Andrew J. Bartilucci, Ph.D. ’44P, ’98HON Exemplifies the Uniqueness of St. John’s

By Dylan Loru ’21CPS, Graduate Assistant/The McCallan Society

Andrew J. Bartilucci, Ph.D. ’44P, ’98HON embodies the true mission of St. John’s University. An alumnus of the College of Pharmacy and Allied Health Professions and a beloved St. John’s faculty member and administrator, his accolades go beyond that of just leadership, wisdom, and intellectual intelligence. For so many decades, this beloved and gentle man has been an inspiring role model for thousands of students, faculty members, and colleagues at the University.

Like St. Vincent de Paul, Dr. Bartilucci was drawn to the healing arts. He earned a baccalaureate degree in Pharmacy at St. John’s in 1944 and shortly thereafter went on to earn a master of science degree and doctorate. After serving in the Navy and entering the workforce, he returned to his alma mater as a faculty member and Dean of the College of Pharmacy, ultimately leading the school into national prominence.

His deanship concluded in 1988 when he assumed a new administrative role as Vice President for Health Professions, Clinical Services, and Research, and Acting Dean of St. John’s College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. In 1991, he was appointed by then-President Rev. Donald J. Harrington, C.M., as the University’s Executive Vice President.

“Serving St. John’s in various capacities has always been a genuine honor for me,” he said. “This wonderful University has always been very special place, and it has done so much for so many people, myself included. As a pharmacist, I have always believed that offering a hand to those in need is a noble obligation—and that is what St. John’s has always been about. My own philosophy is completely in sync with the Vincentian mission of caring and concern for others. My membership in the University family has enriched my life beyond words, and I humbly hope that I have been able to advance that mission into the world.”

The Dr. Andrew J. Bartilucci Center was named for him in recognition of his love, dedication, and commitment to St. John’s. His commitment has brought St. John’s into the lives of many, including his three daughters and son-in-law.

“St. John’s has been an absolutely wonderful part of my life for so long,” he said. “It is impossible for me to imagine what my life, both personally and professionally, would have been like without my association with this fantastic University. It has been so much more than just a second family to me—in so many ways, it’s been my very existence.”

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For more information, and to RSVP, contact the Office of Gift Planning at 718-990-8423; giftplanning@stjohns.edu.
The Legacy of Frank Coppa, Ph.D., Continues to Inspire Others at St. John’s

By Thomas Burke ’68C, Contributor

For more than five decades, thousands of St. John’s University students, both undergraduate and graduate, walked through the doors of history under the guidance of Frank Coppa, Ph.D. Widely acknowledged as a giant in his field, Dr. Coppa left a lasting impact on the University he loved, both in the classroom and administratively. On more than one occasion he served as Chairperson of the History Department, and he was instrumental in developing and implementing St. John’s doctoral program in World History.

“My father believed that history was not something dusty that sat in a book, but rather something that needed to be both appreciated and used,” said his daughter, Francesca Coppa. “He knew that history was not just about events, but about people, and how they interacted with the things that were taking place around them. He believed that if people weren’t aware of what happened yesterday, they wouldn’t be able to appreciate what’s happening today.”

The year after Dr. Coppa passed away in 2021, he was awarded the title of Professor Emeritus, a striking testament to the esteem in which he was held by St. John’s.

Fittingly, the Coppa family has established a scholarship to ensure that his memory will remain alive forever through the young people who might one day follow in his footsteps. The scholarship is designed to offer financial assistance to deserving students who are committed to the study of history on either the undergraduate or graduate level.

“My dad really cared about the study of history,” noted Ms. Coppa. “In fact, he trained many of the teachers of history in high schools throughout the city. When he passed away, there was a tremendous outpouring of sympathy and respect from those teachers. Given that reality, our family agreed that the thing that we could do to establish a scholarship to maintain the things that he cared about. The Coppa family will do all that we can to support the history Department at St. John’s.”

In addition to his work at the University, Dr. Coppa was a historian of modern Europe, and was especially devoted to the history of the papacy. He was very interested in how the Church responded to the Second World War. On the eve of his death, he did a lot of Judeo-Christian reconciliation work, working to bridge the gap between them.

A fervent believer in the Vincentian values that lie at the heart of the St. John’s experience, Dr. Coppa incorporated those values into his life. “Making a difference for others was important to him, both in his life and in his role at the University,” said Ms. Coppa. “He worked tirelessly for his students, and he really enjoyed interacting with his colleagues and students in a one-on-one setting.”

The Coppa family will do all that we can to support the History Department at St. John’s. The Legacy of Frank Coppa, Ph.D., Continues to Inspire Others at St. John’s.