CCJU Receives Record $1 Million Gift

The University's Center for Christian-Jewish Understanding (CCJU) has received a $1 million gift, the largest donation in the center's history. Louella Lieberman, a longtime supporter of the Sacred Heart University family, said President Anthony J. Cernera, more than $1 million.

"As a university founded during the Second Vatican Council, whose teachings encouraged interreligious dialogue and cooperation, Sacred Heart University has a special role to play in this process. This gift will allow our center to expand its efforts into the future and to inspire further resolution of problems encountered as a result of misunderstanding or differing ideologies."

By any name, the University's 830-seat facility is intended to be executed in three phases. The first — otherwise known as Act I — calls for the installation of a new heating and air-conditioning system. Construction will begin in January and be completed in late April, making the theatre accessible year-round.

The estimated cost for the HAC system is $200,000. The state of Connecticut has awarded the University a $50,000 grant toward this work, but the grant is contingent upon the University raising $150,000 in matching funds. Ann D'Addario has already made a significant donation for this portion of the renovation, but more money still needs to be raised.

"I invite everyone who values and uses this facility to become a partner in the modernization and renovation of this valuable community resource," said Elinor Biggs, vice president for University Relations. "In the past year alone, more than 12,000 people from Connecticut and beyond our borders attended events here. Once these improvements are complete, Sacred Heart University will truly have a year-round facility that will benefit the University, the community and the region."

Once Act I is complete and the heating and air-conditioning are installed, the University will move into Act II of this fundraising effort: the replacement of the facility's original hardwood seats. The final phase, Act III, calls for the modernization of the lighting and sound systems, lobby and box office.

Michael Bozzone, dean of freshmen, appreciates the need for a renovation; his 11-year-old daughter, Alicia, performs in the Summer Cabaret Theatre Workshop. "You have a lot of talented theater people working and performing there. If you want to attract audiences and make it more professional, you've got to upgrade the facility," Bozzone said.

The estimated cost for the renovation, which was announced at a Nov. 14 benefit show, is $1.5 million. Bozzone said, "The money is already in hand; we just need to make sure it's being used effectively.

"I'm very excited about this project," said Dr. Brian Stilten, theatre professor. "I think it's going to be a great asset to the University and the community."

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The annual Broadway musical subscription series, student productions, the summer cabaret workshop, educational and other special events — many held under the auspices of outside organizations — contribute to the theatre's role as a valuable community resource.

For information about making a contribution, contact Institutional Advancement at 371-7860.
Accomplishments

DAVID COPPOLA, Ph.D., director of programs and publications for the Center of Christian-Jewish Understanding, has assumed additional duties this fall as executive assistant to President Anthony J. Cenera.

TOM CORRIGAN, Ph.D., associate professor of finance, presented a paper titled "Nine Years of Economic Expansion: The Phillips Curve Finally Making an Appearance?" at the 50th International Atlantic Economic Conference in Charleston, S.C., on Oct. 16.

ART GERCKENS ’97, manager of the Mail Center, was named "Man of the Month" by Nine Times, the Economic Expansion, the Phillips Curve Finally Making an Appearance? at the 50th International Atlantic Economic Conference in Charleston, S.C., on Oct. 16.

CHRISTEL MANNING, Ph.D., assistant professor of religious studies, presented a paper entitled "Women and Power" at the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion conference in Houston on Oct. 18-22.

MICHAEL PIZZI, clinical assistant professor of occupational therapy, was the keynote speaker at the Connecticut Occupational Therapy Association’s conference in early November. His topic was "Wellness through the Millennium: The Creation of Occupation." Pizzi was a busy presenter this fall. He gave a workshop, "The Entrepreneurial You," at both the Connecticut and Ohio OT associations and the "Intro to Myofascial Release" workshop at OT conference in early November. His topic was "Touching Humanity," which introduces 12 disabled characters through monologues and Broadway tunes.


DORI TAYLOR SULLIVAN, Ph.D., the new director of Nursing Programs, was granted tenure by the University's Board of Trustees at its meeting on Oct. 24. The vote was unanimous.

And Lombardi has led this once tiny, insignificant FM station into a leadership position in the broadcasting industry.

The initial reason for the surge in popularity, according to Lombardi, was the change in format, from rock to classical, which took place shortly after his arrival.

"When I got here, the average audience was 700 listeners," he said. Within five years, the listenerhip had grown to 111,000.

As the University-operated station moves through its 36th year, its audience has expanded to an all-time high of 155,000 (Arbitron, Spring 2000). It recently surpassed Connecticut Public Radio as the state’s most popular non-commercial station and, even more significantly, now claims the 33rd largest audience among the 534 National Public Radio affiliates nationwide. Including WSHU's sister stations, WSUF on Long Island and WSHU-AM, the total listening audience has risen to the 188,000 range.

As general manager, the energetic Lombardi is responsible for the stations' fund-raising, programming and day-to-day operations. When WSHU began its major growth spurt in the early 1990s, he was forced to relinquish the chief engineer's hat, stating, "That's more than a full-time job by itself."

The combined staff has grown from the nine of a decade ago to 19 full-time professionals and five part-timers. In addition, three Sacred Heart University students provide work-study assistance. When he arrived in 1983, there was a staff of four.

As principal fund-raiser, Lombardi has helped place WSHU in a healthy state. Today, virtually all of the station's $2.7 million operating budget is accounted for by donations from 18,500 active supporters along with grants from corporations and the federal government. "Our most recent pledge drive added 1,500 names to that list," he said with a touch of pride.

By taking advantage of new technology, WSHU and its sister stations will continue to prosper, Lombardi believes. He cites direct satellite broadcasting, digital cable and web-casting as possible areas of expansion. Aside from the daily strains of Bach, Beethoven and Mozart, Lombardi sees WSHU's niche as "local service to local people. That's why we are beginning to produce more local news, weather and other programming," he said. "We're trying to provide more and more high-quality local programming."

Lombardi's achievements are well-deserved by his alma mater. Two years ago, he was among the initial recipients of the Alumni Award of Excellence from the Sacred Heart University Alumni Association. That was a special afternoon for the Lombard clan, including his wife, Pat (Kone) '74, and their daughters, Karen, now 22 and a volunteer at the Covenant House in Houston, and Sara, 15, a sophomore at Trumbull High School.
Dr. Rose’s Election Night Analysis Aired by WSHU

Gary Rose, Ph.D., the University’s renowned political pundit, author and chair of the Political Science Department, shared his expertise with WSHU’s listening audience on Election Night.

During the 9-11 p.m. time slot, Dr. Rose analyzed the results of the state’s six congressional districts as well as the one-sided Lieberman-Giordano senate race from the station’s studios on campus.

“I really enjoyed doing it. The results of each race were coming in over the AP Associated Press, and I was there to comment and analyze,” he said.

Dr. Rose and news director Tandaleya Wilder also commented on updates received from WSHU reporters stationed at various campaign headquarters.

“I’m not surprised that (Christopher) Shays won, but that (Stephanie) Sanchez did so well. She’s going to be heard from again,” Dr. Rose said. “I knew the 2nd District race between Sam Gejdenson and Rob Simmons would be close, but I didn’t think Gejdenson would lose. Gejdenson had served for 10 straight terms.”

Tom Kuser, WSHU program director, said the station had considered airing Dr. Rose earlier in the evening, when the audience was potentially larger, but believed it was “important to wait until the polls closed before we did any speculation.”

Cablevision 12 had also requested Dr. Rose’s appearance on Election Night, but he had already committed to WSHU. He would welcome a return visit to the University-operated National Public Radio affiliate.

Campus Compact Forum Held

Campus Compact’s third annual Connecticut Conference and Faculty Forum on Service Learning brought 125 college and high school educators to campus on Oct. 13. The day-long event included a welcome from President Anthony J. Cucuzza, nearly two dozen sessions and the keynote address by Dr. Eugene Rice, director of the Forum on Faculty Roles and Rewards at the American Association of Higher Education.

Welcome, New Hires

Welcome, New Hires (September-October)

M. C. MATTHEW, admission counselor, University Relations
M. A. HOBSON, graduate studies coordinator, University Relations
C. M. RYAN, assistant coordinator, Information Technology
M. M. PELLEGRINO, coordinator, Information Technology
E. B. MOORE, coordinator, Information Technology
L. E. SMITH, coordinator, Information Technology
P. M. BARTLETT, director, Information Technology

Dr. Mindy Miserezino, assistant professor of psychology, discusses “Engaging Students in the Community: Enhancing the Learning Process” in her session in the Faculty Lounge.

Transfers

GUILLANE DALE, from President’s Office to CCJU
LINDA HUDSON, from Admissions to Accounting/Finance & Economics
BONNIE SIGNORE ’79, from University Relations to President’s Office

Anniversaries

20 Years

LORETTA WINTER ’92 MAT, Philosophy & Religious Studies

10 Years

NANCY ALLYN, Lisbon campus library
M. S. GRAHAM, WSHU Long Island studio

5 Years

JULIE BASTARACHE, Business Office

Births

MICHELE DEPINA, Graduate Admissions, and her husband, Jose, a son, Dante Augusto, on Oct. 14, 2000.
AMY VAN BUREN, Ph.D., Psychology faculty, and her husband, John Pelosi, their first child, Nicholas John Pelosi, on Nov. 9, 2000.

In Memoriam

JAMES W. JOLLY, a recipient of the University’s Discovery Award in 1991 for a lifetime of achievement, on Oct. 14, 2000. He was 89. After a 45-year career at Southern New England Telephone, Jolly became the first volunteer executive director of St. Vincent’s Medical Center Foundation.

Briefly Noted

ACS Chapter Honored

For the fifth straight year, Sacred Heart University’s student affiliate chapter of the American Chemical Society was named an "Outstanding Chapter." As was the case in 1999-2000, the University’s chapter was among 31 chapters recognized among 1,000 nationwide.

Linda Faber, Ph.D., assistant professor of chemistry, serves as the chapter’s advisor and Elizabeth Mangione, a senior from Valley Stream, N.Y., is the chapter president.

New Major Approved

A new interdisciplinary major, Communication and Technology Studies, has been approved by the state of Connecticut and priced at $100 for holiday giving.

Dr. Gary Rose interacts with WSHU's news director, Tandaleya Wilder, during his Election Night broadcast.

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SPECIAL EVENTS


Dec. 16 Annual Faculty/Staff Christmas Reception, Pitz Center. Eucharistic liturgy 5 p.m., reception 6-8 p.m. RSVP by Dec. 12 to 371-7790.

ADMISSIONS

Dec. 5 Graduate Open House, Pitz Center Board Room, 4-7 p.m. Info: Kim Galeotte, 365-7619.

COFFEEHOUSE SERIES

Nov. 30 Jamaican Coffeehouse, Mahogany Room, 7:30 p.m. One World is a duo specializing in Calypso, Soca and Reggae music.

Dec. 7 International Holiday Cafe, Mahogany Room, 7:30 p.m. This traditional event ushers in the holiday season with an international celebration of music. The CT Opera Express will present a tour of diverse cultures. More than 20 different desserts will be served. Sponsor: International/Multicultural Center. Admission: $8; faculty & staff donation, $5; children under 12, $4; students, free. Info: Tina Shah, 396-8072.

CONCERTS

Dec. 3 University Community Orchestra, Theatre, 2 p.m.

Dec. 3 Good News Gospel Choir, Theatre, 7 p.m.

Dec. 8 University and Show Choirs, Theatre, 7:30-8:30 p.m. The new choirs make their debut. Info: Pat Smith, 371-7735.

EXHIBITS


LECTURES


THEATRE


COFFEEHOUSE SERIES

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Women's Basketball Will Visit Ireland

The women's basketball team will become just the second Sacred Heart University athletic team to travel abroad when it visits Ireland next August.

The 11-day, 10-night preseason trip will include five games against Irish opponents, with the possibility of the Irish National Team becoming part of the schedule.

The trip will serve as a homecoming for Kate Mahier, a native of Waterford, Ireland and a freshman forward on the current Pioneer.

"We had talked to other schools that had taken their teams abroad, Harvard, Monmouth, Rider, and they all said it really helped their kids in a lot of ways," said Coach Ed Swanson.

"We also talked to the History Department about our kids doing independent study while they're there."

Last March, the men's volleyball team made the quantum leap across the Atlantic by competing in the Czech Republic during Spring Break.

The first of several fundraisers, the Women's Basketball Golf Tournament at the D. Fairchild Wheeler Golf Course on Aug. 28, netted $3,000 for the women's journey. More than 75 people attended the post-tournament reception at Eric & Michael's Steakhouse in Fairfield.

According to Swanson, the cost for the Aug. 16-27 trip, including players, coaching staff, trainer and manager, is in the $40,000 range. For information or to make a donation, contact Swanson (365-7698) or Mark Adzigian at 365-7601.

SHU Forum

Continued from page 1

Theater: "Stewards of the Tradition." The opening speaker was the Rev. Robert Imbeldi, a Yale-educated Ph.D. and associate professor of theology at Boston College. He was joined by Kathleen Mahoney, Ph.D., an assistant professor of education at Boston College; David O'Brien, Ph.D., a professor of history at Holy Cross College; Margaret O'Brien Steinfels, editor of Commonweal magazine; and Brian Stilpner, Ph.D., assistant professor of religious studies at Sacred Heart University and director of the University's Hersher Institute for Applied Ethics.

Saturday morning's keynote presentation, "Developing the Tradition," was offered by the Rev. Michael J. Himes, Ph.D., a professor of theology at Boston College. In a wide-ranging presentation laced with humor and erudition, he noted the importance of the First Commandment for Catholic educators.

Saturday afternoon's plenary session, "Maintaining the Tradition," was led by Yale Professor Michel Dillon, Ph.D., a native of Ireland. She presented an analysis of research she had performed on the meaning and implications of Catholic higher education from the viewpoints of presidents, chief academic officers and faculty members. It provoked lively discussion from the floor. The results of the survey will be tabulated by Sacred Heart University for later distribution.

The Rev. Frans Jozef van Beeck, John Cardinal Cody Professor of Sacred Theology at Loyola University in Chicago, made the conference's closing presentation on Sunday morning. Providing what he called "food for thoughtful and erudition faith," he explored the theme, "Teaching as Vocation."

Sacred Heart University Press is planning to publish the second volume in a series, Examining the Catholic Intellectual Tradition: Issues and Perspectives, a book of essays based on conference discussions and focused on the application of the tradition to a variety of academic disciplines.