Fond Farewell

A Look Back at the 24-Year Presidency of Rev. Donald J. Harrington, C.M.

PLUS
Hurricane Sandy
New BIG EAST
Alumni Convocation
Going Global
Through St. John’s unique Discover the World program, Milana Edwards ‘14CP5 explored all that Europe has to offer, living in Paris, Rome and Seville, Spain! She blogged about her study-abroad experience, allowing alumni and friends to follow her journey through pictures and videos. Check out her full blog at stjabroad.wordpress.com!
Dear Friends,

As many of you are aware, I advised the University community on May 3 of my intention to retire as President of St. John’s, effective July 31, 2013. On that same day, the announcement was sent to all alumni for whom we had email addresses.

Recognizing that many of you are not connected electronically to alma mater, I have used this page as an opportunity to reprint my message, both so that you may be informed and so that you will know how very grateful I am for your interest and support during these years. University employees — faculty, administrators, and staff — come and go, but alumni are the mainstay of a university, the record of its past and its legacy for the future. May each of you find continued meaning in your ties with St. John’s.

I write to inform you that I have today advised the University’s Board of Trustees of my intention to retire as President of St. John’s, effective July 31, 2013.

This month marks the 40th anniversary of my ordination as a Vincentian priest. As I look back on my priesthood, I am struck by the fact that I have spent 29 of those years as a university president, 5 at Niagara University and then 24 here at St. John’s. The challenges, rewards, and responsibilities of this position have always been considerable for me; what we have been able to accomplish together, as a University community, has given this work meaning and value. And the spirit of collegiality and collaboration that is the hallmark of St. John’s has made our progress possible. Nonetheless, for quite a while, I have been thinking about when would be the best time to relinquish the leadership role to younger, perhaps more energetic, individuals. The urgings of many members of the Board of Trustees and others persuaded me to remain longer than I had originally planned. But the difficulties for everyone during the past year have convinced me, after much prayer and reflection, that the time to leave the presidency has now come.

I do this with the firm conviction that the vision I held for this institution has largely been fulfilled. The University has, indeed,
been transformed into a “new” St. John’s, with enhanced facilities, expanded academic initiatives, and an increasing global presence. The transition to residence life for what had been, for 129 years, an exclusively commuter institution has been achieved. Construction or renovation of more than twenty buildings on both the Queens and Staten Island campuses, including not only residence halls but other major academic and recreational facilities, has enriched the collegiate experience of all students. New academic programs, many of them designed to provide preparation for emerging professional opportunities, have been launched; distance learning has been successfully implemented; and the core curriculum was revised. Acquisition of the Manhattan campus, with its distinguished School of Risk Management, and the Oakdale facility, which has become a vibrant center for graduate study, has increased the University’s presence and stature within the New York Metropolitan area. The campus in Rome and the study abroad site in Paris, along with faculty leadership in internationalizing the curriculum, have enhanced the University’s ability to prepare students for the 21st century.

For me, programs and projects to deepen and strengthen our mission as a Catholic and Vincentian university have had special significance. St. Thomas More Church, opened in 2005, stands as the physical and spiritual center of the Queens campus. The creation of the Mission Office and development of a broad array of formation programs, including the Vincentian Institute for Social Action (VISA) and the Ozanam Scholars program, have all served to embed our Catholic and Vincentian mission—with its concern for faith-based values, social justice, and service to the poor—ever deeper into the fabric of the institution. The pervasiveness of academic service learning, University sponsorship of Bread and Life, and establishment of the Institute for Catholic Schools have helped St. John’s to expand its mission within the broader community.

Enhancing our fiscal profile has assured that we have had the resources needed to accomplish our goals. I am pleased that during each of the last 24 years St. John’s has enjoyed a surplus in its operating budget. In March 2013, the University’s investment portfolio reached $411 million, highest in our history. As a result of the extraordinary generosity of our supporters, especially alumni, our Institutional Advancement successes have been nothing short of remarkable. Two successful capital campaigns, including the first in the University’s history, have raised more than $300 million, and the Annual Fund has grown exponentially. Cash donations to St. John’s have averaged in excess of $18 million during each of the past five years.

I will leave the presidency cherishing many memories, none more significant than those associated with the professional and personal relationships that I have enjoyed. My interactions with faculty colleagues have been warm and collegial. My own Cabinet, the deans, the broader university administration, and the staff have provided support and inspiration through their competence and dedication. Trustees, alumni, and friends have shared not only their financial resources, but their time, talent, and wise counsel. And our students, the alumni of tomorrow, are the best!

I end this message as I have ended so many others—by voicing my deepest appreciation to all of the many members of our University community who have worked with me during these many years to make St. John’s stronger and better. Let me also take this opportunity to offer my very best wishes to those who will remain to take the institution on the next phase of its journey.

Donald J. Harrington, C.M.
President
As a St. John’s alumnus, you can have a direct impact on our more than 21,000 students.

make a difference today

Annual gifts ensure that St. John’s will have the resources to remain at the forefront of educational excellence, by offering our students a superior academic experience.

To show our appreciation, St. John’s alumni receive special discounts and benefits with the following partners:

- 1-800-Baskets.com
- 1-800-Flowers.com
- AmeriHost Inn
- Atlantic Toyota
- Avis
- Bank of America
- Baymont Inn & Suites
- Brooks Brothers
- Budget Car Rental
- Cheryl’s Gourmet Cookies
- Club Quarters
- Courtyard Marriott JFK Airport
- Days Inn
- Fannie May Berries
- Fannie May Fine Chocolates
- Follett
- FruitBouquets.com
- GGMc Parking
- Hawthorn Suites
- Howard Johnson
- Jos. A. Bank
- Knights Inn
- Lenovo
- Liberty Mutual Insurance
- Marsh Insurance Services
- Mechanic-on-Duty
- Microtel Inns & Suites
- Modell’s Sporting Goods
- New York LaGuardia Airport Marriott
- New York Marriott Marquis
- Personal Wine
- Phone Interview Pro
- The Popcorn Factory
- The Princeton Review
- Ramada
- Retail Benefits
- Stanion Energy
- Super 8
- Travelodge
- The Williams Club
- Wingate by Wyndham
- Wyndham Hotels & Resorts

For more information, please visit www.stjohns.edu/alumnibenefits
As Rev. Donald J. Harrington, C.M. retires from St. John’s, we look back at his 24-year Presidency and the exceptional growth he pioneered.

In the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy, many members of the St. John’s community worked to ease the suffering of the victims of this terrible tragedy.

Success and service took center stage at the Annual Alumni Convocation, as the University honored 11 of its most outstanding graduates.
Alumni Flock to Great Lawn Party!

A record crowd of approximately 2,300 alumni and friends came out for the Fifth Annual Alumni Great Lawn Party! With blue skies and picturesque conditions, the event proved to be a blast for the whole family.

From castle bouncers to bumper cars, children of all ages enjoyed moving from ride to ride. Adults, meanwhile, brought blankets and lawn chairs, sitting around with friends as they relaxed with delicious barbecue food and drinks.
As part of St. John’s inaugural Philanthropy Week, students showed their appreciation for what our alumni do for them at a series of on-campus events. They learned about how alumni help them, wrote thank you cards to alumni and raised funds for student scholarships.
Outstanding Educators and High Schools Honored

Each year St. John’s University recognizes exceptional teachers and administrators who have made important contributions to the field of education at Leaders In Education Awards Dinners (L.E.A.D.) on the Queens and Staten Island campuses and at the Oakdale location. While the Queens and Oakdale L.E.A.D. continued the tradition of individual honorees, this year the Staten Island event focused on 23 high schools that helped in Staten Island’s recovery after Hurricane Sandy.

THE 2013 L.E.A.D. HONOREES
Anthony Ambrogio ’06Ed.D.
Gary D. Bixhorn
Serafino M. Celano ’09Ed.D.
Philip A. Composto ’02Ed.D.
Patrick J. Dunphy, Jr. ’06Ed, ’08GEd
Anna R. Lukachik ’80Ed
Patrick J. McLaughlin ’95PD
Scott T. O’Brien ’08Ed.D.
Mary H. Pelkowski ’89C, ’93GEd, ’98PD, ’07G
Florence D. Simmons ’11Ed.D.

STATEN ISLAND
HIGH SCHOOLS HONORED
College of Staten Island High School
for International Studies
Concord High School
Curtis High School
Francis School
Gaynor McCown Expeditionary Learning School
Great Kills High School,
a division of P.S. 037R
Michael J. Petrides School
Monsignor Farrell High School
Moore Catholic High School
New Dorp High School
Notre Dame Academy
Port Richmond High School
Ralph R. McKee Career and Technical Education High School
Richard H. Hungerford School
South Richmond High School
St. John Villa Academy
St. Joseph by-the-Sea High School
St. Joseph Hill High School
St. Peter’s Boys High School
Staten Island Academy
Staten Island Technical High School
Susan E. Wagner High School
Tottenville High School

To read the complete stories and view photo galleries of these events, please visit www.stjohns.edu/summer13mag
Alumni Basketball Receptions

For many alumni, the excitement of a Red Storm Men’s Basketball game begins well before the tip-off, and pre-game receptions at the new Barclays Center and Madison Square Garden were a great way to get things started.

Happy Anniversary, Class of ’63

Members of the Class of 1963 celebrated the 50th Anniversary of their graduation at The Jubilarian Society Dinner, and raised over $48,000 for student scholarships as a Class Gift to mark this important milestone.
Staten Island Alumni Inducted Into Circolo Garibaldi

Four prominent Staten Island alumni were recognized with membership in Circolo Garibaldi, the Italian Society for St. John’s students. Those receiving honorary membership were Anthony Navarino ’80NDC, Lois Nicotra ’77NDC, ’83GED, Richard Nicotra ’76NDC, ’86HON and Hon. Diane Savino ’86C.

St. Patrick’s Day Parade

Acknowledging the cheers of the crowd gathered along the way, members of the St. John’s family strode proudly up Fifth Avenue in New York’s 252nd Annual St. Patrick’s Day Parade. Many alumni and their families enjoyed brunch before stepping off in this popular University event.
Going Bald

The transformation was dramatic as Joan Renee Cloutier ’10C joined others at St. John’s in having her head shaved to raise funds for the St. Baldrick’s Foundation. “To think of a child suffering from cancer is truly heartbreaking, so if I could give back by shaving my head — well that’s a worthy cause I was glad to support.”

Coming Home is Special

Alumnae of Notre Dame College shared good times and warm memories at their annual Homecoming on St. John’s Staten Island campus. The event recognized the members of various Anniversary classes, particularly those from the Class of 1963 who were celebrating their 50th Anniversary.
Helping students succeed: that’s what the Alumni Insider’s View (AIV) Program is all about. And that spirit of camaraderie is alive and well in Washington, DC, exemplified most recently by Kathleen McGovern, Esq. ’88CBA, ’91L and Gary Dunn ’13CP5.

During the Fall 2012 semester, Dunn participated in the AIV...U.S. Capital program. Now in its 32nd year, this unique, three-day trip brings students to DC to meet alumni who hold positions in some of the nation’s top industries.

And McGovern — a Senior Deputy for Litigation in the U.S. Department of Justice — helped secure an internship for Dunn after meeting him through the program.

“Part of this year’s AIV allowed for alumni to take a handful of students out for dinner, and Gary was one of the students assigned to me,” McGovern said. “He told me about how he was hoping to spend a semester here in DC, and he made a great impression. His credentials were fantastic, his resume was top-notch and he was very enthusiastic. So, I told a few people that I work with to take a look at him, and everything worked out for him.”

A senior Legal Studies major, Dunn has always aspired to become a Federal Judge. Thanks to McGovern, he is currently spending his final St. John’s semester interning at the U.S. Department of Justice, allowing him to see the legal process up-close-and-personal on a daily basis. It’s the perfect opportunity for Dunn to get his foot in the door at a major government agency.

“It’s an incredible opportunity,” Dunn said. “One day, I hope to prosecute these same types of crimes, so being involved in an organization like this is such an invaluable experience for me.”

For McGovern, helping out Dunn and participating as an AIV panelist feels like a natural progression. After all, she, too, benefitted from alumni assistance in DC.

“When I first came down here, there wasn’t a huge St. John’s presence, but it was certainly a vocal group,” she noted. “Everyone from St. John’s was so nice and willing to help. It made for a really friendly environment here. And now, in recent years, I see a lot more St. John’s red throughout the District as we continue to grow and expand.”

Without question, the alumni network has worked wonders for students like Dunn, and he’s been amazed by the connectedness of the University’s DC community. He joined McGovern as her guest during a Men’s Basketball Pre-game Reception in DC prior to the Red Storm’s game against Georgetown, and he enjoyed mingling with so many alumni.

“Whether it sounds cliché or not, this whole experience has been nothing short of life-changing,” Dunn said. “Our alumni in DC have achieved so much success, and they’re terrific role models. I’m just glad to be here, and without the AIV program, I wouldn’t have had this chance.”
Your Society Membership Begins…
...when you include St. John’s in your estate plan. Your estate gift can come in the form of a bequest from a will or trust; a beneficiary designation to your retirement plan or insurance policy; stock; gift annuity; or a contribution to our endowment.

Is there a minimum? No, simply inform us of your intentions to begin receiving the many benefits of the society. It’s that simple.

Contact Susan Damiani ’87CBA, Director of The McCallen Society at (718) 990-7562 or e-mail damianis@stjohns.edu

www.stjohns.edu/mccallen
DC at the Forefront of Chapter Revitalization

The Office of Alumni Relations is seeking to re-energize its regional alumni chapters, and Washington, DC — thanks in part to its longstanding Alumni Insider’s View…U.S. Capital program (AIV) — is leading the way.

“Our presence in DC is incredibly strong, and the annual AIV program we host there has helped to keep those alumni close,” said Mark Andrews, Director of Alumni Relations. “Moving forward, we are committed to increasing our regional connections with all of our existing chapter leaders throughout the country — they play such a crucial role in keeping alumni connected — and I think Washington, DC serves as a perfect blueprint.”

Alumni pride was on full display in DC during a Men’s Basketball Pre-game Reception, held prior to the Red Storm’s road game against the Georgetown Hoyas. Over 60 alumni and friends gathered together to catch up and reminisce.

“We hope that this event is just the start of more to come,” said Laura Cranston, R.Ph. ’84P, DC Alumni Chapter President and member of the University’s Board of Governors. “We have a lot of new, young alumni moving into the area, and they’re already getting involved. There’s definitely a lot of St. John’s pride down here in DC.”

Guests enjoyed meeting fellow alumni in the area, and many used it as an opportunity to discuss future Chapter plans.

“It’s a lot of fun to talk to alumni down here,” said Rashaan J. Coefield, Esq. ’05CPs, who recently volunteered to become the DC Chapter Coordinator for Young Alumni Programs. “We’ve been discussing ways to become even more active in the coming months, like going to Accepted Students Day to meet the next wave of young men and women attending St. John’s, in addition to hosting more get-togethers throughout the year like this reception.”

Coefield, like so many of his fellow alumni, participates as a panelist in the AIV…U.S. Capital program. This unique, three-day trip — which St. John’s has been running for 32-straight years — brings students to the nation’s capital to meet alumni professionals working in some of the country’s most exciting industries.

“We’re already talking about next year’s program and ways we can make it better than it’s ever been,” Coefield said. “Our panels are always top-notch and informative, so I can’t wait for the next one to roll around.”

Meanwhile, Gregory Koch ’02L and Patrick McMurray ’02L — Co-Presidents of the St. John’s School of Law DC Alumni Chapter — chatted at the pre-game reception about the importance of engaging their fellow alumni on a regular basis.

“When you realize just how many of our Law School graduates are down here, it’s staggering,” said Koch, who works as Senior Associate General Counsel for the Office of National Intelligence. “There’s a great job market down here for lawyers, and the fact that there’s such a strong St. John’s connection is like the icing on the cake.”

McMurray, who works as a Senior Counsel at the United States Senate, expressed his hope to host more networking events in the DC area.

“Too often, we’re pigeonholed as a New York school,” he noted. “But, honestly, that couldn’t be further from the truth. We’ve got a great number of alumni here — and just about everywhere throughout the country — so I’m glad that we’re beginning to re-energize our regional chapters. I think it’s really going to take off.”

Men’s Basketball Head Coach Steve Lavin made a surprise appearance at the pre-game reception, fielding questions, discussing the season and providing a scouting report on Georgetown. For alumni like Andy Lambert
New Jersey

Nearly 40 New Jersey Alumni Chapter members engaged in some friendly competition at their Inaugural Golf Outing. The event was an opportunity for alumni from southern New Jersey to get together for 18 holes at the beautiful Spring Lake Golf Club. During the post-golf dinner reception, they enjoyed meeting legendary basketball coach Gene Keady, who currently serves as Special Assistant and Advisor to the St. John’s Men’s Basketball program.

Florida

Alumni from across Florida reconnected with each other at a series of events in the Sunshine State. With many wearing the University’s traditional red and white, they showed their St. John’s pride by marching in the Naples St. Patrick’s Day Parade, the largest and most popular in Florida. The parade was followed by a mix and mingle reception hosted by The McCallen Society. Alumni also enjoyed a New York Yankees spring training baseball game and shared memories at receptions on both the East and West Coasts.

If you are interested in becoming more involved in your regional chapter, please contact Elizabeth Austin ’08TCB, ’10MBA, Assistant Director, Alumni Relations at (718) 990-2548 or austine@stjohns.edu
St. John's Women's Basketball made history this season, as Nadirah McKenith '13CPS and Shenneika Smith '13CPS became the first players in program history to be drafted into the Women's National Basketball Association (WNBA).

McKenith was picked No. 17 by the Washington Mystics, while Smith was selected No. 25 by the New York Liberty.

"This was an extraordinary night for two of our young ladies," said first-year Head Coach Joe Tartamella '04MBA. "It was also a special night for our community and the Women's Basketball program as a whole, and I couldn't be prouder of these two young ladies."

The WNBA news capped off another successful year for St. John's, as Tartamella led his squad to an 18-13 record and the program's fourth-straight NCAA berth. In the First Round of the NCAA Tournament, hosted at Carnesecca Arena, the team put up a valiant effort, but ultimately lost a double-overtime heartbreaker to Dayton, 96-90.

Still, the season was filled with positives, including a number of marquee wins. And the squad finished the season strong, going 7-1 in its last eight regular-season games, culminating in an emotional 67-54 win over DePaul on Senior Day at Carnesecca Arena.

With a strong debut from Tartamella — and a number of promising young players returning next season — there's a lot for Red Storm fans to look forward to in the years to come.
STJ Signs Extensive Production Agreement with ESPN3

St. John’s University has one of the most storied athletic traditions in the country. It’s only fitting, then, that our media presence would be similarly strong.

A recent agreement between the St. John’s Television Network (STJ-TV) and ESPN calls for as many as 60 Red Storm sporting events to be carried live in High Definition on ESPN3 in 2012-13. When the spring schedule is finalized, St. John’s will have the nation’s most robust agreement between ESPN3 and any one college or university.

The ESPN3 network is accessible online at WatchESPN.com, through smartphones and tablets via the WatchESPN app and through ESPN on Xbox, meaning that these St. John’s productions will reach a national audience of 83 million households.

STJ-TV is St. John’s newly-established broadcast platform, which generates live and on-demand video content for St. John’s Athletics, including RedStormSports.com — the official athletics Web site of St. John’s University — as well as third-party outlets.

Sampson Wins BIG EAST Rookie of the Year

For the second-straight year, St. John’s Men’s Basketball produced the BIG EAST Conference’s Rookie of the Year.

JaKarr Sampson ’16C turned in an impressive season to take home the award, only one year after current NBA star and former Red Storm great Moe Harkless did the same.

But Sampson wasn’t the only young Johnny to make headlines, as Chris Obekpa ’16C emerged as one of college basketball’s most exciting defenders.

He recorded 133 blocks on the year, shattering the St. John’s single-season record of 76 previously set by Walter Berry ’10CPS in 1986.

The year culminated in a dramatic victory in the First Round of the NIT Tournament, as Sir’Dominic Pointer ’15C drained a last-second jumper to cement a 12-point comeback over St. Joseph’s University.

With a squad of such promising underclassmen — and with a post-season win under their belts — the Red Storm’s future looks exceptionally bright.

Each STJ-TV production is crewed by a 15-person team, a combination of local television professionals and St. John’s undergraduate and graduate students who are enrolled in video production courses at the University.

“We are excited about STJ-TV, our collaboration with ESPN3 and what this endeavor provides St. John’s University in terms of exposure and a hands-on educational experience for students,” said Chris Monasch ’81SVC, Director of Athletics.

“This agreement was the culmination of emerging technology, hard work by our staff and an outstanding relationship with ESPN. The 2012-13 broadcast schedule only begins to scratch the surface of what we hope STJ-TV can become.”
St. John's student-athletes continue to excel in the classroom, as 68 members of the University's varsity teams were honored as members of the BIG EAST All-Academic Team. In total, 181 student-athletes achieved All-Academic status for the 2011-12 seasons, including 16 student-athletes from the Men's and Women's Fencing teams, which do not participate in the BIG EAST.

Additionally, the Red Storm Men's Lacrosse and Baseball teams earned BIG EAST Team Academic Excellence Awards, attaining the highest collective GPAs in the conference for their respective sports.

“These students epitomize the true meaning of the term ‘student-athlete,’” said Eric Rienecker, Director, Academic Support Services. “The recognition is a clear reflection of their dedication to being the best of the best.”

To qualify for the All-Academic Team, a student-athlete must have competed in a BIG EAST-sponsored sport, earned a varsity letter, attained a minimum 3.0 GPA and completed a minimum of two consecutive semesters of academic work. The number of St. John's student-athletes meeting the All-Academic Team criteria has risen each year since 2006.
Belson Receives Humanitarian Award at NYC Soccer Gala

The inaugural New York City Soccer Gala, hosted by St. John’s University, celebrated some of the game’s most storied figures — and generous benefactor Jerome Belson ’48L, ’80 HON took home the night’s most prestigious award.

“This is a great moment for me,” said Belson, who received the Humanitarian Award for his philanthropic work and outstanding contributions to collegiate soccer. “More importantly, though, I believe we’ve put soccer on a higher level with the students at St. John’s. We’ve brought the game out of the basement and to the awareness of the general public — that there is such a thing as collegiate soccer!”

Founded by New York City’s five Division I Men’s Soccer programs (St. John’s, Fordham University, Long Island University, Brooklyn, Manhattan College and St. Francis College), the gala welcomed guests including alumni, friends and prestigious members of the national soccer community.

“We’re excited that our St. John’s tradition can be part of something bigger than ourselves,” said Dave Masur ’03Ed.D., St. John’s Head Men’s Soccer Coach. “An event like this reminds us that soccer is alive and well here, and that this city is truly the heartbeat of United State soccer in every level and every corner.”

STJ Lacrosse Earns Impressive Ranked Wins

In a thrilling road game, the Red Storm Lacrosse team toppled then-No. 1 Notre Dame, 12-10, to earn its first-ever victory over a top-ranked opponent.

The incredible upset was the Johnnies’ third win over a ranked foe in 2013, having previously defeated then-No. 7/6 Hofstra and then-No. 17/20 Yale. Under Head Coach Jason Miller, the team has steadily improved each season.

With a record of 9-4 in 2013, Miller led his squad to its highest win total since the program was reinstated in 2005, while standout Kieran McArdle ’14CPS was named BIG EAST Attack Player of the Year.
Alumni Leadership Seeks Greater Engagement

Alumni are important at St. John’s, and keeping them connected to the University and each other has always been a major priority. Recent administrative changes have been instituted within the Office of Alumni Relations to ensure that our more than 168,000 living alumni will have even greater opportunities for engagement in the months ahead.

Heading the team is Scott A. Williams, recently named Associate Vice President for Alumni Relations. No stranger to St. John’s, he previously worked at the University in a variety of positions during the late 1990s, including Assistant Coach of the Football team, Assistant to the Director of Alumni Relations and Development Officer. Prior to assuming his current position, he was Senior Managing Director at Changing Our World, Inc., an international fundraising and philanthropy consulting firm.

In his new position, Williams provides oversight to the Office of Alumni Relations as it seeks to further the University’s relationship with its alumni. One of his priorities is to increase St. John’s connection to graduates living outside of New York. He is also committed to strengthening the programs and initiatives already in place that keep our local alumni connected to the University and each other.

“Our alumni are diverse in nature, and we need to provide programs and services that really give them an opportunity to participate in activities that they feel are exciting and are conducive to their interests,” he said. “We’re looking to expand our services to our regional alumni by having an Assistant Director of Chapters, who will develop programs, create alumni boards within geographic areas and work with those boards to create activities and programs that will enable those regional alumni to be more engaged with St. John’s. We want to create very comprehensive programs for our alumni, no matter where they live.”

Williams is also planning to focus his attention on the University’s young alumni, particularly those who have graduated within the past 10 years. He acknowledges that although the demands of beginning a career and possibly starting a family frequently combine to consume much of their time, they need to be reminded of the many benefits available to alumni of all ages.

“It’s critical that we have programs for our young alumni that are geared towards the graduates of the last decade,” he remarked. “We want them to have opportunities to attend networking events where they can meet with older alumni who might be able to help them advance their career. We want our alumni to be connected from the moment they leave St. John’s and to stay connected for life.”

Sharing administrative responsibility for the implementation of future alumni initiatives is Mark Andrews, who has been appointed Director of Alumni Relations. Andrews began his career at St. John’s in 2006 as Assistant Director of Annual Giving, and most recently served as Associate Director in the Office of Alumni Relations, where his major focus was on academic programming and the specific needs and interests of various alumni constituent groups.

Andrews has always been impressed with the level of loyalty that exists within so many members of the alumni community, and looks forward to doing whatever he can to make their connection to the University and each other even stronger.

“I want to be able to provide the utmost service to our alumni,” he said. “I want to be out with our alumni at the event level. Personally, that’s where I find I can have the kind of impact to communicate our mission, to update alumni about the University and its status and to explain how important it is that they stay in touch with St. John’s. Our alumni believe in the University and its mission, and that spans all generations, from the people who went to school on our Lewis Avenue campus in Brooklyn to those who’ve graduated just a few years ago. I’ve always loved interacting with these special people, and I’m looking forward to doing even more for them in the future.”

Graduate Degree in Public Health

St. John’s University has received approval from the New York State Department of Education to offer a Master of Public Health degree, beginning in the Fall 2013 semester. The latest program to be offered by St. John’s College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences, was created to meet the educational demands of both recent graduates and current professionals.

“We are delighted to have added the M.P.H. degree to the many other outstanding programs of study offered by the College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences,” noted University Provost Robert A. Mangione, R.Ph. ’77R, ’79GP, ’93PD, ’99Ed.D. “We look forward to the significant contributions that faculty members and students associated with this program will make to enhancing health care in our great city, the nation and the world.”

Public health professionals focus on promoting wellness and disease prevention.
The college basketball landscape has changed, and Red Storm fans have reason to be excited.

In March, St. John’s University, along with DePaul University, Georgetown University, Marquette University, Providence College, Seton Hall University and Villanova University, announced the formation of a new BIG EAST Conference – a league that would honor the rich basketball tradition upon which the BIG EAST was originally established.

The new conference, which retains the BIG EAST name and will play its season-ending BIG EAST Championship at Madison Square Garden, officially commenced operations on July 1, 2013. Val Ackerman, former President of the Women’s National Basketball Association (WNBA), was selected as the league’s first commissioner.

“This is an exciting time for the University,” said St. John’s President Rev. Donald J. Harrington, C.M. in an official statement, “as we look ahead to a promising new foundation — one that will combine elite competition with a continued emphasis on student-athlete development.”

At a press conference in Manhattan, the new BIG EAST announced a landmark 12-year partnership with FOX Sports, granting the network exclusive media rights. Additionally, the league formally added Butler University, Creighton University and Xavier University, bringing its total membership to 10.

They address a variety of important issues on the local, national and international levels, including rising health care costs, environmental hazards, natural disasters and potential disease pandemics.

“The Master of Public Health program is an exciting and challenging development,” said Acting Dean S. William Zito, Ph.D. ‘66 P. “It gives us the opportunity to develop trained public health professionals with expertise in preventable health conditions, public health analysis and the global dimensions of public health.”

The 45-credit program offers two areas of concentration: community health and global health.

The community health concentration addresses the wide range of health challenges in everyday communities, particularly the major behavioral, social and cultural factors that impact the health of populations. It also focuses on the ways in which these factors influence the development and organization of public health programs and service delivery to these communities.

The global health concentration examines the role that government, international institutions, globalization, cultural and social factors play in determining health status and disease burden with a particular emphasis on developing countries. A high priority is placed on the consideration of emerging global ecological issues and the design of global health programs that promote health equity and global sustainability.

And in typical St. John’s fashion, the new degree reflects the University’s Vincentian commitment to address poverty and social injustice by empowering individuals to work with local and global communities to improve health and protect the public.

“St. Vincent de Paul once said that a doctor who keeps a person from becoming ill deserves more merit than one who cures him,” remarked Mangione. “That clearly summarizes a significant aspect of the work that is done by public health professionals, and like everything else that we do at St. John’s, Vincent’s words put this new degree into the proper perspective.”

A New BIG EAST is Born

Dave Gavitt, who also served as the conference’s first commissioner. St. John’s and iconic Men’s Basketball Head Coach Lou Carnesecca ’50C, ’60G, ’00HON played a pivotal role in putting the league on the map and cementing it as a powerhouse in college basketball.

The new BIG EAST retains many of the old conference’s storied rivalries and is poised to become a preeminent player on the collegiate scene. Retaining the BIG EAST name and playing its conference tournament at Madison Square Garden — the home court of the Johnnies — are also major achievements.

“We are thrilled that MSG will continue to serve as the official home of the BIG EAST Championship tournament,” said Fr. Harrington. “In addition to being the center of the basketball universe, the Garden has served as a thrilling backdrop for so many of the BIG EAST’s most enduring memories and greatest individual achievements.”

Red Storm fans will now be able to watch the Johnnies take on current powerhouses like Butler and Xavier, while still maintaining rivalries with the likes of Georgetown and Villanova. Ultimately, it’s a solid foundation that many coaches — including St. John’s own Men’s Basketball Head Coach Steve Lavin — are excited to join.

“When you look at this group of schools, they all have fan bases that have real conviction in terms of their loyalty,” Lavin said. “That’s one of the reasons the presidents moved in this direction. They felt it would provide a brighter future for the conference and the respective basketball programs, and I agree with them.”
New University Appointments

During the past few months St. John’s University President Rev. Donald J. Harrington, C.M. announced that the Board of Trustees has named three individuals to fill key administrative positions within the University.

Robert A. Mangione, R.Ph., ’77P, ’79GP, ‘93PD, ’99Ed.D. has been appointed University Provost and Sharon Hewitt Watkins, CPA will serve as Vice President for Business Affairs and Chief Financial Officer and Rev. Gerard Luttenberger, C.M. has been named Executive Vice President for Mission.

The new Provost joined the faculty of St. John’s College of Pharmacy and Allied Health Professions (now St. John’s College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences) in 1979, was appointed Assistant Dean for Pharmacy Student Affairs in 1990, Associate Dean in 1996 and became Dean in 1999. He had been serving as Interim Provost since August, 2012.

“I am truly honored and very grateful to have been named Provost of our great University,” said Mangione. “I know that I follow in the footsteps of outstanding academic leaders and will do my best to build upon their many accomplishments. I am very excited about the future of our University, as we will be guided by our deep commitment to the Vincentian culture of academic excellence.”

During his tenure at St. John’s, Mangione also served as a clinical faculty member at Nassau County Medical Center from 1979 to 1981 and at Long Island Jewish Medical Center and the Schneider Children’s Hospital from 1981 to 1990. While at the Children’s Hospital, he was the institution’s Pediatric Clinical Pharmacy Coordinator.

The University has honored Mangione on numerous occasions. He received the Outstanding Faculty Achievement Award in 1989, the Vincentian Mission Award in 1995, the Pietas Medal in 2002 and the St. Vincent de Paul Medal in 2008. Pharmacy students voted him Teacher of the Year in 1987, 1989, 1990 and 1996, and he was presented with a Leader in Education Award from St. John’s School of Education in 2009.

A careful stewardship of fiscal resources has always been a priority at St. John’s, and as the University’s newly appointed Vice President for Business Affairs and Chief Financial Officer, Sharon Hewitt Watkins brings an impressive record of accomplishments in both the for-profit and not-for-profit sectors. She has both a personal and professional dedication to mission-driven institutions and, in particular, organizations committed to social justice.

“I am excited to be a part of the St. John’s team,” she remarked, “and I look forward to partnering with my new colleagues to address the challenges confidently and competently to ensure that we secure a strong institution, academically and financially, for the students we are here to serve. I remain inspired and encouraged by the mission of St. John’s to grant access to an excellent higher education, especially to those lacking economic, physical, or social advantages.”

Hewitt Watkins began her career in 1989 as an auditor with KPMG, LLP, specializing in audits of higher education and not-for-profit organizations. Interestingly, St. John’s was her first higher education client, and working with the University sparked her interest in helping individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds reach their full potential.

After nine years with KPMG, she entered the not-for-profit sector when she was named Controller of Columbia University Teachers College. In 2004, Hewitt Watkins became Assistant Vice President for Finance and Controller of the New York Public Library. Four years later, she was promoted to Vice President for Finance and Assistant Treasurer.

She earned her B.S. in Accounting at New York University and her M.A. in Social-Organizational Psychology at Columbia University. She is a member of several professional...
accounting organizations and was a participant in the Harvard University Business School Commonfund Endowment Institute.

Reflecting the importance of the Vincentian mission within the University experience, Rev. Gerard Luttenberger, C.M. will become the new Executive Vice President for Mission. He succeeds Rev. James J. Maher, C.M. ‘84C, D.Min., who was named President of Niagara University.

Fr. Luttenberger brings to the position a long and illustrious career in both Catholic and Vincentian formation. He graduated from the Vincentian Mary Immaculate Seminary in Northampton, PA, with both a Bachelor’s and Master of Divinity degree, and went on to Fribourg University in Switzerland to earn both the S.T.L. and S.T.D. degrees in Theology. He later earned a Master of Christian Spirituality degree at Creighton University.

He has held a variety of administrative positions, including Director of Spiritual Formation and Religious Superior for the House of Formation for Vincentian seminarians and Provincial Director of the Daughters of Charity of the former Northeast Province of the United States. He served on the Board of Trustees of Niagara University from 1985 to 2003 and has also been a member of the St. John’s Board of Trustees and its Academic Affairs, Investment, and Personnel Committees.

An authority on both Systematic and Moral Theology, Fr. Luttenberger has authored numerous articles and books, including Who Do You Say That I am? An Introduction to Christology in the Gospels and Early Church, which has become a significant work in the field of Christology.

We extend all best wishes to these administrators as they assume their new responsibilities and work to further the University’s mission, values and programs.

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**Researcher Studies Link Between Cell Metabolism and Cancer**

For decades scientific researchers around the world have sought to unravel the mystery of how cancer develops and spreads within a human host. One of the most exciting initiatives is currently being undertaken by Luciano Galdieri ‘11Ph.D., a Postdoctoral Associate in the Department of Biological Sciences at St. John’s University.

His research focuses on cell metabolism and the control of DNA, including how DNA function might be affected by hormone levels and the availability of nutrients.

“The metabolism of cancer cells closely resembles the metabolism of yeast cells,” he noted, “and that’s why yeast is such a good model for cancer research. We are attempting to modify the metabolism in yeast cells to determine if we can find a way to similarly change the metabolism of cancer cells. By tweaking the metabolism of yeast cells, we hope to see a change in their histone acetylation. Then, we will try to mimic the same approach in cancer cells.”

Born and raised in Brazil, Galdieri earned his B.S. in Biomedical Sciences and M.S. in Sciences Applied to Pediatrics at the Universidade Federal de São Paulo. He chose to pursue his doctoral degree at St. John’s because he was aware of the impressive research that was being conducted by many of the Biological Sciences professors. He is particularly grateful for the mentorship of Department Chair and Professor of Biochemistry Ales Vancura, Ph.D. who encouraged him to pursue this innovative area of research. Galdieri and his mentor have shared their research findings by co-authoring a number of articles in professional journals, including the prestigious Journal of Biological Chemistry.

“It’s nice to have your work recognized by your peers,” he acknowledged. “It’s a huge accomplishment. But what’s truly gratifying is when a student learns from your research and you inspire them to do great work.”

Looking ahead to the future, he would one day like to have his own laboratory where his students would have an opportunity to work on research in metabolism and epigenetics. In the short term, however, Galdieri hopes that his current research will have a positive impact on the treatment of cancer.

“We hope to generate new insights on how to fight cancer,” he said. “We’re looking at different targets for cancer treatment that haven’t been explored yet. Maybe there is a drug out there that has not been offered for treatment, one that could be used to alter the metabolism of cancer cells, change their histone acetylation and ultimately kill them.”

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*Researcher Studies Link Between Cell Metabolism and Cancer*

*He succeeds Rev. James J. Maher, C.M. ‘84C, D.Min., who was named President of Niagara University.*

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*Luciano Galdieri ‘11Ph.D.*
Fr. Maher Named President of Niagara University

Rev. James J. Maher, C.M. ’84C, D. Min. will leave St. John’s University to become the 26th President of Niagara University (NY), succeeding current President Rev. Joseph L. Levesque, C.M. The appointment becomes official on August 1, 2013.

“Fr. Maher has been an engaged and influential part of the St. John’s community for almost 23 years, most recently in his role as Executive Vice President for Mission and Student Service,” said St. John’s University President Rev. Donald J. Harrington, C.M.

“Our university is stronger and better for all that he has been and done.”

He earned his B.A. in Sociology from St. John’s College of Liberal Arts and Sciences in 1984. Six years later, he was ordained a Vincentian priest and happily learned that his first assignment would be to St. John’s.

“When I was assigned to St. John’s, I never thought that I would be here for the next 23 years,” he said. “I’m very fortunate to have been able to remain at the University that I love for so long.”

Before assuming his current position at St. John’s, Fr. Maher served as Campus Minister to the Department of Athletics; Vice President of University Ministry; Vice President of Student Affairs and Executive Director of the Vincentian Institute for Social Action (VISA), an initiative that provides an academic focus for programs where faculty and students can explore issues of poverty and social injustice.

He is currently Chair of the Board of Directors of St. John’s Bread and Life, is a member of the Board of Trustees of DePaul University in Chicago, and serves as Provincial Consultant for the Eastern Province of the Congregation of the Mission.

Fr. Maher hopes to use his experiences at St. John’s to enhance what he considers to be two of Niagara’s greatest strengths — its academic programs and strong commitment to community service.

“I really want to focus on deepening the commitment of Niagara University to serving those in need within the community of Niagara Falls as well as the greater region of Western New York,” he said. “I’m looking forward to seeing how we can enhance teaching, research and service to advance the Vincentian mission.”

Reminiscing about his time at St. John’s, Fr. Maher acknowledges that the University is very different today from what it was like when he first arrived as a student. He is proud that St. John’s Vincentian and Catholic identity is stronger today than ever.

“What’s significant to me is that while St. John’s has grown tremendously over the years, we’ve maintained our commitment to serve the same population we’ve always served. St. John’s has evolved significantly as a university, and so have our Vincentian and Catholic identities. That’s a very hard thing to do.”

As he prepares to assume his next assignment, he admits that it will be hard to leave the University that has been a part of his life for so many years. He will always have a special fondness for the individuals with whom he has worked since his first days on campus.

“I leave here with an incredible debt of gratitude to the University and to the people who make it so very special,” he said. “I’ll be praying for the members of the University community and for the continued success of the great work of St. John’s.”

Peter J. Tobin ’65CBA, ’96HON Named Dean Emeritus

One of the University’s most accomplished and loyal alumni, Peter J. Tobin, has been named Dean Emeritus of the institution’s Peter J. Tobin College of Business, the academic unit that has borne his name since 1999. The action was taken in recognition of his great generosity and extraordinary record of accomplishment in strengthening business education at St. John’s.

“It is a thrill for me to be recognized by the University as Dean Emeritus,” he acknowledged. “This makes it official that I’ll always be the Dean of The Tobin College of Business, and it makes me proud to be associated with St. John’s University.”

Tobin served as Dean from 1998-2003. During those years, he worked successfully to strengthen and transform the College, leading it into the 21st century. He focused on securing additional international support for the business programs offered at the University’s campus in Rome, Italy. And he spearheaded the successful merger of St. John’s and The College of Insurance.

That institution’s programs, employees, students and alumni became part of the University through creation of The School of Risk Management and Insurance, which is housed within The Tobin College of Business. In addition, what had been The College of Insurance campus on Murray Street in New York City became St. John’s Manhattan campus.

Tobin earned a Bachelor of Business Administration with a major in Accounting from St. John’s College of Business Administration in 1965. He enjoyed an outstanding career in public accounting and banking before retiring as Chief Financial Officer of Chase Manhattan Corporation.

In 1996 St. John’s recognized him with an honorary Doctor of Commercial Science degree; and two years later honored him with the first Spirit of Service Award, reserved for those whose commitment to serving others emulates that of St. Vincent de Paul. In 2000 Tobin received the Medal of Honor, the highest award that can be given to an alumnus, and in 2005 was inducted into The Heritage Circle, established to recognize alumni who graduated 40 or more years ago and have continued to maintain a close association with the University in an extraordinary way.

He is currently a member of the University’s Board of Governors, a select group that advises the Board of Trustees and the University President on strategic issues related to St. John’s.

He and his wife, Mary, a member of St. John’s Board of Trustees, serve as Honorary Co-Chairs of the University’s annual President’s Dinner. The President’s Dinner is St. John’s premier fundraising event, created to support scholarships for the University’s most deserving students.
During the 2012-2013 academic year, seven St. John’s students were selected to conduct research and teach overseas as recipients of Fulbright Student Grants, the largest U.S. international exchange program recognizing students and young professionals who demonstrate academic excellence and leadership potential.

“All of us at St. John’s were extremely proud of those exceptional students,” said University Provost Robert A. Mangione, R.Ph. ’77P, ’79GP, ’93PD, ’99Ed.D. “An honor such as this reflects upon their hard work and academic excellence, as well as on the University for nurturing and inspiring them to maximize their outstanding abilities to make a difference for others in places near and far.”

Six of the seven individuals selected were able to accept this prestigious honor. The scholarship recipients included Sarah Alam ’12C, Boris Chiporukha ’10G, Jessica Corsaro ’15GEd, Patrick Homeyer ’12C, Katelyn Liesner ’12C and Kelly Rivera ’02CPS, ’11GEd.

They spent the 2012-2013 academic year pursuing their Fulbright activities in locations around the world.

Not surprisingly, traveling to different countries was an eye-opening experience for these exceptional students, and many soon found the time to take advantage of what their new locations had to offer. What they learned went well beyond the boundaries of the classroom.

Corsaro was studying language and culture in Kenya. She was excited to be teaching Phonology of the English Language to second year students and English Language Acquisition to third year students at the University of Pwani. This outgoing young woman quickly became part of the Kenyan culture by playing soccer with children from a local village, enjoying native food and swimming in the Indian Ocean.

For Liesner, who was seeking solutions to environmental problems on the Aegean Islands and hoped to pursue a graduate degree in Environmental Science when her Fulbright year was over, her connection to St. John’s remained strong. She represented the University at a College Fair in Greece, advising students who were considering traveling to New York for their higher education.

For Homeyer, who was looking for solutions to environmental problems on the Aegean Islands and hoped to pursue a graduate degree in Environmental Science when her Fulbright year was over, her connection to St. John’s remained strong. She represented the University at a College Fair in Greece, advising students who were considering traveling to New York for their higher education.

While working in the Ukraine to explore ways to improve that nation’s deteriorating tourism infrastructure, Chiporukha spent a few days at the United States Embassy compound, where he met John Tefft, the American Ambassador to the Ukraine.

Genuinely impressed with this career diplomat,
Students Witness Papal History

When Pope Benedict XVI made the surprise announcement that he would resign the papacy at the end of February, attention immediately focused on which of the cardinals would ultimately be chosen as his successor. The centuries-old process captured the interest of the entire world, and students studying at the Rome campus of St. John’s University were caught up in the excitement taking place in their own back yard.

Once the cardinals were sequestered in the Sistine Chapel, thousands of people jammed St. Peter’s Square hoping to be on hand at the moment when the new pope was announced. For St. John’s students participating in the University’s Rome Semester: Discover Italy program, their dream of being a part of history came true when they were present for that never-to-be-forgotten experience.

Anna Misleh ’14C was a Junior majoring in Sociology in St. John’s College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. After finishing her last class on the cold and rainy evening of March 13th, she and a few friends headed over to St. Peter’s Square to wait for the results of the day’s final balloting.

“I really didn’t think that night was going to be the one with white smoke,” she said. “It was bad weather, and the conclave had only been going for a day. With no front-runner, I thought it would be at least Friday [March 15th] until we knew. Still, seeing the black smoke is just as cool, so we weaved our way to the front of St. Peter’s Square. We were just 20 yards away from the front TV screen.”

After waiting for nearly two hours, Misleh was about to return to campus when she noticed smoke beginning to rise from the chimney of the Sistine Chapel. What at first appeared to be dirty grey in color suddenly turned unmistakably white, signifying the election of the 266th pontiff of the Catholic Church.

When Pope Francis I stepped onto the balcony to bless the crowd, he did so in a slightly different fashion, somewhat breaking with the traditions of the past. For Misleh, it was the most moving aspect of that exceptional experience.

“Instead of the usual blessing a new pope places on the crowd when he is elected, Pope Francis asked all of us to pray for him,” she recalled. “Almost instantly, the nearly 100,000 people gathered there became completely silent for nearly 30 seconds. It was strange, but this gesture was what made me tear up. I was so full of sheer joy over the first step the Holy Father took to make

the people his priority, placing us the center of the Church. That night was an incredible, once-in-a-lifetime experience that I will never forget.”

Olivia Cunningham ’15CPS, then a Sophomore Journalism major, was also present in St. Peter’s Square when the papal announcement was made. Seeing the white smoke was the trigger for an emotional rollercoaster unmatched by anything she had ever experienced.

“It was holy, it was diverse, it was pure excitement,” she acknowledged. “The crowd went from dead silence as we stared at the smoke to jumping and cheering when it proved white. Thousands upon thousands of faithful from all over the world crammed into the piazza. We recited many prayers in unison. How wonderful that the world still gets this excited over a religious leader! Though not personally a Catholic, it was still exciting and inspirational for me to see an event that will go down in history.”

A few days later, even though she had an early morning class and came later than expected to St. Peter’s Square, Cunningham was able to secure a coveted spot for the historic Papal Installation Mass. Arriving just as the Mass was about to begin, she made her way through the crowd to a spot where she could see and hear everything that was happening.

“I got there about 10 a.m.,” she said, “and people had already left, or maybe the crowds weren’t as big as expected. I had an excellent view and was actually inside the square right from the start, and then I worked my way over to the right of the obelisk as the Mass continued. I heard Pope Francis’ homily and the liturgy of the Eucharist, about an hour in total, and then I stayed to watch the crowd and take some pictures. It was incredibly moving.”

When Misleh and Cunningham came home from Rome, they brought back more than simply a semester of academic credits and a suitcase bursting with souvenirs. They returned with a lifetime of memories from the days when they stood in St. Peter’s Square and watched as history unfolded before their very eyes.
The Loughlin Society is the University's leadership giving society whose members know that the future begins with today's young men and women.

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

Visit www.stjohns.edu/loughlinsociety to learn more.
The retirement of Reverend Donald J. Harrington, C.M. serves as a particularly appropriate occasion for a review of the record of extraordinary accomplishment that was set in motion when he first stepped onto the Queens campus as St. John’s 15th President in the fall of 1989.
Preparing to retire, I was motivated by Fr. Harrington’s Inaugural address in 1989 to remain and experience the transition to a projected “new” St. John’s. This without discarding, but rather implementing more, the principles that identified us as a Catholic and Vincentian institution. His accomplishments in reaching this goal during his tenure are legion.

ANDREW BARTILUCCI ’44P ’98HON
Dean Emeritus, College of Pharmacy and Allied Health Professions
St. John’s University
His vision was both profound and simple. He wanted the University to grow and prosper, to become better, stronger, and greater. And while change and transformation were to be the hallmarks of his Presidency during all of the next 24 years, he recognized as well the need for the University to remain rooted in its values and true to its special mission as Catholic and Vincentian.

As practical as he was energetic, Fr. Harrington quickly realized that, as a tuition driven institution, St. John’s would need to generate additional resources to accomplish...
what would ultimately come to be known as “the new St. John’s.”

Barely one year into his presidency, the first capital campaign in University history was launched. Designed to coincide with the University’s 125th anniversary and appropriately named “Expanding on Excellence,” this bold development initiative exceeded its $50 million goal and raised $64 million. Its success allowed St. John’s to construct Finley Hall on the Queens campus and the Kelleher Center on the Staten Island campus, enhance athletic facilities through the addition of DaSilva Field, establish an endowed chair at the College of Business Administration and support additional scholarships for the University’s most academically deserving but financially burdened students.

Following the success of this campaign, a second initiative was undertaken a few years later. The “Campaign for St. John’s — Fulfilling the Dream” was a multi-year capital campaign that raised over $271 million. The additional resources generated by this campaign had an immediate and lasting impact on nearly every aspect of the University. The Taffner Field House, Belson Stadium and DaSilva Academic Center were constructed, more than 80 new endowed scholarships and an additional endowed chair were established, and the Student Managed Investment Fund was created.

You have been an exemplary priest and president of a major university. Please know I am very proud of you and all that you’ve accomplished for the Lord. You are a true son of St. Vincent.

Even though I am retired, I want to commend you for the outstanding work you’ve done during your long tenure as president of a prestigious Catholic University. You’ve kept St. John’s Catholic and you’ve kept it focused on the poor and neglected, being true to your Vincentian calling. You have served with dedication, distinction and great competence. In the Lord’s name and in the name of his Church, I thank you for being an exemplary priest and leader in Catholic higher education.

MOST REVEREND
DONALD W. TRAUTMAN, STD, S.S.L ’90HON
Bishop Emeritus of Erie

Warmest best wishes on the occasion of your richly deserved retirement. You have done magnificent work at St. John’s, and you have been a great friend to the Archdiocese of New York, to the Diocese of Bridgeport and to me as well.

HIS EMINENCE EDWARD CARDINAL EGAN
Archbishop of New York (Retired)

I simply want to thank you for your extraordinary service to St. John’s over the past 24 years. Your vision and leadership has transformed this institution into a first-rate university and you have maintained its core mission throughout. Your friendship to me is greatly appreciated.

HONORABLE ROBERT TURNER ’62C
Member, U.S. Congress (Retired)
leadership
I had the great privilege of working at St. John’s University during Fr. Harrington’s tenure as President. He always impressed me as an incredibly gifted administrator, a ‘quick study’ with a razor sharp mind and analytic ability. From the very beginning of his presidency, Fr. Harrington had a vision for St. John’s University to expand and deepen its Catholic, Vincentian and Metropolitan mission, translating it in ways that had never been imagined before his arrival on campus. At a time when Catholic identity in higher education was widely questioned, Fr. Harrington offered clarity and conviction. He readily embraced diversity but never at the cost of the university’s Catholic and Vincentian core. I admired that very much. Today, 24 years after his installation as president, Fr. Harrington can look with pride at a University that has been transformed by his presence and leadership into one of America’s truly great Catholic institutions of higher learning.

MOST REVEREND
DAVID M. O’CONNELL, C.M., J.C.D. ’05HON
Bishop of Trenton
Member, Board of Trustees
St. John’s University
St. John’s College Academic Dean (1990-98)

kindness
The University Community — students, alumni, faculty, administrators and staff — are well acquainted with the vision and unprecedented accomplishments of Fr. Donald Harrington over the more than two decades of his Presidency. What many are unaware of, however, are his private, unheralded acts of kindness toward members of our St. John’s Community during the same period. Whether consoling the families of 9/11 victims, or those who have lost a loved one through illness, or just lending a helping hand to guide us in a time of academic, professional or personal need, Fr. Harrington is truly a living example of the charity of St. Vincent de Paul in action. His quiet, unsung deeds of goodness will always remain a hallmark of his tenure at St. John’s University as our beloved Vincentian leader.

PATRICIA A. CASTEL ’74Ed., ’77L
Member, Board of Trustees
St. John’s University

The transformation from a local commuter school to a national and international university began with the opening of the first residence halls on the Queens campus in 1999. In the years that followed, construction of additional on campus residential facilities and construction or leasing of off campus housing enabled the University to attract students from a larger and more geographically diverse applicant pool and to enhance the academic profile of incoming students. When
2013 Alumni Convocation
May 31, 2013

Good evening. I am delighted and honored to add my welcome to each and every one of you to your very special Alumni Convocation. We are so happy that you are here to share in this great celebration.

Like so many of you who are here this evening, it was quite a few years ago, in my case almost 41 years, that I first stepped off the Q44A bus on Union Turnpike and with great pride began my walk up the hill past Alumni Hall (now Carnesecca Arena) past the far end of Marillac Hall, to St. Albert Hall to attend my first chemistry class as a St. John’s University freshman. I can still remember the excitement and pride of that great day as, like so many of you, I was the first generation in my family to attend college. As I think back I recall that I had bright ambitions, but I never dreamed that I would be the first person in my family to earn a doctorate and that I would be standing before you this evening in my first year as Provost, and beginning my 35th year as a faculty member at St. John’s. I guess I did not know then but certainly know now that a St. John’s education changed our lives.

Although many years have passed since my first day, the thrill, the pride, and the gratitude that I am associated with this great institution is as strong today as it was in September, 1972.

I have always enjoyed attending our alumni convocations and associated weekend events during my tenure as a St. John’s faculty member and administrator. Over the years I have noted that there have always been a number of consistent observations made by all groups who were attending. Each year our participants can be heard saying:

Wow — the campus has really changed from when I was a student here—it is absolutely beautiful, or I was so impressed to learn about the extraordinary things that our students and faculty are doing, and although the university looks different, I am so happy that the Core Vincentian Values that we cherished are still here and stronger than ever.

I have been privileged to witness the transformation of St. John’s University first hand and certainly agree with all of these comments. As you know change of this magnitude does not happen by itself but rather can only become a reality through inspired leadership. The St. John’s President, Rev. Donald J. Harrington, C.M.

When Father began his presidency 24 years ago he talked about and envisioned what was referred to as the “New St. John’s”. As you may recall in that late 80’s St. John’s University, which consisted of a modest cluster of buildings here in Queens and a small campus on Staten Island, was considered to be an excellent regional school. Today it is remarkable, it is a miracle, that we have three campuses within the City of New York, a graduate center on Long Island, a campus in Rome, Italy and a study abroad site in Paris, France.

During Fr. Harrington’s tenure
- 28 university buildings have either been renovated or constructed;
- we have emerged as a focal point for global education; and
- we have gone from never having a capital campaign to having two successful campaigns, which many of you contributed to, raising more than $300 million.

Our innovative curricula, with ground breaking progress in academic service learning, serve as a national model and our faculty are engaging in purposeful and dynamic research that is transforming society. My friends, we are no longer referred to as the “New St. John’s University” but rather, as a result of Father’s leadership, we have become the “Great St. John’s University.”

Beautiful campuses, new state of the art buildings, tremendous students, excellent faculty, and international recognition as one of the great global universities all characterize who we have become, but perhaps most important is that with Fr. Harrington’s guidance we have consistently remained faithful to the teachings of Sts. Vincent and Louise in who we are, and perhaps even more important by what we do.

My favorite quote from St. Vincent de Paul is: “Let us love God my brothers, let us love God. But let it be with the strength of our arms and the sweat of our brow.” Father has spent each of his years at St. John’s answering this call.

Fr. Harrington—As a faculty member, University Provost but most significant this evening as a graduate of St. John’s University, I am honored to acknowledge you and to thank you for all that you have done for all of who are here in attendance this evening and all who have been, are, or will ever be, associated with St. John’s in any way. We wish you great joy as you begin the next chapter of your life. We will always reflect upon, and truly benefit from, the great legacy that you leave at St. John’s University.

Congratulations and God Bless you always.
Globalization has been an important component of the University’s growth and development. St. John’s established a campus in Rome, Italy in 1995, initially to respond to the need for American-style graduate business education in Europe. Subsequently, the campus has become a location where undergraduate students can study abroad. In later years, St. John’s secured space in the Mother House of the Vincentian community in Paris, France for another study abroad location and has supplemented that with international programs in multiple other locations overseas.

Never losing sight of its historical commitment to serve the educational needs of the greater New York metropolitan area, the University opened two additional facilities primarily for local students. In 1999 St. John’s acquired the former LaSalle Military Academy in Oakdale, Long Island to provide graduate programs for the suburban counties of ...
My six years at St. John’s as an undergraduate and graduate student were extremely exciting. I had the opportunity to be a part of and witness such a transformative period in the history of the University. Each summer break I knew I’d be coming back to campus to something new — buildings, academic programs, outdoor spaces. The change under Fr. Harrington was palpable. The most important thing was knowing that my experience as a student was at the center of every decision.

As an active student leader on campus, I had the opportunity to develop a personal relationship with Fr. H. I always felt he was someone that I could approach and was willing to listen. He always took special interest in wanting to get a pulse on what was going on on campus, something that I really appreciated.

I learned from him how important it is to lead with vision and inspire those around you to accomplish extraordinary things. As an alum, I am extremely grateful for everything Fr. H has done at St. John’s and know that my degree is worth so much more because of his contributions. He will be missed and I wish him all the best in his retirement.

PEDRO GOMEZ ’09TCB, ’11MBA

As a Priest and as a President, Fr. Harrington has been an inspiration to the entire St. John’s University community during the last 24 years.

A visionary and a superb administrator, he has transformed the University’s Vincentian Mission, its academic standing, its facilities (both here and abroad) and its financial strength.

Our students, faculty, alumni and administrative staff have been the beneficiaries of his leadership and his many other contributions.

It has been my privilege and pleasure to walk with him and work with him since 1999.

Indeed, he is a remarkable man.

THOMAS MCINERNEY ’64UC, ’01HON
Chair Emeritus, Board of Trustees
St. John’s University

Fr. Harrington’s retirement marks the completion of a brilliant chapter in St. John’s history — a period animated by his devotion to his students and his fervent love for God. I could reference a laundry list of material accomplishments that Father’s tenure witnessed at St. John’s, but it is for his kindness that I will always remember him, and through his kindness that the great works of the last 24 years were possible. I recall fondly the first Sunday night liturgy of my freshman year, when Father waited in the alcove of St. Thomas More to greet the student community. He spoke to me only for a moment, but never forgot my name. In fact, he would frequently chat with me during the semester about exams and activities, concerns and interests. He treated us, his students, as if we were the most important people in the world. Why? I dare to think it was because, like Vincent, he saw the face of Christ in all of us. I’m sorry to see Father go, but I’m excited for what is to come. For he has equipped a quarter century of St. John’s graduates to love God with the strength of our arms and the sweat of our brow. With that directive, we can only continue to do great things, for our St. John’s family, and for the world.

JAMES J. FINNEGAN ’12TCB, ’13MBA
I worked with Fr. Harrington for a number of years as a Trustee and then as Chairman of the Board from May, 2000 to May, 2007. This was certainly enough time to be able to evaluate Fr. Harrington’s performance and to get to know him on a personal level. During my tenure as Chairman of the Board, we talked extensively, almost every day, and he would tell me of occurrences that were of a sensitive nature where we agreed that they would be recorded on memos to the files. In all such occurrences, they were to demonstrate transparency and to not offend anyone’s culture.

I found Fr. Harrington to be an outstanding manager of high energy and a visionary. He always adhered to the highest ethical standards and built a university of great renown. He certainly will be missed in leadership and fundraising ability.

The words of the poet William Butler Yeats are very appropriate here, “Think where man’s glory most begins and ends, and say my glory was I had such friends.”

DENIS KELLEHER ’65CBA, ’91HON
Chair Emeritus, Board of Trustees
St. John’s University

Thirteen years ago I read in the NY Times of the events at SJU under your able leadership. I had not yet applied for a job but was impressed. The SJU of my own college years was not a place I would have applied to attend but this upbeat and growing place was. Later that spring I was considered and offered a job as a full-time faculty member in the School of Education. You came to the new faculty orientation in 2001, and I was impressed by your presentation of the school’s mission to the poor and disenfranchised. I bought in.

There’s no doubt that your accomplishments have no equal. When I read that it’s been over 40 years since you were ordained, I could not help but think that you selected the Vincentian community for its mission to serve the poor. And that is the singular purpose of SJU — it’s not the athletic facilities, nor the buildings, nor the church, nor the law school — but the people driven to give the poor and disenfranchised a chance up in life. You were given, and embraced, a special opportunity to serve that unique mission.

May God support you as you transition.

DR. GRACE IBANEZ FRIEDMAN
Retired Associate Professor, School of Education
St. John’s University

Fr. Harrington has been a beacon of light for Catholic education in the United States for decades. His leadership and thoughtful planning of growth for one of this country’s largest Catholic universities have brought a very high level of success to the St. John’s community. And tens of thousands of students, alumni and faculty have been enriched by his spiritual leadership. I am delighted to learn that in his retirement Fr. Harrington will be available to the Church to continue to champion Catholic education. I expect to call on him.

HIS Eminence
TIMOTHY CARDINAL DOLAN ’70HON
Archdiocese of New York

Nassau and Suffolk. Two years later the University merged with The College of Insurance, which was then renamed The School of Risk Management, Insurance and Actuarial Science within The Peter J. Tobin College of Business. The merger allowed St. John’s to establish a campus in Manhattan.

For Fr. Harrington himself, programs and projects that have deepened and strengthened the University’s mission as a Catholic and Vincentian university have had special significance. St. Thomas More Church, opened in 2005, stands as the physical and spiritual center of the Queens campus. It has become a place where students of all faiths come to reflect, to pray, and to be together, particularly at times when the University has been touched by great sorrow.

As a Vincentian university, St. John’s has always been committed to following St. Vincent’s teachings, which emphasize respect for the individual, service to the needy, human solidarity and adherence to the belief that giving of one’s self helps make the world a better place. During Fr. Harrington’s presidency, numerous programs and organizations were established to allow every member of the University community to participate in serving those in need, thereby giving the Vincentian mission more significance and visibility than ever before in the University’s history.

Establishment of an Office of Mission was a key component of this initiative. Under its auspices, the Vincentian Institute for Social Action (VISA) was created to more visibly embed St. John’s mission into the educational experience of its students. VISA encourages faculty and students to explore issues of poverty and social injustice in ways that seek to provide real-world solutions to these pressing problems.
Call to Worship  
September 27, 2004  
Provost Julia Upton, RSM, Ph.D. ’73G, ’75G  
St. Thomas More Church

St. John’s has waited 50 years for this day!  
The architectural plans drawn up for this campus in 1954 included a church on this very site, but limited resources meant that more pressing academic needs came first. But still the people prayed; still the people hoped; still the people dreamed; and still the people shared their dreams. Don’t ever think that sharing your dreams is frivolous. Shared dreams lead to breakthrough moments in science, in industry and in faith.

Just such a breakthrough moment came for us when John and Anita Brennan offered to share their dream and their resources with Fr. Harrington and the St. John’s Community.

They know, as so many of us do, that our ability to stand firm amid the storms and stresses of life comes from our rootedness in faith that is nourished by Eucharist.

They wanted strength for future generations of St. John’s students.

At that first meeting, John shared his dream of a church building that would be open and inviting, drawing students in to its center. Just two years ago, as we broke ground for this building, many of us sitting right here sheltered only by the dome of the sky, Fr. McKenna prayed that this would be a place of encounter with permeable walls—a thin place, as the Irish know their sacred sites.

The author of the Letter to the Hebrews reminds us that we are surrounded by a “great cloud of witnesses.” One day the windows in our Blessed Sacrament chapel will illustrate that so well. As we pause to begin our first worship service here, though, in a moment of silence I ask you to summon forth all those who have nourished your faith and whose faith you have helped to nourish — those who are already home with God and those who still struggle with us here on earth. Bring them into this great moment of thanksgiving that is Eucharist.

Together let us give thanks to God who has called us into being, to God's incarnate son, Jesus Christ, who freed us from our sins and showed us how to live in this world, and to their Holy Spirit who empowers us and relentlessly calls us forth to be champions of the poor and servants of justice.

Fr. Harrington will be credited, and rightly so, by those who love St. John’s for his inspirational leadership, strategic vision and steadfast adherence to our sacred mission to the poor. On this last point, Fr. Harrington underscored during his presidency the importance of adopting a life in service to others, as shown today by St. John’s robust Campus Ministry programs, the integration of Academic Service Learning across the curriculum, and a renewed focus on developing future leaders in Catholic education.

Fr. Harrington is also responsible for building the beacon by which all these achievements are illuminated — St. Thomas More Church on the University’s Queens campus. In making St. Thomas More Church a reality, thanks to generous alumni, Fr. Harrington fulfilled a promise made in 1955 when the Vincentian community first established the Queens campus. Today St. Thomas More Church, and all it represents, rests at the heart of all that we do.

On behalf of the Vincentian community, I extend sincere gratitude to Fr. Harrington for his service to all whose lives have been touched by our University.

VERY REVEREND MICHAEL J. CARROLL, C.M.  
Provincial Superior, Eastern Province  
Congregation of the Mission  
Vice Chair, Board of Trustees  
St. John’s University
Academic-Service-Learning, coordinated through the Mission Office, became pervasive, giving students the opportunity to serve the community in meaningful ways and use that service both as a means of understanding course concepts and as a tool, through reflection, for personal and spiritual growth. The Ozanam Scholars Program was also launched, under which students conduct solutions-oriented research designed to explore the issues of social justice locally, nationally and globally.

Another striking reflection of the University’s Vincentian mission in action is St. John’s Bread & Life, a soup kitchen in Brooklyn that serves over 1,000 meals daily to hungry New Yorkers. The facility includes a mobile soup kitchen and also provides a broad range of social services to those in need.

Most recently, St. John’s created the Institute for Catholic Schools as a way to foster the long-term sustainability, growth, and excellence of Catholic education by assisting the local dioceses in enhancing the administrative and academic infrastructure of their schools.

Fr. Harrington leaves a University that is, at once, strikingly different from the one that he came to 24 years ago, and yet even more fully rooted in its original identity. Both the transformation to a “new St. John’s” and the faithfulness to the institution’s Catholic and Vincentian mission have resulted from his vision, vitality, and values. St. John’s is an immeasurably stronger and better institution because of his leadership.

Paul Naughton '69 MBA

There are so many reasons to thank Fr. Harrington for his leadership of St. John’s University. One reason close to my heart is his decision to welcome St. John’s Bread & Life as an integral part of the University. St. John’s Bread & Life is a place where our faculty address issues of systemic change, our students interact with people who are vulnerable and marginalized, and where our entire community serves in great ways and small. Our Vincentian charism is alive in this partnership and all of us are transformed. Thank you, Don.

Dr. Margaret Fitzpatrick, S.C. ’00Hon
Member, Board of Trustees
St. John’s University
I came to St. John’s as a Graduate Assistant more than forty years ago, and I never left. I became a faculty member in St. John’s College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, joined the administration, and, for the last 24 years, have had the great privilege and pleasure of working closely with Fr. Harrington. And so I KNOW, from personal experience, that in all of those years, he has ended every year-end convocation precisely as he has ended this one — with eloquent and heartfelt words of appreciation to the many women and men who have dedicated their lives to making St. John’s a stronger and better institution. This year, as he presides over his last year-end convocation as President, I speak on behalf of the current members of the administration, staff, and faculty and the hundreds of individuals, many of them heralded figures in our University’s history, who have preceded us — to return those words of gratitude and take a few moments to review the extraordinary ways by which Father’s leadership has enriched St. John’s.

Fr. Harrington came to a St. John’s that consisted of a small cluster of buildings in Queens that were surrounded by parking lots and encircled by a chain link fence. He has built a St. John’s that consists of three campuses within the City of New York, a graduate center on Long Island, a campus in Rome, Italy, and a study abroad site in Paris. Fr. Harrington came to a St. John’s that had little ornamentation beyond a few rosebushes in front of what is now Newman Hall. He provided leadership for the transformation and beautification of the campus, the construction or renovation of some 28 buildings, and, of course, the emergence of a global, residential university from what had been a local commuter institution.

Fr. Harrington came to a St. John’s that had never, in its more than 100-year history, initiated a capital campaign and led the University through not one but two successful campaigns that raised more than $300 million. He strengthened our University’s Catholic mission with the construction of St. Thomas More Church and enriched its Vincentian heritage through a host of programs and initiatives. On Sunday, he will celebrate the 40th anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood, and he has given more than half of those years to this institution. He has been an inspired and inspirational leader, with extraordinary vision and vitality, wisdom and personal warmth. We who work here are grateful beneficiaries of all that he has been and done so that St. John’s has become stronger and better. But the true beneficiaries of his work are the tens of thousands of students whose lives have been enhanced through the excellence of the education they receive at St. John’s. The students have been the motivating force for all that he has accomplished. It is now my pleasure to ask two of those students, Elizabeth Sheehan and Nicholas Giordano, who have served as President of Student Government on the Queens and Staten Island campuses to come to the podium to join with me in presenting to Fr. Harrington a small token of the affection and esteem that all of us have in our hearts.

Again, please join me in thanking Fr. Donald Harrington for his long and loyal service to St. John’s, and in wishing him the best that the future can hold.
Reaching Out
to the Victims of
Electricity was lost for weeks, food was in short supply and gasoline was almost nonexistent. The New York subway system was flooded, as were the highway and rail tunnels leading into and out of Manhattan. The absence of power at a number of hospitals necessitated an emergency evacuation of seriously ill patients to other facilities.

Economic losses across the tri-state area were estimated at nearly $50 billion, and the human cost was especially tragic. In New York City alone, 48 people lost their lives as a result of the storm. Twenty-three of those victims were from Staten Island.

Even as the rain and wind were wreaking incredible havoc, the University community came together as a family to respond to these challenges in practical and caring ways. Students, alumni and staff put their own interests aside to do whatever they could to ease the suffering of others.

As always, the University’s primary concern was ensuring the safety of the 3,603 residential students living at the Queens, Staten Island and Manhattan campuses. St. John’s Emergency Management Team—including representatives from every academic and administrative unit—began extensive preparations a week before Sandy actually hit. Administrators and staff from Public Safety, Facilities and Residence Life remained on campus throughout the crisis. So did Chartwells, the University’s food service, to provide meals at Montgoris Hall.

“We covered every angle,” said Thomas J. Lawrence, Vice President for Public Safety. “Food, power, student activities, making sure outdoor areas stayed safe—nothing escaped our attention.”

Preparations included the possibility that students might need to be evacuated from the Manhattan and/or Staten Island campuses, a reality that proved eerily prophetic.

“We got word that we had to relocate everyone from the Manhattan campus because it was in the flood evacuation zone,” said Kathryn T. Hutchinson, Ph.D. ’92G, Vice President for Student Affairs. “After scrambling to pack a bag, the residential students came in groups from Manhattan by subway. We picked them up at the subway stop and brought them to Queens, to get them here as quickly as possible. We had food and blankets and everything they’d need, and we had identified every open spot on campus so we could put people into appropriate places. It was a huge operation.”

Due to a widespread loss of power, students from the Staten Island campus were also relocated to Queens. Once the students were safe, attention turned to making their stay as pleasant as possible. Classes had been cancelled, and the University was officially shut down for an entire week, so plans were initiated to keep the students occupied until the normal campus routine could be resumed. Recreational facilities in Carnesecca Arena remained open. Student organizations and Student Government put together a number of activities, including a coffeehouse show with Queens students as the performers.

Careful planning made the Queens campus a safe, comfortable refuge. Except for two oak trees that fell on the Great Lawn, there was almost no damage. Off campus, high winds damaged a power line that provided electricity to St. Vincent and St. Albert Hall. Facilities staff installed six portable generators to complement those already in use. Grounds crews also were on hand to keep lawns, walkways and paths...
free from debris. “It truly was a herculean effort,” said Brij Anand, Vice President for Facilities Services. “The result—the continued well-being of our students—made it all worthwhile.”

Not surprisingly, St. John’s received many calls from across the country from parents of residential students who saw news reports of the storm and were concerned for their children’s safety. Happily, Hutchinson was able to reassure them that the University was taking good care of their sons and daughters.

“Those parents were naturally upset, and it was great to be able to tell them that the safest place for the students was here on campus,” she said. “We had power, we had food, we had activities and everyone was safe. That was a huge statement of how the University was really dedicated to its students.”

Fortunately, power was restored on Staten Island within a few days, allowing those students to return to their campus and resume at least a semblance of their normal lives. But it was a very different story in Manhattan. The building was not operational until mid-December, and the students completed the remainder of their semester on the Queens campus.

Once the storm had passed, many members of the St. John’s community put their Vincentian values into action by reaching out to those in need. In true St. John’s fashion, even though their own lives had been thrown into turmoil, students collected donations among themselves to be sent to hurricane victims in the external community. Others worked tirelessly on disaster relief efforts.

Alumni Make a Difference

From an alumnus responsible for the safety of an entire city to a single, dedicated man rolling up his sleeves in a nearly destroyed neighborhood, the spirit of St. Vincent was very much in evidence during those terrible days.

Joseph F. Bruno ’68L, ’88HON is Commissioner of the New York City Office of Emergency Management, an agency established to prepare for emergencies and coordinate emergency response and recovery. Not surprisingly, he and his staff played a vital role in helping people cope with the aftermath of this natural disaster.

“One of the ways that we were able to reach out to storm victims was through a program called Support for Residents in Their Homes (S.R.I.T.H.),” he said. “We literally knocked on the doors of more than 100,000 homes and learned what the people needed. We brought them food, found out what medical needs they had and provided prescriptions for them. We even secured medical help if that was necessary.

So many volunteers stepped up and offered help to others for no reason other than because it was the right thing to do. I hope that never changes.”

Among those for whom the desire to help others will never change is Joseph Calderara ’78NDC, a retired New York Police Department lieutenant who lives a mere 300 feet from the ocean on Staten Island. His home was severely damaged by the battering caused by hours of high winds and relentless rain. Rather than focusing solely on taking care of his own situation, Calderara went to help residents of the Tottenville section of Staten Island, a community in which the damage was particularly extensive. He had been a first responder at Ground Zero following the attacks of 9/11, and called on his police training to assist those who were suffering from this different but equally devastating disaster.

“Being in the middle of all that destruction brought back many memories,” he said, “so I just did what comes natural to me I began putting people into groups as a way of controlling the chaos and making sure that homeowners really wanted help before well-meaning volunteers started doing things that maybe weren’t necessary.”

Even though surrounded by sadness and despair, Calderara will never forget the acts of kindness and gratitude that he experienced from people who had just lost everything.

“I remember a man who had lost his house, and what he had left was going to be demolished. He was out there at his house, every day, and whenever he saw me, he came over and shook my hand and told me how thankful he was for my help. I didn’t even know what to say to him. All I knew was that helping people like him was something I had to do.”

The ways in which St. John’s alumni reached out to ease the suffering of others were as extensive as they were individual.

At the time of the storm, Hon. Robert L. Turner ’62C, ’12HON was a member of the United States House of Representatives from the 9th Congressional District of New York, the area in which he has lived his entire life. His home in Breezy Point was one of nearly 100 that were completely destroyed by a raging fire that was impossible to contain due to the relentless winds that swept the area for more than 24 hours. Although he and his family lost everything, Turner put his personal tragedy aside and used his Congressional membership to energetically help craft and support legislation to provide federal relief to the greatest possible number of victims.

“I guess you can say that, because of what happened to me, I was acutely aware of the misery and suffering that had struck so many people,” he said. “I consider myself fortunate to have been in a position where I was able to influence legislation that would afford so many people the help they needed to get back on their feet. I think that doing good for others is the greatest gift a person can give, and I’m happy to have had a part in bringing the resources of
Our federal government to those who had lost so much as victims of this terrible disaster.”

Helping the greatest number of people was also the goal of former New York Mets and St. John's pitching great John Franco.

Franco realized that his role as a local icon offered him a special opportunity to help raise money for large numbers of victims. He became involved with the Stephen Siller Tunnel to Towers Foundation and appealed to the generosity of his fellow New Yorkers through a series of public service announcements designed to solicit donations for hurricane relief.

Franco also donated items from his personal baseball memorabilia to a special auction sponsored by Rawlings Sporting Goods Co., Inc. at the Gold Glove Award ceremony. The proceeds from the auction were directed to victim assistance.

“Being from Staten Island, I have a close connection to the people there,” he noted, “and I wanted to do whatever I could to help. When things get tough, New Yorkers come together as one big family to help each other. We're strong and we care, and we're there for each other. That's what St. John's is all about, too. The University has been doing good for those in need since its earliest days, and that philosophy is something that so many of us carry around every day. St. John's teaches us to help people and reach out to others, and that's the way it should be.”

Students Ease the Suffering of Others

Feeling the need to do something wasn't limited to alumni. In the days and weeks following the storm, St. John's students traveled to some of the hardest hit areas to help the victims begin rebuilding their shattered lives.

Some went to St. Thomas More Parish in Breezy Point to help sort donated clothing and supplies for distribution to individuals and families whose homes were destroyed by the storm. Others spent time at St. Ignatius Parish in Long Beach to assist with repairs to the main church building heavily damaged by the ocean surge. Another group traveled to Holy Trinity High School on Long Island to help unload two tractor-trailers of supplies that were then distributed to residents of the area.

With willing hands and loving hearts, their caring and compassion shone as a beacon of hope in communities throughout the storm-ravaged region.

Service has always been important to Victoria O'Keefe ‘14CPS, a Junior in St. John’s College of Professional Studies. As an Ozanam Scholar, she is committed to making a difference for others, and was particularly moved by the suffering caused by Hurricane Sandy.

O’Keefe’s service ranged from helping to demolish battered homes on Staten Island to distributing food, clothing and other supplies to those who had lost everything in the seaside community of Far Rockaway. Her most poignant memory is of the expression of gratitude on the face of a woman who begged for blankets for her children.

“Sometimes it takes tragedy to make us human,” she mused. “If it weren't for the storm, this woman and I would probably never have met. She had lost everything, and was seeking something as simple as a clean blanket, and although there was a language barrier between us, there was no human barrier. When I handed her a few blankets, she gave me a huge hug. I doubt that I'll ever see her again, but I'll always remember her face. All I can do now is pray for her.”

Even before coming to St. John's, Zachary Reale ‘18Pharm.D. believed in the value of service. A Freshman in St. John’s College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences, he was one of a group of students who delivered clothing and
St. John’s conducted First Responders Day ceremonies during a men’s basketball game at Madison Square Garden to acknowledge those who worked to save lives and property following Hurricane Sandy.

The University Says Thank You
St. John’s gratefully acknowledged those who live that mission every day during First Responders Day ceremonies at a recent Men’s Basketball game in Madison Square Garden. The University’s senior administrators gathered on center court to make a formal presentation of commemorative game balls to leaders of the Police, Fire and Sanitation Departments, and the Office of Emergency Management, thanking them for their extraordinary life-saving efforts during the most destructive hurricane in New York City history.

“St. John’s is thrilled to have had representatives from New York City’s four major agencies and their heroic departments join us for First Responders Day,” said St. John’s University President Rev. Donald J. Harrington, C.M. “We felt this opportunity was long overdue as we joined with our fans to thank them for their tireless efforts in keeping New Yorkers safe each and every day.”

The University’s recent graduation ceremonies again emphasized the theme of gratitude for those who helped spearhead the recovery after Hurricane Sandy. Hon. Peter T. King (R-NY), who led a successful effort in Congress to obtain $60.4 billion in emergency funding for storm victims, delivered the Commencement address on the Queens campus and was awarded an honorary Doctor of Laws degree. As part of Commencement on the Staten Island campus, an honorary Doctor of Laws degree was conferred upon New York City Fire Commissioner Salvatore J. Cassano in recognition of the extraordinary rescue and lifesaving efforts undertaken by the members of his department in the immediate aftermath of the storm.

Making a difference for those in need is a way of life for countless members of the St. John’s family. That commitment may become more apparent in times of terrible tragedy, but it is there whenever we reach out to anyone whose needs are great.

At St. John’s, extending a hand to others is more than simply what we do — it’s who we are!

scholarship fund

how you can help

While responding to the needs of others has always been the hallmark of the St. John’s mission, the University has not forgotten those within its own family for whom the hurricane was especially traumatic. It has established the Hurricane Sandy Victims Scholarship Fund to directly assist students who have been impacted by the storm.

If you would like to contribute to this scholarship fund, please visit www.stjohns.edu/give and select “Hurricane Sandy Victims Scholarship Fund” from the “Designation” drop down menu.

For additional information regarding the Hurricane Sandy Victims Scholarship Fund, please contact the Office of Alumni Relations at (718) 990-6232 or e-mail alumni@stjohns.edu

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Making a difference for those in need is a way of life for countless members of the St. John’s family. That commitment may become more apparent in times of terrible tragedy, but it is there whenever we reach out to anyone whose needs are great.

At St. John’s, extending a hand to others is more than simply what we do — it’s who we are!

scholarship fund

how you can help

While responding to the needs of others has always been the hallmark of the St. John’s mission, the University has not forgotten those within its own family for whom the hurricane was especially traumatic. It has established the Hurricane Sandy Victims Scholarship Fund to directly assist students who have been impacted by the storm.

If you would like to contribute to this scholarship fund, please visit www.stjohns.edu/give and select “Hurricane Sandy Victims Scholarship Fund” from the “Designation” drop down menu.

For additional information regarding the Hurricane Sandy Victims Scholarship Fund, please contact the Office of Alumni Relations at (718) 990-6232 or e-mail alumni@stjohns.edu

The University gratefully acknowledged those who live that mission every day during First Responders Day ceremonies at a recent Men’s Basketball game in Madison Square Garden. The University’s senior administrators gathered on center court to make a formal presentation of commemorative game balls to leaders of the Police, Fire and Sanitation Departments, and the Office of Emergency Management, thanking them for their extraordinary life-saving efforts during the most destructive hurricane in New York City history.

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St. John’s Social Media

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St. John’s University has thousands of reasons to be proud of its alumni. Year after year, our graduates attest to the quality of their St. John’s education by achieving remarkable success in their chosen careers. They also carry the spirit of St. Vincent de Paul into communities near and far by embracing the University’s mission of making a difference for others.
In May, 11 of St. John’s most extraordinary alumni were honored at the Annual Alumni Convocation, held in St. Thomas More Church on the Queens campus.

“The alumni whom we honor tonight are individuals very different from each other,” noted St. John’s University President Rev. Donald J. Harrington, C.M. “And yet, in many ways, there is a similarity that underlies their lives. Each of our honorees, in his or her own way, tells the story of the history of St. John’s. They are indeed a true reflection of the uniqueness that is St. John’s.”

For Sr. John Raymond McGann, C.S.J. ’63Ph.D., ’13HON, that uniqueness began in 1948 when, after teaching for two years in the New York City school system, she decided to enter the convent and become a member of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Brentwood. A few years after taking her final vows she joined the faculty of St. Joseph’s College, beginning what would become a stellar career as an educator, administrator and psychologist.

“I always loved teaching,” she recalled, “and after I earned my Ph.D. in Psychology from St. John’s, I was able to help students as a psychologist as well as an educator. That was very fulfilling for me. It’s nice to be recognized by St. John’s after all these years.”

Making a difference for others has always been important to Edward A. Romano ’63CBA, ’08HON. He was introduced to the values of St. Vincent de Paul at an early age, first as a student at St. John the Baptist elementary school, then at St. John’s Preparatory High School before earning his B.B.A. from St. John’s College of Business Administration (now The Peter J. Tobin College of Business).

“Being a part of this wonderful Convocation and receiving the Medal of Honor means an awful lot to me,” he said. “My years at St. John’s were some of the best years of my life, and to be recognized by the University in this fashion is a great honor.”

St. John’s has also been extremely important to Thomas Principe ’69C, ’73L. After earning his B.A. from St. John’s College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and his J.D. from St. John’s School of Law, he embarked upon an outstanding legal career, during which he practiced in the public, military and private sectors.

“Service means a lot to me,” he said, “and that’s something I learned at St. John’s. I’m very committed to being able to help people. I was the first person in my family to go to college, and that was a big deal for me. I love St. John’s, and being selected for this award is something very special. I’ll never forget it.”

We congratulate each of our alumni honorees and know that they will continue to reflect the spirit of St. Vincent de Paul and the mission of the University in the years ahead.

Our honorees have distinguished themselves in a multitude of ways, both personally and professionally. To read the citations that reflect the lives of these outstanding alumni, please visit www.stjohns.edu/summer13mag
DAC Wins Outstanding Design Award

The undisputed hub of student life, St. John’s University’s D’Angelo Center (DAC) continues to earn industry acclaim. The building won an Outstanding Design Award from American School and University Magazine and was featured in the publication’s Architectural Portfolio for 2012. According to the magazine, the DAC expertly combines academic and student services to create an inviting, vibrant educational environment.

“The state-of-the-art D’Angelo Center has become the heart of our Queens campus, offering a space where the scholarly and social aspects of our students’ lives come together and friendships are fostered,” said Martha K. Hirst, Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer at St. John’s. “Inspired by the Great Hall at Ellis Island, the architectural beauty of the building is matched by the warmth inside.”

Opened in 2009, the DAC is named for loyal alumni benefactors Margaret L. (’70Ed) and Peter P. D’Angelo ’78MBA, ’06HON.

St. John’s Beautifies Paris Location

Reflecting its ongoing commitment to global learning, St. John’s University unveiled renovations to the main courtyard of its Study Abroad location in Paris, France. Additions include outdoor benches and tables, upgraded paving, improved lighting, trellises and planters. A new wrought-iron gate at the courtyard’s entrance emphasizes easy access to all that Paris has to offer.

Kelleher Center Lounge

A new student lounge, featuring scenic windows overlooking the Great Lawn, has opened in the Kelleher Center on the Staten Island campus. It was designed with hardwood floors and brightly painted colors, and is furnished in a casual style with comfortable couches, tables and chairs. Students use the lounge to study, relax, socialize and enjoy a variety of snacks and beverages.
Bloomberg Terminal

Sophisticated data access for students of The Peter J. Tobin College of Business on the Staten Island campus became significantly enhanced with the addition of a computer system equipped with FactSet and Bloomberg software and database systems. Located in Spellman Hall, the system provides a central resource for the latest stock prices and other up-to-the-minute financial information necessary to conduct accurate research across all business disciplines. The system was donated by Nancy and Michael J. McInerney ’72NDC.

Flynn Hall Restoration: A Look Back in Time

The lobby of Flynn Hall on the Staten Island campus has been painstakingly restored to its original splendor. The main stairwell and second floor balcony area have been refinished, the original chandelier has been restored and re-hung, and mirrors have been installed on the lobby walls. New “period style” furniture has been placed in the lobby, adding to the nostalgic atmosphere of days gone by.

Alumni Career Connections

Each year nearly 3,000 students begin their freshmen year at St. John’s. Another 3,000 enter the job market or pursue further education. As an alumnus, you can help!

Redstorm Recruitment
Connect the talent of the St. John’s family with internship and job opportunities.

COACH (Count on Alumni for Career Help)
Serving as a mentor is a chance to be a role model for others and is a great way to “give back” to the University.

For more information on connecting with University Career Services: www.stjohns.edu/services/career/alumni
Spotlight On Catholic Education at President’s Dinner

As more than 1,150 guests filled the Grand Ballroom of The Waldorf-Astoria for the 15th Annual President’s Dinner, they were participating in an event that raised $2.9 million to support scholarships for St. John’s students and strengthen Catholic education throughout the greater New York metropolitan area.

“Tonight, we celebrate not only Catholic and Vincentian education at St. John’s, but also the Catholic school system,” said St. John’s University President Rev. Donald J. Harrington, C.M., “and we celebrate honorees who continue to give of themselves to strengthen Catholic schools in the Archdiocese of New York, the Diocese of Brooklyn and the Diocese of Rockville Centre. Tonight’s dinner will enable us to move forward in shaping an ever stronger St. John’s University, and it is our hope that it will also assist Catholic education on all levels.”

The President’s Dinner is highlighted by the presentation of the Spirit of Service Award to exceptional persons whose accomplishments and good works personify the compassion and zeal for service of St. Vincent de Paul. Those honored included Robert B. Catell, Chairman, Futures in Education, Diocese of Brooklyn and Chairman, Cristo Rey Brooklyn High School; Christie B. de Nicola and Anthony J. de Nicola, Co-President, Welsh, Carson, Anderson & Stowe; and Lewis S. Ranieri ’86C, ’87HON, Chairman, Tomorrow’s Hope Foundation, Diocese of Rockville Centre and Chairman and President, Ranieri and Co., Inc.

Support for Catholic education was a personal commitment of each Spirit of Service Award honoree.

“Tonight’s dinner will enable us to move forward in shaping an ever stronger St. John’s University, and it is our hope that it will also assist Catholic education on all levels.” — President Rev. Donald J. Harrington, C.M.

Like St. John’s University, Robert B. Catell is a true reflection of an indomitable spirit, work ethic and dedication to the service of others. A staunch proponent of the power of education, he is Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Futures in Education, a philanthropic organization that provides scholarship assistance to deserving students from financially burdened families in Brooklyn and Queens seeking to enjoy the benefits of a Catholic education. As Chairman of Cristo Rey Brooklyn High School, he spearheads the availability of a Catholic high school education for young people of limited economic means.

Christie and Anthony de Nicola have always been committed to the service of others. Anthony’s lifelong dedication to Catholic social action is particularly focused on initiatives that foster the availability of Catholic education for inner-city students within the Archdioceses of New York and Newark (NJ). In similar Vincentian fashion, Christie shares her time and talents with HIV/AIDS sufferers, reaches out to women and children seeking shelter at Several
Sources Women's Shelter and feeds those in need at St. Martin's Soup Kitchen in Jersey City (NJ). Both are members of The Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem and are Stewards of St. Peter in The Papal Foundation established to support the Holy Father and his works in the world.

Lewis S. Ranieri credits his Catholic education with providing the integrity and moral grounding he needed to face the dilemmas that arose throughout his life. He firmly believes that the Catholic school experience provides the religious foundation and moral framework that becomes the basis upon which all of life's decisions are made. As Chairman of the Tomorrow’s Hope Foundation, which he established in 2005 at the request of Bishop William Murphy of the Diocese of Rockville Centre, Ranieri has been the driving force behind the Foundation’s mission to ensure the excellence and foster the continuance of Catholic schools on Long Island.

As St. John’s premier fundraising event, the President’s Dinner is a striking reflection of the University’s mission of providing the opportunity for a superior education to deserving students in the Vincentian tradition of compassionate caring and concern for others.

To read the complete story, view the photo gallery and videos of the President’s Dinner, please visit www.stjohns.edu/summer13mag
Sodano Coffee House Opens

There’s a new spot for members of the St. John’s University community to get together on the Queens campus.

Located in the D’Angelo Center, the Sodano Coffee House was created to serve as a place where students, faculty and staff can gather in a social atmosphere to read, chat, debate the issues of the day or simply spend a few relaxing moments away from the hustle and bustle of their busy lives.

It was established through the generosity of Valerie Sodano ’49 CB A. Sodano met her late husband Gerard (’49 CB A) when they were both classmates on the Schermerhorn Street campus in the mid-1940s. Over the years they have been among the University’s most loyal and committed alumni.

Speaking at the dedication ceremony, St. John’s President Rev. Donald J. Harrington, C.M. noted that, “This is just the most recent way that they have manifested their love and gratitude to St. John’s. Valerie and Gerry have been very, very generous donors before, and I can’t imagine any university that wouldn’t be proud to claim them as their own. The Sodano name will always be here, and every time any one of us walks through this building, we’ll think of Valerie and remember Gerry in our prayers.”

Lending their name to a University facility was particularly appealing to Valerie Sodano as a way to establish a legacy that would allow her and her husband to forever remain a part of St. John’s.

“I decided to choose the Coffee House because it will be a fun and happy place where students can come together and meet their friends,” she said, “and also because it will be a good reflection of my husband. Gerry was a very gregarious individual. He loved people and did so much for the young people in our family. I definitely believe that this Coffee House fits Gerry, because it’s a legacy that I know he would have wanted.”

In addition to serving as a comfortable gathering space on a daily basis, the Sodano Coffee House will now become the ideal location for a variety of special events, including movies, poetry readings and lectures. A moveable stage quickly transforms the location into a perfect venue for musical and dramatic performances.

Baseball Alumnus Honored at Bullpen Winter Banquet

More than 275 guests, including many current and former St. John’s baseball players and coaches, attended the Seventh Annual Bullpen Winter Banquet at the New York Athletic Club. This popular gathering raised nearly $50,000 to support the Red Storm Baseball Program.

The event honored Robert K. Hirschfield ’70C, ’75 GEd with the Lifetime Achievement Award. A member of the St. John’s team that played in the 1968 College World Series, Hirschfield spent more than 30 years coaching high school and college baseball on Long Island. Recently retired from college coaching, Hirschfield will soon begin his second season as an on-air baseball commentator for St. John’s home games.

“Even though I competed against St. John’s for over three decades, I always had a fondness in my heart for the University,” he said. “Not a day went by that I didn’t check out the scores to see how they did and the results of their game. And now that I’m back doing broadcasting of Red Storm home games, it’s like I’ve come full circle. Receiving this award tonight is a great honor for me, and just like everything else about St. John’s, it’s something I’ll cherish forever.”

A highlight of the evening was the appearance of special guest Bernie Williams, former center fielder of the New York Yankees. Following an outstanding 16 year baseball career, Williams embarked on his second greatest passion, playing acoustic and electric guitar. He and his All Star Band played a number of original compositions, closing with a memorable rendition of “Take Me Out to the Ballgame.”

Williams noted many similarities between playing center field and performing on stage. “Baseball really taught me a lot about life,” he said. “I learned very early that being well-prepared is very rewarding, and that I could accomplish things if I worked hard. The game gave me the skills to handle bad situations with dignity and good situations with grace. Whether you’re stepping out onto a baseball field or up onto a stage, you have to put yourself into a positive mind set to show what you can do. I’ve learned that’s really what life is all about.”
Outpouring of Generosity for School of Risk Management

The commitment of alumni and friends was greatly in evidence as, for the third consecutive year, St. John’s School of Risk Management raised more than $2 million at its 18th Annual Insurance Leader of the Year Award Dinner. Proceeds from the dinner, which drew more than 1,400 attendees to New York City’s Marriott Marquis Hotel, support scholarships, programs and academic resources for School of Risk Management students.

The event honored Dr. Nikolaus von Bomhard, Chairman of the Board of Management of Munich Re, one of the world’s leading reinsurance companies based in Munich, Germany.

In accepting his award, von Bomhard noted that he was “truly overwhelmed and touched by this honor. There have been few non-Americans, and no Germans, who have been afforded this distinction in the past, and for that I am humbled. I have learned the business from the bottom up, and it has become my passion.”

Brandon W. Sweitzer, Dean of the School of Risk Management, had high praise for this year’s honoree.

“Nikolaus is a champion of those qualities that St. John’s and its School of Risk Management strive to instill in our students at all times: ethical leadership, steadfast determination and a thoughtful approach to all important matters at hand,” he said. “We are delighted to honor him with this award, and our students will benefit by learning from his example and great leadership of Munich Re.”

The Insurance Leader of the Year Award has been presented annually since 1995. It recognizes the contributions of outstanding leaders in the worldwide insurance and financial services industry, and is traditionally awarded to an industry professional for distinguished achievement over a long career, or for special achievement in the year of recognition.

Celebrating Women’s Athletics

St. John’s has a proud athletic tradition, but it wasn’t until the 1974-75 academic year that female student-athletes began competing at the varsity level. Since then, countless STJ women have played hard on their respective playing fields, and at the Golf and Tennis Classic, the University honored many of these outstanding alumnae.

“Women’s sports have come a long way,” said Mary Pat Beirne ’81C, ’85GEd, Associate Director, Office of Athletic Development. “It’s great to have an event like this that honors our alumnae and highlights our growing tradition.”

This inaugural gathering raised approximately $20,000 to support women’s athletics and afforded guests the opportunity to play a round of golf or receive tennis or golf instructions from current members of the women’s teams. Alumnae honorees included: Nan Doherty ’78C (Women’s Swimming); Kathleen Meehan ’75Ed, ’79GEd (Women’s Basketball); Barbara Perry ’76NDC (Women’s Tennis); and Joan Sheridan LaBarge ’78SVC (Women’s Fencing).

Harin Lee ’14C, a current member of the Women’s Golf team, provided lessons to many of the guests and enjoyed the opportunity to meet women who laid the foundation for what she’s doing today.

“It was a fantastic opportunity getting to know people who also went to St. John’s and who had the same experiences I’m currently having,” she said. “I was especially glad to interact with them through the game of golf, something that I love to do.”

Women’s Golf Head Coach Ambry Bishop agreed. “It’s always special when you can host a program that brings together current student-athletes and alumnae,” she said. “And it’s fun when we get a chance to showcase our women’s sports programs, both past and present, here at St. John’s.”
2013 Peter Jackson Award Honoree
James McGinty ‘64CBA, ‘66MBA, ‘85HON Vice Chairman of Cambridge Information Group, was honored by the Software and Information Industry Association (SIIA) with the 2013 Peter Jackson Award. The award recognizes individuals who have been innovators in the information industry and who are generous and inspirational to the people and community around them.

McGinty was recognized for his role as an early leader in the information industry who recognized opportunity, took risks and introduced innovative products and business models that impacted the success of numerous organizations, including Dun & Bradstreet, Cambridge Scientific Abstracts and RR Bowker.

He has been an active member of the SIIA since 1980, and previously served as a member of the Association’s Board of Directors. A retired Colonel in the U.S. Marine Corps Reserves, he currently serves as a member of the Board of Directors of ProQuest, an information company that provides access to all forms of verified information, including dissertations, governmental and cultural archives and all forms of news.

Former Jurist Receives Latino Trendsetter Award
Hon. Nelson Diaz ’69CBA, ’87HON was honored at the 11th Annual Latino Trendsetter Award recognition ceremony.

Diaz served as a judge for the Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas from 1981 through 1993. He was the youngest judge elected to the Court and the first Latino judge in Pennsylvania history.

In addition to his legal practice, Diaz served as the City Solicitor of Philadelphia (PA) and was appointed by President Bill Clinton to the position of General Counsel for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, where he focused on reforming public and mixed-use housing programs. He was also a White House Fellow, serving as Special Assistant to Vice President Walter Mondale.

Diaz is currently a Partner in the Litigation Department of Dilworth Paxson LLP, where he concentrates his practice in the areas of litigation, dispute resolution, public housing issues and government relations.

1960s

Edward Sullivan ’66C owner of Garvey Schubert Barer Law in Portland, OR received the “Lifetime Achievement Award” from the Oregon Chapter of the American Planning Association (QAPA).

1970s

Catherine Korda ’72CVC retired after 40 years of service with ABC Television and moved to Honolulu, HI.

John DeBiase ’73CVC is an Associate Executive Director at The Association for Neurologically Impaired Brain Injured Children (ANIBIC) in Queens, NY, and was elected Provider Chairperson of the Queens Council on Developmental Disabilities (QCDD).

Eugene Hatton ’73C is the Green County Legislator representing the Town of Athens, NY.

Lawrence Curtis ’74C was selected for inclusion as one of the Louisiana’s Top 50 Lawyers in the 2013 edition of Louisiana Super Lawyers®.

Business Students Benefit from Generous Alumnus
Thanks to alumnus Michael J. McInerney ’72NDC and his wife Nancy, students in The Peter J. Tobin College of Business on the Staten Island campus now have access to a terminal equipped with FactSet and Bloomberg software and database systems, robust applications that offer a wealth of financial information and analytical functionality.

The industry-class software and database tools available through the FactSet and Bloomberg systems can be utilized by students across all Tobin College disciplines from economics students analyzing portfolio performance or marketing majors developing business plans to accounting hopefuls accessing mergers and acquisitions information.

McInerney had an impressive career in securities and investments, holding positions as Trader at Glickenhaus and Company; Vice President and Trader at Drexel Burnham Lambert, Greenwich Street Advisors and Merrill Lynch Investment Managers. He later became the Managing Director and Trader at Par IV Capital Management LLC, from which he retired in 2011.

Anthony Cava ’77P, ’81GP Chief Operating Officer at Bayshore Community Hospital in Holmdel, NJ became a Fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives (FACHE), the nation’s leading professional society for health care leaders.

John Flood ’79CVC, ’86G retired from the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) as Unit Chief of the Crisis Negotiation Unit after 26 years of service. He is now the Assistant Director, Office of Emergency Preparedness at University of Virginia in Charlottesville, VA.
Barbara Rossi ’79P is Assistant Dean of Experiential Education at Fairleigh Dickinson School of Pharmacy in Florham, Park, NJ.

1980s

Thomas Maroney ’80L a founding partner of Maroney O’Connor LLP in New York City was honored by the New York City Brehon Law Society at its annual dinner.

Greg Poplarski ’80CBA received the Allianz Global Investors 2011 Retirement Consultant of the Year Award.

Thomas Lavin ’83L is Senior Attorney at the Law Office of Thomas J. Lavin in Bronx, NY and was admitted to practice law in the State of Florida.

Cara Gagliano ’84ND C is Senior Vice President at New York Life in New York City.

Timothy McCorry ’86C, ’87G Assistant Professor of Social Studies at Medaille College in Buffalo, NY was elected President of the New York State Sociological Association (NYSSA) and will serve a one year term.

1990s

Thomas Stagg ’90L Managing Partner at Stagg, Terenzi, Confusione & Wabnick, LLP in Garden City, NY was named a New York Metro “Super Lawyer” for 2012 in the New York Times Magazine.

Phyllis Zagano ’90ICD received the St. Catherine of Siena Distinguished Layperson Award from Voice of the Faithful in Boston, MA.

Christine Cusack ’93SVC Director of Development at Mercy Haven, Inc. in Islip Terrace, NY is on the Board of Directors for the Association of Fundraising Professionals Long Island Chapter (AFPLI).

Michelle Paige ’94Ed is Director of Early Childhood Education at Union Settlement Association in New York City.

Frank Casano ’96CBA is Vice President of Navy and Marine Programs and L-3 Communications, Link Stimulation and Training in Arlington, TX.

Young Alumnus Receives Prestigious Research Award

Eric James ’11C has been selected to receive a 2013 National Science Foundation (NSF) Graduate Research Fellowship. He was chosen on the basis of his outstanding research accomplishments as well as his potential to contribute to strengthening the vitality of science within the United States.

James earned his B.A. in Psychology from St. John’s College of Liberal Arts and Sciences in 2011 and is currently pursuing his Ph.D. in Neuroscience at Brown University. The research for which his Fellowship was awarded will study the ways in which different types of brain cells function and communicate.

“The aim of my NSF proposal was to identify and characterize the functional properties of a subtype of neurons in order to gain greater understanding of the mechanisms governing adaptation and maturation of neural networks in the brain,” he explained. “Hopefully, my research will lead to developing a new, simplified animal model using tadpoles to study neurodevelopmental disorders such as autism, schizophrenia and epilepsy.”

Upon completion of his doctoral studies, James plans to pursue a career in higher education that will allow him to combine teaching and research.

Thomas Raleigh ’96CBA is a Financial Services Representative for Grand Central Financial Group, an office of MetLife, Inc. in New York City.

Steve Wirth ’98L is a Shareholder for Litigation Practice Group at Akerman Senterfitt in New York City.

2000s

Mike Tasto ’01TCB is Chair of the Department of Finance and Economics at Southern New Hampshire University in Manchester, NH.

Rhonda Farkas ’02Ed.D. is the Community School Superintendent of District 22 in Brooklyn, NY.

Bethany Housman ’06CPS, ’07G is the Diploma’s New Program Director at City Year Greater Philadelphia in Philadelphia, PA.

Laura Camerlengo ’07C is an Exhibitions Assistant for the Costume and Textiles Department at the Philadelphia’s Museum of Arts in Philadelphia, PA.

Robert Renda ’09CPS, ’12L is an Associate of Tax Certiorari, Real Estate and Condemnation at Forchelli, Curto, Deegan, Schwartz, Mineo & Terrana, LLP in Uniondale, NY.

2010s

Kinny Bagga ’12LLM is an Associate of Bankruptcy and Restructuring Group at Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck in Denver, CO.

John Chirico ’12TCB is a Senior Analyst, Finance Development Program for Dell in Austin, TX.

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**alumnotes**

**in holy matrimony**

**1990s**

Wendell Cruz ’91SVC to Mary Lynne Frey – September 22, 2012

**2000s**

Patricia Baptiste ’02TCB to Calvin Sims – October 13, 2012

Shaun Golden ’02CPS to Tashanna Pearson ’05C – June 3, 2012

Elizabeth Lombardi ’04CPS to Nicholas Mayer – May 11, 2012

Daniel Jean-Toussaint ’06CPS to Shirlene Yanick Magnan – August 17, 2012

Nicole Tesoriero ’06C to John Gabriele ’07C – August 25, 2012

Francisco Baca ’07CPS to Lauren Friscia ’07MBA – August 24, 2012

**in the family way**

**1980s**

Maryann Thomas ’88SVC and husband, James, a daughter Avery Grace – April 19, 2012

**2000s**

Joel Gonzalez ’03C, ’05GEd and wife, Amanda Gonzalez ’07GEd, a daughter, Isabella Sofia – September 2, 2012

David Graziano ’03CPS and wife, Bridget, a son, Liam Robert – November 19, 2012

Katherine Wells ’06CPS, ’08MBA and husband, John Rosson ’08TCB, daughter, Emma Marie – September 28, 2012


Now you can submit your Alumnote online. Just go to http://alumni.stjohns.edu and click on “Alumnotes” in the top menu and then click on “Post an Alumnote” in the left menu on the next page.

Or you can fill out the form below and mail your submission to:

St. John’s University, c/o Alumnnotes Editor, St. John’s University Magazine, 8000 Utopia Parkway, Queens, NY, 11439, fax it to (718) 990-6873, e-mail alumnotes@stjohns.edu

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**Name**

*University Identification #*

Middle/Maiden

Last

년  School

Home Address

Apt. #

if new address, as of

City

State

Zip

Tel ( )

E-mail

Business

Title

Business Address

City

State

Zip

Tel ( )

E-mail

Tell us your news

Use or attach a separate sheet if necessary

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**IN HOLY MATRIMONY**

Spouse’s Name

First

Middle/Maiden

Last

Year/School (if also an alum)

Wedding date

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**IN THE FAMILY WAY**

Son

Daughter

Child’s Name

Date of birth

Spouse’s Name

Year/School (if also an alum)

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I would like information on: [ ] Alumni Insider’s View [ ] Annual Giving Opportunities [ ] Chapter Gatherings [ ] Other

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

*To locate the University Identification Number, please refer to the “X number” located directly above your name and mailing address on the back of this magazine.*
in print

Philip Harris, Ph.D. ‘49CBA is the author of Developing High Performance Leaders (Routledge, 2012). This instructive book, centers around five key aspects of the leadership process: human behavior and performance, communications, cultural influences, organizational relations and change management.

Jack Moser ‘58C is the author of You Can See Me From Here – Poems (Fithian Press, 2012). A collection of verses about love of family, of humanity and of the Indwelling God. This is his fourth book of poems.

Leonard Camarda ‘62UC, ‘70MBA is the author of The Seventh Treasure (AuthorHouse, 2012). A young woman is killed in an apparent traffic accident in the mountains outside of Granada, Spain. Her brother travels to Spain to bring her body back to America. There, and in the company of a female lieutenant in the National Police Force, it is discovered that there may have been foul play associated with his sister’s death.

James McGinty ‘64CBA, ‘66MBA, ‘85SHON is the author of Right to Kill: A Brooklyn Tale (iUniverse, Inc., 2012). Set amid the social turmoil of the late sixties, this Brooklyn based tale is about street smart characters, loyalty, romance, gritty combat, murder and a touch of humor — all contributing to epic moral dilemma.


Francis Baunsch ‘54C is the author of Bridges Crossed (and some not): A Pictorial Travelogue (Frank, 2012). This book features spectacular color photos of well known as well as nook and cranny bridges in North America.

William Drennan ‘56UC is the author of A Modern Holy Land Story (CreateSpace, 2011). A married American couple, comprised of a Muslim man and his pregnant Jewish wife, journey to Israel. What happens to them there will change the world.

Jackie Tashjian ‘58C is the author of Bridges in North America. as well as nook and cranny color photos of well known T his book features spectacular.

Daniel Fitzgerald ‘69CBA is the author of The Teacher (AuthorHouse, 2012). A young learning disabled high school math teacher in Queens, NY is fiercely independent and aches for the respect of his sister and father. When a new principal arrives with a wife and a lovely daughter, problems arise which threaten the young teacher’s career.

Melinda Ehrlich ‘76Ed is the author of Take Off Your Hat and Spit Out Your Gum (CreativeSpace, 2012). Offering insight to over 33 years of teaching in the New York City public school system. Why and no-nonsense, she recalls incidents and encounters with her many students, fellow faculty members and administrative personnel.


Patricia Gohn ‘82VC is the author of Blessed, Beautiful, and Bodacious: Celebrating the Gift of Catholic Womanhood (Ave Maria Press, 2013). Gohn draws upon decades of women’s ministry experience, her popular Catholic women’s podcast Among Women and her own story as a wife and mother to boldly proclaim the Church’s dynamic vision of every woman.


Janice Milusich ‘88Ed is the author of It Was Only on Stun! (CreativeSpace, 2012). A murder mystery set at a science fiction convention, the book tells the story of a security specialist who agrees to protect an actress during a three-day weekend.


John Konecsni ‘93C, ‘04G is the author of Of It Was Only on Stun! (CreativeSpace, 2012). A murder mystery set at a science fiction convention, the book tells the story of a security specialist who agrees to protect an actress during a three-day weekend.

Laura Camerlengo ‘07C is the author of The Miser’s Purse (DesignFile, 2013). A compelling story of how a small decorative purse became deeply embedded in nineteenth-century Victorian popular culture. Known at the time as long purses, gentlemen’s purses or simply purses, they came to be called “miser’s purses” because their diminutive openings made it difficult to retrieve coins.
two years later. He subsequently earned a Ph.D. in Theatre from New York University.

After serving as a faculty member at St. John’s and taking vows as a Vincentian brother, in 1964 he joined the faculty of Niagara University. He founded the Theatre program at Niagara and led the program for more than 40 years, until his retirement in 2005. During that time he directed more than 135 musical and dramatic productions, mentored hundreds of students who went on to successful theatrical careers, and forged professional collaborations and friendships with numerous luminaries in the theatrical world. He was also a prolific writer and authored numerous plays, including one on St. Vincent de Paul, and several volumes of poetry.

Bro. Augustine joined the St. John’s Board of Trustees in 1992. He was Chair of the Personnel Committee and held membership on the Executive, Educational Policy, Educational Quality and Student Life Committees. His broad-based experience as an academician, his embodiment of the University’s Vincentian mission, and his wit and personal warmth made him an effective and respected trustee. When his service ended in 2005, he was named Trustee Emeritus.

In appreciation for his exceptional commitment to the Vincentian community and his accomplishments in the fields of the performing and written arts, in 1986 St. John’s conferred upon him an honorary Doctor of Fine Arts degree.

Hon. Theodore T. Jones, Jr. ’72L, ’07HON

Hon. Theodore T. Jones, Jr. ’72L, ’07HON passed away in November. A 1972 graduate of St. John’s School of Law, he began his career as a Criminal Defense Attorney with the Legal Aid Society. He then entered private practice in Brooklyn, and was elected to the Supreme Court in 1990. He presided over the Juvenile Offender Part, which covered all cases involving Juvenile Offenders who were indicted in Kings County from September 1993 to December 1997.

Jones sat in the civil term beginning in 1998 and in January 2006 became the Administrative Judge of that term. He was appointed to the Court of Appeals in 2007 and served as Chair of the Court of Appeals’ Diversity Committee and Co-Chair of the Court’s Wrongful Convictions Task Force.

During his career this outstanding jurist handled many prominent cases, including those involving Juvenile Offenders who were indicted in Kings County from September 1993 to December 1997. Jones sided with the Juvenile Offender Part, which covered all cases involving Juvenile Offenders who were indicted in Kings County from September 1993 to December 1997. Jones sat in the civil term beginning in 1998 and in January 2006 became the Administrative Judge of that term. He was appointed to the Court of Appeals in 2007 and served as Chair of the Court of Appeals’ Diversity Committee and Co-Chair of the Court’s Wrongful Convictions Task Force.

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His teams won five city championships in basketball and 11 in baseball. No other New York City coach has ever won a title in both sports in the same year. Curran did it four times, in 1969, 1973, 1974 and 1987. His record was 972-437 in basketball and 1,708-523 in baseball.

“He was one of the true saints in scholastic sports,” said legendary St. John’s Head Men’s Basketball Coach Lou Carnesecca ’50C, ’60GEd, ’00HON, whom Curran succeeded at Archbishop Molloy. “His record will always stand and be tough to break. However, it’s what he did for kids that was more important, and not necessarily just athletes from Archbishop Molloy, but from the New York area.”

At one point, Curran coached Archbishop Molloy baseball to win 68 consecutive games, a national record which stood until 2005. He won city championships in three different decades and has been elected to nine different Halls of Fame, including the New York City Basketball Hall of Fame.

He is the only high school coach in the New York State Hall of Fame in both basketball and baseball, and is the only coach to be selected National Coach of the Year in two different sports.

One of St. John’s most dedicated alumni, Curran supported the University through his membership in The Loughlin Society. In recognition of his outstanding performance as one of the country’s most successful high school coaches, he was inducted into the St. John’s University Athletic Hall of Fame in 1993. In 2002 St. John’s again honored him with the Pietas Medal, awarded to a graduate who has demonstrated a lifetime of extraordinary loyalty and fidelity to the University.

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.

in memoriam

Submissions to In Memoriam must be received by letter, e-mail, as a printed obit, or using this form 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. Via e-mail to caponel@stjohns.edu or via fax to (718) 990-6859.

Name of Deceased

School/Class Year Date of Death (required)

Contact Name

Phone Number Relationship to Deceased (required)

Does the family of the deceased wish to continue receiving mail from St. John’s University? □ Yes □ No

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We recently caught up with Joan to talk about her role at KKR, how her college years prepared her for the professional world and why she so generously supports today’s students.

You’ve always been complimentary of the University’s Career Services and how it helped prepare you for the professional world. What stands out as some of the most important lessons you learned? There is no doubt in my mind that were it not for the help of Career Services, I would not have landed my first job at Deloitte & Touche. When on-campus interviews started, I thought I was prepared, but that couldn’t have been further from the truth. I learned the hard way the benefits of mock interviews and rehearsing your answers to what now seem like basic questions. Career Services taught me the importance of understanding the role I was interviewing for and how to conduct myself in a professional manner. Most importantly, however, Career Services reminded me that the interview process was not only an introduction of me to the company, but the company to me. It was equally important for me to gather enough information to determine if this was where I wanted to begin my career.

As Director at KKR, you interact on a daily basis with other St. John’s graduates. What makes your St. John’s connections so special and how has that bond translated beyond college and into the business world?

My education did not come easy to me. I had to study hard for my grades and I worked part time while I attended college. St. John’s helped me develop a strong work ethic and an even stronger ambition, reminding me of how fortunate and grateful I was for everything I had. I always find these traits in the fellow alumni I encounter in the business world, and that’s why I like to work with them.

You’ve graciously given not only your resources to the University, but your free time, sponsoring and co-hosting business etiquette seminars for students both on campus and at the KKR offices. What do you hope students gain from that experience? Not long after I graduated, we started these lunches as a way to help the students feel comfortable in situations they may not have had much experience in, such as lunch interviews. Over the years, our goal has evolved into something much bigger — overall professional awareness. Social media and technology have played a big part in how the world has evolved. It is my hope that every student leaves our lunches knowing how to distinguish personal from professional behavior, including how to dress, correspond and socialize. I’m a firm believer that first impressions say everything about a person, so I want students to feel comfortable and confident when they start the interview process.

You created the Michael and Gloria Stelmokas Scholarship Fund in honor of your aunt and uncle, helping students achieve their dream of a St. John’s education. What prompted you to establish that scholarship? My family and my education are the two things that have made me the person I am today. My Uncle Mike and Aunt Gloria left an indelible mark on my life — they always stressed the importance of education, but, more importantly, the significance of family, open-mindedness, forgiveness and unconditional love. St. John’s teaches those same values, so it is my honor to help someone else achieve those same goals.

Finally, as one of our Staten Island alumni, you can answer this better than anyone: what makes the Staten Island campus such a unique and cherished place?

The “smallness” of the Staten Island campus helps foster a family-like atmosphere. The professors and staff get to know all the students and take a personal interest in our education and our lives. As an Accounting major, the friends I made in my early classes stayed with me through my senior year, and two of them are still my best friends today. It’s nice having a constant support group throughout the years, and it is these relationships that develop the special bond and make the Staten Island campus so special.
Join the Office of Alumni Relations and your fellow classmates at these upcoming events:

**Meadowlands Night at the Racetrack**  
Saturday, July 20, 2013  
Spend a summer evening watching thrilling harness races with your fellow New Jersey alumni.

**15th Annual Summer Concert and Barbeque**  
Tuesday, July 30, 2013  
Bring your family to the Queens campus for a special evening of food and music under the stars.

**York Revolution @ Long Island Ducks**  
Friday, August 2, 2013  
Enjoy minor league baseball at its fan-friendly best, and be sure to get there early for a great pre-game barbeque.

**Saratoga Day at the Races**  
Saturday, August 17, 2013  
Mingle with your fellow alumni as you reminisce over a delicious brunch before sharing the excitement of thoroughbred racing at historic Saratoga Springs, NY.

**Brooklyn Cyclones @ Staten Island Yankees**  
Wednesday, August 21, 2013  
Experience minor league baseball and cheer on the Staten Island Yankees at this end of summer event.

**US Open Tennis Championships**  
Thursday, August 29, 2013  
Share in the thrill of professional tennis at its best at this exciting night of matches featuring some of the world’s greatest players.

**Monmouth Day at the Races**  
Saturday, September 7, 2013  
Make plans for a fun day in the sun while watching the exciting races in an area reserved for St. John’s alumni and friends.

**The McCallen Society Annual Recognition Mass and Luncheon**  
Wednesday, September 18, 2013  
Members will honor current and new members as well as the faithful departed.

**Women in Leadership**  
Friday, September 20, 2013  
Learn the secrets of how to succeed in business from a panel of accomplished alumnae who have undertaken exceptional careers since their graduation from St. John’s.

**11th Annual University Service Day**  
Saturday, September 28, 2013  
Join your fellow alumni and others within the University community in a variety of special activities designed to live our Vincentian values by reaching out to those in our community whose needs are great.

For the most up-to-date information regarding any of these events, please visit [www.stjohns.edu/alumni](http://www.stjohns.edu/alumni)
2013 Golf Outings

Spend the golf season with St. John’s. Play a round of golf with your former classmates and friends at any of these upcoming events.

JACK KAISER GOLF CLASSIC
Monday, July 29, 2013
Garden City Country Club
Garden City, NY
Contact Office Athletic Development
(718) 990-2547
www.stjohns.edu/kaisergolfclassic

34th ANNUAL STATEN ISLAND GOLF OUTING
Monday, August 12, 2013
Richmond County Country Club
Staten Island, NY
Contact Isabel Scandaglia
(718) 390-4147
www.stjohns.edu/sigolf

10th ANNUAL ROBERT E. HOWE SCHOLARSHIP GOLF EVENT
Monday, August 26, 2013
Forsgate Country Club
Monroe Township, NJ
Contact Melodee Harper-Fields
(212) 277-5119
harperm1@stjohns.edu

ALUMNI GOLF OUTING
Monday, September 23, 2013
Nassau Country Club
Glen Cove, NY
Contact Heather Milata
(718) 990-1506
www.stjohns.edu/alumnigolf

NEW JERSEY ALUMNI CHAPTER GOLF OUTING
Thursday, October 3, 2013
Spring Lake Golf Club
Spring Lake Heights, NJ
Contact Elizabeth Austin ’08TCB, ’10MBA
(718) 990-2548
www.stjohns.edu/njgolf