University Pays Tribute to Pitt

In a moving tribute to a benefactor and friend, Sacred Heart University conducted a memorial ceremony for William H. Pitt in the lobby of the structure that bears his name — the William H. Pitt Health and Recreation Center. The date for the brief event was as significant as the location: Oct. 16 was William Pitt’s birthday.

The prominent Fairfield County realtor, whose $3 million donation represents the single-largest gift in the University’s history and whose scholarships will serve students for years to come, died on Sept. 9 in Greenwich. He was 73.

During the ceremony, President Anthony J. Cernera and University trustee Robert D. Scinto presented a plaque to Pitt’s widow, Pauline Pitt, and Dr. Cernera unveiled a plaque bearing Pitt’s photograph and an inscription, which will hang in the Pitt Center lobby. The Rev. Robert Malone of Campus Ministry offered a blessing for the plaque.

Pitt’s record gift was instrumental in the creation of the center, a $17.5 million, 132,500-square-foot facility that opened its doors in September 1997.

Sacred Heart University was the first institution of higher education in Connecticut to establish a laptop computer program. And now it is among the first in the country to become a wireless campus, providing access to its computer network from any location on the Fairfield campus.

The new network, installed this fall by Symbol Technologies, provides students to benefit from a technologically enriched learning environment where they have instant access to information — whether they need to send an email, receive a class assignment or conduct research on the Internet.

All incoming freshmen and transfer students — more than 1,100 of the University’s 2,600 undergraduates — have received laptops with the connection to the wireless network. In addition, all full-time faculty are in the process of having their laptops fitted with the wireless connection, and the remaining laptops will be made compatible during the next few years.

“This is an historic announcement and a matter of great pride that we are one of the first universities in the country to install this technology that will greatly enhance the learning experience of our students,” President Anthony J. Cernera said at an Oct. 5 news conference. “While there’s something significant about being one of the first universities to institute a wireless network, what’s important is that this effort is emblematic of our desire to find innovative ways to open doors to knowledge.”

Jennifer Mattei, Ph.D., assistant professor of biology, termed the addition of the wireless network “an exciting development” for the University. “Now when I take my ecology class out to the meadow (behind the Jefferson Hill residence halls) each fall, they can use their computers as a research tool,” she said. “For example, if they can’t identify a certain plant, they are able to find a picture of it right there on their laptops.”

By implementing a wireless network, the University has greatly reduced dependence on access through hard-wired connections. Symbol’s wireless system was created in the form of small and inconspicuous antennas mounted in various areas throughout campus. Working closely with the University, Symbol located where the antennas needed to be placed so that students and faculty would be assured of a connection, regardless of their location — inside or outside.

To connect to the wireless network, each laptop is fitted with a special wireless card supplied by the Information Technology division. Data sent through the network may be encrypted to ensure its security.

“Recognizing the amount of work and study performed by students outside the classroom, in preparation for the classroom, we felt we could positively impact that effort by giving students the ability to connect to the Internet from anywhere on campus, not just those hard-wired locations,” said Michael Trimble, assistant vice president of technology. “In the end we believe that ‘anytime, anywhere learning’ will be the model for the future.”

Rob Trenske, a first-year student from Naugatuck, uses the wireless laptop “all the time. I can use it in the library or in the middle of the quad. I think you can concentrate better where you’re most comfortable,” he said.

Symbol, located in Holtsville, N.Y., is a pioneer in wireless technology and the winner of this year’s U.S. National Medal of Technology.

Wake Forest, Drexel and Buena Vista in Iowa are other universities to institute a wireless network this fall. According to one projection, wireless networking will become a $2.2 billion industry by 2003.

University Among First in Nation to Institute Wireless Network

Sacred Heart University will sponsor a major conference, “Examining the Catholic Intellectual Tradition,” on the weekend of Nov. 10-12.

Leading scholars and theologians such as Louis Dupre’, Ph.D., retired T.L. Riggs Professor of Philosophy and Religion, Yale University, and the Rev. Michael J. Himes, Ph.D., associate professor of theology at Boston College, will explore the definitions, characteristics, history and challenges of the Catholic intellectual tradition at the three-day forum.

They will be joined by other distinguished scholars like Michele Dillon, Ph.D., associate professor of sociology, Yale; the Rev. Gerald A. Mc Cool, S.J., Ph.D., professor emeritus of theology, Fordham University; Monika K. Hellwig, Ph.D., executive director, Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities; Margaret O’Brien Steinfels, editor, Commonweal; and Ursula King, Ph.D., professor of religious studies, University of Bristol, England.

Dr. Dupee, Furbers Himis and McCool, and Dr. Hellwig have been awarded honorary degrees by the University.

Among other presenters and facilitators at the conference will be several faculty members: Jeffrey P. Cain, Ph.D. (English), James Castonguay, Ph.D. (Media Studies), Nicole X. Cauvin, Ph.D. (Sociology), Michael J. Emery, Ed.D. (Physical Therapy), Lucjan T. Olsowski, Ph.D. (Economics), John B. Roney, Ph.D. (History) and Brian Stilmer, Ph.D. (Religious Studies).

In conjunction with the conference, Sacred Heart University Press is planning to publish Examining the Catholic Intellectual Tradition: Issues and Perspectives. The book of essays will be based on conference discussions and focus on the application of the tradition to a variety of academic disciplines.

For more information, visit the conference website, http://cit.sacredheart.edu.
Faculty Profile

Pat Smith is the new director of academic music programs.

What does it take to replace a legend? Pat Smith isn't certain her shoes are large enough to stand in the same music room where Leland Roberts once held the baton. "From what I've heard, Leland just had an aura about him that was uncanny," said Smith, the University's new director of academic music programs. "When he performed music, people understood themselves more.

Briefly Noted

For Art's Sake Anti-smoking campaigns by three senior art majors have been selected by the Regional Youth/Adult Substance Abuse Project (RVASAP) to be shown in area movie theaters. The ads were developed last spring by Dave Bartolotti (Wrentham, Mass.), Amanda Damour (Consortook, N.H.), and Nicole Madzar (Wolfboro, N.H.) as part of a Service-Learning project in the junior graphic design program.

Counseling Center Affiliation The University has established an affiliation with the Westport-based New Learning Center that will benefit psychology majors and those pursuing degrees in other professions, such as nursing or education. Through the affiliation, which was piloted last year, students will take classes at the prestigious counseling center, earning up to three credits for each course. The classes are also open to members of the community. Students will also have the opportunity to participate in ongoing events and forums at the New Learning Center that address important issues. Claire J. Paolino, Ph.D., dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, called the affiliation "an exciting and unique opportunity for our students."

Dr. Rose a Catalyst A legislative proposal that requires the teaching of civics in the state's high schools is working its way through the Connecticut General Assembly. "An Act Requiring a Civics Course for High School Graduation" has its origins in a speech given by Gary Rose, Ph.D., chair of the University's Political Science Department.

In an address eight years ago at the Connecticut League of Women Voters (LWV) convention in Hartford, Dr. Rose lamented that students had virtual knowledge of how their government works. This prompted the LWV to work on legislation to mandate civics education in government to the state level.

Student Leaders at Institute Student Government President Vimala George, a senior from Trumbull, and two other student leaders from Sacred Heart University participated in a summer Leadershape Institute sponsored by the Conference of Independent Colleges (CIC) in Champaign, Ill.

George, Krissy Pacelli, a junior from Plainville and a Student Government vice president, and Tom Pescie, a sophomore from Ridgefield and president of the Class of 2003, were joined at the July 5-11 session by 72 other student leaders from universities across the country.

United Way 2000 The University's United Way 2000 campaign is in full swing, reports Ann Mann, manager of public affairs.

"Giving through the United Way campaign is the easiest, most effective way to support our community, said Miron. "The campaign benefits all of us — the after-school programs our children attend; the services provided for our elderly relatives; the support groups for those of us coping with a family illness. I hope everyone will consider giving generously." For information, contact Miron at 371-7790.

Habitat Meets Mr. Habitat Several members of the campus Habitat for Humanity share a moment with Millard Fuller, founder of Habitat International, during his visit to campus on Sept. 8. Front row, from left: Patricia Kurowski '98, Anne Marie D'Amore '00, Shawn Avery '00 and Laurie Nagy. Back row: Phyllis Machledt, director of service-learning and leadership programs; Sean Otterspoor '00, Fuller, Angela Bowden, chapter president; and Dr. John Roney, associate professor of history. Machledt and Dr. Roney are advisors to the chapter.

Coaches Corner

Joe Barroso Who says you can't go home again? Joe Barroso is back where he belongs, coaching the women's soccer team at Sacred Heart University. There are two major changes since his earliest stint (1992-94): as head coach, the move to Division I and the opening of the William H. Pitt Health and Recreation Center. Barroso, 36, has a rich soccer pedigree. The native of Chaves, Portugal, was a New England Collegiate Conference all-star striker on Southern Connecticut's undefeated 1998 national championship team and a member of the U.S. National team. Later, he played professionally with the Connecticut Wolves and Boston Storm. He still competes in an over-30 league.

SFTH: Why did you leave the University after the 1994 season?

Barroso: I never wanted to leave. But I had a family (Joe and Isabel now have three children) and I was part time, and the University wasn't ready to make the coaching job full time. When Yale approached me about a full-time position as an assistant, I had to go.

SFTH: How long did you stay at Yale?

Barroso: Just four months. UB (University of Bridgeport) called me and said they were looking for a new coach in women's soccer, and doubled the salary I was getting at Yale. By my third season, UB asked me to coach the men's team as well. It was kind of hectic doing both, and I don't know if I want to do that again.

SFTH: When you returned here to coach last spring, you replaced Jen Fallon, who was the brightest of your stars here and, indeed, the finest player in the program's history.

Barroso: Jen is probably the person I have the most respect for in women's soccer. She called me and told me she was leaving coaching, and she wanted her replacement to continue what she had been doing the last few years. I'm thankful to Jen and to all the people who were responsible for bringing me back.

SFTH: Compare the level of play in Divisions I and II.

Barroso: The top teams at Division II, like Franklin Pierce, could compete at the Division I level without a doubt. In overall, D-I has much better athletes.

SFTH: Your current team is performing well, although its record (4-7-4) might not be indicative of how well it has played.

Barroso: I don't think we'd be as good as we are. We tied Northeastern, and I think they're still unbeaten. We have a player, Andrea Linder, a transfer from Stockholm, who has the potential to be better than Jen. She's played soccer all her life. We also have two fine goalies in Carlin Guarnieri and Leslie Konsig. When Carlin got hurt against UMB, Leslie stepped right in and kept the game scoreless.

SFTH: What are your goals for the program?

Barroso: I would like to build the program into a national contender. This is a place I'd like to stay for a very long time. The school has made a commitment to sports, and Division I is every coach's dream.

Pat Smith Prepared to Carry a Legend's Baton

Patricia E. Smith is just the second full-time head of the Music Department, arriving a year after Roberts bid Sacred Heart University adieu after 33 U.B. guided years as director. Joe Carter, an adjunct faculty member, served as interim director last year.

She is a gracious woman with a hearty laugh and a clear sense of mission. "My main goal is to make the department as important and as large as I can," she said. "I want to draw music students to the University. If we have a strong music program, a kid who enjoys singing will come here to major in something else.

She has also been entrusted with enlarging the University Chorus and developing a Show Choir, the latter group of which is being augmented by a willing faculty and staff who will perform music from Broadway and movies at venues throughout the state and beyond. During a successful tour in education at the middle school, high school and college levels, most recently in the Buffalo school system, Smith led concerts, jazz and show choirs in performances across the country and in Austria. "When I got here in September we had two people in the chorus. I said 'that's a duet.' Now we have 40," she smiled.

Music has been an important part of Smith's life since her formative years in Binghamton, N.Y., where piano became her instrument of choice. In her doctor dissertation, "Music Education: The Archetype for National Education Reform," which she expects to complete next semester at UC Berkeley, she made the following points:

"Instead of using music as a frill, it should be one of the center pieces of education. If you cut it, you're going to lose the ability to learn," she stated, noting that the ancient Greeks regarded music important enough to bracket it with gymnastics as the bedrock of their educational system.

Smith believes she was destined to teach at the University. In what she describes as a "leap of faith," she accepted a retirement package from the city of Buffalo even before interviewing for the position here. "When I received a call from Dean (Claire) Paolino, something came over me. I knew I was going to end up here." Just weeks into the job, Smith is effusive in her praise of the University and all of the assistance she has received since her arrival. "This is education heaven," she said, enthusiastically. "The kids are great and the people are helpful, and I don't think it's because I'm on my honeymoon here. They really are.

During a recent visit with her 39-year-old mother in upstate New York, Smith's bubbling countenance did not go unnoticed. "My mother said this is the happiest I've been in a long time. I am totally happy."
A Whirlwind Week in September

The opening week of the academic year at any institution of higher learning is invariably hectic, with a myriad of events. But the first week of September at Sacred Heart University was even more jam-packed than usual. Here is a pictorial sample of some of the many activities that ushered in another Fall Semester.

Thursday/7
Lydie Polier, vice-prime minister of foreign affairs and external trade of Luxembourg, delivers the second annual Henry Leir Memorial Lecture in the Pitt Center Board Room. Polier's talk was entitled "An Indispensable Partnership: The European Union and the United States of America."

Friday/8
Cardinal William Keeler (left), archbishop of Baltimore, is applauded by President Anthony J. Cernera at the annual Academic Convocation in his honor in the Mahogany Room. The cardinal, an international leader in ecumenical affairs, was presented an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree. He also shared his reflections on "The Role of a Catholic University in Helping the Church by Addressing Key Issues in the 21st Century."

Sunday/10
Artist Samm Kuce (right) brought a portion of the great outdoors indoors with "Rough," the year's opening exhibit in The Gallery of Contemporary Art. With Kunce at the opening reception are Gallery director Sophia Gevas (holding flag) and curator Deborah Frizzell. The installation of transplanted vegetation continued to grow throughout the exhibition.

Wednesday/13
Dr. Thomas V. Forget, vice president for special affairs, gives the keynote address at the year's Opening Convocation that featured the induction of the Class of 2004 in the Pinto Center. The ceremony included a formal academic procession and welcomes from Dr. Judith Davis Miller, professor of English, and Valma Sege, Student Government president.
**SPECIAL EVENTS**

Nov. 15 Workplace Spirituality corporate dinner retreat, Chase Manhattan Bank, Bridgeport, 6:30-9 p.m. Timothy Brier, chairman of Priceline Europe and a veteran travel industry executive, will explore the sensitive business and ethical issues related to the Internet. Fee: $75. Reservations: REAPS, 371-7867.

Nov. 21 Celebration Breakfast, Pitt Center, 8 a.m. WFPAN’s “Mad Dog” Russo is the featured speaker. All proceeds will benefit Pioneer athletics. Reservations: Info: Mark Adzigan, 365-7601.

**ADMISSIONS**

Oct. 28 Fall Open House, campus, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Info: Carla Gray, 365-7510.

Nov. 18 Graduate Information Session, Academic Center, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Luncheon buffet, noon-1 p.m. Info: Kim Galliote, 365-7619.

**ALUMNI**

Oct. 28 Homecoming. Football vs. Iona, Campus Field, 7 p.m. 200-appointed Life Alumni Walk dedication ceremony, 10 a.m. Hot & Spicy Chili Cook-Off, 11:30 a.m. Reservations: Alumni Relations, 365-4801.

**COFFEEHOUSE SERIES**

Sponsor: International/Multicultural Center. Admission: $5, faculty & staff donation, $5; children under 12, $4; students, free. Info: Tina Shah, 396-8072.

Oct. 18 Chinese Coffeehouse, Mahogany Room, 7:30 p.m. The Chinese Folkdance Co. presents a colorful program of silk, swords and fans.

Oct. 26 Rainforest Coffeehouse, Faculty Lounge, 12:30 p.m. Taino will perform a unique blend of Latin American songs using guitar, congas, bongos, Ecuadorian harp, bamboo flutes and cuatro.

Oct. 9 Irish Coffeehouse, Faculty Lounge, 7:30 p.m. Drawing on his heritage and travels throughout Ireland, Tom Callinan will enchant his audience with tales and tunes of the Emerald Isle.

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

Events free unless otherwise noted.

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**CONFERENCES**

Nov. 10-12 "Examining the Catholic Intellectual Tradition," Mahogany Room. Leading Catholic scholars will explore the definitions, characteristics, history and challenges of the Catholic intellectual tradition. Info: 371-7900.

**EXHIBITS**


**LECTURES**

Oct. 18 "Special State Commission on Administrative Change." Distinguished Lectures in Education, Dr. Theodore S. Sergi, Schine, 7-10 p.m. Dr. Sergi is Connecticut’s commissioner of education. Info: Dr. Stephen Rubin, 365-7653.

Oct. 20 "Mutuality with God: The Goal of the Spiritual Journey." Dr. Janet Ruffing, R.S.M., Pitt Center Board Room, 7-10 p.m. Dr. Ruffing is an associate professor of spirituality and spiritual direction at Fordham University. Fee: $20, includes reception. Fee for faculty/staff. Reservations: REAPS, 371-7867.

Oct. 25 "Media Coverage of the 2000 Elections." Mark Silk, Faculty Lounge, 5 p.m. Silk is director of the Center of Religion and Public Life at Trinity College. Info: Dr. Brian Stilnert, 365-7657.

Oct. 25 "Anatomy of a Crisis," Distinguished Lectures in Education, Dr. David Abbey, Schine, 7-10 p.m. Dr. Abbey is the assistant superintendent of schools in Bedford, N.Y. Info: 365-7653.


Nov. 15 "Curriculum Development and Alignment," Distinguished Lectures in Education, Dr. John Hennelly, Schine, 7-10 p.m. Dr. Hennelly is assistant superintendent for curriculum development in Middletown. Info: 365-7653.

**SEMINARS**

Nov. 8 "Make the Most of Your Appreciated Assets," with facilitators Julia Steayer, vice president, Merrill Lynch, Stamford, and Mary Mary ’79, CPA, Leak & Leak, Fairfield. For time/location/RSVP: Jim Meeker, 365-7671.

**THEATRE**

Oct. 24 “Last Call 2000,” SHU Players, Theatre, 2 p.m. Also Oct. 26 at 2 p.m and 6 p.m. The Alcohol Awareness Week production consists of several student-written monologues about experiences with alcohol. Directed by Mark Edwards. Info: Rick McKinnon, 365-7541.

Nov. 15-19 "Robin Hood," student production, Theatre. Spofs many of the commonly held beliefs associated with the Robin Hood legend. Showtimes through Saturday, 8 p.m.; Sunday, 3 p.m. Tickets: $10/seniors/$5/students. Info: Rick McKinnon, 365-7541.