Sports Expansion
A Stroke of Excellence

Kolbe House: A Work-Study Program Built on Love
Honoring those who serve

Founder's Day is a tradition unique among universities, an opportunity to reflect on the institution's beginnings and, even more important, an occasion to honor those who have contributed to its success.

Sacred Heart University paid tribute to 19 faculty and staff members who marked 30, 25, 20 and 15 years of service, in the 32nd annual Founder's Day ceremonies held in Schine Auditorium on March 23. "Those we honor this morning certainly embrace the concept of personal attention in the University community," said master of ceremonies Thomas J. Trebon, Ph.D., provost and vice president for academic affairs. "Each has contributed, in his or her special way, to where our University is positioned today."

The 30-year honorees, Raoul DeVilliers, Ph.D., professor of mathematics, and Virginia Zic, M.F.A., professor of art, were presented maple captain's chairs. Engraved Seiko watches were given to the 25-year employees, Edward Malin, Ph.D., associate professor of psychology; Monica Roberts, audio visual specialist; Mariann Russell, Ph.D., professor of English; Stephen Toth, M.A., adjunct associate professor of English; and Claude McNeal, M.F.A., professor of English, who was honored in absentia.

Twenty-year veterans Nicole Cauvin, Ph.D., professor of sociology; Burton Chaker, custodial attendant; Sofi Kapadia, M.S., benefits manager; and Andrew Lisow, L.L.B., adjunct professor, Legal Assistant program, were presented carriage clocks.

Finally, six of eight 15-year employees were present to receive Bronze Service medals: Barbara Bashar, assistant to the faculty chair of Science, Mathematics and Computer Science; Elaine Davis, M.S.W., associate professor of social work; John Kikoski, Ph.D., associate professor of political science; Jocelyn Master, M.A., adjunct assistant professor of English; Edward Murray, Ph.D., associate professor of education; and Frederick Pappano, M.A., adjunct assistant professor of mathematics. Reference librarian Robert Knapik, M.S., and Ethel Zaborowczyk, B.S., financial assistance counselor and student loan coordinator, were honored in absentia.

Focusing on the ceremony's theme, "Where Personal Attention Leads to Personal Achievement," five members of the University community presented their unique perspective. Said President Anthony J. Cernera, Ph.D.: "Our commitment to personal attention invites our students to dream — as the prophets Isaiah, Micah, Ruth and Jesus did — of a world where justice and peace would be equal, where men and women would be included in the banquet that excludes no one and is open to all."

Other speakers included Trustee Lloyd Stauder, J.D., student Robert Stopkoski '96, faculty representative Rose Marie Kinik, M.A., assistant professor of mathematics; and staff representative Karen Pagliuco B.S. '88, director of freshman admissions. (Don Harrison)
Today, the words growth, change, diversity and quality are considered synonymous with Sacred Heart University. But PRIDE is what I am feeling most.

I believe that our alumni will feel this same sense of pride when they peruse the pages of the Spring issue of the new Sacred Heart University Magazine. I am proud of the University’s phenomenal growth and I am especially proud to share the news of our development through the University magazine with our ever-growing circle of friends and supporters — alumni, friends, parents, students and members of the community. Bound together by common goals and interests, all of us help make Sacred Heart University what it is today and what it is becoming.

Even after serving as Director of Alumni Relations for more than six years, I often find myself fascinated and amazed with the wonderful changes I see happening — our physical appearance, a diverse student body, new athletic and academic programs and a strengthened interfaith community.

As you read this issue, you may find yourself saying, “Who would have believed a crew team, an equestrian team, student and faculty trips to Morocco, a campus alive with community service programs such as Habitat for Humanity?”

It is apparent to me that the positive changes taking place are instilling our alumni with a renewed sense of pride in their alma mater. As students, each of you played a role in bringing Sacred Heart University where it is today. Now, as alumni, not only are you vital to the continuing success of the University through financial support, you also add an important dimension to the educational process by providing opportunities for fellow alumni and students.

For example, inside this issue, you’ll read about our Alumni-Student Mentor program. In the program, we pair students with alumni who have experience in fields of interest to the students. Working together, students and alumni mentors learn much about each other and their career choices, while also developing meaningful personal relationships.

This is just one manner in which graduates are giving back to the University. Alumni also remain connected by giving lectures, serving as volunteers for alumni committees and advisory councils, attending special alumni, sports and University events, and providing summer jobs, internships and full-time employment.

I’d like to encourage you to take part in University activities, especially those offered exclusively for alumni. A new and wonderful opportunity for you to visit campus and to renew friendships with classmates and professors is coming up June 10-11 with Reunion ’95. If you would like to participate, please call me directly at (203) 371-7861.

As alumni, we have much to be proud of. And, as our circle of friends and supporters grows, that pride and sense of accomplishment doubles many times over. I urge you to keep in touch. Send a letter to me or to the editors of the magazine. Let us know where you’re living, what’s new in your life and about that new job.

As members of the University family — alumni and friends — your opinions about the major growth in enrollment, facilities and programs are welcome and valued.

Laurie A. Bellico ’88
Director of Alumni Relations & Annual Giving
COVER STORY
10 GROWING UP IN ATHLETICS
With the addition of equestrian, men’s ice hockey, field hockey, football, men’s and women’s lacrosse and crew, the University’s intercollegiate athletic profile has undergone a dramatic change in just five years. And the program’s growth is no less remarkable.

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Collette Avital, Israel’s consul general to the United Nations, and the Rev. David-Maria Jaeger, judicial vicar for the Diocese of Austin, Texas, present their views on the historic Israeli-Vatican accord.

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Junior Garrett English has been able to solve the Rubik’s cube puzzle in 30 seconds, not far removed from the world’s record. Not only that, he’s developed a computer program to solve the puzzle as well.

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Barbara Fleischer ’88 and sophomore Carrie Flanagan explain what makes their mentor-student relationship special.

18 UNIVERSITY EMBRACES HABITAT
In March, Sacred Heart was accepted as a Campus Chapter of Habitat for Humanity International – the first university in Fairfield County to be so designated and just the fourth in Connecticut.

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From Stamford to Lisbon, Sacred Heart’s campuses throughout Connecticut are meeting the educational needs of hundreds of students each semester.

22 KOLBE HOUSE: A WORK-STUDY PROGRAM BASED ON LOVE
Since 1983, the St. Maximilian Kolbe House of Studies and Formation in Bridgeport has provided a sanctuary for motivated students from underprivileged backgrounds. The Rev. Msgr. Frank C. Wissel is its founder, director and guardian angel.

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Suzanne Day ’86 is an artist, an educator, a wife and mother of two children. Her balancing act may not be easy, but she’s enjoying life in Greenville, S.C.

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Letters

Internship program commended by former intern

Reading your article on the student-intern program (Winter 1995, pp. 11-13) reminded me of my own experiences as an intern under the same USA-UNA program in New York City during my senior year of college. Having participated at the UNA in a variety of projects involving the world Conference on Women, as well as examining pertinent issues on breastfeeding and nutrition in developing countries, it seems the SHU-USA program enhanced my insight on real-life diplomacy. This internship also influenced my decision to obtain a master's degree in international relations at Georgetown University.

There is no substitute for such an opportunity to interface on an operational level with career diplomats in one of the world's leading bastions of international diplomacy. The real issue, though, is translating the intern experience into realistic career goals. Many of today's careers are formulated out of work or intern programs, which are part of the educational process.

I commend the University for offering an intern program which provides students the chance to invest in their futures and to stimulate their intellectual growth outside the traditional classroom setting. If this curiosity and growth is encouraged, then SHU is to be lauded for its understanding of the student's role in identifying new ways of developing intellectually.

Deirdre Frost MBA '93 Norwalk, Conn.

Town congratulates gown

Just received a copy of the Sacred Heart University Magazine and all I can say is “great!!” Every day I am more amazed at the growth of SHU. I want you to know that the Town of Fairfield is as proud of Sacred Heart University as any of its administration, students, teaching staff or alumni.

Keep up the good work.

Paul Audley
First Selectman
Town of Fairfield

A Southern word

Congratulations on the magazine. I was impressed with the articles and graphics. I can't believe that 10 years have passed since I graduated from SHU. I never would have known that back when I was a student aide in the Sacred Heart Library that today I would be head of circulation at a medical library in the South.

I get home to Trumbull twice a year and always enjoy driving out to campus to see what changes have been made. The dormitories were a great addition.

I wish you all continued success on the magazine and look forward to the next issue.

Anne Marie (Romano)
Ledbetter '84
Fairhope, Ala.

Ledbetter is circulation supervisor of the Biomedical Library at the University of South Alabama in Mobile.

More on the inaugural issue

The premiere issue of Sacred Heart University Magazine was superb. From the dramatic, candle-lit cover photograph to President Cernera's Annual Report, this SHU publication couldn't have been better.

Since I live in the Boston area, I can't get to the University as often as I would like. As a result, I'm especially interested in the photos of the new dormitories. They look great! I just wish the dorms were there back in the late 60's when I was kicking around the SHU campus.

It looks like both SHU and its publications department have taken a quantum leap in quality during the past decade. Thanks for reminding me how much I enjoyed going to Sacred Heart University.

Carmen T. Christiano '70
Chelmsford, Mass.

Thank you so much for the write-up and photo of my husband and me (Fall 1994, p. 17). The map of Victoria behind our photo was apropos. Above the word “shares,” you will see the town of Bendigo. Well, we live in a suburb of that city, about 100 miles north of Melbourne.

Nancy Evans Martin '87
Victoria, Australia

The publication is first class — and future editions will give you an opportunity to publicize even more aspects of the institution. Use of color and layout were especially good. I am an old journalism professor and VP of college relations so I do have some credentials for judgment.

Clarification

The alumni profile on Mike Kinney '72 (Reaching a pinnacle at Philip Morris, Winter 1995) referred to Kinney as class vice president. While he did indeed serve as vice president for most of his four years, classmate John Kolinofsky was vice president in 1972 — their senior year.
Three honorary doctorates to be conferred on May 21

Honorary degrees will be conferred on three distinguished people from diverse walks of life at Sacred Heart University's 29th Commencement exercises on May 21:

Elie Wiesel survived the Auschwitz and Buchenwald concentration camps and has dedicated his life to bearing witness to these events and to speaking out on humanitarian issues. Described as "the spiritual archivist of the Holocaust," he is the author of more than 30 books and is the Andrew W. Mellon Professor in the Humanities at Boston University. Wiesel has received awards and citations from universities and other organizations throughout the world, including the Nobel Peace Prize in 1986. Wiesel, who will give the Commencement address, will be presented the degree Doctor of Humane Letters, honoris causa.

Diane Carlson Evans, R.N., is the chair and founder of the Vietnam Women's Memorial, which honors the 265,000 women who served in the military during the Vietnam War era. The memorial was unveiled on Veteran's Day 1993 in Washington, D.C. It was 10 years earlier that Evans, a member of the Army Nurse Corps (1966-72) and a Vietnam War veteran, began her campaign to remember the military and civilian women who served and sacrificed in Vietnam. She will be awarded the degree Doctor of Humane Letters, honoris causa.

In 1949, William Pitt opened a one-man real estate office in Stamford. Today, as chairman and chief executive officer of William Pitt Real Estate, he directs a firm that has expanded to 15 offices and has become one of Connecticut's largest commercial and residential real estate firms. His benevolence has led to the creation of a family medicine center at Stamford's St. Joseph Medical Center, a gymnasium at the Stamford Boy's and Girl's Club and a scholarship program that each year recognizes nearly two dozen high school seniors who have demonstrated dedication to community service. He will receive the degree Doctor of Laws, honoris causa.

Glorioso earns fellowship

Because of a national grant, Sacred Heart University senior Gina Glorioso will be spending the summer cloning a gene and conducting research that could help in the treatment of organ and tissue injuries.

Glorioso, a biology and chemistry major, has received the 1995 Pfizer Undergraduate Summer Fellowship, a $5,000 grant that will allow her to continue research she began last fall in the classroom laboratory. The award comes just one year into the University's new biology research program, and marks the first time in Sacred Heart University's 31-year history that one of its students has received a grant to conduct on-campus scientific research.

"I was surprised and very excited to get the fellowship," says Glorioso, a 22-year-old from Southington who will graduate in the fall and pursue a career in the medical field. "I am particularly happy because this will allow me to continue important research that I started last semester and work with my mentor on something that she has herself worked on in the past."
Ryan nears photo finish

Growing up in Westport, senior Kellie Ryan was always struck by the rustic simplicity and beauty of the local 38-acre Wakeman Farm. So last year, she decided to capture the town landmark’s 18th century charm in a photograph — taken before Westport began building football and soccer fields there — and now that photo is getting a lot of attention.

Ryan is a finalist in Photographer Forum’s national college photography contest. There were 19,000 national submissions, and the winning photo will be published in the 1995 Best of College Photography Annual, due out in June.

“I’m so excited and happy just to be a finalist,” says Ryan, a media studies major who will graduate in May. “My fiance’s family used to own the farm and sell vegetables there, and I always thought that with its old barns and tumbleweeds it was a wonderful and distinct landmark. I wanted to capture that feeling in some pictures before it was too late.”

Ryan says that after the town of Westport purchased the farm, plans moved ahead this year to construct football and soccer fields for the public high school — Staples High — which makes her photographs even more poignant. In the photograph, entitled “Wakeman Farm,” she captures the rustic charm and character of the scenic farm.

Robert Lisak, adjunct instructor of photography, who was Ryan’s teacher last year when she submitted her entry, regards Kellie’s work as a snapshot from the past. “It is a wonderfully expressive photograph and I encouraged Kellie to enter the contest,” he says. “I’m glad she’s getting so much recognition because she worked hard on the project and produced a very moving visual.”

Says Glorioso’s mentor, Shannon Brightman, Ph.D., assistant professor of biology: “I’m very, very thrilled for her because she worked so hard on the project and on the fellowship proposal. I’m looking forward to working with Gina and I’m confident that she will be able to get some meaningful results and contribute to important medical research.”

Glorioso’s proposal, to clone a heat shock gene commonly found in animals and plants to determine if it is related to a mouse gene that was cloned by Brightman when she was a student at Harvard, could be important if it can be recreated and used to enhance treatment for people needing organ transplants or sustaining tissue damage. After completing her research, Glorioso will present the results in the fall to Pfizer, Inc.’s central research headquarters in Groton.

The research project was approved along with proposals from five other institutions as part of a national competition conducted by Pfizer, according to Babu George, Ph.D., faculty chair of science, mathematics and computer science. “I am very proud of her, the faculty mentor and the entire biology and chemistry faculty because of the cooperation they showed,” says George. • R.W.
Trebon bids University adieu

The guiding force behind the University’s recent expansion in academic programs is moving on. Thomas J. Trebon, Ph.D., provost and vice president for academic affairs since 1990, has accepted the position of vice president for academic affairs and dean of the college at St. Norbert College, a Catholic institution of 2,000 students located near Green Bay, Wis. His move will take effect this summer.

“I want you to know that I have thoroughly enjoyed five years of professional and personal growth and fulfillment,” Trebon said in a prepared statement to University colleagues. “I am especially pleased to have been able to work with Dr. Anthony J. Cernera and the very strong leadership team he has developed. I am proud to have been associated with so many talented faculty and staff who serve our students, one another, and this community. My wife Scottie and I have been blessed with the friendship of many within the University. For the growth, the fulfillment, the pride, the work, and the blessings, we are most grateful.”

Under Trebon’s thoughtful and caring leadership, the University developed and implemented several new academic programs in the past five years, including global studies, sports medicine and a four-year degree in nursing. On the graduate side of the house, new programs were introduced in computer science (M.S.), chemistry (M.S.) and physical therapy (M.S.).

“Clearly, there is much to be done at the University during the months and years ahead,” Trebon added. “However, I am fully confident in the future; I wish you all well in the labors ahead.” • D.H.

On the road to Morocco

After a winter trip to Morocco that included visits to elementary and vocational schools, Sacred Heart University senior Francine Sorrentino says she feels especially fortunate to be a student in the American university system.

Sorrentino, of Bridgeport, was in a 25-member contingent of teachers and students that made a one-week trip to Morocco (Feb. 18-25), led and organized by Barry Herman, Ph.D., associate professor of education at Sacred Heart University.

“It was a very educational trip that helped me understand how much better our schools are,” says Sorrentino, a political science major and education minor who earned three credits toward her degree, which she will complete in December. “I think we tend to take our schools for granted, but after visiting a vocational school where they were cramped elbow to elbow and were learning on portable typewriters that you would have seen here in the 1970s, you really put things in perspective.”

Despite the schools’ lack of supplies and resources, she was impressed by the teachers’ efforts to bring education into the lives of Morocco’s children. She was also happy to see fine, moving art work by students in an elementary school, which she described as a small building set in a remote, rural setting.

“You come away feeling that at least there is some kind of learning going on in a Third World country, which I frankly didn’t expect to find,” she says. “But once I got back home ... I really was able to appreciate just how much we have here and how good our education system is in comparison.”

Sorrentino, who plans to become an elementary school teacher, kept a detailed journal of her trip that she used as a basis for her course paper, and expects to reflect on her journal as the years pass.

“I try to plan these trips to countries that are very different from the United States, countries that are exotic and mysterious,” says Herman, who organizes the study tours primarily for graduate students and teachers. “With cities like Casablanca, Meknes and Marrakech, Morocco fit that perfectly. It is a rich tapestry of color and culture, ancient tradition and modern commerce, a land that is full of contrasts.” • R.W.
For the fourth straight year, a Sacred Heart University student’s artwork was selected to appear in the Society of Illustrators’ annual Student Exhibition in New York City. Bob Abric’s “Croc,” a watercolor painting of a crocodile hatchling with a fly perched on its nose, appeared in the society’s show this spring (April 25-May 13).

“I was flabbergasted and I felt very lucky when I heard that one of my four entries was selected,” says Abric, a 23-year-old junior illustration major from Newtown.

Jack de Graffenried, assistant professor of art and Abric’s instructor, terms the society’s Student Exhibition as “by far the most prestigious exhibit of student work in the country. Typically, there are 6,500 entries and only 100 to 120 acceptances each year. I’m delighted for Bob.”

Abrig’s creativity earned him two first-place awards, for “Croc” and “Master Study,” an oil painting depicting a male nude, in the University’s 1995 Student Art Exhibit. He also took second place in the oil painting category with “Study after Franz Hals” and a third with “Whirlwind,” a watercolor of an Indian warrior.

For the second year, he was a recipient of the University’s prestigious Charles Plohn Art Scholarship, which is based on grade point average and portfolio. Patrick Sullivan, a senior from Trumbull, was the other 1995 Plohn Scholarship recipient.

Prior to his decision to focus on art, Abric operated a construction and excavation business in Newtown. When the economy softened a few years ago, he returned to the field where he has produced artwork for an album cover and a mural for a local business. He attended The Art Institute of Fort Lauderdale for a year prior to enrolling at the University.

In previous years, Elaine Agosti (1992), Krista Wallhagen (1993) and Jill Anderson (1994) represented Sacred Heart University in the Society of Illustrators’ Student Exhibition. © D.H.
Removing the mask

Roberta Nobleman, English-born actress, storyteller, author, dramatist, teacher and spiritual pilgrim, brought her healing drama on childhood sexual abuse to the University Theatre in March. Entitled “Masks and Mirrors,” the 90-minute performance wove Nobleman’s own childhood experience with stories from Virginia Woolf. “A lot of people get stuck in the survivor stage,” she says. “They recycle the pain, and then what often happens is people walk around with ‘V’ for victim on their chests.” The author of Victim, Survivor, Celebrant: The Healing Journey from Childhood Sexual Abuse (Abbey Press), considers herself a “celebrant.” After her presentation, survivors often approach her “with a light in their eyes.” And such was the case on that Thursday evening in March. W.D.H.

Mother-and-child reunion

When Ronda Slater became pregnant as a 19-year-old college student in the mid-1960s, there was little doubt, given the moral and social climate of the time, that the scared young woman would give up her daughter for adoption. She saw her child just once — during childbirth.

But the San Francisco-based actress and playwright never forgot the only child she ever had, and 11 years ago found her then 18-year-old daughter after a lengthy search, culminating in a joyful reunion. Slater, who is touring the country to share her poignant, informative and often humorous journey through the social and sexual rapids of the turbulent ‘60s, told her story at the University Theatre this March. R.W.

Becky Abbott, M.F.A., chair of the media studies faculty, produced, wrote and directed a one-hour documentary, “Schooling That Works,” that appeared on Connecticut Public Television (CPTV) in February. Abbott examined 11 outstanding public elementary schools throughout the state, ranging from Buckingham School in Norwich to Stratfield School in Fairfield.

Michael Anderson, instructor of computer science, presented a paper, “Developing a Heuristic via Diagrammatic Reasoning,” at the 10th annual Symposium on Applied Computing, held in February at Nashville, Tenn.

Venu Dasigi, Ph.D., director of the master’s program in computer and information science, is the author of a paper, “Implementation of Boolean Minimization in an Abductive Framework,” for the proceedings of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers’ National Aerospace and Electronics Conference, May 22-26 in Dayton, Ohio.

Michelle C. Loris, Ph.D., associate professor of English, has received a second doctorate, this time in psychology from Antioch New England Graduate School. Her area of specialty was in trauma and abuse, and included work with Vietnam War veterans at the National Center for PTSD Research in West Haven. Her current focus is on adult survivors of childhood sexual abuse, primarily women. In 1984, Loris earned a doctorate in American literature from Fordham University.


“A Code of Ethics for Parish Ministers: A Proposal and Response,” was the lead article in Today’s Parish (April/May ’95). The article, he says, “is seminal in the sense that it challenges church workers to consider a code of ethics.” His other article, “A Parish Guide for Adult Learning,” appeared in Currents (Feb. ’95), the National Conference of Catholic Bishops newsletter.

Penny Snetsinger, Ph.D., assistant professor of chemistry, will lead a workshop at The College-University Resource Institute conference, “Inquiry-based Chemistry: What is it? How does it work?” June 4-6 in Washington, D.C.
Why do you support the Annual Fund?

“A quality education close to home.”

That’s the way John Mooney explains how he found his way to Sacred Heart University. “I had to work and go to school and Sacred Heart provided that opportunity,” he says. And, given his interest in accounting, he says it helped that the University has an excellent reputation in that discipline.

Today, Mooney, a 1988 graduate and product manager of the Schwerkopf Stamp Co. in Bridgeport, supports his alma mater with a standing contribution to the Annual Fund. “I achieved my career objectives through education ... now that SHU is growing, I try to support it any way I can.”

He’s not alone. Ask Jocelyn Paoletta ‘80 and Mary Kowalewski ‘78 why they participate in the Annual Fund and they have ready answers. “I happen to be very proud of that school. It’s come a long way,” says Kowalewski, now manager group move services, PHH Home equity Corp. in Danbury. “I’ve seen it and felt it grow from a community school to a college that people know and respect.”

And Paoletta, whose husband, Joseph, is also a member of the Class of 1980, says, “Both of us got so much from Sacred Heart that, even if it’s a little bit, we want to give something back.”

Interestingly, the University provided a different “something” for each of these alumni. Paoletta, marketing promotion director at Westfield, Inc. in Trumbull, says as a student she was initially shy and unaccustomed to being in the limelight. She credits Sacred Heart’s personal approach to helping develop the confidence and the skills that serve her well in her current — and very visible — post.

She also met her husband, now a vice president at People’s Bank, at the University; they were married a year after graduation. While Paoletta says their paths never crossed in the classroom, both worked part-time at Chubby’s Pub and were active in student government.

Mooney speaks highly of several professors and staff, such as Nancy Frydman, associate professor of management, whom he says was “an excellent adviser,” and Scott Colvin, assistant professor of accounting. Upon graduation, he landed a job with his current firm where his responsibilities have grown to managing four departments.

Kowalewski may well have the broadest perspective. After enrolling in the associate secretarial program, she took a work-study post that led to a full-time position in the business department. Later, she served as an adjunct instructor of management, enabling her to witness the department’s transition to a school of business and the growth of programs such as MBA and paralegal studies.

While her work entails a heavy travel schedule and permits little time to visit the campus, Kowalewski says, “I read everything and anything that comes in the mail about the University to keep up.” She says she is equally diligent about her Annual Fund contribution, partly because of her company’s matching gift program.

Like their fellow alumni, the Paolettas balance work commitments with the added joys of a young family, so trips to campus are limited for now. That may change as the children grow, says Mrs. Paoletta, adding someday they may send their children to Sacred Heart. As for their Annual Fund gift, she says, “If that helps other people come up through the ranks, that’s enough of a reward for us.”

Gifts offset taxing situation

Some people may be unaware that charitable gifts donated to Sacred Heart University can be a way to reduce taxes and help the University at the same time.

John J. Daley, director of special gifts, says that as the University nears the close of its $500,000 Annual Fund drive and continues its $9 million Special Gifts campaign, some people are discovering they can contribute to higher education and save on soaring tax bills to Uncle Sam.

“People give because they believe in the University and want to see it fulfill its mission,” says Daley. “But when they give, they can also help themselves in regard to their own taxes, too.”

One alumna, Daley points out, is establishing in her will a scholarship for a working mother who wants to return to school. Another contributor is setting up a $50,000 scholarship through a family estate. Yet another alumnus has provided for a $100,000 gift through his insurance policy, while someone else is considering the donation of a house to a charitable remainder trust to benefit the University.

“People need to be alert to the many tax benefits when they make a contribution,” says Daley, who is available to answer questions at (203) 371-7725.
Introductory year for each men’s varsity sport

Baseball
Basketball
Bowling
Lacrosse
Soccer
Crew
Tennis
Cross Country
Track & Field
Football
Volleyball

Sacred Heart University Magazine • Spring 1995
Nicole Klammer, a sophomore from Babylon, N.Y., has been a blue ribbon winner in the jumping competition this spring.

Women's Lacrosse
The skills of All-America attacker Jen Fallon made the women's program competitive from its introduction in 1993. Fallon is a junior from Milford.

Men's Crew
A portion of the first-year men's crew works out on the Saugatuck River.

The remarkable growth of Sacred Heart University is reflected by its burgeoning intercollegiate athletic program.

A small, albeit successful, department with just eight varsity teams as recently as the 1989-90 academic year, the program has expanded each year ever since and now embraces 26 sports — 13 each for men and women. Women's ice hockey is scheduled to be introduced next winter and wrestling and other sports are on the horizon.

"With 26 sports this year, and with 35 projected for 1997-98, we have the potential of attracting a more diverse pool of prospective students for whom we can provide a full college experience," says Director of Athletics Don Cook.

Many of the new sports, such as equestrian, ice hockey, field hockey, football, bowling, lacrosse and crew, have reshaped the University's athletic profile. Now, student-athletes have the opportunity to compete in virtually any sport of their choice.

Let the games begin? Indeed, they already have.
Technical College after his sophomore year, became the third Sacred Heart baseball player to be chosen player of the year since the conference's formation in 1983, joining a pair of All-Americans, pitcher Rich Licursi (1990) and outfielder-pitcher Jerry Fry (1992).

This spring, Damelio has picked up where he left off, batting a team-high .375 with five home runs and 28 runs batted in. Coach Nick Giaquinto is unequivocal in his praise of the Pioneers' senior captain, saying, "Marc is probably the best position player we've had here, as a combination of offensive skills. He hits for average, he hits for power, he steals bases. And he's a fine fielder."

With these big-time numbers, Waterbury native Damelio is beginning to turn the heads of more of just New England coaches. Major league scouts are taking notice of the smooth-swinging, quick-gloved first baseman. Mike Guastelle
A select group of international experts and an audience of enraptured listeners attended a University forum in April during which the state of Israel-Vatican relations were discussed and debated.

During the forum, Colette Avital, Israel's consul general to the United Nations, said that a 1993 accord establishing full diplomatic relations between Israel and the Vatican signified a new direction in Middle East politics that could someday lead to peace in the region.

“We are really at the beginning of the road,” Avital said, adding that agreement has already started to heal old wounds and initiate a “long process of education” for Jews and Christians. As for Israel and its neighbors, Avital said “there’s no doubt” that the accord has been a positive and important influence.

“This has had an important effect on the peace process by opening doors,” Avital explained.

Avital was one of two keynote speakers who participated in the University-sponsored conference, Israeli/Vatican Accord: One Year Later. Israel and the Vatican signed their historic agreement on Dec. 30, 1993. Under the agreement, the two states agreed to exchange ambassadors, to combat anti-Semitism, promote peace and freedom of worship, and to encourage Christian pilgrimages to the Holy Land. Israel recognized the right of the Catholic church to run its own schools, communications media and welfare agencies in the Jewish state.

“This is a common undertaking by friends. There’s a radical difference between that and any negotiations at all,” said the Rev. David-Maria Jaeger, O.F.M., J.C.D., the conference’s other keynote speaker. Jaeger, judicial vicar for the Diocese of Austin, Texas, was among those who participated in the talks that led to the accord. He now is a delegate to the Bilateral Permanent Working Commission established by the Vatican and Israel to oversee implementation of the accord.

Also participating in the conference was a panel of experts who questioned the two keynote speakers: Richard Z. Chesnoff, Middle East correspondent for U.S. News & World Report; Jonathan S. Tobin, executive editor of Connecticut Jewish Ledger Publications; and the Rev. Raymond G. Helmick, instructor of conflict resolution at Boston College.
RUBIK’S CUBE
NO PUZZLE

By Dean Golembeski

For most people, solving the puzzle of a Rubik’s cube is an impossible challenge. But then Garrett English isn’t like most people.
Hand him a Rubik’s cube with its jumble of colored squares and watch him go to work. With a few turns here and several twists there, he’ll spin the squares until each side has a single color. It takes him less than a minute. In fact, his best time is 50 seconds — just shy of the world record of 22.8 seconds.

“I’ve worked with the cubes since I was 7 or 8. I just got addicted to them,” says English, a 21-year-old junior and Rubik’s cube collector from Newark Valley, N.Y., with a double major in mathematics and computer science.

His addiction has grown at Sacred Heart University, where he was challenged to develop a computer program to solve Rubik’s cube. Not only has he developed such a program, he’s refined it to the point where he was selected as one of just 16 students nationwide to present his computer project during the annual meeting of the Association for Computing Machinery, the oldest computing association with 85,000 members from international scientific and educational organizations. ACM held its meeting earlier this month in Nashville, where English’s project attracted considerable attention.

“It’s my pet project,” English says. “It started in my freshman year when a senior told me a computer program couldn’t be done. She told me her boyfriend had tried and failed.”

After hours and days and months of work, English finally was able to solve the puzzle using a computer program he had written in the fall of 1993. Since that time, he’s been working to make the program run faster and faster while using less computer memory.

“When I first got all of the errors out of the program, it crashed the system,” says English, explaining that all computers in the University’s academic departments were temporarily put out of business.

“They loved me for it,” English adds with a sarcastic laugh.

Recalling that day, Domenick Pinto, an associate professor of computer science and English’s mentor, also chuckled and said, “I, of course, said I had nothing to do with it.”

Now, Pinto is obviously proud of his student’s accomplishment. Pinto explained that while English is not unique in developing a computer program to solve the Rubik’s cube, the efficiency and speed of English’s program is unusual. In 1993, the program required a day and a half to solve the puzzle, but now can find a solution in as few as six hours.

“Rubik’s is highly mathematical,” English says in trying to explain how his program works. “I use C language, a very fast, compact computer language. Using the program, the computer makes every possible turn that it can to solve the puzzle. After it solves it, it makes a log of every turn it made.”

Using printouts of this log, it’s possible for anyone to solve the puzzle, provided they follow the computer’s progress step by step. A person could also feed the computer any different number of combinations, and the program will eventually provide a solution, English says.

For now, the program is run on the computer science department’s main frame computer — a DEC11750. The billions of combinations that the computer must sort through and the immense amount of computing power that it requires is simply too much for even the newest of portable computers. Pinto says. Eventually, English hopes to refine the program to the point where it can be stored on disk and used by a PC. He also hopes to develop graphics to go with the program, so that it will be possible to see the puzzle being solved.

While refining his program takes up some of his time, it is hardly the only activity English has going on in his life. In addition to being a full-time undergraduate student who recently was listed in Who’s Who in American Colleges and Universities, he spends 35-40 hours a week at two part-time jobs. He’s a tutor and also works at a local company as a computer programmer.

“I love to solve puzzles. That’s pretty much what programming is,” English says. “I’m going to keep working on the program for quite awhile. My goal is to get the program to solve the puzzle in less than a couple of minutes.”
Mentor’s View

By Barbara Fleischer ’88

My experiences at Sacred Heart University are still close to my heart, my graduation as a non-traditional student in 1988 being only a few years back. My fondness and gratitude to the school, the professors and two major programs, psychology and social work, have left an indelible impression on my life and provided a new career. I have always wanted to give back to the school in some way and the Alumni-Student Mentor program seemed a great opportunity.

I met my student, Carrie Flanagan, at the General Match Meeting and found her to be a charming and enthusiastic young woman. I learned she had volunteered for the program and went through a screening process to be accepted. I was impressed by the number of participants in the program, approximately 70 pairs of mentors/students.

At the meeting, we were given basic information about each other. Also in our packets were guidelines for what was expected of the mentor/student relationship, such as attending team meetings and social gatherings, and providing honest feedback and personal expectations of the mentor relationship to students. Periodic communication and appointments together to share thoughts and experiences, as well as a visit to mentor offices, were suggested.

Carrie and I clicked right away. She is a social work major interested in working with children at risk of neglect and abuse. In my professional career, I have worked in therapy with children/adolescents and their families, many of whom are children at risk. This led me to private practice as a certified independent social worker/psychotherapist. So we had much to discuss. Since my SHU days were a short time ago, we found we shared the same professors as well.

With our schedules extremely busy, we determined that weekends would work best for getting together. Since Carrie is so involved as an RA, member of the dance team, Intra-Hall Council, etc., there were occasions when we had a hard time connecting by phone, but thanks to our answering machines we were able to work it out. We met for breakfast and lunches, and I took her to my office in Danbury.

As our relationship developed, I began thinking how Carrie could learn more about what it is like to be a social worker. I shared Social Work journals, National Association of Social Work newsletters, and told her about children and families that I had treated in my career as well as my internship experiences in the social work program.

Since I no longer work at an agency, I decided it would be important for her to experience a visit to a working agency. I arranged a visit to Parent Child Resource Center in Shelton, my previous employer, and a meeting with a colleague, Margaret Munigle Kunsch, who specializes in treating children who have been sexually abused, and who had experience working with the Department of Children and Families.

Carrie was also introduced to master’s level student interns supervised by Margaret. As we left the agency, I noticed Carrie’s eyes were shining and she mentioned how difficult it was to hear about the children’s trauma. I had the impression the visit had stimulated some deep thought.

The Alumni-Student Mentor program provides team meetings where we share experiences and plans with other pairs. The versatility of others, due to life experiences and professions, is helpful to students, and advice regarding success in life is forthcoming. I agreed that networking in one’s profession is essential to success.

I’ve thoroughly enjoyed spending time with Carrie and being part of the student-mentor program, and I’m already looking forward to next year. I’ve learned as much — if not more — from Carrie as she has learned from me. Carrie is a bright, articulate, enthusiastic and hard-working young woman. She has a caring spirit and a delightful sense of humor, qualities that will assist her in pursuing a successful career in social work. Good luck, Carrie. I’ll always be there when you need a hand.

Barbara Fleischer ’88, MSW, CISW, lives in Ridgefield.
Student's View

By Carrie Flanagan '97

I approached Barbara Fleischer with a smile and told her that I had a proposition: We had been asked to write an article about the Alumni-Student Mentor program. She laughed and asked if we were the "ideal mentor and mentee." While that question has yet to be answered, I know we are sharing a worthwhile experience. Some relationships work and some do not, so I will try to describe what makes ours special.

I learned of the program through a resident assistant who had a mentor last year. It seemed an excellent opportunity to explore my major and better understand my chosen career. After being accepted, I sat in the first informational meeting and listened as a student spoke about her relationship with her mentor. I hoped that my mentor relationship would be equally good. It has been, so far.

At the match meeting, Barbara and I talked. I immediately liked her and was thrilled because she seemed so eager to help and willing to do whatever she could for me. I had a feeling our relationship would work.

But I was also worried because I learned Barbara is a psychiatric social worker in private practice. My interest is in child protective services working with the state. However, as we talked, I learned that she works with children and families and she assured me that she would find someone with whom I could talk. I looked at the situation very positively, as a learning experience in the broad field of social work.

On our own, we have gotten together several times. Since I do not have a car on campus, Barbara has been kind enough to pick me up. For our first meeting, we met over breakfast at a diner. We spent two hours talking and I really began feeling comfortable with Barbara. I found it very easy to talk with her.

On another occasion, Barbara invited me to visit the social service agency where she worked prior to entering private practice, an agency that deals with the needs of children and their parents. There, the woman in charge of the group therapy programs explained some of her work, along with her experience working for the Department of Children and Families. I also met two graduate students who were interning for their master's degree. Overall, it was an informative, interesting day.

Barbara and I often speak on the phone — when she isn’t talking to my answering machine. On Alumni Day, we attended a pizza party social where we interacted with other students and mentors. I introduced Barbara to a few students and had an opportunity to meet my friend’s mentor who also happens to be a social worker. Socials are an important aspect to the program because they provide opportunities for students and mentors who can meet on their own to talk.

Team meetings are a required element of the program. Students and mentors are divided into different groups headed by team leaders. At our one team meeting, I enjoyed listening to the other mentors speak about themselves and I was able to give a student perspective to the discussion. The team meeting concept is a good one in that the student interacts with other mentors on a more personal level. However, for it to be totally successful, there has to be commitment on the part of more members.

Recently, Barbara and I attended a presentation on sexual abuse sponsored by the Women's Studies program at Sacred Heart. Afterward, we went to the dining hall for coffee, where I interviewed Barbara for a SW101 paper. During the interview, she explained that the aspect of her job she most enjoys is watching people get well and knowing that she had something to do with the process.

Barbara is a very caring individual who likes to help people. We are very much alike in that regard, since as a resident assistant I enjoy helping people all the time. That’s a major reason why I chose the social work profession.

Carrie Flanagan '97 is a social work major from Rocky Hill.
Framed in the doorway are Habitat for Humanity volunteers (from left) Floyd Gray, a freshman from Bronx, N.Y.; Dr. Ralph Corrigan, associate professor of English; Habitat adviser Jim Westgate; and Phyllis Machledt, the University’s service learning coordinator and past president of Greater Bridgeport’s Habitat Chapter.
Sacred Heart University has been accepted as a Campus Chapter of Habitat for Humanity International — the first university in Fairfield County to be so designated and just the fourth in Connecticut.

As an affiliate of Habitat's Greater Bridgeport chapter, the University community will dedicate more time and human resources to providing adequate housing for those in need, says James Westgate, a financial analyst at the University and Habitat adviser.

"Many thanks go to the Campus Ministry team, Phyllis Machledt (the University's new service learning coordinator) and all of the students, faculty and staff for their dedication and work toward reaching this goal. We've only just begun," says Westgate, who has spearheaded the University's involvement in the volunteer program.

With its official acceptance in March, Sacred Heart University joins Yale University, Wesleyan University and the University of Connecticut as campus chapters in the state.

Incorporated in 1976, the Americus, Ga.-based Habitat for Humanity is a non-profit, tax-exempt international housing ministry consisting primarily of volunteers. While Habitat provides the initial capital to renovate or build homes for the inadequately sheltered, construction is a cooperative effort between volunteers and the homes' recipients, whose contributions are termed "sweat equity."

Ex-President Jimmy Carter and Andrew Young, the former mayor of Atlanta, are among the prominent people who are committed to Habitat and have served on its national board of directors.

Since last fall, more than 40 Sacred Heart University students, joined by a few faculty and staff, have taken part in Habitat projects at Bridgeport sites. "We target our building efforts within specific neighborhoods in order to make a dramatic change in the neighborhood and to provide a safer area for Habitat families," says Machledt, who is the immediate past president of Habitat's Greater Bridgeport chapter.

The president of the Sacred Heart chapter, Annette Bosley, a sophomore English and Spanish major from Beacon Falls, is pleased with the rapid growth of the program on campus, especially in participation by her peers. "It's been very successful so far. More and more people are coming to me and saying they want to get involved," she says.

Chapter Vice President Jason Mazaik, a freshman from New Hartford, says he became involved in Habitat to "help out people who are less fortunate."

"You get a positive feeling from the people in the neighborhood where you're working. I talked to a lady who had run a store in the neighborhood for 50 years; she had watched her neighborhood decline. She got a good feeling watching volunteers make things better," he explains.

Rounding out the Habitat leadership on campus are secretary Samara DeJesus, a sophomore from Bridgeport; treasurer Kevin Horgan, a freshman from Brooklyn, N.Y.; sophomore Lydia Villanueva of Monroe, the commuter student representative; Rev. Philip Fabiano of Campus Ministry, and Westgate.

Looking ahead, Westgate says that "by being a college chapter, we will be able to become part of the 'Collegiate Challenge,' where students can work at different sites across the country and in foreign countries during spring break. We also have the ability to raise funds for Habitat." This spring, the University sent a 12-person delegation to Boston where it worked under the auspices of South Shore Habitat.

Although skilled plumbers, carpenters and painters are most needed for future projects, volunteers without special skills are welcome and encouraged to participate as well. To volunteer or for more information about Habitat for Humanity, call Westgate at (203) 365-7519 or Machledt at (203) 365-7622.

Don Harrison

MAT student Marie McLeod of Monroe puts a ladder to good use.
Eileen Engel never thought that staying after school could be so rewarding. But each time she does, the 31-year-old Lisbon Central School teacher gets closer to earning her master’s degree in education.

Engel is a permanent substitute during the day. In the evening she’s among nearly 200 students pursuing advanced degrees in education this spring in Sacred Heart University’s evening/weekend program at the Lisbon campus.

“We’re the only fully accredited branch of any university in the state where a student can get a master’s degree in education without going to the main campus for classes,” says Joseph Levanto, Ph.D., director of the Lisbon campus since 1990 and a retired superintendent at Norwich Free Academy.

“It’s a wonderful program and it’s nice to be in such a warm, intimate setting,” says Waterford resident Engel, who returned to college two years ago to pursue a career in teaching after working in banking for more than a decade.

“The program provides a lot of terrific hands-on experience and the instructors are excellent. Now, I’m doing what I really love and Sacred Heart University is helping to make that possible,” explains Engel, who earned a bachelor’s degree in economics at Connecticut College in 1985 and an MBA at the University of New Haven in 1992.

The program is also making that possible for people like Gregory Keith, a former collegiate (Fairfield University, Wake Forest) and professional basketball player from Oakdale who was forced to retire from the game prematurely a few years ago because of a chronic foot injury. The former center/forward for the Washington Generals — the Harlem Globetrotters’ longtime traveling companions — always wanted to teach and is thrilled to be nearing completion of a master’s degree in education in the Lisbon program.

“It’s always been a dream of mine to teach and the Sacred Heart program is ideal for me because of the setting and the location,” says Keith, who teaches biology and math and is an assistant basketball coach at St. Thomas More School in Oakdale. “I really like everything about the program, from the teachers to the smaller classes.”

Jill Leonard, a Lisbon mother of two also pursuing a master’s degree in education at the Lisbon campus, also appreciates the small classes which she says enables her to get a lot of individualized attention. “I’m really enjoying the program because of its high standards and quality, and for me it’s such a convenient location,” says Leonard, who has been attending classes in the program for about a year after working several years in a Norwich accounting firm.

“It’s also not too often that you get to have the same teacher as your daughter,” Leonard says with a chuckle, adding that 11-year-old Allison “was really bent out of shape the other day when the teacher called her by my name.”

Another Lisbon student, Dawn Holloway of Willimantic, sums up her experience thusly. “I’ve been teaching for 10 years and I wanted to be more marketable with a master’s degree,” says...
the former English and math teacher. “This is such an excellent program because you are forced to be competent and learn very quickly.”

Scaling heights in the Valley

When Maura Satkowski graduated from Derby High School in 1984 she never imagined that someday she would be back taking classes and walking the halls of her alma mater.

But because Sacred Heart University has a campus in the lower Naugatuck Valley, at Derby High, the 28-year-old Oxford resident has begun to pursue a bachelor’s degree in business administration during the evening while keeping her job as a human resources assistant at Data Switch Corp. in Shelton.

Satkowski is among more than 200 students attending adult education classes each semester in the Valley program, which is about equally divided between credit and non-credit students, according to Valley Director Barbara Zuffa, Ed.D., associate professor of management.

“I love it here; it’s a warm, intimate setting where you have the chance to get close with the other students and with the professors,” says Satkowski, who earned an associate degree in secretarial science in 1986 while attending the University’s main campus in Fairfield.

For Satkowski, the opportunity to attend evening classes closer to home makes a big difference — and she believes that in today’s business world a bachelor’s degree is essential. “I’m going for it now because I really will feel much more comfortable having that degree, and I wouldn’t do it anywhere other than Sacred Heart,” she says. “Being able to come to the campus here in the Valley is so convenient because it’s close to home and work. It’s also fun being back at my old high school. I feel right at home.”

Many students are enrolled in the Valley program because they prefer an alternative to the more feverish pace of the main campus. “It’s a lot less stressful here, I’m really enjoying it a lot,” says 52-year-old Kathleen Paskus of Huntington, who works at Sikorsky Aircraft as a parts planner and earned an associate degree in the arts in 1990 with classes at the main campus.

“This is a terrific program. I’m not sure I would have been able to do it again at the main campus,” adds Paskus, who is married with two grown daughters. “Having the campus right here in the Valley makes it work for me.”

Banker moves AHEAD

As manager of the Old Greenwich branch of the Putnam Trust Company and president of the Cos Cob Rotary Club, Don Migliardi has achieved much to be proud of.

But the 39-year-old Greenwich resident — married and the father of two children — realized last year that he still needed something more to feel good about himself and to keep his career moving ahead: a college degree. So, Migliardi enrolled in Sacred Heart University’s AHEAD program in Stamford, and today he says he couldn’t be happier or more satisfied.

AHEAD — Adults in Higher Education Working for Accelerated Degrees — is an evening program that helps working adults to earn their degrees in the same four-year period as traditional full-time students — without losing time on the job.

“I am extremely happy and excited with the courses. I couldn’t have found a more perfect program to suit my needs if I had designed it myself,” says Migliardi, who is seeking a degree in finance and business administration. “You rarely see this kind of excellence in a program off the main campus.”

More than 700 students attended undergraduate, graduate and non-credit courses this year at the University’s Stamford campus, located at Trinity Catholic High School, according to Director Charles Reed. He said that about 225 students are in the AHEAD program.

“All of our programs are year-round and they’re growing every year,” says Reed. “Our focus is on the adult learner who wants to pursue a college degree at night in an accelerated fashion and is interested in a very high quality education.”

Migliardi agrees that the program has high standards, and he praised the instructors and the accelerated format. “The instructors are terrific and have excellent backgrounds,” he says. “And I’m even able to take back material I’m learning in class and apply it to my work.”

One of his top priorities was to find a program that would allow him to earn his degree as quickly as possible. “I love the fact that I’m going to be able to attain my goal in a normal four-year period,” he says. “I’ve also made a lot of friends in the classes because even though our age range is from 18 to 65 and we come from a wide range of backgrounds, we have one very important thing in common — we all work in full-time jobs and we’re all seeking to better ourselves.”

You rarely see this kind of excellence in a program off the main campus...
A visit to the West End neighborhood in Bridgeport where Kolbe House stands is not for the faint-hearted.

The stop sign at the corner is riddled with bullet holes. Nearby, some buildings are boarded up and drug deals take place openly. Several years ago, somebody attempted to set fire to the three-story frame structure, and now a German shepherd and a Doberman stand watch.
The St. Maximilian Kolbe House of Studies and Formation may stand as Wissel’s principal legacy to humanity and education. Inside these walls, more than two dozen boys and young men from underprivileged backgrounds in Bridgeport and Latin America have grown to manhood since the home’s opening in 1983. Better still, more than one-half of its occupants have attained a degree from a four-year college — nine alone from Sacred Heart University.

Wissel, an engaging man who is now president of the Diocese of Bridgeport’s secondary schools and, as of this spring, a Sacred Heart University trustee, becomes misty-eyed when he talks about his surrogate children. “These young people are survivors, fighters, givers. They embarrass me by their compassion, by their willingness to share,” he says.

“They’ve come from different cultures, but if the world could get along as well as they do...” The words end, but his meaning is crystal clear.

Known as the “teddy bear priest,” Wissel has been imparting life’s pithy lessons for more than 35 years — first as a teacher in his native Brooklyn and for the past 18 years as a Roman Catholic priest in the Diocese of Bridgeport. He is a larger-than-life figure, but his meaning is crystal clear.

The familial ties inside these walls remain intact, even after residents move on with their lives. Edward Zumaeta ‘87, a 29-year-old native of Peru, was one of Kolbe House’s three charter residents. When he arrived in this country at age 17, under a scholarship program initiated by the Most Rev. Walter W. Curtis, retired bishop of Bridgeport, he spoke no English and “felt very helpless the first year.”

“The family structure at Kolbe House, the discipline and formation, I needed to overcome the culture shock. Sister Mary (Evelyn, O.P., co-founder of the home and then a resident) was very strict but very loving,” explains Zumaeta, who now operates the Bridgeport office of a private practice specializing in counseling and advocacy for minority families.

“Father Wissel was always there for me. He was not only my spiritual director but also a father figure.”

The bond between priest and student remains: Wissel was the celebrant at the wedding of Edward and Iris Zumaeta, and he is the godfather — and namesake — of their son, Francis. When the University conferred the degree, Doctor of Humane Letters, honoris causa, on the monsignor at last spring’s Commencement, Zumaeta was among the invited guests.

Zumaeta is typical of the motivated students who grow to manhood at Kolbe House. At Sacred Heart, he completed his undergraduate studies in psychology in three years; then, he required just 18 months to earn a master’s in psychology from Fairfield University.

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Adalberto “Beto” Baptista ’92, a 32-year-old native of Uruguay, spent two of his three undergraduate years as a Kolbe House resident, a period he recalls with fondness. “I lived with people from different countries and we all had guidance from Father Frank,” says Baptista, who now coordinates an adult education program for the Bridgeport Board of Education. “The house gave me a sense of family. Even after you leave, you know you can count on the house.”

Baptista, too, was an outstanding scholar at the University. A Spanish major and Dean’s List student, he received the Medal of Excellence in Modern Foreign Languages.

Among the current residents, Cesar Munoz is a media studies major who views the world from several mediums. Last fall, he commuted to New York City twice a week for an internship with CNN. His articles have been published, in Spanish, in the Connecticut Post's Hispanic edition, the diocesan newspaper, Fairfield County Catholic, and elsewhere.

His senior project for media studies was a video, “Youth Rebuild,” in which he captured the labors of Habitat for Humanity workers — all of whom he defines as “young men at risk.” He also served as a classroom learning assistant for Louise Spence, Ph.D., assistant professor of media studies.

“He’s a fine, fine person and scholar. I certainly see his potential as unlimited,” says Spence.

Edward Laurent, who was preceded at Kolbe House by an older brother, is said to have potential as an investment banker. He plans to obtain the necessary credits for a bachelor’s degree in international business in the coming year. “Motivated and bright,” says Ramzi Frangul, Ph.D., associate professor of economics and finance.

This summer, Laurent is planning to capitalize on a three-month internship in New York City with Johnson & Higgins, the world’s largest private insurance brokerage and employee benefit consulting company. Its 1994 revenues exceeded $1 billion. Its location on lower Manhattan seems to offer boundless horizons. “I’m excited about this opportunity,” he beams.

Choosing a name for this sanctuary came as readily as a Frank Wissei smile. Kolbe Cathedral High School honors the memory of the Rev. Maximilian Kolbe, a Polish Franciscan who perished in the Auschwitz concentration camp in 1941. Frail and ailing, Kolbe made the ultimate sacrifice by offering his life in exchange for a condemned prisoner, a man with a wife and children. For Wissei, there was but one choice.

With a smile, a quip and a hug, Wissel secured volunteer labor and funds for renovating and furnishing the three-story dwelling. Then, high above the living room, he placed a sign, “The House That Love Built.” He was open for business.

In late February, the third bishop of the Diocese of Bridgeport, the Most Rev. Edward M. Egan, visited Kolbe House. He concelebrated Mass, chatted with the residents over supper and, like most visitors, discovered a loving, harmonious environment.

“My visit to Kolbe House was an inspiration to me. Monsignor Wissel has made it clear to (the residents) that you work hard, study hard, enjoy life, but stay within the rules. It shows what one loving individual can do,” says the bishop.

“Seeing these young people working, studying and praying together gives me hope for the future. Kolbe House is a blessing for the Diocese of Bridgeport and especially for the greater Bridgeport community.”

Kolbe House Alumni
Adalberto Baptista ’92
*Augusto Cabrera ’89
Jose Castillo ’89
*Luis Chero ’90
Charite Marcellus ’94
Winfield Maurice ’91
Gerald Podany ’91
*Alejandro Prieto ’89
Edward Zumaeta ’87

* Although their official residence was the nearby St. Peter’s Church rectory, they “practically lived at Kolbe House,” according to Msgr. Wissel. “Some of them lived here three or four months at a time.”
Robert Desautels, who has taught in the West Haven school system since 1969, won the Duffy's Award for volunteerism in February. The award is presented by Duffy's Restaurant in West Haven. Since 1978, he has directed drama club productions at Bailey School, and was director of the West Haven Summer Theater Workshop from 1980-83. In 1984, he joined the West Haven Council of the Arts and has been chairman of the group's dramatic and performing arts segments. Recently, he received an award from Emerson College, Boston, for his impact on students' lives and on education. He and his wife, Annette, have three children, Brian (24), Jason (20) and Jeanine (17).

Valerie Dionne-Lanier of Milford has been selected to work in Bolivia as part of the first departing group of the newly formed Maryknoll Mission Association of the Faithful. She will work with orphaned children, pregnant teens and women training to obtain job skills. Valerie was formerly with Infante, a Bolivian orphanage. Her two adopted children, Victor, 8, and Ana, 2, are Bolivian. The Maryknoll Mission Association of the Faithful, formed last year in response to a Vatican directive, is comprised of 127 lay persons and 12 associate priests from dioceses throughout the United States.

Joseph Marrone has been appointed dean of students at Connecticut Business Institute in North Haven and has also returned to Southern Connecticut State University to pursue an MSW degree. He lives in Orange with his wife, Joan (DeFilippi) Marrone '74, and sons Jordan (12) and Christian (9).

Win Oppel has been appointed co-chairman of the Greater Valley Chamber of Commerce 1995 Dinner Committee. He is president of AD-AMERICA, a 10-year-old promotion-products distributor in Shelton. A Shelton native and resident, he is the past senior deacon of Huntington Congregational Church and currently chairs the church's Long Range Planning Committee. Oppel is vice president of Area Congregations Together, Inc., and a corporator of the Boys and Girls Clubs of the Lower Naugatuck Valley. Serving his second term as a member of the Board of Directors of the Bridgport Chamber of Commerce, he also chairs the Program Committee at the Greater Valley Chamber of Commerce and is a member of Workplace, Southwestern Connecticut's Regional Workforce Development Board.

Bayno achieves a first

Bill Bayno '85 has realized a dream. In late March, the 1984-85 basketball All-America was appointed head coach at the University of Nevada-Las Vegas — becoming the first Sacred Heart alumnus to head an NCAA Division I program. His three-year contract is said to be worth $300,000 per annum.

Current Pioneer Coach Dave Bike '69 had Division I experience as an assistant coach at Seattle University for four seasons prior to returning to his alma mater as head coach and director of athletics in 1978.

"I'm living a dream," says Bayno. "I felt I'd get a (head coaching) job this spring. In fact, I was having discussions with two other schools. I just went out to UNLV with a nothing-to-lose approach."

Bayno, 32, inherits a UNLV program that won a national championship in 1990, but has since been beset by controversy and three coaching changes in as many years. The 1994-95 Runnin' Rebels finished with a 12-16 record — the worst in the program's history.

At the University of Massachusetts, where he spent the last seven years as an assistant (and then associate) coach, Bayno was the principal recruiter in the program's rapid rise under Coach John Calipari, culminated by this year's 29-5 record and finish in the NCAA Tournament's Elite Eight.

As a Sacred Heart player, Bayno was the inspirational leader on back-to-back NCAA Tournament teams coached by Bike in 1983-84 and 1984-85, earning Division II third-team All-America recognition in the latter season. The Pioneers compiled a 26-7 record and reached the Elite Eight in Bayno's junior year; as a senior co-captain, he led the squad to a 25-7 mark and the New England Regional title game.
Matthew Maher, see '84

Andrea S. O'Hagan, MBA, of Norwalk has been awarded the professional insurance designation, Chartered Property Casualty Underwriter, by the American Institute for Chartered Property Casualty Underwriters. She is assistant vice president at Stamford-based Trenwick America Reinsurance Corp. '87

Dana S. Desing recently married Scott D. Brewster. They have relocated to Arizona.

Andrew Jude, son of John and Mirella Ouellette, was born March 7, 1995.


'88

Gordon R. Day is a business analyst with Nestle Foods Corp., Wayne, N.J.

Brendan Joseph, son of Joe Gil and his wife, Fernanda, was born Nov. 25, 1994. The family resides in Monroe.

'89


Robert Goetz, a captain in the U.S. Marine Corps, recently received the Navy Achievement Medal. He was cited for superior performance while

There are successful artists and there are great teachers, and then there is Suzanne Day '86 of Greenville, S.C., who is both.

You can find her signature on a poster for the 1992 Summer Olympic Canoe and Kayak Trials in Raleigh, N.C.; on an illustration of the Yale women's crew team; on an oil portrait of singer Kenny Loggins in his private collection; and on watercolors gracing the corridors of numerous corporations.

Her client list includes United Technologies, National Cash Register, Toro and Tetra-Pack. Her work is requested by advertising agencies and art directors at national and regional magazines, including Southern Living and Country Music Magazine, and by Grolier and other publishers. Yet she still finds time to donate her talents to such non-profits as Hospice and to volunteer at her daughter's school.

Her educational activities range from private lessons to teaching as an adjunct instructor at Greenville Technical College. She's also an instructor at The Governor's School for the Arts, a five-week summer program for high-school-age students, which places her on the elite roster of South Carolina Artists-in-Residence. In recognition of her teaching excellence, this summer she enters the graduate internship program at The Governor's School, learning more about identifying gifted and talented students.

Day credits instructors at Sacred Heart University with directing her to an art career, which she came to after early stints as a hairdresser and a paramedic.

"I always wanted to do art but didn't think you could make a living at it until I took an art course with Enid Hatton (a former adjunct instructor of art who is one of the nation's foremost medical illustrators) and Dick Harvey," Day recalls.

"They brought in guest lecturers who were professional artists from the area, including Rick McCollum (a sports illustrator from Westport who later taught at the University). It was really great to have famous illustrators come in with an interest in sharing knowledge of the business with potential competitors."

The 41-year-old, who was born Suzanne Proulx in Beaufort, S.C., had only three weeks of high school art classes prior to her Sacred Heart education. After marrying Marine officer Joseph Day, whom she described as a "dashing 'Top Gun' pilot trainer," she moved with her husband and son, Jason, to Arizona. There she pursued studies in education and psychology at the University of Arizona.

In 1981, when her husband accepted a position at Sikorsky, the family moved to Connecticut. About the same time she had her second child, daughter Jayme, and had to put her educational goals on hold just 30 credits shy of a degree.

Suzanne Day's poster for the 1992 Olympic Canoe and Kayak Trials in Raleigh, N.C.
When Day decided it was time to complete her bachelor's, she found that the sequence of courses required for a major in psychology at Sacred Heart University would take too long to complete. Casting about for an alternative, Day opted to take an art course -- a pivotal decision.

In the 18 months Day spent at Sacred Heart earning a B.A. in art with a concentration in illustration, she made an impression on faculty and students alike. Virginia Zic, senior member of the art faculty, calls her "one of the student leaders at the time."

"She was lively, vivacious, so willing to learn that she made the most of her short stay here," says Zic. "There's a kind of time destiny with students that come in (at an older age). They know they had better learn it now because they won't have time to do it later. They put their whole energy into learning, which produces results more quickly."

At the encouragement of Bob Dacey, a Sacred Heart instructor who had gone on to teach at Syracuse University, she later spent three summers in upstate New York, earning an M.F.A. in illustration from Syracuse in 1991.

During her college days, Day discovered that she was both mildly dyslexic and had attention-deficit disorder. "Having attention deficit disorder gives me insight as an educator; the keys to identifying and reaching gifted and talented students who have the same problems. Learning to live with [ADD] helps creatives, who often get lots of ideas flooding in all at once. We learn to channel multiple ideas; multiple tasks. It means being able to do a lot of things at once," Day says with a laugh.

Her life's diversity is extended to the variety of the media she uses to express her talent. Her favorite tools may be charcoal and ink at one point, watercolor at another. Into her work she also weaves the thread of experiences she has gained from living in different parts of the country, and often uses her family as models.

The poster for the Olympic trials was a three-day rush that allowed no time for a site visit for photographs. She discussed the suggested approach by phone with committee members and gold medal-winning kayaker Greg Barton. Faxes of sketches, dimensions, regulations and corrections flew back and forth. Day then posed her son on a stool and asked him to hold a broom. As she strengthened his muscles and changed his hair color on her sketch pad, he became the champion athlete. The proportions of the craft were filled in and waves added for the final result.

While her work and her family are central to her life, her resume also gives another clue to her success: Her life is rooted in faith. Along with memberships in the New York Graphic Artist's Guild and the American Academy of Psychotherapy and Creativity, just under the National Art and Education Association, is the line, "Secular Franciscan Order, Hendersonville, N.C."

Day explained that the Third Order Franciscans are lay people who want to lead more fully the gospel life of Christ. Each member has his or her own ministry—Day's is working in a nursing home. "Being a Franciscan has brought my faith into the light—it's what I have searched for most of my life," Day says. "Learning more about the Franciscan Rule focuses for me what is really important in my life."

Her next project? Illustrating the album cover for a Franciscan priest who recently recorded his harp music. "As soon as he told me about the project there was 'mind meld' about the scene for the cover," says Day.

Suzanne Day '86, a Secular Franciscan, mixes a career as an illustrator and teacher with family and spiritual life in Greenville, S.C.
CLASS NOTES

Rick Ferris, of Newtown, has accepted a position as resolution analyst with Oxford Health Plans, Trumbull. A long-time baseball aficionado, he is a director and treasurer of the West Haven Twilight League, one of Connecticut's finest summer leagues.

Asdrubal Paris, see '92

'Hilary Gilbert joined MCI Communications Corp. in Richmond, Va., in March as an account service representative.

Steven J. Lizotte has been appointed director of construction finance and administration at Wright Brothers Builders in Westport. Formerly the company's construction accountant, Lizotte will head Wright Brothers' purchasing and construction finance departments. He began his career as a staff accountant with Dempsey, Myers & Company, CPA, in Wilton.

Luis Angel, son of Beth (Schoonbeek) Paris and Asdrubal Paris '91, was born Jan. 9, 1994.

Susan M. Terwilliger married Paul J. Granello, Nov. 12, 1994. She is a pharmacy services coordinator at Oxford Health Plans, Trumbull.

John T. Wood of Stratford has joined Lafayette American Bank & Trust Co. as vice president-commercial loan officer. He will operate from the bank's Bridgeport lending office. Prior to joining Lafayette, Wood worked as vice president, commercial workout specialist at Shawmut Bank.

'Laina C. Leikus, MAT, married Tom C. Schmitendorf, Oct. 15, 1994. She is head teacher at Coretta King Pre-School, Stamford. The couple resides in Fairfield.

Max Martin, class valedictorian, joined the Orange Police Department in December 1994.

Joreen J. Mattress, PB, of Preston is a sixth-grade teacher at Griswold Intermediate School in Norwich. She received bachelor's and master's degrees in elementary education from Eastern Connecticut State University before going on to receive a certificate in administration from Sacred Heart University.

Ronald R. Rybicki Jr. has joined First Fidelity Bank as an assistant vice president and branch manager of its Noroton Heights office. A 12-year bank veteran, he was formerly assistant treasurer at Gateway Bank where he managed its South Norwalk and Shippan offices.

'93


Robert M. Crawford recently married Allison Ackstall. Crawford is a respiratory therapist at the Hospital for Special Care, New Britain. The couple resides in Ansonia.

Anthony Lampert Jr. and Cathy Ann Capuzziello '91 were married Dec. 31, 1994 and are living in Willoughby Hills, Ohio. Anthony is in the financial management program at GE Lighting in Cleveland and Cathy is a personal lines manager at Malenas Insurance Agency, Beachwood, Ohio.

Elizabeth A. Vecchia, MBA, married Rodney R. Allain, Oct. 8, 1994. They are living in Monroe. Elizabeth is a project director for Skandia, Shelton.

Mary Louise Reignier, MAT, a social studies teacher and 19-year faculty member at Sacred Heart High School in Waterbury, was named to Who's Who Among America's Teachers. Reignier and her husband, Lou, reside in Wolcott.

Moving up... or moving?

New job? New address? New phone number? Newly married? A new baby? Please share your information by filling out this form and returning it to Alumni Relations Office, Sacred Heart University, 5151 Park Avenue, Fairfield, CT 06432-1000. Thank you.

Name (include maiden name)

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James R. Kerr, founding trustee

James R. Kerr, one of the original five members of the University's Board of Trustees and retired chairman of Aeco Corp., died Feb. 8, 1995 in La Jolla, Calif., his home for many years. He was 77.

As a founding trustee, Mr. Kerr provided counsel and support for the establishment, in 1963, of Sacred Heart University, the first Catholic university to be operated by the laity. The Most Rev. Walter W. Curtis, S.T.D., the University's founder, said that if Mr. Kerr had rejected this unique concept in education, there would not have been a Sacred Heart. Mr. Kerr was presented the University's Walter W. Curtis Medal in 1987 and a Discovery Award in 1993.

"James Kerr was truly a visionary and a man of great compassion whose contributions to Sacred Heart University can't be underestimated," said President Anthony J. Cernera, Ph.D.

He is survived by his wife of 51 years, Colleen; two sons, William of La Jolla and James Jr. of Del Mar, Calif.; two daughters, Mary Lou Dwyer of Tucson, Ariz., and Cathy Rice of Flagstaff, Ariz.; two brothers, Louis of La Verne, Calif., and Sheridan of Manteo, Calif.; six grandchildren and three great grandchildren.

In Memoriam

Edward Dennis Hagerty '92 of Monroe died Feb. 8, 1995 in St. Vincent's Medical Center. He is survived by his wife of 51 years, the former Eileen Donnelly; sons John K., Edward D. '74, Lawrence E. and Michael R., and daughters Eileen Keus and her husband, Mert, and Elizabeth Hagerty '70.

Mr. Hagerty attended Providence College and Northeastern University prior to graduating — at age 80 — from Sacred Heart University. He was a veteran of the European Theater in World War II.

Joseph S. Tompos '71 died at his Fairfield home Jan. 25, 1995. He was 61. Survivors include his wife, Clare S. Tompos, and three cousins. He was a retired labor counselor with the State of Connecticut and a U.S. Army veteran of the Korean Conflict.
Putting careers in gear

More than 135 people took part in the fifth annual Professional Development and Career Planning Workshop sponsored by the Alumni Executive Committee and the Continuing Education Council on April 1.

The day-long event, held on campus in the Hawley Lounge and in several classrooms, began with a continental breakfast and keynote speaker Ray Bastarache '83, president and chief executive officer of Milford-based Barter Network Inc. Later, participants attended seminars featuring such topics as how to get a business going, the keys to financial management, women who have achieved success in male-dominated fields, and time management. The day concluded with an opportunity to network at a wine-and-cheese reception.

Among the seminar presenters were alumni Michael J. Del Re Jr. '68, Jane Galgano '78, Jean Johnson '79, Elaine Hughes '80 MBA, Charles H. Reed '81 MBA, Dorothy Leary '86 and Paul Sebben '87.

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