Bishop Walter W. Curtis 1913-1997
Founder of Sacred Heart University
MAY


8–10, 15–17/Friday/Saturday/Sunday Maureen Hamill’s “Broadway Moments II,” Center for the Performing Arts, 8 p.m., Sunday matinee 3 p.m. Tickets: $15 adults, $12.50 seniors/students. Info: 374-2777.

16–17/Saturday/Sunday Commencement Ceremonies, campus.


JUNE

3/Wednesday Pioneer Athletics Celebrity Breakfast, guest speaker Lou Carnesecca, Pitt Center, 7:30 a.m. Proceeds (from tips) to benefit athletics. Reservations: Sheryl Madison 371-7917.

5–7/Friday–Sunday Special Olympics Connecticut Summer Games, campus.

6/Saturday Barnum Festival Ringmaster’s Ball, Dr. Anthony Cernera, Ringmaster, Holiday Inn, Bridgeport. Tickets: $125 per person. Reservations: 367-8495.

15/Monday 9th Annual Pioneer Open Golf Tournament, Oak Lane Country Club, Woodbridge. Fee: $180 per golfer; sponsorship packages available. Info: Laurie Bellico, Corporate Relations 371-7861.


28/Sunday Barnum Festival’s Fleet Street Parade, Bridgeport, 11 a.m. Info: 367-8495.

AUGUST

1/Saturday Alumni Beach Party, Penfield Pavilion, Fairfield Beach, 8 p.m.—midnight. Tickets: $25. Reservations: Alumni Relations 365-4802.

Events are free unless otherwise noted.

DEGREES AND AWARDS

Commencement ’98

Dennis Weatherstone, retired chairman of J.P. Morgan & Co., will give the Commencement address at Sacred Heart University’s 32nd graduation exercises on Sunday, May 17 at 1 p.m. on Campus Field.

Weatherstone, of Darien, will receive the degree Doctor of Laws, honoris causa.

Honorary doctorates also will be conferred upon Henry J. Leir of Ridgefield and Cheryl Driscoll, RSM, and Eileen Boffa, RSM, co-directors of the Mercy Learning Center in Bridgeport.

‘Mr. Wizard’ to be honored

Don Herbert, best known as television’s “Mr. Wizard,” will receive an honorary Doctor of Sciences degree at the second annual Presidential Science Initiative Awards Dinner on Thursday, May 28 at the Tara Stamford.

Science Initiative Awards will be presented to Kenneth M. Rosen, Ph.D., vice president of development engineering and advanced programs, Sikorsky Aircraft Corp.; Bassam Shakhashiri, Ph.D., professor of chemistry and former assistant director, National Science Foundation, University of Wisconsin; and Willard Welch, Ph.D., senior research associate, Central Research Division, Pfizer Inc.

For reservations and ticket information, call (203) 371-7862.
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The founder of Sacred Heart University, Bishop Walter W. Curtis, died in October, but his love for, and commitment to, Catholic education will live within these walls and in our hearts.

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On Nov. 12, 1997, the Sacred Heart University community gathered to celebrate the life and legacy of our founder, the Most Rev. Walter W. Curtis, S.T.D. Students and alumni, faculty and staff, administrators and trustees — all were struck by the appropriateness of the words of the stirring hymn that echoed through the halls as the memorial Mass began:

Let us build a house where prophets speak, and words are strong and true, Where all God's children dare to seek to dream God's reign anew...

A house where hands will reach ...to heal and strengthen, serve and teach...

Built of hopes and dreams and visions, rock of faith and vault of grace, Let this house proclaim from floor to rafter: All are welcome ... in this place.

What a fitting description of Bishop Curtis' founding inspiration for Sacred Heart University, a place built of hopes and dreams and visions where all are welcome to join a faith-filled community of learners in the pursuit of truth. I will always remember my interview with Bishop Curtis when I was a finalist for the position of president of Sacred Heart University. When I asked him what his hope was for the University, he responded: “I hope that every Catholic student will leave here a better Catholic, that every Protestant student will leave here a better Protestant, that every Jewish student will leave here a better Jew, and that all will leave with a better understanding of the other great religious traditions.”

In just a few words, he summed up so much of the open, ecumenical spirit of Vatican Council II, a spirit that the Sacred Heart University community has inherited from its founder.

While many changes have taken place since its founding in 1963, Sacred Heart University flourishes today as a living testament to the hopes and dreams and vision of Bishop Curtis. His commitment to excellence in education is reflected in the quality and scope of academic programs and in the outstanding faculty members who often go the extra mile to ensure that every student has the opportunity to reach his or her academic goals.

Bishop Curtis’ profound concern for the poor is evident in the University’s commitment to make higher education possible for students from economically disadvantaged backgrounds. Our scholarship and financial aid programs continue to provide many such students the opportunity for a Sacred Heart University education — 25 percent of our full-time undergraduate students come from families whose annual income is under $30,000, and a full 14 percent come from families that earn less than $15,000 a year.

Moreover, our efforts to forge creative new relationships with the business community have yielded many wonderful opportunities for our students through special corporate scholarships and internships as well as through our Senior Scholars program, which partners our graduating seniors with corporate leaders.

Perhaps the most defining characteristic of the legacy that Sacred Heart University received from Bishop Curtis is his deep and unfailing commitment to fostering lay leadership in the area of service to the Church and to society. He had, after all, established the first Catholic university in the United States to be led by lay people. The 30 Service-Learning courses offered by the faculty, the programs of the Institute for Religious Education and Pastoral Studies, the work of the Center for Christian-Jewish Understanding, the service projects in the local community and in El Salvador, the student-led retreats and opportunities for Christian service reflection — all attest to the University’s ongoing fidelity to its founder’s hopes and dreams and vision.

It is that same fidelity to the spirit of Bishop Curtis that will guide us into the future as we, the Sacred Heart University community, dare in this house he built to dream God’s reign anew.

Anthony J. Cernera, Ph.D., President
PIONEERING

Robert and Helen Kidera with the Bishop of Rochester, the Most Rev. Matthew H. Clark, D.D., on Aug. 23, 1997, following the renewal of their vows and a Mass celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary. Kidera is a past president of Sacred Heart University, while Mrs. Kidera taught English and speech here.

Jackie Robinson

To the Editor:

The piece on Jackie Robinson (“Remembering Jackie,” Summer ’97) brought back memories of a happy period in my life. When the photo was taken, Jackie was suffering from diabetes and going blind, but he thanked me for the honor. He received many citations in his life, but the chills ran up his spine when the Sacred Heart audience stood and gave him a great ovation. His son attended SHU for a short while and was killed in an auto crash near Greenwich.

Robert A. Kidera
Rochester, N.Y

Among Mr. Kidera’s accomplishments as the University’s second president (1971-76) was the conferral of an honorary degree on Jackie Robinson in 1972.—ED

Special Olympics coverage

To the Editor:

Your coverage of our Summer games (“That special feeling,” Summer ’97) helps our message reach many more people than we can ever know. As the new director of public relations, I look forward to working with you on similar events. Thanks again for your interest in, and support of, Special Olympics Connecticut.

Karen K. Brand
Hamden

The opportunity is rapidly approaching. For the third straight year, Sacred Heart and Fairfield universities will serve as co-hosts of the state summer games, on June 5-7. —ED

Readers’ comments and story suggestions are invited. Mail to: Editor, Sacred Heart University Magazine, 5151 Park Avenue, Fairfield, CT 06432-1000. Fax: (203) 365-4889. E-mail: harrisond@sacredheart.edu. Letters may be edited for space or clarity.

Sacred Heart University Magazine • Spring 1998

Three executives named trustees

Dean P. Gestal, president of Belle Haven Investments, Inc. of Greenwich, rejoins Sacred Heart University’s Board of Trustees after a brief absence. He served as a trustee from 1990-95, during which the University initiated its remarkable growth spurt. Gestal, a Greenwich resident, received a bachelor’s degree from Marist College in 1971. He and his wife have four children.

John A. Klein is executive vice president of credit card services at People’s Bank, with overall responsibility for the bank’s credit card business in the U.S. and the United Kingdom. He received a bachelor’s degree in 1971 from the University of Connecticut and a law degree from UConn in 1977. He joined People’s in 1971 as a management trainee and later established the bank’s legal department. Klein and his wife have two children and live in Trumbull.

Joseph D. Roxe is a senior vice president, director and chief financial officer at Johnson & Higgins, a New York City-based insurance brokerage firm. He joined J&H in 1987 after a 23-year career with Mobil Oil Corp., where he held senior positions in New York and London. After graduating from Princeton in 1958, Roxe served in the Navy for four years. He received an MBA from Harvard in 1964. A Darien resident, he and his wife have three children.
Where art, athletics meet

On a typical spring day, perhaps 1,000 people enter and exit the new William H. Pitt Health & Recreation Center. On their way through the expansive lobby, many pause to gaze at the large leaded glass mural that hangs adjacent to the stairway. The illuminated mural depicts two silhouetted athletes, one a female runner in full stride, the other a male basketball player lofting a shot. It is titled, “Poetry in Motion — Start to Finish.”

“The glass figure murals were created to represent the all-important spirit of motion in athletics,” says the mural’s creator, Will Turey. “This intangible ingredient is necessary from start to finish in the athlete’s quest for excellence. The beauty of the human body’s movement is in its purest form when it is viewed as a silhouette.

“Public art in open spaces is important,” he adds. “It gives the public an opportunity to view art as a part of our everyday life, not just something to be seen on a rare visit to a museum of choice.”

For Turey, a 50-year-old resident of West Redding, “Poetry in Motion” represents his latest creative endeavor in a multi-faceted career that includes work as a housing contractor. The latter may be more lucrative, but stained glass is his labor of love.

The artist considers his glass murals visual inspirations for people of all ages and dimensions. “I hope the viewer will be inspired enough to participate in the beauty of movement of life through his or her physical and mental being,” he says.

One of his favorite themes is the use of the contemporary figure panel. He has developed a graphic of a saxophone player, an abstract representation of a trumpet player and trombone player, and a silhouette of dancers. His panels are characterized by the use of varied widths of lead, creating an illusion of depth to the panels, and the dramatic use of black glass.

Turey relates to the natural liquidity of glass in its molten state and often uses glass that lends itself to movement. “Let glass dictate a design element that leads to a literal decorative realism,” he says. Don Harrison

Visit from the Abbot

Abbot Francis Kline of Our Lady of Mepkin Monastery in South Carolina spent two days on campus in late January. He spoke to students in President Anthony J. Cernera’s Classics of Western Spirituality class, met with catechumens and sacramental candidates, conducted open forums and addressed the University community. Kline was elected third abbot of Mepkin Abbey, a foundation of Gethsemani in the Cistercian Order, in 1990. His new book, Lovers of the Place: Monasticism Loose in the Church, was published by The Liturgical Press in 1997.
This year's 50th Anniversary Barnum Festival will have a distinct Sacred Heart University flavor. Not only is President Anthony J. Cernera, Ph.D., the first college president to serve as the Festival's ringmaster, but numerous members of the University community are involved in planning this major community project.

The Festival is among the largest and most successful events of its kind in the country, and the only one celebrating the life and times of legendary showman P.T. Barnum. This June, as in the past 49 years, hundreds of thousands of people will descend upon Bridgeport and neighboring communities to watch or participate in the Festival's many activities.

As ringmaster, an honorary position to which he was elected this year by members of the P.T. Barnum Foundation, Cernera is executive director of the festival. In that position, he oversees the festival's planning and the organizing of thousands of volunteers.

He also leads or participates in every event, a most demanding schedule for the ringmaster and his family.

Planning for this year's festival began in the fall and committees have been actively working since December. So much preparation is necessary because unlike most festivals, which run one day, a week or two weeks, the Barnum Festival runs throughout June, leading up to July 4. Some events are held in April and March to raise the necessary funds.

The festival's two biggest and most-expensive events—the Fleet Street Parade on June 28 and the Giant Fireworks Display by the Grucci family on June 26—are free and attract tens of thousands of visitors.

"The Barnum Festival is truly a unique event and making it more remarkable is that it is run totally by volunteers who devote thousands of hours of their time to make it a success each year," Cernera said.

In recognition of the volunteers and the importance of the Festival to the community, the 50th anniversary theme is: "Serving Together for the Future."

The idea for a family-focused festival originated in 1949 with Bridgeport Brass executive Herman Steinkraus, who proposed doing something to take Bridgeport residents' minds off their post-war troubles. Bridgeport had been an important manufacturing center during World War II, but following the war's conclusion, plants shut down and jobs were lost. Steinkraus looked to the city's past and pointed to the times when Barnum had entertained residents. He then proposed a salute to Barnum that would enable the showman's "kind acts" to live forever.

Few realize that Barnum, world-renowned promoter, was Bridgeport's most famous resident. He served his adopted hometown as mayor and state legislator, developed much of its farm land into city lots, helped start a hospital and donated land that became part of Seaside Park. D.G.

For information, visit the Festival's website at www.barnumfestival.org, or call (203) 367-8493.
New book explores Vatican II’s ramifications

T
wo years after its creation, Sacred Heart University Press has published its second book, Vatican II: The Continuing Agenda — a collection of essays on the Second Vatican Council. President Anthony J. Cernera, Ph.D., is the editor and he also contributed an essay to the 278-page volume, which seeks to further thought, study and dialogue on this historic council.

“Every major council in the history of the Catholic Church has required time to be received and implemented into the life of the Church,” Cernera writes in the preface. “As one who teaches a course on the Church to both graduate and undergraduate students, I am reminded regularly that many committed and active young Catholics were born after the council ended.”

The book contains a dozen essays by Catholic scholars on various aspects of Vatican II. Among the contributors is Margaret A. Palliser, O.P., S.T.D., director of mission effectiveness at the University. Her essay is entitled, “The Journey from the Side Chapel to the Main Aisle: Religious Life in the Postconciliar Church.” Cernera’s essay is titled, “Reading the Signs of the Times: An Ongoing Task of the Church in the World.”

The council was launched by Pope John XXIII on Oct. 11, 1962, setting as its purposes the updating and renewal (aggiornamento) of the Church and the achievement of Christian and human unity. By the time it concluded on Dec. 8, 1965 following 178 meetings, the council had issued 16 documents, notably the constitutions on divine revelation (Dei Verbum, Nov. 18, 1965) and on the church (Lumen Gentium, Nov. 11, 1964) and the pastoral constitution on the Church in the modern world (Gaudium et Spes, Dec. 7, 1965).

In his essay, James F. Keenan, S.J., associate professor of moral theology at Weston Jesuit School of Theology, noted that while the council provided a vision for social issues, it offered no guidance regarding moral theology. As Keenan discusses: “Moral theology changed dramatically after the council, not because of any direct intervention by the members of the council, but rather because of the moral theologians who began changing during the years of the council.”

“It is my hope that this new book will provide some insight into and understanding of the complex issues and changes wrought by Vatican II, while providing opportunity for theological reflection,” Cernera said.

The University Press’ first book, Toward Greater Understanding: Essays in Honor of John Cardinal O’Connor, was published in 1995 to celebrate the cardinal’s 75th birthday. It is a collection of essays on Christian-Jewish understanding since Vatican II. D.G.

Both books are available from Sacred Heart University Press. The prices: Vatican II: The Continuing Agenda $23, plus $3 shipping and handling. Toward Greater Understanding: $14.95 plus $3 S&H. Discounts are available for orders of five or more copies.

To order, write Sacred Heart University Press, 5151 Park Avenue, Fairfield, CT 06432, or call (203) 371-7971, or fax (203) 365-4889.

Who’s Who on campus

Twenty-one Sacred Heart University students, including 14 seniors, were selected to appear in the 1998 edition of Who’s Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges. For seniors Jill Beaudoin and Dana Stewart, it was their second straight selection to the prestigious volume, which recognizes academic achievement, service to the community, leadership in extracurricular activities and potential for continued success.

Named to the directory were:

Seniors: Jill Beaudoin of Augusta, Maine; Jennifer Colman of Norwalk, N.Y.; Michael Corpus of Colonia, N.J.; Matthew Fortney of Westbury, N.Y.; Lourdes Gonzalez of Bridgeport, Conn.; Douglas Knowe of East Longmeadow, Mass.; Suzanne Lee of Stamford, Conn.; Susan Maclsaac of Stamford; Colleen McGrath of Merrimack, N.H.; Meredith Nillson of Clinton, Mass.; Gina Norelli of Bethlehem, Conn.; Dana Stewart of Shelton; Brad Wilson of Clifton Park, N.Y.; and Eric Wood of Wilmington, Del.

Juniors: Jessica Bresnahan of Nashua, N.H.; Marianne Cardo of Garden City, N.Y.; Thomas McCabe of Mahopac, N.Y.; Angela Perkins of Londonderry, N.H.; Myra Pierce of Pascoag, R.I.; Mayra Rios of Stamford; and Heidi Zimmer of Taunton, Mass.

By all accounts

Edmund L. Jenkins, chair of the Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB), addressed current U.S. and international accounting issues at the Department of Accounting’s second annual Academic and Community Consortium in November. According to Jenkins, the FASB and the International Accounting Standards Committee (ASC) are working cooperatively toward the goal of creating a better understanding of foreign financial statements. With Jenkins is Karen T. Cascini, Ph.D., associate professor of accounting and chair of the event, which brought 100 people to campus.
Lienhard: Pleasure is father of invention

Those who believe the axiom that "necessity is the mother of invention" are missing the true source of innovation, University of Houston professor and national radio personality John H. Lienhard told a group of business leaders gathered in the Mahogany Room on Dec. 5.

"Freedom is the nurturing mother of invention," Lienhard said, adding that those who say necessity and financial gain are the mothers of invention "can't really be taken seriously." In his engaging talk, Lienhard also contended that the father or "primal force" of invention is pleasure. "Once you taste the pleasure of inventing something good, it will make you return for more," he said. "Invention is hedonistic...it is not reserved for a unique breed of people. Invention is there every time you look closely at the person next to you."

Lienhard, a Ph.D., is a professor of mechanical engineering and history as well as host of The Engines of Our Ingenuity, a program heard on the University's WSHU-FM and other National Public Radio affiliates. He was the keynote speaker at a forum, "The Business of Innovation: Taking Technology To Market." Other speakers were Kenneth J. Kelly, vice president of the Sikorsky Aircraft's S-92 helicopter program, and Gad Selig, Ph.D., an assistant professor of management at the University.

"For technology to flourish, somebody has to take a chance," Lienhard said. Without risk takers, the human race would not have advanced and could not continue to survive, he said. From invention flows technology, which according to Lienhard, results when risk takers share their ideas or techniques. Technology is "a primal act of generosity," he said. "We are the only species that share technique."

Picking up on the innovation theme, Kelly talked about Sikorsky's newest product, the S-92 helicopter, which is being designed to provide commercial helicopter service to rival airlines. The helicopter, being constructed by an international consortium of companies under Sikorsky's direction, will have the first of five prototypes ready for test flights in September at Sikorsky's facility in West Palm Beach, Fla.

Kelly said that Stratford-based Sikorsky hopes to sell at least 600-700 of the helicopters, but said the demand could be as high as 2,000. The aircraft will not only serve the commercial market, but will also have military applications. D.G.
True Pioneers

On the 25th anniversary of Title IX, it is appropriate to remember our pioneering women

By Don Harrison

Each and every Sacred Heart University athlete is a Pioneer. But Regina Wright and Pam Strba were true pioneers — members of the University’s first women’s basketball team.

In the winter of 1974-75, just two years after the adoption of Title IX of the federal Education Code promised equal opportunity for women, the Lady Pioneers labored in anonymity, unaware of the steps — or the shots — they were taking for womankind. Few of their peers or the fans who flocked to the men’s games in the ‘SHU Box’ bothered to watch them play.

“It was great. I felt we were all so close as a team. It was a fun time, although (as an athlete) I was born too soon,” recalls Wright, now Regina Wright Trimboli of Norwalk and the mother of five children. (Her husband, Tony Trimboli, was a guard who accumulated 2,234 points and starred on the Pioneers’ 1976-77 Final Four team, but that’s another story.)

Pam Strba Black ’81, now married, the mother of three and still living in her native Fairfield, looks back with pride on her pioneering role. “I was an average player, a point guard who was fast. I feel good that I was part of the first team,” she says. “You look back today and it’s incredible how far the game has come.”

The 5-foot-5 Wright was an accurate shooter from long range, capable enough as a freshman to average 18 points through an abbreviated inaugural season of 11 games, four of which were wins. On Jan. 18, 1975, she accounted for 28 points, a personal high, in the team’s debut — a 73–62 loss to Mattatuck Community College in Waterbury.

For the record, the program’s first victory was achieved in the third game — a 62–50 triumph over St. Francis College of New York on Feb. 4. Lori Jones, another freshman, was the pacesetter that evening with 23 points and Wright followed with 19.

Wright may have been the first female athlete at Sacred Heart University to openly question the double standards of the day. A natural leader and three-year co-captain, she possessed the courage and the temerity to inquire of Athletic Director Don Feeley: “The men get to eat their training meals at the Angus in Fairfield. Why do the girls get an envelope with meal money only for Howard Johnson’s?”

Feeley, a colorful character who wore leisure suits, spoke of “warm fuzzies” and, more importantly, doubled as coach of the men’s team, responded, “You’ve got to look at it like this: The men’s team brings in the (paying) fans. The women don’t.” Or words to that effect.

Double standards or not, Wright and her teammates persevered, due to their own resolve and the care and direction provided by their coach, Rosemary “Mickey” Stratton. They played hard and reasonably well.

Stratton provided leadership

Stratton, a prominent name in area athletic circles as a long-time — and ultimately Hall of Fame — catcher with the Raybestos Brakettes, reigned with a gentle, motherly hand. “I loved her,” says Wright. “She kept things professional but at the same time she was like a second mother to us.”

The quality of the team improved significantly the second year, with the arrival of recruits Debbie Colson ’80, Judy Aranyi ’80, Valerie Tuozzoli, Marianne Farrell ’79 and others. The Lady Pioneers’ record in 1975–76 was a promising 9–5.

Colson, a 5–5 forward from Bridgeport’s Bassick High School, became a consistent double-figure scorer across four seasons and the program’s first 1,000-point scorer. “She was the first girl I saw with a jump shot,” remembers Wright. Nearly a quarter-century later, Colson’s career total of 1,109 points has been exceeded by just five players — Diane Nicholls ’91 (1,632); Kim Filia ’93 (1,437); Chrissie
The University’s 1975 yearbook, Prologue, published this photo of the first women’s basketball team.

“Girls Basketball Team,” read the caption. From left: Pam Strba Black ’81, Regina Wright Trimboli, Lori Jones, Kathy Flynn ’75, Karen Selauka and Julie Vaikutis Sullivan ’76.

Perkins ’98 (1,308), Kelley Gray ’87 (1,193) and Elaine Agosti ’92 (1,185).

“When I scored my 1,000th point against Quinnipiac, they stopped the game. I didn’t know why until they made the announcement and presented me the ball,” says Colson, now the holder of an M.S.W. degree from the University of Connecticut and a clinical social worker living in Oakville. “My concentration and focus was on winning rather than on points.”

Aranyi, who was born and raised in Budapest, Hungary, brought a unique perspective to the program. A point guard, she had played several years of competitive basketball “at a pretty intense level” in Hungary and was a few years older than her teammates. Her maturity and court sense were distinct assets.

“When I arrived in this country in 1972, I spoke no English. It was exciting, but the obstacles — the language, the culture and having no family here — made it difficult. I guess you could say I had survival skills,” explains Judith Aranyi Verrilli, now the mother of two sons and an account consultant for Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Connecticut.

The floor leadership of Aranyi, Strba and Farrell proved a complement to the scoring of Colson, Wright and Tuozzoli. In January 1977, the 5-2 Tuozzoli exploded for a then-school-record 37 points in a victory over Western Connecticut State University.

By this time, there was a new coach on board, Ann DeLuca, another former Brakette and a teacher-coach at nearby Notre Dame High School. DeLuca proceeded to direct the team to three straight winning seasons, 10-9, 13-9 and, in 1978-79, 15-10. In the latter year, the Lady Pioneers won two Eastern Association for Intercollegiate Athletics for Women (EAIAW) regional tournament games in Worcester, Mass., and advanced to the Northeast District Small College championship in Boston, where they dropped narrow decisions to Iona (an oh-so-close 71-70) and C.W. Post.

“DeLuca had made of an aggressive approach to bringing the team to a higher level, and the school was willing to support it,” Aranyi says.

For a few years, basketball was the only varsity sport open to women at Sacred Heart University. Volleyball was introduced in 1977 and softball followed in 1980. There was an attempt to launch a softball program in the mid-1970s, but it was more recreational than anything else. A short item in the April 15, 1975 issue of the student newspaper Obelisk (the predecessor to Spectrum) said it all:

Girls, get rid of those unsightly bulges, meet new people, and have fun while outdoors! Get involved with a softball team. No cuts, no tryouts, everyone is welcome.

How times have changed. As we approach the millennium, the University offers women the option of 15 varsity sports, from the traditional basketball and softball to bowling, lacrosse, field hockey, crew and track and field. And women, like their male counterparts, have become Pioneers with a capital P.
Hanna is nice on ice

Sarah Hanna played three sports in high school. Ice hockey wasn’t among them.

Growing up with four brothers who were hockey players, the junior criminal justice major and Dean’s List student from Bayville, N.Y. played on various boys travel teams until her freshman year in high school. But ice hockey wasn’t offered at Friends Academy, so she hung up her skates and competed in soccer, basketball and softball.

Hanna returned to the ice at the University of Vermont, where she spent her freshman year in high school. But ice hockey wasn’t offered at Friends Academy, so she hung up her skates and competed in soccer, basketball and softball.

Hanna returned to the ice at the University of Vermont, where she spent her freshman year as a member of the women’s intramural ice hockey program. But she wasn’t challenged by the competition on that level. Learning that Sacred Heart University was launching a varsity hockey program in 1995–96, Hanna headed for Fairfield.

“I wanted to come to a school where I could make an impact immediately, and here was a new program that I could help build,” says Hanna. “I have to be doing something constantly, and I knew I could excel here in many ways.”

And so she has. As co-captain, Hanna has led the Lady Pioneers the past two seasons. In 1996–97, she sparked the second-year program to a surprising 9–3–1 record with 36 points (24 goals, 12 assists).

This winter, competing against an even stronger schedule, she was ranked among the nation’s top five on a per-game basis in three categories with school-record numbers of 52 points, 26 goals and 26 assists. In March, Hanna was chosen a second-team All-America by Women’s Ice Hockey News — the first Pioneer ice hockey All-America, man or woman.

“Sarah is very dedicated to hockey and she has a great work ethic,” says first-year Coach Trina Bourget. “She’s one of those players who just leads by example on the ice.” Megan Keefe

Winter Results

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Student-athletes recognized

Senior linebacker Eric Wood receives a certificate from Dr. Gary Rose, the faculty representative to athletics, in halftime ceremonies of the men’s basketball game against Albany on Feb. 7. Wood, from Wilmington, Del., was among 87 student-athletes honored for achieving a grade point average of 3.5 or higher during the fall semester.
Students are the 'heart,' friends the 'lifeblood'

By James L. Meeker

The “heart” of Sacred Heart University is the student body. The preparation of these men and women to become responsible, community-minded citizens and leaders in their professional pursuits requires more than a classroom and a curriculum.

It takes leadership and a coordinated effort on the part of faculty and administrators over a broad range of initiatives. It also depends in large measure on the belief, support and generosity shown by friends of the University, be they individuals, corporations, foundations or government agencies.

Sacred Heart University has been fortunate through the years to have gained this type of support. If students are the heart, then the vision and generosity of friends form the “lifeblood.” One primary example is the Annual Fund, which provides vital dollars for students’ financial assistance, faculty maintenance and program enhancements.

This steady flow is the result of participation by numerous donors, enabling every friend of the University to make a real difference.

Nearly 1,500 alumni have made gifts or pledges this year, and with under two months to go, the $150,000 goal is in sight. To achieve this level, alumni will need to substantially increase the participation of 12 percent. Please make your gift today or before June 30 to ensure that the beat goes on.

Passariello memorializes son with scholarship gift

Ann Passariello has demonstrated her friendship to the University — in two ways. She has contributing $100,000 to establish the Michael J. Passariello Scholarship in memory of her son and $400,000 as a charitable gift annuity. A graduate with a history degree in 1974, Michael J. Passariello was vice president of the family’s business at the time of his death from a heart condition in 1987.

Passariello’s oldest son, Clement, also graduated from the University (1970) with a degree in English. Both men found success at Sacred Heart University, and the scholarship is intended for students with a demonstrated financial need, average abilities and past performance that indicates the capability of succeeding in higher education.

Each year, a recipient of a $4,000 scholarship will be selected by the University’s Scholarship Committee. “Both of my sons were given opportunities by Sacred Heart University, and this is my way of giving something back,” said Passariello, formerly of Orange and now living in North Branford. J.L.M.
Students from 35 nations bring unique perspectives to campus life

By Dawn Duclos

For many foreign students, it takes courage to study abroad in the United States. They must overcome language barriers, make friends among strangers, study in a new language, adjust to different laws and customs, learn to make decisions on their own and cope with homesickness.

This year, students from Argentina, Brazil, Peru, Jamaica, Kenya, Aruba, Austria, the Philippines, Zambia, Ecuador, Ghana, Germany, France and Canada are among those enrolled at Sacred Heart University. They are young, adventurous and open-minded, working hard to learn and to absorb what America has to offer.

"A lot of students have told me that they wish they could study abroad. I believe it is not a matter of wishing but to say: ‘I can,’” says Diego Arias, a senior from Argentina majoring in economics.

Like many fellow students, Arias tries to make the most of his time at Sacred Heart University. He’s been president of the International Club and is now president of the rugby team. He’s also a resident assistant at South Hall. Last year, Arias studied in Paris, and after he graduates in May, he plans to pursue a master’s degree in business administration at Sacred Heart University’s campus in Luxembourg.

"International students bring their life perspectives into the classrooms and this becomes part of the education for the American students. It becomes a partnership of learning as international students also learn from American students,” says James Barquinero, vice president for enrollment planning and student affairs.

Through the European Council of International Schools and the College Information Exchange, Sacred Heart University aggressively recruits worldwide to provide “a diversity of students within the campus,” Barquinero says. The students also are a valuable financial resource, paying full tuition and other fees.

Currently, the University has 81 international undergraduate and graduate students from 35 countries, including 34 students recruited this year.

The standard of admissions is the same for foreign students as it is for their American counterparts, says Grace Lim, assistant director of student life for international programs. Lim has traveled throughout Asia to seek qualified students and to promote the University. Classroom achievement is important; students must be near or in the top half of their class. They also must do well on the SATs and have good TOEFL scores for English proficiency.

Typically, international students set a good example for others. “They have a desire to learn, are conscientious and have good work ethics,” says Rosemary Lague, who teaches English as a Foreign Language.

For their part, foreign students seem to be genuinely happy at the University. They like the availability of professors, the facilities and the selection of courses and activities. “I was attracted to Sacred Heart because it is a small but fast-growing university and also because it has a European connection, the MBA program in Luxembourg,” says Georg Grassmueck, a transfer student from Austria majoring in international business.

Rieko Okubo, a senior from Japan, appreciates the University’s academic support programs. “Sacred Heart is good because students can always make an appointment with tutors in the Jandrisevits Learning Center.”

Personal Interaction a Plus

Perhaps what most impresses foreign students about Sacred Heart University is the personal interaction between students and professors. Grassmueck compares his studies between Austria and Sacred Heart: “In Austria, we have no homework. We are only given the facts and have to self-study. There is one final exam and the failing rate is high. There is no interaction between students and professors, unlike Sacred Heart.”

To broaden American students’ views on other cultures, the University has an International Club, which organizes events to promote cultural awareness. Under Lim’s direction, the international center has introduced a Coffee House Series, where American and foreign students can grasp an understanding of different cultures through
From the first dean of the new College of Business to several first-year students, Canada is well represented on the Sacred Heart University campus.

Benoit Boyer, Ph.D., who began as dean in August, came to the University from Laval University in Quebec, the province in which he was born.

About two months earlier, Beverlea K. Tallant, Ph.D., became the director of the new Occupational Therapy program, following several years at Montreal’s McGill University. Tallant still considers Melville, a railroad town in the province of Saskatchewan, as home.

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Four of the 10 Canadians on campus are associated with the men’s hockey program, which will come as no surprise. Coach Shaun Hannah (Mankota, Sask.), who has led the Pioneers to two straight winning seasons, was joined this year by assistant coach Stephane Gauvin (Moose Jaw, Sask.) and freshman goalie Alexi Binet (Quebec City). Another hockey player, Derek Young of Waitby, Ont., arrived in January as a freshman transfer from Alabama-Huntsville. Interestingly, Young played against the Pioneers in their season-opening loss.

Andrew Hunter, a first-year student from Scarborough, Ont., was a starting forward on the men’s basketball team and had the distinction of scoring the first basket in the new William H. Pitt Health & Recreation Center. On the graduate level, there’s Rebekah Melville (Thunder Bay, Ont.), who is pursuing a master’s degree in education, while serving as a graduate assistant.

Grace Lim ’96 M.A., the University’s assistant director of student life for international programs, holds dual U.S.-Canadian citizenship. Lim was born in London to Chinese-American parents, but they moved to Ottawa when Grace was four months old. She lived in the Canadian capital until age seven when they emigrated to the U.S.

Finally, there’s John Roney, Ph.D., associate professor of history, who joined the faculty in 1990. Roney was born in Ridgewood, N.J., but went to Canada to teach and pursue his doctorate at the University of Toronto. While there, he met and married a Canadian and ultimately gained dual U.S.-Canadian citizenship. D.H.
art, music, dance and food.

The idea for the coffee houses came from Lim's realization that American students may not be comfortable learning about international culture. "They are hesitant to approach international culture on their own. The coffee house becomes a springboard to help the American students learn more about a certain culture," says Lim.

While facing some of the same issues as American students entering college, such as roommate compatibility, course workload and mobility, the challenge to international students is unique. "It takes much more time to read a book," says Naoki Ga, a freshman from Japan.

"I have difficulty understanding the text," agrees Jose Alexander Quijano, a junior from El Salvador. "When I study, I convert from English to Spanish and back again to English to understand the material."

Even students who know English well still struggle with pronunciation and slang. Arun Kadam, a freshman from Brazil, says: "I asked for cheese steak but pronounced it as 'stick' and ended up getting mozzarella cheese sticks."

Dewerpe Anton, a freshman from Switzerland, says, "Sometimes when I try to sing some rap songs and I don't say the right word, my roommates laugh at me, not because of me but because of the new meaning I put into the song."

For some foreign students, it may take longer to make friends because they are hesitant to open up to Americans. They say their English is not good enough, and may have trouble expressing themselves.

Luciana Miller Machado, a junior from Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, believes it is easier to make friends with other international students. "We are all in the same boat and we all want to make friends," she says.

As seniors, both Arias and Patricia Clance of Grenada feel that international students should involve themselves in campus activities and expand their circle of friends beyond those from the same country or region.

Clance, a political science major and resident assistant at Jefferson Hill, advises international students to make use of all available opportunities at the University. She encourages them to join a club or become active in a cause.
When the Most. Rev. Walter W. Curtis, S.T.D., the second bishop of the Diocese of Bridgeport, died on Oct. 18, Sacred Heart University lost not only its founder but its most cherished friend. He was a familiar figure on campus, adding grace and dignity to such major events as commencements and convocations. Through the years, the bishop was unwavering in his support of the University as it grew in academic programs and facilities.

“He was just so proud of the University, as was the Holy See. He was a trailblazer,” said the Rev. Msgr. William A. Genuario, J.C.D., P.A., pastor of St. Catherine of Siena Church in Riverside and a former secretary to Curtis.

The idea for a university had first come to Curtis shortly after his appointment as Bridgeport’s bishop on Sept. 23, 1961. He had surveyed his diocese and was struck by the paucity of Catholic higher education facilities, especially for students of modest circumstances.
Founder's vision remains a guiding principle

From the outset, the bishop had considered the campus of Notre Dame High School better suited for a college. The property was located on Park Avenue, a major local artery, and close to the Merritt Parkway, making it accessible to the expanding population of Bridgeport, Fairfield and the surrounding communities. The high school's declining enrollment also suggested that its facilities could be put to better use.

One day in 1962, as he traveled along Park Avenue, the bishop parked his car on the crest of a hill overlooking Notre Dame. He peered out his window and pondered whether he was ready to take on the challenge of founding a new college at the recently constructed high school. Ultimately, the bishop resolved, “We need a college now and not five years from now.”

The bishop’s background suggested a model for the new college. He admired his alma mater, Seton Hall University, which is located within the Diocese of Newark. Curtis had served there as auxiliary bishop from 1957 until his arrival in Bridgeport. Seton Hall possessed two attributes that the bishop admired: It was of great service to the diocese, and it had employed an increasingly large number of lay administrators and staff. This latter feature particularly appealed to Curtis, as it embodied a new direction within American Roman Catholicism. An idea for a lay-administered college in the Diocese of Bridgeport, the first of its kind in the country, began to form.

Following this path, Curtis appointed a committee of trustees on which he served as chairman. The trustees’ charge was to plan the yet unnamed college. Shortly after, Curtis departed for Rome to attend the Second Vatican Council, but he instructed the trustees to continue their work. They did, and in October 1962, while in Rome, the bishop announced his plan to open a college in September 1963 and to name it Sacred Heart. The name was significant: It was the name of the bishop’s first pastorate in Bloomfield, N.J.

Some time later, while still in Rome, the bishop learned that his dream for higher education had won acceptance. Genuario, who was then completing his doctorate at the Gregorian University, remembers that evening especially well. “We had dinner and we were having an espresso when the bishop was called away for a telephone call. When he returned, he said: ‘We have a university,’” Genuario recalled. “He would be on the phone all the time discussing the University.”

Despite the absence of a plan for any graduate programs, a bill was introduced in the state Legislature on Jan. 23, 1963 to incorporate Sacred Heart as a university. The necessary provisional accreditation from the state...
was hastily gained a week later during a meeting in the governor's office, and in February Gov. John Dempsey signed the charter creating Sacred Heart University.

With the legal issues settled, the bishop and trustees set out to find administrators they could entrust with the University's day-to-day operations. After a national search, they named William H. Conley, Ph.D., of Marquette University as the first president, and Maurice J. O'Sullivan, Ph.D., of Seton Hall was chosen as academic dean. It was these two men who helped bring the bishop's dream to realization.

O'Sullivan was a friend of the bishop, and he had worked with Conley for more than 10 years at Seton Hall. When the bishop began contemplating a university, he discussed his idea with O'Sullivan. As O'Sullivan later recalled, "The bishop wanted to open a diocesan college on the style of Seton Hall. He wanted me to think about it and talk to him. He wanted me to give him advice on the subject."

When the decision was made to found the college and Conley was selected, Conley told the trustees that he would accept only if O'Sullivan would join him. This was a shock to the bishop and the trustees. O'Sullivan also was taken aback, as he had no interest in relocating to Connecticut. When approached by the trustees, O'Sullivan stalled and refused to give an answer. What happened next was no surprise to those who knew the bishop.

"One evening at Seton Hall, I was up in the office and the switchboard operator called from the first floor," O'Sullivan recalled. "The operator said, 'The bishop is here to see you.' So, the bishop and Monsignor James P. Devine (an original trustee) came upstairs." By the time the meeting concluded, O'Sullivan had been persuaded to join the staff of Sacred Heart University. Soon after, O'Sullivan was in Connecticut, traveling from high school to high school to recruit the University's first class.

"I had applications and a simple catalogue with no listed faculty, merely a list of courses," O'Sullivan recalled. "So, the nature of the operation was obviously faith. The people who would come would believe the bishop wanted to do good for them, believed in the integrity of the administrators that were going to lead the school and trusted that they would be given an education."

The first class totaled 173 students - 125 men and 48 women. The numbers surprised the founders, as they believed the University would attract more women than men because of the area's demographics and the fact that so many other colleges catered to men. (This past fall, there were 3,480 women and 2,064 men enrolled.) The tuition that first year was $750, with a $10 application fee. The bishop personally paid the tuition for four stu-
students from diocesan high schools.

"Sacred Heart was really a heaven-sent gift for the students who came here and for their parents," O'Sullivan said.

Joining students in the experiment of a laity-run university were administrators recruited by Conley and O'Sullivan. These professional educators were attracted by the uniqueness of Sacred Heart University and the opportunity to build something new.

"I felt there was going to be a forward-looking institution, an institution whereby I would have the opportunity together with other first members of the administration to be able to lay the foundations for new traditions rather than being curtailed by traditions that had been established prior to the start of the institution," Anthony Pinciaro, Ph.D., an early University provost (see page 28), once said in an interview.

"When I grew up, I felt that all the Catholic world belonged to priests and nuns, and all responsibility for the faith belonged to nuns and priests. I think Vatican II and history have shown that the Church doesn't just belong to priests and nuns," said John Croffy, the University's first director of student personnel and the third person to be hired.

Once the University was established and running, Curtis continued to serve
as chairman of the Board of Trustees, a position he held until his retirement in 1988 at age 75. This was an important role, especially during the University's formative years as it sought to establish a Catholic identity and define its mission.

“Sacred Heart University’s name is a pledge to establish and uphold religious values as God’s plan for human life, indeed as a goal for individual lives,” the bishop said. “University graduates need to make a living — but, more, they need to make a life. The challenge is to discover the changeless values and principles that form the foundation for such a life and enhance dignity, and to encourage people to embrace them. In this quest, religion and God help, not hinder.”

The mark Curtis left upon the University is manifested in many ways. The University seal reflects the bishop’s role as its founder, containing references to his personal coat of arms, the Curtis family and his mother’s family. In addition, the seal contains a crescent, symbolic of the years the bishop spent as a student and professor at Immaculate Conception Seminary in Darlington, N.J.

The University has also established the Curtis Lecture Series and the Curtis Medal. The latter, the school’s highest non-academic award, is presented to individuals for outstanding contributions to society or to the Church. The University recognized Curtis’ contributions by presenting him a Discovery Award in 1993 and an honorary doctorate in 1994.

Curtis’ trail to Sacred Heart University began in Jersey City, N.J., where he was born in 1913 into a working-class Irish family. His paternal parents had come to the U.S. during the great Irish potato famine. His mother had arrived alone in this country at age 14 in pursuit of a job and the American dream. After his parents met and married, they raised a family of 10 children.

Curtis had wanted to be a priest ever since attending Catholic grammar schools in Jersey City. After high school, he attended Seton Hall, where he finished his undergraduate degree in 1934. He then completed his seminary training at Immaculate Conception and the North American College in Rome. It was while in Rome that he was ordained to the priesthood on Dec. 8, 1937 in the Chapel of Our Lady of Humility in the North American College.

When Germany invaded Poland in September 1939, Curtis returned to the U.S., where he was appointed professor of moral theology at Immaculate Conception. It was a position to which he was well suited and one which he held for 19 years. In 1949, he completed his doctoral studies at The Catholic University. On Sept. 15, 1954, he was designated Papal Chamberlain by Pope Pius XII with the title of Very Reverend Monsignor. Three years later, he was ordained bishop in Newark’s Sacred Heart Cathedral and in 1958 he was chosen pastor of Sacred Heart Parish in Bloomfield, N.J.

“Walter William Curtis lived each day so completely committed to Christ that his goodness was reflected in his eyes and his kindness was felt through his hands and the work that he did as our spiritual leader,” Genuario said in a homily delivered during a memorial Mass at the University on Nov. 12. “He lived each day so completely conformed to Christ’s mind and heart, recognizing His Mother, Mary, as one who would remain his guide on his pilgrimage through life, so that those who saw and heard him knew of God’s mercy and experienced God’s love.”
To continue and support our Founder's legacy of educational opportunity, Sacred Heart University proudly announces the

Bishop Walter W. Curtis Scholarship Fund.

Bishop Curtis founded Sacred Heart University to provide the possibility for a college education in the Catholic Intellectual Tradition. The current alumni of more than 15,000 embody the realization of his dream.

This endowed scholarship fund will be comprised of contributions from alumni of the University and friends of Bishop Curtis to honor his memory forever.

Proceeds from the endowment will continue to make the opportunity for a Sacred Heart University education available to as many young people as possible, especially to those who are economically disadvantaged.

To join in the creation of this living memorial through your participation, please contact Mr. James Meeker in the University's Office of Institutional Advancement at (203) 365-7671.
Teaching English and learning about life in the Land of the Rising Sun

By Shelley Lyford '97

As I approach the end of my year living and teaching English in the rural Japanese prefecture, Kagoshima, I find myself reflecting on my role as assistant language teacher and only Western foreigner in Ariake-cho, the small agricultural town I now call “home.”

Kagoshima-Ken, one of 47 major political regions of Japan, is located on the southern tip of Kyushu, one of the four main islands that comprise the country. The prefecture has a population of approximately one million people, of whom half live in Kagoshima City, where the government is located. Kagoshima lies in one of the most volcanically active regions in Japan; the prefecture incorporates seven active volcanoes. The Kirishima mountain range of Kagoshima is where the myth of the creation of Japan took place.

With a population of about 5,000, Ariake-cho is known for its premium green tea, sweet potatoes, melons and strawberries. I teach English to chu-gakko (junior high school) students during the weekdays, adults during various evening classes and elementary school children on Saturday mornings. Most of my students and community members live on farms and, due to rigorous work schedules, have yet to go beyond Japan’s borders.

Beyond teaching English, I was chosen to participate in the Japanese Exchange Teacher (JET) program to help promote internationalism — by teaching my students, co-workers and neighbors about American and Western culture. At times, my primary concern is not a student’s ability to speak English, but rather how he or she thinks and relates to foreigners.

Kagoshima-Ken, and Japan for the most part, is a homogeneous society with a history of being “closed” to the rest of the world. The saying, “The nail that sticks up will get hammered down,” befits how the
Japanese have made certain that nothing “different” or “unique” to Japan becomes part of Japan. This tactic, while preserving the Japanese culture, has made it virtually impossible for other cultures of the world to be studied, understood, experienced and, most of all, respected.

In Ariake-cho, as in other areas of rural Japan, people are born, raised and meet their deaths in the same town in which their parents did. Aside from my presence, the only “international” aspect of Ariake-cho is the Chinese woman who lives up the road.

There is an important cultural implication to my role as a Western educator in traditional, rural Japan. The nation’s racial homogeneity and isolation have left it with a pervading ethos of Japanese “uniqueness” that continues to separate Japan and its people from the rest of the world. For that reason, I have tried to “internationalize” every day — which is not very difficult, since I am different from every other person in the community not only physically but also mentally and emotionally.

My mannerisms, problem-solving rationale and communication patterns are different. For example, when a student answers a question correctly, I offer open praise, something a Japanese Sensai would never do. I laugh and joke with my students. When playing basketball with the kids, I give a high-five to a player or playfully tap them on the backs to acknowledge how well they are doing.

Outside, as well as inside the classroom, I share and teach about gender, race, stereotypes, social and even political issues of the West, as well as global cultures and topics.

**Creating a conducive environment**

Most of my time and energy go into teaching the English language or creating an environment conducive to learning English. This is a challenge since historically, the typical “Japanese” way is to require students to memorize grammar patterns, vocabulary and idioms. Over the past 20 years, English has been a measuring stick for intelligence and a means to achieving coveted placement in a famous university. English has not been taught to be communicative.

Some of my students, who have studied English for three years, have memorized Shakespearean sonnets and may have a better grasp of English grammar than I do. But verbally they are unable to go beyond “How are you?” and “Fine, thank you.” Clearly, the message, “We want you to learn English, but we don’t care if you speak it or not,” is implied.

I have discovered that I accomplish better verbal communication in a casual atmosphere outside the classroom than I can in a 50-minute, formal classroom setting. Typical classes are extremely large. My biggest class has 43 students, my smallest 30. Students sit in symmetrical rows and rarely work together or in groups. Most rarely ask questions, even if they don’t understand. All of these factors contribute to an atmosphere that is not conducive to learning English.

I taught a class where I utilized music and allowed students to get up, move their desks and freely move around the room. When the music played, they were supposed to “mingle” (a very Western concept) and once
it stopped, they were to ask basic questions to the person they were with. We practiced asking and responding to questions like, “What is your name?” “Where do you live?” “Do you have any brothers and sisters?” and “What is your favorite food?”

The game was an instant success. The students loved the Western music and the interaction with their friends. I loved the game because the students, free of the constraints of their desks, were actually speaking English instead of practically falling asleep or looking blankly at the lecturer. However, I soon realized that I had acquired an audience outside my classroom door — my principal and fellow teachers. They were peering at me in horror. That afternoon, I was reported to the town’s Board of Education that I had little control over my classes and should learn how to “properly manage” a class.

One of the most difficult aspects of teaching in a Japanese classroom is trying to encourage students to work independently and creatively rather than collectively and systematically. In America, I was taught in settings where individuality, ingenuity and creativity were encouraged. Now, at the other end of the spectrum, I am teaching in a controlled setting.

All of my students wear uniforms and abide by rules regarding hair length, jewelry, the bags they carry and even the type of bicycle they can ride to school. Even my best students are reluctant to openly ask questions, since they are worried about “breaking the mold.” Students are required to attend school six days a week, because parents and authorities fear that children would have too much free time otherwise.

Japan, which is among the most ceremonial and formal countries in the world, leaves little room for its youth to be young. I realize I cannot transform the school system, nor is it my place to judge one system of learning as better than another. However, I do believe it is my jurisdiction to produce a different — not better — environment in which to learn English and Western culture.

The atmosphere I have created allows a kid “to be a kid.” It is open to questions, exams are not emphasized, mistakes are permitted and laughter is allowed and even encouraged. A student is free to be his or her own unique self.

My life in Japan is fascinating and filled with adventure. I have started to learn the language and make friendships that I hope will become lifelong. Although it is frustrating at times, my job is fulfilling and rewarding. I hope that certain ideals, such as openness, tolerance, creativeness and, most of all, global awareness, will be embraced by my students.

Shelley Lyford ’97 of Chelsea, Vt., who graduated summa cum laude with a B.A. in global studies, is spending the 1997-98 academic year as an English teacher in Japan under a one-year grant from the Japanese government.
CLASS NOTES

'68

Chester S. Day became president of Kensico Cemetery in Valhalla, N.Y., on Jan. 1. Day resides in Mahopac, N.Y.

James J. Patchen Jr. has been named vice president, marketing for Bayer Corp.'s Pharmaceutical Division North America in West Haven. He lives in Southbury with his wife, Sherry.

'70

Carl Filsinger is a detective with 16 years service in the Weston Police Department. He is the local vice president in the Police Association of Connecticut and a board member with the Police Benevolent Association. He and his wife, Linda, reside in Shelton.

'72

James Harrington has been appointed chairman of the Board of Managers at the Stratford branch of the Central Connecticut Coast YMCA. Most recently, he was a security systems specialist at Yale University. Harrington and his wife, Marcia, have four children and reside in Stratford.

'73

Thomas Milek of Needham, Mass., was named senior programmer/analyst with Arley Corp.

'77

John Carolan and his wife, Heather Dale Carolan '82, became parents of a son, Drew John, on Oct. 31. Drew joins sisters Ashley, 8, and Morgan, 2.

John is regional national branch manager for TIE/Communications, Inc., in Woodbridge, while Heather is a pediatric secretary at Pediatric Associates in Bridgeport. They live in Milford.

Joseph R. Nuzzo was appointed a part-time evening instructor in the MBA Program at Quinnipiac College. Nuzzo, who lives in North Haven, is a full-time seventh grade teacher in the Meriden Public School System.

'79

Rosanne Badowski is an executive assistant at General Electric Co. in Fairfield. She lives in Bridgeport.

Gail Halapin is a sales associate with the New Haven Register and now resides in New Haven.

'80

Maribeth Browne Goulden and husband, Chris, became parents of a daughter, Casey Leigh, on June 17. Maribeth is an attorney with William T. Browne in Bridgeport. The Gouldens, including daughter Brooke Taylor, 1, reside in Trumbull.

Elizabeth McCauley is a buyer with The Dun & Bradstreet Corp. in Purchase, N.Y. She lives in Norwalk.

'82

Heather Dale Carolan, see '77

'83

Mario D. Bartoli of Trumbull was appointed an investment specialist in the Milford investment center of People's Securities Inc.

Raymond Bastarache, president of Barter Network Inc., recently moved his firm to larger quarters in the Harbor Towers complex in Milford. His trading company has offices in six states, 5,500 members and 60 employees.

'84

Theresa A. McIlrath has established M.D. Consulting Services in Mansfield Center. Last winter, she traveled to Slovakia as a faculty member of an Information Systems seminar organized by the Albert Schweitzer Institute for the Humanities, in residence at Choate Rosemary Hall in Wallingford. McIlrath, formerly of Danbury, has moved to Coventry with her husband and daughter.

George E. Pulley Jr., MAT teaches biology and coaches basketball in the Southington School System. His daughter, Karina, was born July 16, 1996.

'85

Chris Capelle is a freelance Macintosh computer consultant in Fairfield and Westchester counties. He resides in New Canaan.

John R. DiStefano has become a consultant with Vantage Travel in Darien. He lives in Stamford.

Bruce Weiant, see '86

'86

John Lindgren of Wilton was appointed a vice president and manager of the newly opened Norwalk branch office of New Milford Savings Bank.

Elaine Weiant is supervisor of accounting with General Signal Networks in Shelton. She and her husband, Bruce Weiant '85, live in Monroe.

'88

Stefanie Puente is a senior secretary at the Westinghouse Savannah River Co., Aiken, S.C. She lives in North Augusta, S.C.

Robert Sabia is an account specialist at Beiersdorf in Norwalk. His wife, Deborah Medika Sabia '90, is an associate financial analyst at CBS Cable in Stamford. They live in Norwalk.

'89

Joe DeSantis has been transferred to Morton Grove, Ill., to assume the position of order preparation/MIS manager for Avon Products, Inc. He lives in Buffalo Grove, Ill.

Magaly Diaz married Timothy Oliver on Oct. 18 in St. Patrick's Church, Bridgeport. She is a billing adjuster at Pitney Bowes in Trumbull.

Lisa Gulli-Martire has been promoted to office services coordinator at Todd Holson, Inc. in Trumbull. She lives in Trumbull.

Marianne O'Hara married James Moran on Sept. 21 in Our Lady of the Assumption Church, Fairfield. She is a project manager at Olin Corp. in Norwalk. They live in Bridgeport.

Susan Parry married John Murphy III on Nov. 29 in Asheville, N.C. She is an information systems consultant with Transaction Information Systems, based in New York City. The live in Green, S.C.
Umberto J. Stella is manager of customer service markets with Pepperidge Farm in Norwalk. He and his wife, Mary Ellen, reside in Stratford.

Pam Wallace Cavallaro is working as a dealer at Foxwoods Resort Casino in Ledyard. She and her husband reside in Clinton.

Lynda Thompson Romanovski is an administrative secretary at Milford Hospital.

Deborah Medika Sabia, see '88

Daniel Dos Santos '92 MBA is founder and president of Global Youth, a company that stresses education to youngsters through sports. His business has taken him to Guatemala, Thailand and throughout the U.S. DOS Santos and his wife, Marilyn, live in Miami Lakes, Fla.

Brenda Spry of Oxford has been hired as special events coordinator for Easter Seals of Connecticut.

Laura Coon and Frank Marino III were married on Sept. 20 in Black Rock Congregational Church, Fairfield. Laura is a legal assistant in the law office of Robert K. Marzik, Stratford, and Frank is a paralegal at the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp., Hartford. They reside in Shelton.


Kristen Baer is employed as a tax specialist at KPMG Peat Marwick LLP in Stamford. She resides in Bridgeport.

Lynne Jakubauskas and husband Rob Sherman became parents of a daughter, Amelia Deniz Sherman, on July 12. Amelia joins brother Oliver, 2. Jakubauskas is a school nurse and health teacher at the Department of Defense dependents school in Izmir, Turkey.

Laurie LaRusso MAT was honored for her coaching success and athletic accomplishments at the Darien Old Timers Athletic Association’s 37th annual awards dinner Nov. 10. LaRusso’s Darien High School girls volleyball teams have captured four state Class M titles and a host of conference and division titles. At Stamford’s former Rippowam High, she was a four-sport athlete and team captain in the ’70’s.

Daniel Lichvar married Lynora Mennilli on July 19 in St. Jude Church, Monroe. He is a team leader in the operations technical service department at Oxford Health Plans, Trumbull. They live in Oxford.

Jennifer Wirth Azary of Huntington is a second-grade teacher at Columbus Magnet School in Norwalk.

Deborah Bartram married James McKane on Nov. 8 in Our Lady of Grace Church, Stratford. She is an EDI programmer/analyst trainee at Bic Corp. in Milford. They live in Stratford.

Charlene Carr married Michael Cody on June 14 in St. Mary’s Church, Stamford. She is a social worker with the

'92

Nealon steps into weekly sitcom

For nine years, millions knew him as the caustic news anchor and bodybuilder “Franz” on NBC’s “Saturday Night Live.” This fall, Kevin Nealon ’75 made the quantum leap into a weekly ABC sitcom series, “Hiller & Diller,” on which he teamed with Richard Lewis.

In this half-hour show from Ron Howard’s production company (“Splash,” “A League of Their Own,” “City Slickers”), Nealon and Lewis co-starred as best friends and writing partners for a TV comedy. As Ted Hiller, Nealon portrayed a responsible type who is married and the father of nice, overachieving kids. Lewis played Neil Diller, a divorced dad of two scary teens, who always seems to be getting into jams. Invariably, Hiller became Diller’s caretaker and lifesaver.

While the show was less successful than its producers hoped, it gave Nealon an opportunity to extend his craft. According to the comedian who earned a B.S. in marketing at the University, there were “some great opportunities for good comedy.”
Department of Children & Families, Norwalk and a residential counselor at Hall-Brooke Hospital, Westport. They live in Bridgeport.

Tamara Joynes was promoted to art director for grades K-1 with the Weekly Reader in Stamford. She resides in Milford.

Lucy Vicencio of Fairfield is a senior packaging administrator at the Elizabeth Arden Co. in Stamford. Sharon Lee Webb recently married Michael Moore in St. Peter's Lutheran Church, East Harwich, Mass. She is a teacher at the Laurel School. They reside in Harwich, Mass.

James Byrne MBA married Bridget DiRita on April 5 in St. Patrick's Church, Malvern, Pa. He is a marketing analyst at Efector, Inc. They live in Exton, Pa.

Lori Ann Guerrera married Russell Toth Jr. on Aug. 2 in St. Jude Church, Monroe. Lori is a pharmacy services coordinator/auditor at Oxford Health Plans, Trumbull. They reside in Shelton.

Cheryl Zyskowski married Vincent Chiaro on June 14 in St. Margaret Mary Church, Shelton. She is a student accounts manager at Gibbs College, Norwalk. They live in Derby.

Michael (Bongjun) Choi has accepted a position with the Polymer Chemistry Division of Hyundai Petrochemical Corp., South Korea.

Jennifer Madonia was among six recipients of the 1997 scholarship from the Connecticut Academy of Physician Assistants. In 1995, she was awarded the President Clinton Volunteer Youth Service Award for long-term service as an EMT-D with the Stratford Volunteer Emergency Medical Service.

Sarah Solin'sky '96 MBA was named business manager and events manager for several varsity sports at the University of Evansville, Ind.

ALUMNI PROFILE

Barbara Susi '75

A STUDY IN COURAGE

By Don Harrison

There is an extremely special, caring and dedicated woman in our midst. She has been among us for many years, filling our lives with laughter and joy. What can you say about a person who dedicates every thought, word and action to others?

— From the dedication to Barbara Susi in the 1985 Prologue

Seemingly from the very beginning, Barbara Susi and Sacred Heart University were intertwined. Call it mutual good fortune.

Across the decades, she has been a student (Class of '75), the acting alumni director and coordinator of special convocations, a "confidential secretary" to the first alumni director, adviser to sororities and friend to all. She has been a ubiquitous presence at the past 24 Commencements, providing direction and support under the aegis of Alvin Clinkscales, Doug Bohn and others.

How could she not have become part of the University? Her father, who emigrated to Bridgeport from the Abruzzi region of Italy, supervised the construction of Notre Dame High School but, on short order, a new commuter college known as Sacred Heart University. In effect, the late Louis Susi was laying the foundation for his daughter's education.

"I had planned on going away to school," she said in a recent moment of reflection, "but this invisible disability I've had since I was 10 changed the course of my life."

Well, perhaps not so invisible. Rheumatoid arthritis coupled with a neuromuscular disorder and Fibromyalgia Syndrome have placed Susi in a wheelchair for most of the past seven years. These multiple disabilities have taken away most of her physical movement, including the ability to speak at times. For a while, she was unable to speak without the assistance of a system that allowed her to communicate through a sophisticated electronic device with speech output.

Adversity is evident, too, in a string of auto accidents—an unfathomable 15. However, she's quick to point out that she "was the driver" only twice.

If you plan to shed any tears for Barbara Susi, be certain they are tears of happiness. A quarter century with this debilitating illness has neither dimmed her spirit nor placed a damper on her charismatic personality. Nobody is more positive or more determined; few exhibit greater faith. Even on the cloudiest Commencement Day, her smile will brighten Campus Field.

How can this be? Does she not have every right to be bitter?

"To be alive and talk about it is good luck," she responds with a typical smile. "I was fortunate that I went to Sacred Heart. It was a big deal for a woman to go to college then. Although most of the professors were from the old school, they..."
didn’t have tunnel vision. They let us see the future as ours. They just saw so much in us.

"After I began working and my disabilities became worse, literally jobs were made for me there. I was," she says, "just darn lucky."

Many of her professors are included among her legion of friends. "She's got tremendous courage," says Camille Reale, a 26-year faculty member and now a professor of management, who was her secretarial science instructor. "Barbara has always been an 'up' person, despite the adversities in her life. Even today, she's remarkably persistent and dedicated. Nobody is a stronger supporter of SHU."

Donald Brodeur, Ph.D., chair of the Psychology Department and a professor of 31 years duration on campus, remembers a student who was "bubbly, enthusiastic and friendly, always ready to lend a hand when something was needed." In the 1980's, when Brodeur served as dean of the then Division of Humanities and Social Sciences, he often hired Barjan Enterprises, the catering service operated by Susi and her former partner and husband, for departmental events.

"We were smaller then and could hire whoever we wanted," he says. "Barbara was always ready and able to provide whatever we needed."

Despite her infirmities, Susi leads a remarkably active life — often with tongue in cheek — on and off campus. When the University community opened its collective arms to the 1996 Connecticut Special Olympics Summer Games, she was there as a volunteer throughout the weekend. "Everyone thought I was there for the wheelchair race." When the University community opened its collective arms to the 1996 Connecticut Special Olympics Summer Games, she was there as a volunteer throughout the weekend. "Everyone thought I was there for the wheelchair race."

At Commencement, she assists with the lineup of graduates and faculty, directs a staff of students and plays the role of troubleshooter. "A feeling of being wanted," she says of her ongoing involvement. More recently, she co-chaired the successful 1998 Alumni Day program in the new William H. Pitt Health & Recreation Center.

In the current edition of the Alumni Directory, a single word describes Susi's occupation: "Advocate." And so she is, as a board member of the Southern New England Arthritis Foundation; support group founder and leader of the Connecticut Fibromyalgia Syndrome/Chronic Fatigue Syndrome Phone Network; co-founder of DAAG (Disability Awareness and Advocacy Group); founder and leader of Connecticut Survivors of Suicide Victims Network; a member of the University's Alumni Executive Council.

"My Mom and Dad saw the positive side of everything. They always felt that staying active was healthy for me, both emotionally and physically," Barbara explains. "They showed me that every day is a gift from God, and it was up to me how I would spend and cherish it. I hope it doesn't sound selfish or self-serving, but being an advocate for people with disabilities is very rewarding. I get back so much."

Bridgeport born and bred, Susi has spent virtually all of her 42 years within the tiny radius that encompasses the city's North End and the 56-acre parcel of Fairfield on which Sacred Heart University sits. Her fiancé, Jim Meehan '67, a member of the University's first graduating class, and her multitude of friends are here (700 gathered for a party in her honor in 1993). Her volunteer activities are here. The University she loves is here.

There was one major exception. When Connecticut was buried under mountains of snow in the winter of 1978, Susi was basking in the warmth of Australia's sun — her uncle lives in Perth — and being treated by that nation's finest rheumatologists. After a four-month stay, she returned home.

"My life seems like a funny soap opera at times," she says. "All roads lead back to Sacred Heart."
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