Confronting and creating change

Confronting change may be exhilarating or intimidating, but it is never optional, never an "elective." The great challenge for educators today, whether individuals or institutions, is to understand the changing needs of learners and decide how to address and meet those needs.

The "universe" of potential students from which the University will draw in the years to come is everyday more diverse and more demanding. When Sacred Heart University opened its doors less than 40 years ago, it was fairly easy to determine the likely candidates for admission. They were 17- and 18-year-olds finishing high school within a 30-minute drive.

The University and the prevailing culture have changed enormously since then. One obvious example is that our undergraduates now come from all over the country and from a dozen different nations, and the great majority choose the residential option. Ten years ago, the University carefully explored demographic trends, weighed them in light of its mission, and decided to make on-campus residency a viable choice. The wisdom of that decision is confirmed daily, and students tell me all the time how much residential life contributes to their total educational experience here.

Another clear example of change relates to technology. Because the University is committed to preparing men and women to take their place in the world and make their contributions to it, we must equip them with the best of today's tools. No matter what their majors, for instance, all undergraduates are required to own and use laptop computers to ensure both competence and confidence.

The sum of human knowledge is now said to double every 36 months. That means, essentially, that students entering their first year of college will graduate into a world that is unimaginably different. To succeed in that world - indeed, to lead it - they will need solid foundations. The educational experience we provide, no matter the age or personal circumstances of the student, is rooted in the Catholic intellectual tradition, the great strength and resource of this University. This tradition reminds us of important, enduring realities, such as the dignity of the human person and the joy of service to others, while it prepares us for the journey ahead - no matter where that journey takes us.

Relying strongly on this tradition, the University not only confronts change and seeks to understand and respond to it, but it also chooses to effect change as a leader in education and in the community. To meet the rapidly evolving needs of our culture, we must keep learning and changing, always ready to adapt and grow: change is the new status quo. Adult professionals who return to school for continuing education, as an example, demand schedules that fit their personal and family responsibilities. Without such flexibility, they might well put off further schooling indefinitely. A million students nationwide are already taking classes on the Internet, and that figure will double in just a couple of years. Scheduling weekend classes and accelerated courses, and offering learning opportunities on a personal computer are just a sampling of the many ways Sacred Heart University is customizing responses to fit students' needs.

This issue of our magazine is full of powerful examples of why Sacred Heart University has become one of the leading Catholic universities in New England. By confronting and creating change, in accord with our Strategic Plan, we are addressing emerging critical issues in higher education for all our student populations.

To flourish in the next millennium, our University must continue to deepen the level of its scholarship in the quest for truth. In an educational marketplace rich with choices, we must understand what we do best and how we can most effectively offer those services to the men and women who need them. At the same time, it is critical to understand the nature and needs of our expanding student body. Young and not-so-young; male and female; full-time and part-time; resident, commuter and "distance learner"; undergraduate, graduate and non-credit: the possibilities open to them are endless and endlessly exciting.

Anthony J. Cernera, Ph.D.
President
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- 32 Alumni Profile — In Douglas Kennedy ’78, ’82 MBA, Fleet Bank has found a visionary leader.
- C3 Calendar
The new vice president for Academic Affairs has a familiar face. Thomas V. Forget, Ph.D., who served as the division's interim vice president for the past year, has been appointed vice president.

In this capacity, he will continue to provide leadership for the University's academic program through its four colleges: Arts and Sciences, Business, Education and Health Professions, and University College. He also works closely with the Center for Christian-Jewish Understanding (CCJU).

"I am grateful for this opportunity to lead the continued effort for excellent teaching, creative scholarship and generous service which characterize the academic program of the University," said Dr. Forget, who joined the University in 1996 as executive assistant to the president.

He received a Ph.D. in educational administration and supervision from Fordham University, where he also earned a master's degree in religious education and a bachelor's degree in theology.

INVITED: By the Vatican to an interreligious assembly in Rome on Oct. 24-29, Rabbi Joseph Ehrenkranz, director of the Center for Christian-Jewish Understanding. He will be among 200 participants - Christians, Jews, Muslims, Buddhists, et al. - reflecting on ways to find peace and solidarity among humankind in the new millennium.

WED: On July 16 in Christ the King Church, Old Lyme, Theresa Gonzales, Sc.D., associate professor of management, and Paul Madonna, Ed.D., vice president for finance and administration.

AWARDED: By the Henry Luce Foundation, Inc., the prestigious Clare Boothe Luce Women in Science Award to seniors Dora-Katie Clark of Mystic and Anne Coary of Red Hill, Penn. Each received $12,500. The scholarship program was established to encourage women to study and teach in the areas of science and mathematics.

A Special time on campus

Thousands of athletes, coaches and volunteers from throughout the state converged on campus June 12-13 for Special Olympics Connecticut's 30th annual Summer Games. It marked the fourth straight year that Sacred Heart University and Fairfield University served as co-hosts of the summer competition.

"Both institutions provided our athletes and coaches with excellent competition venues and contributed many resources, such as facilities, staff and students," says Nora Mason, the games' director of programs. "I consider myself truly blessed to have had the opportunity to work with such a fabulous and dedicated group of people in Connecticut's largest event of the year."

Smith's message on the big screen

An avowed non-smoker, senior Rayna Smith has utilized her computer graphics talents to produce two anti-smoking public service messages that are being shown at Bridgeport area movie theaters.

"I'm really excited about my work being selected because I'm a very anti-smoking person," says Smith, 21, a graphic design major and Dean's List student at the University and a part-time model.

Smith produced the slides this spring during a visual communication class taught by Ruth Baxter. One depicts a skeleton (at left); the other image is a tombstone of sizable proportion that bears the inscription: "Here lies Mark Laffool/He thought smoking was cool/Now he's in this ditch/Ain't that a ..."

In all, Smith submitted six entries to the area-wide contest sponsored by the Regional Youth/Adult Substance Abuse Project (RYASAP). She is hoping the anti-smoking images will jump-start the graphic design business she operates from her Bridgeport home. D.H.
College and high school science educators from 46 states and nine foreign countries, nearly 1,200 strong, participated in the prestigious biennial conference held on campus from Aug. 1-5. Lecture-demonstrations, seminars, exhibits and a lobster bake made ChemEd '99 a memorable event. Gov. John Rowland proclaimed the week "Chemistry Education Week" in Connecticut.

Dr. Henry C. Lee, internationally acclaimed forensic scientist and the state's commissioner of Public Safety, presents chemistry's increasingly important role in solving crimes.

ChemEd's chairman, Dr. Babu George, chair of the Department of Chemistry and Physics, stands by the ice sculpture depicting the Periodic Table - the arrangement of 110 elements according to atomic number. The massive sculpture, erected in front of the Pitt Center, was 8 feet high, 10 feet wide and 8 inches thick.

Dr. Bassam Shakhashiri, a chemistry professor at the University of Wisconsin and host of a science-oriented magic show on PBS, makes science fun for ChemEd attendees.

Steven Spangler, Emmy-winning science host of NBC's "News for Kids" and director of the Hands-on Science Institute at Regis University in Denver, demonstrates his prowess.

For the Trumbull High School marching band, the opening ceremonies are a banner occasion.
A passion for research

Dr. Shannon Brightman

A framed illustration of five butterflies hangs prominently over Dr. Shannon Brightman’s desk, while a large toy snake, called “Terminator,” lunges out from a file cabinet as one enters her office.

Both decorations offer a glimpse into the unassuming personality of the newly elected chair of the Biology Department and dedicated researcher.

Seven years after joining the University, Dr. Brightman begins the fall as department chair. The number of majors has doubled twice since her arrival, with 130 students currently in the program. A factor in the rapid increase in enrollment, she says, is the opportunity to conduct “hands-on research at the undergraduate level” — something not easily obtained at other major universities.

Thanks to the commitment to research by Dr. Brightman and her biology team, students can focus on restoration ecology, animal behavior, neurobiology and stress tolerance.

Illustrating how far undergraduate research at Sacred Heart University has come, she notes that the University hosted the Eastern Colleges Science Conference in April. One team of student presenters in biology won a first-place award for its poster; others were runners-up. Past conference hosts include Ivy League schools.

“My satisfaction comes from seeing students understand the meaning of scholarship through the scientific process, not just absorbing facts. Students have an edge on getting into graduate school or obtaining an industry-related position upon graduation,” she says. “Some now enter some of the best graduate schools, including Brown, Dartmouth, Fordham, etc.”

How many people would willingly admit that they went to college with their mother? Dr. Brightman speaks proudly of her time at UCLA Irvine, where her mother, at age 40, returned to school to earn a master’s and a doctorate in biology. “It was like having an instant friend there,” she states.

As a result of her interest in veterinary science, Dr. Brightman transferred to UC Davis, where she joined the athletic training staff. She chose to major in physical education because of her interest in exercise physiology. “I planned to go on to med school, but the turning point was when I took a course in exercise metabolism, which was taught as a state of current research.”

This led Dr. Brightman to recognize her interests in the “mechanistic viewpoint of how something works.” She considered a basic science graduate degree. “I am a ‘reductionist’ at heart; I would ideally like to take something living apart and see how all of the parts work together,” she says.

While obtaining an M.S. in exercise science from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, she had the “wonderful experience to collaborate on my thesis with two women in science.” These successful biology professors inspired her to pursue a Ph.D.

The master’s program at UMass also opened the door to teaching. “My time in the lab was sometimes frustrating … you don’t always get the results you expect,” she says. “My time teaching was always rewarding. You see your product in your students’ feedback in the classroom and with their exam answers. It was terrific.”

As a doctoral candidate at Harvard University, Dr. Brightman had the special opportunity to lead and teach med school tutorials. She focused her love of research on the biology of cancer, with emphasis on the movement of tumor cells to form metastases.

And the significance of the snake and the butterflies?

The snake profiles her sense of humor, she says. “The staff often get a little frightened when they enter my office, until they realize it’s fake.” The blossoming butterflies are a symbol of her decision to stay here and bloom — and encourage her students to do so as well.
The Renaissance man

Dr. John Roney

Call him multi-faceted. Call him a humanist. Call him a credit to Sacred Heart University.

Whether lecturing a class on Medieval Europe, preparing a manuscript for his next scholarly book or building a home for the less fortunate with the University’s campus chapter of Habitat for Humanity, John B. Roney, Ph.D., is very much in charge.

The distinguished associate professor of history, now in his 10th year on the faculty, carries a full schedule, both in and out of the classroom. Among his current challenges are work on the committee charged with developing a new Core Curriculum and, as director of European Studies, planning the launch of an undergraduate Study Abroad program at the Luxembourg campus.

Revamping the Core Curriculum, he says, is “akin to erecting the Pitt Center in an academic setting.

“What we did was rethink the curriculum. What have we been doing well and what should we add to better prepare students for the new millennium.”

The Study Abroad program in Luxembourg, which opens up new vistas to undergraduates, will begin in Spring 2000. It has been developed by the Department of History/Political Science under the guidance of Claire Paolini, Ph.D., dean of the College of Arts and Sciences; Gary Rose, Ph.D., department chair and professor of political science; and Dr. Roney.

It’s obvious he finds travel abroad enriching. Each summer, Dr. Roney and a colleague, Edward Papa, Ph.D., associate professor of philosophy, lead students on a study trip to Amsterdam. The fourth such journey is scheduled next year.

Dr. Roney’s fascination with the Renaissance and the Reformation led to his most recent book. He is the editor of, and a contributing writer to, The Identity of Geneva: The Christian Commonwealth 1564-1864 (Greenwood Press, Westport). Published in 1998, its collection of original essays examines the Swiss city’s notable contributions to the Reformation, to social care and international cooperation - which led to formation of the Red Cross — and capitalism. Martin Klauber, a professor at Barat College in Lake Forest, Ill., collaborated on the editing.

“During the early modern period, Geneva was a very important place for the birth of the modern world. It was called the ‘Protestant Rome,’” Dr. Roney explains. “They were experimenting with capitalism long before there were many capitalists. Many of the top bankers in France were from Geneva.”

Dr. Roney serves as faculty adviser to the Habitat campus chapter, but it was as much his roll-up-your-sleeves work in the trenches (sometimes literally) that led to his receiving a 1997 Community Service Award from Connecticut’s Department of Higher Education.

He describes his dedicated volunteerism as “a fit between knowing a lot about construction and having a sense of wanting to do community service.

“I worked as a carpenter throughout college and graduate school, and more or less can build a house by myself,” he says. “I’ve never been far away from a hammer.”

“I also agree with the mission of Habitat, which allows you to demonstrate your faith in a concrete way. Habitat and the University’s other community service efforts speak volumes about Catholic social teaching.”

With a heavy campus schedule and Habitat volunteerism occupying so much of his time, Dr. Roney has chosen to place less emphasis on literary projects for a while. He is six months behind on a book with the working title, Calvinism and Monarchy: Nineteenth-Century Historians and the Search for Liberty. He’s also contemplating writing a history of Luxembourg, but that will have to wait too.

No matter. There are classes to teach, a Study Abroad program to launch and homes to build. ■ Don Harrison

Sacred Heart University • Fall 1999
Onward and Upward Bound

The photo on her office wall serves as a daily reminder for Caryl Anne Rice-Ehalt. It is living proof that her occasional 60-hour weeks as founding director of the University's Upward Bound program have been worth the blood, sweat and tears.

"This is one of my favorites. Charlene Brown," Rice-Ehalt says. "It was taken at her graduation from Georgetown in 1995." She removes the photo from the wall and points to the beaming black woman wearing the cap and gown. "Charlene went from there to graduate from Columbia University's school of social work. That's a long way from Harding High School."

Funded by the U.S. Department of Education, Upward Bound is a year-round program geared to disadvantaged high school students. Since its formation on campus in 1989, it has provided instruction in core academic subjects and life skills to 700 students - 55 to 70 a year - from Bridgeport's three public high schools, Harding, Bassick and Central, and Kolbe Cathedral, a Catholic high school also based in the Park City. At the request of parents, students from Stratford High are now included in the program.

This spring, Rice-Ehalt learned that the University was successful in securing a $236,237 Upward Bound grant for the next four years. A 300-page document, written by the director and her staff over an exhausting six-week period and submitted last October, laid the groundwork. "When I received the call from Senator (Christopher) Dodd's office in Washington, I was very happy and excited but also very relieved," she says.

The "relieved" was a reference to the summer of 1992, when the University's renewal application was rejected - only to be reinstated following an appeal process that included a trip to Washington by Rice-Ehalt and other University officials.

Rice-Ehalt is gratified that the program has helped a multitude of inner-city high school students acquire a thirst for learning. "The toughest thing to battle is losing the kids to jobs at the mall," she says. "Trying to make the kids look long-term at the value of education is the hardest thing."

Equipped with purpose and resolve, a startling 97 percent of those who complete the program have gone on to pursue a college education. "I'm constantly trying to buck the system," Rice-Ehalt says. "I truly believe kids will rise to the occasion."

And so they do. Throughout the school year, students attend two or three Upward Bound workshops a month on campus. The summer component, which Rice-Ehalt calls "the crux" of the program, encompasses six weeks of study, Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. until 3:15 p.m. Preparation for Scholastic Aptitude Tests (SATs) is an important part of the curriculum.

"The kids and their parents are willing to work, but they often don't understand how much work they have to do to prepare for college," says Phil Broadhurst, a Kolbe Cathedral math teacher and part of the original Upward Bound faculty. "This program gives them a different set of expectations." D.H.

Golden shovel marks beginning

Ground was broken in late July for the first Habitat for Humanity home in Bridgeport to be constructed by a Catholic coalition - the University's Habitat for Humanity campus chapter, St. James Church in Stratford and St. Charles Church in Bridgeport. Known as "the community builders," the coalition is committed to raising $65,000 for this 40th home to be built in the Park City under Habitat's auspices.

Holding the traditional golden shovel (at left) are the home's future owner, Luz Avila, and her children, Jason and Janet. Joining the family are, from left: Dr. Thomas V. Forget, vice president for Academic Affairs; Phyllis Machledt, director of Service-Learning and volunteer programs; and Dr. John Roney, associate professor of history and adviser to the Habitat campus chapter.

On several weekends in September and October, Sacred Heart University students, faculty and staff conducted a "building blitz" at the site. To volunteer, donate money, "in-kind" materials or services, contact Sean Otterspoor at (203) 261-8091 or Machledt at 365-7622.
Six years, nine praiseworthy awards

A six-year winning streak is a notable accomplishment in any endeavor, but it's especially laudable in the area of community service.

Last April, as in the previous five years, the University received Community Service Fellowship Awards from the state Department of Education. Sean Otterspoor was a winner in the individual student category, while the residents of Taft Commons were honored as a student group. The ceremony was held at the State Capitol.

"As the University has grown and become more diverse, the ethic of service has continued to be one of its defining characteristics," said President Anthony J. Cernera, who commended the students' volunteerism. "Service to the human community is an essential part of the mission that guides the University in all its efforts and activities."

Overall, Sacred Heart University students, faculty and staff have received nine community service awards from the state, all in the past six years.

Otterspoor is the roll-up-your-sleeves president of the campus chapter of Habitat for Humanity, and he serves as a board member with the Bridgeport chapter. In addition, the senior from Trumbull has developed Step-by-Step, a program where volunteers repair, replace or repaint the front steps of homes whose residents are unable to afford the cost.

"You get a great feeling helping people," he says. "People are basically good and accepting. If you want to help them, they're not going to put you down."

At Taft Commons, a remarkable 85 percent of the residents were active volunteers during the 1998-99 academic year. Says Tara Cangemi, a junior from Dobbs Ferry, N.Y., who served as Taft's hall council president: "Making an impact in the lives of less-fortunate people is the best thing you can do."

The ethic of service is a defining characteristic of the University. Through its Service-Learning program, community service is integrated into the curricula of 35 courses. Last year, more than 1,200 students, faculty and staff volunteered 33,000 hours of service in the region, D.H.
The quantum leap has been made. After two years of intensive preparation and an even longer period of study, Sacred Heart University entered the National Collegiate Athletic Association's Division I ranks this fall. 

Goodbye, New England Collegiate Conference and Division II. Hello, Northeast Conference and Division I.

As a participant at the highest level of intercollegiate athletic competition, the University has placed itself in an advantageous position for the new millennium.

An annual share of the NCAA's revenue distribution to D-I institutions will be significant. (By contrast, the University received a mere $4,106 when the Pioneers won the Division II men's basketball national title in 1986.) Typically, D-I programs play before larger crowds and receive greater attention from the media than their D-II and D-III counterparts.

"The move to Division I is consistent with the mission of the institution and with our desire to be a leading Catholic university in New England," says Director of Athletics Don Cook. "This is where we want to be."

Less visible to the public, but no less important, are the academic requirements associated with Division I membership. They are far more stringent than in Division II, and more rigorously enforced.

"The NCAA had become increasingly concerned that student-athletes as a general population were not graduating at the same rate as the overall student population," Cook explains. "Over the past 10 years or so, two pieces of NCAA legislation have improved the overall graduation rate of student-athletes, and in particular the minority student-athletes."

According to figures released by the NCAA, Division I student-athletes continue to graduate at a higher rate than the overall student body, a trend that has been in effect since 1986. Student-athletes continue to graduate at either a 57 or 58 percent rate while the norm for the general student population has been 56 or 57 percent.

Female student-athletes continue to graduate at a much higher rate than males (68 percent versus 52 percent) and the overall female student body (62 percent).

Cook cited the following examples that illustrate the recruiting differences between D-I and D-II institutions: "If you have a 2.0 GPA in Division I, you must have a 1010 score in the SATs. If you have a 2.0 GPA in Division II, you need only an 820. A fourth year of high school English is required in Division I, not in D-II."

Indeed, certain Sacred Heart University standards are more rigid than those established by the NCAA. For example, the University mandates that a student-athlete entering his or her senior year must have completed 84 credits. The NCAA requirement is 72 credits - in Divisions I or II.

This means that, by and large, the student-athlete entering Sacred Heart University today is better prepared academically than his or her counterpart of the past.

Recent examples of classroom prowess abound. Figures compiled by the Registrar's Office show that, as a group, the first-year student-athletes of 1998-99 had a slightly higher grade point average than the first-year non-student-athlete population.

Cook is in a unique position to lead the step upward. Twenty-one years of experience as the senior athletic administrator at Division I institutions - including 15 at his alma mater, Fairfield University - coupled with six years here have given him considerable expertise at two levels of athletics.

He was the Fairfield athletic director when the Stags made their first post-season basketball appearance in Division I - the 1973 National Invitation Tournament - and when they went to the NCAA Tournament for the first time, in 1986. He witnessed firsthand the galvanizing effect these successes had on a campus and on the town.

Now Cook would like to weave similar magic on this side of...
town, and sooner rather than later.

"If we (Sacred Heart) build on the successes we’ve had through the years in men’s basketball, baseball and softball, and more recently in women’s basketball, field hockey, lacrosse, volleyball and a few other sports, we’ll do just fine in Division I," he says.

As both Fairfield University alumnus and Sacred Heart University athletic director, Cook eagerly awaits the day when these institutions compete in basketball and football. An athletic rivalry between two Catholic universities in the same community seems to make sense – as well as dollars and cents at the box office.

“The initiatives that have taken place here, both academically and athletically, have given us a presence in the town that previously Fairfield U. had to itself,” he says. “We’re ready to play them, any time and anywhere.”

Mark of Division I

Celebrating the move to NCAA Division I competition, Sacred Heart University kicked off the new academic year with a bold and powerful commemorative sports logo.

The logo, designed by SME, Inc., of New York City, incorporates the University’s shield and will be prominently used around the campus and in the local community.

“We saw the University’s upgrade to Division I as an opportunity to develop a new, exciting logo that conveys pride in achieving Division I status,” said Director of Athletics Don Cook.

“The inaugural year logo serves as a rallying symbol for the University community and its alumni, particularly those in greater Fairfield County, as we enter a new era athletically. Our move to Division I demonstrates our continued commitment to providing a quality educational experience in all aspects, academically, athletically and student life.”

MEN’S BASKETBALL

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<td>Hartford</td>
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WOMEN’S BASKETBALL

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<td>at Hartford</td>
<td>7 p.m.</td>
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<td>Tues/23</td>
<td>Lafayette</td>
<td>7 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sat/27</td>
<td>vs. Ohio State, Harvard Tournament</td>
<td>2 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sun/28</td>
<td>vs. Harvard, Harvard Tournament</td>
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<th>DECEMBER</th>
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<tr>
<td>Sat/4</td>
<td>Yale</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon/6</td>
<td>at Georgetown</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thur/9</td>
<td>Virginia Commonwealth</td>
<td>7 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tues/21</td>
<td>at Bucknell</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thur/6</td>
<td>at Quinnipiac*</td>
<td>7 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sat/8</td>
<td>at Central Connecticut*</td>
<td>1 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thur/13</td>
<td>Monmouth*</td>
<td>7 p.m.</td>
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<td>Sat/15</td>
<td>Fairleigh Dickinson*</td>
<td>2 p.m.</td>
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<td>Tues/18</td>
<td>Wagner*</td>
<td>7 p.m.</td>
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<td>Thur/20</td>
<td>at Mt. St. Mary’s*</td>
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<td>Sat/22</td>
<td>at MD-Baltimore County*</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thur/27</td>
<td>at Long Island U.*</td>
<td>7 p.m.</td>
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<td>Sat/29</td>
<td>St. Francis (N.Y.)*</td>
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<td>Wed/2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sat/5</td>
<td>at St. Francis (N.Y.)*</td>
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<td>Mon/7</td>
<td>Long Island U.*</td>
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<td>Wed/9</td>
<td>Lehigh</td>
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<td>Sat/12</td>
<td>at Robert Morris*</td>
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<td>Mon/14</td>
<td>at St. Francis (Pa.)*</td>
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<td>Sat/19</td>
<td>MD-Baltimore County*</td>
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<td>Mon/21</td>
<td>Mt. St. Mary’s*</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed/23</td>
<td>at Wagner*</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sat/26</td>
<td>Central Connecticut*</td>
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*Northeast Conference games
Pathways to Knowledge
Avenues to Success

For today's student, there is more than one route to learning. For many, Sacred Heart University offers the best choice.

By Christopher J. Sheehan

Only a generation ago, most folks would have readily defined a college student as a full-time undergraduate 18-22 years of age. Higher education was thought of as a four-year commitment, with obvious starting and finish lines. Nowadays, though, people move in and out of formal learning environments their entire lives, and sometimes three generations are all attending "college" at the same time.

The challenge for today's institutions of higher learning is to identify the wide range of needs among potential learners and determine how, when and where to best meet those needs. Students, understandably, seek a quality educational experience, one that is both accessible and affordable. A reputation for academic excellence will draw them, as will a skilled and caring faculty. Appropriate accreditations and inviting facilities are important too.

Sacred Heart University aims to provide as many viable alternatives for today's learners as possible, grounding them in solid values while providing transferable skills for careers and lifestyles that may not even exist at the moment.

When the University was founded as a commuter school in 1963, it was fairly easy to imagine who would use its services:

The ideal candidate was finishing high school in the immediate vicinity. Today the University's mission remains unchanged — to prepare students to live in the world and make their contributions to it — but the world that the University is preparing its students for has changed enormously.

It is hard to exaggerate the influence of the societal changes that are impacting American higher education. Only about 20 percent of college students nationally are, in fact, younger than 22, living on campus and going to class full-time. Thanks to millions of students older than 35 who are entering or returning to college, the average age of the American undergraduate is close to 27.

A third of all undergraduates work full time, and half attend classes only part time. In fact, almost a quarter have children of their own. While these trends are subject to change as children of the Baby Boomlet enter their college years, things will never be what they were.

Sacred Heart University has established a true leadership position in meeting the needs of the "non-traditional" student while
developing a traditional student base. Additionally, thousands of men and women are pursuing graduate-level programs and taking non-credit courses for personal enrichment and professional growth.

Short distance to the door

Geographic availability is extremely important, and five satellite campuses within Connecticut allow a short distance to a higher degree.

The largest and newest branch campus is at River Bend Park in Stamford, a few convenient steps from the Springdale railroad station. The city of Stamford hosts an impressive number of Fortune 500 companies, so it’s not surprising that the Sacred Heart University campus there offers a strong business curriculum including weekend classes and an accelerated MBA program.

The popular accelerated program means students can maintain a regular work schedule and home life while completing coursework leading to a Master of Business Administration degree on Friday evenings and Saturdays, all within a single year. Clearly, accessibility refers not only to geography, but to scheduling options as well.

The other four satellite campuses are Danbury, with specialized business needs; Derby and Shelton in the Naugatuck Valley; and Lisbon, an eastern Connecticut community that research found was perfectly situated for expanded offerings for teachers. An accommodating range of courses is offered at these campuses, typically in the evening to meet the needs of working adults.

For some students, the workplace itself is their location of choice for higher education. First-time college students at two of the region’s largest employers are finding a Sacred Heart University education as convenient as a stroll down the hall. Employees at Sikorsky Aircraft in Stratford and People’s Bank in Bridgeport can take their classes leading to an associate degree right at work. Designed for those who are new to higher education, these programs are the first step for many in a lifetime of learning.
A path farther than the eye can see

In an increasingly global economy, the University's expansion of educational opportunities has not been limited to Connecticut alone. Global economic interdependence will spur cultural interactions on a worldwide scale, and even in the United States, successful business practitioners will be those who recognize the coming changes and prepare to embrace them.

Since 1991, the University has sponsored a thriving campus in the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg. More than a hundred students are enrolled there in Europe's only MBA program sponsored by a Connecticut university, and the business-related certificate programs are growing in popularity there. In the spring semester of the year 2000, Sacred Heart University undergraduates enrolled in the United States will be able to spend a semester abroad in Luxembourg.

Bridging the faiths

As part of its mission, the University operates two institutes that have educated and edified thousands of people in the United States and abroad.

The Center for Christian-Jewish Understanding (CCJU), founded in 1992, hosts international symposia and publishes materials encouraging interfaith and ecumenical dialogue. It has sponsored conferences throughout the country and in Auschwitz, Poland, where in 1998 scholars and theologians from 12 countries discussed religion's role in promoting violence or peace. The Center has received the personal endorsement of Pope John Paul II.

Traveling through the web

In a matter of decades, student fashion has evolved from penny loafers to sneakers and now to slippers. Because of technological advances and innovative programs, a Sacred Heart University student can learn in the comfort of his or her own home. Change clothes, put in a load of laundry, cook dinner and take a class at a personal computer.

One such innovative distance-learning program, the "RN to BSN," is for registered nurses who wish to complete their Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree. With the exception of clinical experience, which will be accommodated at a University-approved health care center near each student, the entire requirements of a bachelor's degree in nursing can now be handled on a PC.

A program such as this offers the ultimate in accessibility: Students call up the lectures at their convenience, based solely on their personal circumstances. This means that parents of young children, for instance, and those on the night shift now have equal call on the resources of Sacred Heart University. And through their personal computers, they now have access to the resources of the Ryan-Matura Library and elsewhere.

Learning through the Internet

Karen Albarelli earned three undergraduate credits this summer – while sitting at a personal computer in her Fairfield home.

Through the University's WEB/Learning, an Internet-based teaching and learning experience, she successfully completed Rhetoric: The Research Paper. "As a working parent of two children, it gave me the flexibility to continue my education without leaving my home," says Albarelli, a sophomore enrolled in University College's AHEAD program.
A traditional course

To create a cohesive and energetic campus life, Sacred Heart University has developed a residential life program over the past decade. Seventy-five percent of the student body has chosen the more traditional path of living on campus. Undergraduates from 19 states and 12 nations help enrich the campus experience for students, faculty and staff alike.

Contributing to the vibrancy of campus life are the University's intercollegiate athletic program, which is competing at the NCAA Division I level for the first time this year, and more than 60 student clubs and organizations. Then there are the numerous opportunities for service in the community that distinguish the Sacred Heart University experience. Campus life is evolving and promises to be the heart of an extended university.

A chosen path

From the initial class of 173 students in 1963 to the current total enrollment of 5,700, the University has earned a solid reputation for academic excellence.

This year's freshman class, the largest ever at 724 students, is arguably the most academically gifted as well. It's an impressive fact that 94 percent of last year's graduates are already employed full-time or attending graduate school.

The University has a committed and responsive student body that is here to learn.

Sacred Heart University plans to continue offering a demanding and relevant curriculum and working creatively to provide as many pathways to knowledge as possible. Now more than ever, academic excellence and ease of access must go hand in hand.

At Luxembourg, a new director and direction

The new director of academic programs at Luxembourg has a goal that appears surprisingly modest.

"My vision," says Thomas Queisser, Ph.D., who began his duties on June 1, "is for Luxembourg to be 'just' another Sacred Heart University campus."

Some elaboration is in order.

Dr. Queisser, an educator with flair and a marketing background, explains that he is intent on leading the integration of the eight-year-old Luxembourg program "into the academic life of the University and offering a good sample of the University's Fairfield campus programs.

"We won't (continue to) be a specialty campus," he says, "but a platform for what the University does best."

He plans to build on Luxembourg's increasingly successful Master's of Business Administration and MBA-level certificate programs by adding information technology and other programs to the curriculum. The undergraduate Study Abroad program, which is scheduled to debut at the Luxembourg campus in February 2000, is another indicator of the University's innovation.

"At Luxembourg, we can experiment with new ideas and technologies that can benefit the campuses back in Connecticut," he says, citing the recent example of video conferencing where lectures and discussions originating on both sides of the Atlantic have helped globalize classes in Fairfield and Luxembourg.

Another of Dr. Queisser's goals is to broaden Luxembourg's geographical reach, with students being drawn from Germany, France, Belgium, The Netherlands and other nearby European nations. Participation in upcoming college fairs in London and Madrid may also prove fruitful.

Extending a hand stateside, he invites MBA students at the University's Connecticut campuses to pursue one or more courses in Luxembourg. Classes are taught in English.

"A typical time unit in Luxembourg is six weeks, but the intensive seminars may be completed in as few as two weeks," says the new director, who will teach marketing and organizational behavior.

Dr. Queisser brings unique qualifications to his new position. A son of the American heartland (Ohio), he has spent the past seven years in Europe, most recently as a professor of management and director of the International Career Center at the University of Maryland's campus in Germany. He speaks fluent German.

He and his wife, Annette Druchlieb-Queisser, a special education teacher in Germany's public school system, reside in Heidelberg with their two children. D.H.

Sacred Heart University

at Luxembourg

Tel: (203) 371-7880
Founded: 1991
Director: Thomas Queisser, Ph.D.

Academic Focus: The only MBA program in Europe offered by a Connecticut institution of higher learning. Study Abroad undergraduate program to begin Spring 2000.
**NEW STAMFORD CAMPUS A DOWNSTATE PLUS**

The University has had a presence in Stamford since the early 1980s. But never like this.

Opened in August 1998, the newest branch location in the lower Fairfield County city is a gleaming, corporate-style facility. With 25,000 square feet of space housing 13 classrooms, two computer laboratories, a conference room and offices, it provides ample room for meeting today's needs and projected growth. A 300-seat auditorium is available for special events.

The River Bend Park location, off Hope Street and convenient to downtown and the Springdale railroad station, is another plus.

The new campus was developed to meet the needs of a growing student population, which is increasing by about 10 percent annually. Stamford now serves more than 700 students, many of whom are older adults, enrolled in undergraduate, graduate and non-credit programs.

In size and amenities, the new facility far surpasses the University's earlier locations in Stamford. In the beginning and throughout the 1980s, evening classes were conducted at Westhill High School. To accommodate the growing number of students, there were moves to larger quarters at the former St. Basil's Preparatory School (1990) and Trinity Catholic High School (1993).

Steven Solomon, Ed.D., who served as coordinator of the Stamford campus from 1986-90, chuckles as he recalls the early years. "I was a full-time psychologist during the day in the Fairfield school system, and this was supposed to be a part-time job," he says. "Depending on the need or time of day, I could be the secretary, the registrar, the plumber or the counselor. I also taught psychology."

Perhaps Stamford's coming of age — it's now a stand-alone division of University College — is best illustrated by the following: The co-valedictorian of the Class of 1996, Susan Bilden Zinkwich, matriculated at the Stamford campus, and so did salutatorians Diane Erickson (1996) and Sheila O'Leary (1997). D.H.

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### Sacred Heart University at Stamford

River Bend Park  
12 Omega Drive  
Tel: (203) 323-4959  
Founded: 1982  
Director: Pamela Yardis

**Academic Focus:** Comprehensive undergraduate and graduate programs geared to the adult learner

### Elsewhere In Connecticut...

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>High School/Enterprise</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Tel.</th>
<th>Founded</th>
<th>Director</th>
<th>Academic Focus</th>
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<tr>
<td>Danbury</td>
<td>Immaculate High School</td>
<td>73 Southern Blvd.</td>
<td>1-888-SHU-EDU-1</td>
<td>1995</td>
<td>Stuart Hulbert</td>
<td><strong>Academic Focus:</strong> AHEAD undergraduate and MBA graduate programs geared to the adult learner</td>
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<tr>
<td>Derby</td>
<td>Derby High School</td>
<td>8 Nutmeg Drive</td>
<td>(203) 371-7830</td>
<td>1989</td>
<td>Thomas Kidder</td>
<td><strong>Academic Focus:</strong> Undergraduate degree programs, certificate and non-credit courses geared to the adult learner</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lisbon</td>
<td>Lisbon Central School</td>
<td>15 Newent Road</td>
<td>(860) 376-8408</td>
<td>1986</td>
<td>Karen Christensen, Ph.D.</td>
<td><strong>Academic Focus:</strong> Master's in teaching, initial certification (elementary, middle and secondary), fifth-year internship program, sixth-year certificates</td>
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<td>Shelton</td>
<td>Enterprise Corporate</td>
<td>Towers One Corporate Drive</td>
<td>(203) 371-7830</td>
<td>1996</td>
<td>Thomas Kidder</td>
<td><strong>Academic Focus:</strong> AHEAD undergraduate and MBA graduate programs geared to the adult learner</td>
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The University’s seventh and newest residence hall, a 10-story, red-brick structure located on the Bridgeport side of Park Avenue, opened this summer. Known as East Hall, it provides a home-away-from-home for 375 sophomores and upperclassmen.

Alternating in burgundy and green decor, each floor in the state-of-the-art residential facility is designed to provide a warm, comfortable living space for 48 students, with two “suites” per floor. Each suite contains central living and social area facilities, including kitchen, lounge with TV, sound-proof study and laundry room. Rooms are furnished with bunk beds and desk and closet modules.

A dining hall, with accent lighting, mahogany wainscoting and a parquet floor, serves sandwiches, pizza, grilled items and other foods.

Two dramatic commissioned murals, “Morning Skies” and “Evening Skies,” by noted West Hartford artist Robert Dente, greet residents at the entrance to the two-story atrium. The commission underscores the University's commitment to incorporating art into the student-life experience through its Voluntary Percent for Art program. It is modeled after the state's Percent for Art program, which requires that one percent of the budget for a public building be allocated to art.

East Hall Opens

Two murals of painted rectangular panels dominate the second floor of East Hall’s lobby atrium. According to artist Robert Dente, “Morning Skies” represents the secular life, while “Evening Skies” symbolizes the religious or spiritual life.

Above: View from the second floor.
Where have you gone, Class of ’99?

For the final graduating class of the millennium, there are jobs of promise and, of course, graduate school

By Don Harrison

The perennially bright skies in the job market are in marked contrast to the downpour on the day of Sacred Heart University’s 1999 Commencement exercises.

For members of the final graduating class of the millennium, employment with major companies, promising positions with other businesses and graduate school appear to be the rule rather than the exception.

Myra Pierce, who graduated magna cum laude with a double major in finance and business, is a prime example. She has entered the Financial Management program at General Electric and is currently based in Overland Park, Kan.

Holly Hyunsoo Ragoza, a 32-year-old native of South Korea, accepted an accounting position with IBM in Southbury – several months before graduating summa cum laude and winning the Medal of Excellence in accounting. That she is married and the mother of an 11-year-old only serves to underscore her determination.

Closer to home, both Adam Soda and Jennifer Hauge have joined Clairol in Stamford as an analytical chemist and Hauge as a quality assurance analyst. At the Stamford office of the Big Five accounting firm of Pricewaterhouse Coopers, Mary Davis has taken an auditor’s position, while Danusia Dzierzbinski was hired as an auditor at KPMG Peat Marwick, also in Stamford.

A multitude of other 1999 graduates have decided to put their Sacred Heart University degrees to use in southwestern Connecticut.

Michael Minotti, who grew up in Naples, Fla., chose to remain in the area and has become a credit associate in the New Business Department of Pitney Bowes Credit Corp. in Shelton. Three other grads, Lisa DeBurgo, Matthew Digangi and Carey Wunsch, have joined another Shelton-based financial enterprise, American Skandia.

Amy Finkle is working just minutes from her alma mater as an account coordinator with Reach Marketing in Westport.

Ironically, two members of the class have accepted marketing positions with rival teams in the American Hockey League. David Garabedian was named public relations and marketing coordinator of the Worcester (Mass.) IceCats, while Michael Lalanne has joined the Providence Bruins’ marketing department.

Of course, another way to find employment is to hire yourself. Matthew Gregory, who received a B.S. in human movement/sports science, is the president-operator of a thriving existing business, Big G Landscaping, in Durham.

On the graduate school front, some members of the Class of 1999 have entered Ivy League institutions. Peter Korakas (summa cum laude and chemistry’s Medal of Excellence) is seeking a master’s in chemistry at Yale, while Maria Tanase is pursuing an advanced degree in neurology there. Shaena Doherty selected Columbia for a master’s in social work.

Brian Raudenbush is off to Penn State to pursue a doctorate in organic chemistry, while class Salutatorian Sara Ignudo traveled up the road to the University of New Haven to acquire a master’s in environmental health/management. Michael Dutton has entered the College of William and Mary to obtain a master’s in higher education administration.

At least four 1999 grads have opted for law school. Marianne Cardo has entered Union College’s Albany Law School, both Sarah Hanna and Thomas McCabe are at Quinnipiac Law School, and Cindy Lisa is attending New York University Law School. Lisa received political science’s Medal of Excellence and graduated summa cum laude.

For more than 40 members of the class, however, there is no place like home. They have chosen to pursue advanced degrees at their alma mater.
Tobin's odyssey: from dropout to valedictorian

If any faculty member at Westport’s Staples High School continues to harbor a concern about a dropout named Marc Tobin, he or she should worry no longer. Sixteen years after exiting high school without a diploma, Tobin scaled an academic summit by becoming valedictorian of Sacred Heart University’s Class of 1999.

The 32-year-old Greens Farms resident was among 1,184 graduates - but the only one with a 3.985 grade point average - at the 33rd Commencement on May 23. On the previous afternoon, he delivered the valedictory at the Undergraduate Academic Awards ceremony.

To make the remarkable transformation from high school dropout to college valedictorian and holder of a B.S. degree in psychology, Tobin encountered more than his share of pitfalls - many of his own making. There were years of drug and alcohol abuse and, more recently, a motorcycle accident that nearly claimed his life.

“It’s a pretty ugly story,” he says with typical candor. “I started using drugs as a 12-year-old and tried to lose myself. I had menial jobs. I crashed a few motorcycles.”

The year after his scheduled high school graduation, in 1985, Tobin received a General Equivalency Diploma, with honors. But it wasn’t until undergoing addiction counseling in 1990 that he assessed his life and charted a course of action. “I hit bottom. I saw I was going to die or had to change,” he says. “Luckily I was able to change.”

After a couple of false starts at Norwalk Community-Technical College – “I didn’t complete my first two classes” – Tobin moved into academic high gear. He became a Dean’s List and President’s List student in all four semesters at Norwalk, graduating in 1996 with an associate degree in psychology and a 3.825 GPA.

Equipped with a renewed desire to learn, Tobin transferred to Sacred Heart University, where he continued to perform admirably in the classroom – or until the November 1996 accident when his motorcycle collided with a van.

The mishap caused a traumatic brain injury (subdural hematoma with multiple contusions) that significantly impaired Tobin’s cognitive functioning. During 10 months of recovery, he experienced anxiety attacks, debilitating bouts of depression and the inability to concentrate or even make a simple decision. But it taught him some of life’s valuable lessons.

“This experience has humbled me,” Tobin says. “I feel extremely lucky to have recovered from these injuries and have a new appreciation of how similar we all are. The phrase, ‘There, but for the grace of God, go I,’ now has special meaning for me.”

Returning to his studies on a full-time basis in the fall of 1997, Tobin seemingly never missed a beat. He was inducted into Delta Epsilon Sigma, the national scholastic honor society, and became a member of Psi Chi, the national honor society for psychology.

Christina Taylor, Ph.D., an associate professor of psychology, was among the faculty members to observe Tobin’s special gifts. She worked with Tobin and two other seniors on a semester-long research project, “The Double Standards of Aging: Perceptions of Similarly and Dissimilarly Aged Couples.” The results were so impressive that they presented the paper at the Eastern Psychological Association’s annual meeting in Providence, R.I.

“Marc ranks among the top five percent of all students I’ve taught in 25 years,” Dr. Taylor says. “It’s not only his intelligence but his openness and spirit of curiosity that makes him so special.”

The professor also provided the impetus for Tobin’s decision to pursue a doctorate in clinical psychology. He entered Adelphi University this fall, and is entertaining thoughts about teaching at the university level.

Two other events in his life provide further evidence of a newfound stable underpinning. Five years ago, he established “Mr. Fish Aquarium Service,” a full-time enterprise that provides professional services for marine and reef ecosystems in homes, restaurants and offices. In August 1998, there was his marriage to Kathleen Gleason.

As for giving the valedictory, Tobin had some misgivings at first, but he came through in commendable fashion. “I thought that at my age - 32 - I didn’t really represent the class,” he says, “but I was counseled by my friends who said I’d be crazy if I didn’t do it.”

Crazy he isn’t. Determined and resilient, he is.

Don Harrison
The warm relationship between President Cernera and Leland Roberts is evident following the conferral of an honorary degree upon the retired music professor and director of music programs. During 33 years at the University, Roberts chaired the Faculty of Humanistic Studies and the Department of Arts and Music; directed the chorus, the chamber orchestra and other groups; and delighted countless audiences with his clarinet performances. His major accomplishment? "The satisfaction of seeing people making music better than they thought they could," he said.

Dr. Dolores E. Cross, president of Morris Brown College in Atlanta, receives the degree Doctor of Humane Letters, honoris causa, from President Anthony J. Cernera. "As a marathoner who has completed 18 marathons, as an African-American and as an educator, I encourage you to go the distance to improve society," Dr. Cross told the graduates.

The Luxembourg campus' seventh graduating class assembles for a group portrait on June 1. Edmond Israel, chair of the Board of Regents for the campus and a former chairman of the Luxembourg Stock Exchange, gave the Commencement address.
Final class of millennium arrives, impressive in number and credentials

Karen Guastelle '88, '92 MBA, dean of Undergraduate Admissions, has experienced the arrival of incoming classes from two diverse perspectives.

As an 18-year-old named Karen Pagliuco, she was among the 564 first-year students entering the University in 1984. As dean, she has a vested interest in each of the 715 freshmen - the last entering class of the millennium - who arrived on campus in September.

"Not only is this the largest incoming class in our history but they are probably the brightest class to enter the University," says Guastelle, citing the class' cumulative 3.2 grade point average and 1050 mean score in the Scholastic Aptitude Tests.

A lot has changed since Guastelle was a freshman. With few exceptions, the entire 1984 student body was drawn from a 30-mile radius and everyone was a commuter. Guastelle commuted from her home in Fairfield.

This year's freshman class represents 20 states and 11 foreign countries, including such distant locales as Japan and Ghana. Seventy-five percent of the record 2,424 full-time undergraduates now live in residential housing, on campus or nearby. Commuters remain significant in number (94 are full-time undergraduates), but clearly the demographics have changed.

What hasn't changed, according to Guastelle, is the level of comfort provided by the University's faculty and staff. "Of all the schools I visited as a student, Sacred Heart made me feel the most comfortable," she says. "It was a good fit for me and it's a good fit now." D.H.
The University's burgeoning Physical Therapy program celebrated three milestones this year.

In May, the program received its initial accreditation from the Commission on Accreditation of Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE) and also graduated its first students. In September, there was the formal opening of the program's second Sports Medicine and Rehabilitation Center, operated in conjunction with Integrated Rehabilitation Services (IRS), Inc., in nearby Shelton.

"Our program success and significant growth can really be attributed to two important factors: an outstanding faculty and unwavering University support in the development of the program," says Michael Emery, Ed.D., chair of the newly formed Department of Physical Therapy and Human Movement Science and the program's founding director.

"Now that we are established as an accredited program, we are looking forward to developing post-professional education opportunities for physical therapists currently in practice, and furthering our commitment to service activities in the community."

In granting Physical Therapy a five-year accreditation, CAPTE based its decision on an extensive on-site evaluation, which included interviews with faculty, administrators and students, and on the program's self-study report.

The commission cited several strengths of the program, including a well-designed curriculum, a "highly qualified, genuine and attentive Program Director" and "a cohesive core group of faculty members who collectively demonstrate the ability to implement a quality PT program."

The students, who have "demonstrated the strength to contribute to the growth of the program" and conduct themselves in a professional manner, were deemed another positive factor.

The University's Physical Therapy program has been licensed by the state Department of Higher Education since December 1995.

The program's original Sports Medicine and Rehabilitation Center is housed on campus in the William H. Pitt Health & Recreation Center. (Classrooms and laboratories are located on the second floor of the Science Complex in the Academic Center.)

Both state-of-the-art clinics are geared to a wide range of orthopedic physical therapy services. The Shelton facility, located at 25 Constitution Boulevard South, also offers ergonomic assessment and golf performance enhancement.

CAPTE, based in Alexandria, Va., is the national accrediting body for physical therapists and PT assistant education programs in the United States. D.H.
A First from Hearst

Through its remarkable history of growth, Sacred Heart University has been an institution where economically disadvantaged students could turn for opportunities in higher education. This tradition has been strengthened by a recent $100,000 gift from the William Randolph Hearst Foundation. This significant contribution will establish an endowed scholarship fund for undergraduate students with demonstrated financial need. The foundation is named in honor of the late newspaper publisher and philanthropist.

"I am proud that the University has received the Hearst Foundation's recognition of our mission and special responsibility to provide educational opportunities to students who are less fortunate," said President Anthony J. Cernera.

A grant from the Hearst Foundation - the first for the University - is a mark of distinction. While the foundation receives more than 3,500 grant applications per year, only 500 are awarded. And of those, only about 200 qualify in the higher education category.

"This generous award from Hearst represents a strong measure of confidence in the integrity and leadership of Sacred Heart University," said Luke Doyle, vice president for Institutional Advancement.

Scholarships and other forms of financial assistance are more important to Sacred Heart University students today than ever before. Currently, nearly 80 percent of 2,500 full-time undergraduates receive some form of aid, with the University contributing $9 million from its operating budget. That's why gifts such as the one from Hearst are so essential. J.M.

Recognizing generosity: two societies created

The charmed life of a philanthropist, said Ben Franklin, comes not from possessing wealth but from purposefully redistributing it. Of course, few can contribute on the scale of a Hearst, a Rockefeller or a Gates, but a warm sense of satisfaction can be felt when the cause is right and one gives from the heart.

In this spirit, the University has formed two new special recognition societies to honor supporters who contribute at distinguished levels.

The President's Society, which is the most prestigious donor recognition group, has been established exclusively for individuals, couples, corporations or foundations that provide annual contributions of $1,500 or more to the University for current operating needs. This includes gifts to the Annual Fund or in areas such as annual scholarships, financial assistance, academic programs or support for University centers and institutes.

Benefits include invitations throughout the year to special receptions, lectures, art exhibits and Division I athletic events or to meet special guests. President's Society members will be registered in two annual University publications: the Journal of Giving and the President's Report.

The GOLD Society (Graduates Of the Last Decade) was formed to provide special recognition for younger University alumni (individuals or couples) who give $100 or more annually in unrestricted funds.

Members will receive special invitations to a variety of events, including basketball game receptions, networking happy hours and a wine-and-cheese gathering with President Anthony J. Cernera. All GOLD Society members will be listed in the Journal of Giving.

For both giving societies, matching gifts will count toward the total donation. For instance, a young graduate can make a gift of $50, submit his or her employer's matching gift forms and meet the requirement for GOLD Society membership. J.M.
New Alumni Director extends warm greetings

Dear Friends and Fellow Graduates,

It is with great excitement and anticipation that I return to Sacred Heart University with the honor of representing you, my fellow alumni, as the director of Alumni Relations. I am eagerly looking forward to energizing our Alumni Association as we cross into the next millennium.

As many of you know, Sacred Heart University has experienced unprecedented growth in the last decade, and there are even bigger plans on the horizon. We have witnessed expansion and improvement in all areas of the University - enrollment, academics and athletics - and in the overall physical growth of the campus itself. It is amazing to me what has become of this little commuter school. Clearly, Sacred Heart University has positioned itself to be one of the leading Catholic universities in the 21st century.

Given all of these improvements, I find it natural to share with you my enthusiasm now that the University is focused on stepping up its commitment to alumni. In the coming months and during the next few years, I look forward to developing a comprehensive alumni program that will attract ALL Sacred Heart University alumni - programming that is responsive to your needs, celebrates the past, brings value to the present, and promises a bright future.

The time has come to reconnect many of you to the school that I am sure has a special place in your heart. I look forward to personally learning what it means to each of you to be a Sacred Heart University graduate, and to helping you experience first-hand what your University has become.

With best regards,

Rob Cottle '90
Director of Alumni Relations

After receiving a B.S. degree in 1990, Rob Cottle began his professional career in the Admissions Office. In 1995 he left to help grow his family's business, albeit staying closely connected to the University and its alumni. With his return, he brings unique qualifications to the role of Alumni Relations director. As an undergraduate, he grew to understand the special nature of the University's "commuter" identity. His subsequent work in Admissions included helping to establish the University's residential component and recruiting the first such students. Few understand the characteristics and interests of alumni from both eras - pre-residential and residential - as well as Rob. Simply put, he loves this University.
ALUMNI LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

Special Report

Networking Model

- Establish regional alumni chapters to connect members for social, professional and volunteer opportunities.
- Utilize the advantages of electronic communication; develop an alumni web page.
- Improve accuracy of alumni database; categorize by class year, occupation, location, interests, etc.

Special Programs

- Develop opportunities for group travel, insurance plans, discounts and car rental.
- Distribute alumni card for library use, bookstore and athletic event discounts.
- Institute "Pioneer for Life" alumni credit card program with exclusive member benefits.

Office of Alumni Relations

- Provide consistent communication via newsletter and web page.
- Conduct an alumni survey to pinpoint specific needs.
- Update and maintain the alumni directory as part of the alumni web page.
- Recruit class agents to assist in chapter organization and Annual Fund efforts.
- Orient current students to be future alumni.
- Raise alumni awareness of and access to the University as a valuable resource.

TOPIC: Recruitment, Admissions and Retention

Getting and retaining highly qualified students is a key to the University's long-term success. Alumni can play a major role in this aspect and from it can realize many rewards. The conference's alumni leaders helped to identify key components that will contribute to a successful effort.

Organizational Effort for Recruitment

- Create an alumni advisory board with representatives from regions/chapters.
- Develop a strategic plan and implement its objectives through chapter operations and with help from alumni volunteers.
- Provide a link to the resources and strategic direction at the University's Enrollment and Planning office.

Information: Tools and Access

- Information on current or upcoming academic, athletic and community programs must be accessible on the University web site and listed in a newsletter.
- Provide alumni with an easy method to update information in the alumni directory through the web site.
- Publications would include informative articles on the University's goals, efforts and progress in recruitment.

Marketing Methods

- Enlist alumni volunteers to represent the University at college fairs and with high school guidance counselors.
- Make presentation materials available to alumni volunteers for visits with parents and their college-bound children.
- Match local alumni volunteers to local student prospects and hold family-to-family information/discussion sessions or regional receptions.

Retention Efforts

- Institute an alumni-mentoring program to provide students with advice and guidance.
- Create an alumni professional resource list to provide career-networking opportunities for students.
- Have alumni come to classrooms to share relevant professional and personal experiences.
Testing their knowledge of University facts and trivia in "SHU Jeopardy," three teams finished neck and neck.

TOPIC: Fundraising

Although separated by category, each breakout session topic proved to be closely related. The success of the University, its students and alumni is based on an interdependent relationship. The phrase “two-way street” was used on several occasions during the conference. Success in fundraising is a perfect example.

Education and Involvement

- Develop an electronic/print newsletter to keep alumni informed, with topics on the University’s strategic plan, quality improvements, philanthropy and fundraising.
- Promote non-solicitation personal contact from the University’s development staff, especially the Alumni Relations director.
- Educate current students on the importance of giving; promote senior gifts.

Ideas and Strategies

- Form alumni fundraising committees through local chapters.
- Begin a program of class reunions.
- Provide gift designation options within the Annual Fund.
- Utilize e-mail and web page options to increase the volume and variety of contact between the University and alumni.

Messages

- Make alumni feel more like part of a family - a successful family.
- Emphasize alumni participation in the Annual Fund over the size of gifts.
- Show alumni that giving is an investment because the University is a resource for their continuing education, access to programs and services, community involvement and networking opportunities.

OUTCOME: Goals

Using the input gathered from the three focus groups, conference attendees and University administrators together formed a preliminary list of goals. These address several key objectives critical to the strategic development of a successful Alumni Relations program.

- Begin strategic development for building a comprehensive alumni web page.
- Initiate a charter alumni chapter in Fairfield County.
- Complete an alumni database census report.
- Establish written goals and expectations for the Alumni Executive Council.
- Create an alumni volunteer program for service in the Greater Bridgeport area.
- Structure an alumni class agent program.
- Create an alumni image/identity marketing strategy.
CALL TO ACTION: You Can Help

Take this historic opportunity to participate in a rebirth of Pioneer alumni spirit. You can help shape the programs that will benefit both you and the University for life.

Add your voice by providing your input on this report.

E-mail: alumni@sacredheart.edu.
Phone: (203) 371-7860 — ask for the director of Alumni Relations Rob Cottle '90.
Mail: Office of Alumni Relations
Sacred Heart University
5151 Park Avenue, Fairfield, CT 06432-1000

Please help us update your data. Just for the record, and to be sure our files are current, please provide your critical contact information - address, phone, e-mail, fax, class year - and, if you wish, tell us what you're up to personally and professionally.

Luke Doyle, vice president for Institutional Advancement, guides the conference's wrap-up session, with attendees formulating specific goals for the Alumni Relations program.
Jeffrey Hohl '68 of Toledo, Ohio retired from Dana Corp., effective April 1999, after 30 years of service. He was the company's marketing manager.

Paul Timpanelli '69 was elected to a three-year term on the Barnum Museum Foundation's Board of Directors. Timpanelli is the president of the Bridgeport Regional Business Council.

Jeffrey Hohl '68 of Toledo, Ohio retired from Dana Corp., effective April 1999, after 30 years of service. He was the company's marketing manager.

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Reale to lead council

Matthew Reale '86 was elected to a two-year term as chair of the Alumni Executive Council at the group's June 7 meeting. Reale, an attorney with a practice in Shelton, succeeds Donna Blewitt '76.

As chair, Reale will also serve as the alumni representative on the University's Board of Trustees.

Other new officers are: John Kelly Jr. '86, '92 MBA, vice-chairperson; Catherine Cottle '91, '93 MBA, secretary; and Christine D'Arcangelo '85, treasurer.

The executive council, composed of members from each class, serves as the governing body of the Sacred Heart University Alumni Association. For information, contact Reale at (203) 924-4300.

Linda Bozzuto '70 of Waterbury has marked 25 years of service with the state Department of Social Services, the last decade as a supervisor.

Reg Marin (Marinaccio) '70 of Marietta, Ga., is the special education administrator at Grady High School in Atlanta.

Rudolph Cassetti Jr. '71 was appointed principal of Ripon School in Shelton, the region's only school for special education students.

Anna M. Gallan '71 of Danielson is a guidance counselor for grades 7-12 at Parish Hill Middle/Senior High School in Chaplin.

Peggy Wargo '72 retired as Fairfield town librarian, a position she held for five years. She had worked in the Fairfield Public Library since the 1950's.

Linda Dvornek '73 of Norwalk was promoted to vice president for research and development at R.T. Vanderbilt Co., Norwalk.

Joe Santo '73 was appointed director of sales for surfactants products at Virginia-based Albright & Wilson, with responsibilities for market development in North and Latin America. Santo joined the company in 1979.

Joseph Vincenzi '73 is a Spanish teacher at Central High School in Bridgeport.

Kenneth Marzik '74 of Naugatuck has joined the state's Department of Public Utility Control as a consumer information representative. Marzik and his wife, Dawn, became parents of twins, Sean Kenneth and Kaitylin Jean, on June 28, 1998.

Frederick Wirth '75 of Norwalk was appointed chief financial officer of Darien-based Charkit Chemical Corp. Prior to Charkit, Wirth was vice president and CFO at Allied Starch and Chemical Technologies Group.
Marilyn Greenberg '80 MBA is the founding president of Monroe Business Associates (MBA), a computer training firm in Monroe.

Drew Barrie Daruka '81 of La Vergne, Tenn., has joined the state of Tennessee's Commission on Children and Youth as a statistical analyst. Daruka previously spent 13 years with Xerox Corp.

Arlene Yakush '81 is a senior vice president at New Haven Savings Bank.

Judy Nalepovich Angell '82 of Nichols completed 15 years and 2,000 hours as a volunteer at Bridgeport Hospital, working with "preemies" in the newborn ICU. Both of her daughters are graduates of the University.

Jack Johnston '83 is running for re-election as second selectman of Easton. He recently retired as senior buyer and manager of office services with Dresser Industries of Stratford.

Richard M. Coba '84 and his wife, Lisa J. Kerekas-Coba '84, became parents of a girl, Brianna Lynn, on Jan. 4, 1998. Lisa is a certified public accountant at Leask & Leask, PC, Fairfield. Richard is a registered representative with Prudential in New Haven. They live in Huntington.

Barbara Fischer '84 was named pregnancy counseling specialist with Catholic Family Services of Bridgeport. Fischer is the founder-director of the Connecticut chapter of Birthright, Inc., a nonprofit organization for women.

Vincent Mangiacapra '84 has been named chief information officer at the University of New Haven.

Barbara Octavio '84 of Stratford is a realtor with Weichert Realtors in Westport.

Brian Ruther '85, '90 MAT of Norwalk was appointed director of admissions at St. Luke's School in New Canaan.

James Deeken '86 of Westport has earned Certified Management Accountant status from the Institute of Certified Management Accountants.

Rosemarie Eakin '86 has been accredited as an asset management specialist from the College for Financial Planning in Denver. Eakin is a registered representative with Advest Inc., Westport.

Rabbi Charles Feld '86 MBA is retiring as cantor of Congregation Beth El in Fairfield after 46 years of service. He and his wife, Roberta, live in Easton.

Sacred Heart University • Fall 1999

Pioneer Open marks decade

A record $55,000 was raised for scholarships on June 14 as the University celebrated a decade of Pioneer Open golf tournaments. As tournament director Laurie Bellico '88 pointed out, "that is a long way" from the $2,500 collected at the initial Pioneer Open in 1990. Since its inception, the Pioneer Open has realized more than $230,000 for the University's many scholarships.

At this year's event, held at the Oak Lane Country Club in Woodbridge, two teams tied for low gross with 61 scores: the Otis Elevator foursome of Michael Kaufman, Doug Hobb, Steve McKenzie and Tom Longhi, and the Fleet Bank team of Kevin Cunningham, Hugh Thresher, Dave Paulson and Cliff Mellor.

At the dinner, alumni, friends, trustees, regents and corporate and vendor sponsors were recognized for their contributions during a decade of tournaments.

The 10th annual Pioneer Open was co-sponsored by CompUSA and AT&T. Co-chairmen were T.J. Lanesee, owner of Lanesee Construction, Bridgeport; Ray Cassidy '88 MBA, manager of sales administration, Bermuda Department of Tourism, New York; and Bob Patton, president of R.J. Patton Co., Inc., Meriden.
Tina Gabriel '86, '97 MBA was promoted to first vice president at People's Bank, with responsibilities for the division's risk, loan review, collections and recovery areas.

Geralyn F. Schmitt '86 has joined the Cheshire-based law firm of Fazzone Baillie Ryan Schmitt and Seadale LLC. She received her law degree from the University of Bridgeport. Schmitt lives in Cheshire with her husband and two children.

William Culliton '87 MBA was named controller of John M. Glover Insurance in Norwalk.

Dan DeFrancesco '87 was appointed president of Corporate Travel Management Services at Robustelli World Travel, a division of Robustelli Corporate Services Ltd., in Stamford. He joined the company in 1982, most recently serving as vice president for corporate travel management.

Carol Ann Piper '87 of Shelton was named senior director of Childcare Services at the Westport/Weston YMCA.

Michelle J. Reilly '87 married Robert Doris in St. Teresa Church, Trumbull, on Sept. 12, 1998. Michelle is an executive secretary at Physicians Health Services, Trumbull. The couple resides in Trumbull.

Teodora Coppola '88 of Stamford was named Northeast Division vice president of Fremont Financial Corp. in New York City. She formerly worked with GE Capital and IBM Global Finance.

Michael Kelly '88 has joined The Atlantic Group, a marketing communications firm in Norwalk, as director of interactive media. Previously Kelly operated Michael Design.

Kathy McGannon '88 of Longmont, Colo., is the newsroom librarian with the Longmont Daily Times-Call.

Sandra Spadaccino '88 MAT of Bridgeport teaches seventh and eighth grade at Flood Middle School in Stratford. She was awarded a grant for a classroom project entitled “Many Faces, One Voice.”

Maicre Stein '88 6th Year has been named principal at Milford's West Shore Middle School, where she formerly was dean of students.

Barbara DeRiu '89 MAT, a fifth grade teacher at Long Meadow School in Middlebury, has completed 37 years of teaching.

Rev. Colin McKenna '89 MAT was ordained a priest by the Most Rev. Edward M. Egan, Bishop of the Diocese of Bridgeport, on May 29, 1999. Father McKenna, a native of Westport, was appointed parochial vicar at St. Joseph Parish in Shelton and spiritual director at St. Joseph High School in Trumbull.

Laura Ann Pizzuto '89 was married to James Coppola in Our Lady of Peace Church, Stratford, on Oct. 25, 1998. She is an administrative assistant with the Kasper Group, Inc., Bridgeport. They reside in Derby.

Deborah Shillingford '89 was named a personnel supervisor at Express Personnel Services, a temporary placement staffing firm in Fairfield.

Lynn Sibiskie '89 was married to Joseph Halkowicz on Nov. 13, 1998. She is a registered nurse in the intermediate coronary care unit at St. Vincent's Medical Center, Bridgeport. The couple resides in Trumbull.

Maggie Pernaselci Stauber '89 and her husband, Ken, became parents of their second son, Nickolas. He joins Matthew, 3. The family lives in Huntington.

Denise Suphin '89, '93 MAT was married to Joseph Tiberio on June 26, 1999 at St. Mary's Church in Milford. She is the University's dean of students.

Debra Gorup '90 married Stephen Brnetic on June 20, 1998. She is a graphic designer at Star Distributors Inc., West Haven. The couple resides in Shelton.

Karen Wallenta Goldbach '90 and her husband, William, became parents of a daughter, Alyssa Marie, on May 7, 1999.

Jennifer Burns Ignace '90 has become a paralegal with Catalano & Catalano, a law firm in Monroe. She lives in Ansonia with her husband, Mark, and their children, Brittany, 3, and Benjamin, 1.

Andy Palo '90 was married to Raelinda Fernandez in St. Stephen Church, Trumbull, on Jan. 2, 1999. Palo is an associate with the investment consulting firm of BARRA Rogers/Casey in Darien. They live in Trumbull.

Estelle Stascia-Reitano '90, a retired registered nurse, is a volunteer at Carolina House, Bridgeport; Norwalk Hospital and the Westport YMCA.

Nicole Yanarella '90 MAT has completed a decade as a kindergarten teacher at Maple Hill School in Naugatuck.

Geza Ziegler Jr. '90 MBA has joined the New Haven law firm of Delio & Peterson, LLC, where he is practicing patent and intellectual property law. Ziegler, his wife, Pamela, and their son, Jeremy, live in Norwalk.

Nancy Britto '91 married Emil Butros on July 19, 1998. She is a collection analyst at Bridgeport Hospital. They reside in Bridgeport.

Anthony Shea '91, South region sales and operations intern for Miller Bearings, Inc., West Palm Beach, Fla., was recently recognized for five years of service with the company. Shea lives in Lantana, Fla.

Maryne Robin '92 is the owner-operator of Nantes Computer Care in Stamford. The company, which is named for her hometown in France, has grown from a staff of one to five and now has a client list of more than 300.

Catherine Swenson '92, '94 MBA was promoted to group sales coordinator and manager, Central Dining Reservations at The Breakers Hotel in Palm Beach, Fla. As manager, she is responsible for the reservations of the hotel's nine restaurants.
Jennifer (Wirth) Azary '93 and her husband, Joe, became parents of a son, Alexander Josef, on Oct. 2, 1998. Jennifer is a second grade teacher at Columbus School in Norwalk. They reside in Huntington.

Coleen (Carroll) Lane '93 and her husband, Jeff, became parents of a girl, Emily Rose, on Sept. 17, 1998. Coleen works in customer service at R.T. Vanderbilt, Norwalk. They reside in Stratford.

Susann Alagna '94 was married to Paolo Palumbo on Sept. 13, 1998. She is employed as a paralegal with American Skandia in Shelton. They live in Milford.

Kimberly Andren '94 MAT married Peter Hastings on March 28, 1998. She is a teacher at Mill Hill School in Fairfield. They reside in Wilton.

Tracey Besescheck '94 was married to Paul Nerkowski on May 1, 1999. She is a LAN administrator for Cummings and Lockwood, a New Haven law firm. They live in Milford.

Peggy Bresnick Kendler '94 MAT has been named editor of School Technology Market Report. She and her husband, Douglas, became parents of a son, Jesse Maxwell, on March 15, 1998. They reside in Monroe.

James Kraemer '94 was married to Jacqueline Montesgrato on Sept. 5, 1998. Jim is a project manager with Astoria Federal Savings and Loan Association in Lake Success, N.Y. The couple lives in Merrick, N.Y.

Sharon Palm '94 was promoted to small business development manager at Chase Manhattan Bank's Stamford office, with responsibilities for southern Fairfield County. Palm, of Newtown, is also a vice president at the bank.

Kerri-Lynn Dellert '95 was married to Matthew Kelemen on Nov. 14, 1998, in St. Mark Church, Stratford. Dellert is an attorney with the firm of Letizia, Ambrose & Cohen in New Haven. They reside in Stratford.

Donald Jack '95 MBA married Brooke Kroll on June 20, 1998. He is a senior tax accountant at News America Marketing, Norwalk. They live in Milford.

Michael Kniec '95 is a recruit with the Wallingford Police Department.

Denise Mathews-D'Onofrio '95 and her husband, John, became parents of a son, Jordan, on Feb. 28, 1998. They reside in Stratford.

John Mirabito '95 MAT is teaching guitar at the Renaissance Center for Artistic Enrichment in Southbury.

Tracy Mongillo '95 was married to James Garthwaite on July 27, 1998. She is a budgets and results department supervisor at Citizens' Communications, Stamford. They live in Stratford.

Shannon Sansone '95 was married to Vincent Brennan Jr. on Sept. 19, 1998. She is a marketing representative at Alimak Elevator Co. in Bridgeport as well as an aerobics instructor. They reside in Stratford.

Christopher Weiss '95 MAT of Milford has completed four years as a fourth grade teacher at Christian Heritage School in Trumbull.

Rachel Harrison '96 of Bridgeport has accepted a position as a case manager with the Norwalk Emergency Shelter. She had been an eligibility service worker with the state's Department of Social Services.

Peter Lenox '96 was ordained to the transitional diaconate by the Diocese of Bridgeport on April 17.

Robert McCain '96 6th Year of Transitional Diaconate of Bridgeport has been named principal of Ledyard Middle School.

June O'Connor '96 MAT was named Teacher of the Year in the town of Plainfield. She is an art teacher at Moosup Elementary.

Dos Santos turns author

Daniel dos Santos '90, '92 MBA has parlayed a lifetime of soccer expertise and marketing acumen into a book, Soccer in Your Backyard (Reneda House, Hialeah, Fla., $12.50).

The book is instructional in nature, but it goes beyond that. "The message is to bring soccer home, to get parents involved and more capable of helping their kids. It's a way of uniting the family," dos Santos says. He envisions his first literary effort becoming a textbook for youth soccer organizations.

As a 27-year-old graduate student in 1990, dos Santos earned All-America honors at the University, leading the nation in scoring with 34 goals and setting or tying several school records. He also received the John A. Croffy Student-Athlete Academic Award. Earlier, dos Santos was a standout player on teams in his native Uruguay, including its national team.

Today, he devotes considerable time to Global Youth, Inc., a non-profit organization dedicated to educating children through sports. In addition, dos Santos is president of the All-American Soccer School, which conducts soccer clinics and camps in Connecticut and abroad.

He lives in Royal Oaks, Fla., with his wife, Marilyn, and their children, Christina and Michael.

To obtain a copy of dos Santos' book, call (203) 341-7171 or (305) 822-7400. A portion of the proceeds from sales of the book will go to the Alumni Association and the men's soccer team.
Shawn Szturma '96 MBA of Cambridge, Mass., has joined an Internet start-up company, webMethods (www.webmethods.com), as a systems engineer for the New England region.

Deirdre Eller '97 was named coordinator of first-year programs for the Student Life Department at Sacred Heart University.

Jeffrey Ferri '97 MAT was married to Sally Ann Keese on June 27, 1998. He is a mathematics teacher at Amity Regional High School in Woodbridge. The couple resides in Bridgeport.

Andrew Foster '97 has accepted a position in the financial assistance office at Fairfield University and is pursuing a master's degree in counseling.

Pamela Howard '97 (6th Year), a family nurse practitioner, has joined the practice of Peter C. Tortora, M.D., at the Fairfield Medical Group.

Michael June '97 of Wallingford has been named plant clerk for A.P. Construction Co., Stamford.

Marc LaBrecque '97 is a lance corporal in the United States Marine Corps stationed with the Security Forces in Bahrain in the Persian Gulf.

John Mann Jr. '97 MAT is a deacon at St. Brendan's in Ormond Beach, Fla., where he serves as youth minister, director of development and religion teacher for grades 5-8.

Karin Mann '97 was named athletic trainer at Teikyo Post University in Waterbury.

Eileen McKenna '97 is a marketing associate with Deloitte & Touche in New York City.

Cynthia Mello '97 (6th Year) was appointed assistant principal at East Haddam School.

Jill Peslak '97 and Michael Russo '98 were married on May 30, 1998. She is a bookkeeper with Home Depot, Fairfield, and he is employed by Enterprise Rent-A-Car, Stamford. They reside in Fairfield.

Donald Traganese '97 of Stratford was named technical director of epoxy products at Five Star Products, Inc., in Fairfield.

Jennifer Wuyck '97 MAT and Ky Higgins were married July 18, 1998 in St. John of the Cross Church, Middlebury.

James D. Barrett '98 MBA was named principal of St. Bridget's School in Framingham, Mass. He is the former principal at St. Bernadette School in New Haven. Barrett and his wife, Cathy, reside in Westborough, Mass.

Nancy Dineen '98 MAT is a second grade teacher at Frank A. Berry School in Bethel.

Arthur Gerckens '98 and his wife, Patsy, became parents of twin daughters, Ashley and Brittany, on June 12, 1999. Art has been promoted to manager of duplicating and mailing services at the University.

Debra Peterson '98 is enrolled in the Ph.D. pharmaceutical science program at the University of Arizona, Tucson.

Pasqualina Riccio '98 MBA was married to Edward Bednarik Jr. in St. Charles Church, Bridgeport, on July 11, 1998. She is a portfolio specialist with GE Capital, Stamford. They reside in Newtown.

Jennifer Robb '98 is enrolled in the master's degree program in physical therapy at Husson College, Calais, Maine.
Louis Cerminara, a Public Safety officer at the University for nearly a decade and a popular figure on campus, on June 28, 1999. He was 51.

Peter Downey, founding coach of the Sacred Heart University men's ice hockey team, in South Windsor on May 31, 1999. He was 56.

Downey, who coached the Pioneers in 1993-94 and recruited the players that comprised the program's early nucleus, was manager of the Norwich municipal rink at the time of his death.

Joseph Fedorko Sr. '89 MAT, an industrial arts teacher at Masuk High School in Monroe until his retirement four years ago, on Oct. 20, 1998. He was 62.

Charles Harris Jr. '96, on Nov. 27, 1998. Harris, 32, taught in the Norwalk and Bridgeport school systems.

Ruth Carlson Horn, a leader in the development of the arts in southwestern Connecticut and director of the Carlson Programs, on May 18, 1999. She was 86.

The Carlson Festivals brought dozens of notable classical musicians and singers to area stages, including pianist Alicia de Laroccha, who gave a solo performance at Sacred Heart University in November 1994.

In recognition of Mrs. Horn's many artistic and community service endeavors, the University awarded her an honorary degree in 1979.

Thomas H. Hrusa '84, assistant attorney general for the state of Connecticut for the last nine years, on Feb. 5, 1999. He was 41. Hrusa held a law degree from the University of Bridgeport.

Anne Jandrisevits, the benefactor of the Jandrisevits Learning Center and a long-time friend of the University, on June 6, 1999. She was 88.

In 1991, Mrs. Jandrisevits established a $1 million charitable remainder trust from the Peter and Anne Jandrisevits Endowed Fund, leading to the creation of the Learning Center. The center, located in the lower level of the Ryan-Matura Library, assists students with learning disabilities.

Two years ago, the center was renamed the Jandrisevits Learning Center in honor of Mrs. Jandrisevits and her late husband.

Gail McGarry '80, '89 MAT, a business education teacher at St. Joseph High School in Trumbull for many years before joining Golf Digest as an editorial assistant, on Oct. 13, 1998.

Donald Place '76, an accountant at Cadbury-Schweppes in Stamford, on July 20, 1998. He was 55.

Helen Reid '89, a resident of Hamden, on July 11, 1999. She was 60.

Eloise C. Savage, a University friend, on March 17, 1999. She was 81. In 1991, the Earl and Eloise Savage Endowed Scholarship Fund was established by the couple's generous gift. Mr. Savage died in 1996.

Thomas Shalvoy '72, an account manager with Truth Hardware, on Jan. 11, 1999. Shalvoy, 52, lived in Quincy, Mass.

Raymond Stollman, a former real estate instructor at the University, on Oct. 14, 1998. He was 77. For more than 45 years, Stollman operated a real estate agency that bore his name.

Raymond Tierney Sr. '90, a retired captain of the Bridgeport Police Department, on Dec. 30, 1998. He was 83.
Few bank tellers rise through the ranks to become bank president, but an intense desire to succeed has placed Douglas L. Kennedy '78, '82 MBA, in this special category.

Kennedy, a proud alumnus, prominent business leader, devoted family man and community volunteer, graduated from Trumbull High School with average grades. As he puts it, “I was a late starter, something of an underachiever.” But when he enrolled at Sacred Heart University, something clicked.

While working as a bank teller to finance his major in economics, Kennedy earned excellent marks and assumed ever-increasing roles in student politics and leadership, ultimately serving as Student Government president as a senior. In addition, an internship under then-President Thomas P. Melady, Ph.D., gave him exposure to corporate leaders in Fairfield County.

“Those experiences really put me on the right path,” he says. That path has run straight and true, leading to his position as president and chief executive officer of Fleet Bank New Jersey, a division of Fleet Bank, N.A., subsidiary of Fleet Financial Group.

Fleet, as an adjective, accurately describes Kennedy’s rise in leadership. Upon graduation in 1978, he began a five-year stint as assistant vice president at CitiTrust Bank in Bridgeport. While there, he earned an MBA in finance from the University. By 1983 he had joined NatWest USA Connecticut Corp. in Norwalk, serving as president and building from scratch a highly successful loan production office.

As the banking industry was consolidating, Kennedy’s responsibilities were expanding. By 1992 he was named senior vice president of NatWest Bank’s northern New Jersey division, and then in 1995 he took over operations for the central and southern divisions as well.

When Fleet acquired NatWest a year later, it knew it had a good thing in Doug Kennedy. He was groomed as executive vice president and market manager before being appointed president and CEO in December 1998.

As impressive as his professional accomplishments are, Kennedy’s commitment to family values and community causes serves to inspire. “In corporate America,” he says, “people are working harder than ever. We make sure our employees take advantage of programs like flex plans, job-share and compressed work weeks to promote a sound family life.”

As husband and father, he admits it can be challenging to maintain a balance between professional responsibilities and family commitments. He seeks creative ways to find additional time for his wife, Carol, and their children, Katie, 15, Jeff, 14, and Melissa, 10. His favorite example is sharing extended morning breakfasts with his family - they reside in Mountain Lakes, N.J. — following business trips or late nights at the office.

As a concerned community member, he volunteers at a soup kitchen and at a Catholic charities agency, as a board member for a New Jersey Catholic high schools scholarship program and the Liberty Science Center - one of the nation’s largest science museums. As bank president, he is active on boards and associations statewide.

Kennedy the proud alumnus helped to energize the Alumni Executive Council, serving as its chair from 1990-92. While distance has prevented him from remaining as involved as he’d like to be, he is an enthusiastic supporter of the University’s progress and direction.

Regarding his own future course, Kennedy says: “Whatever it brings, the aspects of my career I personally enjoy most are being challenged, creating a vision and driving a business. The particular position or title has never been the motivation.”

Nonetheless, as president and CEO of a thriving financial institution, it’s clear that Doug Kennedy has earned the best of both worlds.
December at Sacred Heart University

2/Thursday  Graduate Open House, Theatre, 4:30–7:30 p.m. Sponsored by College of Education and Health Professions. Info: Alexis Haakonsen, 365-4731.


3/Friday  Fall Recruitment Day, Ryan-Matura Library, 9 a.m.–4 p.m. Open to all students and alumni. Info: Diedra Parker, Career Development, 371-7975.

5/Sunday  Concert, Sacred Heart University Community Orchestra, Theatre, 3 p.m. Box Office: 374-2777.


18/Saturday  Annual Faculty/Staff Christmas Reception, Pitt Center. Eucharistic liturgy 5 p.m., cocktails and Hors d’oeuvres 6-8 p.m.

30/Thursday  “Hello Dolly!” musical, Theatre, 2 p.m. Also Jan. 2, 9, 16, 2 p.m.; Dec. 31, Jan. 1, 8, 15, 7 p.m. Tickets: $18, seniors/children $15. Box Office: 374-2777.

Events are free unless otherwise noted.

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— U.N. Ambassador Vernon Walters
Discovery '99

The University's 11th annual Discovery Awards & Scholarship Dinner, on Oct. 16, recognized four people and one organization for significant community service accomplishments. From left: Robert J. Trefry and Dr. Mary G. Trefry, Fairfield; Mary-Ann Bunting, Westport; the Rev. William D. Donovan, pastor of Holy Family Church, Fairfield; President Anthony J. Cernera; and Laura M. Wilbur and Cynthia Rubin of the Near & Far Aid Association, Southport. Bunting, a senior financial advisor with Bunting and Somma, received the Bishop Walter W. Curtis Medal of Honor. The Trefrys (he is president and CEO of Bridgeport Hospital, she is an assistant professor of marketing in the College of Business), Father Donovan and the Near & Far Aid were presented Discovery Awards. The black-tie gala, held in the William H. Pitt Health & Recreation Center, attracted 350 people and raised $200,000 for the University's many scholarship programs.