More than $2.1 million was raised and 1,300 alumni and friends of St. John's attended the 10th Annual President's Dinner held at the famed Waldorf=Astoria. The event is a premier one for the University and one of the largest held annually in New York City.
Dear Friends,

I am happy to report that the past few months have been ones of exceptional accomplishment at St. John’s University. Our Tenth Annual President's Dinner was the most successful in history, generating more than $2.1 million in scholarship assistance for the University's most deserving students. This exceptional event was made even more special by the presence of the many past Spirit of Service Award honorees who returned to celebrate our achievements of the past decade.

St. John’s well-deserved reputation as a truly international University continues to grow. This year, St. John’s is home to students from 122 countries around the world, as well as to students from 45 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. The commitment to academic excellence within the context of the University’s distinctive Vincentian mission is indeed a powerful attraction for the more than 20,000 young men and women who have chosen to become a part of the St. John’s family.

That mission pervades the features that appear within this issue. I know you will be moved by the story of Paul Napoli ’92L and Marie Kaiser Napoli ’89C, ’93L, a loving and successful alumni couple whose commitment to alma mater is a powerful reflection of the Vincentian values that have been a unifying force in their lives from their very first day on campus. Our mission of caring and concern for others comes vibrantly alive in the story of St. John’s much heralded emergency preparedness system which was utilized to great success last September during the presence of an armed gunman on the Queens campus. You will also enjoy reading of the many global initiatives designed to carry the spirit and ideals of St. Vincent de Paul to many underserved populations around the world.

It is with a sense of both pleasure and pride that I share this issue of the St. John’s University Magazine with you, our loyal alumni and special friends. I hope that the articles within it will keep you informed about and connected to the University that means so much to us all.

Donald J. Harrington, C.M.
President
features

18
Paul and Marie Napoli's love for each other is matched by their passion for service.

22
The University is increasing its global presence and students are benefiting from it.

26
In these uncertain times, St. John's has taken extra measures to ensure security.

Visit our Web site for the latest updates, news and events at www.stjohns.edu/alumni or call (877) 758-ALUM.

On the cover: Paul ('92L) and Marie Napoli '89C, '93L

Consistent with the University's mission as a Catholic, Vincentian and metropolitan institution of higher education, the University abides by all applicable federal, state and local laws which prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, religion, color, national or ethnic origin, age, sex (including sexual harassment), sexual orientation, marital status or disability in admitting students to its programs or in administering its educational policies, admissions policies, scholarship programs, educational policies, athletics and other institutionally administered programs or activities generally made available to students at the University. In accordance with these laws, the University also prohibits retaliation against anyone who has complained about discrimination or otherwise exercised rights guaranteed under these laws. In addition, the University continually strives to fulfill its educational goals by maintaining a fair, humane, responsible and non-discriminatory environment for all students and employees. All University policies, practices and procedures are administered in a manner which preserves its rights and identity as a Catholic and Vincentian institution of higher education.
Service Day Breaks Records

The Sixth Annual Service Day held in September evolved into the largest ever when more than 1,400 volunteers reached out to the community to offer of themselves in the spirit of St. Vincent de Paul.

Following morning prayer services at the Queens and Staten Island campuses, students, faculty, administrators and alumni ventured out to more than 85 different sites throughout the five boroughs and Nassau and Suffolk Counties. The theme, “What a Difference a Day Makes,” was evident as volunteers participated in activities including working with children and elderly residents, hosting food drives at neighborhood supermarkets for those in need and beautifying the community.

“Today truly defines who we are as a Vincentian University,” said Rev. Michael Carroll, C.M., executive vice president for Mission and Branch Campuses at St. John’s. “St. Vincent de Paul believed we are called to ‘respond to the cry of the poor together,’ and he would challenge us to continue to seek out ways to serve the poor and vulnerable. The response to that call was answered today by the numerous volunteers participating in University Service Day.”

Colleen Costello ’90CBA said she welcomed the opportunity to give back. “I am someone who has found herself to be in great need and blessed to receive help,” she said. “I believe it is our obligation as humans and as Christians to serve one another, to do God’s work, not for recognition or acknowledgement from others, but simply because it is the right thing to do.”

Service Day is a University-wide celebration scheduled each year on the fourth Saturday in September to coincide with the feast of St. Vincent de Paul and involves the members of the St. John’s community embodying the University’s core value of service and Vincentian Mission. A small group of University volunteers participated in the inaugural University Service Day in 2002 and the event has increased in participation each year.
A Great Day on Wall Street

More than 30 students left the Queens campus before sunrise one morning in November to participate in a premier program of The Peter J. Tobin College of Business. The Sixth Annual Day On Wall Street brought students together with alumni and accomplished professionals in the world of finance for a full day on information sharing and networking.

The day began with a breakfast presentation at Standard & Poor’s in Manhattan where esteemed alumni Thomas Lupo ’70Ed, ’75MBA, vice president and general manager, directory services at Standard and Poor’s, and Owen Ruhnke ’89CBA, vice president, finance at Standard & Poor’s, welcomed the students. Those assembled were then treated to an overview of Standard & Poor’s by its president, Deven Sharma, and overviews of the various services presented by Standard & Poor’s employees including Steven Murphy ’81CBA, managing director, public finance. Participants later headed to The Depository Trust & Clearing Corporation (DTCC) for lunch.

Following the respite, Managing Director of Customer Service Anthony Savarese ’82CBA, ’85MBA provided an overview of the DTCC. James Femia ’83CBA, managing director of product management, discussed the role of the Business Unit Manager and Thomas Joyce ’73CBA, ’77MBA, director of securities processing, gave a tour of the Securities Processing area and vault. Alumna Keri-Ann Fornito ’99C, senior developer of information technology, offered a presentation on “Classroom to Boardroom — Applying University Training on the Job.”

After a Q&A, the students traveled to Fidelity Investments where guest speakers Robert Adams ’84CBA, ’88MBA, Maggie Serravalli ’83CBA, and Michael Lyons ’86CBA offered some words of wisdom. “Everything you learn goes with you,” Lyons told the students. “Learn to pick yourself up no matter what.” Steven Papamarcos, Ph.D., dean of The Peter J. Tobin College of Business, welcomed those present and offered brief remarks before Charles Menges Jr. ’66MBA delivered a keynote address. Menges encouraged the students to continue striving. “Don’t let roadblocks stop you,” he said. “Know what your skill set is and convey that to whom you want to work. Start with the fundamentals. You need to have fun in your job.”

The evening also included a cocktail reception and dinner where students were able to mingle with alumni and network. Emma Geiger ’09TCB said the day was a great opportunity for students. “Being at Fidelity is so exciting for me,” she said. “It’s everyone’s dream in the financial or accounting world to spend a day on Wall Street and see all these businesses and we got to experience that today. And having St. John’s alumni here is great because we get to see what we can achieve once we leave St. John’s.”

Michael Wolfe ’04TCB was a past Day On Wall Street participant who said he returned to give something back because he understands the value of such a program. “It is very important for me to be here today,” Wolfe said. “I participated in this event in 2003 and I was able to meet a mentor who was able to help me guide my way through my career. We still talk and I hope I will be able to do the same for other students today.”

School Spirit Shines on SI

The Red Storm men’s basketball team traveled to the Staten Island campus in October for the annual Spirit Night and scrimmage. An enthusiastic crowd was on hand to participate in giveaways and contests, check out the STJ Band, Dance and Cheer teams, and get an early look at the squad on the court.
Great Academic Lectures

The University hosted several interesting and diverse lectures this fall meant to inform and engage students, faculty, staff, alumni and friends. From talks sponsored by individual departments and offices to the 2007-2008 Academic Lecture Series, an ongoing series of informative presentations co-sponsored by the President’s Multicultural Advisory Committee, the Office of the Provost, Discover New York and Core Curriculum, the Department of Student Life and Student Government, Inc., the events were well regarded. The following are recaps of just a few of the lectures held during the Fall semester.

The Tainting of the Great American Past Time

When Adjunct Associate Professor of Philosophy Kenneth Shouler, Ph.D. presented an audience in September with interesting yet troubling statistics regarding the steroid controversy that has embroiled the world of professional baseball for the past few years, he was speaking not merely as an academician but also as an acknowledged expert on both the sport and the players who earn their living inside the white lines.

Citing statistics that appear in his book Baseball Doubt, Baseball Certainty, Dr. Shouler pointed out that alleged steroid users are typically athletes who have passed the midpoint of their careers and are looking to enhance their productivity in the game for as long as possible. He believes that the public needs to keep this reality in mind and look harshly upon those athletes who use performance-enhancing drugs to achieve success. “Steroid users are cheaters,” he told those gathered. “And we need to strongly consider this when we evaluate a player’s performance.”

Shouler acknowledged that baseball is more dependent upon numbers than most other sports, and while he does not recommend erasing the records of players found to have used steroids, he suggested that fans would do well to assign a “mental asterisk” to those numbers and records generated by players over whom the cloud of steroid use has hovered. He challenged the audience to compare the steroid-using players of today with the baseball greats of former years. “The true stars of baseball, such as Willie Mays, Mickey Mantle and Hank Aaron left the game better than they found it,” he remarked. “Can anyone say that about the players alleged to have used steroids?”

Shouler said he believes that the game can recover from the steroid controversy, but only if Major League Baseball sets the right example by strongly enforcing the rules that are already in place to deter players from succumbing to the lure of steroids. “I don’t think that Major League Baseball really has its heart in prosecuting steroid abuse,” he said. “They criticize it with a wink and a nod and, in many ways, given the reality that home runs draw fans and fans provide revenue, they’ve profited from it. If Major League Baseball and the owners continue to look the other way, this problem’s still going to be with us.”

A Former Child Slave Speaks

At the age of nine, Simon Aban Deng was kidnapped by Arab troops in his native Sudan and given to a family as a gift. He spent the better part of three years as a slave and grew up to become a human rights activist.

In October, he appeared at the Queens campus as the final speaker of the biennial Vincentian Chair of Social Justice Conference. His riveting speech about his plight and captivity poignantly closed a thought-provoking full day of workshops, speakers and moderators discussing social justice and poverty facing society today. “By inviting me here today you have given me a chance to be the voice of the voiceless. There are tragedies being committed to this day in the Sudan and other parts of Africa.”

Simon Aban Deng

Kenneth Shouler, Ph.D.
people being taken into slavery (many of them young children) and villages being burned and destroyed. Deng’s escape came about due to a chance reunion with a fellow Sudanese from his tribe and he has made it his life’s work to speak out. He has established an organization called “I Abolish” which chronicles his and his colleague’s mission and their tagline “slavery is not history.” He also travels the country, lecturing on behalf of the hundreds of thousands of victims of Sudanese slavery and genocide and in 2006 embarked on the Sudan Freedom Walk, a 300-mile trek from New York to DC to call for an end to the slavery and genocide. Deng has also addressed students at Harvard, Yale, and Columbia and has met with United States President George W. Bush and Southern Sudanese President Salva Kiir.

Mary Ann Dantuono ’81L, associate director of St. John’s Vincentian Center for Church and Society, praised Deng’s speech and said the one day conference was “dedicated to exploring the foundations and criteria of a just and moral society.” “This heart of this truth is human freedom and equality; human slavery is an affront to this truth,” she said. “Simon Deng’s presence and powerful story along with his informed political insights called each of us and all of us together to act to abolish slavery in all its forms to protect human dignity and to work for global solidarity.”

The Vincentian Center for Church and Society supports the community at large with a number of service and educational programs. The Center is the site of many academic and cultural events, and the home of the Vincentian Chair of Social Justice, the Institute on Poverty Studies, and the Religion and Science Dialogue. The Center also conducts and disseminates research on topics related to poverty and social justice, and acts as a clearinghouse for gathering, developing and exchanging Vincentian-related information.

Aiding Peace and Justice in Rwanda

A graduate of St. John’s library science master’s program is using her knowledge to play an essential role in helping to bring about justice for the victims of genocide in Rwanda.

“I personally have seen how giving people access to information can change their lives; I’ve seen that in Rwanda.”

– Angeline Djampou

Angeline Djampou ’93G lectured in October at St. Augustine Hall at the Queens campus where she shared her experiences as the chief of the Legal Library and Reference Section for the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR). Djampou, who is originally from Cameroon, spoke before a rapt audience as she offered her insider’s view of the work currently being done in Rwanda. In the space of 100 days in 1994, an estimated hundreds of thousands of ethnic Tutsis and moderate Hutus were brutally slaughtered in their homeland. The ICTR was created by a 1994 United Nations resolution which recognized that serious violations of humanitarian law were committed in Rwanda. Part of the purpose of creating the ICTR was to contribute to the process of national reconciliation in the country and to aid in the maintenance of peace in the region. The organization was established specifically for the prosecution of persons responsible for genocide and other serious violations of international humanitarian law committed in the territory of Rwanda and also deals with the prosecution of Rwandan citizens responsible for genocide and other such violations of international law committed during the same period in the territory of neighboring states.

As part of her presentation, Djampou offered a brief history of the ICTR and told the audience of her work in the library which is charged with providing, assisting and making available to the Trial Chambers, the Registry, the Office of the Prosecutor, defense counsel, legal officers and all the ICTR staff the information and documentation they require to accomplish their duties. Djampou said that with the work of the ICTR, no longer can those in elevated positions rely on their status to escape punishment. The presence of ICTR has also contributed to greater access to information, the promotion of libraries and the proliferation of greater training, she said.

Djampou says there is still a dearth of libraries in the country, including the lack of a public library system, yet those libraries that do exist play an invaluable role to the populace. “I personally have seen how giving people access to information can change their lives; I’ve seen that in Rwanda,” she said.

“I believe that providing access to information can also prevent genocide.” Djampou said it was important to her to return to alma mater to share her experiences. “I’m a librarian because of St. John’s so I really, really wanted to come and share what I am doing with the St. John’s community,” she said after her lecture. “I am very proud of the training I received here.”

Dr. Jeffery Olson, associate provost for online learning and services and director of library and information science at St. John’s, praised Djampou for her work, her desire to see libraries in the country furthered beyond the need for the courts and for “her concerns for the people of Rwanda and Africa.”

“Angeline is a living example of ways in which we want our graduates to further the University’s Vincentian mission,” he said. “Her plans exemplify a true Vincentian spirit. I am grateful that our students had the opportunity to see and hear her.”
Alumni and Students Come Together for Insider’s View of the Capital

In November, a contingent of seniors, fifth-year pharmacy students and students from St. John’s School of Law journeyed to Washington, DC to continue a unique tradition that has flourished over the past 27 years. The annual Insider’s View of the Capital program is sponsored by the University’s Office of Alumni Relations and offers a three-day series of panel discussions, lectures and networking opportunities featuring a host of prominent St. John’s alumni from the governmental, business and private sectors.

The program is a popular one and extremely competitive for students to participate. The 25 students are nominated by their academic deans and subjected to a rigorous screening process. Those who are selected enjoy an exceptional opportunity to learn firsthand what goes on behind the scenes on a daily basis in our nation’s capital. Issues discussed included agendas relating to healthcare, foreign policy, criminal justice and law enforcement, as well as government relations and the legislature. Students also enjoyed information sessions at the Department of State, hosted by Raymond Martinez ’93L, deputy chief of protocol with the U.S. Department of State and at the Securities and Exchange Commission with Brian Breheny ’90CBA, ’96L, deputy director for legal and regulatory policy of the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission and a member of St. John’s Board of Governors.

Brian Browne ’93C, ’97G, St. John’s assistant vice president of government relations, hailed the program as one of the University’s best. “The Insider’s View is a very special alumni learning program that has over the years provided many fortunate students, including myself, with an up close and personal look at how a St. John’s University education and the overall St. John’s experience can benefit you and broaden your options upon graduation,” he said. Congressman Anthony Weiner, who represents portions of Brooklyn and Queens, dropped in for the event as did Congressman Jerrold Nadler who represents lower Manhattan including St. John’s Manhattan campus.

Rev. Kevin G. Creagh, C.M. ’91SVC, ’04PD, assistant to the Vice President for Institutional Advancement, accompanied the students throughout their stay and noted that the three day event allows the group to learn from accomplished individuals who have gone before them. “St. John’s alumni have done such great things with their lives” he said. “We’re so proud of our alumni and our students.” According to Andrea T. Papa ’88SVC, associate director of Alumni Relations, the diversity that is such a part of the St. John’s experience was evident throughout the Washington, DC program. “This year’s Insider’s View program brought together one of the most diverse group of students in the history of the program,” Papa observed. “Their varied majors reflected what the program intends, which is to show that there are so many opportunities within the Washington, DC area. Our accomplished DC area alumni represent the value of a St. John’s education, and are part of the largest regional alumni chapter outside of the greater New York metropolitan area.”

St. John’s Board of Governors member Laura Cranston ’84P, R.Ph. served as a moderator for the Health Care Industry Panel and discussed the fascinating interaction between the government and private sectors that impact the health of Americans. She also reminded the students that their future career success begins with their time spent matriculating. “Gain as much different and unique experience as you can,” she said. “Have a game plan that involves one year, five year and ten year goals, and then follow that plan. Don’t settle.”

Reflecting on her personal career path from St. John’s to Washington, DC, Dawn Calabia ’65UC echoed similar sentiments, and stressed the value of both volunteer work and paid and unpaid internships. “There are ways to give back and have fun in life at the same time,” she remarked. “St. John’s gave me a scholarship and it made a big difference in my life, so I’m here today to say thank you.” Jim McGinty ’64CBA, ’66MBA, ’85HON, moderator of the U.S. Military and Challenges of the 21st Century Panel, credited the values he received at alma mater for playing an important role throughout his life, both personally and professionally. “I can’t say enough about my Vincentian upbringing,” he told the students. “They made an impact on me when I was a student and have stayed with me my entire life.”

Students were unanimous in their praise for both the program and the alumni who shared so graciously of their time and expertise. “I love hearing from the alumni about how they started out and worked their way up” said Sophia Antonelli ’08Ed.
“It shows that with hard work we can achieve the same things...it's only a matter of time.” Danelco Moxey ‘10L was grateful for the many networking opportunities provided by the program. “This is a perfect stepping stone into my law career,” he said. “I want to start my career in the DC area and these alumni contacts will be priceless when I graduate.” Many of the students were impressed by how important the Vincentian mission has been to the alumni. “The alumni who were on the panels were great, and they gave me so much to think about” said Deanna Scinto ‘09P. “They really showed the St. John's mission of caring about others and helping us [students] to make the most of ourselves.”

The alumni were equally impressed with the students who were both attentive listeners and active participants in the program. “It’s great to see the new students,” said Salvatore Romano ’61C, ’64L. “I think that the quality of St. John’s students gets better every year, and I’m glad to do my part to help them succeed.”

Alumni, students, faculty and friends of the University returned to the Queens and Staten Island campuses in October to celebrate Homecoming and Family Weekend 2007.

Events on the Queens campus included a concert, a pep rally tailgate, and a family-friendly carnival held in the Taffner Field House which included a cotton candy station, face painting, an inflatable slide, and a clown. Attendees also enjoyed a Men’s Soccer game against DePaul University which was proceeded by a pre-game tailgate for alumni with hot dogs, hamburgers and sandwiches as the group prepared to cheer on the Red Storm. The weekend was enjoyed by all who welcomed the opportunity to return to alma mater. “It is really great being an alumna and still getting to attend events [like Homecoming],” said Rita Case ‘05Pharm.D.

At the Staten Island campus, approximately 300 people attended where they enjoyed a faculty and alumni meet and greet held on the Great Lawn. Some of the more popular activities included face painting, pumpkin painting, kids games and a family photo station. Maria Nardini Gallo ’85NDC said the day was a welcome respite. “In this fast paced, hectic world that we live in, it was wonderful to be able to enjoy an afternoon with family and friends,” she said. “There truly was something for everyone, from the youngest child to the oldest grandparent, everyone went home with a warm and spirited feeling in their hearts and smiles on their faces. There should be more events like this one.”

Lewis Avenue Grads Gather
By Everton Bailey ‘10CPS
A group of St. John’s alumni happily ventured to the Queens campus for the 50th Annual Lewis Avenue Reunion in October. Along with family and friends, former students enjoyed an evening of celebration and remembrance of their dearly loved Brooklyn campus.

The festivities began with Mass at St. Thomas More Church. Afterwards, Lewis Avenue graduates and guests enjoyed dinner in the President’s Room in Carnesecca Arena. Gerard J. Lawrence, M.D., ’56C, ’88HON was later presented with the St. John’s College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Legacy Award. “I just want to say how grateful I am for this award,” Lawrence said during his acceptance speech. “I remember [Lewis Avenue] with great fondness. We had a lot of days filled with joy and life there.”

After the presentation, a slideshow comprised of photos from Lewis Avenue yearbooks from 1929 to 1956 was shown to the delight of the attendees. Alumni were then treated to refreshments and musical entertainment as they relaxed and exchanged stories. The yearly get-together is of great significance to many of those who attend. “It always means a lot to come here because all my friends are here.” said John “Jack” Foerst ’50C. Despite the fact that the beloved Brooklyn campus is now gone, former students still hold precious their experiences there. “It was a great school and it was a great part of my life,” said Constance Morkus-Beatty ’50UC. George E. Devine, Esq. ’52C, ’55L agreed. “There were lots of good people and we believed in the mission and objective of the school,” he remarked. The Lewis Avenue campus was in existence from 1870 to 1958.
The third annual Student Managed Investment Fund Reunion held in October attracted both past and present participants to the Manhattan campus where they enjoyed an update on the innovative program as well as remarks from a seasoned financial professional.

The Student Managed Investment Fund, established in 2001, gives select groups of St. John's graduate and undergraduate students the opportunity to manage a portion of the University’s investment portfolio. Drawing on a variety of skill sets, students research and analyze investment opportunities and present their recommendations to the Program Investment Committee. A share of the profits generated is used for scholarships. Competition is fierce to participate in what have become perhaps the most popular classes offered at St. John’s The Peter J. Tobin College of Business (TCB).

The evening began with a cocktail reception where current students mingled with alumni. Daniel Jonay ’07TCB is a current member of the graduate class and says he takes seriously the responsibility entrusted to make fiscally prudent decisions which will benefit deserving students in the form of scholarships. “I’m very confident that the members of the class will do a good job to continue the work of the fund,” he said. “One of the reasons I wanted to take the class is because I wanted to get into asset management and it provides a good learning experience for students who want to work in finance.”

William Wider ’02TCB is a former member of the class who now works as a project manager at HSBC and says he was anxious to attend the event to learn how the fund has progressed since he participated. “I really liked the class when I was in it and I wanted to see what was different and hopefully meet up with some of the others who were in the class,” he said. “The class gave me a great deal of real life experience, rather than just textbook material, and I have definitely been able to use a lot of what I learned in my current position.”

“Prepare students for that real life work experience is critical, said Erick Maronak and captivated the audience with his remarks on the investment management industry which were followed by a lively and informative question and answer session. “It’s one thing to have a mock portfolio but it’s something completely different to actually apply it to a live portfolio,” Maronak said. “I think it’s better preparation for what [the students] will hopefully face in the future if that’s the path they choose to pursue.”

The evening also included remarks from K. Thomas Liaw, chair of the Economics and Finance Department and Dean Steven Papamarcos, Ph.D. who shared several updates including an announcement of the opening of the new Financial Information Lab on the Queens campus. There was also a presentation on the status of the fund given by members of the undergraduate and graduate classes.

The Student Managed Investment Fund was established thanks to generous seed grants from Thomas McInerney ’64UC, ’01HON and James Riley ’74CBA, ’75MBA, ’03HON.
Staten Island Events

The Staten Island campus hosted several events in October which drew both alumni and students.

Well known boxing trainer, television analyst and philanthropist Teddy Atlas spoke to a group of 50 Sports Management students as part of a Count On Alumni for Career Help (COACH) event. Atlas addressed students and administrators about his upbringing on Staten Island, and his somewhat rocky career path to fame. He highlighted some of the famous boxing matches with which he was involved and discussed how he became a trainer which eventually led to his becoming a motivational speaker on the psychology of sports.

He also discussed the instincts involved with athletes and how students can apply these instincts to the classroom. “You may not have all the instincts that you need but there are ways to attain what you need to succeed. They are always in reach!” Atlas said. “Sometimes young students may not feel they are good enough [to succeed], but realize that everyone feels that way. The ‘A’ student feels that way.”

Roberto Torres ’10CPS said he enjoyed the presentation and Atlas’ enthusiasm and TJ Heaney ’10CPS said the event was germane to students. “Atlas spoke about work ethic and discipline — two aspects anyone can use in their career,” Heaney said.

Atlas is an analyst and commentator for ESPN and NBC Sports, and provided commentary for the Olympics in Sydney in 2000 and in Athens in 2004. In 2008, he will once again cover the Olympics in Beijing for NBC.

Another COACH event sponsored by the Office of Institutional Advancement, brought select alumni from St. John’s School of Education together with students. Susann Ragone ’03GEd, assistant dean for The School of Education, offered a practical guide for students seeking employment in the Catholic School system and also discussed hiring and certification procedures for the public schools.

Dr. Steven Kuntz, associate dean, encouraged students to begin planning for retirement early in their teaching careers.

More than 40 students gathered for a Speed Networking reception held in the Rev. James O. Kiernan, C.M. Suite of the Kelleher Center. Students rotated from table to table for ten-minute sessions, where they were given an opportunity to ask questions of alumni in a number of different fields.

Brian Brennan ’00CBA, Internal Revenue Service special agent; John Cocozza ’07TCB, investment representative at Edward Jones; Alex Coladonato ’05TCB, owner of E-Squared Productions; Louis D’Emilio ’81SVC, senior vice president, media relations for Fox Sports; Tiffany Branigan-Montaruli ’98CBA, audit manager for DeSantis, Kiefer, Shall & Sarcone; and Michael Rizzotto ’89SVC, director at Cusimano & Russo, Inc. were in attendance to offer guidance to students planning their post-graduation path.

The COACH program is designed to provide students with an opportunity to network with alumni who share their experiences and expertise in various fields. For more information or to participate in one of the Staten Island COACH program, contact Nick Legakis ’97SVC, ’07MPS at (718) 390-4146 or via e-mail at legakisn@stjohns.edu

The School of Education Celebrates Centennial

St. John’s School of Education will celebrate its 100th anniversary during the 2008-09 academic year. A bevy of activities are being planned including lectures, professional development seminars and networking events.

Founded in 1908 as The School of Pedagogy, it was one of the first to award graduate degrees to teachers and administrators. The School of Education Dean Jerrold Ross, Ph.D. said a gala dinner with honorees will be held September 27 in New York City to celebrate the landmark event. “We will be honoring people who have made a major contribution to education during the last few decades,” Ross says.

Dean Ross says it is his hope that multitudes of alumni and friends will choose to participate in the celebration. He is proud that the school has flourished and is deeply rooted in its history. “The best part is that since the inception of the school we haven’t lost sight of its original mission which is to serve those students who are most in need,” he said. “While our demographics may have changed from what they were 100 years ago, we still look to support and recruit students who are first generation college students and those whose families may not be able to afford a college education.”

For more information on the 100th year anniversary and to learn how you can participate, visit www.stjohns.edu/education/celebrating100years
Eat, Pray, Learn

By Everton Bailey ’10CPS

Acclaimed New York Times bestselling author, Elizabeth Gilbert spoke at the Little Theater on the Queens campus in November as part of the Fourth Semi-annual St. John’s College of Liberal Arts and Sciences’ Alumni Speaker series. Gilbert proved to be a popular draw as her book Eat, Pray, Love: One Woman’s Search for Everything across Italy, India and Indonesia has held the number one spot on the Times’ paperback nonfiction list and was an Oprah Winfrey’s book club selection. That coveted designation led to an appearance by the Connecticut-born and was an Oprah Winfrey’s book club spot on the Times’ paperback nonfiction list.

At St. John’s, Gilbert lectured on “The Physics of the Quest: Some Thought on Journeys of Self-Discovery.” Eat, Pray, Love chronicles Gilbert’s year-long journey of self discovery through Italy, India and Indonesia following a painful divorce and a period in which she felt unhappy with her life. Gilbert opened her remarks by expressing surprise at the success of her book, saying the subject of those things,” the New York University graduate said. “Real transformations are painful, expensive, irritating, full of doubt, it takes a really long time and there are no promises.”

A question and answer session followed the lecture and a reception was held in Council Hall where the author signed copies of her book. Gilbert’s words left a strong impression on members of the audience. “I think she is a remarkable, strong woman with a new sense of self and a new love.” Gilbert said her road to recovery was not easy. “In our culture today, transformation is sold to us as something that is easy and, quite possibly, fun but anyone who’s had to make real, deep rooted changes knows that it’s none of those things,” the New York University graduate said. “Real transformations are painful, expensive, irritating, full of doubt, it takes a really long time and there are no promises.”

Leaders in Education Awarded

A group of prominent educators were honored in November at The Third Annual Leaders in Education Awards Dinner (L.E.A.D.). Sponsored by The School of Education and the Office of Alumni Relations, the event was held in Marillac Terrace on the Queens campus and began with a cocktail reception. Welcome remarks were offered by The School of Education Dean Jerrold Ross, Ph.D. Larry Burke ’73Ed, ’77Ed, adjunct professor of Education at Molloy College, president of St. John’s University Chapter of Phi Delta Kappa, and a 2006 L.E.A.D. honoree, introduced the 2007 L.E.A.D. honorees: Joseph Sciame ’71Ed, vice president for Community Relations at St. John’s; Diane B. Scirica ’73Ed, ’77Ed, ’80PD, superintendent of Schools Riverhead Central School District; Charisse E. Willis ’89VC, ’91GEd, ’95PD, assistant dean, The School of Education; Edward J. Zero, district superintendent/ executive office, Eastern Suffolk BOCES; and Middle School 216 in Flushing, NY.

Burke said the evening was important because it recognizes “the excellence in education that St. John’s produces.” “Teachers don’t go into teaching to be recognized, they go into it for other, much more altruistic reasons,” he said. “It’s nice when someone says ‘You’ve done a good job.’” Wendy Gomez ’03Ed, ’06GEd teaches at P.S. 60 in Woodhaven, Queens and agreed that educators aren’t honored enough for all they do. “We are more than just teachers,” she said. “We’re mentors, we’re advisors, and we are so many other things. It’s a tough job.”

The event also served as an announcement of The School of Education’s 100th anniversary which will be celebrated in the academic year 2008-09. The Leaders in Education Dinner is held to honor alumni and friends who have made a significant contribution to the world of education. A LEAD event is scheduled to be held on the Staten Island campus in April.
Remembering Schermerhorn

More than 120 alumni and their families ventured to Staten Island for the Second Annual Schermerhorn Street Reunion held at the Staten Island Hilton Garden Inn in October. There were plenty of hugs, memories and photos shared as alumni chatted and remembered the former Schermerhorn Street campus. Rev. Kevin Creagh, C.M. ’91SVC, ’04PD, assistant vice president, branch campuses and assistant to the vice president, institutional advancement, offered the invocation and spoke on some current happenings at St. John’s. William Schaeffer ’73CBA, director, alumni relations welcomed those gathered and expressed his appreciation for the hard work of the committee members who helped make the event possible. Schaeffer also gave an update on Alumni Relations and the University.

“This was a great opportunity to see many wonderful friends both past and present,” attendee Steve Maresca ’72CBA said. “St. John’s remains an important part of my life and again the University provided me the opportunity to see these people who were part of the happiest times in my life.”

Tom Joyce ’73CBA, ’74MBA also attended the first reunion and said “Another year, another great chance to see old friends. It is always a pleasure to get together with other St. John’s alumni!”

“St. John’s Brooklyn campus on Schermerhorn Street played a pivotal role in the development of the University,” noted attendee Victor Ramos ’91CBA, ’93MBA, associate vice president, institutional advancement. “The alumni who earned their degrees at that location have left an indelible impression on the history of St. John’s and we look to them as role models of the Vincentian ideals that continue to guide us all.”

Schermerhorn Street refers to what was known as the “Brooklyn Center,” St. John’s vertical campus located on Schermerhorn Street in downtown Brooklyn, NY.
Northern NJ Chapter Networks
Alumni from the Northern New Jersey Alumni Chapter gathered for a Networking Reception on September 20 at the Pacific Bar and Grille in Paramus, NJ.

Those in attendance mingled and exchanged professional contact information as they enjoyed drinks and dinner together. Ray Lipinsky ’80SVC, assistant director, alumni relations, regional programs offered a brief update on the University and chapter members discussed possible ideas for future events including a night at the races at the Meadowlands Racetrack, pre-game receptions and game watch for the St. John’s men’s basketball games, and a lecture. Andre Emont ’79P said he enjoyed the evening and added, “It was great to see alumni enthusiastic and looking forward to attending future events.”

Westchester and Fairfield on Course
Members of the Westchester County and Fairfield County Alumni Chapters gathered to play golf at the Maple Moor Golf Course in White Plains, NY, in September. The sunny afternoon was both fun and eventful with a longest drive contest and “very challenging course,” said Phil Wax ’66Ed, ’69G.

Participants enjoyed themselves and were grateful for the chance to spend time with each other. “It was great to get together with friends for a day of golf,” said John McGloine ’51CBA. John Meyer ’84P said he looks forward to the next gathering.

A Taste of Broadway in Florida
A group of alumni in Sarasota, FL, enjoyed a premiere performance in October of the pre-Broadway musical event, A Tale of Two Cities.

The event was part of the Office of Alumni Relation’s Arts & Enrichment Series and was held at the Asolo Theater in Sarasota. Attendees gathered after the show for refreshments. “I enjoyed getting together this evening with this wonderful group,” said Patricia McDermott McConnin ’56UC. Kathleen McDermott Bennett ’73CBA said the opportunity to spend time with other alumni was priceless and reminded her of happy times. “St. John’s was one of the best experiences of my life,” she said. “To this day I have fond memories.”

A Tale of Two Cities is a musical set against the epic backdrop of the French Revolution and based on the classic Charles Dickens novel.
On A Mission

A new initiative partners St. John’s University with fellow Vincentian institutions DePaul University in Chicago, IL, and Niagara University in Niagara, NY, to ensure that future generations of students will continue to receive a higher education experience rooted in the Vincentian tradition.

The Vincentian Mission Institute: Leadership in Higher Education launched in January with the theme of “Catholic Higher Education Leadership: Conversations and Considerations.” The intensive three year program involves 10 participants from each University and it is expected that through the program they will acquire and be able to articulate the following: an in-depth understanding of Vincentian history and spirituality; the values, history and vision of Catholic higher education in the Vincentian tradition in the United States; and the distinctive nature, opportunities and challenges of Catholic higher education as it is expressed in the Catholic identity of their respective institutions. The group will also address the contemporary challenges and possibilities facing Catholic higher education in the Vincentian tradition and will develop inter- and intra-university projects that advance the Vincentian mission.

Rev. Michael Carroll, C.M., executive vice president for mission and branch campuses for St. John’s, says the three universities have long discussed how they can ensure that the mission remains viable for future generations of trustees, administrators, faculty, staff and students at the respective institutions. “We’ve always had the long term goal of developing a leadership program that takes a person beyond the in-house programs that we run,” Carroll says. “In effect, [the participants] become agents of the mission when they go back to their different areas within the universities.” Carroll says the faculty and staff come from the arenas of academics, operations, campus ministry and development and must be recommended by the heads of each area in order to apply.

According to Suzanne Scacalossi, program coordinator for St. John’s Office of Mission, each individual university will deliver content with their own presenters within their institutions. In the summer of 2008, the three groups will gather at St. John’s to discuss several topics including the Vincentian history from the 17th century to the 21st century, specifically focusing on the lives of St. Vincent de Paul and Louise de Marillac, as well as Vincentian spirituality and Vincentian core values. The program also includes a retreat to Niagara University, a meeting at De Paul and a Vincentian heritage tour in France to walk in the footsteps of St. Vincent. Participants will have access to an array of online tools including a multitude of Catholic resources such as articles from Vincentian Heritage, a journal dedicated to promoting a living interest in the historical and spiritual heritage of the wide-ranging Vincentian family.

“We believe we offer our students a distinctive and Vincentian experience. The question is how can we make sure that the Vincentian values are embedded in all that we do. This program is a response to that.”

– Rev. Edward Udovic, C.M., senior executive for University Mission at DePaul University

Rev. Edward Udovic, C.M., senior executive for University Mission at DePaul University, notes that the three institutions collectively educate more than 50,000 students and says he hopes the new initiative will help those who participate to further understand and appreciate the uniqueness of the Vincentian universities. “We believe we offer our students a distinctive and Vincentian experience,” he says. “The question is how can we make sure that the Vincentian values are embedded in all that we do. This program is a response to that. It is a very exciting initiative.”

Sr. Nora Gatto, D.C., executive director for University Mission and Ministry at Niagara, says the program is essential. “It’s crucial to the future of this university that everyone who works here is an advocate for what it means to be Catholic and Vincentian,” she says. “Many of our people are on the same page but this will give them the tools to articulate what is already in their hearts.”

Fr. Carroll says the program is a nice next step to the Vincentian Mission Certificate (VMC) already in place at St. John’s. The VMC is a 16 month program of personal and professional development for all employees with three core components of education, reflection and service. Those who complete the VMC are empowered to become Vincentian leaders and learn to apply the Vincentian charism to their lives. VMC participants must complete a minimum of 50 hours of service with two thirds of that being direct service to the poor. The VMC program launched at St. John’s during Founders Week in January 2007 and there are currently 58 participants.
Basketball Celebrates a Century

St. John’s University men’s basketball program has had a long and storied history which deserves to be honored. In October, an annual basketball fundraiser also heralded the centennial celebration of what has grown to become one of the most well known athletic programs in New York City. The 2007 Gala Tip-Off Dinner at New York City’s Metropolitan Club drew nearly 100 supporters of Red Storm basketball. Head Coach Norm Roberts, Director of Athletics Chris Monasch ‘81SVC, Hall of Fame Coach Lou Carnesecca ‘50C, ‘60GEd, ‘00HON and guest speaker Bill Wennington ‘85SVC, a 1985 Final Four participant and three-time NBA champion, were present for the auspicious occasion as alumni, friends and fans joined together for a night of fun and fundraising. Monasch said the evening was just the beginning for what was sure to be an enjoyable commemoration of St. John’s well-loved sport. “This evening was a great way to start our year-long celebration of the 100th Anniversary of Basketball,” said Monasch. “We appreciate the terrific support that we received from all who attended.”

The annual tip-off dinner serves as the premier fundraiser for the men’s basketball program and is hosted each year by St. John’s Office of Athletic Development in conjunction with program benefactor and event originator James B. Burke. Following appetizers and mingling, Burke welcomed those in attendance and introduced Coach Roberts, who made a special presentation to longtime benefactors Donald (’53C, ’89HON) and Eleanor Taffner ’94HON, for whom the Red Storm’s state-of-the-art practice facility on the Queens campus is named. Wennington addressed the group after dinner and discussed the contributions necessary to make a team, and a program, successful.

An auction was held and ardent Red Storm fans were able to bid on several premier items including a foursome at Deepdale Golf Club, tickets and a seat on the team charter for the Duke game at Cameron Indoor Stadium, and a spot as the honorary assistant coach against Villanova at Madison Square Garden. The evening concluded with a “100 Years of St. John’s Basketball” round-table discussion, where the distinguished panel of Wennington, Carnesecca and Roberts fielded a variety of questions from the audience, ranging from the basketball program’s history to the 2007-08 season outlook and NBA legends. Coach Roberts declared the evening a great success. “The event was a great success, and we’d like to thank Jimmy Burke, who has been a great help in assisting with fundraising for the four years I have been at St. John’s,” he said. “This is an annual event that keeps getting stronger, and we hope for continued success with it in the coming years.”

“100 Years of St. John’s Basketball”

From l. Lou Carnesecca ‘50C, ‘60GEd, ‘00HON; Roberts; and Burke.
A grant of almost $1 million awarded to the Division of Library and Information Science within St. John’s College of Liberal Arts and Sciences will help library and information science students better serve some of the neediest school and community libraries in the New York metropolitan area.

The award comes from the Institute of Museum and Library Services’ “Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian Program” which supports projects to develop faculty and library leaders, recruit and educate the next generation of librarians, and to conduct research on the library profession. At St. John’s, the money will be used for scholarships for 40 committed master’s in library science program students who will go on to future employment in public libraries, school library media centers and museums in the New York City metropolitan area. Those students will engage in outreach in hopes of improving literacy and academic performance of youth in underserved metropolitan areas.

Stacy Creel, Ph.D., co-director of the St. John’s program, said the group will be broken into two cohorts with 20 beginning in spring and the additional 20 starting in the summer. The new program is a partnership with the Queens Public Library, the Office of School Library Services of the New York City Department of Education and the New York Hall of Science in Flushing, Queens. Creel says the program has some built in special outreach projects to the community including working with Queens Public Library to reach English as a second language groups and lower socioeconomic groups. It will be beneficial to the entire division, Creel says. “Not only will the grant students have the opportunity to participate in those activities, but it will also be open to our student population at large,” she says. “It really gives them the chance to have some hands on experience and put the theories into practice.”

The main focus will be youth, families and literacy within the underserved groups, Creel says. According to Creel, hundreds of potential students have contacted the University with interest in the graduate program. “We are looking specifically for people who have shown a commitment to serving youth and underserved populations,” Creel says. “We’ve had way more interest than we have spots for.” The grant is for three years, she says, and there are hopes that additional funding can be found to continue the program which is so in keeping with the University’s Vincentianism. “We really have the University’s mission at heart in trying of reaching out to those who aren’t getting what they need.” Creel says.

Jeffery Olson, Ph.D. associate provost and director of Library and Information Science, Online Learning and Services agrees. “[The program] is metropolitan and it is Vincentian because we are trying to help underserved children and their families access all of the services of and really learn to love and engage with school and public libraries with all they have to offer,” he says. “There’s research that supports the importance of that for [the student’s] educational performance and life outcomes. It’s just a great, great thing.” Olson says that as part of the grant, each of the St. John’s students will receive a laptop and participate in service in school and public libraries with a research orientation. The group will then have the opportunity to present the results of their research on library services at a national meeting of the American Library Association. After completing the program, participants must commit to service in an underserved area for a minimum of three years.
When Paul Napoli '92L first spotted the then Marie Kaiser '89C, '93L at a pizza parlor across the street from the Queens campus, he had an undeniable feeling. “You know how people always say ‘You just know,’” he says, as he gazes adoringly at his wife. “Well, I just knew.” The timing wasn’t right as the law students were both involved with other people, but true love was not to be denied and years later they ran into each other in the most natural setting imaginable for the pair — a courthouse. “We bumped into each other in Nassau County,” Paul recalls. “We were both working on trials in courtrooms right next to each other in 1994. I called her a couple of weeks later and asked her out on a date. She said she was studying for her master’s in law so she could only give me an hour on Friday. I was supposed to pick her up at eight o’clock and at 8:30 I was still looking for her house. I had gotten the directions all wrong!”

Despite Paul’s tardiness, the couple enjoyed a nice dinner and Marie even extended her hour time frame to include dessert. Now married for more than 10 years and the parents of two, they are not only a devoted and loving couple, but also model alumni whose dedication to each other, family and alma mater has impressed all who know them. At a young age, they have achieved much success and are not only grateful for all they have, but also committed to a life of generosity. “They are a fantastic couple,” says Marc Bern, who has been partners in a law firm with Paul for 10 years. “They both are amazing people.”

It’s not surprising that Paul and Marie are so ideally suited and have such strong ties to the University. They grew up in Manhasset in tight knit families that already had ties to St. John’s. Marie's parents, John ('53L) and Dolores Kaiser '53UC (nee Toner) met at St. John’s and Paul’s father Joseph Napoli '63C, '67L is also a proud alumnus. 

Love of the law was yet another commonality. Marie first started working in her father’s law firm as a youngster and in Paul she found a kindred spirit. Both strove to work hard and use their ability in the courtroom to better the lives of others. “It’s the way we were raised,” Marie says. “I think Paul and I, one of the reasons we clicked so well together is that we were raised very much the same way to always try and do as much as we can to help people.” “It’s something St. John’s and our parents instilled in us,” Paul adds. “To be generous and to help other people.”
For Paul, part of that aid to others has been achieved through a stellar career as an extremely successful attorney. Working in various practice areas which have included pharmaceutical liability and mass torts (which involve large numbers of claims that are associated with a single product), he has reportedly won more than a billion dollars in settlements and verdicts with his dogged determination and skill. He garnered national recognition with his representation of clients who said they were injured by the diet drug fen-phen. “Ultimately, we ended up representing about 16,000 people around the country,” he says. “Eventually, [the company which sold the drug] settled most of the cases.” He has now turned his attention to cases involving the environment as well as representing those who are suffering in the wake of September 11th. “We were approached about the workers at Ground Zero who were getting sick,” Paul says. “Nobody would represent them and they really had nowhere to turn. These people were suffering and dying and out of work yet no one wanted to help them.”

Napoli’s firm, Napoli Bern LLP, now represents police officers, firefighters and workers who have developed respiratory problems and other health issues since their time spent at the World Trade Center site. That entails not only litigating in court, but also lobbying politicians for the rights of the victims. It means a great deal to him, Paul says, to be working on such a case. “My office window looked out on the Towers,” he says. “It feels good to be hopefully a part of the healing process. I think everybody in New York knows how bad it really was and how little was really done for these people. They are fighting like hell and it feels good to try and help set it straight.”

Standing up for those less fortunate is an integral part of who Paul is, says Robert Ruescher, a professor of legal writing and coordinator of the Legal Writing Program at St. John’s University’s School of Law. “I’ve worked with Paul on the World Trade Center litigation,” Ruescher says. “He is a relentless advocate for his clients. He’s a great example of how commitment and diligence can lead to success.”

Marc Bern, Paul’s partner, says he has immense respect for both him and Marie as not only attorneys, but also as individuals. The three worked together before Marie left to become a full-time mother to daughter Amanda, 7, and son Michael, 6. “I have been in practice for 32 years and it’s a true privilege that I have at this point in my career to be associated with Paul and to have been able to watch him develop into one of the best mass tort lawyers out there. When I worked with Marie, she was very dedicated with a ‘nose to the grindstone’ style and that’s the same type of wife and mother she is. She gives it her all.”

She has been very active with The Bone Marrow Foundation and Old Westbury Gardens and serves on the board of the Glen Cove Boys and Girls Club. “It’s in an area where the kids really need help,” she says. “Most of them don’t have either of the parents at home for them since both parents are working and they don’t have anywhere to go after school. It’s really trying to get those kids before they fall in with the wrong element and give them positive role models.”

She also heads the Nassau chapter of the School of Law Alumni Association. Both Paul and Marie have remained close to alma mater and in 2004 their generosity made possible the Paul and Marie Kaiser Napoli Lecture Hall in the School of Law.

Though she sometimes misses balancing the scales of justice, Marie has her hands full with raising a family and the many organizations to which she gives her time. The room boasts seating for 163 students and various amenities including wireless access, charging stations for student laptops, a professor’s smart podium which operates.
light, sound, video and Internet connectivity and complete computer desk-top capabilities. School of Law Dean Mary Daly says the Napoli’s gift “set a gold standard for others to emulate.” “Marie and Paul are very special people,” Daly says. “Their generosity to the Law School is remarkable, especially since they are relatively recent alumni. The learning experience of our students is enriched on a daily basis through the renovation of Room 1-15 and its cutting edge technology.” The couple is also regularly present at student and alumni events, Dean Daly says. “Marie and Paul are very grateful for the wonderful education they received at the Law School,” she adds. “Their generosity springs from a genuine desire to give back and contribute to the success of future generations of St. John’s graduates.”

Paul and Marie say they feel a debt of gratitude to St. John’s. “It feels like home,” Marie says. “St. John’s really gave us our start and we want to try and help others,” Paul says. “We try to hire lawyers from St. John’s, and we try to support the school. We have a scholarship and we did the [lecture hall]. People just don’t think to do those things and we are hoping to get others to think the same way.” They are instilling those values in their children, who also get a good dose of St. John’s by attending Red Storm basketball games with their parents. “We try to teach them that it’s important to have a good education,” Paul says. “The more they know, the better off they will be in life. We want them to know that it’s important to do for others.” “To have empathy for other people,” Marie adds.

Those are lessons couched in a great deal of love. There is tenderness between Paul and Marie and each names the other as the person they most admire. Family means everything to them. For all they do, the Napolis are happiest traveling with their children, or even just kicking back watching a movie as a family at their home in Long Island. Looking ahead they say they are considering even more ways they can give back. Those plans may one day include a special project at St. John’s. “I want to eventually retire,” Paul says. “My thinking in the future is to open up a clinic at the Law School to help people who have been wrongfully convicted. I can’t think of anything more horrible than being put in jail and nobody listening to you. We know that it happens all the time. We are at that stage in our lives where we are trying to see how we can use the law to really help people the most.”

For now, Paul and Marie Napoli are at a great place on their journey. When it’s right, you just know.

Above: The Paul and Marie Kaiser Napoli Lecture Hall.

Left: From l. Dean Daly; Mrs. and Mr. Napoli; and University President Rev. Donald J. Harrington, C.M. at the dedication of the lecture hall.
When the first 46 St. John’s students walked through the doors of a small farmhouse in Brooklyn in 1870, they were well aware that they were entering a newly created college founded to serve the educational needs of the children of immigrants from bustling post-Civil War New York City. What they did not know was that this college would one day evolve into an international university with a well-deserved global reputation for academic excellence — a reputation anchored by a mission of service for people around the world.

For many years St. John’s University has been committed to bringing the world onto campus. Our faculty has long included an impressive cadre of internationally acclaimed professors, gifted women and men from around the world whose dedication to teaching, research and overall scholarship are sources of genuine inspiration to the University’s more than 20,000 students. The students themselves also attest to the diversity of St. John’s worldwide population, coming to us from 122 countries, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands in Fall 2007.
During the current academic year, St. John’s achieved record levels of international enrollments at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. According to Brenda Majeski, senior vice president, enrollment management and marketing & communications, the University is currently ranked by US News and World Report as one of the top 10 most diverse campuses in the country, a reality that she attributes to the increased perception of St. John’s as not merely a national, but also an international university. “Ten years ago only 22% of our applicants and 19% of our enrolled students came from outside of the greater New York metropolitan area,” notes Majeski. “Today those numbers have increased to 59% and 40% respectively.”

That level of diversity has a profoundly positive effect on the students by encouraging them to interact with and learn from individuals whose cultural background may be significantly different from their own. “Students very quickly become comfortable living and learning with other young men and women from varying backgrounds,” Majeski says. “It gives them a chance to broaden their horizons and redefine their perceptions, which is really what the St. John’s experience has always been about.”

While the University is justifiably proud of its success in bringing the world to its campuses, it is even more gratified by the success of the unique programs and initiatives designed to carry the St. John’s message to countries near and far. Central to the globalization efforts is the highly acclaimed Discover the World program, a unique opportunity for students to experience total cultural immersion while earning a full semester of academic credit in exciting locations around the world.

Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer James P. Pellow, Ed.D. has been the driving force behind Discover the World which was launched in Spring 2007 and goes far beyond the parameters of traditional study abroad programs. Student participants select an international region, such as Europe, Latin America or Africa and spend time living and learning within a number of exciting cities within that region. For example, students who enroll in Discover the World Europe experience overall cultural immersion in such tradition-rich cities as Dublin, Rome, Paris, and/or Salamanca, Spain. “One of the things that makes Discover the World so unique is that it’s multi-city,” says Matthew Pucciarelli, executive director of St. John’s Office of Global Studies. “Students have a chance to see not just one place but a number of locations within a particular region of the world.”

Besides engaging in traditional classroom education, students learn to appreciate the various aspects of the local culture, including the arts, music, architecture and language of the cities in which they study. By living within the local community, they also expand their personal horizons to include a first-hand appreciation of the customs, ideas and lifestyles of that population.

One of the most powerful components of Discover the World is the requirement that students engage in meaningful service within their selected overseas communities, a reflection of the Vincentian mission that underscores St. John’s every activity. Students are expected to put the University’s service commitment into practical action by extending the caring and compassionate hand of St. Vincent de Paul to local residents during their time abroad. “Our students are expected to leave a portion of themselves, and of St. John’s, behind by engaging in meaningful service” Pucciarelli says. “They help out in local soup kitchens, assist people with English language and reading skills and, in general, make certain that Discover the World is a platform for global service.” As with everything else at St. John’s, academics and service go hand-in-hand to carry the message — and the mission — to wherever they’re most needed.

Within most study abroad programs, cost has been a deciding factor in determining who can or cannot participate. Thanks to the generosity of the University and its many supporters, that is not the case at St. John’s. A combination of effective fiscal-management practices on the part of the University maintains the cost of participation at a level roughly
equivalent to a semester of living on campus. By combining traditional forms of financial aid and specific study abroad scholarship opportunities, such as global language scholarships for students with majors or minors in French, Italian or Spanish, students from all economic backgrounds are able to take part in this exceptional program. According to Karl S. Rutter, director of recruitment for the Office of Global Studies, the traditional students participating in study abroad programs at other colleges and universities are “…white, affluent and female.” “That's not the way it is here at St. John's,” he says. “Our study abroad programs reflect the diversity of our students, and we hope to continue that reality as we expand these opportunities in the future. At the bottom line, it’s all tied into the Vincentian mission.”

As St. John's extends its horizons academically, the University continues to expand its presence in cities around the world. In Spring 2007, St. John's entered into an agreement to lease significant space within the beautiful and historic Collegio Leoniano (Vincentian Motherhouse) in Rome that will significantly enhance the University's campus in the Eternal City. Consisting of approximately 184,000 square feet, the new facility, which is within walking distance of Vatican City, will include more than 200 beds, 12 classrooms, a multi-use conference room and student lounge. Expected to be fully completed by Spring 2009, the building will be acquired in developmental stages and occupied as each stage is completed.

In addition to serving as the home for Discover the World students studying in Italy, the current Rome campus recently hosted a contingent of 32 law students from St. John's School of Law as well as other law schools from across the country. The students participated in programs designed to provide them with a unique perspective on current international law while affording an opportunity to examine the historical basis for our current legal systems and practices. As with all St. John's facilities, the Rome campus provides students with advanced technological amenities, such as state-of-the-art computers laboratories and wireless internet access, 24 hour availability of online databases and a host of traditional library resources. The campus also offers students recreational facilities that include tennis courts, basketball courts, soccer fields and an indoor swimming pool.

This spring the first contingent of students will join us as charter members of St. John's newly established location in Paris, France. Following the same pattern that resulted in the establishment of the Rome campus, the University has secured space in the Vincentian Motherhouse, bringing St. John's unique mission and values to the City of Lights. The facility is expected to be fully operational by January 2009 and, as with the Rome campus, will require all students to participate in service activities that reflect the University's Vincentian mission of caring and concern for others.

As part of St. John's global orientation, the Office of University Ministry provides opportunities for students to engage in service initiatives both at home and in locations all around the world. Some students assist the victims of Hurricane Katrina in rebuilding their devastated homes; others journey to Panama to help local populations construct schools and churches while still others travel to Lourdes, France to assist pilgrims seeking renewal in that shrine's blessed waters. “Bringing our mission to people throughout the world is a vital part of the St. John's experience,” notes Stephen M. DiBlasio, director of faith formation and liturgy. “Our mission makes us unique, and the message of that mission is one that deserves to be heard in locations near and far. We're continuing to walk the journey that St. Vincent de Paul began hundreds of years ago, and his ideals are as relevant today as they were back then.”

St. John's will continue along the pathway to globalization, a pathway that is limitless, full of surprises, uniquely personal and faith-based in the most wonderful and practical of ways. The world is indeed our classroom, and in true St. John's fashion, we not only bring the world to our students, but bring our students to the world as well.
Emergencies are something very few like to think about, but for which everyone needs to be prepared. In the wake of events such as September 11th, Hurricane Katrina and the shootings on the campus of Virginia Tech, a greater emphasis has been placed across the country on emergency preparedness for everything from the smallest incident to major catastrophes.
The issue has special significance on college and university campuses. In 2004, the National Summit on Campus Public Safety was held in Baltimore, MD which brought together select delegates from law enforcement, governmental agencies, universities and colleges to help establish direction and suggestions to serve as the basis for the development of a possible national strategy, programs, information sharing and other initiatives. The summit resulted in several recommendations including the establishment of a national center for campus safety. In 2006, The FBI Campus Public Safety Coordination Group was created as an internal, unofficial entity to help ensure coordinated efforts and consistent messages from the Federal Bureau of Investigation to institutions of postsecondary education in the United States.

While much has been happening on the national stage, St. John’s has been well ahead of the curve in protecting its students, faculty, administrators and staff. Several years ago, alumnus and current New York Police Department Commissioner Raymond W. Kelly ’71L, ’98HON helped develop a plan aimed at improving security on the campuses. The emergency preparedness operating plan currently in place establishes the structure, processes and protocol for the University’s response to emergencies which can range from adverse weather conditions to bomb threats, fires, workplace violence, and pandemics. Such emergencies fall under the categories of three threat levels: level one which would be a minor, localized department or building incident that is quickly resolved with existing University resources or limited outside help; level two which would include a major emergency that disrupts sizable portions of the campus community; and level three which would be a major emergency that impacts the entire campus and is wide ranging and complex.

As part of the University’s Emergency Management Structure Plan, an Emergency Preparedness Steering Committee, chaired by the executive director of emergency management and including members of the Emergency Operations Team, meets at least once per semester to review the University’s plan and make recommendations to the vice president for public safety with any necessary revisions. Each campus has an Emergency Operations Team and the University’s Office of Human Resources conducts emergency preparedness sessions. The office is also responsible for training Emergency Evacuation Volunteers (EEV), a group of employees in every building on the campuses who undergo mandatory training to assist in times of crises. More than 360 managers and EEVs have attended the training which gives an overview of the various emergency situations that could occur on campus and the procedures to handle them. Emergency preparedness sessions for employees and faculty are scheduled for 2008.

Such a wealth of planning is evident in the daily life of St. John’s. Storm Cards are issued to everyone from students to employees and used for entrance into secured areas such as the library and Carnesecca Arena. Public Safety officers are posted at gate entrances, and public areas around the Queens and Staten Island campuses have been equipped with e-boards to provide alerts to those away from their phones or desks. An emergency phone number, 1 (888) STJ-2499, acts as an emergency hotline and there is an Audix phone system which can be used to disseminate information to employees and those living...
in the residence halls. The University has also made use of its state-of-the-art web technology with internal and external web sites where announcements can be posted in the event of an emergency.

One of the most exciting new tools currently being used at St. John’s is an emergency notification system which went into effect at the beginning of the 2007-08 school year in response to concerns after the Virginia Tech tragedy. St. John’s students, faculty, administrators, and staff can elect to receive text messages and voicemails on their personal cell phones by signing up for the service. In the event of an emergency, the Department of Public Safety will send alerts that provide information and clear directions to all constituents.

Proactive initiatives such as these have placed the University at the forefront of campus safety and have received national and international recognition. In November, Thomas Lawrence, St. John’s vice president, public safety and Gerard McEnerney, assistant vice president and executive director of the Staten Island campus, were invited to speak at the United Nations Building Task Force. The pair addressed issues of campus emergency preparedness. “We at St. John’s University continue to upgrade and update our Emergency Management Plan by adding elements that work effectively for our purposes,” Lawrence said. “Each situation is different and needs to be studied and addressed accordingly, which is why an organization like this is so valuable in sharing ideas that can be put into action.” The United Nations Building Task Force was formed shortly after September 11th to bring together facility managers and/or security professionals who are responsible for many of the well known buildings in New York City. The organization has expanded and now includes such prestigious universities as New York University and St. John’s University. McEnerney, who is responsible for the St. John’s Emergency Management Plan, is a member of the organization. The University, in partnership with the United States Department of Homeland Security, FEMA Region II, will host Urban Hazards Forum IV: Campus School Safety and Emergency Preparedness Conference in February.

Lawrence has a wealth of experience in his department. Of the 68 public safety officers and supervisors, 43 have prior law enforcement experience, many of them with the NYPD including Lawrence who was a department chief. That amount of expertise was invaluable last September when student Omesh Hiraman, a 22 year-old freshman, brought a rifle loaded with a single round onto the Queens campus. The emergency notification system was activated and those who had signed up for the service quickly received notification of the gunman on campus and were told to remain where they were until they received the all clear. The system was so effective that Criminal Justice major and NYPD cadet Christopher Benson ’09CPS was receiving the information on his cell phone as he and Public Safety Officer Dan Boylan were disarming Hiraman.

Boylan and Benson were hailed as heroes, and a special ceremony was held on the Great Lawn of the Queens campus in October to thank them for their act of bravery. The sun shone brightly as family, friends, colleagues and members of the media and the St. John’s community witnessed the pair being awarded the St. John’s University President’s Medal, reserved for individuals who have “…rendered outstanding service to the University or society.” University President Rev. Donald J. Harrington, C.M. thanked them. “As a University community, we are immensely grateful to Dan [Boylan] and Chris [Benson],” he said. “They acted selflessly and courageously to protect life and to preserve peace on our campus. Their selfless concern for our safety is truly worthy of both commendation and commemoration. I welcome the entire St. John’s University community to show our gratitude for their heroic actions.”

Following the incident, University officials were praised for their planning and flooded with requests from the media and other institutions regarding the school’s emergency preparedness. One of the highest compliments came from one of the architects of the University’s original plan.

“St. John’s newly instituted emergency text messaging system worked like a charm,” said NYPD Commissioner Ray Kelly. “No one was injured, and the emergency response both by the police and the University was flawless. No one wants to go through the frightening experience that occurred at St. John’s. However, if it does happen…this is the best outcome possible.”

“We at St. John’s University continue to upgrade and update our Emergency Management Plan by adding elements that work effectively for our purposes.” - Thomas Lawrence, St. John’s vice president, public safety
The full college experience has long involved much more than classes, studying, and exams. One of the livelier extracurricular activities has been student theatrical performances. By the early 20th century, the Class Play and the College Olio (a variety show of musical and theatrical selections) were annual events at St. John’s. In these early years, a drama group of one kind or another drew talent not only from the student body, but also from the parish of St. John the Baptist, alumni, and other colleges.

From time to time, other student groups performed plays and variety shows. Minstrel shows were not uncommon in the first decades of the 20th century. In the 1930s, the Minstrel Society performed songs, skits and dances in the Vaudeville fashion and the proceeds went toward a fund to provide financial assistance to needy students. Benefit performances were, in fact, regular occurrences for many of the theater groups throughout the University's history. “The Frosh Frolics,” a variety show put on by freshmen during the pre-WW II era was an annual February event that featured large doses of campus humor. Even foreign language plays made it to the St. John’s stage, performed by groups like the French Club and Gens Romana, the Italian Culture Club.

The group with the longest history at the University, The Chappell Players Theatre Group, began its existence as the Dramatic Society during the 1910s, gaining status as an official student club in the 1920s. In its first decades the Drama Society performed light-hearted comedies almost exclusively. Occasionally, student thespians steered toward a more somber play like the 1933 production of Sherriff’s Journey’s End, which depicted the horrors of war. The students hoped that their efforts would further a “world campaign of peace.” Initially, the all-male troupe had to improvise to fill the female roles, but later women were "borrowed" for these roles from the University’s coeducational schools — Teachers College (now The School of Education) and University College — as well as from women's colleges in the metropolitan area (like the College of New Rochelle). During the 1955-56 school year, women became bona fide members of this acting club for the first time.

After a few years of inactivity surrounding WWII, the dormant Dramatic Society reawakened as the Chapel Players during the 1947-48 school year. In 1971, the club became the Chappell Players and, in 2000, its name was altered to the Chappell Players Theatre Group.

With the move to the Queens campus in the mid-1950s, students had some difficulty finding suitable theater space for their productions. They did not have the 1,000-seat DeGray auditorium on Lewis Avenue or regular access to the Brooklyn campus.

“The Dramatic Society of St. John’s College became an official student club in the 1920s. In the early years, the all-male club filled female roles with its own actors. Pictured here is a scene from The Old Soak. 1934 Vincentian

A large part of theatrical productions happens behind the scenes. The Chapel Players moderator, the Rev. Lawrence Lonergan, C.M., applies a death grin to John Lee ’56C for the morality play, Everyman. 1953 Vincentian

The Stagers of University College emerged from the hiatus caused by WWII with ambitious performances. Billed as a drama of diabolical possession and modern morals, The Kingdom of the Blind by Prof. Frank Ford was performed by the Stagers a year after it was first produced at the Catholic University Summer Theatre.
Academy of Music, so they resorted to using the Club House (from the former Hillcrest golf course) or area high schools like Chaminade. A new phase of construction on the Queens campus in the early 1960s finally gave them a performance space in Alumni Hall (now Carnesecca Arena). It was named the Little Theatre and is still home to this group to this day. In 2006, the Little Theater underwent a renovation that included new seating, improved lighting and the demolition of the ceiling which was replaced with a luminous fabric.

St. John’s College did not have a monopoly on theatrical activities. Other schools within the University also supported their own theater groups. University College founded its own Drama Society in 1930, soon after changing the name to the Stagers. The group continued with the move from the Schermerhorn campus to the Staten Island campus in 1971. Today, the Stagers annually put on a spring play in April and a fall play in November.

The post-WWII era saw the rise of a dramatic club at the Teachers College (The School of Education). The Genesian Guild (or G.G. for short), was named for the patron saint of actors, St. Genesius. In the 1963-64 school year, the G.G. failed to produce a show signifying the final curtain for the club.

Not all the students involved in theatrical performances appeared on stage, of course. Construction, lighting, sound, make-up, and stage crews all worked to support student productions. Their essential function was clearly recognized when the Backstagers emerged as the off-stage counterpart of the University College’s Stagers in the 1950s. Other behind the scenes work like that done by publicity committees was also a must. In the 1950s, Poster Guild members were engaged in painting sets and preparing posters.

Students have tackled works by major playwrights such as Shakespeare, Arthur Miller and Tennessee Williams as well as those by lesser known writers. Even students’ own original plays have hit the stage. From the late 1930s through the mid-1960s the Sigma Tau Alpha Literary fraternity conducted the McCole Memorial One-Act Play Competition, named in honor of the late Camille John McCole, professor of English. The winning plays were performed by members of the fraternity as well as the Dramatic Society/Chapel Players. Most works written by students performed by the various campus groups were one-act plays and skits. On occasion, student writers were more ambitious, like in 1958, when the Chapel Players performed an original full-length play, *The Blessed Trees*, written by senior Denis Towey ’58C. A more recent group on the Staten Island campus, the 23rd Floor, was founded to allow students opportunities to write as well as to produce, direct, and act in their own comedies and sketches.

Excellence has been rewarded in various manners. In May 1961, the University held
its first Dramatic Arts Awards ceremony, patterned on Hollywood's Oscars, to recognize the best of the Guild and Chapel Players' major productions throughout the year. In 1969 the Upsilon Chi Cast (Chapter) of the national honorary dramatic society, Alpha Psi Omega, was installed at the University. The charter members included students from both the Brooklyn and Jamaica campuses. This honor society still continues to this day.

Campus performances have covered the full gamut from dramas to burlesque and from comedies to musicals. Many were triumphs while a few were flops. Happily, student theater is still alive and well today and, hopefully, will be long into the future.

Blythe Roveland-Brenton is the University's archivist.

Were you a member of one of the University's drama clubs? Do you have photographs, programs, or other memorabilia that you would like to share? To discuss a possible donation, write to: St. John's University Archives, Library, Room 430, 8000 Utopia Parkway, Queens, NY 11439; call (718) 990-1465; or e-mail archives@stjohns.edu

Above: High drama in a Chappell Players' production, Sorry, Wrong Number. 1974 Vincentian

Left: The Stager Society continued on the Staten Island campus. Pictured here is a scene from Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat, one of the club's annual musicals. 1989 Tomahawk

The Dr. M.T. Geoffrey Yeh Art Gallery at St. John's University's Queens campus was the site of two exciting exhibits during the fall. “Prints and Books: Artist Collaborations with Printmaker Ruth Lingen” and “Vietnamese Modernism” drew crowds thrilled by the opportunity to see high profile pieces of artwork. “We are putting the University in the forefront of what is happening in the New York Metropolitan area,” said gallery director and curator Parvez Mohsin.

The opportunity to view shows that might otherwise only be available in galleries in Manhattan has been a big draw for the St. John's gallery. The printmaker exhibit featured collaborations between Ruth Lingen and influential artists such as Chuck Close, Jim Dine and Kiki Smith. Paul Fabozzi, associate professor at St. John's Department of Fine Arts, said the printmaker exhibit was “a really great show” which gave students the opportunity to not only view the premier artwork but also meet famed artist Chuck Close who attended the opening reception. “Ruth Lingen is one of the best known printmakers in New York,” said Fabozzi, who added that the show came together due in part to the assistance of alumnus Michael Marfione ’02C who helped to facilitate a meeting which led to the showing. “It’s not often we get a group of artists of that quality all in one exhibit. It was a great opportunity for us to get Museum of Modern Art quality work.”

Lingen is a master printer who started Poote Press in 1982 and has worked with some of the world's greatest artists to publish limited edition books using her unique techniques for bookbinding and papermaking. Mohsin said a lecture by Lingen attracted

Artist Chuck Close, l., and above with his famous self-portrait.
more than 100 students and faculty and the exhibit complimented the University’s existing print program. “With these kinds of exhibits St. John’s University is just forging a standard for ourselves,” Mohsin said. “We are doing certain types of high-end exhibits that will enable us to attract a crowd from Manhattan and make a name for ourselves.”

In the case of the “Vietnamese Modernism” exhibit, the show brought together 11 of Vietnam’s emerging artists, a fashion designer and a photographer who traveled to the Queens campus for the opening reception. The rare opportunity to meet the artists was the result of an ever growing relationship the University has forged with key contacts in Vietnam as well as countless hours put in by Mohsin and Dr. Hung Le, assistant dean of the graduate division at St. John’s College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. The pair were members of a group that traveled to Vietnam last May as part of a multi-platform academic, athletic and artistic initiative. Mohsin said he went with the purpose of selecting contemporary works of Vietnam that would be representative of the most avant garde and cutting edge work there. He and Le worked hard to meet with multiple artists and selected several pieces to put on display.

“It took us more than a year to plan this project,” Mohsin said at the opening. “I’d like to thank the artists for giving us this opportunity to exhibit

“The group of artists from Vietnam join
Dr. Le (kneeling bottom row first from r.) at the reception for the opening of the exhibit.

Do Tuan Anh’s The Beggar

“It’s not often we get a group of artists of that quality all in one exhibit. It was a great opportunity for us to get Museum of Modern Art quality work.”

– Paul Fabozzi, associate professor at St. John’s Department of Fine Arts
Clockwise from top left:
Do Tuan Anh’s After Work
Tran Cong Dung’s On the White Background
Do Tuan Anh’s Woman Selling Bread
Tran Dinh Tuan’s Street Impression
“We only hope that everyone can understand who we are and what Vietnam means to young people like me. So that when they see the art they can see how people are living and thinking.”

− Artist, Đỗ Tuấn Anh

their work and share it with every one here in New York and the United States.”

St. John’s College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Dean Jeffrey Fagen said the show, which included oils and acrylics, painted silks, do paper, woodcut prints, photographs and Vietnamese fashions, represented the work of some of Vietnam’s most talented artists. “Amy Lowell, prize winning poet once wrote, ‘Art is the desire of a man to express himself, to record the reactions of his personality to the world he lives in,’” Fagen said. “I think that sentence captures the essence of this exhibit.” Dr. Le reflected on the fact that several years ago it would have been unimaginable that Vietnamese artists would be on display in such a show. The show, as well as travels by St. John’s student-athletes, faculty, and students to Vietnam, is indicative of the University’s Vincentian mission and desire to share the culture of Vietnam, Le said. “Not all of you can travel to Vietnam,” Le said. “Our job here at St. John’s is to bring a little bit of Vietnam to you.”

Artist Đỗ Tuấn Anh took the 23½ hour flight from Vietnam and said he hoped those viewing the show would get a sense of each artist and their homeland from their work. “We only hope that everyone can understand who we are and what Vietnam means to young people like me,” he said. “So that when they see the art they can see how people are living and thinking.”

Bricks & Mortar Update

Remembering a Dear Friend

The main room for events on the Staten Island campus has been renamed in honor of a longtime administrator and trustee. A Mass and reception were held in September to celebrate the new Rev. James O. Kiernan, C.M. Suite. Formerly the Presidential Room in the Kelleher Center, it was repainted and redone with new carpeting and a new sound system. Rev. Kiernan began his tenure at St. John’s in 1987 as the Staten Island campus chaplain and the following year was named vice president for campus ministry there. His duties were expanded in 1989 to include the Queens campus and soon after he was named senior vice president for the Staten Island campus. His love of the campus was evident to all and he worked diligently to aid its growth, leading the initiative for the approval and design of both the Kelleher Center and the DaSilva Academic Center. He left the University in 1999 and in 2004 was named to the Board of Trustees. A picture of him is displayed prominently in the room which now bears his name. Rev. Kiernan passed away last year.
The Student-Athlete Center for Excellence opened for the fall semester in Carnesecca Arena on the Queens campus. The renovated area of the arena serves as the new home for the Student Development for Athletes program, which focuses on five key areas for success: academic support, career development, personal development, leadership and community service. The new space, which is convenient and easily accessible for student-athletes, boasts a 54-seat study center, four private tutoring rooms allowing the academic support staff to have one-on-one interaction with the student-athletes and an area for small study groups to meet.

Dr. Nancy Kaplan, associate vice president for academic support services and student development for athletes, says the center is a “premier facility that demonstrates the commitment the University has made to support the education of our athletes.” “The Center houses all services related to academic support, leadership, sport psychology, counseling services and campus ministry,” Kaplan says. “I am so pleased that gives us the cutting edge facility we need to complement the terrific student-athlete development and academic advising staff that we have here at St. John’s,” he says. “The center will create an optimum atmosphere for our student athletes to continue to build on their history of success in the classroom, as well as continue the community outreach efforts that make us proud.” The center is open from 9 a.m. until 10 p.m. to accommodate the needs of the student-athletes and their demanding academic and athletic schedules. It also houses the office for the campus minister for athletics, Rev. Tri Duong, C.M. ’00C. The Student Development for Athletes program was recognized by the National Association of Academic Advising as an exemplary practice.

“Student-Athletes Receive Boost”

“The center will create an optimum atmosphere for our student athletes to continue to build on their history of success in the classroom, as well as continue the community outreach efforts that make us proud.”

– Chris Monasch ’81SVC, director of athletics
For more information visit:
www.stjohns.edu/services/career/alumni

To schedule an appointment:
Career Center, University Center, First Floor
(718) 990-6375

Laura E. Smith
Senior Career Counselor, Alumni
SmithL2@stjohns.edu

Services at a glance:
• Individual career advisement
• Career assessment
• Networking with other alumni
• Mock interviews
• Resume and cover letter help
• Seminars, special events and employer events
• Mentoring opportunities

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

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

Name: _____________________________________________
First                      Middle/Maiden                     Last

SS#: __________________ Year: ___________ School: ___________
(Used for graduation verification)

Home Address: ____________________________________ Apt. #: ______
If new address, as of: ____________________________
City: __________________ State: _____ Zip: ______
Phone: ( ) E-mail: ____________________________
Business: __________________ Title: __________________
Business Address: ____________________________
City: __________________ State: _____ Zip: ______
Phone: ( ) E-mail: ____________________________
Tell us your news: ____________________________

(Attach another page if more space is needed)

In Holy Matrimony / In The Family Way
Spouse’s Name: _____________________________________________
First                      Middle/Maiden                     Last

Year/School (if also an alumn) ____________________________
(For “In Holy Matrimony”) Wedding date: ____________________________
(For “In The Family Way”) Child’s Name: ____________________________
Date of birth: ____________________                     Son  Daughter

In Memoriam

First                      Middle/Maiden                     Last

Yr./School: __________________ Date of death: __________________
(If other than family member, guardian or legal executor, submissions to In Memoriam must include a printed obit).

I would like information on:

☐ Arts & Enrichment Series        ☐ Annual Giving Opportunities
☐ Chapter Gatherings            ☐ Other

News submissions will be published in the order received. Submissions may be edited for space and style.
President's Dinner Reaches Milestone

The 10th Annual President's Dinner celebrated a decade of achievement for the University’s premier fundraising event and drew 1,300 attendees to the Waldorf=Astoria in New York City.

The St. John's flag flew proudly outside of the majestic hotel as alumni and special friends of the University gathered for a night of celebration. The event served also to honor the recipients of the prestigious Spirit of Service Award given to individuals whose vision, accomplishments and good works embody the essence of St. Vincent de Paul and reflect the vision of the University. The 2007 St. John's University Spirit of Service Awards honorees were: Elizabeth Mirante and Arthur J. Mirante II, Esq., ’68L, ’98HON, president, Global Client Development, Cushman & Wakefield, Inc.; Patricia M. Shea ’83C and Brian T. Shea ’83CBA, president and chief operating officer, Pershing LLC; and Eleanor B. Taffner ’94HON, secretary and treasurer, DLT Entertainment Ltd. and Donald L. Taffner ’53C, ’89HON, chairman, DLT Entertainment Ltd. Former honorees from the past decade were invited to the dinner and took to the stage with the current recipients as the announcement was made that an unprecedented amount of more than $2.1 million had been raised to be used for scholarships that will directly benefit the University’s most deserving students.

St. John’s President Rev. Donald J. Harrington, C.M. thanked those in attendance for their generous support. “I believe our success is directly attributable to so many who have gathered in this room this evening,” he said. “You have shared your resources and your wise counsel with us as we walked this path of making St. John’s an even stronger University.”

Fr. Harrington also thanked St. John’s Public Safety Officer Dan Boylan and NYPD student cadet Christopher Benson for their bravery in apprehending a gunman on September 26 at the University’s Queens campus and their appearance on stage was met with a rousing ovation from the crowd.

Jeff Wengroff ’73CBA is on the dinner committee and said the event has grown tremendously over the years and is a nice way to both support alma mater and show gratitude. “St. John’s gave me a great education enabling me to do many wonderful things,” he said. “So therefore I do whatever I can for the University.”

Carl Perrino ’68 Ph.D. was attending his first President’s Dinner and said it was delightful to be in the company of others who are supportive. “With the diversified population that we have at St. John’s and the wonderful things that St. John’s does for these students, we should raise as much money as possible so that those who want to attend and might not otherwise be able to attend can.”

Lesley H. Collins ’83SVC and William L. Collins ’76C, chairman and chief executive officer, Brencourt Advisors LLC., served as President’s Dinner co-chairpersons, and Dr. Jerrold Ross, dean of St. John’s The School of Education acted as the Master of Ceremonies. The 11th Annual President’s Dinner will be held Thursday, October 30, 2008.
The 17th Annual Loughlin Society Reception held in November honored St. John’s leadership gift society and celebrated a successful year of giving.

Alumni and friends gathered at The Museum Club in downtown New York City for an evening of gratitude for what their support has meant to deserving students.

“Your exceptional generosity directly impacts every aspect of what we do at St. John’s every single day, and you may be proud of the fact that you are influencing the lives of each of our more than 20,000 students, for today and for years to come,” University Provost Julia A. Upton, RSM, Ph.D., ’73G, ’75G said during her welcoming remarks.

Loughlin Society Co-chairpersons Joseph (’82CBA) and Antoinette O’Connor ’82CBA announced that the past year had been the most successful in the history of the Loughlin Society with membership increasing to an all time high 1,724 who contributed more than $7.4 million to the University. That amount represents 44 percent of the total philanthropic revenue raised in the 2006-2007 fiscal year, they said, and Mr. O’Connor said members should take pride in the achievement.

“Always remember that you are a vital part of our exceptional University, and that the legacy of your kindness has already impacted our world in ways that will be felt for years to come,” he said.

Part of that impact includes the many programs available to those matriculating at St. John’s. Students Travis Feldler ‘08C from the Queens campus and Audree Maldonado ’09CPS from the Staten Island campus shared with the attendees their experience as part of the Discover The World program where they not only learned, but also participated in service opportunities. The pair thanked the Loughlin Society members for their support. “The Discover The World program not only encouraged an international education and cultural awareness, but both these self defining points met at the bridge of community service,” Feldler said. “This clearly exemplifies the Vincentian mission of St. John’s University.” “Travis and I had a wonderful experience beyond what we could share here tonight,” Maldonado said.

“But our experience could not have been possible without the generosity of those present and on behalf of all the students I would really like to thank you.” Their speeches had a profound impact on many at the event who reflected on
“Always remember that you are a vital part of our exceptional University, and that the legacy of your kindness has already impacted our world in ways that will be felt for years to come.”

– Joseph O’Connor ’82CBA, Loughlin Society Co-chairperson

what St. John’s has come to mean to them. Richard Adkins ’91C, ’93G, ’05Ed.D. said he appreciates the Vincentian education he received from the University. “St. John’s has

every year to show our love for St. John’s and to get together with people we went to school with,” he said. “We benefited a heck of a lot from our education and we want to see other people be able to benefit likewise.” “We feel that St. John’s gave us so much that we are willing to give back to St. John’s,” his wife added.

University President Rev. Donald J. Harrington, C.M. concluded the evening’s remarks and read a letter from recent graduate Steven Lee ’07C who said he “humbly” wrote to St. John’s “in appreciation for everything St. John’s has done for me.” The University, he said, had “lovingly accepted and opened their arms” to him. The first in his family to graduate from college and attend graduate school, Lee went on to praise the University for being a “difference maker” in the lives of its many graduates. The University has grown and changed to meet the needs of students like Lee while maintaining its mission, Fr. Harrington said. “We’ve been able to do it because of you,” he said. “It’s your generosity that has made it possible.”

Founded in 1990, the Loughlin Society is the leadership gift society that helps the University build on the legacy that began over 138 years ago. The Society recognizes St. John’s alumni, parents and friends who made contributions totaling $1,000 or more to the University within a single fiscal year. The Loughlin Society Associates program is open to alumni within one to nine years of graduation. The Loughlin Society Patrons Program exists to recognize outstanding donors who are also St. John’s University employees. For more information on the Loughlin Society please visit www.stjohns.edu/loughlinsociety

“Always remember that you are a vital part of our exceptional University, and that the legacy of your kindness has already impacted our world in ways that will be felt for years to come.”

– Joseph O’Connor ’82CBA, Loughlin Society Co-chairperson

given me a values based education,” he said. “As a result I have been able to grow a business, serve other people and essentially give back to others the values that I received from St. John’s.” Victoria Gallagher ’03CPS is a Loughlin Associate member and said she is proud of her support of alma mater. “I always wanted to be able to give back,” she said. “I would tell a lot of the younger alumni to start with giving what they can.”

William DeMilt ’63CBA attended with his wife Gerry DeMilt ’63Ed, ’68GEd and said the Loughlin Society Reception is one of their favorite events. “We like coming	

Members of the President’s Society enjoy the event.

Gerard (’49CBA) and Dr. Valerie Sodano ’49CBA

Tracy Ann and Jason Croft

Toad 2008 41
Societies Enjoy Holiday Treat

A special VIP reception was held at the Queens campus in December for members of the Loughlin and McCallen Societies prior to the 20th Annual Christmas Concert.

Christmas cookies and other sweet treats were on hand for attendees and their guests in Marillac Terrace as they mingled and listened to remarks from Maestro Louis Panacciulli, music director and conductor of the Nassau Pops Symphony Orchestra which performed along with the University Mixed Chorus at the concert. The Nassau Pops Symphony Orchestra, of which he is co-founder, has been featured performer at the St. John’s concert for 20 years, he said.

“We have enjoyed a very long relationship with the University and a very rewarding one as well,” Panacciulli said.

Gerard Fernandez Jr. ’50L said the concert has become an annual holiday season event for him over the years. The University is dear to his heart, he said.

“St. John’s gave me my start,” Fernandez said. “We enjoy the concert and look forward to it.” Concert goers were encouraged to bring donations of new, unwrapped toys or children’s books for distribution to various children’s organizations.

Panacciulli (standing) talks with attendees.

Sal Bonadonna ’05CPS said events such as the reception and concert offer the perfect opportunity to return to alma mater. “Coming back is always exciting for me,” he said. “It’s important to bring the alumni back to see what is happening on the campus.”

Members of the Loughlin Society celebrate the legacy of the first Bishop of Brooklyn, John Loughlin, by contributing a leadership gift of $1,000 or more toward any University fund during our fiscal year, which falls between June 1 and May 31. McCallen Society members are some of St. John’s most generous supporters who honor the University’s legacy by including St. John’s in their estate and financial plans. For more information about either of these giving societies, please visit www.stjohns.edu/loughlinsociety or www.stjohns.edu/giftplanning.

Alumni Take to the Green

More than 120 golfers attended St. John’s University’s Annual Alumni Golf Outing held at the Engineers Country Club in Roslyn Harbor, NY, in September. The group played to raise funds for the Long Island Alumni Scholarship which benefits deserving St. John’s students with financial need who reside in Nassau or Suffolk Counties.

The weather was clear and spirits were high as alumni and friends gathered for registration and brunch in the morning before proceeding onto the green to play. A day on the links was followed by a relaxing evening that including a cocktail hour, dinner buffet. William Schaeffer ’73CBA, director, alumni relations, thanked the participants and devoted committee members and presented honoree John Adamovich ’75CBA, ’88HON with gift certificates for dinner at Patsy’s restaurant, tickets to a play of his choice and a one-night stay at a Manhattan hotel in recognition of his dedication to St. John’s and his more than 15 years of service as an Alumni Golf Outing committee member. Adamovich was also instrumental in helping the event gross more than $90,000 through corporate sponsors and private giving with proceeds going towards the scholarship.

The 2007 scholarship recipients, Michele Pernice ’12P and Matthew Calamusa ’09C, were announced and participants were gratified to know that their efforts to help deserving students gain an education are continuing. “As a graduate of St. John’s, I realize how important a good education is,” said Bill Fontanetta ’79SVC. “St. John’s not only provided that to me, it also gave me access to alumni in the business community. To be able to provide this to future graduates is a rewarding experience.”
The 48th Annual Alumnae Fashion Show and Luncheon was held in November at the North Hempstead Country Club in Port Washington, NY. A group of 95 alumnae and friends gathered for a day of fashions in support of the Alumnae Scholarship, which is awarded annually to a deserving student nominated by a St. John’s University alumna.

The luncheon opened with a welcome from Marisa Pennacchia, assistant director, alumni relations for St. John’s College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, and was followed by an invocation from Rev. Kevin Creagh, C.M. ’91SVC, ’04PD, assistant vice president, branch campuses and assistant to the vice president, institutional advancement. Carol Whyzmuzis ’73Ed, ’75GEd, assistant professor for the Division of Computer Science, Mathematics and Science gave opening remarks and announced the recipient of the scholarship, Monica Follieri ’11C. Follieri said she appreciated the support of the alumnae. “It feels good that [the alumnae] care and they are able to give money to benefit a good cause,” Follieri said. “I feel this event connects everyone [the alumnae and the younger generation].”

Catherine Camera ’65CBA was a sponsor of the event which featured alumnae models donning fashions from Dress Barn and said she was delighted with the day. “It is so wonderful to see graduates from all the years and all the schools come back and get together,” Camera said. “It really shows that our Vincentian mission and values are alive and well.” Raffle prizes were awarded and those in attendance spoke warmly of the annual fashion show and luncheon.

Scholarship recipients are selected on the combined basis of academic performance and financial need and, assuming they maintain strict academic standards, retain the grant for the duration of their four year course of study.

Alumnae Come Out In Style

After a four year hiatus, the Doc Gimmler Golf Classic was held in October at Deepdale Golf Club in Manhasset, NY. More than 70 alumni, supporters, fans, and friends attended the major fundraising event, which benefits all Red Storm varsity athletic programs.

The event raised more than $40,000 and was sponsored by Richard Chapdelaine ’84HON. Deepdale is considered one of the most prestigious courses in the area and has been cited by several golf publications as one of the Top 25 courses in America. Following an enjoyable day’s round of golf and dinner, an awards presentation was held at the Clubhouse with a special presentation made to Rosemarie Gimmler, wife of the late John “Doc” Gimmler ’49C the legendary golf coach and administrator for whom the event is named. Brian Colleary, senior associate athletics director for external affairs, said the day was a perfect mix of fundraising for deserving students and paying homage to a man who was an integral part of the athletics program. “It was great to be able to honor Jack “Doc” Gimmler,” Colleary said. “He dedicated most of his life to the success of St. John’s athletics.”

A live auction was also held where dedicated Red Storm fans were able to bid on special items including: a spot on the bench as the honorary assistant coach during a game against Georgetown at Madison Square Garden; a Madison Square Garden suite and tickets to the Red Storm matchup vs. Pittsburgh; and a foursome at Deepdale Golf Club for a later date.

Doc Gimmler Golf Outing Returns

From l. James Burke; Chapdelaine; Alexander Tallarico ’67CBA; and Michael Natoli were a winning foursome.
McCallen Society members gathered on the Queens campus in September for the annual McCallen Society Recognition Luncheon, a traditional and much-enjoyed event designed to acknowledge those special friends who have included St. John’s University in their estate plans.

The day began with a concelebrated Mass held in St. Thomas More Church. Joined on the altar by St. John’s University President Rev. Donald J. Harrington, C.M., Rev. Michael J. Carroll, C.M. and Rev. James J. Maher, C.M. ’84C, principal celebrant and homilist Rev. Kevin G. Creagh, C.M. ’91SVC, ’04PD challenged the congregation to look beyond the riches of the world and reach out to help the downtrodden. “Go beyond the self, and hear the cries of the poor and those in need,” urged Fr. Creagh, noting that “…the great challenge for us is to focus our energies on the needs of others as we break down the walls that keep them at a distance from us.”

After Mass, the McCallen Society members enjoyed a delicious brunch at the newly opened Faculty Dining Room in Sun Yat Sen Hall, where Fr. Harrington expressed his appreciation for the exceptional generosity they continue to show to St. John’s. He discussed the many successes that the University has achieved during the past year, including record numbers of applications for admission into the 2007 freshman class, significant new construction projects on the Queens campus, facilities upgrades on the Manhattan campus and expansion of global learning initiatives currently being planned for both Rome and Paris. “St. John’s University continues to be truly blessed in so many ways,” Harrington said. “These wonderful things have been made possible because of the support of so many people, including those of you here today. You trust in us, you invest in us, and for that I thank you.”

McCallen Society members were vocal in their support for the mission and ideals of the University they love. “I have established a scholarship for graduate students in The School of Education who are working towards a master’s degree in School Counseling,” said Dr. Shirley A. Griggs, a former St. John’s faculty member. “I will continue to fund that scholarship while I am living and have made plans to remember St. John’s in my will so that I can help to keep this wonderful legacy alive.” Similar sentiments were voiced by Dr. Margaret Bott ’52UC, who also has a uniquely personal reason for her McCallen Society membership. “I had the privilege of knowing Fr. McCallen, who helped to send me to St. John’s with a non-competitive tuition scholarship,” remarked Dr. Bott. “Fr. McCallen picked a winner when he picked me, and I want to make sure that I do the same for others.”

Frank Pannizzo ’59UC, ’62L noted that he made a commitment to the McCallen Society “…because of the great opportunity that I had at St. John’s. I was a kid from Brooklyn, my parents were immigrants from Sicily and St. John’s opened its arms and made higher education available to me. I had a great liberal education, and my wife and I want to perpetuate that opportunity and make sure that St. John’s will be able to continue all these great and wonderful advantages for future generations.”

The McCallen Society is the distinguished gift society whose members honor the St. John’s legacy by including the University in their estate and financial plans. For additional information on the McCallen Society, contact Susan Damiani, director, gift planning, at (718) 990-7562 or e-mail damianis@stjohns.edu
Marsh delivers a host of insurance products to alumni and friends through some of the nation’s leading providers, including:

- **Long-Term Care** – alumni and their spouses are offered a 5% discount annually.
- **Group Term Life Insurance** – alumni and their spouses can apply for up to $500,000 of term life insurance.
- **Disability Income Insurance** – convenient plans available at various coverage levels.

For more information on these and other insurance plans offered by Marsh, call **1 (888) 560-ALUM (2586)** today.

---

**Become an Annual Contributor**

*As a St. John’s University Annual Contributor,*

your gift has an immediate and direct impact on our more than 20,000 students.

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

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

For more information, visit [www.stjohns.edu/annualcontributor](http://www.stjohns.edu/annualcontributor)

---

**MARSH**

Affinity Group Services

a service of Seabury & Smith
50s

JOSEPH IZZILLO '51L was the subject of a story in Catholic Digest titled “The Saint Who Healed Me” about his battle with psoriasis and his healing experience with the Blessed Kateri.

Making Music

BERNARD KENNEDY '54CBA, '58L, '99HON is not just an accomplished businessman — he is also a composer. The co-chairman of the board of King Kullen, he conceived The Mass of the Composers, a musical composition that sets the sacred text of the Catholic Mass to famous masterpieces of classical and operatic literature. Included in the Mass are selections by Bruch, Gounod Leoncavallo, Mascagni, Mozart, Puccini and von Weber. The composition premiered in October at Chaminade High School in Mineola, NY, where he is a graduate. “Chaminade was where I first learned to appreciate the sacred text and it’s a wonderfully fitting place to premier this piece,” he said.

60s

CLIFFORD STILL '63P, '68GP and his wife CONSTANCE STILL '63P were featured in an article in The New York Times which included information about their beekeeping.

WILLIAM GARDELLA '65Ed is an adjunct assistant professor at St. John’s who served 30 years with the New York City Police Department with the rank of deputy inspector. He has worked as a consultant and assisted the Atlanta, GA and Montgomery, AL police departments in the selection of assistant chiefs for their respective departments. He has also lectured on serial killers based on his work with the David “Son of Sam” Berkowitz case.

70s

HERBERT STUPP '71C, '75G is chief executive officer of Little Flower Children and Family Services of New York and was appointed to a seat on the William B. Hoyt Memorial Children & Family Trust Fund Advisory Board in New York City.

ROBERT DILLON '74C, '77PD, '90Ed.D. retired as superintendent of schools for East Meadow Union Free School District in East Meadow, NY.

KEVIN SILVA '75SVC is chief administrative officer for MBIA Inc. in New York City and was elected to the Board of Trustees for the New York Institute of Technology in Old Westbury, NY.

JAMES SWORDS '77SVC is a director for business development/strategic media at The Salak Group in Washington, DC.

Fun in The Sun

A group of alumni joined together for a 50th Anniversary Reunion Cruise sponsored by the Office of Alumni Relations. The ship left from Puerto Rico and visited St. Thomas, Dominica, Barbados, St. Lucia and Antigua. Pictured enjoying an evening on board are from l. Frances Pisani; Frances Funke; RUDOLPH FUNKE '66CBA, ’69L; JOHN ROBERTS ’82SVC; Pamela Roberts; and HENRY ROSS ’56C.
MARK BELIVEAU ’79L was selected by his peers for inclusion in The Best Lawyers in America 2008 for his work in environmental law at Pierce Atwood LLP, which has offices in Portland and Augusta, ME; Portsmouth and Concord, NH and Boston, MA.

ANTHONY CELIFARCO ’79C is chief of gastroenterology at St. Francis Hospital, The Heart Center in Roslyn, NY.

80s

JOHN KAVANAGH ’81C was appointed special agent in charge of the FBI’s Omaha office in Omaha, NE.

JOSE-LUIS PEREZ ’82CBA, ’85L is an associate general counsel for the Puerto Rican Legal Defense and Education Fund in New York City.

ROBERT NOBILE ’84L is national chair of the Workplace Counseling & Compliance Solutions Practice Group for Seyfarth Shaw LLP and was inducted into The College of Labor and Employment Lawyers, Inc. of New York City.

NANCY FRIEDMAN ’85L is a commissioner on the Colorado Independent Ethics Commission where she will serve a two year term in Denver, CO.

ALEXIUS GARGANO ’89CBA is a vice president in the domestic casualty department of AIG in New York City.

90s

BRIAN BREHENY ’90CBA, ’96L is a deputy director for legal and regulatory policy at the agency’s Division of Corporation Finance at the United States Securities and Exchange Commission in Washington, DC. He also serves on the Board of Governors for the University.

ANTHONY SIMONE ’90NDC, a member at Norris McLaughlin & Marcus P.A., in Somerville, NJ, presented “Sexual Harassment: Challenges In the Evolving Workplace” at the Human Resource Roundtable of the Human Resource Council of the Commerce and Industry Association of New Jersey in Paramus, NJ.

EDWARD LAFITEAU ’91SVC was promoted to lead business systems analyst for American Express Technologies in Charlotte, NC.

MICHAEL CAMPAHILE ’92L is a partner at Morris Duffy Alonso & Faley in New York City.

THOMAS GAMBINI ’92VC received a doctorate degree in educational leadership from Nova Southeastern University in Ft. Lauderdale, FL and is employed as a school improvement specialist with the New Jersey Department of Education. He is also serving a three year term as a member of the Board of Education for the Matawan-Aberdeen Regional School District in Monmouth County, NJ.

ROY GARLISI ’92VC won an Emmy, his second, for his work on “ABC World News and Nightline Brian Ross Investigates: Conduct Unbecoming”, which was winner for Outstanding Investigative Journalism in a Regularly Scheduled Newscast at the 28th Annual Emmy Awards for News & Documentary held in New York City.

Award Winning

MICHAEL SHEEHAN ’87VC, former St. John’s TV Center employee and adjunct professor, was a recipient of the award for Outstanding Editor for Investigative Reporting - News Magazines and Long Form at the National Academy Of Television Arts & Sciences 5th Annual Business & Financial Emmy Awards. He won for his work on “Prescriptions...and Pay Offs” from the CNBC program “Business Nation.” He is now an independent producer/editor with his company Manor Media which includes GEORGE LAZAROS ’94SVC and former TV Center director Patricia Ruggieri.

Simply Amazing

Fraternity brothers and best pals ANDREW “Drew” FEINBERG ’87CBA (r.) and KEVIN O’CONNOR ’88CBA (l.) made a return visit on the CBS reality show “The Amazing Race.” The pair competed on “The Amazing Race: All Stars,” the eleventh installment of the hit, primetime show. They had previously appeared on season one where they came in fourth place and later went on to have their own show, “Kevin and Drew Unleashed,” on the Discovery Channel. Since the first show the friends, who met at the Staten Island campus, have both married and Feinberg is a senior court officer while O’Connor is a forensic accountant. On “The Amazing Race: All Stars” they placed 10th out of 11 teams.

MICHAEL SHEEHAN ’87VC, former St. John’s TV Center employee and adjunct professor, was a recipient of the award for Outstanding Editor for Investigative Reporting - News Magazines and Long Form at the National Academy Of Television Arts & Sciences 5th Annual Business & Financial Emmy Awards. He won for his work on “Prescriptions...and Pay Offs” from the CNBC program “Business Nation.” He is now an independent producer/editor with his company Manor Media which includes GEORGE LAZAROS ’94SVC and former TV Center director Patricia Ruggieri.
ALEXANDER LUTZ ’95SVC is a director of government relations for American Red Cross of Greater New York in New York City.

THOMAS FERRUGIA ’96SVC is director of government relations for the League of American Theatres and Producers, Inc. in New York City.

NICHOLAS LEGAKIS ’97SVC, ’07MPS is the associate director, institutional advancement for the Staten Island campus and completed a master’s of professional studies at St. John’s in May.

JOSEPH TURK ’97NDC is an operations supervisor with Yellow Roadway Corporation in Carlstadt, NJ.

JOHN WEIGAND ’97G, director, division of audiology at Downstate Medical Center in Brooklyn, NY, is a fellow of the American Academy of Audiology and has earned the Certificate of Clinical Competence from the American Speech Language & Hearing Association.

MIGUEL ORTIZ ’98SVC is currently serving a 24-month tour with the Marine Corps Embassy Security Command’s Region 2 Headquarters in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates.

IVAN RODRIGUEZ ’98CBA is a manager, account department at American Express in New York City.

JAMES SALNAVE ’98C, ’02GEd is the new associate dean for Student Development at the University’s Queens campus.

KRISTIN WONG ’98SVC is an assistant media director at Initiative New York in New York City.

MICHAEL NICHOLSON ’00MBA is executive vice president, chief financial officer for Ann Taylor Stores Corporation in New York City.

SANDEE GAETA ’01CPS is a teacher with High Hopes Pre-School in Staten Island, NY.

MARC CUCCHIA ’02Ed is a fifth-grade teacher at P.S. 69 in Staten Island, NY.

ANTHONY CUSEO ’02CPS, ’05G was presented by Bishop William Murphy of Rockville Centre the St. Agnes Medal of Service for his volunteer work at the St. Pius X Residence for senior priests in Uniondale, NY.

DANIEL PASSARELLO ’02TCB is a business banking officer with Citibank in Brooklyn, NY.

MARIA ESPIRITU ’03TCB, ’04MS is a senior auditor with J.H. Cohn in Roseland, NJ.

CHRISTINE NICOLOSI ’03CPS is a claims specialist with CNA Insurance in Cranbury, NJ.

MICHELE BURKE ’04CPS is a customer service specialist with an entertainment company in Staten Island, NY.

ALEXIS FAUCI ’04Ed, ’06GEd is a third-grade teacher in the gifted and talented program at P.S. 69 in Staten Island, NY.

STELLA KONTOLIOS ’04Ed graduated from Touro College in New York City and received her second master’s degree in leadership and administration. She works as an academic intervention specialist in reading at P.S. 69 in Bronx, NY.

KIMBERLY MARINO ’04Ed is a second-grade teacher at P.S. 19 in Staten Island, NY.

CHRISTINE PRISTASH ’04Ed is a pre-school special education teacher with Volunteers of America, Staten Island Early Learning Center in Staten Island, NY.

KEVIN CONSTANT ’05TCB was promoted from a gift processing position at the University to research analyst for the Office of Advancement Services.

Space in the Classroom

KRYSTIE DIAZ ’99C, who teaches middle school in Orlando, FL, participated in the highly prestigious 2007 Honeywell Educators @ Space Academy program held at the U.S. Space & Rocket Center in Huntsville, AL. She joined 265 science and math teachers from 43 states and 21 countries to complete an intensive educator curriculum focused on space science and exploration. The group also participated in real-life astronaut training. Each Honeywell Educator was awarded the scholarship following a rigorous application and selection process involving nearly 1,000 competing teachers. Including this year’s class, more than 700 teachers have graduated from the Honeywell Educators @ Space Academy program since the programs inception in 2004.

Stella diaz-

KRYSTIE DIAZ ’99C, who teaches middle school in Orlando, FL, participated in the highly prestigious 2007 Honeywell Educators @ Space Academy program held at the U.S. Space & Rocket Center in Huntsville, AL. She joined 265 science and math teachers from 43 states and 21 countries to complete an intensive educator curriculum focused on space science and exploration. The group also participated in real-life astronaut training. Each Honeywell Educator was awarded the scholarship following a rigorous application and selection process involving nearly 1,000 competing teachers. Including this year’s class, more than 700 teachers have graduated from the Honeywell Educators @ Space Academy program since the programs inception in 2004.

00s

RONALD GIMONDO ’00PD is an assistant principal at John F. Kennedy Elementary School in Great Neck, NY.
A Good Sport

JAMES MCKINSTRY '05TCB, '08GEd has overcome many obstacles to become a successful athlete. A Type 1 diabetic, he almost saw his junior tennis career derailed when as a young teen he was in and out of doctor’s offices and fractured a vertebra while playing basketball. He wasn’t diagnosed with diabetes until his junior year in high school, but he was determined to continue participating in sports. He went on to make the all-state team and later played on St. John’s tennis and football teams. These days, he’s played well in national tournaments and has left his job in finance to pursue a teaching career. The son of former pro football player Jim McKinstry, he says he wants to serve as a role model for the youth. “I’m hoping to set a positive example,” he says. “Everyone has obstacles in life. It’s just how you handle it.”

VICTORIA PREYS '05MBA is a director, strategic global product development department at Pfizer, Inc. in New York City.

ESTEFANIA ZEA '05CPS, formerly the project manager for the Alumni Relations Department at Adelphi University in Garden City, NY, was promoted to alumni relations officer.

JACK CONWAY '06CPS is a police officer with the New York City Police Department in Brooklyn, NY.

STEVEN LEE '07C received the Pamela Chu Memorial Scholarship from The Korean American Scholarship Foundation to support his first year studies at the University of Georgia Law School in Athens, GA.

KATHERINE SHERIN-ZAUNER '51UC was named 2007 Florida Senior Poet Laureate by the Angels Without Wings Foundation and has had more than 600 pieces published nationally and internationally including “As the Gorse Blooms,” “Turtle Tracks” and “The Butterfly Garden.”

HON. GERALD McLELLAN '60L, a former Massachusetts judge and longtime Boston divorce attorney, has written and published his first novel, Old City Hall (AuthorHouse, 2007), a blend of legal intrigue, political power, and family secrets set amid the backdrop of some of Boston’s most historic neighborhoods.

DONALD FARINACCI '63C is the author of Last Full Measure of Devotion: A Tribute to America’s Heroes of the Vietnam War (Authorhouse, 2007).

PATRICIA TUNISON PRESTON '65Ed, '67GEd has written Ireland Memories (LifePress Books, 2007), her 14th book about Ireland.


90s
MICHAEL GALLUZZI '91L and wife, Dominique, a daughter, Gianna Madeleine – May 23, 2007
ALEXANDER LUTZ '95SVC and wife, Suzanne, a daughter, Megan – August 7, 2007
GEORGE WONICA '96SVC and wife, Laura Ann, a son, George Vincent – October 3, 2007

00s
RONALD GIMONDO '00 PD and wife, Amanda, a daughter, Lily Angelina – October 6, 2007
LOURDES RIVERA '05TCB and husband, Abad, a daughter, Cameron Rivera – August 12, 2007

80s
ALEXIUS GARGANO '89CBA and CHRISTINE NICOLOSI '03CPS – October 7, 2007

90s
JOSEPH TURK '97NDC and Helene Cavaliere – September 15, 2007
KRISTIN WONG '98SVC and David Valle – October 13, 2007

00s
SANDEE GAETA '01CPS and Nicholas Campanella – August 11, 2007
MARC CUCCHIA '02Ed and Merideth Frattalone – October 5, 2007
DANIEL PASSARELLO '02TCB and Diana Perez – October 7, 2007
VICTORIA BUNATTA '03CPS and Stephen Gallaghet – October 13, 2007
MICHIE BURKE '04CPS and Scott Solomon – August 25, 2007
KIMBERLY MARINO '04Ed and Michael Sidoti – August 11, 2007
CHRISTINE PRISTASH '04Ed and Christopher Merillo – October 27, 2007
In Memoriam

30s
Harry Marcus '30L
William McKaba '34P
Arthur Kellmann '35L
Max Mason '35L
John Donovan '36L
James Kenny '36L
Grace Nolan '36NDC
Albert Tynebor '36C, '38G
Thomas McMoulighin '37CBA, '41L
James Durante '38L
Herbert Taten '38L
Richard Dawson '39L
Fred Dyson '39CBA

40s
Thomas Lund '40C
Donald Waters '40C
Helen Jester '41L
Gertrude Kelly '41CBA
Ralph Manganelli, D.D.S. '41C
Fred Dyson '39CBA
Richard Dawson '41C
Herbert Taten '38L
James Durante '38L
Michael Castro '49C, '51L
Dominick Barbaro '49C

50s
George Casey '50CBA
Howard Evans '50CBA
Edward Forshay '50C
Donald Kane '50L

60s
Donald Coleman '60UC
Alice Gavir '60NDC
Michael Hughes '60CBA
James Ferguson '61C, '63G
Robert Flanagan '61CBA
Nicholas Osnati '61P
David Utendorfer '61CBA
Joseph Burns '62G
Bro. Edward Duggan '62G
James Quartuccio '62CBA
Robert Rappa '62C, '64GED

70s
Rita Loos '71Ph.D.
Robert Nagy '71G
James Tahaney '71GED, '74PD
Kevin Glancy '72C
Ann Novakoski '72GP
Robert Post '72L
Madeline Ramsey '72G
Peter Murphy '74L
Dominick Nusco '74CBA
Edward Warren '74C
Tara Brown '75Ed
Glenn Massell '75SVC
Jay Allen Cohen '76MBA
Carole Gerard '76GED

80s
Ernest D'Angelo '80, '83L
Mary Maune '76L
Christine Spigner '77SVC
Louis Carpetto '78P
Howard Metzdorff '78SVC
Caroline Moore '78MBA
Brian Roth '78MBA
Alex Goun '79MBA
Robert Smythe '79MBA

90s
Madeline Atkins '90G, '98D.A.
Richard Martin '90CBA
Bonnie Jones '95SVC
Salvatore DiGaetano '96C
Caroline Bruce '97L
Mina Chew '97C

00s
Allison Cunningham '02C
Giancarlo Tortorelli '05CPS

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

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.
Joe and Toni O’Connor’s love story is a study in partnership and family ties.

The couple met as students at St. John’s when both participated in the Executive-In-Residence program at what was then known as the College of Business Administration. They were part of a study group and came to know each other as they worked on class projects. A friendship formed and the pair found they had some things in common. They were both Queens residents — Toni from South Ozone Park and Joe from Bayside — both studious and both happy with their choice in attending the University.

For their first date, they attended a St. John’s basketball game at Alumni Hall and Joe later proposed to Toni under the arch on the Queens campus. When they married in 1985, Rev. James J. Dorr, C.M. ’79GEd, a member of the University’s administration, conducted the ceremony.

It would seem only natural that alma mater would play such a significant role in their relationship given the history of the O’Connor family with St. John’s. Seven out of the eight O’Connor siblings are St. John’s graduates. In addition to Joe there is Mary (’78CBA), James (’79VC), Bill (’84C, ’87G), Dan (’85VC), Maureen (’88C, ’95G) and Jennifer (’92C, ’96G). Maureen and Jennifer also both met their spouses at the University, Dennis Martin (’88C and Kevin Dennean (’92CBA), respectively. The O’Connor matriarch, Ada Mae, worked in the Registrar’s Office for more than 20 years and their father James (’67MBA) is also an alumnus and a former adjunct professor. “We’re the quintessential St. John’s family,” Joe says.

The University has been good to them, the O’Connors say. Two of the O’Connor clan attended on baseball scholarships and several other O’Connor children received academic scholarships. Not only did they receive a solid education, they acknowledge, but there was also the focus on Vincentianism which they hold dear. “We found a community of people in the student body and faculty that really shared our values,” Joe says. “We couldn’t be more proud of our St. John’s education.”

That pride has spurred them to give back to the institution. Joe and Toni have served as co-chairs of the Loughlin Society for consecutive years and Joe gave generously of his time as a member of the Board of Governors and the Advisory Board for St. John’s University. The Peter J. Tobin College of Business.

Last year, Joe was elected to the St. John’s University Board of Trustees. Toni has been lauded for her work with several organizations including the Padre Pio Homeless Shelter, the Ossining Children’s Center, and the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts of America. In 2002, St. John’s honored Joe with the Pietas Medal and in 2007 the couple was presented the Fidelitas Award in recognition of their devotion and service to the University.

Over the years, their love for St. John’s — and each other — has continued to flourish. Today, Joe is the managing director for Security Global Investors and they are the proud parents of Joseph, Sean, Brianna and Brendan. And they say they will remain ever steadfast in their loyalty to the University which brought them together. “We’re very grateful to St. John’s,” Toni says.

If St. John’s played a role as matchmaker in your life, we want to know about it. If there are several generations of St. John’s graduates in your family, we want to know that also. Share your story with the Magazine readership by contacting the Editor at (718) 990-5482 or at alumnotes@stjohns.edu
Mike Repole ’91SVC is a winner. The president of Glacéau, makers of Vitaminwater, Fruitwater, Smartwater, and Vitaminenergy, Repole is tops in the extremely competitive beverage industry and oversees hundreds of employees at the Whitestone, NY-based corporation. It’s a perfect fit for a man who works hard and plays hard.

Growing up in Middle Village in Queens, NY, his mother hailed from Italy and his father from France, while Repole was an All-American athlete who loved and played just about every sport. He funneled that passion for the game into a degree in what was then known as Athletic Administration from St. John’s and worked for a time as a basketball coach for Christ the King High School in New York.

But he has really made his mark at Glacéau which is so successful that in May 2007 the Coca Cola Corporation purchased it in one of that company’s largest acquisitions ever, reportedly paying more than $4 billion for the makers of the very popular enhanced water products. In a testament to Repole’s talent and business expertise, he will continue in his role as a top executive with the company he helped to shape.

**You received your degree in sports management. What drew you to work in the beverage industry?** I knew that I was either going to go into sports or sales. I was kind of fascinated by the impulsive decisions consumers would make when it came to buying a beverage. When a customer walks into a deli, they usually know whether they want a turkey sandwich or a roast beef sandwich, but the beverage choice is an impulse decision. It was something that I thought was very exciting. I worked with Crystal Geyser and Mistic Beverages and in 1998 I partnered with Darius [Bikoff, chief executive officer of Glacéau]. Nine years later we have 400 full-time employees and 350 part-time employees with those numbers scheduled to grow to 650 full-time employees and 600 part-time. It’s been great.

**Glacéau is an extremely successful company. To what do you attribute that success?** We created a brand that really connected with the consumer. And I would say the key to our success has been the employees. Right now, we have 750 of the most competitive and passionate people you would ever meet working here.

**Vitaminwater has become an essential part of a healthy lifestyle for so many consumers. What is your regiment for staying fit?** I drink probably about three 20 ounce Smartwaters and at least two Vitaminwaters every day. I lift weights twice a week with a trainer and I try to stay active playing basketball and tennis. We have a gym here where I work out twice a week and the parking lot has a basketball court where you are going to find some of the most intense, hard played games going on. I always say there is no org chart on our basketball court.

**You were formerly a basketball coach for Christ the King High School. What lessons did you learn there that you have carried over to the corporate world?** My philosophy is not to hire managers, but to hire coaches. The job of a coach is to make the members of your team better and at the end of the day the best managers are those that have made their employees better. So I think the biggest thing I took away was taking a coaching approach to management.

**How has your St. John’s education contributed to your career and your success?** Attending St. John’s, it is such a great community with the students and the faculty. I had a great time there, received a great education and made some wonderful friends. If you are going to stay in New York and not go away to college, I can’t see going anywhere else.

**Describe your dream job or do you already have it?** I’m probably one of the luckiest guys in the world. I love what I do. I love Glacéau and, more importantly, I love the 750 people who work here. I’m one of the few people who are fortunate enough to say I have my dream job.
The Office of Alumni Relations continues to offer programs designed to keep you in touch with classmates and professors whom you knew from the past. There’s something for everyone, so take a look—and come home to your University.

March 1, 2008
Alumni Day
Watch for details regarding this fun-filled event where alumni return to alma mater to show what Red Storm team spirit is all about. Alumni Day features exciting BIG EAST basketball as the men take on Seton Hall University.

March 17, 2008
New York City’s St. Patrick’s Day Parade
Wear the green! Enjoy a great New York City tradition with other alums and students and march in the parade.

April 5, 2008
St. John’s College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
Speaker Series
Joyce Carol Oates
See the second of this semi-annual Speaker Series, and spend an afternoon with author Joyce Carol Oates, a two-time nominee for the Nobel Prize in Literature. The author of novels, short stories, poetry and essays offers a presentation and gives a glimpse into her creative process.

June 13 – 15, 2008
Alumni Reunion 2008
Reunite with former classmates and faculty members, relive college day memories and revisit the Queens and Staten Island campuses.

For the most up-to-date information regarding any of the above events, please visit: www.stjohns.edu/alumni
All alumni are invited to attend Reunion which includes special celebrations for classes ending in “3” and “8” and especially those commemorating their 50th (1958), 40th (1968), and 25th (1983) anniversary years.

For information on becoming a Class Chair, contact Michelle King (718) 990-6035, toll-free at 1 (877) 758-ALUM or e-mail kingm1@stjohns.edu

For the most up-to-date information, please visit www.stjohns.edu/reunion