PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

I think it was Senator Fulbright who once observed that human beings seem much better at adapting to disaster than preventing it.

When we couple this with the Medieval definition of wisdom, sapientia est ordinare, i.e., wisdom is the ability to plan, we can begin to see what happens to both individuals and institutions that do not carefully examine what the future holds and plan accordingly.

Such planning requires painful decisions. It necessitates change, which can upset us all because we prefer the familiar to the new. But if we are to face the future with courage and hope, we must be willing to make the hard decisions and take control of our future or risk being overpowered by it.

Sacred Heart University is at a critical juncture. It faces all the problems besetting higher education across the country: declining enrollment, increased competition for financial support, and higher capital and operational costs.

We can face these problems resolutely and make the hard decisions that will carry us into the future, or we can wring our hands, shake our fists at hostile fortune, do nothing, and have no future.

There is no real choice. Let us face our future with courage and work together to move SHU ahead, with hope in Divine Providence and faith in our own abilities.

Dr. Robert A. Preston
President

CLINKSCALES IN NEW ROLE

Alvin Clinkscales heads Enrollment Management

“Wherever I have been, wherever I go, somebody has always been by my side, thinking about me and willing to help,” says the new assistant vice president for Enrollment Management.

An educator for nearly 30 years, Alvin Clinkscales has regarded each position he has held as more than “just a job.” Rather, his assignments have been opportunities to impact on the lives of youths, giving these young people the kind of support and guidance he himself feels lucky to have received.

“It’s important for youth to have someone they trust care about them,” he explains. “When I come in contact with students, I try to reach out to them, letting them know that though the road may get

(Continued on Page 2)

25th Anniversary Special Commemorative
Symposium on The Catholic Intellectual Heritage
Friday, March 25 at 10:30 o’clock in the morning
In the Leonard A. Schine Auditorium
A gala reception for the entire University Community
at 4 o’clock in the afternoon
Alexander Hawley Lounge (Formerly The Center Lounge)
In the Academic Center
RSVP 371-7790
ZIC FORGES GROWING ART DEPARTMENT

Virginia Zic

"I seemed to have a talent for art that was recognized in elementary school," says Virginia Zic, chairperson of the department of Art and Music. "My interest in art escalated as did my inner desire to master the field."

Joining SHU's pioneer staff in 1965, Virginia taught art history -- a required course in the core curriculum at the time.

"I choose SHU because it was a new university with new challenges. It was someplace to begin traditions and a place in which I could strive to accomplish my goals," adds Virginia. "I have a real sense of accomplishment when I look back at how far we've come."

In 1972 Dr. Charles Ford, then academic vice president, designated the art area as the department of Fine Arts. "I was the only member of the department besides a part-time design instructor," says Virginia. "I did not have one slide to use for the art history course."

After researching SHU's art program for two years, Virginia developed a curriculum which resulted in the designation of a state-licensed art major in 1977 in the categories of illustration and painting.

"The students and I tore down the walls and opened-up some space -- the first of our large art studios. We added one full-time faculty member and one adjunct in 1977," Virginia recalls. The department of Art today consists of 13 adjunct and three full-time faculty members.

"We are the best in the area, as I see it."

Interest and participation in the department of Art has been steady from the beginning, explains Virginia. "It is primarily achieved through word of mouth. We have an excellent department forged by the interest, determination, and enthusiasm of our faculty. We are the best in the area as I see it."

Striving to retain a quality, innovative program, Virginia hopes to continue to change with the times.

Responding to a need for expansion in 1980, Virginia added the graphic design major. "Now I am seeing a movement toward a baccalaureate of Fine Arts (B.F.A.) which requires more courses--about 75 per cent of the course content in the arts. We need to start providing for that."

Virginia received her master's in Fine Arts in advertising and design from Syracuse University after realizing the development of graphic design as a major art interest. She has an M.A. from the Villa Schifanoia Graduate School of Fine Arts in Florence, Italy, and her Ph.B. (bachelor of Philosophy) from DePaul University.

Although Virginia's undergraduate and graduate degrees are focused on painting, she likes to teach all forms of art. "I suppose if I had to choose a favorite period it would be the post-impressionists--the art of Cezanne for example, because of his use of color, structural style, and exploration of color. I love to paint using acrylics, and I draw using oil pastels. Both allow me to work quickly, enabling me to concentrate my efforts on the University."

CLINKSCALES

(Continued from Page 1)

rocky sometimes, they're not alone. Persevering, they can go far."

Perseverance has been a constant theme in Mr. Clinkscales's life. A graduate of the University of Bridgeport, with bachelor's degrees in both Physical Education and Biology, he spent two years as a Harlem Globetrotter, leaving to serve two years in the United States Army. Later Mr. Clinkscales began a 14-year teaching career at Notre Dame High School, where eventually he served as assistant to the the Principal.

In 1972, Mr. Clinkscales moved into a different facet of education, joining the Sacred Heart University community as director of Financial Aid. He recently relinquished the position to former Assistant Director Julie Savino, freeing himself for his new duties. Mr Clinkscales is looking forward to the challenge.

"The key to success is teamwork," he continues. "I'll be depending a great deal on my colleagues and friends throughout the University. We're all family here at Sacred Heart, and we still have a special pride in SHU. With that kind of pride and team dedication, who knows how far we can go?"

Mr. Clinkscales is married to the former Margaret Ann Holmes, also a dedicated educator. A teacher in the Bridgeport public school system, Mrs. Clinkscales is one of the founders of the city's Magnet school program, in which students with promise are educated with an emphasis on reading, language and the arts.

Residents of Trumbull, they have three children: Keith, a banker at Chemical Bank in New York City: Norma, a junior at Howard University, Washington D.C.; and Erik, a sophomore at Norfolk State University, Norfolk, Virginia.
Celebrating the Holidays... and a Promotion

Marian Calabrese and Anne Barker enjoy the President's holiday reception.

Acquisitions Librarian Michael Bielawa and SHU Senior Janice Barsevich join in the festivities.

Marie Coleman, Mary Anne Diekmann, and Pat Zelle take time out from the holiday reception to smile for the camera.

Dr. Virginia Harris shares Alvin Clinkscale's excitement at the reception honoring his recent promotion.

Dr. Thomas Pepe, Barbara Tulley, and Camille Reale gather to help celebrate Al's new position.

A special day becomes even more endearing with Julie Savino as the new director of Financial Aid. Others are John Mikota and Marilyn Kitlas.
LAUREN CASS IN FINALS FOR TEACHER OF THE YEAR

Lauren Cass, Monroe’s “Teacher of the Year: 1987-88,” and an adjunct instructor in the SHU Department of Education, was among the six finalists for Connecticut’s “Teacher of the Year” award, chosen out of more than 90 teachers tapped for recognition.

An eighth grade literature teacher at Chalkhill Middle School, Ms. Cass has been affiliated with the Monroe educational system for 11 years. Previously she was for eight years a classroom teacher at Waltersville Elementary School, Bridgeport.

Her teaching draws strongly on human rights. The play, “The Diary of Anne Frank,” is part of her literature course, a required subject in the Monroe school curriculum. She developed the Anne Frank unit while studying in Israel on a fellowship two summers ago at Yad Vashem, an institution dealing with materials on the Holocaust, and at the Ghetto Fighter House, a study center established by 40 survivors of the Warsaw Ghetto.

“I try to focus on social action in literature,” she says, mentioning “Cry the Beloved Country,” the “Hobbit,” and “Anne Frank,” as examples of work which touch on apartheid and human rights. “I want the students to think critically and then take a step from there.”

A winner of a state education program called “Celebration of Excellence,” established in 1985, Ms. Cass has traveled around the state teaching educators her Anne Frank unit. She noted that other “Celebration” winners have spoken on their specialties, mainly poetry and mythology, to graduate education students at SHU.

Ms. Cass received a bachelor of Arts degree in Elementary Education at West Virginia Wesleyan University and a master’s degree and 6th year certificate in Reading at Southern Connecticut State University. She joined the SHU faculty in January 1986. Her areas of expertise include adolescent literature and developmental reading.

A native of Trumbull, she now resides in Monroe with her two sons, ages 18 and 13. “One of my dreams, once I put two boys through college,” she added, “is to visit the Anne Frank house in Amsterdam.” She quotes as personally inspirational the young girl’s words spoken just before being led away by the Nazis. “I still believe that in spite of everything, people are really good at heart.

Lauren Cass

NEWSMAKERS

SHU welcomes new staff and administrators who have joined us since November 1.

They include Vladas Barius of Bridgeport, mailroom/duplicating clerk, Mailroom; Fred Bednar of Fairfield, locksmith, Security; Mary Ann Carroll of Fairfield, departmental secretary, College of Arts and Sciences; Anne Casler of Newtown, career counselor, Career Services; and Allie DuBose of Bridgeport, executive secretary, Office of the Dean of Students.

Also Jeanne Galog of Fairfield, departmental secretary, College of Arts and Sciences; Eunice McWherter of Bridgeport, music director, WSHU-FM; William Muldoon of Shelton, security officer, Security; Audrey Ray of Shelton, executive secretary, Office of Development; Eileen Roach of Bridgeport, grants office assistant, Office of Grants; and Roderic Ross of Fairfield, announcer, WSHU-FM.

SHU also welcomes Sophia Gevas of Stamford, instructor, department of Art.

MEET THE PLAYERS

On Sunday, November 22, the SHU men’s basketball team officially opened its season with "Meet the Players" day. A special mass was celebrated followed by a communion breakfast.

Attending were members of the Pioneer Club, team players, cheerleaders, administrators, faculty and staff. Pioneers Coach Dave Bike hopes to see this event become a SHU tradition.

SHU PRINTS

This publication is for employees of Sacred Heart University and their families. It is produced by the Office of Communications as a service to the Office of Employee Relations.

Vice President
Frank B. Nuelle
Institutional Advancement
Director of Communications
Dorothea Hesse Doar
Editor
Lisa E. Dominici
Contributors
Gerry Diorio, Gerry Eckber, Carolyn Hartung, Susan Mikusky, Marion Warne, and Holly Weldon

Letter to the Editor/suggestions and comments should be sent c/o Editor, Office of Communications, SHU, Box 6460, Bridgeport, CT 06606.