive People where she conducts training for managers on issues such as team building, coaching and leadership development. She also heads Women in Network Giving Support (WINGS) where she counsels and runs support groups and retreats for women.

EMILIO VARGAS ’88CBA is President at Marketing Excellence, Inc. in Poway, CA.

MARCOS SIEGA is an editor with the Showtime Television show “Dexter” in Los Angeles, CA, and discovered that director of photography, Romeo Tirone (l.), and Marcos Siega, who directed three episodes last season, were former St. John’s students. Cioffi stays in touch with his former professor Donald Finamore and he mentioned that one of his former students was also employed by the hit television series. “What are the odds of the three of us ending up working on the same show?” Cioffi says.

Painting Hollywood Red

ALICIA BERVINE ’90SVC is Program Manager for Arts & Sciences, Allied Health Sciences at the University of South Carolina in Columbia, SC.

JILLIAN STOKES ’90SVC is Vice President for the Bank of America in Rochester, NY.

DEBRA MANCINI ’91SVC is the owner of Cannoli Bakery in Enfield, Wayne.

ELIZABETH RENZO ’91SVC and her husband, Shane, are the owners of Breezy Baby Travel Company in Washington, DC.

TYRONE VIAS ’91C is an officer with the United States Capitol Police in Washington, DC.

ANNE ESPOSITO ’92C is the Senior Editor at HealthEd in Clark, NJ.

JOHN GALLAGHER ’92SVC is a Director of Fine Arts for Longwood Central School District in Yaphank, NY and earned a doctorate in Education from Dowling College in Suffolk County Long Island, NY.

GIANNA DELL’OLIO ’93SVC is a Director of Business Development for BMD in Galt, CA.

MOIRA DOHERTY ’93L is an In-House Counsel to the Clarendon Insurance Group located in Saddle Brook, NJ and Uniondale, NY.

RICHARD HANS ’93L was named Chair of Litigation and Dispute Resolution Practice Group at Thacher Proffit and Wood LLP in New York City.

THOMAS NOLAN ’93SVC is the National Director of Public Relations and Communications for Coldwell Banker Commercial in Parsippany, NJ.
KEVIN WASCAGAVE ‘93SVC is an Account Executive at Meridian Vat Reclaim in New York City.

CHRISTOPHER BEATTY ‘95CBA is an Executive Director at Morgan Stanley in New York City.

ALEXANDER LUTZ ‘95SVC is the Director of Government Relations at the American Red Cross in Greater New York, and received the organization’s Tiffany Award for Employee Excellence in Management.

ROBERT MONTAQUIZA ‘95CBA is a Vice President and Director of Leasing at Simone Development Cos. in New Rochelle, NY.

MATTHEW MURPHY ‘95MBA was admitted to partnership at Rosen Seymour Shapss Martin & Company LLP in New York City.

DENNIS WASZAK ‘95SVC is a sports writer for the Associated Press in New York City where he is the New York Jets Beat Writer, as well as their National College Baseball Writer.

FRANK CASANO ‘96CBA is a Senior Program Manager for L-3 Communications Corporation, Link Simulation and Training Division in Arlington, TX.

CLAUDIA KAMBOURIS ‘96NDC is an AIS Reading Teacher at P.S. 69 in Brooklyn, NY.

JAMES JOHNSON ‘97MBA is an Associate Vice President of NASAQ Government Relations in New York City.

MICHAEL BRODEUR ‘98R ‘00Pharm.D. is an Associate Professor in the Department of Pharmacy Practice at Albany College of Pharmacy in Albany, NY.

ZACHARY BROWNE ‘98SVC is a Middle School Teacher at St. Michael Catholic School in Houston, TX.

ADRIENNE GONZALEZ ‘98C, ‘01L is a Litigation Associate for Kaye Scholer, LLP in New York City and was awarded the New York State Bar Association President’s Pro Bono Service Hanna S. Cohn Young Lawyer Award. She also coached the Bronx School for Law, Government and Justice Mock Trial team in the New York City and New York State Mock Trial Tournaments.

ISSAC NAGEL ‘99C is a Staff Psychiatrist at St. Clare’s Hospital in Boonton, NJ.

LINDA TILLMON ‘99Ed is a Director of Psychological Services for the Institute for Family Health in Bronx, NY.

SILVANA DEXTRE ‘01CPS is a Business Manager at DDB Worldwide in New York City.

KATHLEEN WRIGHT ‘02L was installed as President of the Nassau County Women’s Bar Association and is Principal Law Clerk for the Hon. Elaine Jackson Stack at Nassau County Supreme Court in Plainview, NY.

ALEXANDRA BARRERA ‘03GEd is a teacher at the Fort George Community Enrichment Center in Washington Heights, NY.

MATTHEW JOHNSON ‘03TCB is an Interactive Media Supervisor at Initiative in Los Angeles, CA.

JOHN MARK ‘03L was promoted from First Lieutenant to Captain by the United States Army and is training for airborne operations while stationed at Fort Benning, GA.

JONATHAN MIRAVITE ‘03CPS is a Senior Service Management Specialist for Rockefeller Group Technology Solutions in New York City.

WARREN CALL ‘04MBA is First Board Associate for the International Association of Conference Centers and a Sales Manager for Crystal Mountain Resort in Thompsonville, MI.

CRISTIN DELANEY ‘04Ed is an English teacher at Grover Cleveland High School in Ridgewood, NY.

HOLLY DEMAREST ‘04TCB is currently pursuing a masters degree from the University in Elementary Education and is a fourth grade teacher at Our Lady Queen of Peach School in Staten Island, NY.

KAPEIL MISIR ‘04CPS graduated from The Thomas M. Cooley School of Law in Lansing, MI, and is an Associate at the Law Offices of Larry S. Hyman in Queens, NY.

ALISON DALEY ‘05CPS is a Child Protective Specialist for The New York City Administration for Children’s Services/Child Protective Services in Jamaica, NY.

JOHN HAFNER ‘05L was appointed by the American Bar Association Young Lawyers Division as the National Committee Chairman for Corporate Counsel and is a Managing Director for Tree Anchor Law Firm, PLLC in Lexington, KY.

LISA PROCACCIO ‘07TCB is a Senior Associate for Integro Insurance Brokers in New York City.

Building a Better World

A group of St. John’s students met with ARCHBISHOP CELESTINO MIGLIORE ‘06HON, Apostolic Nuncio, Permanent Observer of the Holy See to the United Nations, and President, Path to Peace Foundation, during the second annual symposium for college students. Titled “Catholic College Students and the Common Good: Building a Better World,” the event was held at the Cardinal Spellman Retreat House in Riverdale, NY. Shown here with the Archbishop are from l. Alexander Shalan ‘09CPS; Lauren Reiss ‘08C; Elias Sayegh ‘08TCB; and Marina Lovallo ‘08C.
Donna (’78P) and Martin Petralia ’78P

Often times, friendship makes for the sweetest romance. Marty Petralia and the then Donna Gagliardo had all of the same classes together as sophomores. Both were Pharmacy majors who were serious about their studies and they often hung out in a group with their fellow students.

Classes were rigorous and the pair spent many long hours studying and preparing for exams. But that didn’t mean there was no time to get to know one another. “We realized that we liked the same things,” Donna now recalls. “We had the same values.” That included their devotion to family and St. John’s. Donna’s two sisters, Maryanne Whelin ’75Ed, ’77GEd and Janice Johnson ’81P were also students and as they lived near the Queens campus that meant the trio could walk to school.

But once Donna and Marty fell in love the trio became a duo when she started getting rides to school from him as he drove in from Patchogue, NJ. The couple started dating in 1975 and could often be found on study dates or just spending time together. He proposed in December 1977 and they married after graduation in November 1978.

Life has gotten sweeter ever since. Both enjoy vibrant careers with Donna working as a teacher assistant in the Smithtown Central School District and Marty working as a pharmacist at Rite Aid in Terryville, NY. They are also the proud parents of son Michael and daughter Christine (’03CPS) who followed in her parents footsteps by attending alma mater. And Christine is not the only second generation St. John’s graduate. Janice’s daughter Jacqueline (’06Ed) is also an alumna. The family is proud of their connection with St. John’s.

If St. John’s played a role as matchmaker in your life, we want to know about it. If there are several generations of St. John’s graduates in your family, we want to know that also. Share your story with the Magazine readership by contacting the Editor at (718) 990-5482 or at alumnotes@stjohns.edu
80s

JUDY BADARACCO '85Ed, '90GEd and husband, Jude, a son, James Lawrence – November 1, 2006

MAURA TULLY LEAHY '86C and husband, William, a daughter, Tara Aileen – July 17, 2007

MATTHEW ABRUSCI '89C, '94L and wife, KATHLEEN ABRUSCI '92Ed, '96GEd, a son, Vincent Michael – October 15, 2007

KAREN BASS '89SVC and husband, Andrew, a daughter, Sofia Taylor – June 15, 2007

SUSAN CRIMI '89CBA and husband, Joe, a daughter, Julia Rose – September 22, 2007

90s

MICHAEL GALLUZZI '91L and wife, Dominique, a daughter, Gianna Madeleine – May 23, 2007

GINA MENDOZA-SCHMITT '91CBA and husband, Nicholas, a son, Michael Anthony – February 11, 2008

ELIZABETH RIENZ0 '91SVC and husband, Shane, a daughter, Maggie Grace – July 13, 2006

TYRONE VIAS '91C and wife, Debra, a son, Jonathan Alejando – March 31, 2007

KEVIN WASCAVAGE '93SVC and wife, Lori, a daughter, Carleigh – May 18, 2007

GEORGE BRENNAN '94SVC and wife, Katie, a son, Connor Jack, and a daughter, Caroline Grace – September 12, 2007

CHRISTOPHER BEATTY '95CBA and wife, Julie, a son, Sawyer Stevens and a daughter, Emerson Ilona – June 27, 2007

ALEXANDER LUTZ '95SVC and wife, Suzanne, a daughter, Megan – August 7, 2007

DENNIS WASZAK '95SVC and wife, Daria, a son, Bryan James – June 16, 2007

NICHOLAS LEGAKIS '97SVC, '07MPS and wife, Cathi, a son, Ryan Nicholas – May 31, 2007

CLAUDIA ALIN-KAMBOURIS '96NDC and husband, GEORGE KAMBOURIS '97SVC, a son, Emmanuel George – May 15, 2007

KALIOPI PETRIS-PANAGOS '97C, '00P and husband, Peter, a daughter, Thalia – January 3, 2008

GARRETT WALSH '97SVC and wife, Rachel, a daughter, Lily – June 19, 2007

ZACHARY BROWNE '98SVC and wife, Gabrielle, a son, Nathaniel Cash – July 28, 2007

DONNA CONDON-SIRAGUSA '98P and husband, GIUSEPPE SIRAGUSA '98P, a son, Andrew Joseph – April 12, 2006

00s

DAFFNY LAURITO '00C and husband, Andres, a daughter, Rosa Emilia – August 27, 2007

CHRISTOPHER MORAITIS '01C and wife, Nira, a son, Nicholas Matthew – March 5, 2007


ALEXANDRA BARRERA-HAWKINS '03GED and husband, Andrew, a son, Gavin Rush – November 14, 2007

MONICA BHIRO '04CPS and husband, Brent, a son, Ryan – July 2, 2007

CRISTIN DELANEY '04GED and husband, Brian James, a daughter, Olivia – June 11, 2007

ANGELA CUOTTO-TINYES '04Pharm.D. and husband, Richard, a son, Zachary – August 19, 2007

VINCENT PANETTERIE '64C is the author of The Internet Financing Illusion: A Diary of Global Scams (iUniverse Inc., 2007) which traces his personal experiences with the Internet and scam artists.

ROBERT SEGARRA '85C has written his latest novel Still Waiting for The Sun (Dragon Heart Romance, 2007) which centers around a New Yorker who receives an unusual inheritance.

THOMAS ROOT '85C, '89L wrote The Elixir (Twilight Times Books, 2006) about a young, happy couple who have almost everything they could possibly ask for except for good health.

MICHAEL MOZDZIERZ '90P is the author of No Duets (PublishAmerica, 2007), a young adult novel and his first book.

JAMES PAUL '91CBA, also known as the poet and writer Pablo, is the author of The Drummer in Me (PublishAmerica, 2007), a book of contemporary poetry inspired by his struggle with chronic illness.

30s
Julius Gantman ’32L
Harold Henry ’33L
George Patraka ’33CBA, ’38L
Michael Stramiello ’33L
Fred Rosen ’34L
Julia Drury ’35NDC
Nathan Miller ’35L
Vincent Dee ’36C
Dominic Marchese ’37C, ’65GED
Thomas Kane ’38L
John Breitfeller ’39L
Allan Fadoul ’39C
Marjorie Farber ’39L
Edward McQuillian ’39C, ’54G
Leonard Mule ’39CBA, ’52L
Joseph Owens ’39CBA

40s
George Erikson ’40CBA
John Giordano ’40C
Alice Todd ’40NDC
Michael Angelou ’41L
Mandell Foger ’41P
Jerome Hitler ’41L
Ralph Manganelli ’41C
Milton Rosenbaum ’41CBA
Dorothy Stapleton ’41NDC
Joseph Virgilio ’41CBA
Sidney Molk ’42CBA
I.Vincent Saita ’42C
Philip Astuto ’43C
Cecelia Flynn ’44CBA
Stanley Silvonik ’44CBA
Lawrence Anderson ’45L
James Carroll ’45L
Howard Goldfuss ’46L
Seymour Steiten ’47UC
Lucy Waldmann ’47UC
Michael Boruch ’48UC
Patricia Cortellino ’48NDC
William Edwards ’48CBA
Samuel Gay ’48CBA
Thomas Henry ’48UC
Thomas McCullough ’48CBA
Jerome Miller ’48L
Gennaro Taiani ’48L
Paul Abbate ’49L
Michael Castoro ’49C, ’51L
Mary Dobroski ’49UC
Copeland Bershader ’49P
Teresa Bohlin ’49NED
Raymond Lipetz ’49CBA
John Rakowski ’49CBA
William Regan ’49CBA

50s
Frank Higgins ’51L
Margaret Maher ’51L
Dorothy Rauch ’51CBA
Thomas Shay ’51CBA
John Comer ’52L
Dolores Daly ’52UC
Salvatore Castorina ’52P
Robert DeVerna ’52CBA
Frank Domiano ’52CBA
Joan McGarry ’52G
Joseph Wackerman ’52L
James Burke ’53P
Carl Conti ’53P
Norma Coyle ’53NEd, ’60PhD
Edward Nasirowski ’53L
James Ryan ’53Ed
John Stones ’53CBA
Anthony Quinn ’53CBA
Thomas Quinn ’53CBA
Charles Gover ’54CBA
Thomas Chambers ’55CBA
Patrick Joyce ’55L
Elaine Terris ’55UC
Michael Alfano ’56P
Mary Betzenhauser ’56GED
Fred Haller ’56L
Ellen Kalhaus ’56UC
Sr. M. Gabriella ’57Ed
Werner Heitmann ’57CBA
William Korchak ’57CBA
Kenneth Wang ’57L
Sr. Martiniana Budra ’58CBA
Vincent DiStephen ’58C, ’60L
Robert Graham ’58GED
Robert Hall ’58UC
Bernardine Zakutny ’58NED
James Boland ’59CBA
Donald Clark ’59CBA
James Myller ’59C
John Garry ’59CBA
Kevin McMorrow ’59C
James Sweitzer ’59CBA

60s
Mary Berge ’60ED
Raymond Schaub ’60L
William Cannon ’61C
Thomas Helm ’61P
Joseph McNamara ’61CBA
Edward Duggan ’62G
Michael O’Sullivan ’62C
Charles Ruland ’62CBA
Donald Burks ’63C
John Tobias ’63C, ’66G
Thomas Cullen ’64CBA, ’68L
William McCartin ’64UC
John George ’65L
Cornelius McCarthy ’65L
Marianne Svonavec ’65UC
Lester Weisenberg ’65UC
Clare Testa ’66MLS
Sebastian Accardi ’67UC
William Dunne ’67CBA
Robert Parker ’67CBA
Linda Blum ’68Ed
Barbara Lawaska ’68NDC

70s
James Gengaro ’70CBA
Theodora Polihrom ’70UC
Dennis Insogna ’72CBA
Donald Johnson ’72MBA
Matthew McMurtry ’72NDC
William DeWitt ’73L
John Larkin ’73GEd
Michael Maina ’73GED
William Mulroyn ’73CBA
Arthur Davidson ’74L
Juan Martinez ’74G
Leonard Stern ’74PhD
Joseph Nizzari ’75CBA
Peter Tobin ’75VC
Mary Gaskin ’77PD
Kathleen Greene ’77CBA, ’81MBA
Lynn Jaeger ’77NDC
Patrick O’Neill ’77G
Stuart Otterman ’77GP
Mary Peace ’77GED
William Stevens ’77MBA
Michael Haritonov ’78VC
Susan Iwanski ’78C
Judith Yaeger ’78L
Robert Reichert ’79C

80s
Janet Benedetto ’80Ed
John McAlloon ’80CBA
Geraldine Clemont ’81P
Gerard Coster ’82VSC
John McCarthy ’82L
Margaret Stenger ’82CBA
Angelo Tedaldi ’82CBA
Malcolm Craig ’82G
Lori Jorgensen-Gensecke ’84VSC
Mary Wiesner ’83MBA
Lori Jorgensen-Gensecke ’84VSC
Michael Hamaty ’85CBA
Matthew Blaine ’87CBA
Mary Ann Gantner ’87L
Mary Gilbertson ’87G
Rev. Richard Henning ’88G
Anthony Isabella ’88P
Hyun Beidel ’89GED

90s
William Whalen ’90ED
Douglas Mercereau ’91VSC
Raj Banani ’93CBA
Sr. Eileen Ann Boyle ’95NDC
Paul Justin Reilly ’02L
Patrick Casabona ’03CBA, ’07MBA
Khaliq Nazare ’05MBA

Hon. Frank J. Pino ’31L, ’75HON
A native of Brooklyn, Justice Pino earned his law degree from St. John’s School of Law in 1931 and set up a private general practice before forming Pino, Pizzitola and DiBlasi in Brooklyn. In 1944 he was elected to the New York State Assembly, representing Coney Island and Bensonhurst. After five terms, he won a seat on the state Senate which he later resigned before running successfully for the Supreme Court bench in 1963. He served as Presiding Justice of the Appellate Term for the Second and Eleventh Judicial Districts. In 1975 he received an honorary doctorate of laws from the University and in 1991 he was awarded the Pietas Medal. He was a Grand Knight in DeKalb Council, Brooklyn, and a member of the Italian Board of Guardians and the Holy Name Society in Brooklyn. He was also the founder of the Columbian Lawyers Association of Brooklyn and an active supporter of St. Francis Friends of the Poor, Catholic Relief Services, and St. John’s University.

Dr. E. Lawrence “Larry” Deckinger ’96HON
Dr. E. Lawrence Deckinger, “Larry” as he was affectionately called by his many friends and colleagues, graduated from New York University at the age of 19 and earned a master’s degree the following year. In 1947, he earned a Ph.D. from NYU in five disciplines, while working full time in the field of advertising. His advertising career was extremely successful, as he rose from the mail room at the now defunct Biow Company to Senior Vice President and Member of the Board of Directors at Grey Advertising, one of the world’s largest and most prestigious firms. After retiring in 1982, he began a second career — as a professor of marketing in the College of Business at St. John’s, where he served for almost 20 years as Professor and then as Distinguished Professor. He led the
St. John’s Advertising Team into its first participation in the National Student Advertising Competition, now an annual feature, and served as the team’s faculty advisor for 10 years. He received countless awards from the University including an honorary degree in 1996 and designation by the College of Business Alumni Association as the “professor who most influenced their lives.” In 2007, he was honored on his 90th birthday at The Peter J. Tobin College of Business Alumni Association’s annual board meeting and networking reception. That evening also served as the announcement of the formation of The E. Lawrence Deckinger Student Advertising Competition Fund initiated through the generosity of the Deckinger family and The Drs. E. Lawrence and Adele V. Deckinger Research Fund, as well as the creation of the Drs. E. Lawrence Deckinger and Adele V. Deckinger Advertising Research Center on the Queens campus.

George Butkier ’43C
Born in Brooklyn, George Butkier spent most of his youth in Ridgewood, Queens. He graduated from P.S. 153 in 1935 and Newtown High School in 1939. After most of his youth in Ridgewood, Queens. Born in Brooklyn, George Butkier spent

Henry Rossi
Henry Rossi served the University well in a variety of capacities. Born in West New York, NJ, he graduated from Memorial High School in 1934 and attended New York University while working full time in the school’s mailroom. After receiving a bachelor’s degree in 1940, he attended the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, MD as part of the V-7 program in 1942. After being commissioned, he served as a lieutenant in motor torpedo boats in the North Pacific and the Mediterranean from 1942 to 1945. He became the Assistant Registrar at NYU in 1945, completed a master’s in higher education there in 1951 and was later promoted to Registrar. He came to St. John’s in 1958 as Dean of Admissions and Registrar and was named Administrative Vice President in 1987, the position from which he retired in 1991 at the age of 75. He served as President of the Middle States Association of Collegiate Registrars and Officers of Admission and the Association of American Collegiate Registrars and Admission Officers. He also served on several college entrance examination boards committees and as a consultant to the Georgetown University Registrars Office, the United States Department of Health, Education and Welfare and the Manhattan School of Music.

John W. Dobbins, Jr., Ph.D.
Dr. Dobbins loved teaching. As Chairman of the Department of Marketing and Associate Professor at The Peter J. Tobin College of Business, he brought almost 40 years of international experience to the classroom. He lectured and consulted widely in the United States, Europe, Asia and Africa and was a senior marketing advisor to local governments including Pinghu City, Zhejiang Province, China and for Shanghai Jiehui Investment Co. Ltd, in Shanghai, China. While Associate Dean, he was instrumental in the establishment of the St. John’s University Graduate Center in Rome, and he was among the first faculty to teach on the new campus. He was selected by Saudi Prince Alwaleed bin Talal bin Abdulaziz Alsaud, then the world’s fifth wealthiest man, to teach international marketing to his son. In November, St. John’s students rallied for the Dr. John W. Dobbins Jr.’s “Shoot for a Dream” charity event which raised funds to benefit the Garden of Dreams Foundation for children with cancer.

LeeAnne Burke ’02Ed, ’04GEd
LeeAnne Burke passed away on the opening day of Founder’s Week. Her great love of the poor and devotion to service were evident during her years as a student when she helped found an organization for undergraduates that dealt with social justice issues. She also served as a student worker and graduate assistant in the Department of Student Life and was consistently active with University service projects. She was well known and respected on the Queens campus where she served for four years as a representative for The School of Education with Student Government, Inc. She was an excellent ambassador for alma mater and continued her involvement after graduation with St. John’s Bread & Life’s Sponsor a Family program volunteering every holiday season to aid those in need. She was much beloved by the students, faculty and staff at St. Francis Preparatory School in Fresh Meadows, NY, where she worked as a guidance counselor.

St. John’s University has made every effort to verify the accuracy of the data contained herein. We apologize for any errors or omissions and ask that you bring them to our attention for subsequent correction.

Submissions to In Memoriam must be received by letter, e-mail or as a printed obit from a family member, guardian or legal executor to: Lisa Capone, Division of Institutional Advancement, St. John’s University, 8000 Utopia Parkway, Queens, NY, 11439 caponeL@stjohns.edu or via fax to (718) 990-6859.
Matters of the Heart

Since coming to the United States at the age of 12½ from his native land of Cairo, Egypt, Akram Boutros, M.D. '83C has lived the American dream. He’s worked hard, married the love of his life, fathered three beautiful daughters and forged a successful career as a medical doctor and hospital administrator. He is now the Executive Vice President and Chief Administrative Officer at St. Francis Hospital, The Heart Center© in Long Island where he is well respected by his colleagues.

While the family had been part of the upper echelon of Egyptian society, their being Christians meant they could only go so far and after learning of his sons’ dreams to become doctors, the elder Boutros moved them all to the United States where they started over. The three Boutros sons have made their parents proud. They all attended St. John’s University, followed each other to SUNY Downstate Medical College and became doctors. Akram Boutros is the youngest son and says St. John’s is where he “began seeing the joy that comes from serving others.” It was also the place he met his wife, Suzanne (’82C), his most ardent advocate and a great supporter of his career which has included graduating and becoming a guest lecturer at Harvard Business School’s Advanced Management Program. He took a few minutes out of his busy schedule recently to have a heart-to-heart with St. John’s University Magazine.

What first drew you to medicine? My mother’s cousin was a general surgeon in Egypt and he made a meaningful difference in people’s lives. That’s what was most attractive to me, giving back and having an impact on people’s lives and that is what drew me to hospital administration — actually being able to have an impact on more people than I ever could in practice [as a doctor].

What are some of the biggest challenges being in the healthcare field? We have ways of delivering health care that have evolved over the years and no structure to permit the overall effectiveness of health care. Society values the amount of services we get more than the quality of services we get. We also treat healthcare as separate areas, there’s no continuum of care. So you go to a doctor who refers you to another doctor who then has you provided with testing elsewhere. Then you come to a hospital for a procedure and then you go to post acute care. All that information is never shared; only very small bits of the information are shared, creating inefficiencies in healthcare. Finally, we value treatment much more than we value prevention. So we have lots of unaligned incentives.

You, as an individual have no incentive to go to the doctor until you are sick, I as a physician have incentive to see you as often as possible and keep you happy, and the hospitals are rewarded for performing procedures, so there’s very little investment in prevention. The alignment of the system is very poor.

Health care, of course, is such a hot button issue especially in the arena of politics. Do you think the debate is helpful or harmful? The debate is always helpful. What is harmful is the thought that there is a quick fix to this. We didn’t get here overnight and we can’t get back on track overnight.

What should be done? If I were given the opportunity to fix the health care system, I would put together a commission that would have leaders from consumer groups, medicine, health care, technology, economics and sociology and give them three to five years to study the issue and come back with long-term recommendations.

Finally, what’s in your heart? I feel most passionate about my life with my family. Five years ago, if you had asked me what I wanted to be my legacy, it would have been easy to say I wanted to affect how health care gets delivered in this country in the future. Today, that’s a distant second. My legacy is to raise three wonderful young ladies who can bring happiness and joy to those whom they meet.
The Office of Alumni Relations continues to offer programs designed to keep you in touch with former classmates and professors that you knew. There’s something for everyone, so take a look — and come home to your University.

June 13, 2008
REUNION CELEBRATION WEEKEND 2008
Join our honorees and their guests for Alumni Convocation and a dessert reception. Or if you are looking for a night on the town, enjoy some of our other activities that evening including Red Storm Bowl-A-Rama, a trip to Broadway to see South Pacific and a New York Mets vs. Texas Rangers game.

June 14, 2008
REUNION CELEBRATION WEEKEND 2008
Revisit the University for tours of the campus and St. Thomas More Church, a showing of the Department of Fine Arts Annual Student Exhibition and a special reception for those celebrating the 50th anniversary of their graduation. Stay for the Gala Dinner Dance to reunite with former classmates.

June 14 – 24, 2008
THE GREAT JOURNEY THROUGH EUROPE SWITZERLAND, FRANCE, GERMANY, HOLLAND
Enjoy a nine-night journey of discovery through the heart of the Alps and along the storied Rhine River via a unique combination of rail and river travel including the M.S. Amadeus Princess.

June 15, 2008
REUNION CELEBRATION WEEKEND 2008
End the weekend on a great note by attending a Mass to be held at St. Thomas More Church with a champagne brunch to follow.

August 2, 2008
DAY AT THE RACES
Join members of the Albany Alumni Chapter for a Day at the Races at Saratoga Race Course in Saratoga Springs, NY.

September 17, 2008
MEET THE EXPERTS
A panel discussion featuring a group of financial experts including an estate attorney, financial planner, real estate expert and certified public accountant. Topics to be discussed include health care, real estate and protecting retirement assets.

For the most up-to-date information regarding any of the above events, please visit: www.stjohns.edu/alumni
Enjoy a Day of Golf

We’re set to tee off at some great clubs. Get together with fellow alumni and friends at these 2008 golf outings.

**June 16, 2008**
Rev. James F. Dorr, C.M. Golf Classic
*Hempstead Golf and Country Club – Hempstead, NY*
Contact Louise Lavrigata at (718) 990-2143 or e-mail lavrigal@stjohns.edu

**July 16, 2008**
28th Annual Staten Island Golf Outing
*South Shore Country Club – Staten Island, NY*
Contact Nicholas Legakis at (718) 390-4147 or e-mail legakisn@stjohns.edu

**July 28, 2008**
The 11th Annual Bullpen Golf Outing
*Pelham Country Club – Pelham, NY*
Contact Carolyn Young at (718) 990-7906 or e-mail youngc1@stjohns.edu

**September 8, 2008**
St. John’s School of Law Seventh Annual Hon. Guy J. Mangano Golf Classic
*Tam O’Shanter Country Club, Inc. – Glen Head, NY*
Contact Claire McKeever at (718) 990-6006 or e-mail mckeeverc@stjohns.edu

**October 6, 2008**
Alumni Golf Outing
*Engineers Country Club – Roslyn Harbor, NY*
Contact Raymond Lipinsky at (718) 990-6034 or e-mail lipinskr@stjohns.edu

SRM 14th Annual Senior Executive Golf Tournament
*Baltusrol Golf Club – Springfield, NJ*
Contact Melodee Harper at (212) 277-5119 or e-mail harperm1@stjohns.edu