Class of 1977 hears Bishop of Norwich

Addressing the 380 graduates at Sacred Heart University’s 11th commencement on May 21, the Most Reverend Daniel P. Reilly, Bishop of Norwich, cited the dignity of the person and the building of community as the goals of education in today’s society.

Science, technology, and today’s secular philosophy are not sufficient when seeking answers to essential intellectual and spiritual problems, the Bishop said. “Secularism is not wrong because it is untrue but because it is not true enough,” he continued.

Bishop Reilly said that it is the role of Catholic higher education to help in the search for purpose by “sharpening the focus of its goals and committing itself to the relentless and courageous pursuit of its timeless values and true ideals.”

In addition to Bishop Reilly, two other guests received honorary Doctor of Laws degrees: Evelyn M. Conley, a Bridgeport attorney, community leader and widow of the University’s founding president, Dr. William H. Conley; and Donald H. McGannon, chairman of the board and president of Westinghouse Broadcasting Company, and a founder of Sacred Heart.

Dr. Thomas P. Melady, University president, gave a brief charge to the graduating class, urging them to seek excellence in personal and professional life. Nancy A. DeDonato, a summa cum laude history major from Bridgeport, gave the valedictory address, and the Most Reverend Walter W. Curtis, president of the board, concluded the ceremonies with benediction.
Symposium probes economic problems

Issues concerning economic growth in southwestern Connecticut were explored by industrial and civic leaders at a symposium sponsored by the department of business administration.

The April program featured two major speakers and responding panel discussions. In the first session, Dr. Robert J. Senkier, dean of the Fordham University graduate school of business, gave an analysis of the problems of economic growth, and James L. Hayes, president of the American Management Association, keynoted the second session dealing with a prescription to the area's economic ills.

At the conclusion of the symposium Richard F. Moore, chairman of the board of the Moore Special Tool Company Inc., received an honorary Doctor of Laws degree.

LAUDED FOR WORK WITH DISABLED — Dr. Henry Viscardi, chairman of the National Planning and Advisory Council to the White House Conference, was awarded an honorary degree at a University symposium on religion and the handicapped. Dr. Ford (right), academic vice president and dean, reads the citation while Dr. April Armstrong, co-chairperson of the conference planning committee, prepares to bestow the hood.

Conference focuses on religion and the handicapped

Planned as a pre-conference to the May White House Conference on Handicapped Individuals, "The Handicapped: Focus on Faith," examined religion and the responsibilities of organized faith to their handicapped members.

In addition to an ecumenical panel which addressed the main theme, Dr. Henry Viscardi, Jr., chairman of the National Planning and Advisory Council to the White House Conference, gave the keynote speech. The University awarded an honorary degree to Dr. Viscardi in recognition of his contributions in the fields of rehabilitation and education of the disabled. Dr. Viscardi has been an adviser to every president since Franklin Roosevelt on the affairs of our nation's disabled.

An exhibit of works by 34 artists from the Easter Seal Rehabilitation Center of Fairfield County and Resource Unlimited in Darien was on display in the gymnasium the day of the conference. The art show reflected the spirit of the event as expressed in the dedication of the conference to the memory of the Rev. James Keller, founder of the Christophers, who stressed the positive contributions of every individual to potential world good.

Faculty promotions, appointments and grants

Four faculty promotions were announced by Dr. Melady which will be effective July 1. From associate professor to full professor: Dr. Ronald Chriss, chemistry. From assistant professor to associate professor: Roch-Josef di Lisio, assistant librarian, technical services; Dr. Grace Farrell Lee, English. From lecturer to assistant professor: Mary Beth Gallagher, secretarial science.

Also announced was the appointment of two new chairpersons: Dr. Edward Malin, psychology, and Father Philip O'Shea, philosophy.

For the second year, the University Research and Creativity Council has awarded faculty research grants, designed to assist faculty members in conducting scholarly and creative work.

This year's recipients were: Dr. Ronald Chriss, associate professor, chemistry, for research in preparation of chemical compounds; Dr. Raoul DeVilliers, professor of mathematics and operations research, for completion of a textbook on linear algebra; Dr. Sidney Gottlieb, assistant professor, English, for establishment of the George Herbert Journal; and Dr. Anthony Pinciaro, professor of chemistry, for fundamental research in chemical reaction of rare earth metals.
In 1962, the opportunities in southwestern Connecticut for local residents were limited, and, consequently, many were deprived of the opportunity to receive a university education rooted in a Christian ethic. With the establishment of Sacred Heart University by Bishop Walter Curtis and his supporters, quality higher education became available to all who qualified.

During the next academic year, we will celebrate the University’s 15th anniversary in a fashion that will be appropriate to the institution and authentic to our traditions and the vision of our founders. We will look to our past as well as plan for the future. In addition to celebrating our anniversary, we will be preparing for re-accreditation, another test, like time, of our mission.

In mapping out the years ahead, we will first hold firm to our role as a University offering quality higher education, taking cognizance of the area where we are situated, giving attention and service to our community’s concerns and needs.

Our initial anniversary plans involve an attempt to sensitize the community to the rich heritage that is ours through a series of ten monthly ethnic observances. Through these programs, consisting of educational and cultural events, the University will provide an opportunity for all people to become aware of each other’s heritage and to grow in a better understanding of one another.

Announcements will be made as plans for the year progress. And, we invite all members of the University community, our friends and neighbors to join us in the celebration of our 15th year.

Dean Croffy becomes a vice president

John A. Croffy, a University founder, has been named vice president and dean of student services.

Dean Croffy has served the University in a variety of student-oriented areas first as director of student personnel and later as dean of students. He has supervised admissions, the registrar’s office, the counseling center, financial aid, student activities, athletics and alumni to name a few. And, in SHU’s early years, he instructed mathematics.

He has been a member of the Academic Affairs committee of the University Senate since 1970, and is a member of the Affirmative Action program.

Three elected to Board of Trustees

The Board of Trustees elected three new members at their January meeting: Rev. Msgr. William A. Genuario, Rev. Joseph Neil Murphy, and Mr. Philip Scharper.

Msgr. Genuario is pastor of St. Anthony’s Church in Bridgeport, Chancellor of the Diocese, and Director of the Department of Planning, Administration and Development.

Father Murphy serves as pastor of St. James Church in Stratford, and is director of the Priests’ Eucharistic League.

Editor-in-Chief of Orbis Books, Mr. Scharper is an author, has published in many periodicals, and is known for his work in the area of ecumenical understanding and cooperation.

Group of friends supports library

A group of area residents has formed the Friends of the Library of Sacred Heart University. Under the chairmanship of Mrs. William H. Conley, the association plans to help the SHU Library in its acquisition efforts through programs such as book sales and author appearances.

The first of the Friends’ programs was May 22 and featured Elizabeth Cullinan, author of “Yellow Roses,” a recently-published collection of short stories.

SHU celebrates Italian Heritage

The week of March 20 through 26 was designated Italian Heritage Week, and campus activities included an exhibition of contemporary works by Italian artists; a eucharistic celebration in Italian; and a gala final event consisting of a concert, awards ceremony and festa.

At the concluding ceremonies six Fairfield County Italian-Americans received citations for their community service. They were: Joseph E. Canale, Danbury; Mrs. Anne Cantlon, Norwalk; Louis J. Gardella, Sr., East Norwalk; Msgr. William A. Genuario, Bridgeport; Nicholas J. Mercede, Stamford; and Alphonso V. Senese, Bridgeport.
The first annual University Community Art Show (April 17-29) featured 86 works of art contributed by students, faculty, administrators, staff, and their families. Contributions from a variety of media—painting, sculpture, graphics, photography, woodcraft, and needlework—gave testament to the belief that there is an artist in everyone.

Thomas Calabrese, director of career counseling and placement, was named acting director of the cooperative education program. Mr. Calabrese serves as an advisor to students who earn college credits through the program while working full time in an area of career interest.

The first Biology Book Award was presented to sophomore Laura Wolf. The award, established by Dr. Arliss Denyes, department chairperson, consists of a $125 account with the bookstore and is awarded to help college humanities teachers incorporate writing more effectively into their courses, expand their own pedagogical and curricular repertories, and enable them to participate in curriculum and staff development at their own institutions.

The 10th anniversary of the first graduating class (Class of 1967) was marked by a reunion dinner-dance, May 14. The reunion was attended by alumni from every class, and will become an annual event under the sponsorship of the Alumni Council.

Dr. Edward Mai in, newly-appointed chairperson of the psychology department, delivered the principal address during closing ceremonies at Unquowa School, Fairfield.

SHU has nominated 20 students to Outstanding Young Women of America and Outstanding Young Men of America. Biographical sketches of the students—who are nominated on the basis of their leadership ability, service to the community, and civic and professional recognition—are published in the program’s annual awards volumes.

Richard A. Matzek, University librarian, has been elected to chair the New England Library Board’s Panel of Counsellors Executive Committee.

President Melady was awarded an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree by DePaul University, Chicago. The degree was bestowed, in honor of Dr. Melady’s work in African and international affairs, during February commencement exercises.

Dr. Melady and Mr. Calabrese were selected as alternate delegates to the 32-member Connecticut delegation participating in the White House Conference on Handicapped Individuals, in Washington, D.C. The conference sought to provide national awareness and assessment of the problems and potentials of handicapped people, and will make recommendations to the President and Congress which will enable handicapped individuals to live their lives more fully and independently.

SHU basketball goes national

The Pioneer basketball team, under the coaching of Don Feeley, finished the season with a long list of accomplishments recognized by a state resolution of congratulations. The list includes: a 28-win, 4-loss record; ranked 5th in the nation in the final NCAA Division II poll; ranked number 1 in the final UPI New England Coaches Poll; NCAA New England Regional Champs; first time any Connecticut team has ever reached the semi-finals in NCAA national competition; Coach Feeley selected Coach of the Year in District I, Division II by National Association of Basketball Coaches, and Coach of the Year by UPI; three members named to the ECAC, Division II first team—André Means, Hector Olivencia, and Carl Winfree.

Baseball Box Scores

Coach Pete DiOrio brought his Pioneer baseball team to a 19-win, 10-loss season winning their second straight post-season tournament in the ECAC Regionals.

Star pitcher Junior Viens, with a 10-2 record and a 1.79 ERA, was voted to the All New England First Team and the District I First Team. During the season, he pitched two no-hitters and one perfect game retiring all 27 batters with 12 strikeouts. Scott Brignolo was the sixth leading hitter in the country with a .444 batting average.