A Nobel Vision
Embracing Racial and Religious Harmony
Remembering Tom Pepe

By Barry E. Herman, Ph.D.

Dr. Thomas J. Pepe was 32 when he was appointed superintendent of the Southbury school system — making him the youngest person in Connecticut history to hold such a rank in education.

But then, Tom was a high achiever in many areas of life, a life that ended suddenly on April 21 at age 71.

Most of us knew Tom as a warm, loving assistant professor of Education and director of the Sixth-Year Certificate Program at Sacred Heart University. But he was also a successful school superintendent, an author, a husband and father and a submarine veteran of World War II.

In our years together on the Education department faculty, I found Tom to be a bright, committed and popular faculty member, a “teacher’s teacher,” if you will. He also had a terrific sense of humor.

Tom compressed a multitude of activities into his nine years on the Education faculty. He was a member of the University’s Faculty Senate and the Budget Committee. He started the Sixth-Year Certificate Program in Education, coordinated the TOPS Program, which enables minority paraprofessionals to become certified teachers, and led several educational institutes. He taught courses in school law, school finance and publishing in educational journals.

As a public school administrator, he became the first superintendent of Region 15 when Southbury and Middlebury were merged. He was chosen from a field of 48 candidates for that position. Later, he became superintendent in Willimantic/Windham prior to joining the Sacred Heart faculty in 1986.

A valued member of many community and educational organizations, he was voted Willimantic/Windham Man of the Year in 1983.

Tom earned his Ph.D. in educational administration at the University of Connecticut, an M.A. from Teachers’ College at Columbia University, and bachelor’s degrees from Southern Connecticut State University and UConn. He was the author of two books, A Guide for Understanding School Law (Interstate Publishers) and Free and Inexpensive Aids to Education (Dover Publications), and wrote many articles for leading educational journals and magazines.

Few people at the University were aware of his service with the U.S. Navy during World War II, notably aboard submarines in the Pacific Theater. He received three distinguished service medals of honor.

To perpetuate the memory of this beloved man, the Education Department has established the Dr. Thomas J. Pepe Scholarship Fund. While all of the criteria are not yet in place, it will be presented to a deserving graduate student. People wishing to contribute to the scholarship fund should send donations to: Dr. Barry E. Herman, Education Dept., Sacred Heart University, 5151 Park Avenue, Fairfield, CT 06432-1000.

Barry E. Herman, Ph.D., is an associate professor of education at Sacred Heart University.
When I was in college, I remember reading a story about two blacksmiths who, as they stood chatting on the edge of a field, looked up to see coming toward them one of the first cars ever made in this country. One blacksmith cried out, "Look, the new invention!" The other responded, "Oh, that's merely a passing folly."

Just as we have long since passed the time when anyone would agree with the latter's viewpoint about the automobile, so too we have reached the point today at which even the last diehards are accepting the fact that technological advances in general and computers in particular are no passing folly. On the contrary, with the rate of technological change accelerating every day, our challenge as an institution of higher learning is clearly expressed in one of the goals of Sacred Heart University's Five-Year Strategic Plan: "to use emerging technology in fulfilling the mission of the University." That mission states in part that one of our aims is "to assist in the development of people (who are) able to respond to an ever-changing world."

This fall, we will witness an important leap forward toward the achievement of that goal with the inauguration of our Student Mobile Computing Program. As of September 1995 all first-year students will be required to have a personal computer, either purchased at a discount from the University or brought from home. Although required only of freshmen, the program will be open to all students and will link them to the University's advanced communications network. This will mean that all of us at the University — administrators, faculty and students — will be able to communicate directly with each other by computer and also to communicate with others off campus, including moms and dads with electronic mail hookups at home or work.

I am convinced that in addition to familiarizing students with today's technology, we will, at the same time, be giving them a better education, a better preparation for the future. I have no doubt at all that our computer program will make possible creative new ways for professors to teach and, therefore, for students to learn. Whole new vistas will open up, ready to be explored at the individual's convenience.

For example, students will be able to use our library's CD-ROM collection or conduct research at other universities through the Internet. They will no longer have to wait in line at the University's computer labs (although these will continue to remain open to all students). They will be able to use their own computers whenever they're ready to study and learn and continue to use them for as long as they want. Students and professors will have access to each other at all times through electronic mail. This access will be a valuable addition to in-class exchanges and private meetings and is certain to increase learning and understanding of subjects.

Because of the Student Mobile Computing Program, our graduates will be better prepared for tomorrow's job market, better qualified to compete for and hold leadership positions in the world they will enter after Commencement. Sacred Heart University will have given these graduates the opportunity to be among the first to reach the future.

Anthony J. Cernera, Ph.D.
President
Advocates technology in education

Once again, you have done a great job with the magazine. I read the entire Spring issue and I plan to contact Becky Abbott who was mentioned in the Etc. section. I am interested in getting a video tape of her documentary, “Schooling That Works.”

My passion and avocation is the use of technology in education. I am very involved in my son’s school as well as nationally with the Association for Computing Machinery (ACM). That’s why I was happy to see the front page article in the Connecticut Post about Sacred Heart mandating computers for freshmen. I think this is a very good idea. The thing you have to watch out for is that you ensure that truly needy students are subsidized. The University must continue to serve those local students (especially from Bridgeport) for whom it represents a way to enlarge their world of job opportunities and contacts (like me).

The articles on Kolbe House and the Alumni Profile of Suzanne Day ’86 were particularly good. I did not know Day at SHU, but I liked the story of an older (like me) student trying and testing new things and hitting upon the right career.

Richard Forohenbach Sr. ’83
Westinghouse Broadcasting Co., Inc.
Group W Information Services
Shelton

Thank you, twice

Your quarterly magazine is outstanding — best I’ve seen anywhere — in format, pictures, contents, the works.

Congratulations.
Enclosed is a small (but I am Lutheran, after all!) contribution to help the cause along.

Oscar R. Rolander
Seattle, Wash.

The compliment — and the contribution — from President Cernera’s father-in-law is appreciated.-ED.

Internet inquiry

I’m very impressed with the new magazine. I am wondering what type of Internet connections the University has now. Is there a way for alumni to connect?
Will there be?

Jerry Denman ’77, MBA ’82
Wilton

From Chief Information Officer
Vin Mangiacapra ’84: ‘The present connection is a 56kb line; an upgrade to a full T1 is scheduled. To date, there is no program for Internet service for alumni. If a program is instituted, an associated charge will go along with it.’-ED.

Praise-worthy program

After reading the Alumni-Student Mentor program article (“Unique Perspectives,” Spring 1995) I feel compelled to write and let you know about another alumnus with a positive experience.

My mentee was Michelle Hermann, a soft-spoken, intelligent and genuinely pleasant junior. At first, I was concerned that I might be a bit “too loud” for such a gentle person, but we hit it off beautifully. We went to the movies; had coffee together; she has visited PHS and we had lunch and I gave her a tour of our facilities. We managed to go to at least five programs at SHU. All meetings and activities were a pleasure.

Michelle is an English major who is looking to be a journalist. With a few contacts, I was able to secure a tour of the Connecticut Post and an interview with the Editorial Page editor for her. I am happy to say that she was given a summer internship, working in various sections of the newspaper. Dr. Ralph Corrigan is supervising the internship.

I shall keep in touch with Michelle and I look forward to seeing her byline in this large city daily.

Thank you for the opportunity to be part of this great program.

Alice Chaves Ferreira ’91
Trumbull

Ferreira, formerly the administrative assistant in Public Relations, is now public affairs associate at Physicians Health Services in Trumbull.-ED.

Reader Survey

In your opinion, was the University justified to require computers for all incoming students this fall? We’ll publish the most thought-provoking answers of 75 words or less.

Reader’s comments and story suggestions are invited. Mail to Reader’s View, Sacred Heart University Magazine, 5151 Park Avenue, Fairfield, CT 06432. Or fax to: (203) 365-7512. Please include your daytime telephone number. Letters may be edited for space or clarity.

Share Your Experience

Share your experience with a Sacred Heart University student by joining the 1995-96 Alumni-Student Mentor Program. More than 75 sophomore students need mentors.

Professionals in all areas are needed: accounting, biology, education, finance, international business, law, nursing, marketing, physical therapy, psychology, social work and more.

If you’re interested in mentoring a student, please call Laurie Bellico in the Alumni Relations office at (203) 371-7861.
COVER STORY

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Commencement speaker Elie Wiesel shared his wisdom and Holocaust experiences with 1995 graduates and their families at the University's 29th graduation exercises on May 21. Wiesel was presented the degree, Doctor of Humane Letters, honoris causa. Degrees were bestowed on 905 graduates.

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Elizabeth "Bippy" Luckie '85 was an extraordinary shortstop as an undergraduate. Now, she has the pleasure of coaching another star at the same position, Sarah Solinsky '95.

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The University has become the first college in Connecticut — and one of only about 20 nationwide — to mandate computers for students.

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Nearly 700 athletes made Sacred Heart University their home away from home this summer during the 1995 Special Olympics World Games in New Haven.

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John Piazza '70, the chief executive officer of Sara Lee Hosiery, is among 56 alumni living in North Carolina. He's an important reason for the corporation's successes and is active in civic and community activities as well.

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On the Cover
The "spiritual archivist of the Holocaust," Elie Wiesel is the focal point of Richard Freeda's camera at the 1995 Commencement.
University names seven new trustees

Patrick Carolan, M.D., is a principal with Merritt Orthopaedic Associates, P.C. in Bridgeport and chief of orthopedic surgery at St. Vincent's Medical Center. He and his wife, Betty, are the parents of five children and live in Fairfield.

Michael Dailey ’75 is the executive director of Cushman & Wakefield Inc., a commercial real estate firm in New York City. He and his wife, Elizabeth, reside with their son in Fairfield.

Armand Fabbri is the superintendent of schools for the Diocese of Bridgeport, overseeing the education of 11,000 students throughout Fairfield County. He and his wife, Mary Ann, are the parents of two children and live in West Haven.

Ann Fimmano-Scheuer is the president and chief operating officer of Kensington Management Consultants, an executive search firm in Greenwich. She and her husband, Tom, live in Greenwich.

Michael Kinney ’72 is the president of Philip Morris Capital Corp., the capital finance arm of Philip Morris Cos., in Rye Brook, N.Y. He and his wife, Cynthia, have three children and reside in Fairfield.

Doris Smith, S.C., is the coordinator of special projects with the New York State Catholic Conference and a former president of the College of Mount Saint Vincent in The Bronx, N.Y. She lives in the Bronx.

Rev. Msgr. Frank Wissel, D.Min., is the president of the Diocese of Bridgeport's secondary schools and co-founder and director of the Kolbe House of Studies. He lives in Bridgeport.

Student's poetry recognized

A combination of talent and interest from one of her professors has placed a Sacred Heart University junior's poetry in a national publication.

Caridad Rivera, a psychology major and Dean's List student, had her poem, “Dylan's Asia Blue,” published in the Spring issue of The National Honors Report, the journal of the National Collegiate Honors Council (NCHC).

“Carrie entered her poem in a campus competition, the Camel-Sparrow Contest, last year, and I thought it would be appropriate for The National Honors Report's student section,” says Carol Batt, Ph.D., assistant professor of psychology and director of the University's Honors program. “We are very proud of Carrie and extend our heartiest congratulations to her.”

According to Rivera, her poem was inspired not by Bob Dylan or Dylan Thomas, but by a classmate at Branford High School. “I wrote it in reaction to something Dylan Fitch produced in high school,” she relates.

The National Honors Report is published quarterly by the NCHC, a professional organization composed of college faculty, administrators and students dedicated to the encouragement of undergraduate honors learning. • D.H.
REAPing praise

Tommy Hilfiger (right), noted designer of men’s clothing, received an award for outstanding contributions to church and community from the Institute for Religious Education and Pastoral Studies at a benefit concert for REAPS this spring. With Hilfiger are, from left: Rev. Msgr. Gregory M. Smith, Ed.D., REAPS director; and Rev. Msgr. Charles Stubbs, pastor of St. Mary Parish in Greenwich and a REAPS director. (see p.6)

Malin takes provost’s reins

Edward W. Malin, Ph.D., associate professor of psychology and long-time chair of the Faculty of Social and Behavioral Sciences, has been named acting provost and vice president for academic affairs. Malin, who celebrated 25 years of service with the University last spring, replaces Thomas J. Trebon, Ph.D., who accepted the position of vice president for academic affairs and dean of the college at St. Norbert College.

During his tenure, Malin has played a significant role in helping Sacred Heart grow from a small commuter college into a comprehensive university serving 5,600 undergraduate and graduate students.

Malin earned his doctorate in experimental psychology from Fordham University. He also holds an M.A. in general psychology from Fordham and a B.A. in liberal arts from the University of Notre Dame. He and his wife, Judith, are the parents of three children.

Visitors from Japan

Eighty students and four faculty from the University’s sister school in Japan, Sakura no Seibo Junior College, were on campus in June and July for their institution’s Study Abroad program. The students, who stayed nearby with host families arranged by Cultural Homestay International, attended classes — all in English — ranging from composition and phonetics to American culture. They also enjoyed the cultural and tourist offerings of Connecticut, New York City and Boston. Nearly one-third of the group stayed on to attend the English Language Summer Institute.

Etc.

The University’s BET Program and its Tech Prep Educational partnership with the Bridgeport Business Magnet School was recognized for educational excellence at a program hosted by James Connelly, Bridgeport’s superintendent of schools, in May.

Elaine Davis, D.S.W., director of the Social Work program, earned a doctorate from the City University of New York’s Graduate Center in April.

Babu George, Ph.D., chair of the Faculty of Science, Mathematics and Computer Science, received the Vanguard Fellows Award from PIMMS (Project to Increase Mastery of Mathematics and Science) at Wesleyan University in May.

Theresa Gonzales, Sc.D., director of the MBA Health Care program, earned a doctorate at the University of New Haven in June.

Pearl Jacobs, Ph.D., has been appointed acting chairperson of the Faculty of Social and Behavioral Sciences for the 1995-96 academic year. Jacobs, an associate professor of Criminal Justice and tenured member of the faculty, has replaced Ed Malin, Ph.D., who is serving as acting provost and vice president for academic affairs.
Five to be honored at Discovery gala

Five achievers from various walks of life will be honored at the seventh annual Scholarship Dinner and Discovery Awards gala on Saturday, Oct. 7 on campus. Proceeds from the black-tie event will to be used to provide scholarships for Sacred Heart University students.

Discovery Awards will be presented to Lawrence Bossidy, chairman and chief executive officer of AlliedSignal, Inc.; David T. Kearns, former deputy secretary of the U.S. Dept. of Education and retired chairman and CEO of Xerox Corp.; Sr. Michelle Anne Reho, administrator of St. Joseph’s Manor in Trumbull; and the Rev. Msgr. Charles Stubbs, pastor of St. Mary Parish in Greenwich. Kearns is now chairman of the board of the New American Schools Development Corp., a private, non-profit, bipartisan organization dedicated to restoring American public education to world preeminence.

The 1995 Bishop Curtis Medal of Honor will be presented to David Carson, president and CEO of People’s Bank and a trustee emeritus of Sacred Heart University.

Cocktails will begin at 6 p.m. The dinner program will commence at 7:30 p.m.

University trustees A. Joan Connor and Robert D. Scinto ’71 are serving as dinner co-chairs. Tommy Hilfiger, designer of men’s clothing, is the honorary chairman. For information and reservations, contact Alumni Relations at (203) 371-7861.

NSF awards three grants

Three laboratory improvement projects proposed for Sacred Heart University, including a unique one targeting students with disabilities, have received matching grants totalling $96,522 from the National Science Foundation.

"These grants will enable the University to improve its educational services by providing state-of-the-art equipment for student research and study in molecular biology and computer science, and adaptive technology for students with disabilities," said President Anthony J. Cernera, Ph.D.

Under the NSF program, Sacred Heart must match or exceed the grants with additional funds, according to Virginia Harris, Ed.D., the University’s director of grants.

One project, which received an NSF grant of $28,019, is an inter-disciplinary effort that will develop an adaptive technology laboratory for students with disabilities.

Frances Grodzinsky, Ph.D., associate professor of computer science, will direct the laboratory along with Rosemarie Kinik, assistant professor of mathematics; Jacqueline Rinaldi, Ph.D., director of the University Learning Center; Penny Snetsinger, Ph.D., assistant professor of chemistry; and Carol Schofield, Ph.D., associate professor of biology.

Grodzinsky also will direct a project that will lead to the implementation of a new computer science laboratory that received a $40,026 NSF grant. The new laboratory will permit students to experiment with network configurations.

The final project will create hands-on experiences for biology majors by providing advanced molecular biotechniques, computer applications and a student research component in the biology curriculum. NSF has provided a $28,477 grant. Shannon Brightman, Ph.D., assistant professor of biology, will direct the molecular biology program. ♦ D.G.

Staying SMART

The SMART Center, an innovative teacher enhancement program based at Sacred Heart University, has received a $98,916 grant from the Connecticut Department of Higher Education to continue its outreach activities for another year.

The Science, Mathematics Area Resource Teacher Center was founded in 1985 to improve the knowledge and skills of elementary, middle and high school teachers in the fields of chemistry, physics, mathematics, biochemistry, biology, environmental science and computer applications in science and mathematics. The University operates the Center in cooperation with local school districts statewide.

"This grant recognizes the importance of science education to Connecticut’s economic health," says Babu George, Ph.D., Faculty Chair of Science, Mathematics and Computer Science.

During the next year, an estimated 500 teachers are expected to participate in SMART Center programs. ♦ D.G.
Of greatest service

Jim Westgate, who spearheaded the formation of a Habitat for Humanity chapter on campus, received a 1995 community service award for his endeavors from the state's Department of Higher Education in April.

Joining Westgate for the awards ceremony at the State Capitol in Hartford were, from left: Phyllis Machledt, the University's service learning coordinator; Sr. Donna Dodge, Ed.D., vice president for mission and planning and executive assistant to the president; Eilene Bertsch, assistant vice president for academic affairs; and Sr. Margaret Palliser, S.T.D., director of Campus Ministry.

During working hours, Westgate is a financial analyst at the University; he's also the Habitat chapter's adviser.

Alumni sponsoring two trips abroad

Ever dream of visiting the Vatican and the Roman ruins in Italy? Or are the outback and crocodiles in Australia more your style?

The Alumni Association is making it possible for travelers to experience both regions during 1995-96.

A 13-day trip to Italy, beginning on Nov. 8, will include tours of Rome, Milan, Venice, Florence, the Leaning Tower of Pisa, Pompeii, The Colosseum, St. Peter's Basilica and Vatican City. The cost, including airfare, meals, sightseeing and deluxe hotels, is $2,199.

A 21-day tour of Australia and New Zealand starting on March 17, 1996 will include trips to Fiji, Auckland, Rotorua, Mt. Cook National Park, Queenstown, Melbourne, Sydney, Cairns and the Great Barrier Reef. The cost is $5,199.

Both trips are operated by Collette Tours. For more information, reservations and deposits, contact Alumni Relations at (203) 371-7861.

Spaulding gets jump in national competition

Amy Spaulding has been riding competitively since she was nine years old. In May, her equestrian career reached new heights.

The 19-year-old Sacred Heart University sophomore earned a 10th-place ribbon in the Intermediate Jumping class at the Intercollegiate National Horse Show, held in Fort Collins, Colo.

Spaulding became just the second Pioneer rider to compete on a national level; last year, Shelley Lyford placed sixth in the Walk/Trot division.

"I was thrilled just to be in the ribbons at nationals, but I had hoped to finish in the top three," says Amy, a Special Education and English major from Wallingford. "It will give me something to shoot for next year."

To earn the right to compete in the national show, Spaulding finished second over fences and first on the flat in the regionals at Stony Brook, N.Y., then took second in the jumping phase at the zone competition in Horscham, Pa.

"The road to the nationals was a true test of Amy's tenacity, determination and sportsmanship," says Maureen Lutz, the team's adviser. "As team captain, she has been a consistent leader and role model. We're extremely proud of her accomplishments." D.H.

Etc.

Katherine Kidd, Ph.D., director of the Global Studies program, is the co-chair of the 16-member Task Force on Peace, which recently completed three years of work on a statement on international peace for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Paul S. Miller, a University trustee, was the recipient of the 1995 Time Magazine Quality Dealer Award. He is president and chief executive officer of Miller Buick/Ford Nissan, Inc., in Fairfield.

Chuck Munster, director of graduate admissions, presented the topic, "Administrator as Manager, Scholar, Technologist: Modeling an Institutional Idea," at the annual New England Association of College Admission Counselors conference held at Brandeis University this spring.

Karen Pagliuco '88, MBA '94, director of freshman admissions, has been named Connecticut's College Counselor of the Year by the New England Association of College Admission Counselors.

Sr. Margaret Palliser, S.T.D., director of Campus Ministry, was presented an award from the Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Southwestern Connecticut in May in recognition of her "positive attitude, energy and generosity."
Lee portrait honored

A portrait of the late film star Brandon Lee that captures the actor’s intensity earned a Sacred Heart University art student second place in a national illustrator’s competition.

Anthony DeCilio, a junior from Stratford majoring in illustration, was awarded second prize out of more than 1,000 entries this spring in the contest sponsored by Strathmore Paper Company of Westfield, Mass. “I was shocked, but thrilled to place so high and be one of the contest winners,” says DeCilio, whose mixed-media work was titled “The Crow,” after the movie of the same name. During filming, Lee died in a tragic gun accident.

“I chose a portrait of Lee in that movie as my subject because of the striking look in his eyes,” says DeCilio. “His expression is very dramatic.”

Lyford awarded fellowship

While her fellow students are adjusting to new classes and instructors this fall, junior Shelley Lyford will be adjusting to life with the peasants and farmers in the highlands of Guatemala and El Salvador.

That’s because the 19-year-old Global Studies major from Chelsea, Vt. has been awarded a $5,000 fellowship for study abroad by the National Security Education Program (NSEP), a national fellowship program funded by the Department of Defense and managed by the Institute for International Education. It was the first time a Sacred Heart student received the prestigious fellowship that draws 10,000 applicants nationwide each year.

“It’s going to be the cultural experience of a lifetime,” says Lyford, captain of the women’s crew team and a member of the equestrian squad, who will also travel to Nicaragua.

Real-world experience in classroom

William V. Roberti ’69 brought his nearly two decades of retailing experience into the classroom this spring to teach a 12-week MBA course in retail management. “It was a very exciting experience for me and I loved having the opportunity to teach at Sacred Heart University because of my very close relationship here over the years,” Roberti says. “I found the students to be very engaging and eager to learn. It’s something I would definitely do again if the opportunity arises.” The former president and chief executive officer of Brooks Brothers, now the head of the Plaid Clothing Group, Inc., in New York, has been a member of the University’s Board of Trustees since 1989.

Promotions: Michelle Loris, Ph.D., from associate professor to full professor of English; Lucjan Orlowski, Ph.D., from associate professor to full professor of Economics/Finance; Gerald Reid, Ph.D., from assistant professor to associate professor of Sociology; Roberta Staples, Ph.D., from associate professor to full professor of English. Reid was also awarded tenure effective Sept. 1, 1995.

Retirements: Raoul DeVilliers, Ph.D., professor of Mathematics, after 30 years; bursar Jay Guastella ’86, after 19 1/2 years; Jean Jagyi, accounts payable, after nine years; Dominick Sacco, Ph.D., assistant professor of Criminal Justice, after seven years; Ethel Zahornacky ’90, student financial assistance officer, after 15 years. DeVilliers was awarded emeritus status.

The University was the subject of a page-one feature story in the March issue of Admissions Marketing Report, the national newsletter of admissions marketing. The five-page article, which included interviews with James M. Barquinero, vice president for enrollment planning and student affairs, and Cathleen Donahue, director of enrollment communications, examined and discussed the factors that have made the University’s admissions marketing program such a success.
Annual Fund registers 12 percent gain

Good news deserves to be shared. The University’s 1994-95 Annual Fund raised $610,958 in cash and pledges in support of scholarships, student services, facility improvements, faculty salaries and more. The figure reflects a 12 percent increase in giving over last year’s campaign, despite continued challenges within the Northeast’s economic climate.

More than $430,000 was raised to support general operating expenses. Donor interest in scholarship support — raised primarily through the sixth annual Scholarship Dinner and Discovery Awards event and a generous gift from General Electric Co. — exceeded $180,000. The figure reflects a 34 percent increase in monies raised from the previous year.

The chairpersons who provided leadership in the Annual Fund effort were: James Costello, retired vice president and controller, General Electric Co., Trustees; John Ratzenberger, actor and honorary degree recipient, Alumni and Honorary Doctorates; George Fasolo, Friends and Pioneer Open; Peter Francini, president, P. Francini and Co., Inc., Vendors and Pioneer Open; Gerald and Corey Pons, Parents; and University faculty Donald Brodeur, Ph.D., and Mariann Russell, Ph.D., and staffers Lisa Boland, J. Mason Cobb ’92 and Dorothy Sayers, Faculty and Staff. ⓒ Susan DiGangi

1994-95 campaign highlights

• Outstanding support from trustees, parents and honorary doctorates. These groups attained 101 percent, 138 percent and 230 percent of their goals, respectively.

• Significant support from alumni, the second largest donor category, totaling $121,488 in cash and pledges. Trustees hold first place in the giving category with more than $137,000 in cash and pledges.

• The sixth annual Pioneer Open raised $20,000 in scholarship support, an increase of 33 percent over last year’s event. One hundred forty-two golfers participated.

• Gifts from businesses held steady while cash and pledges increased approximately 17 percent in 1994-95.

• More than $26,000 was raised in corporate scholarship support from Sikorsky Aircraft Corp., American Skandia Life Assurance Corp., Avery Abrasives, Inc., General Reinsurance Corp., Aquarion Co., Omega Engineering, Dresser Industries and Weller Foundation.

A lasting gift

One reward of giving to a university is that a donor can see that gift work. It’s seen in the buildings, in the programs and special academic offerings, and in the scholarships.

Some years ago, Dorothy and Parker Lansdale established a scholarship in nursing to help students interested in becoming members of or furthering their careers in Dorothy’s profession. This spring, the Lansdales wrote that they received thank you notes from four recipients of their scholarships.

"How could the income," the Lansdales write, "from our modest $50,000 be distributed among four clearly special people so that it could make a difference for each! You are really doers of the Lord’s miracles.

“What excites us as well, of course, is that once more the selections clearly reflect our hopes of helping those persons working on the continuing upgrading of their skills and credentials. We could not be more pleased," the Lansdales said.

Scholarships do work miracles, both in education and in opportunities they give to others to succeed in life.

You, too, can establish a scholarship, either through annual gifts or by a minimum endowment of $10,000. Many do it through a combination of annual contributions and later, through their estate or insurance, endow that scholarship to continue in perpetuity.

For information, call John J. Daley, director of special gifts, (203) 371-7725, or write him at the University.
Is it fair to compare athletes from different eras? Would Oscar Robertson have been the equal of Michael Jordan, had he played today? Would Stan Musial have surpassed the batting averages of Tony Gwynn? Would the elusiveness of Gale Sayers be unparalleled today?

Which brings us to Elizabeth “Bippy” Luckie ’85 and Sarah Solinsky ’95, Sacred Heart University softball shortstops without peer. Both are or were All-Americans, players capable of igniting an offense and solidifying a defense. Who’s better?

“You really can’t compare us,” says Luckie, who has had the privilege of coaching Solinsky the past three seasons and who will have her services for one additional year as a graduate student. “It’s a different game today. The mound is three feet farther back and they’re using a different ball ... a ball that goes harder and farther.”

Solinsky, soft-spoken and selfless, agrees with her coach — but for a different reason. “I don’t think you can compare us. Bippy led her teams to the Final Four and I haven’t done that yet,” says Sarah, who graduated in May with a B.S. in finance. “Only playing for her and at Sacred Heart University would I have been able to accomplish what I have. She’s definitely what the program is about.”

Hitting against a Wilson softball that has been called “the green dot,” Solinsky has compiled more imposing statistics, notably in the past two years. She batted .455 in 1994, when she was selected a second-team All-America by the National Softball Coaches Association, .468 this past spring, when for inexplicable reasons, she missed the national all-star squad.

Solinsky’s compact 5-foot-4 frame generates remarkable power, as illustrated by eight home runs as a junior and seven as a senior. In an early spring double-header in 1994, she walloped a pair of homers against Merrimack, the ultimate NCAA Division II national champion, and came back with another later in the day against Springfield.

Since the program’s formation in 1980, only one other Sacred Heart player has been capable of hitting three in a double-header: Vicki Kennedy — the Lady Pioneers’ career home-run leader — in 1987.

Afield, Solinsky has developed into an outstanding shortstop since her conversion from second base early last year. She committed just nine errors in 185 chances this spring. “Sarah worked on a bunch of things last summer, especially fielding. She doesn’t like to do anything 60 or 70 percent; it has to be 100 percent,” says Luckie, who is also the University’s assistant director of athletics. “Now, she’s getting to balls nobody else would get to.”

The coach pauses before deciding some clarification is needed. “I taught Sarah how to play the position; some of her improvement is a direct result.”

Luckie, who directed her team to its fifth New
England Collegiate Conference title this year and won her fourth NECC Coach of the Year award in the process, realizes that whatever Solinsky achieves on the softball field is a bonus. After all, she transferred here from the University of Bridgeport on a basketball scholarship. Her last competitive softball had been at Marion (Ind.) High School, where she was, by her own accounts, “a .280 hitter with a weak arm.”

Those who saw Luckie from 1983 to 1985 believe she is the finest all-round female athlete to wear the University’s scarlet and white. They point to her prowess on the basketball court, where she was the New England Collegiate Conference’s leading scorer as a junior (19.9). She still holds the school’s single-game scoring record with 42 points, against Rhode Island College, and once converted 19 of 20 free throw attempts in a game.

As a point guard the past three years — after spending her freshman season at UB — Solinsky was a solid, gritty competitor, but not an all-star.

Luckie the shortstop received All-America recognition as a junior (second team) and senior, seasons in which she batted .355 and .385. In the latter year, she established still-standing school records with 71 hits and 110 total bases and equalled the runs scored high with 55. These performances were achieved hitting against a pitcher standing 40 feet from home plate, instead of 43, and against the standard Dudley ball, which lacked the zip of today’s green dot.

But the numbers that please Luckie the most are 126-17-1; they constitute the Lady Pioneers’ cumulative won-lost-tied record for Luckie’s playing career. In each of her three seasons, Sacred Heart won the NCAA regional title and advanced to the Final Four in the national tournament, a sustained period of excellence unrivaled before or since.

Diane Zalewski ’84, herself an all-conference catcher at the University, was Luckie’s teammate for two seasons and she watches her alma mater’s home games now. How would she compare Sacred Heart shortstops past and present?

“Not taking anything away from Sarah, who’s an All-American shortstop, I don’t think too many people compare to Elizabeth as an all-round athlete,” says Zalewski, now a paralegal with the Bridgeport law firm of Frankel, Thornberry & Olayos. “In addition to making the plays you’re supposed to, she made plays nobody else did. She was a level above people I’ve seen.”

All right, no more comparisons. Luckie was outstanding in her era, Solinsky is outstanding now. Sacred Heart University has been twice blessed.
A capsule look at 1994-95

Fall

FOOTBALL
1994 Record: 4-5
Team: Set single-game records for points and total offense (509 yards) in 43-20 victory over Assumption.
Individual: Juniors Mark MacPherson (DB, Hanson, Mass.) and Marco Soto (DE, Paterson, N.J.) were chosen to Division II ECAC Intercollegiate Football Conference all-star team. Soto and linebacker Rob Stopkoski (Sr., Clinton) were named ECAC Division II Player of the Week for 10/15 and 9/17, respectively.

MEN'S SOCCER
1994 Record: 11-8-1 (1-4-1 NECC)
Team: Eleven wins set record for four-year-old program. Compiled 6-3 mark against NEC-10 competition.
Individual: Jen Fallon (Jr., Milford), the team's leading scorer with 47 points (20 goals, 7 assists), was named Connecticut Junior Soccer Association College Female Athlete-of-the-Year. She was also chosen to National Soccer Coaches Association of America/UMBRO Division II Northeast region team and All-New England Collegiate Conference second team. Jen Greene (Jr., Milford, N.H.) also made second-team All-NECC. Joe Barroso was named New England Coach of the Year.
Scholar-Athletes: Denise Lindmark (Fr., Winchester, Mass.), Kristyn Mulry (Fr., Holden, Mass.).

FIELD HOCKEY
1994 Record: 5-9-3
Individual: Deirdre Hynes (Fr., Mahopac, N.Y.) and Leslie Greene (Sr., Stonington) scored sharing leadership with nine points apiece. Goalie Cheryl Simmons (So., Vernon Center, N.Y.) posted three shutouts.
Scholar-Athletes: Jill Beaudoin (Fr., Augusta, Me.), Cheryl Casey (Fr., Bridgewater, N.J.), Deidre Hynes (Fr., Mahopac, N.Y.), Janel Tashea (Jr., New London).

WOMEN'S SOCCER
1994 Record: 1-2-1 (1-1-1 NECC)
Team: Reached championship round en route to title game loss to New England College of-the-Year. She was also chosen to National Soccer Coaches Association of America/UMBRO Division II Northeast region team and All-New England Collegiate Conference second team. Jen Greene (Jr., Milford, N.H.) also made second-team All-NECC. Joe Barroso was named New England Coach of the Year.
Scholar-Athletes: Denise Lindmark (Fr., Winchester, Mass.), Kristyn Mulry (Fr., Holden, Mass.).

WOMEN'S TENNIS
1994 Record: 5-9-3
Team: Played first home match vs. AIC (10/18/94).
Scholar-Athlete: Gina Norelli (Fr., Bethlehem).

Winter

MEN'S BASKETBALL
1994-95 Record: 17-12 (8-8 NECC)
Team: Advanced to NECC championship game for first time since 1990-91 season, upsetting UMass-Lowell (99-85) and Franklin Pierce (80-69) en route to title game loss to New Hampshire College, the ultimate NCAA regional champion. Shot school-record 70 percent (37-53) from floor in quarterfinal win over UMass-Lowell.
Individual: Point guard Johnny Burkette (Sr., Brooklyn, N.Y.) became 23rd player in Sacred Heart history to score over 1,000 career points (1,156). Averaged 16.1 points and 7.0 assists per game and was named to All-NECC second team. Renata Zujewski (Fr., Shelton) was an All-NECC second-team pick.

FOOTBALL
1994 Record: 11-16 (7-9 NECC)
Team: Fourth consecutive 10-or-more-wins season. Led NECC in three-point field goals per game (6.0).
Individual: Chrissie Perkins (Fr., Waterford) was voted NECC Rookie of the Year and NECC Rookie of the Week on three occasions. She led Lady Pioneers in scoring (11.6 ppg) and the NECC in three-point field goal percentage (36.9). Tied school record with five three-pointers in win over UMass-Lowell.

MEN'S BASKETBALL
1994-95 Record: 11-16 (7-9 NECC)
Team: Fourth consecutive 10-or-more-wins season. Led NECC in three-point field goals per game (6.0).
Individual: Chrissie Perkins (Fr., Waterford) was voted NECC Rookie of the Year and NECC Rookie of the Week on three occasions. She led Lady Pioneers in scoring (11.6 ppg) and the NECC in three-point field goal percentage (36.9). Tied school record with five three-pointers in win over UMass-Lowell.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL
1994-95 Record: 11-16 (7-9 NECC)
Team: Fourth consecutive 10-or-more-wins season. Led NECC in three-point field goals per game (6.0).
Individual: Chrissie Perkins (Fr., Waterford) was voted NECC Rookie of the Year and NECC Rookie of the Week on three occasions. She led Lady Pioneers in scoring (11.6 ppg) and the NECC in three-point field goal percentage (36.9). Tied school record with five three-pointers in win over UMass-Lowell.

ICE HOCKEY
1994 Record: 10-14 (6-8 ECAC South)
Team: Second-year men's program, led by new Coach John Glyne, more than doubled the win total of first season.
Individual: Jon Yackmack (So., Kittanning, Pa.) led team in scoring with 37 points (18 goals, 19 assists).
Aaron Foust (So., Kittanning, Pa.) led with 23 goals and was second in points (33).

INDOOR TRACK & FIELD
Team: First-year program proved competitive under Coach Christian Morrison.
weight throw and Jenn Alonso (Glenwood, N.J.) in 55-meter dash all qualified for ECAC Indoor Track & Field Championships.

MEN’S BOWLING
Team: Captured second place in Eastern Intercollegiate Bowling Conference’s Eastern Conference and second at Nittany Lion Classic. Ranked as high as 12th nationally.

Individual: Chad Autore (Jr., Naugatuck) posted high average (226) in EIBC.

Scholar-Athletes: Juniors Chris Pepice (Waterbury), Mark Taylor (Fairfield).

WOMEN’S BOWLING
Team: Placed 12th at National Championships in Knoxville, Tenn., won Nittany Lion Classic. Ranked as high as 17th nationally.

Individual: Jen Swanson (So., Shelton) won both Nittany Lion Classic and Brunswick Northeast Collegiate Showdown. She was highest qualifier (231 avg.) at Intercollegiate Bowling Championships and was named MVP in women’s field. Swanson also won ACU-1 singles championships in Reno, Nev.

MEN’S VOLLEYBALL
1994-95 Record: 25-6 (16-0 MIVC)

Team: Coach Li Poeng directed team to school-record 25 wins and undefeated record in Metropolitan Intercollegiate Volleyball Conference match play. Reached finals of conference tournament.

Individual: Randall Diaz (Sr., Rio Piedras, P.R.) named MIVC Tournament MVP and MIVC Player of the Week. Ranked among top 20 in nation in hitting percentage and dig average. Vern Cox (Sr., Clinton) led nation in hitting percentage. Rob Pinkas (So., Brno, Czech Republic) was fourth in country in dig average.

Scholar-Athletes: Ken Bauer (Jr., Shelton), Jeremy Hitchcock (Fr., Farmingdale, N.Y.), Kevin O’Malley (Fr., Brooklyn, N.Y.).

BASEBALL
1995 Record: 15-27 (8-13 NECC)

Team: Defeated Ivy League power Yale, 11-10, on March 19.

Individual: First baseman Marc Damelio (Sr., Waterloo) swept team’s major batting categories with .361 average, five home runs and 30 RBI and was named second-team All-NECC. Righthander: Ben Bartone (Jr., Derby) topped squad in wins (6) and ERA (3.89).

Scholar-Athletes: Rob Abearstania (So., East Hartford), Dave Chase (Jr., Rumford, R.I.), Matt Fortney (Fr., Westbury, N.Y.), Walter Kustra (Jr., Southington), Denis Reo (Fr., Hicksville, N.Y.), Jamie Romeo (Jr., Montville).

MEN’S LACROSSE
1995 Record: 10-9

Team: Coach Rob Randall’s squad earned ECAC Division II Tournament bid for second straight year and reached final for first time. Defeated Bentley, 10-9, in semifinals. Ranked ninth in United States Intercollegiate Lacrosse Association (USILA) pre-season poll.

Individual: Dave Root (So., Rome, N.Y.) led team in scoring with 38 goals and 35 assists for 73 points.

Mike Mazzeo (Jr., Darien), Henry Olszewski (Sr., Fairfield) and Doug Steele (Jr., Babylon, N.Y.) were chosen honorable mention All-Americas.

Scholar-Athletes: Bob Antonellis (Fr., Londonderry, N.H.), Andre Thepenier (Fr., Islip, N.Y.), Tim Wolfe (Fr., Westfield, Mass.).

WOMEN’S LACROSSE
1995 Record: 8-7

Team: Coach Robin Schwartz led team to finest season in three years, establishing win record in the process.

Individual: Jen Fallon (Jr., Milford) was voted Division II All-America for second year. She led team in scoring with 63 points (56 goals, 7 assists).

Scholar-Athletes: Jen Fisher (Sr., East Hampton, N.Y.), Diana Vumbaco (Jr., Wallingford).

CREW
Team: First-year program competed in New England Championships.

Individual: Mike Corpus (Sr., Colonia, N.J.), Jorge Rivera (Jr., Stratford), Tim Wilson (Fr., Mays Landing, N.J.), Lisette Gonzalez (Sr., Brooklyn, N.Y.), Shelley Lyford (So., Chelsea, Vt.).

EQUESTRIAN
Team: Defeated Ivy League power Yale, 11-10, on March 19.

Individual: First baseman Marc Damelio (Sr., Waterloo) swept team’s major batting categories with .361 average, five home runs and 30 RBI and was named second-team All-NECC. Righthander: Ben Bartone (Jr., Derby) topped squad in wins (6) and ERA (3.89).

Scholar-Athletes: Rob Abearstania (So., East Hartford), Dave Chase (Jr., Rumford, R.I.), Matt Fortney (Fr., Westbury, N.Y.), Walter Kustra (Jr., Southington), Denis Reo (Fr., Hicksville, N.Y.), Jamie Romeo (Jr., Montville).

MEN’S SOCCER
Summer Schedules

FOOTBALL
Coach: Gary Reho
9/16 W New England 1:30 p.m.
9/30 Stony Brook 1:30 p.m.
10/14 Assumption 1 p.m.
11/14 Curry 1 p.m.
11/11 Pace 1 p.m.

WOMEN’S SOCCER
Coach: Dave Laliberty
9/13 Dominican 4 p.m.
9/27 New Haven TBA
10/1 UMass-Lowell 12 p.m.
10/9 New York Tech 3:30 p.m.
10/11 Assumption 3:30 p.m.
10/25 Ramapo 3 p.m.
10/28 Franklin Pierce TBA

MEN’S BASKETBALL
Coach: Joe Mcguigan
9/6 Stonestreet 1:30 p.m.
9/12 Quinnipiac 3:30 p.m.
9/14 Bryant 3:30 p.m.
10/1 UMass-Lowell 2 p.m.
10/4 Merrimack 3:30 p.m.
10/10 Southern Conn. 3:30 p.m.
10/25 Bridgeport 3 p.m.
10/28 Franklin Pierce 2 p.m.
11/1 Ramapo 3 p.m.
11/4 New Haven 1 p.m.

FIELD HOCKEY
Coach: Rob Schwartz
8/30 Kean 4 p.m.
9/7 William Paterson 4 p.m.
9/15 Albany 4 p.m.
9/19 Fairfield 4 p.m.
9/23 Assumption 1 p.m.
9/26 Merrimack 4 p.m.
9/28 Montclair 4 p.m.
10/5 Bentley 4 p.m.
10/12 Drew 4 p.m.
10/23 Bloomsburg 3 p.m.

Scholar-Athlete: Joshua Black (So., Daughton, Mass.).

OUTDOOR TRACK & FIELD
Team: Top finishes: Men (4th at RIC Invitational); Women (6th at RIC Invitational).

Individual: Monique Belisle (Fr., Voluntown) won shot put at Rhode Island College Invitational and Collegiate Track Conference (CTC) Championships and javelin at CTC Championships and Williams College Relays. Mike Buzon (So., Saugerties, N.Y.) won pole vault at RIC Invitational.

Scholar-Athletes: Ben Hilinski (Fr., Sorrento, Me.), Jasmin Whalen (Fr., Yonkers, N.Y.).

Spring

SOFTBALL
1995 Record: 34-10 (13-1 NECC)

Team: Won conference title for ninth year and reached for first time. Defeated Bentley, 10-9, in semifinals. Ranked ninth in United States Intercollegiate Lacrosse Association (USILA) pre-season poll.

Individual: Dave Root (So., Rome, N.Y.) led team in scoring with 38 goals and 35 assists for 73 points.

Mike Mazzeo (Jr., Darien), Henry Olszewski (Sr., Fairfield) and Doug Steele (Jr., Babylon, N.Y.) were chosen honorable mention All-Americas.

Scholar-Athletes: Bob Antonellis (Fr., Londonderry, N.H.), Andre Thepenier (Fr., Islip, N.Y.), Tim Wolfe (Fr., Westfield, Mass.).

WOMEN’S LACROSSE
1995 Record: 8-7

Team: Coach Robin Schwartz led team to finest season in three years, establishing win record in the process.

Individual: Jen Fallon (Jr., Milford) was voted Division II All-America for second year. She led team in scoring with 63 points (56 goals, 7 assists).

Scholar-Athletes: Tara Fisher (Jr., East Hampton, N.Y.), Diana Vumbaco (Jr., Wallingford).

CREW
Team: First-year program competed in New England Championships.

Individual: Mike Corpus (Sr., Colonia, N.J.), Jorge Rivera (Jr., Stratford), Tim Wilson (Fr., Mays Landing, N.J.), Lisette Gonzalez (Sr., Brooklyn, N.Y.), Shelley Lyford (So., Chelsea, Vt.).

EQUESTRIAN
Team: Defeated Ivy League power Yale, 11-10, on March 19.

Individual: First baseman Marc Damelio (Sr., Waterloo) swept team’s major batting categories with .361 average, five home runs and 30 RBI and was named second-team All-NECC. Righthander: Ben Bartone (Jr., Derby) topped squad in wins (6) and ERA (3.89).

Scholar-Athletes: Rob Abearstania (So., East Hartford), Dave Chase (Jr., Rumford, R.I.), Matt Fortney (Fr., Westbury, N.Y.), Walter Kustra (Jr., Southington), Denis Reo (Fr., Hicksville, N.Y.), Jamie Romeo (Jr., Montville).

MEN’S SOCCER
Coach: Joe Mcguigan
9/6 Stonestreet 1:30 p.m.
9/12 Quinnipiac 3:30 p.m.
9/14 Bryant 3:30 p.m.
10/1 UMass-Lowell 2 p.m.
10/4 Merrimack 3:30 p.m.
10/10 Southern Conn. 3:30 p.m.
10/25 Bridgeport 3 p.m.
10/28 Franklin Pierce 2 p.m.
11/1 Ramapo 3 p.m.
11/4 New Haven 1 p.m.

FIELD HOCKEY
Coach: Rob Schwartz
8/30 Kean 4 p.m.
9/7 William Paterson 4 p.m.
9/15 Albany 4 p.m.
9/19 Fairfield 4 p.m.
9/23 Assumption 1 p.m.
9/26 Merrimack 4 p.m.
9/28 Montclair 4 p.m.
10/5 Bentley 4 p.m.
10/12 Drew 4 p.m.
10/23 Bloomsburg 3 p.m.

Scholar-Athlete: Joshua Black (So., Daughton, Mass.).

OUTDOOR TRACK & FIELD
Team: Top finishes: Men (4th at RIC Invitational); Women (6th at RIC Invitational).

Individual: Monique Belisle (Fr., Voluntown) won shot put at Rhode Island College Invitational and Collegiate Track Conference (CTC) Championships and javelin at CTC Championships and Williams College Relays. Mike Buzon (So., Saugerties, N.Y.) won pole vault at RIC Invitational.

Scholar-Athletes: Ben Hilinski (Fr., Sorrento, Me.), Jasmin Whalen (Fr., Yonkers, N.Y.).

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hey came early and they came late. Some were silly, others serious. Some dressed casually, others in more formal attire. From around the world and different backgrounds, but driven by a common dream for a university education, Sacred Heart University's 1995 graduates provided a palette of cultural and ethnic diversity at Commencement on May 21.

The joy of the occasion and the uniqueness of the University's 29th graduation exercises didn't escape Elie Wiesel, Nobel Peace Prize-winning author and Holocaust survivor, who enthralled a crowd of 5,000 steaming under warm, sunny skies with his Commencement address.

"This University is special and this day is special to me," said Wiesel as a stiff breeze whipped his gown and tugged at the tassel on his cap.

"As I see from the student body and from the distinguished members of the faculty, you have succeeded, thanks to the wise direction of your president, to bring together students of all colors, all origins, all affiliations, into one community. And because this University has now become a kind of national center which works for Jewish-Christian relations, I think it is doubly special."

Wiesel, 66, the Andrew Mellon Professor in the Humanities at Boston University, was awarded the degree, Doctor of Humane Letters, honoris causa. Others receiving honorary doctorates were Diane Carlson Evans, R.N., chair and founder of the Vietnam Women's Memorial Project, Inc., in Washington, D.C., and William Pitt, founder, chairman and chief executive officer of William Pitt Real Estate of Stamford, one of Connecticut's largest commercial and residential real estate firms.

The valedictorian, 21-year-old Cesar Munoz of north central Spain and Bridgeport, perfectly illustrated Wiesel's comments about cultural and racial diversity, delivering a spirited address in both English and Spanish.

"This particular community of ours is diverse," said Munoz, a media studies major who graduated with a

President Anthony J. Cernera, Ph.D., delivering his commencement address.

Maureen Adams, with infant daughter Stephanie Helen in hand, received an MBA in health care.

Amateur shutterbugs capture the moment.
Emilem '95

Equipped with a B.S. degree in business administration, William Girolomoni has high hopes.

Linda Pastor finds laughter and a bouquet of flowers.

"We are men and women now," said Valedictorian Cesar Munoz. "We have to struggle, we have to love and we have to give back."

Emotion is evident as Amy Lockhart is embraced by her father, Richard. Amy received a B.S. in criminal justice.
A formal portrait of honorary degree recipients Diane Carlson Evans, R.N., William Pitt (second right) and Elie Wiesel (right) with President Ceremera and the Most Rev. Edward M. Egan, Bishop of Bridgeport and chairman of the University’s Board of Trustees.

“It is our time and our responsibility to use our skills wisely,” said Class President Linda Pelletta, “not only to benefit ourselves but also those less fortunate.”

3.98 grade point average. “We are so lucky we do not even realize it. Therefore, we have a real, absolute responsibility with our children, with our community. We are men and women now. We have to struggle, we have to love and we have to give back.”

President Anthony J. Ceremera, Ph.D., also called upon graduates to use their talents and abilities to help others. “Commencement Day is a day of celebration for the University community,” he said. “We are celebrating your success and your accomplishments. But Commencement Day is also a celebration of the University, of our mission in the world.”

Ceremera said the University has been given the responsibility for the intellectual, aesthetic, moral and spiritual development of the next generation of citizens and leaders. This is both a privilege and a sacred trust.

“It is also the responsibility of the University to awaken a sense of vision and hope for the human enterprise, and to awaken an appreciation of the beauty and mystery of life,” he continued. “Society has a right to expect from colleges and universities thoughtful and well-trained women and men who can and will exercise positions of leadership and responsibility in the work place, in the social order, in the public and private organizations that promote the common good.”

Wiesel, sounding a similar theme, told graduates and their families he believed that in God’s eyes “all of us are equally privileged and equally burdened to spread His word and to make this world a better world.”

Wiesel has dedicated his life to bearing witness to the Holocaust and to speaking out on humanitarian issues. “I have seen humankind at its lowest. I have seen what human beings are capable of,” he said. “But I have also seen the victims—and if the killers move me to despair, the victims move me to compassion. If I glorify the victims, it is because something in their tragedy must continue to move all of us—not to anger but to solidarity.”

Evans was instrumental in creating the Vietnam Women’s Memorial, which honors the more than 265,000 women who served in the military during the Vietnam era. The memorial was unveiled on Veteran’s Day 1993 in Washington, D.C. Evans’ Vietnam service (1968-69) included duty as a staff nurse in the surgical and burn wards at Vung Tau and later as head nurse in a surgical unit at Pleiku.

In 1949, Pitt opened a one-man real estate office in Stamford. Today, he directs a firm that has expanded to 15 offices and employs more than 400 agents and staff. The company was responsible for bringing several major corporations, such as GTE, Schweppes and Xerox, to southwestern Connecticut in the 1970s, which accelerated the area’s economic growth.

A fifth-generation Stamfordite, Pitt has demonstrated his generosity in a multitude of ways in his hometown. He has created a family medicine center at St. Joseph Medical Center, a gymnasium at the 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.

Bachelor’s, master’s and associate degrees and certificates of advanced study were conferred on 905 graduates, encompassing students from 11 states, the territory of Puerto Rico and four foreign countries: Aruba, Jamaica, Luxembourg and Thailand. ☞
President Cernera, Bishop Egan, rabbis, distinguished members of the faculty of this University, parents and friends, and, above all, the graduating students, I know you have been waiting for four years for this moment — not for me.

In fact, between the four years and your degree, there is only one person who stands in between and that’s me — it’s my address. In order to curtail your agony, I will try to make it short. I will simply thank you young and younger students for allowing me to be one of your colleagues. I congratulate you. To be young today is not easy. To be a young student isn’t easy either. And to be a graduating student surely has challenges, problems — all kinds of problems that you will have to solve. This University is special and this day is special to me.

Why is this University special? Because as I see from the student body and from the distinguished members of the faculty, you have succeeded, thanks to the wise direction of your president, to bring together young and younger boys, girls, all colors, all origins, all affiliations into one community. And because this University has become now a kind of national center which works for Jewish-Christian relations, I think it is doubly special.

I’ll tell you a story. The very first Jewish philosopher working for Jewish-Christian relations was a philosopher who I hope you have studied — Martin Buber. He wrote the great book in philosophy called I and Thou. He wrote many books about Hasidism, telling many stories. And once he attended an ecumenical gathering, and he spoke to hundreds and hundreds of Christian theologians and this is what he said. “Between you and me what is the difference? All of us believe in the Messiah, except that you think He has come already and will come again. We Jews believe He hasn’t come yet. So I propose to you, let’s wait together. And when He comes, we shall simply ask Him, ‘Have you been here before?’” And Buber added, “I hope at that moment I will stand behind Him, and I will whisper in His ear: ‘Do not answer.'”

I do believe that we are all children of the same Father. I do believe that in God’s eyes all of us are equally privileged and equally burdened to spread His word and to make this world a better world. Oh, I have seen humankind at its lowest, it is true, you have heard from the president. I have seen that. I have seen what human beings are capable of. But I have also seen the victims. And if the killers moved me to despair, the victims moved me to compassion. If I glorify the victims, it is because something in their tragedy must continue to move all of us — not to anger, but to solidarity.

What have I learned? Fifty years separate me from my liberation. Fifty-one years ago, almost to the day, in my little town in Transylvania we were 15,000 Jews, and I belonged to the last transport. We were getting ready to leave that town and to board sealed wagons and go to a place whose name was unknown to us. At that time, many people in the world were convinced it’s only Jews and, therefore, they didn’t care and they were wrong.

It was not only a tragedy that affected the Jews alone, although we were victims of a very special and singular kind. I have learned since that whenever a community is threatened, all are affected. Whenever a single human being is humiliated, the human image is cheapened. Whenever a person suffers for whatever the reason and no one is there to offer a hand, a smile, a word, a present, a gift, a memory, a smile again — when that happens, something is wrong with society at large.

What have you learned here? First, to be together with your teachers. I hope that you share the passion that I have that keeps me going. The passion for study. The passion for learning and the extraordinary tenderness I feel on one hand for my students and on the other toward my teachers, those who were and those who are. For I see in every human being a teacher. I can learn from everyone and from anyone.

What else have I learned? That racism is not only unjust, it is stupid. It is ugly. It is inhuman. To say that a person because of his or her color or ethnic affiliation or national origin or religion is less than I am makes me unworthy of saying that I was created in God’s image. I have learned that when I see anyone whom I have not known yet, that person is not my enemy, that person is not an adversary, that person is to me a fellow companion, a fellow student and we are all walking towards light.

In conclusion, I am not a pessimist. Neither am I an optimist. Albert Camus used to say that the choice is ours between a smiling pessimist and a weeping optimist. I prefer to be a smiling optimist. And when I see you young students, your youth, your faith in study and the future, your faith in each other, it gives me reason to smile and then I say to myself what an ancient philosopher used to say: “Life is not made of years. Life is made of moments.”

Thank you for allowing me to share this moment.
When James Ackman begins attending classes at Sacred Heart University this fall, the 17-year-old from Coventry will be on line. No, not the typical lines faced by students registering for classes or purchasing books. Rather, he will be joining 550 full-time freshmen and others who will be tapping into the University's advanced computer system under the new Student Mobile Computing Program.

Ackman says he probably would have purchased a computer eventually — even without the University's mandate that beginning this fall all incoming students own one. But Ackman and most of his peers believe the new requirement, making Sacred Heart University the first college in Connecticut — and one of only about 20 nationwide — to make computer ownership mandatory, is in line with the rapidly changing role of technology in society.

"I think it's great because every student is going to have to be computer literate by the time we graduate anyway," says Ackman, who is planning a career in physical therapy. "And of course it's going to be beneficial when we have research papers due and time is running out. Having access to information services like the Internet means there will be times we won't even have to go to the library."

President Anthony J. Cernera, Ph.D., said that the University has already made a significant investment in computers, networking and other technology and that the new mobile computing program fits in with the new Five-Year Strategic Plan. "It is our blueprint for the future," said Cernera. "We recognized the increasingly important role of technology in our society and in education. This program is the newest and most exciting example of the University's commitment to technology."

"We strongly believe that requiring students to own their own computers will enhance the teaching and learning process by providing opportunities for experiential learning, collaborative teaching and research, and improved communication among administrators, faculty and students."

Vincent Mangiacapra '84, the University's chief information officer, agrees that with computer access to services such as the Internet, E-Mail and libraries across the country, students are going to be in a position to get more work done in less time. He said that while only 20 percent of the current student population owns computers, the goal is to have all students on line by 1999.

Students who already own computers will be required to have their equipment modified to link to the University network. First-year students and others will be able to purchase the Digital HiNote Ultra laptop computer at a considerably reduced cost and make payments up to four years, although they have the option to pay the full amount upon purchase.

"Requiring our students to have their own computers will enable them to take full advantage of our Internet link and other related services that make our computer network one of the most advanced you will find on a college campus today," says Mangiacapra.

Mangiacapra points out that computers are becoming so much a part of the fabric of everyday life that being computer
It’s revolutionizing the way in which students work that will have an impact on them for the rest of their lives.”

— Mitch Holmes
Assistant Dean of Students

literate is now more of a necessity than a luxury. “Students realize that corporate America expects them, upon graduation, to be computer literate. As they enter the workforce, employees are expected to be able to use the computer as a productive tool, so we view this as just part of their education.”

Edward Malin, Ph.D., the University’s acting provost, said the Student Mobile Computing Program is going to “completely transform the education process here at Sacred Heart University and around the globe as more universities join the process.

“There hasn’t been an advance in education of this magnitude in this century,” says Malin, who described how students will be able to take part in work groups that will also allow professors to interact with their students via the computer.

“The fact that every student will have access to their professors and each other via E-Mail, that’s going to really open up the lines of communication,” he says. “When students miss a class, for example, they will be able to use their computers to gain access to the notes. This is a very, very dramatic technological advance that puts us years ahead of most other universities.”

Paul K. Madonna, Ed.D., vice president for finance and administration, adds that the new program will mean that “every office and every residence hall room on campus will be fully networked into the system.

“By this fall we will have achieved a complete integration of technology and curriculum so that our students can look forward to graduating with considerable technological sophistication,” says Madonna. “By the time they leave this university they will be fully versed in the use of the computer for learning, research, writing and all kinds of communication.”

Students say that while they have a fundamental understanding of computers, they welcome the opportunity to become more computer literate. “It’s going to take some time to learn all the in-depth computer functions, but in the long run it’s definitely going to help us a great deal,” says 17-year-old Diana Grandeo of Deer Park, L.I.

Grandeo, an in-coming freshman who is planning to major in sociology, predicts that by the time she graduates most jobs will require some degree of computer knowledge. “I think the University is doing the right thing,” she says. “It seems like a very good plan.”

Mitch Holmes MBA ’89, assistant dean of students, said the new computer program will be of great help to students while they are in school — but also after they graduate and begin looking for jobs. “When our students graduate they will have access to an unbelievable number of jobs around the world — about 33,000 listings a week are posted in the World Wide Web,” Holmes says.

“By providing this computer link, job seekers will be able to send resumes and apply for jobs in an instant. It’s revolutionizing the way in which students work that will have an impact on them for the rest of their lives.”

Students will be able to take advantage of a 40 percent discount that reduces the total cost, including services and supplies, to about $2,500 — a savings of nearly $2,000. The laptop computer’s design is sleek and weighs just 3.9 pounds. It includes many added features such as a fax modem, a 340 MB disk drive and an external CD-ROM that allows access to an unlimited number of research databases and reference materials.

“Students aren’t going to get a better deal than this anywhere,” Mangiacapra says. “It’s a very good computer that they will be able to use for years to come.”

Students will be able to access computer sources on and off campus from the Ryan-Matura Library, the Academic Center and their rooms in the residence halls, which are fully networked. Students will also be able to communicate with each other, faculty and staff through an electronic mail system. Courses also will be taught using the computers as a key component of instruction.

According to The Chronicle of Higher Education, the first universities to require student ownership of computers were Clarkson and Drexel in 1983. In addition to being the first in Connecticut, Sacred Heart University is the fourth college in New England to require student ownership of computers.

“Even before I heard about the requirement, I was talking to my parents about getting one anyway,” says 17-year-old Jeannie Fredella, an incoming freshman from New Rochelle, N.Y., who is planning to major in education. “It’s really essential to get the computer training now while we’re in college. Because by the time we graduate and go out into the job market, everything will be on computer ... actually, just about everything already is.”
Breakfast

Connections

By Dean Golembeski
The most difficult and frustrating challenge facing a recent college graduate is landing that first job.

Whom do I work for? How do I write a good resume? What should I say and wear during an interview? What are the opportunities for growth? All of these and more are just some of the questions that graduates ask, and for which the University is providing answers.

On an early morning in April, 30 top seniors (determined by GPA) participated in a special breakfast that was also attended by representatives of 29 regional, national and international companies. The purpose was twofold: To provide students an opportunity to meet potential employers face to face and to introduce potential employers to the University and its students.

The event was such an overwhelming success — from all attendees' points of view — that more are being planned for the months ahead. It's all part of a vigorous effort by the University to fulfill its mission to provide a complete education for its students.

"We see this as the model for career services. It's a holistic approach," explains Mary Ann Matthews, the University's director of graduate school and career placement.

"These types of events bring closure to a student's college experience," adds Mitch Holmes MBA '89, assistant dean of students. "If recruiting a student to the University is one bookend, then helping them find a job is the other bookend. We want our students to remember their exit from the University as well as their entrance."

Holmes and Matthews, whose jobs it is to guide and counsel students through their college careers, were instrumental in organizing the breakfast, which was held April 24 in the University dining hall. The idea for the event originated with Ann Finmano-Scheuer, a new University trustee, who owns and operates Kensington, a Greenwich-based executive search firm.

"I wanted to do something for the University using my skills and experience," says Finmano-Scheuer, who has run her business since 1972.

When she approached President Anthony J. Cernera, Ph.D., with her idea, he encouraged her go forward and told her to link up with Holmes and Matthews.

The event was rather simple in concept. On the morning of the breakfast, students and administrators had the opportunity to mingle with and talk to representatives of such companies as American Express, Louis Dreyfus Corp., Goya, Mercedes Benz, People's Bank, Pitney Bowes, St. Paul Cos., Savin Corp. and U.S. Surgical. Then, during a round-table session after the breakfast, each student, administrator and business representative had an opportunity to introduce him- or herself to the entire gathering.

Students used the opportunity to "sell" themselves, while the business representatives took the opportunity to talk about their careers and companies.

"I thought it was a terrific event," says Joan Montgomery, owner of The Magazine Works specialty publishing firm in Wilton.

"I'm very, very impressed with the people I see. It really does feel good to be around people who have spirit and are looking forward to the future," said Jack Lambert, vice president of human resources at Howmet Picheney Corp. in Greenwich.

Shannon Sansone, a business administration major from Ansonia, helped set the tone for students. She explained that she worked two jobs in addition to attending college and achieving a GPA of 3.18. "Working gives me the most pleasure. I would be glad if one of you would hire me. I would give you my maximum effort," she said in concluding her remarks.

"We really appreciate everything that has been done for us," said Phyliss A. Fontana of Trumbull, who completed her B.A. in accounting.

Like any event, the breakfast was a huge success because of planning and preparation. Holmes, Matthews and Finmano-Scheuer spent hours working with and training the students for the big event. Their work began weeks before the breakfast when the threesome selected students for the breakfast and then held an informational meeting.

Following that, Finmano-Scheuer conducted individual interviews with the students, who were taught how to prepare resumes. Holmes conducted mock job interviews with the students and Matthews held a dinner at her home during which the students practiced talking about themselves in front of a group. The final result was a first-class, professional showing by all the students.

"We're going to do this again," Holmes says. "We want to do these types of meetings once a month, with small groups of eight students and eight business people."

Already, Holmes, Matthews and Finmano-Scheuer are meeting and planning for future breakfasts, job fairs and other events intended to help Sacred Heart University students find jobs after graduation. They hope to have a full slate of events in place by the time students return to campus this fall.

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"For a long time, employers have said that Sacred Heart University is the best-kept secret in Fairfield County. It's time for the secret to be let out," Matthews says.
Two hundred seventy-five volunteers. Five thousand, eight hundred twenty volunteer hours. Incalculable amounts of love and caring.

This was Sacred Heart University’s contribution to the 1995 Special Olympics World Games, which took place at six New Haven area sites July 1-9.

For nearly two weeks, the University community opened up its collective arms to 750 participants in the games. Athletes, coaches and other personnel from seven nations and six states — including Connecticut — slept in University residence halls, ate some of their meals in the Dining Hall and practiced on University athletic fields.

Delegations from Bangladesh, Ecuador, the Isle of Man, Montserrat, Romania, Syria and Turkmenistan enlivened the campus with their colorful dress and multitude of languages. Team Connecticut was joined by state delegations from Delaware, Kentucky, Maine, Rhode Island and West Virginia.

“Everyone I’ve spoken with says they never expected the Special Olympics to be as great as they were,” says Lina Strimavicius, a residence hall director who served as coordinator of the University’s volunteers and handled many of the lodging assignments.

“There was a tremendous amount of work to be accomplished, and sometimes it caused frustration; we were all very tired. But the athletes were amazing, just great. Overall, it was really inspiring to help.”

A Command Center, established in the Faculty Lounge, served as a 24-hour-a-day headquarters throughout the athletes’ stay. The center handled an average of 250 calls per day. To ensure the visitors’ safety, Public Safety officers and volunteers patrolled the corridors and grounds at Jefferson Hill, South Hall and West Hall. Only those with Special Olympics World Games credentials were admitted to the residence halls.

“Everything ran very smoothly,” reports Jack Fernandez, Public Safety’s administrative supervisor. “It really was a family atmosphere here, some very enjoyable times dealing with the Special Olympics athletes. It basically was a team effort from the University — Public Safety, Student Life and the volunteers.”

How well did Sacred Heart University perform as a host site?

“A number of coaches and heads of delegations told me they had a good experience here,” says Dan Connelly, who served as coordinator of Special Olympics housing at the University. “The head of the Bangladesh delegation expressed his gratitude and said this was the best facility he’s ever been in at Special Olympics.”

For Strimavicius, who recently completed her requirements for a Master of Business Administration degree, the Special Olympics represented her final assignment. She’s left the University to become a residence hall director at Franklin Pierce College in Rindge, N.H. But the memories will linger.

“Most of the volunteers I’ve spoken with want to be involved in future Special Olympics in some way,” she says. “I know I’ll want to help.”

Don Harrison

This is the corps (almost all) of residence hall directors and residence assistants, whose indefatigable dedication and hard work contributed to the success of the Special Olympics participants’ stay on campus. Front, from left: Dan Connelly, Enza Chiarello, Megan Asher, Kerri Mahoney. Second row: Annette Bosley, Melissa Cook, Lina Strimavicius, Meg Heinrick, Patricia Clarke, Lynn Doody, Carrie Flanagan. Standing: Denis LaFaille, Bob Katarsky, Jonathan McCarthy, Lamar Bronson, Robyn Ferguson.
Maine weightlifter Jonathan Hess returned home with two gold medals.
Carol Tiernan of Newtown and Deltona, Fla., has been nominated as Poet of the Year for 1995 by the International Society of Poetry. She was inducted as International Poet of Merit and honored member of the Society for 1995 at the August induction ceremony in Washington, D.C., during the fifth annual International Society of Poetry Symposium and Convention. The society includes poets from over 40 nations. Tiernan has won many national awards for her poetry and short stories. Currently, she is writing a book of poetry, a novel, and a children's book. A member of Landmark: The Writers' Circle, The Connecticut Poetry Society and the Woodbury Children's Book Writers' Group, she is also founder and leader of the Bridgeport Bards, a society of multicultural magnet schools in Bridgeport, where she works as a reading specialist. Tiernan is vice president and president-elect of the Connecticut Choral Society.

Kathleen Katz, Essex resident and director of the South Central office of Connecticut Community Care Inc., recently attended the Connecticut White House Conference on Aging. With 20 years experience in health care for the elderly, Katz has seen many changes affect the kind of care older Americans receive. Katz's office helps about 1,300 elderly clients each day to remain independent in their own homes. In 1977, after earning a master's in social work from Tulane University and another master's in public health from the Yale School of Medicine, Katz developed and ran one of the state's first adult day care programs at the Jewish Home for the Elderly in Fairfield, a position she held until 1985. At that time, wanting to shift her concern from the individual to a larger organization to affect and serve a greater number of people, she joined CCCI as the regional director, the title she now holds. She also travels the country speaking about elderly healthcare and contributes articles to a CCCI-related case management publication.

William G. Sarosky has been appointed to the position of Southbury town treasurer. He served on the town's Board of Finance for 12 years and has a wealth of experience in the corporate world. He was controller for Sealy Mattress in Oakville, assistant controller for Baskin Robbins in Southbury and accounting manager for Pepsi-Cola in Purchase, N.Y. Sarosky holds a master's of business administration in management and organization from the University of New Haven.

Michael Kuruc of Trumbull has accepted the position of vendor relations manager with Steinbach, Inc. in Bridgeport. He was recently inducted into the National Honor Society in Business Administration, Delta Mu Delta, the Epsilon Delta chapter at Sacred Heart University.

Barbara Susi, a Bridgeport resident, celebrated her 40th birthday with friends and family on June 17.

Wanda Gasciewicz Totth is a CPA with Leask & Leask PC, certified public accountants in Fairfield.

Virginia McCauley was class valedictorian at St. Mary's Hospital School of Nursing in Waterbury, graduating in June with one of the highest grade indexes ever at St. Mary's — 3.96. The Trumbull resident won the Bethel Visiting Nurse Association's $1,000 scholarship. Prior to returning to school and while raising two daughters, McCauley volunteered at Danbury Hospital from 1978 to 1982 and served as a part-time unit secretary at the hospital 1982-86. She has chosen to specialize in the area of critical care, after completing her clinical practice at Fairfield Hills Hospital in Newtown as well as at St. Mary's.

Dianne Auger, MBA '86 recently accepted the position of director of development at the Rehabilitation Center of Fairfield County in Bridgeport. The Stratford resident and mother of two boys is pleased to announce that she and husband Joe are looking forward to the arrival of the newest Auger in mid-November.

Duncan Cooper, MBA, of Suffield, has joined the Stamford office of The Private Bank at Bank of Boston Connecticut as vice president and private banker. He previously served in the Hartford office of State Street Bank and Trust Co. of Connecticut N.A.
Zazuri team wins Pioneer Open

The team of Steve Zazuri ‘84, Joe Bucci, Clint Johnson and Steve D’Agostino combined for a 60 to capture low gross honors in the sixth annual Pioneer Open in June at Oronoque Village Country Club in Stratford.

The tournament, sponsored by the University’s Alumni Association, attracted a record field of 142 and raised $20,000 for the 1994-95 Annual Fund.

The foursome of Todd Gallo ‘83, Ian Logie, Guy Miano and Mike Moconyi was runner-up with a 62. Three teams shot 64’s to share third place: Matt Reale ‘86, Tom Andrea, Brian Truini ‘86 and Brian Lube; Bob Grilley ‘77, Tony Coppola ‘80, Gary Cahill and Bob Jevarjian; and Steve Courtney, Mike Courtney, Tom Fischetto and Larry Vavrek.

Bucci also generated the day’s longest drive. Duncan Cooper MBA ‘83 had closest to the pin, 45 inches on the 15th hole, while Mike Giaquinto posted closest to line, 3 inches on the first hole.

Contributing to the event’s success were corporate sponsors Brennan Construction Co., Bridgeport Watchman Services, Coopers & Lybrand, Courtney Honda, Johnson Electric Co., Inc., Leader Beverage, Merritt Orthopaedic Associates, P.C., Miller Buick/Ford Nissan and Philip Morris Companies, Inc., barbecue sponsor Shawmut Bank and hole-in-one sponsor Karl Chevrolet. More than 70 other businesses contributed tee sponsorships and raffle prizes.

became assistant principal of Pomperaug High School. The Bethlehem resident also serves as a school board member for Region 14, which covers Bethlehem and Woodbury. A Waterbury native, Agostine has done graduate work at Northeastern University and is working on a sixth-year certificate at Southern Connecticut State University.

Hannah Clare, daughter of Karen (Damon) Callahan and her husband, Terrence, was born May 4, 1995. The family resides in Wallingford.


Nancy Heitman of The Prudential Connecticut Realty’s Stamford office earned the Leading Edge Society designation for 1994. The award is presented to the top five percent of the company’s 33,000 sales associates nationwide. Heitman, a 16-year resident of Stamford, started her real estate career eight years ago.

Gus Koumarbas, see ‘84

family, including 4-year-old John II, lives in Trumbull. Karen is a major account executive with Pitney Bowes Facsimile in Stratford.

Alan DiCicco, see ‘86

Sergio Mejias graduated from the Medical College of Georgia in 1994 and is now doing his residency in general surgery at the Medical College of Georgia Hospital in Augusta.

John Ricci Jr. married Kathleen Brady, Nov. 12, 1994; the couple lives in Hamden. Ricci is a systems analyst at Starter Corp. in New Haven.

Macaire Stein. English department chairman at Foran High School, was named Teacher of the Year in June. A ninth grade team leader at Foran, Stein has taught freshman English courses for the past three years. She holds a master’s in American Studies from Fairfield University.

Kimberly Trent, see ‘84

Patty Beirne of Ridgefield has joined the Darien office of A.G. Edwards & Sons Inc. as an investment broker. Beirne was an investment broker for Edward D. Jones & Co. in Ridgefield. She is a member of the Ridgefield Chamber of Commerce, International Association of Financial Planners (IAFP) of Fairfield County, Women in Management (WIM) and is on the board of directors for the Midwestern Connecticut Council on Alcoholism.

Augusto Cabrera is a computer programmer with Dateline Inc., a producer of computer software and hardware based in Wilton. Cabrera lives in New Canaan.

Darryl Demarco, a Westport resident, is associate vice president with David Lerner and Associates in Shelton. He is planning to be married in the fall of 1996.

Joseph DeSantis recently moved from Shanghai to Guangzhou, China, where he has been promoted to operations manager southern region with Avon Product (Guangzhou) Ltd.

Alejandro Prieto was married to Maria Fernandez in Ponce, P.R., May 20, 1995. He is a medical technologist at Bridgeport Hospital. The couple lives in Westport.

Joseph A. Stage Jr., is a computer consultant with Real Decisions-Gartner Group in Darien, and a high school basketball referee IAABO, Fairfield County Board 9.

Jennifer Lee of Milford has been promoted to provider relations representative at Oxford Health Plans in Trumbull.

Catherine R. Gingerella and Christopher E. Conway ‘92 were married April 22, 1995. They reside in Fairfield. Catherine works as billing and administrative assistant for Guinness America/United Distillers in Stamford, and Chris is manager of Barnes & Noble Bookstore in Westport.

April King married Ralph Strazza Jr., Sept. 3, 1994. The couple resides in Stamford, where April is a certified ophthalmic assistant with an ophthalmologist.

Ariane Pennell was married to James H. Swift, Sept. 3, 1994. They reside in Milford. Ariane is employed by the Fairfield Board of Education.

Al Paolozzi and Danielle Pucciello ‘93 were married on May 20, 1995 and live in Milford. Both served as president of their respective senior class. Al is manager of the Blockbuster Video store in Fairfield; Danielle is an assistant branch manager with People’s Bank.


Samuel Rivera received a juris doctor degree from The Dickinson School of Law in Carlisle, Pa. on June 3, 1995.

'92

Elbert Burr, a 15-year member of the Weston Planning and Zoning Commission, including eight as chairman, has decided not to seek re-election. "A decade and a half is plenty of time for anyone to serve on a single town board. It's time to make way for new blood and fresh ideas," he said.

Burr is one of four Republicans on the seven-member land use panel. His distinguished service was recently recognized by the Connecticut Federation of Planning and Zoning agencies. The president of Burr Graphics, Inc., has spent his entire career in publishing and graphics.

Sue Conte, MBA, of Huntington, has been named assistant controller at Bridgeport-based D'Addario Industries. Conte is responsible for the daily financial operations of the company's 30 businesses. She joined D'Addario in 1988.

Christopher Conway, see '91

Angela Falso Loverci is a medical administrative assistant at Associates in Family Health in Southport. She and her husband, Mario, are residents of Beacon Falls.

Michelle Marcoux of Norwalk is a registered respiratory therapist (RRT) at Norwalk Hospital.

Valerie Neary, MN, of Fairfield, has been appointed manager of critical care services at St. Joseph Medical Center in Stamford. Neary was the director of nursing quality improvement and special projects at Park City Hospital in Bridgeport. She has also taught as an adjunct professor/clinical instructor at the University of Bridgeport.

'93

Aaron Lee Adam Basham, son of Elizabeth R. Bajěk, MBA, and her husband, Park Basham, was born April 7, 1995. They reside in

By Susan DiGangi

"Know the environment." "Be responsive to change." "Be creative and lead." "Stay attuned to social responsibility."

These thoughts come rapid fire from John Piazza '70, chief executive officer of Sara Lee Hosiery North and South America. His rise within Sara Lee's corporate ranks has been equally swift over a 12-year affiliation.

A relocated New Englander who makes his home with wife Marilyn and children Michael and Joy 10 minutes from his Winston-Salem, N.C., office, this Sacred Heart University alumnus is a hard-hitting executive charged with strategic planning for the parent company's largest division — one with revenues of about $1.5 billion annually.

Piazza travels frequently to touch base with the six divisions he oversees, and he also prefers to interface personally with their New York-based advertising agency, the conglomerate's Chicago headquarters, and the 12 manufacturing plants in the United States, Mexico, the Caribbean, South America and Canada.

"The foreign environment will be very much of a challenge for U.S. markets based overseas. Dealing successfully with these is going to be a big part of the next 10-15 years," says Piazza. "Universities must integrate this into their curriculum, particularly at the graduate degree level."

His own experience was a baptism by fire. He says a few months after Sara Lee acquired a profitable Mexican manufacturing plant, it became less so when the value of the peso unexpectedly dropped 20 percent. "How you
organize people and how prepared your organization is to react in a crisis situation is important, particularly when you’re dealing with high-inflation economies that go through changes rapidly,” he says.

More recent challenges have hit closer to home as Sara Lee went through a restructuring in response to a fluctuating business environment. “Our markets started changing dramatically from 1989 to 1992. We experienced a loss of products and needed to develop different lines,” says the CEO, who attributes some of the downturn to changing, more casual lifestyles that impacted hosiery lines.

“We needed a different kind of environment to produce these lines and had to develop new ways to float the product through the manufacturing organizations. How an organization makes these decisions is important.”

He recalls the interpersonal skills he learned while caring for and working with people as a member of the University’s Kreuzfahrer Fraternity, a group with a strong community service orientation. He speaks frequently of Sara Lee’s own commitment to the surrounding community. In the case of the right-sizing effort, he says the company worked to offer its employees a sound compensation package and to assist workers in bridging the transition to new positions. He estimates approximately 90 percent of people found employment.

Piazza’s own career path began after graduating from Sacred Heart University in 1970 with a dual major in history and philosophy. Asked how he made the transition from the liberal arts disciplines to his more marketing-oriented career, Piazza responds that the climate was different from today’s environment.

“Back then, the nation and the region were looking for people with good creative minds and good thinking ability. You also needed to be organized but you didn’t need experience in the organization. Many companies offered professional training programs,” he says.

He opted for just such a program with Remington Corp., a division of Sperry-Rand, as a product manager. There, he gained hands-on experience with production, manufacturing, sales and marketing. He also completed an MBA degree in marketing at the University of Bridgeport.

Ready for new challenges, he assumed a position as director of marketing within the Clairol Division of Bristol-Myers in 1976 and later moved to Kellwood Corp. as vice president of marketing and planning.

The move to Sara Lee came in 1983, when he accepted an offer to be vice president of marketing for L’eggs Products. Four years later he was named president. Today, in addition to serving as chief executive officer of Sara Lee Hosiery, Piazza is also a corporate officer.

In reflecting on his preparation for his newfound responsibilities, Piazza credits the holistic experience he gleaned from his days at Sacred Heart University. Drawn to the University largely because of its small college atmosphere and good things he had heard as a Notre Dame High School student, Piazza’s initial plan was to start his college years here and then transfer. “I got so active in the school I stayed. It felt like home to me.”

He channeled much of his energy into his studies and fraternity activities. He served as pledge master, fraternity president and class vice president. “It was an exciting time during 1968 and ’69, though it was confusing for some people,” says Piazza. He has especially fond memories of philosophy classes with Dr. Robert O’Shea, who also served as fraternity adviser, and of many of the history professors.

He acknowledges that because of today’s business climate, students must have more specialized skills than were required in the late sixties. But he is quick to encourage soon-to-be graduates to develop social skills to complement technical ability.

“One of the things that I got from Sacred Heart is the process of learning how to think through a problem. For example, you learn to organize your skills running a fraternity, working on projects, running meetings, making speeches and presentations and working with people. All that comes into play in the workplace,” says Piazza.

“Sometimes I see some very brilliant students with good technical skills, but they cannot always adapt to the social needs that exist within the organization and they won’t succeed.”

His advice to new graduates: “Treat people the way you want to be treated, develop your organizational skills, understand peer groups within your organization and be mature about challenges as you approach them.”

Touching on his own challenge as CEO, Piazza says it’s “trying to do things that will be successful in today’s environment while trying to conceptualize how that environment will change around you.” He believes the key is to be flexible and creative, much more so now than 20 years ago. “You must be able to react to an environment which basically changes every 15 minutes,” he quips.

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CLASS NOTES

Linda Ann Calogine of Shelton has been promoted to banquet operations manager at the ITT Sheraton in Hartford.

Sarah Gauthier is pursuing a master’s degree in literature at Fordham University and working at Investment Services, Inc. in Westport. She lives in Bridgeport.

Darryl Hart of Oakdale is a pension analyst with Aetna Insurance in Hartford.

James E. Kraemer recently joined Astoria Federal Savings and Loan Association of Lake Success, N.Y., as a management trainee in the Savings Operations Dept. He is assigned to the Long Island City Branch.

James M. Bowes, MBA, has been promoted to finance director with the town of Southington. The Waterbury native has been with the finance department for five years. Earlier, he was a senior accountant with Scully & Wolf, CPAs, in Glastonbury.

Danielle Purciello, see ’91

Jim Spellman of Pawcatuck has joined the Windham High School faculty at the Alternative Learning Center. A certified intermediate administrator, Spellman is a 17-year classroom teacher of social studies, history, English and reading. He has served as a head coach in varsity football, basketball and track. He holds an MAT from Connecticut College and a sixth-year degree from Sacred Heart University.
Ed Brinsko, photographer

In a career spanning nearly a half century, Ed Brinsko photographed presidents, captains of industry, show business personalities and the man on the street. Long-time colleagues at the Connecticut Post regarded him as a consummate professional who could transform a seemingly ordinary subject into a remarkable feature photo.

Just as no artist ever puts down his paint brush, Brinsko spent his “retirement years” as a free-lance photographer. Sacred Heart University was fortunate to become one of his major clients. Regardless of the occasion — Commencement, an athletic event, a major fund-raiser, a meeting — his lens always captured the human element. From 1990 until his death, in June at age 67, he was our black-and-white photographer of preference.

A soft-spoken, self-effacing man, he generally introduced himself as “Ed Brinsko, the cameraman.” But he was much more than that; he was a superb photographer, an artist in the darkroom, a loving husband, father and grandfather. He was also a good friend.

We’ll miss him. D.H.

In Memoriam

Robert W. Kascak ’79 of Trumbull died June 20, 1995. He was 72. He was part owner of Kascak’s Garage Inc. in Trumbull for over 40 years and was a charter member and past president of the Trumbull Lions Club. He is survived by his wife, Betty Kmecak Kascak; one daughter, Barbara Kascak; one son, Thomas Kascak; and five grandchildren, all of Trumbull; one brother, Richard Kascak of Trumbull; one sister, Patricia Carrigan of Memphis, Tenn., and several nieces and nephews.

Kathleen (Doland) Vega ’83 died at her home in North Charlestown, N.H., May 6, 1995. She was 33. Survivors include one son, James Simms Polk III; three daughters, Christine, Sarah and Rebekah Vega, all of North Charlestown; her mother and sister of Westport; and three brothers.

David C. DeMeo ’86, an accountant with Hughes Danbury Optical Systems, died April 19, 1995 in Danbury Hospital. He was the husband of Kathleen Keefe DeMeo of Newtown. DeMeo coached Little League baseball for 20 years and was a coach for Parks and Recreation Department basketball teams. In addition to his wife, Kathleen, he is survived by two sons, David C. Jr. and Lawrence; three daughters, Nancy Hubbard, Dori Stergar and Kathleen DeMeo.

Steven M. Cappelli ’89 of Darien died of leukemia April 9, 1995 at his home. He was 29. He was a customer service representative with the Bank of Darien and a gifted guitarist who played with local bands. He also played at the 10 a.m. Sunday Mass at St. Thomas More Church, where he was a member. In addition to his parents, he is survived by one brother, Mark Cappelli of Darien, and one sister, Sharon Cappelli of Maryland.

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) ____________________________

Class _____ Home Phone ____________________________ Bus. Phone

Home Address _________________________________________

Occupation __________________________________________

Company ____________________________

Company Address ____________________________

Class Notes ____________________________

Lynch to chair Executive Committee

The 1995-97 Alumni Executive Council will be led by officers Betty Lynch ’74, MBA ’84, chairperson; Donna Blewett ’76, vice chairperson; Michael Veneri ’89, secretary, and Matthew Reale ’86, treasurer.

The following have been named members: Lynn Kussner ’68; Lynn Fontana ’68; James Sabo ’69; Dr. Louis Citterella ’70; Daniel Ryan ’70; Donna Vaccarella ’71; Linda Piccolo ’72; Patricia Gallagher Boyne ’75; Robert Grilley ’77; Dorothy Lapuensiello ’77, Michael McCabe ’77; Mary Kowalewski ’78, MBA ’81; Joyce Peters ’80; Joan McCaggart Kayser ’82; Debra Donofrio Meno ’83, MBA ’89; Wayne Sakal ’84; Anthony Marini ’86, MAT ’91; Jill Maturo ’87; Raymond Cassidy MBA ’88; Cheryl Hardy ’89, MBA ‘95; Denise Sutphin ’89, MAT ’93; Joan Hardy ’90; Cathy Molloy ’91, MBA ’93; Marian Hampel ’92; Catherine Swenson ’92, MBA ’94; Deirdre Frost MBA ’93; James Kraemer ’94; Linda Polletta ’95.

Alumni members-at-large are Manuel Cardozo ’81 (chairperson 1992-94) and Douglas Kennedy ’78, MBA ’82 (chairperson 1990-92).

Sacred Heart University members-at-large are: James P. Lyddy, Ph.D., vice president for Institutional Advancement; Laurie A. Bellisio ’88, director of Alumni Relations and Annual Giving; Karen Caldaroni, coordinator of Annual Giving; and Carol Doyle, coordinator of Special Events.

The council’s purpose is to promote unity and maintain a spirit of fellowship among alumni, to act as Sacred Heart University ambassadors to advance the interests of the University, and to encourage and facilitate fellow alumni support of the Annual Fund and other alumni and development programs.

The council has established the following alumni committees: Career Development, Alumni/Student Mentor Program, Events, Reunion, Scholarship and Alumni Recognition Awards. To become more actively involved with your alma mater, contact the Alumni Office at (203) 371-7861 to sign up for a committee or to serve as a volunteer.

September
10/Sunday Mass of the Holy Spirit and Family Picnic, Gym and Quad. Mass noon, picnic 1 p.m.
15-17/22-24/Friday/Saturday/Sunday “Positively Porter,” musical starring Maureen Hamill, Center for the Performing Arts, Theatre, Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m.; Sundays at 3 p.m. Tickets $15, seniors/students $12.50. Box Office 374-2777.
29/Friday “Celebration of the Arts on Campus,” Dining Hall Patio, 6-8 p.m. Art book donation or $10. Gallery 365-7650.
30/Saturday Alumni Homecoming Weekend. Alumni Relations 371-7861.

October
1/ Sunday “An Assumed Miracle,” beloved Polish songs and comic opera, Polish Club, Theatre, 3:5 p.m. Tickets $15 and $10.
7/Saturday Seventh annual Scholarship Dinner and Discovery Awards gala, Academic Center, 6 p.m.-midnight. Black tie preferred. Alumni Relations 371-7861.

November
3-5/10-12/Fri/Sat/Sun “Ritz Crazed Days,” world premiere musical starring Maureen Hamill, Center for the Performing Arts, Theatre, Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m.; Sundays at 3 p.m. Tickets $15, students/seniors $12.50. Box Office 374-2777.
26/Sunday Alumni Radio City Bus Trip, Christmas Show, details TBA. 371-7861.
Show Your Pioneer Pride at the 5th Annual Alumni Homecoming Saturday, September 30

The Fun Begins at 10 a.m.
Tailgate Party • Magic Show for Children • Clowns
Campus Tours • Alumni Tug-O-War • Balloons
Texas Barbecue • Post-Game Party • And much more

Sacred Heart University vs. Stony Brook
Game time: 1:30 p.m.

Call Alumni Relations at (203) 371-7861 for information

Sacred Heart University
5151 Park Avenue
Fairfield, Connecticut 06432-1000

Address Correction Requested