This was a year of victory laps for Sacred Heart, as the University celebrates its ninth season as a Division I competitor with six conference championships.
Sacred Heart University at the Head of Its Class

The grades are in, and Sacred Heart University has continued to earn top marks from two of the most respected and influential college guides in the nation. The University advanced five places in the 2009 edition of America’s Best Colleges by U.S. News & World Report, and it earned coveted recognition in the 2009 edition of Princeton Review’s The Best 368 Colleges in America.

Sacred Heart first penetrated the U.S. News & World Report tier 1 category among the best master’s universities in the North in 2004. Since 2006, it has climbed 17 spots—five in the past year alone—to be ranked 33rd among the 86 schools ranked.

Only about 15 percent of the nation’s 2,500 undergraduate institutions merit inclusion in Princeton Review’s Best 368 Colleges. The rankings are based on data collected from the participating schools, feedback from the students attending them, and site visits over the years. Also considered are the opinions of independent college counselors, students and parents. Princeton Review collected information from 120,000 students nationwide.

Sacred Heart University’s president, Dr. Anthony J. Cernera, expressed satisfaction that the University was once again ranked among the nation’s top institutions of higher education. “The University continues to advance academically. As important as that is, we are proud that students and others also recognize the quality of life available to our campus community, opportunities for athletic and club involvement, community service programs and numerous internships. Active and engaged learning takes place everywhere.”

The latest national endorsements come at a particularly productive and promising time.

• The University is implementing a new core curriculum that has gained national attention for its education in moral values.
• SHU has instituted a financial aid package that offers students admitted from Fairfield County with a family income below $50,000 a tuition-free education.
• Sacred Heart’s College of Education and Health Professions is at home in a new 50,000-square-foot Trumbull campus.
• The University’s AACSB-accredited John F. Welch College of Business is listed among the Princeton Review’s 290 Best Business Schools.
• Sacred Heart University recently earned an “A” from the NCAA Division I Committee on Athletics Certification.
• SHU received the Northeast Conference Commissioner’s Cup, awarded to the top-performing athletic program in the conference.
• And Sacred Heart is putting the finishing touches on its new $17 million campus Chapel.
Human Rights Conference Inspires Educators

Sacred Heart University hosted a two-day human rights conference on June 10-11, which featured a play and photo exhibit illuminating human rights abuses around the globe and the stories of those who rose above oppression.

Commencement 2008

SHU Celebrates Commencement 2008

SHU Athletics Earn Top Grades

When Director of Athletics Don Cook mentions to friends that Sacred Heart University teams are going head-to-head against institutions like Harvard, Boston College and Notre Dame, "Sometimes they still can’t believe it," he says.

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Before this year is out, four newly crafted bronze bells will toll from the tower of Sacred Heart University’s new Chapel. The rich harmony that resonates across campus will have special significance for three University officials who traveled to the Netherlands in January, where they spent a day touring a bell museum and visiting the foundry where the University’s four chapel bells are being crafted.

At Royal Eijsbouts, the world’s largest bell foundry and supplier of cast bells, University President Anthony Cernera, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Thomas Forget, and Vice President for Institutional Advancement Mary Young watched skilled craftsmen pour molten metal into a concrete mold to create the largest of SHU’s four bells, which weighs about 1,500 pounds, measures 41 inches in diameter and stands over six feet tall. The smallest of the bells will weigh 447 pounds with a diameter of 27 inches.

“When they were pouring our bell I thought to myself that, in 300 or 400 years, our bell will still have a beautiful tone. It will still be ringing for someone.”

Thomas Forget, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

Few people are privileged to witness the making of bells, a process called founding that dates back to pre-Christian days, according to Jeffrey Crook, a spokesman for Chime Master Systems, which works with the foundry to manufacture and install bell-ringing equipment. “Unless you’re in the foundry business, it’s a once-in-your-lifetime kind of experience,” he says. “Every bell is unique because for each bell the mold is made by hand from scratch.” At the end of the process, the mold is destroyed, “so there will never be another bell identical to the bells Sacred Heart will have,” he added.

Royal Eijsbouts also refurbishes bells, so Forget was able to touch a bell that was cast in the 15th century. “I knocked on it with my ring and it had a beautiful tone,” he reported. “When they were pouring our bell I thought to myself that, in 300 or 400 years, our bell will still have a beautiful tone. It will still be ringing for someone.”

The foundry’s proprietary artwork, or motif, that Crook suggested to SHU and that was chosen for its bells depicts scenes from the life of Christ: the presenting of the gifts by the Magi, the baptism of Christ by John the Baptist, and the Wedding at Cana. Among the four scriptural quotations, one for each bell, are the words “Blessed are you, our Lord, King of the Universe” and “Christian, recognize your dignity.”
New Book Examines Contemporary Catholic-Jewish Relations

A new book from Sacred Heart University Press, *Examining Nostra Aetate After 40 Years*, explores Christian-Jewish relations pre- and post-*Nostra Aetate* through essays by prominent leaders in the field of interreligious studies.

*Nostra Aetate*, a short and controversial document of Vatican II released in 1965, addressed the relationship of the Catholic Church to non-Christian religions, and especially encouraged dialog and mutual understanding between Christians and Jews. In this new collection of essays, edited by President Anthony J. Cernera, Ph.D., leaders in the field of interfaith studies collectively present a volume intended to be a testament of and contribution to that continuing effort.

In addition to editing the book, Dr. Cernera contributed an essay discussing Sacred Heart University’s Center for Christian-Jewish Understanding and its fostering of dialog and mutual understanding. “We are living in extraordinary times and are blessed because people of good will have reached out in trust and friendship,” Cernera says. “The essays in this volume describe the past, present, and future of the *Nostra Aetate* story.”

Chief Rabbi Visits SHU

Rabbi Sir Jonathan Sacks, chief rabbi of the United Hebrew Congregations of the Commonwealth, United Kingdom, presented a lecture at Sacred Heart University on May 21. The presentation, titled “The Dignity of Difference: How to Avoid the Clash of Civilizations,” was co-sponsored by the Center for Christian-Jewish Understanding (CCJU) and the Anti Defamation League.

Sacks has been chief rabbi since September 1991 and is the sixth incumbent since 1845. Prior to becoming chief rabbi, Sacks served as principal of Jews’ College, London, the world’s oldest rabbinical seminary. An author as well, Sacks has penned almost two dozen books, including *To Heal a Fractured World* (2005), *The Authorised Daily Prayer Book* (2006) and *The Home We Build Together* (2007). Six of his books have been serialized in the national British press.

EXECUTIVES LAUNCH SPORT AND ENTERTAINMENT MARKETING CONSORTIUM

Sacred Heart University’s John F. Welch College of Business announced the formation of the Sport and Entertainment Marketing Consortium this year, following the spin-off of the marketing and sport management programs into their own department.

The consortium is a virtual collection of high-level executives in the fields of sports and entertainment who are working with SHU to enrich students’ education and career opportunities. “We’ve been very pleased with the way this effort has been coming together,” says Assistant Professor of Sport Management Dr. Joshua Shuart, who serves as co-director of the consortium along with Clinical Assistant Professor of Marketing Dr. Peter Maresco. “This has been a great way for Sacred Heart to build new relationships in the corporate world and to strengthen our existing relationships.”

While talks are ongoing with several corporations, confirmed executives participating in the consortium include Eric Fleischer, director of market research for World Wrestling Entertainment (WWE); Geof Rochester, executive vice president of marketing for WWE; Justin Acker, senior manager of Disney and ESPN Media Networks; and Kurt Schneider, CEO of the Harlem Globetrotters.
Sacred Heart University hosted a two-day human rights conference on June 10-11, which featured a play and photo exhibit illuminating human rights abuses around the globe and the stories of those who rose above oppression.

The conference, sponsored by the International Federation of Catholic Universities (IFCU), Sacred Heart University, and The Robert F. Kennedy Memorial, focused on the juxtaposition between Catholic social justice principles and international human rights advocacy.

“We immediately saw a connection with what [Sacred Heart University President Anthony Cernera, Ph.D.] is doing on this campus by giving students a tool kit for action, so that they can not only have the knowledge, but the capacity, to create change,” said Kerry Kennedy, a co-founder of Speak Truth to Power and daughter of former U.S. Attorney General and New York Sen. Robert F. Kennedy.

The play, Ariel Dorfman’s Speak Truth to Power: Voices from Beyond the Dark, conveys stories of suffering and survival by 51 men and women from around the globe who were brutalized but fought despotism in non-violent ways. During the play, the actors repeated a rhetorical question imploring people to challenge human rights abuses: “If we don’t do this, who will?”

Sacred Heart also hosted a photography exhibit that accompanied the play, which was performed by a well-known cast of 10. The cast included Martin Sheen, Carolyn Baeumler, Megan Byrne, Patrick Fitzgerald, Joel Garland, Lois Markle, Ellen McLaughlin, Gloria Reuben, Danton Stone, and Waleed F. Zuaiter. The play was directed by Terry Kinney and produced by Katrin MacMillan and Kerry Kennedy.

“This is the kind of work that is ideal for uniting the will of the spirit and the working of the flesh,” said Sheen, who serves on The Robert F. Kennedy Memorial’s board of directors. “We can realize our true selves in each other, realize God’s promise...that the genius of God is being human. This work celebrates that in every culture, every continent all over the world.”

“This play will invite a conversion of heart,” said Cernera, who is also IFCU president. Ethel Kennedy, widow of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, said the play is a call to action. “It’s powerful; it makes you want to get out there and do something,” she said.
If we don’t do this, who will?

Above, clockwise from top left: Martin Sheen, Ethel Kennedy, Kerry Kennedy and the cast of Speak Truth to Power.

Dr. Barbara Pierce of the Biology Department at Sacred Heart University, in collaboration with Dr. Scott McWilliams of the Department of Natural Resources Science at the University of Rhode Island (URI), has been awarded a $420,000 grant from the Division of Integrative Organismal Systems of the National Science Foundation (NSF).

Dr. Pierce’s portion of the grant is a $110,000 sub-award to conduct research examining the interactive effects of dietary fatty acids and antioxidants on migratory songbirds. “It’s wonderful because integrated organismal biology is definitely a very competitive field,” says Dr. Pierce, an assistant professor at SHU. “This is a unique grant for this institution to get—it definitely shows that Sacred Heart is growing in the biology research field.”

The study will be conducted by a research team comprised of post-doctoral assistants and Ph.D. students from URI and undergraduates from SHU. The research will take place partially at the universities’ campuses in Rhode Island and Connecticut, but primarily at the Max Planck Institute for Ornithology in Seewiesen, Germany. Students from both universities will be given the opportunity to work and study in Germany.

New Faculty Members Earn Awards for Excellence

The first year in a new job is usually spent conquering a learning curve. Professor Jing’an Tang spent his first year earning a reputation as a professor who can always be counted on.

Tang, who was recently nominated for the Haynes Prize for the Most Promising Scholar under 40 through the International Academy of Business for a scholarly paper, was one of two professors honored with the Faculty Excellence Award given after a nomination by several University College students who were enrolled in his Business Policy course. The award, which has been bestowed since 2004, recognizes faculty who have gone above and beyond the call of duty, according to Mary Lou DeRosa, interim dean of University College.

Fourteen professors were nominated by students at University College. Tang was one of two selected from the John F. Welch School of Business. The other, Professor Ralph Lim, teaches finance and pursues research interests in financial analysis of the aerospace industry and investment management.

By Daniel Drew, SHU Correspondent

A New Faculty Tradition?

This year, retiring government and political science professor Dr. John F. Kikoski created what may become a tradition among retiring faculty at Sacred Heart University: offering one last lecture. In Kikoski’s case, the lecture focused on his teaching and research passions: order and peace in international politics and organizations. The lecture took place on May 5 in the Schine Auditorium.

Joseph Conlin, an adjunct professor of English at Sacred Heart University, was a finalist in the Santa Fe Writers Project Fiction Competition. The competition was judged by Pulitzer Prize-winning novelist Robert Olen Butler. Conlin was cited for “Approaching the Shoals,” a short story based on his novel, Orlando Tales.
Sacred Heart University hosted a timely panel discussion on the current global financial crisis on Wednesday, October 22, in University Commons. “The Financial Crisis: How Did We Get Here, How Do We Get Out of Here, and What Does It Mean for Investors?” was sponsored by the University’s John F. Welch College of Business and WICC Radio of Bridgeport. It drew an audience of more than 250 including students and members of the community.

Panelists included John Gerlach, senior business executive in residence and associate professor, and Dr. Lucjan Orlowski, a full professor, both from the College of Business Department of Economics and Finance. They were joined by Peter Donovan, president of Wright Investors. The forum was moderated by WICC radio host Brian Smith.

Each panelist addressed one aspect of the crisis—Mr. Gerlach analyzing the rescue plan, Dr. Orlowski addressing the factors behind the crisis, and Mr. Donovan discussing what the current crisis means for investors. Following the discussion, members of the audience eagerly shared their comments and questions with the panel.

Mr. Gerlach received his MBA from the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania. His career has taken him from the consulting firm of Booz, Allen and Hamilton to Bear Stearns. As vice president of Corporate Development at General Mills, he was responsible for the acquisition of 43 companies in the U.S. and 12 foreign countries. He served as president and COO of Horn & Hardart Company, a restaurant and direct marketing company listed on the American Stock Exchange, and he started a venture capital firm that made investments in 19 companies, the most successful of which was American Woodmark, with a market value over $500 million.

Dr. Orlowski’s research concentrates on monetary policy regimes and their impact on macroeconomic and financial stability in transitional and emerging market economies. He has been actively involved with the European Union’s eastern enlargement process and the design of monetary and financial integration strategies. He has been an advisor to the National Bank of Poland and was an advisor to the Finance Minister of Poland. An author of books and numerous articles, he serves on the editorial board of *Comparative Economic Studies*, is an associate editor of *Emerging Markets Finance and Trade*, a regional editor of *Journal of Emerging Markets* and a guest editor of *Open Economies Review* and *Economic Systems*.

Mr. Donovan serves on the advisory board of the John F. Welch College of Business. With 42 years of investment experience, he joined Wright Investors in 1966. He has been chief executive officer since 1996 and chief investment officer since 2001. He is co-author of *Worldscope Industrial Company Profiles* and *Worldscope Financial Company Profiles*. He is also president of the Wright Managed Income Trust and the Wright Managed Equity Trust. He is chairman of the board of trustees of the School for Ethical Education and is a member of the New York Society of Security Analysts and the Hartford Society of Financial Analysts.
Dr. Cernera Receives Unity Award

On June 1, Sacred Heart University President Dr. Anthony Cernera was honored with the 2008 Luminosa Award for Unity in Hyde Park, New York. The award is given in recognition of lives and works offering a significant contribution to building universal brotherhood. Dr. Cernera was cited for his “lifelong commitment to excellence in education” as well as for his dedication to interreligious dialog, as evidenced by his support for the University’s Center for Christian-Jewish Understanding. The event helped highlight Dr. Cernera’s 20th anniversary as SHU president.

Criminal Justice Program Earns Accreditation

Sacred Heart University’s Master of Arts in Criminal Justice program, launched in the fall of 2006, has received accreditation from the Connecticut Department of Higher Education.

“I’m still on a high from the news of the accreditation—it’s been wonderful,” said Dr. Pearl Jacobs, associate professor and chair for the Department of Criminal Justice. “The idea for the program came about four or five years ago, and the fact that we actually have done this is magnificent.”

The endorsement comes amid unprecedented growth for the University’s entire Criminal Justice program, which became its own department on July 1. The program was previously part of the Department of Sociology and Social Work. SHU currently has close to 200 undergraduate students majoring and minoring in Criminal Justice. The department is staffed by five full-time faculty who all have field experience in criminal justice.

Dr. Jacobs said that the master’s program was designed to differ from competing programs at other universities. “Most master’s programs are geared for individuals who have already been working in the field, but very few were designed for students with undergraduate degrees in Criminal Justice who have little or no work experience,” she said. “Our idea was to develop a program that would assist both types of students.”

In March, five of the students in the master’s program will present papers at the annual meeting of the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences, to be held in Cincinnati. “Last year we had one student present, and this year it’s five,” Dr. Jacobs said. “It’s both a mark of the growth of the department and also of the level of students we’re attracting and what they’re learning from the program.”

Founder’s Day

The 45th Annual Founder’s Day celebration took place in March. Aside from being a birthday celebration for the University, faculty and staff are honored for their milestone years of service. SHU President Dr. Anthony J. Cernera, center, celebrated with Associate Professor of Psychology Dr. Christina J. Taylor, left, and Associate Dean of the College of Arts & Sciences Dr. Michelle C. Loria who were both recognized for their 35 years of service to the University.

Dr. Cernera, 3rd from left, presented 25-year honors to Richard R. LaTorre, adjunct assistant professor of Mathematics, Carol A. Pappano, adjunct assistant professor of Mathematics, Sheryl Madison, office manager and assistant to the Director of Athletics, Michael Bozzone, assistant dean of the College of Arts & Sciences and David Bice, head coach of men’s basketball, during the event.
Library Experiences
Unprecedented Growth

Sacred Heart University’s Ryan-Matura Library has been expanding and evolving since its inception in 1968. But, as a center of scholarly research, its growth in the past five years is unprecedented. With steady annual increases in the library’s financial resources, the facility has doubled its acquisitions budget and added almost 7,000 new titles this year alone, along with subscribing to a 35,000-title catalog of e-books accessible online 24 hours a day.

The most notable change over the past year is in the staff. To help the SHU community make the most of library resources, the library has added four specialists in different fields of study: Ellen Brassil, health sciences; Patrick Gavin, humanities; Robert Berry, social and behavioral sciences; and Rachel Walker, business. Together, they comprise the library department of Research Services. That additional expertise is a big change that is also reflected in the rest of the library corps; among its 25 members, the staff boasts two doctorates, two MBAs, three law degrees, 10 subject-specific master’s and one professional certification.

Sacred Heart Hosts IFCU

Over 30 rectors representing Catholic universities from around the world met at Sacred Heart University between March 10 and 14 for the 77th meeting of the board of the International Federation of Catholic Universities. During the meeting, participants evaluated the recent conference in Lisbon on Church, Culture and the Catholic University, attended by participants from 250 different universities. The board also initiated a remote preparation for the General Assembly of the Federation to be held next year in Honduras. That assembly will reflect on the 10 years of achievement since Ex Corde Ecclesiae, with the intent of illuminating the path ahead.

FRESHMAN ACADEMIC ADVISING PROGRAM WINS NATIONAL AWARD

Sacred Heart University’s College of Arts & Sciences’ Freshman Academic Advising Program was recently chosen as an Outstanding Institutional Advising Program by the National Academic Advising Association, recognizing it as one of the best programs of its kind in the nation. The SHU program is directed by Michael Bozzone, assistant dean of SHU’s College of Arts and Sciences, and was one of seven programs to be honored with this award nationwide.

SHU’s Freshman Academic Advising Program offers freshmen a meaningful and supportive connection with a Sacred Heart University faculty member during their first year of college. The academic advisor supports his/her advisees as they begin their journey toward independent and lifelong learning. While doubling as a professor in one of a freshman’s first-semester courses, the academic advisor serves as the primary contact and resource for all academic and academic-related matters. SHU’s freshman academic advisors strive to be available, knowledgeable, and concerned.

The Outstanding Advising Program Awards recognize programs that document innovative and/or exemplary practices. The over 10,000 NACADA members consist of faculty, professional advisors, administrators, counselors, and others in academic and student affairs concerned with the intellectual, personal, and vocational needs of students. In addition, NACADA is the representative and advocate of academic advising and those providing that service to higher education. This year’s award was presented during the annual NACADA Annual Conference in Chicago in October 2008.
McCain Visits SHU

The Super Bowl took a back seat to politics on February 3 when U.S. Senator and Republican presidential hopeful John McCain made a visit to the Sacred Heart University campus.

McCain’s appearance was a pivotal one, coming just two days before Super Tuesday, when half the country went to the polls. The Arizona senator made a similar visit to SHU in March 2000 during his last bid for the presidency.

About 2,700 people filled the William H. Pitt Health and Recreation Center to hear McCain speak about hot-button issues like the war on terrorism—which he called “the transcendent issue of this century”—the fragile U.S. economy, better care for veterans, and tax cuts. “I know this nation’s greatest days are ahead of us and I think I’m qualified to lead,” he said to thunderous applause followed by an explosion of red and white confetti as he concluded his remarks.

In addition to the sea of enthusiastic McCain supporters, the event was attended by Democrats, undecided voters, and international media representatives from as far away as Russia, Japan, Norway and England.

“‘We always try to get our students involved and engaged in the political process. Candidates have to be strategic about where they make their campaign stops, so we feel very fortunate that he came here.’

- LESLEY DENARDIS, POLITICAL SCIENCE PROFESSOR

Jasmin Vicente, a freshman physical therapy major from Wantaugh, New York, said she attended McCain’s rally “to get a better understanding of the candidates in the Republican Party. It’s my first time voting, and I want to make the right decision for the future.”

Linda Lane, the mother of freshman Zachary Lane of Hicksville, New York, said the McCain rally is something her son will never forget. “He was part of it,” she said.

Before taking the microphone, McCain was praised for his honor and courage by University President Anthony Cernera and a host of leading politicians, including Lt. Governor Michael Fedele, U.S. Congressman Christopher Shays, and Connecticut Senator Joe Lieberman. They were joined on stage by former U.S. Congressmen Rob Simmons and Larry DeNardis and former U.S. Congresswoman Nancy Johnson.

Cernera told SHU students that McCain is “a man who ought to be an example to you of moral leadership and courage” because he stayed the course even under the most difficult of circumstances as a prisoner of war during the Vietnam War.

Lieberman said McCain refused an opportunity to be released from a prison camp, despite being subjected to “unspeakable torture,” telling his captors he would not leave until every other American who was imprisoned before him was released.

“I got a big kick out of shaking McCain’s hand. It was a great moment for me,” said Leroy Milewski Sr. of Milford, who, at age 90, was attending his first-ever political event.

It was a great moment for the University as well, said Political Science Professor Lesley DeNardis, the daughter of Larry DeNardis. “We always try to get our students involved and engaged in the political process,” she said. “Candidates have to be strategic about where they make their campaign stops, so we feel very fortunate that he came here.”
Sacred Heart University’s new Core Curriculum, with its emphasis on moral development, has received an $80,000 grant in support of faculty development. The commitment was received from the Davis Educational Foundation of Falmouth, Maine, established by Stanton and Elisabeth Davis after Mr. Davis’s retirement as chairman of Shaw’s Supermarkets, Inc. Half the funds were received this past summer, and the remainder will be distributed in June 2009. The University’s innovative curriculum, which was nine years in the making, has earned national recognition for its education in moral values. According to Dr. Michelle Loris, who headed the development of this program, the grant will be used for faculty development for the Human Journey, which is the centerpiece of the new curriculum.

“Much of the research about higher education today points to the need for a multidisciplinary, integrative approach to teaching and learning,” she noted. “Developing in our students the ability to make, recognize and evaluate connections among disparate disciplines is what multidisciplinary integrative teaching and learning is all about. But fostering integrative learning in students necessitates faculty who have been trained in read, think and teach in ways that promote integrative learning in their classrooms.”

Sacred Heart’s GE Scholars program offers a unique combination of financial assistance and enrichment opportunities. Now in its 15th year, the program provides financial aid for qualified minority students with a demonstrated interest in math, science or related quantitative disciplines. The University recently made history by establishing a tuition-free program for students admitted from Fairfield County with family incomes below $50,000.

Over 225 colleges and universities nationwide are featured in The Guide, produced by Kendall/Hunt Publishing Company. They were selected for inclusion by a national independent advisory committee comprised of college presidents and chief administrators, college access and community-based organization leaders, and higher education association officials.

Furthering its mission to serve first-generation, low-income and minority college-bound students, SHU is sponsoring a distribution of the College Access & Opportunity Guide to high schools and community organizations, along with other colleges and universities featured in The Guide. The book also is available through the Center for Student Opportunity’s website (www.CSOportunity.org) and at national booksellers.
Students Earn Research Honors

Over 150 Sacred Heart University students and faculty gathered on April 25 for the ninth annual College of Arts and Sciences Undergraduate Research Poster and Showcase Session.

The event featured 28 posters detailing the extracurricular research of more than 70 SHU students from a variety of disciplines who presented their research and answered questions for judges and attendees.

“Undergraduate research provides students with a capstone educational experience,” said Keri Matthews, professor of computer science and information technology and co-chair of the Poster Session. “In its best sense, it fosters critical thinking skills in devising a research plan, discipline in executing the plan, and care in analyzing the results of that inquiry.”

At the conclusion of the event, six of the presentations were awarded top honors:

OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

“Minimal k-Rankings and the Rank Number of Pn2,” a mathematics project by senior Sarah Novotny.

“The Role of Bacterial Endonuclease V in Nitrous Acid Mutagenesis Under Aerobic Growth Conditions,” a biology project by junior Jillian Koster.

“Phenotype Confirmation of Endonuclease V-Deficient E. Coli Strains to Be Used in Future Nitrate Mutagenesis Studies,” a biology project by Samantha Cote, Sheena Mendez and Milly Panicker.

EXCELLENCE

“Does an Urban Forest Fragment Provide Quality Foods for Migrating Songbirds?” a biology project by Kristen McIntire and Michelle Mortali.

“The Effect of Interruptions on Task Performance and Flow,” a psychology project by students Lauren Constantino, Nicole Fiorentino, William Gentzsch, Jennifer Howley, Michael Jotso, Melissa Kostan and Adriana Morgan.

“The Mathematics of Sudoku Puzzles,” a mathematics project by students David Kipperman, Sarah Novotny and Stephen Zito.

Biology Majors Win Top Honors in Science Research Competition

Two Sacred Heart biology students were honored on April 19 in an undergraduate research competition that pitted them against students from some of America’s most competitive universities at the Sigma Xi conference held at Cornell University in Ithaca, N.Y.

The annual regional conference featured poster presentations of undergraduate and graduate research in biology, chemistry, physics, astronomy, mathematics and psychology. Sacred Heart students presented 13 out of 63 undergraduate posters. Jillian Koster, a 21-year-old junior and pre-med student from Hackensack, N.J., and Michelle Mortali, pictured above, 21, of Hamden, were two of only three students honored for their research out of nearly 80 who presented from 34 colleges and universities. Koster received the only undergraduate award for her poster presentation of “The Role of Bacterial Endonuclease V in Nitrous Acid Mutagenesis Under Aerobic Growth Conditions.”

Both women presented research conducted with a faculty advisor. They competed against undergraduate researchers from Harvard, Cornell, four State University of New York schools, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, the University of Massachusetts, and other research-intensive institutions across the Northeast.

Koster’s study was completed with SHU Associate Professor of Biology Suzanne Deschênes, Ph.D. They examined the role of a specific enzyme in repairing DNA mutations caused when sodium nitrite—a compound present in processed meats—mixes with acidic solutions in the body. Mortali, a senior who will pursue a master’s in Education at the University of New Haven next year, and Associate Professor of Biology Barbara Pierce, Ph.D., examined whether four fruits and three seeds indigenous to Veteran’s Memorial Park in Bridgeport can sustain two species of migrating songbirds for one day. This research is important because the City of Bridgeport plans to cut down many of the park’s trees to build athletic fields, and the park is an important resting place for certain migrating birds. Her presentation of the study, “Does an Urban Forest Fragment Provide Quality Foods for Migrating Songbirds?” was one of only two to receive an honorable mention.
University College Honor Society Inducts 14 New Members

The pressures of family and professional responsibilities can sometimes divert students from their educational path, but University College student Nora Diaz felt a renewed energy for pursuing her degree in business administration when she was inducted into Sacred Heart’s University College honor society.

Diaz, of Stratford, Conn., was one of 14 University College students who qualified this year for acceptance into the Alpha Sigma Lambda honor society based on scholarship and leadership. “You reach a point where you feel overwhelmed when you have a family and work full time, but this was encouraging. It’s nice to be recognized for your hard work,” Diaz said.

Alpha Sigma Lambda is the national honor association designed to recognize the special achievements of part-time adult students who attain academic excellence while facing the competing interests of home and work. Membership requires the completion of at least 30 credit hours at Sacred Heart University and maintenance of a 3.5 grade point average or above.

Ethics Competition Focuses on Business Practices

Among the issues facing world markets today, none may be more pressing than the ethics in the sub-prime mortgage market, so that topic seemed worthy of a competition in business ethics, says Sacred Heart University Business Professor Andra Gumbus, who saw the competition as a chance to “increase and instill competitiveness in students and better prepare them for the workplace.”

Students from five ethics classes comprised of about 180 undergraduates from many different majors were eligible to compete; competitors had to earn an “A” on their midterm exams to qualify. Alex Santry, whose team won the competition by arguing that everyone is responsible for the crisis, said the competition “really brought to my attention how ethics apply to business, especially with the recent acts of executives at both WorldCom and Enron.” The winners earned a trip to Wall Street.

Student’s Senior Trip to Africa Inspires Hope

Despite webbed hands and a host of ailments that caused constant pain, an 11-year-old boy named Katongo from Mongu, a village in the African nation of Zambia, drew amazing pictures. One night, he handed Sacred Heart University senior Jacqueline Bouthot a drawing of the Nativity. “Turn it over,” he told her. “I wrote something for you.”

Bouthot read the inscription on the back: “Dear Bo Jacqueline, Thank you for all you do. I love you. You are in my prayers every day.”

Katongo was one of 50 children at Cheshire Home, a rehabilitation home for children with physical disabilities. “Those children became my world,” says Bouthot, who graduated in May with a degree in psychology and a minor in geriatric health and will attend the University of Southern Maine this fall to pursue a master’s in occupational therapy.

It was at the end of junior year when Bouthot realized that she could graduate early and go to Africa. She was connected to Cheshire House by a man who was raising money at her home parish, St. Joseph’s, in Biddeford, Maine. She arrived in Zambia in January and returned in April. “I feel like it didn’t come from me,” she said. “It was just something that was in my heart.”

By Daniel Drew, SHU Correspondent
Students Organize Freedom Concert for Iran

Performance by “Abe Lincoln and the Emancipators” (left to right): Dan LeBlanc, Chaz Cybulski, and Jeffery LeBlanc.

Above (left to right): Lily Mazahery, a Persian-American human rights lawyer, activist, and founder of the Washington, D.C.-based Legal Rights Institute; Jason Guberman-Pfeffer, Freedom Concert Organizer and Civil Rights Fellow for HAMSA (Hands Across the Middle East Support Alliance); Kianoosh Sanjari, former Iranian student activist and blogger, victim of torture at the hands of the Islamic Republic in Iran; Chaz Cybulski, Freedom Concert Organizer and lead musician.

Students at Sacred Heart University organized a Freedom Concert to express solidarity with Iranian students, minorities, intellectuals and laborers. The concert took place April 7 in the Edgerton Center for the Performing Arts, with keynote addresses by Persian-American human rights lawyer Lily Mazahery and Kianoosh Sanjari, one of Iran’s most recognized and well-known student activists. The Freedom Concert featured live musical performances and was sponsored by many SHU clubs and organizations.

Artists’ Corner

The work of five well-known contemporary women artists was showcased in an exhibit entitled “Women of a Certain Age” at The Gallery of Contemporary Art at Sacred Heart University between January 27 and February 28. The artists—Dotty Attie (NYC), Louise Bourgeois (NYC), Ann Chernow (Westport), Nancy Spero (NYC) and Selina Trieff (Welfleet, MA and NYC)—were chosen as “a small sample of distinctive women’s voices in figurative contemporary art,” said Gallery Director Sophia Gevas. “Their images represented a multiplicity of symbolic females: a mother, a goddess, a seductress, an angel, or an everywoman.”

PLOHN ART SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS NAMED

In 1985, Mrs. Fay Plohn established the Charles A. Plohn Scholarship in honor of her late husband. Each year, individual scholarships are awarded to full-time art majors who demonstrate outstanding studio abilities and academic achievement. This year’s winners are Christine Palumbo, Tiffany Lindeborn, Mary Dannegger, and Corey Osoba.

The Edgerton Center at Sacred Heart University has developed Mark Twain: God’s Fool for a national tour in 2009. God’s Fool is the new comedy based on veteran character actor Ken Richters’ award-winning performance as Mark Twain, and features Emmy and Tony Award-winner Jack Klugman as the voice of Heaven’s Gatekeeper. The production is supported in part by a grant from the Connecticut Commission on Culture and Tourism. Pictured is Gerald Goehringer, left, executive director of the Edgerton Center, and Klugman, right, during a voice-over recording session in New York City on March 11, 2008.
“Contemporary Fiber” Exhibit at Sacred Heart

“Contemporary Fiber,” the season’s fifth exhibit at Sacred Heart University’s Gallery of Contemporary Art, featured a range of fiber art from 22 artists. The exhibit opened on April 27 and ran through May 29.

The history of fiber can be traced to the beginnings of civilization. With uses dating from the Stone Age, such natural fibers as flax, cotton, wool and silk have been discovered in ancient burial sites in Egypt, Babylonia, Peru and Great Britain. In addition to fiber’s utilitarian use in clothing or blankets, fabrics and textiles also have a long and distinguished history as works of art, observed exhibit juror Nisha Drinkard. “The beauty of fibers is their ability to use traditional approaches and reapply them into contemporary art forms,” she said.

Critically Acclaimed Irish Chamber Orchestra at SHU

The Irish Chamber Orchestra, a fresh and vibrant force on the Irish and international music scene, played on April 11 at the Edgerton Center for the Performing Arts. This stop on the Irish Chamber Orchestra’s U.S. tour followed performances at The John F. Kennedy Presidential Library & Museum in Boston and at the Metropolitan Club in New York City. The event was partly sponsored by WSHU National Public Radio.
Sacred Heart University’s Student Life Department presented Grammy Award-winning musical artists NE-YO and T-Pain in concert on April 11 in the William H. Pitt Center. At the 2008 awards, NE-YO won “Best Contemporary R&B Album” for his album *Because of You*. He also received nominations in four other categories. T-Pain won “Best Rap Song” for his work on Kanye West’s song, “Good Life,” and received nominations in four other categories.
Renowned Capella Group at the Edgerton Center

Sacred Heart University’s Center for Catholic Thought, Ethics and Culture (CCTEC) and the Academic Music Program presented Cappella Clausura in concert on April 1 in the Edgerton Center for the Performing Arts. Cappella Clausura, a women’s ensemble of 14 singers and three instrumentalists, specializes in music written through the centuries by women in “clausurae,” or cloisters. The ensemble presents music dating from the early Middle Ages to the Baroque period of the 18th century.

Student Art Exhibit Showcases Award-Winning Work

The Gallery of Contemporary Art showcased 56 award-winning pieces from 32 Sacred Heart University Art and Design students between March 16 and April 16. Award winners included Meghan Ballback, Talia Bianco, Sam Bolles, Kate Brindisi, Mary Dannegger, Leigh Koger, Kim Kunzik, Ryan Mauro, Andre Picard, Kellie Sakellarides, Sam Touch, and Amanda Wenger.

Student Artists Receive Accolades

Art and Design students Francisco Flores, Leigh Koger and Ryan Mauro were winners of the Society of Illustrators of New York 2008 Student Scholarship Competition. The students were three of 130 selected nationally from 5,683 entries and 88 institutions.
During the SHU Internship and Career Fair on campus Feb. 19, 453 students and alums met face-to-face with prospective employers—a significant increase in the number of participants from last year. Recruiters represented a wide range of employers from large, well-known companies like General Electric, Deloitte & Touche, and Sikorsky Aircraft Corporation, to state and federal agencies like the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement Agency and the U.S. Marine Corps., to smaller community service organizations like Casey Family Services.

Once again, Sacred Heart University is leading the way. Sacred Heart is currently ranked first in the nation’s ONE Campus Challenge, a campaign designed to raise public awareness about the issues of global poverty, hunger, disease and other social issues in developing countries. During the challenge, chapters receive points for activism in many forms. As of January 14, SHU had distanced itself from nearly 1,300 campuses with 392,750 points. The closest second was Brandeis University with 388,405 points.

Much of SHU’s success can be attributed to sophomore Mike Fazzino, president and founder of SHU’s ONE chapter, which currently lists 100 student members. Fazzino, of Woodbury, Conn., traveled to Washington, D.C., for the first-ever ONE student summit. There, he joined the nation’s top student activists to meet key political figures and discuss global poverty and disease.

“It was an incredible experience,” Fazzino says. “It gave me a sense of hope for the future. I got to spend time with some of the best student leaders in the country, as well as speak face-to-face with some of the most influential individuals nationwide.”

Sacred Heart, along with nine other schools, was recently awarded a grant to fund University poverty-fighting programs. The SHU chapter will use the grant money to start programs and outreach in the Bridgeport community, and will hold onto its top ranking, Fazzino believes. “We’re still growing,” he points out, with “new members showing up at every meeting.”

Criminal Justice major Craig Jordan, class of ’08, talked with a representative from General Electric during the SHU Internship and Career Fair last February.
Students Give Back During Spring Break

Over 100 students from Sacred Heart University spent their Spring Break giving back to those less fortunate.

About 75 students in SHU’s Habitat for Humanity chapter and roughly 18 students in SHU’s ROTC program helped build houses at various locations throughout the country. An additional 15 students volunteered in an impoverished village in El Salvador. In addition to the revitalization trip to El Salvador, students raised money to purchase a wheelchair for one of the young boys of the village, a video camera used for an art therapy program, and a plot of land for six to eight families. The students also raised money to donate to a variety of social and medical organizations in El Salvador.

Scholars Build Bicycles for Local Kids

Over a dozen Sacred Heart University students held a “Bike Build” on February 2, constructing bicycles for kids from Bridgeport’s John Winthrop Elementary School. The bicycle kits were donated by SHU’s GE Foundation Scholars Program. The six children who received bicycles were chosen by the Winthrop faculty in recognition of academic achievement and citizenship within the school.

Senior Teaches Computer Skills to the Elderly

When Sacred Heart University senior Kristina Bostley’s grandparents bought a computer last summer, they asked her countless questions about how to use it. So it didn’t take long for the Information Technology major to come up with the perfect service project for Upsilon Pi Epsilon, the international computer science honor society, when she returned to campus. “Teaching computers to the elderly just fit,” says Bostley, a resident of Yonkers, N.Y.

Bostley, with the help of six other SHU students, taught computer use to seniors at the Eisenhower Senior Center in Bridgeport, Conn. “They’re mostly interested in how to use the Internet—they want to get connected,” she says. “So we set them up with email addresses, and now they’re all about the emailing. Some people have started paying their bills online. Next, we’re going to teach them how to shop online.”

Dr. Frances Grodzinsky, professor of Computer Science and Information Technology at SHU, praised the innovative program. “This is a fabulous initiative. The seniors are forever grateful—they’re loving it.”

Homesickness Program Wins Regional Award

A student-crafted seminar to help Sacred Heart University freshmen deal with homesickness has won the Best Peer Educator Program award from the New England chapter of The Bacchus Network, a national university- and community-based organization focusing on comprehensive health and safety initiatives. “How to Fight the SHU Blues” was conceived by then-senior Joanna Holland of Stony Brook, N.Y., as part of her involvement with SHU’s Peer Educators group. She graduated in May with a degree in psychology.
Confidence in American Brands Strong as More People Check Labels

According to Sacred Heart University’s Polling Institute, a new nationwide survey of 1,000 Americans shows more are checking labels in light of the recent stream of dangerous imports from other nations.

While 52.9% of Americans surveyed suggested they checked labels one year ago for nation of origin, manufacturer or ingredients, 68.6% say they are doing so today—up 15.7%. Confidence in American-made products is strong—87.4% said they have confidence in American-made and distributed products and food.

“It is not surprising that Americans are concerned about food imported from other countries,” says Dr. Balbir Bhasin, a professor of International Business at the Welch College of Business. “The government clearly needs to do more to protect the consumer from poor quality imports, especially meats, fish and dairy products.”

Students Take the Nation’s Pulse in New Polling Course

Students in Sacred Heart University’s first-ever polling course took America’s pulse to find out what issues make the country’s heart rate soar and what issues are breaking its heart. Entitled “Polling and Research,” the course introduces students to the art of polling and survey research. This semester, students designed a general public opinion poll, which included questions about steroid use in professional sports, the presidential election, new voting machine technology, the recent resignation of Cuban President Fidel Castro, the U.S. economy, healthcare and patriotism.

Anthony Sciotto, a senior political science major from North Babylon, N.Y., described the polling course this way: “It’s like being a film student and getting to go to Hollywood.”

National Poll...on Polling

A survey by the Sacred Heart University Polling Institute investigated the relationship between media, academic and private pollsters and Americans, and found that 10.9% of Americans who have participated in a poll said they have lied to a pollster.

The good news? Nearly one-third of all Americans surveyed, 30.9% said they have participated in a political, policy or issue poll in the past. Nearly three-quarters suggested that polls, generally, are very or somewhat accurate and very or somewhat believable—71.0% and 72.0%, respectively. “They complain about our calls, admit to an occasional lie, and question the fairness of wording, but 67.1% said they are interested in poll results and 60.3% said they enjoy seeing how they fit in with the rest of the nation,” discovered Polling Institute Director Jerry C. Lindsley.

Poll Shows Perceived Personal Standard of Living Drops Drastically

Over half of all Americans suggest their current economic standard of living is declining, according to a national poll conducted by the Sacred Heart University Polling Institute. That number is up from 23.9% according to a 2006 SHU Poll. Only 38.0% of Americans suggest their current economic standard of living is improving, which is drastically down from 71.7% reported in the 2006 SHU Poll.

“Clearly, the crisis in the credit markets, coupled with significant increases in not just gas but also food has combined to make the average American feel poorer and pessimistic about the future,” stated John Gerlach, senior business executive in residence and associate professor in the John F. Welch College of Business at SHU. Among the top 10 national problems or issues cited by survey respondents, seven are economic concerns, he added.
National Assessment Shows SHU as Leader in Responsibility

Sacred Heart University received high scores in a national survey for its efforts to integrate ethical and moral competence into the general education curriculum and co-curriculum, further affirming the University’s status as a leader in educating the whole person. The survey on Personal and Social Responsibility was administered by the Association of American Colleges and Universities to 23 member institutions that were selected to be part of its National Leadership Consortium: Core Commitments. Approximately 1,000 students and nearly 200 Sacred Heart administrators, faculty, and student affairs staff responded to the survey. Nearly 60 percent of students and more than 60 percent of administrators, faculty, and student life staff strongly agree that helping students develop personal and academic integrity is a high priority at Sacred Heart University.

University Holds Panel on Immigration and Labor Issues

Sacred Heart University hosted an immigration seminar on April 23 titled “Historical Background and Issues in Immigration and Labor: A Panel to Discuss Current Immigration Policies.” The panel was sponsored by SHU’s College of Education and Health Professions and its Isabelle Farrington School of Education, in conjunction with Stratford and New Haven’s Teaching American History Project and COGS. Michael Giarratano, assistant professor of education at SHU, served as master of ceremonies. Panelists included Mark D. Boughton, resident and four-term mayor of Danbury, Conn.; Yusuf Ibn Shah, the alderman for the 23rd Ward of the city of New Haven; John Weiss, director of the Hartford Satellite of the International Institute of Connecticut; and Satish Khanna, a native of India and a resident of Somers, N.Y., who for 12 years has had difficulties securing a green card and becoming an American citizen.

Paul Healy Named Emergency Management Director

Paul Healy has joined the Sacred Heart University community as executive director for emergency management following the launch of a new campus emergency notification system, which Healy praised upon his arrival. “I’m excited at being here,” Healy said, adding that he was also impressed with the University’s “integration of the Information Technology and Public Safety Departments.”

Sacred Heart’s emergency notification system uses AlertFind, which enables Public Safety to send text messages to all registered users simultaneously. Other components of the notification system include CATV interruption, fire alarm PA, and a web site temporary redirect system. Healy, who formerly worked as Chief Inspector, the highest law enforcement rank in the Connecticut Division of Criminal Justice, is responsible for developing and maintaining the University's disaster and emergency preparedness plans. He will provide strategically focused management to ensure the continuity of operations during wide-scale emergencies.

Healy is a graduate of the FBI National Police Academy and the Connecticut State Police and Municipal Police Academies. He attended Albertus Magnus College, where he earned a Bachelor of Science degree and a Master of Science degree in Business Management.

Transportation Grant Kicks Off New Program

Sacred Heart University was the first university in the Northeast to receive a state Department of Transportation grant to create a “social norming” program that helps students dismiss the idea that binge drinking and drug use are common behaviors at many college campuses. The University received the grant last January, and this year officially launched the campaign by installing hundreds of posters on campus that contain positive messages such as these: “85 percent of SHU students support designating a sober driver” and other slogans designed to challenge student perceptions of “normal” college behavior. The DOT grant also supports SHU’s sponsorship of a statewide summit for Connecticut colleges and universities to join the social norming approach. SHU will be the first University to hold a statewide summit of this kind.
## 2008 Speakers

### February 2008

Dr. Judea Pearl of the Daniel Pearl Foundation presented a lecture entitled "Can We Talk Ourselves to Peace: Carving a Path for East-West Dialog" on February 4. Dr. Pearl is a noted scholar and father of slain *Wall Street Journal* reporter Daniel Pearl, who was kidnapped and murdered by Islamic extremists in Pakistan in 2002. Part of the Student Affairs Lecture Series, this lecture was sponsored by the Office of Student Life and the Center for Christian-Jewish Understanding.

Tony Dungy, head coach of the NFL’s Indianapolis Colts, visited Sacred Heart University on February 19 to dine with administrators and students, then delivered a lecture in the sold-out Edgerton Center for the Performing Arts. In 2007, Dungy became the first African-American to coach a team to a Super Bowl championship. Later that year, his book, *Quiet Strength: The Principles, Practices, & Priorities of a Winning Life*, reached the top of The New York Times Best Seller list. His presentation, titled “Diversity On the Field and Off,” was the Black History Month segment of SHU’s Student Affairs Lecture Series.


### March 2008

Dr. Donald Landry spoke during the annual Bishop Walter Curtis Lecture on March 11. His lecture, “The Current State of Stem Cell Research: A Catholic Scientist’s Perspective,” included remarks by Dr. Matthew Kenney, executive assistant to the President and Bioethics instructor at Sacred Heart University. Dr. Landry is director of the Division of Experimental Therapeutics and the interim chair of the Department of Medicine at Columbia University in New York. His research seeks a means to pursue stem cell research in a way that meets the ethical demands of his faith.

Freelance writer Lee Woodruff, co-author with husband Bob of *In an Instant*, a book about their family’s difficult journey during Bob’s critical injury in Iraq while anchoring a broadcast for ABC News, spoke on March 27. Sponsored by the Student Affairs Lecture Series.

### April 2008

Connecticut Supreme Court Justice Barry R. Schaller spoke about “The Relationship Between the Courts, the Constitution and Public Policy” on April 1. Sponsored by SHU’s Department of Government and Politics.

Stephen Levine, a visiting research fellow at the New School for Social Research and noted author, presented a lecture on “Truth and Moral Validity: On Habermas’ Domesticated Pragmatism” on April 2. Sponsored by the Hersher Institute for Applied Ethics.

Meteorologist and author Bill Evans discussed his new novel, *Category 7*, on April 9. Evans is senior meteorologist for WABC-TV Eyewitness News and 95.5FM WPLJ Radio. Sponsored by SHU’s Ryan-Matura Library, the Biology Department and the Biology Club.

Photojournalist Les Stone spoke in the Schine Auditorium on April 21 as part of a lecture series entitled “Photography in a Digital World.” During the last two decades, Stone has chronicled the human cost of conflict in Iraq, Afghanistan, Israel, Kosovo, Liberia, Cambodia and Haiti, among other war zones. Sponsored by the Media Studies/Digital Culture Department and the Nikon Spirit Initiative.

Heather Kovar, anchor-reporter from News Channel 12, spoke to a crowd during Administrative Professionals’ Day on April 22 in University Commons. The event was hosted by the Office of Human Resources.

Sacred Heart University’s Core Curriculum presented a lecture by Laurie Goodstein, religion reporter for *The New York Times*. Her lecture, “Hiding in the Headlines: How Religion Shapes the News (and how the news sometimes fails to notice),” was held in University Commons on April 28.

Goodstein, who joined *The New York Times* in 1997, brings life to how Americans live out their faith in an age of increasing religious diversity and conflict over the limits of religious expression. She has received the first place award for Best In-Depth News Reporting on Religion from the Academy of Religion, the nation’s largest academic association of religion scholars.

Andrew Skotnicki, associate professor of religious studies at Manhattan College and author of several books, delivered a lecture entitled “Sin, Delinquency and the Extent of the Carceral Net” on April 30. Sponsored by the Department of Criminal Justice at SHU.
Renowned Theologian Receives Honorary Degree

Father David Tracy, Greeley Distinguished Service Professor Emeritus of Catholic Studies at the University of Chicago Divinity School, was honored by Sacred Heart University with a Doctor of Humane Letters degree, *honoris causa*, at a special convocation on April 23.

The convocation included a procession of University dignitaries in full academic dress. Immediately following the degree-granting ceremony, Fr. Tracy delivered an address titled “On Longing for the Incomprehensible God.”

Fr. Tracy is a widely published scholar and has taught a broad spectrum of courses in contemporary theology at the Divinity School. He has also served on the University’s Committee on the Analysis of Ideas and Methods and the Committee on Social Thought. Currently a priest in the Diocese of Bridgeport, David Tracy is a native of Yonkers, New York. He earned his licentiate in 1964 and his doctorate in 1969, both at Rome’s Gregorian University. In 1982 he was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.
SHU Celebrates 42nd Commencement Weekend
Undergraduate Commencement

The 42nd undergraduate commencement was bittersweet for Kevin Hannigan, who will begin a Ph.D. program in medicinal chemistry in the fall.

“It’s sad, but it’s also exciting because you’re moving on,” said the 22-year-old native of Floral Park, N.Y., who earned his bachelor’s in business administration on Sunday, May 18, and was awarded a master’s in chemistry during the graduate commencement on Saturday. He walked with his classmates on Sunday wearing an honors program medal and two silver medals for the second-highest averages in chemistry at both the undergraduate and graduate levels, and hopes to become a researcher at a pharmaceutical company.

The ceremony’s three commencement speakers, each of whom was awarded a Doctor of Humane Letters degree, offered the students advice about how to give to the world.

The graduates are armed with a powerful education, but must always persevere to give to the world, according to Mark E. Freitas, a Sacred Heart trustee and president/CEO of Frank Crystal & Company, one of the top 20 insurance brokerage firms in the United States. The students will soon move to positions in companies or graduate schools in which they will have to prove themselves and earn their way up.

“You’re coming here [to graduation] at the top. Next week you’ll be at the bottom again,” said Freitas. “You need to believe in yourselves. Don’t quit and don’t take the easy route because it will never get you anywhere.”

Giving to the world requires sharing education with people less fortunate, according to Jane E. Ferreira, the president and CEO of Mercy Learning Center of Bridgeport, a nonprofit organization that educates disadvantaged women with the view that educating a woman means educating a family. “When you combine your mind and your heart, you become passionate educators.”

But graduates also must remember that the world is filled with paradoxes. Sacred Heart Trustee Hans J. Gram, a native of Oslo, Norway, and retired CEO of R.S. Platou, an international shipbroking company, told the students about his childhood during the Nazi occupation. During British bombing raids, Gram’s parents took their children to the basement to avoid the explosions and told them that those dropping bombs were their friends and the bombs’ targets were not. Understanding paradoxes leads to knowledge, he said.

“Knowledge contemplated leads to wisdom,” Gram said, encouraging graduates to use their educations to serve mankind. “You were not invited here to study for a career. You were invited to seek the truth.”

By Daniel Drew, SHU Correspondent
Honorary Degree Recipients Celebrate 42nd Commencement

Sacred Heart University bestowed a total of 1,465 degrees at Commencement 2008, including 23 Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) degrees, 422 master’s degrees, 937 bachelor’s degrees, 29 associate’s degrees and 54 professional certificates.

To help celebrate SHU’s 42nd Commencement Weekend on May 17-18, graduates received inspiration from addresses delivered by University trustee Mark Freitas, CEO of Frank Crystal & Company; Jane E. Ferreira, president and CEO of Bridgeport’s Mercy Learning Center; Deacon Hans Gram, SHU trustee and retired CEO of R.S. Platou a.s.; and James P. Comer, M.D., the Maurice Falk Professor of Child Psychiatry at the Yale University School of Medicine’s Child Study Center.

Mr. Freitas, Ms. Ferreira, and Mr. Gram delivered their addresses on Sunday, May 18th, and received honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degrees. Dr. Comer, who was also awarded a Doctor of Humane Letters degree, spoke during the University’s Graduate Commencement on May 17.

A 1981 graduate of the University of Connecticut, Mr. Freitas has served as a director of the UConn Foundation and a member of the Leadership Cabinet of the School of Business, and created an endowment fund and an athletic scholarship. In 2005, UConn named its 2000-seat ice rink for its alumnus, dubbing it the Mark Edward Freitas Ice Forum. Mr. Freitas also established the Mark Edward Freitas Foundation in 2005 to support programs that promise substantial impact on children and adolescents who are physically, intellectually and financially challenged.

In 2002, Ms. Ferreira became the president and CEO of Mercy Learning Center of Bridgeport. Believing that each woman can make a difference in her life if only given the opportunities, Ms. Ferreira quickly endorsed Mercy Learning Center’s motto: “Educate a woman…Educate a family.” The Mercy Learning Center now serves 500 women and 100 children annually, providing opportunities for women to earn their high school diplomas and enroll in college. Prior to her work at Mercy Learning Center, Ms. Ferreira served as an associate chaplain at Yale University. She has spent 25 years as a pastoral minister and administrator in various communities throughout the United States.

A resident of West Redding, Conn., Mr. Gram grew up the son of a shipbroker in Oslo, Norway. In 1936, his father was a founding partner of R.S. Platou a.s., an international shipbroking company that serves the shipping and offshore industry worldwide. Mr. Gram graduated from Oslo’s Commercial College in 1959 and attended the Oslo Academy for Business in 1960. He served as CEO of R.S. Platou from 1977 until 1986, and is still serving as a non-executive director of that company. He headed an independent ship-owning company from 1986 until 1990, which he sold when he moved with his family to the U.S. A United States citizen since 2000, he has served on the Parish Council of St. Mary Parish in Ridgefield, Conn., and was ordained a deacon for the Diocese of Bridgeport.

Dr. Comer is the Maurice Falk Professor of Child Psychiatry at the Yale University School of Medicine’s Child Study Center. He is known nationally and internationally for his creation of the Comer School Development Program (SDP). He is the author of nine books, including Maggie’s American Dream and Leave No Child Behind. His pioneering work in school restructuring has received widespread media attention. He is a co-founder and past president of the Black Psychiatrists of America and is a member of the Institute of Medicine of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

Jane E. Ferreira (left), president and CEO of Bridgeport’s Mercy Learning Center, with James Morley, Jr. vice-chairman of the SHU Board of Trustees.
Graduate Commencement

It will be the responsibility of the Class of 2008 and their generation to right the wrongs the world is facing now, according to graduate commencement speaker James P. Comer, M.D., a renowned physician and professor of child psychiatry at the Yale University School of Medicine.

“I want you to consider just how important you are and your generation is—not just to your families, but to the world,” said Comer, who received an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree during Sacred Heart’s 42nd graduate commencement in May in the Pitt Center.

Comer told graduate students to use their educations to make wise decisions because what they do now will set the paths of each individual—and the nation—for the future. “Class of 2008, you are a time-sensitive and powerful generation,” he said. “What you do in the next 50 years will put us back on track or let us slide backward.”

The responsibility for the nation’s future lies with the Class of 2008’s generation because society has evolved to become vastly more complex in the past 50 years. The changes have reduced the United States’ ability to compete with other nations.

“Your generation must make it happen,” Comer said. “You must put us back on track.”

The graduates have already made great strides. Ten years ago, their generation was accused of widespread apathy, but now changes in politics and culture have introduced an additional layer of accountability and devotion to service in public life.

Rob Kennedy, 38, left a lucrative sales position to earn a teaching degree and will continue at Sacred Heart to earn a sixth-year certificate. “Life is too short to be doing something you’re unhappy with,” said Kennedy, of Bethany, Conn. “I just finished my first year of teaching, and I love it.”

“Your hard work and perseverance have brought you to this milestone,” said Anthony J. Cernera, Ph.D., Sacred Heart University president. “Thank you for your good work here. Thank you for remaining vital members of our community.”

By Daniel Drew, SHU Correspondent
Physical Therapy Program Named Best in State

This year, U.S. News & World Report listed Sacred Heart University’s Physical Therapy program as the best in Connecticut—and one of the top nationwide.

As the most highly rated program in Connecticut, Sacred Heart has been a regional and national leader in the field, introducing the first doctoral program in Connecticut in 2004.

“I am very pleased to be recognized by our peer institutions as a leading physical therapy program in the Northeast and ranked among the top 25 percent of programs nationally,” says Dr. Michael Emery, professor and director of the Physical Therapy program. “This ranking acknowledges the wonderful contributions to the field of physical therapy by our faculty, alumni and currently enrolled students.”

The magazine’s Best Graduate Schools 2009 ranked SHU 52nd nationally, placing it among the top five programs in New England, which include programs at Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston University, the University of Vermont and Simmons College.
Sacred Heart University was founded 45 years ago to offer students in Fairfield County access to a first-rate, affordable education in the Catholic tradition. In keeping with that mission, the University is now offering accepted, full-time undergraduate students from the County a tuition-free education if they come from families with incomes below $50,000.

“I announce the strengthening of this historic commitment with a strong conviction that all students deserve access to higher education,” said SHU president Dr. Anthony J. Cernera during the University’s annual scholarship event, the 19th annual Discovery Awards and Scholarship Dinner, held at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Old Greenwich, Connecticut, on April 16th.

Over nearly two decades, the dinner has realized millions of dollars for student financial assistance. Proceeds from this event complement the overall $23 million that the University currently provides students in the form of scholarships, grants and work-study programs. This year’s dinner raised over $675,000 for the University’s scholarship fund—proceeds that are being used to help support this new tuition-free program.

James Barquinero, SHU vice president for Enrollment Planning and Student Affairs, noted that tuition for full-time undergraduates is currently $26,950. “That the University is willing to meet those expenses in full says something important about the values we stand by—to provide access, opportunity and an exceptional liberal arts education to prepare our students to live in and make their contributions to the human community.”
When Director of Athletics Don Cook mentions to friends that Sacred Heart University teams are going head-to-head against institutions like Harvard, Boston College and Notre Dame, “Sometimes they still can’t believe it,” he says, then laughs. “But after the year we just had, it’s getting tougher for us to sneak up on anybody.”

Only two decades ago, SHU was a Division II commuter campus with an undergraduate enrollment of less than 1,000. Today, it is a thriving Division I institution with 32 varsity sports and an enrollment of over 3,500. These achievements “have effectively catapulted us into our second decade as a Division I school,” says Jim Barquinero, SHU’s Vice President of Enrollment Planning. “Now everyone knows our name.”

This past year was one of victory laps for Sacred Heart, as the University celebrated its ninth season as a Division I competitor with six conference championships, one second-place finish and seven third-place finishes. Added together, these wins gave the Pioneers the Northeast Conference’s Commissioner’s Cup for the first time in history. For Sacred Heart—the youngest Division I school in the conference—“winning that cup within the first decade of our program is something really special,” notes Barquinero.

To top things off, Sacred Heart earned top marks this past year from the NCAA Division I Committee on Athletics Certification (see accompanying story).

What do these athletic accolades promise for Sacred Heart’s future?

The University is now attracting top student-athletes and coaches from around the country. A case in point: SHU’s new women’s volleyball team coach, Rob Machan, joined SHU after two years as an assistant coach at Azusa Pacific University, where he helped guide the Cougar program back to the NAIA Tournament in 2005 for the first time since 2000. Other recently hired coaches bring experience and success from institutions such as Michigan, Colgate and Brown.

With success, Sacred Heart is getting attention not only from prospective players but from other teams and conferences, in the form of invitations to compete. Just recently, the men’s golf team played in a nationally recognized tournament at St. John’s University. “Three years ago, we wouldn’t have even been invited to play in these events,” notes Cook, citing other recent SHU opponents such as the Air Force Academy and Colorado College. “Now we stand a good chance of adding more championships to a record that’s already outstanding.”

What’s more, Sacred Heart’s athletes continue to perform well academically and to contribute to the University’s community service efforts. “We have just finished 12 consecutive semesters where our athletes had a GPA of over 3.0 as a group, and we’re talking about over 700 athletes,” Cook says. “That’s an impressive achievement.”

Becoming a Division I school, Barquinero adds, has always been about a lot more than athletics at Sacred Heart. “Our certification as a Division I school is symbolic of the overall excellence of the institution,” he says, “just like the recent AACSB accreditation of our business school and the national ranking of our Department of Physical Therapy as Connecticut’s premier program. What all of these accomplishments show is that we can be champions in any arena we choose.”

Division I athletic competition is an integral part of Sacred Heart University’s overall approach to learning. The Catholic intellectual tradition, on which Sacred Heart is based, has always worked to engage the whole person in mind, spirit and body. We couldn’t be prouder of our student-athletes, who contribute so much to the richness of our campus life and our learning experience.

- DR. ANTHONY J. CERNERA, PRESIDENT
Universities dream about athletic seasons like this. They dream that success will range from one end of the sports spectrum to the other. And at Sacred Heart, 2007-08 was, finally, one of those years. Six conference championships. One second-place finish. Seven third-place finishes. Add it all together and it equals the Pioneers winning the Northeast Conference’s Commissioner’s Cup for the first time.

“It’s been an interesting year,” Athletics Director Don Cook understated.

Interesting? Try impressive. In just its ninth season of Division I competition, Sacred Heart laid claim to having the best overall athletic program in the conference. It won NEC titles in men’s golf, men’s and women’s outdoor track, women’s lacrosse, men’s indoor track and women’s bowling. The women’s golf team finished second overall. And the men’s and women’s basketball, men’s and women’s soccer, field hockey, men’s cross country and women’s indoor track all finished third in conference play.

Not bad. Not bad at all.

Chris Elsberry, reprinted with permission from the Connecticut Post

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**Club Sports Gain Favor at SHU**

Of the 3,500 undergraduates at Sacred Heart University, over 25 percent now play a sport, thanks to Sacred Heart’s rapidly evolving club team programs.

“These teams have their own athletic director,” notes Don Cook, SHU Director of Athletics. “We want to make sure that kids who want to compete in the sport of their choice aren’t turned away because they can’t make a Division I team. They can now compete against other institutions through club associations.

“Moreover,” adds Cook, “the caliber of competition among these club sports is outstanding, as more and more student-athletes are drawn to Sacred Heart. It’s a real tribute to the growing reputation and success of our intercollegiate programs.”

**Club sports at SHU currently include:**

- Baseball
- Men’s Bowling
- Curling
- Dance Team
- Field Hockey
- Figure Skating
- Golf
- Men’s Ice Hockey
- Men’s Lacrosse
- Women’s Lacrosse
- Men’s Rugby
- Women’s Rugby
- Women’s Soccer
- Men’s Swimming
- Tennis
- Ultimate Frisbee
- Women’s Volleyball
- Weightlifting

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**SHU’s Cup Runneth Over in NEC**

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Not bad. Not bad at all.

Chris Elsberry, reprinted with permission from the Connecticut Post
SHU applies the strategic use of resources and focuses on getting things done at a very high level.

The entire community is committed, first to the institution itself, then in particular to the athletics program.

The coaches at Sacred Heart University treat their work as a vocation, not a job, in the sense that there’s a higher calling that is so evident in what they do.

Members of the faculty are fully committed to the success of the athletics program and its student-athletes. At many institutions faculty support for athletics is deep but not broad. Here it is both broad and deep on the issues that matter the most, even issues that outsiders can identify as particular strengths of the institution.

SHU has provided a consistent, positive and competitive experience for its students.
**Women’s Lacrosse Scores 2008 NEC Championship**

In one of the most exciting moments on the lacrosse field, Sacred Heart University sophomore Carissa Hauser, right (East Northport, N.Y.), scored the game-winner with just three seconds on the clock to deliver the Pioneers the 2008 Northeast Conference Championship with a 15-14 win over Quinnipiac. Hauser buried a feed from tournament MVP Amanda Williams, left (Monroe, CT), on the final possession to clinch the program’s first-ever league title.

Hauser earned a spot on the NEC All-Tournament team thanks to her career-high five-goal performance against the Bobcats. Joining Hauser on the All-Tournament team were MVP Williams, senior Katie Salamone (Baltimore, MD), sophomore Chelsea Wagner (Aurora, CO) and freshman Jessica Ingrilli (Wantagh, NY).

**Pioneer Track Teams Win First NEC Championships**

For the first time in the history of Sacred Heart University, men and women’s track & field teams each won their Northeast Conference Outdoor Championships this year. The team victories were led by outstanding performances from seniors Arman Dixon (Beacon, NY) and Marsha Locke (Danbury, CT). The Pioneer men scored 164.50 points to end Monmouth’s streak of four straight titles. The SHU women piled up 144.50 points to beat out the Hawks and deny them their second straight league championship. Head coach Christian Morrison was named the NEC Coach of the Year.

During the NEC Championship meet, Dixon matched his MVP performance from the indoor season, where he guided the Pioneers to their first NEC Indoor title by earning 43.50 points, to lead SHU to their first outdoor championship. Dixon was named the event’s Most Valuable Performer and Most Outstanding Track Performer, partly by surpassing the NCAA regional standard with a leap of 7.35m (24’ 1.50”). Dixon dominated on the track, too, racking up wins in the 200 meters, 400 meters and on the NEC record-breaking 4x100 relay team, which came in at 40.91 seconds, setting a new NEC Championship record. SHU freshman Andrew Houghtalen (West Chariton, NY) earned Most Outstanding Rookie Performer on the men’s team, scoring a huge victory in the SK.

For the SHU women, Locke led the way by successfully defending her shot put crown from a year ago. She bested last year’s winning throw by more than one meter and surpassed the qualifying standard for the NCAA East Region Championships at 14.99m (49’ 2.25”). On Sunday, the senior won the javelin with an NCAA Regional qualifying toss of 43.84m (143’ 10”). Locke took home both the Most Valuable Performer and the Most Outstanding Field Performer trophies. Junior Amanda Williams was named NEC Tournament MVP.
Sacred Heart Honors 135 Seniors at Annual Awards Banquet

At the 16th Annual Awards Banquet, Sacred Heart University’s Department of Athletics honored 135 senior student-athletes and others at the Trumbull Marriott. Jeff Holtz of the Pioneer Radio Network served as the evening’s Master of Ceremonies as the Department of Athletics recognized the accomplishments of student-athletes from among its 32 athletic programs.

The highlight of the program was the presentation of the ECAC Medal of Merit, presented to senior male and female athletes who combine the best in athletic and academic excellence. This year’s recipients were Marsha Locke of the women’s track & field team and Drew Shubik of the men’s basketball team.

The Athletic Director’s Award was given to two individuals and a team that have achieved at the national level or have accomplished in an extraordinary way in their sport. This year’s recipients were seniors Arman Dixon of the men’s track & field team, sophomore Krista Bacci (Cresskill, NJ) of the women’s fencing team, and the women’s bowling team under head coach Becky Kregling.

OTHER ATHLETIC AWARDS RECEIVED INCLUDED:

- The Dr. Gary Rose ECAC Scholar-Athlete Awards: Alex Parent of the men’s ice hockey team and Annie Archer of the women’s volleyball program.
- The Allyson Rioux Memorial Book Awards: Ryan Arroyo of the football team and Alexandra Bavasi of the women’s volleyball team.
- The Alumni Recognition Award: Alyssa Harris of the women’s lacrosse program and Chris Yantz of the men’s volleyball team.
- The John Croffy Academic Award: Nick Kary of the men’s ice hockey program and Amanda McLaughlin of the women’s cross country and track & field teams.
- The Distinguished Alumni Award: Dave Bike, head coach of the Sacred Heart men’s basketball team and a graduate of the Class of 1969.
- The Alvin Clinkscales Pioneer Sports Award: Meghan Conti of the Athletic Training Department.
- The Chip Kennedy Outstanding Contributions Awards: Larry Lacorte, manager of Vazzy’s at the D. Fairchild Wheeler Golf Course and graduate student Pat Healy, president of the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC).
- The Faculty/Student-Athlete Mentor Appreciation Award: Professor David Cameron of the Physical Therapy department, faculty mentor for the wrestling program.
- The Student-Athlete Advisory Council Coach of the Year: Rob Machan.
- The Student-Athlete Advisory Council Athletes of the Year: Drew Shubik of the men’s basketball team and Marsha Locke of the women’s track & field team.
- The Student-Athlete Advisory Council Rookie of the Year: Jessica Ingrilli.
- The SHU “All-Rookie Team”: Kimberly DeLoreto of the women’s cross country team, Jennifer Russell of the softball team, Alisa Apo of the women’s basketball team, Sarah Pelletier of the women’s bowling team, Dale Fink of the football team and Krill Kasyanov of the men’s tennis team.
- The Student-Athlete Advisory Council Coach of the Year: Rob Machan.
- The Coca-Cola Community All-Americans: Amanda Lulu of the women’s bowling team and Nick Kary of the men’s ice hockey team.
- The Enterprise Rent-A-Car Student-Athlete of the Year Awards: Arman Dixon of the men’s track & field team and Marsha Locke of the women’s track & field team.
- The Comeback Student-Athlete award: Alyssa Harris of the women’s lacrosse program.
- The Student Athletic Trainer of the Year Award: Ericka Ventura.

(Above left) Drew Shubik (men’s basketball), left, and Marsha Locke (women’s track & field), right, accepted the ECAC Award of Merit from Director of Intercollegiate Athletics Donald Cook.

(Above right) clockwise from top left, Nick Kary (men’s hockey) accepted the Coca-Cola Community All-American award from Director of Intercollegiate Athletics Donald Cook. Anne Archer (women’s volleyball) accepted the Dr. Gary Rose Outstanding Scholar-Athlete Award from Professor and Chair of the Department of Government and Politics Dr. Gary Rose. Arman Dixon (men’s track & field) accepted the Athletic Director’s Award from Donald Cook. Alex Parent (men’s hockey) accepted the Dr. Gary Rose Outstanding Scholar-Athlete Award from Dr. Rose. Amanda Lulu accepted the Coca-Cola Community All-American award from Mr. Cook.
All-NEC Honors Go to Spehar & Russell

Senior Megan Spehar (Thousand Oaks, CA) and freshman Jen Russell (Seymour, CT) were named Second Team All-Northeast Conference this year in a vote of the league’s coaches.

Spehar, one of the best all-around players to come through the SHU program, led the Pioneers in runs scored with 20, and finished her Sacred Heart career second in school history, with 416 career strikeouts along with 31 victories.

In her first season as a Pioneer, Russell took the Northeast Conference by storm, turning in a 7-2 record with a 1.56 ERA in conference games. She led the team and was second in the league with 14 wins overall with a 2.73 ERA. She won three NEC Pitcher of the Week awards and was twice named the NEC Rookie of the Week.

Fairfield County Hall Fetes Giaquinto

Nick Giaquinto, who recently completed his 19th season as head baseball coach at Sacred Heart University, was inducted into the Fairfield County Sports Hall of Fame during a reception on June 21. Giaquinto will be recognized in the Hall of Fame’s University of Connecticut wing, which is housed at the UConn Stamford Campus.

Giaquinto was a running back for the Huskies for two seasons (1975-76) and still holds the school record for rushing yards in a game with 277 versus Holy Cross in his final game in a UConn uniform. He also is tied for the school mark for longest kickoff return (100 yards) for a touchdown. The Stratford High graduate spent four years in the NFL (1980-83), and is the only UConn player to own a Super Bowl ring, as he was a member of the winning Washington Redskins team in Super Bowl XVII over Miami.

Pioneer Team Dances to Fourth Place Nationally

Sacred Heart University’s Dance Team, a fixture at Pioneer football and men’s and women’s basketball games, took fourth place in the 2008 NCA & NDA Collegiate Cheer and Dance Championship in Daytona Beach, Florida. The Pioneers, the smallest Division I school in attendance, beat out the likes of Harvard, James Madison, Boston University, Wright State and Columbia. Under the direction of Head Coach Deirdre Eller, the Pioneers also took home the Innovative Choreography Award for the division.

For complete schedules of all SHU sports teams, visit www.SacredHeartPioneers.com.
Patrick Fillian Named Golfer of the Year

Sacred Heart junior Patrick Fillian (Tinton Falls, NJ) was named the 2008 Northeast Conference Men’s Golfer of the Year by the league’s head coaches. A two-time NEC Golfer of the Week honoree this season, Fillian fired 22-of-24 sub 80 rounds en route to six top-10 finishes. The Tinton Falls, NJ, native finished tied for second at the New England Championships after firing a two-day total of 143, including a season-low 68 in the opening round of play. The junior matched his season-low with a 68 during the first round of the Northeast Invitational. Fillian wrapped up the season with a second-place finish at the Northeast Conference championships.

Lynch Named First Team All-NEC

Junior Ryan Lynch (N. Babylon, NY) was named First Team All-Northeast Conference in baseball by a vote of conference coaches. Lynch, who pitched and played first and the outfield, batted .285 for the Pioneers with a pair of homers and 16 RBIs. Lynch also led the Pioneers with a 4.42 ERA in 38-2/3 innings pitched.

Sacred Heart University mascot Big Red joined some of the most recognizable team mascots in all of sports at the Grand Opening of the Sports Museum of America in May. Big Red joined the likes of Mr. Met (New York Mets), Scoop (Philadelphia Eagles), Sly (New Jersey Nets), Maggie (New York Liberty) and Sparky (New York Islanders/Dragons) to promote the event.
Christopher Fray, '96, a teacher at Staples High School in Westport, Connecticut, was named the 2008 Westport Teacher of the Year by the Board of Education. A specialist in foreign languages, Fray speaks Spanish, French, Russian, English and Mandarin Chinese. In addition to teaching languages, he has also taught courses in computers and American Government.

A faculty advisor for the Gay/Straight Alliance at Staples High School, Fray returns twice a year to Sacred Heart University to speak with the Education Department on gay and lesbian issues in the classroom. He credits Sacred Heart’s professors for inspiring his own teaching style and professional success. “A driving factor in my resolve to give back to Sacred Heart has to do with members of the teaching staff,” he says.

Helping a Memory Live Forever

When alumnus Patrick McCaughey died from heart complications in 2007, fellow athletic training graduates Kevin Joyce, ’00 and Kevin Vining, ’97 established a fund to “keep his name as part of the athletic training program,” says Vining, 34. Working with the Office of Institutional Advancement, they drafted a letter and began soliciting donations from fellow alumni to commemorate McCaughey and “help deserving students aspiring to achieve the same goals as Patrick.” To make a donation to the Patrick McCaughey Fund, contact Director of Annual Giving Anthony A. Cernera in Institutional Advancement at (203) 396-8272 or at cernera59@sacredheart.edu.

by Daniel Drew, SHU Correspondent

Golf Coach Finishes First Year

Thanks to his father—a history teacher who coached throughout his childhood—Matt McGreevy, ’98 discovered early in life that playing sports teaches crucial life skills. Sports can help “in every part of life, because you see so many different types of situations,” says McGreevy, who just completed his first year as Sacred Heart University’s women’s golf coach.

As a freshman, McGreevy was initially drawn to Sacred Heart because the University allowed him to play football and lacrosse at a time when most other schools wouldn’t. Though he loved the athletics, the academics kept him engaged. “I liked the school for how small the class sizes were,” says McGreevy, who was the football team’s quarterback and lacrosse goalie by the time he graduated.

This year, SHU’s women’s golf team was made up of two seniors, four juniors, and four freshmen. Thanks to individualized workout plans crafted by McGreevy with Associate Professor of Physical Therapy Gary Austin, Ph.D., a certified Titleist Performance Institute Instructor and strength and conditioning specialist, the team did well this year in their spring tournaments against Ivy League schools. McGreevy, who picked up golf after graduating from SHU with a psychology degree, has been a golf pro for nine years and is a teaching professional at the Great River Golf Club in Milford. “I like coaching because you’re able to follow somebody for four years and possibly beyond,” he says.

by Daniel Drew, SHU Correspondent
When Daniel D. Thomas walked across the Sacred Heart University stage in May to receive his bachelor’s degree, his net worth was approximately $1.1 million, and he had already published two books. But he was looking forward to continuing his education by getting a Master’s in Business Administration degree from Sacred Heart University’s John F. Welch College of Business. “That will be worth more than any property I own right now,” said the 22-year-old Bridgeport native and real estate investor who graduated from Bridgeport’s Bassick High School on Fairfield Avenue with nine college credits and entered SHU as a freshman in the fall of 2004.

He was looking for a job in 2006 and saw an advertisement for Century 21 Real Estate. Thomas walked into the local office and the management agreed to hire him if he earned a license. Despite the softening of the real estate market, Thomas quickly became the fourth-highest-ranked producer in the office. Since then, he has been buying and selling investment properties. He established his own investment company, Daniel D. Thomas, LLC, and is getting a broker’s license this year; he is also co-founder of the Thomas & Ephie Investment Firm, which focuses on real estate, art, stock and bonds, and small businesses. One of Thomas’s principal goals is to build a community of artists in the Canadian province of Nova Scotia. He is also working on establishing a scholarship for a Bassick High School student to attend Sacred Heart—after he spends the summer touring the country to support sales of his new book, Love Is the Strongest Force, a collection of poetry and essays he wrote while attending Sacred Heart.
Every year, Sacred Heart University’s Student Government sets $10,000 aside into a Capital Improvement Fund. The purpose of the special budget is to give something back to SHU, donating toward making the campus a better place.

For three years, however, that fund has been untouched. Student Government didn’t abandon the idea of the gift, says Matt Telvi, who is set to begin his second year as Student Government president. It’s just that nothing the University needed seemed to match the spirit of the fund.

This year, that changed. With the construction of the SHU Chapel taking center stage in the center of the Fairfield campus, Telvi and the Student Government Executive Board acted fast. Collecting the $30,000 of accumulated funds, they wrote a check to donate a baby grand piano and two pews to the school’s new center of worship.

“How many chances do we have as a student government to donate to something that’s so worthwhile to the University?” says Student Government Vice President for Finance Michael Tarantino, who graduated this May with a degree in business administration. “The big Chapel, the big construction—everybody knows about it. And we figured if we can donate to the Chapel, then that’s what we should do.”

Telvi, a senior political science major from Walkill, N.Y., says the idea for the donation came to him during the Fall 2007 semester. He met with Denise Tiberio, the associate dean of students and advisor to Student Government, then brought his proposal to the 11-member Executive Board. “They thought it was a great idea,” he says.

SHU broke ground for the $17 million Chapel in December 2006, with an expected opening next spring. The principal sanctuary will seat 500, with a smaller chapel for daily Mass and private prayer. “It’s really an honor to be part of this, because I love the school,” says Tarantino, a resident of Wantagh, N.Y., who plans to return to SHU in the fall to pursue an MBA. “I was here when the Chapel was being built. Now I can leave behind a legacy that’s about more than just getting my degree.”

The donation amounts to the biggest Student Government gift ever made to the University, and Tiberio says it’s a perfect use of the fund. “The Chapel is the most significant building that we’ve seen built at Sacred Heart, and it holds a huge value to our campus community,” she says. “When Matt brought this to the committee, it wasn’t like he had to talk them into it. They were willing and happy to play a part in history here. And, with the $30,000, they were able to participate in a meaningful way.”
Nearly 100 golfers swung their clubs under picture-perfect skies to support the Sacred Heart University Scholarship Fund during the 19th Annual Pioneer Open. The tournament took place on June 2 at the Rockrimmon Country Club in Stamford, Conn., where golfers enjoyed dinner, camaraderie and an awards presentation.

The Pioneer Scholarship Open golf tournament raises valuable scholarship funds for deserving SHU students; 100% of the net proceeds from the tournament directly support the University’s Scholarship Fund. Nearly 90% of SHU students receive some form of financial assistance.

This year, the tournament featured a variety of special hole-in-one challenges. The four “closest-to-the-pin” winners of the day qualified for the JetBlue Challenge, a $50,000 hole-in-one shoot-out. Another hole-in-one prize worth fighting for was the 2008 Corvette offered by Karl Chevrolet of New Canaan.

Jim Gilleran, Randy Baril, Dan Keane, and Chris Mitchell qualified for the JetBlue Challenge. No one pocketed the $50,000 prize, but Gilleran did take home the JetBlue Challenge trophy for being closest to the pin at the seventh hole.

The tournament’s winning low-gross foursome, Bill Mitchell, Chris Mitchell, Dennis Poster, and Robert Caserta, scored 61. Rick St. Vincent, Mike Podwill, David O’Sullivan and Ron Baransky were the foursome with the winning low-net score, finishing the day with a 57. The longest drives of the day were hit by Tony Coppola and Rick Smeriglio. The Trustee Cup was awarded to SHU Trustee Bill Mitchell.

This year’s official tournament sponsors included Petra Construction Corp., Lanese Construction Inc., Carpet King, Abbey Tent & Party Rental, and Oce. Lenovo sponsored The Pioneer Scholarship Open dinner, and FLIK served as the Anniversary Sponsor.
Thank You for your commitment to Sacred Heart University.

Taking the time to make your annual contribution is well spent. In under five minutes, you can give deserving scholars the opportunity to study at Sacred Heart University. With nearly 5,800 students, there’s always a need—whether it’s for new students whose scholarships will determine whether or not they attend our University or seniors who couldn’t otherwise afford to complete their degree—your support makes their dream a reality.

Making your gift is quick, easy, and convenient.

Online: www.sacredheart.edu/support.cfm
Phone: (203) 371-7860
Mail: Please use the enclosed gift envelope.

Multiply the impact of your gift. To find out if your company participates in a matching gift program, or to obtain matching gift forms, simply contact your human resources office.

20th Annual Pioneer Open
Rockrimmon Country Club
Stamford, CT
gibbst@SacredHeart.edu
June 8, 2009

5th Annual Athletics Tournament
Great River Golf Club
Milford, CT
adzgianm@SacredHeart.edu
Fall 2009

2nd Annual Alumni Championship
Fairchild Wheeler Golf Club
Fairfield, CT
gibbst@SacredHeart.edu
Fall 2009

The Sacred Heart Scholar Series
Three Golf Tournaments to Benefit Students

Advance sponsorship opportunities and registration for all tournaments is now open!
Matt Telvi, SHU Student Government President

Matt Telvi wants to run for public office one day, but isn’t sure how big he wants that office to be. “Possibly something in my town,” he says.

For now, though, the Wallkill, New York, resident is happy with the size of his current office: that of president of Sacred Heart University’s student body. Telvi, 20, has been involved with Student Government since his freshman year, when he served as secretary. The following fall he was elected president of the Class of 2009, followed a year later by the first of what he hopes will be two terms in his current position.

The junior political science major says it’s all great training for whatever business or political roles he fills after graduation. “Student Government gives me good insight on the way things work,” Telvi says, “and the steps that need to be taken for things to get accomplished.” One recent accomplishment: Telvi pushed through a $30,000 Student Government contribution to Sacred Heart’s new chapel.

Telvi is a member of College Republicans, acts with SHU Players, and works with the University’s Habitat for Humanity chapter. Telvi also sings with SHU’s chamber choir 4 Heart Harmony, and joined them in January when they traveled to Florida to perform at Disney’s Magic Kingdom. Primarily, however, he is the leader of students at Sacred Heart, where his greatest reward is to “put on a good program and see the outcome, to see all of the students happy with whatever you worked for.”

At this annual Mass of the Holy Spirit, we gather to ask the blessings of God on our community. It was 45 years ago tomorrow that our University held its first classes. As a Catholic university—now the second-largest in New England—we have, historically, placed our community at the service of the Church and understood our mission in spiritual terms. This Mass opens our school year by recalling where we have been and looking with the eyes of faith to the future.

And we look to the future in a special way this afternoon. The box that I carried with me is a time capsule that will be sealed into the University’s new Chapel, which you see coming closer to completion every day. A group of students and faculty and staff members got together to consider what gifts we might give to the Sacred Heart University community of the year 2063. That’s 55 years from now, in what will be the University’s centennial.

We have enclosed reminders of our lives as a community of faith. These include books of prayer such as a missal, a hymnal and our own Prayers from the Heart, which all of us received as freshmen—and some here helped to write. They include, of course, the stories of Sacred Heart’s well-known dedication to community service both here and far from here.

And, naturally, they tell a little of the story that led to the building of our new Chapel, which we plan to dedicate in the year to come.

We cannot forget about why we are here. At its best, Sacred Heart University’s mission isn’t just for while you are a part of this community, rather how you lead your life. Commit yourself to excellence in everything you do and recognize the dignity of all human beings and their potential worth to society.

Forty-five years ago Sacred Heart University welcomed its first 173 students to classes. Forty-five years ago, the Record of the Year was Tony Bennett’s “I Left My Heart in San Francisco” and the Boston Celtics defeated the Lakers in the NBA Finals. Forty-five years ago, the United States was edging toward war. The civil rights movement was full steam ahead: on August 28th, Martin Luther King, Jr., gave his famous “I have a dream” speech. Forty-five years ago, Lee Harvey Oswald assassinated President John F. Kennedy. And 45 years ago, the Catholic Church, having read the signs of the times, was about to embark on the Second Vatican Council.

Today, Sacred Heart University has welcomed almost a thousand freshman students to classes. Today the Record of the Year is “Irreplaceable” by Beyoncé and once again the Boston Celtics have defeated the Los Angeles Lakers in the NBA Finals. Today, the United States is at war, and on August 28th, Barrack Obama accepted his nomination from the Democratic Party to run for President of the United States, the first African-American candidate in our history. The Vatican Council, inaugurated 45 years ago, continues to bear fruit in this Catholic university today.

No one could have imagined in 1963 that all of this could be happening in 2008. Sacred Heart University plans to open this time capsule on the 100th anniversary of its founding. Who knows who will win the NBA Finals, or who will have the Record of the Year, or what race or gender the President of the United States will be? I hope and believe that the University’s mission will be intact and that our spiritual, intellectual, campus, and service-leading lives that we are representing today will still be carried out in the new freshmen that enter the Chapel 55 years from now. Thank you and God bless.
Actor, Comedian John Ratzenberger Named to Board of Trustees

When Sacred Heart University’s Board of Trustees holds meetings from now on, there will be a few new jokes flying around the table as actor and comedian John Ratzenberger joins them.

Ratzenberger, a Bridgeport native, is one of television’s most successful and well-known stars. He is a successful screenwriter, director, producer and Emmy-nominated actor, who initially captured the attention of the general public when he played mail carrier Clifford Clavin on Cheers. He is also an accomplished entrepreneur and philanthropist.

Ratzenberger attended Sacred Heart University, majoring in English literature and joining the drama club. His first starring role at SHU, in Tennessee Williams’ Summer and Smoke, laid the groundwork for a versatile career in television and movies.

Just as he had his regular spot along the bar in Cheers, Ratzenberger has found a regular spot in Pixar films. He is the only actor to voice a role in all of the Pixar films. It began with the charming and witty Hamm the piggy bank in Toy Story 1 (1995) and 2 (1999). Then came P.T. Flea, the excitable circus ringmaster in Bug’s Life (1998), and the lovable snow monster Yeti in Monsters, Inc. (2002). In the best-selling DVD in history, Ratzenberger plays the ever-changing school of Moonfish in Finding Nemo (2003). He was heard as the villainous Underminer in Pixar’s Incredibles (2004), as a Mack truck in Cars (2005) and as the waiter Mustafa in Ratatouille. Most recently, he appears in WALL-E.

Despite his Hollywood fame, Ratzenberger is still connected to his roots, actively participating in Bridgeport-area events. In recent years, he has filmed footage in Bridgeport and Stratford for his latest television show, John Ratzenberger’s Made in America. On July 1 of this year, Ratzenberger led the Barnum Festival Great Street Parade in downtown Bridgeport as honorary grand marshal. Two days later, he performed a dance duet with a professional ballroom dancer in Bridgeport with the touring production of ABC’s Dancing with the Stars.

As a humanitarian, Ratzenberger has served as chairman of www.childrenwithdiabetes.com, the world’s largest Internet venture connecting diabetes information and research. As National Walk Chairman, he has raised over $100 million for diabetes, the sixth-leading cause of death in the United States. Ratzenberger has also created the non-profit Nuts, Bolts and Thingamajigs Foundation to inspire the next generation of engineers, artists, craftsmen, carpenters, and all-around tinkerers.

Nancy Lambert Named to Board of Trustees

Sacred Heart University has named Westport resident Nancy Lambert, managing director of Citigroup Global Wealth Management, to the Board of Trustees.

Lambert joined the Private Bank, one of the largest private banking businesses in the world, in 2006 and helps advise clients with more than $100 million in investable assets. In 2007, Institutional Investor magazine named Lambert one of 20 rising stars in wealth management globally.

Prior to Citigroup, Lambert spent five years at U.S. Trust in New York. Lambert began her career in corporate banking at J.P. Morgan in 1990, and when she left, she was a team leader in private banking with a portfolio in excess of $4 billion.

She has been a featured speaker at the New York Society of Securities Analysts on the subjects of asset allocation, family dynamics, gift giving philosophies and market trends. She is a member of the Women’s College Mentoring Program, a national organization counseling young women considering careers in finance.

She is a board member of the NYU Cochlear Implant Center at the NYU School of Medicine and the Orphan Drug Coalition. Lambert has a Bachelor of Arts degree in Economics and Mathematics from Wheaton College. She is married to Dr. Louis Theodos, a reconstructive facial surgeon and participating physician for Doctors without Borders, an international humanitarian organization.
1967

Thomas Corbett retired as director of operations for the New Milford Schools and became selectman in New Fairfield, Connecticut.

1968

William Yarish ’68 (MBA Fairfield, 1972) has continued to teach Adult Education in the North Carolina Community College System on a part-time basis after retiring six years ago. He enjoys traveling and spending time with his family, including his two grandchildren.

1969

Laura Bubbico (1969, 1972) has opened a Kumon Math and Reading franchise in Fairfield. Laura has had a career in education spanning 22 years. She is currently in the process of earning her master’s degree in marriage and family therapy from Fordham University.

1970

Faith (Hagedus) Bliga joined RTI International as the director of talent acquisition in human resources located in North Carolina.

1971

Daniel Hanes has joined the Barnum Financial Group, an office of MetLife, as a financial planner and financial services representative. Dan, one of the first people in the United States to earn the prestigious designation as a certified financial planner® certificant and certified estate planning professional, has over 30 years of experience in the financial service industry. Dan is an active member of the Financial Planning Association, International Board of Standards & Practices for Certified Financial Planners, Western Connecticut Estate & Tax Planning Association, and the Newtown Chamber of Commerce, and is an adjunct professor at Sacred Heart University.

Faith Keaveney retired in 2004 after a 35-year teaching career in Waterbury, CT. She is enjoying substitute teaching, golf, traveling, volunteering in her church and spending time with her family.

Deacon Timothy Sullivan was awarded the 2007 Saint Augustine Medal of Service by the Diocese of Bridgeport on November 3, 2007.

1972

Vincent Giannotti (1984 MBA) is currently working in Alexandria, Virginia, as a finance manager for Mirant Corporation, an independent power producer with plants throughout the United States. He enjoys receiving Sacred Heart University Magazine and keeping up with all of the news. He and his wife have a son, Chris, who is a sophomore at Virginia Tech, so the events of last April really hit close to his home. He writes, “As both an SHU grad and a Hokie parent, I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to all of those who participated in the Sacred Heart tribute to the victims of the Virginia Tech shootings. After all of these years, I am still proud to consider myself a member of the Sacred Heart community.”

1975

Nora White Sabia received her Ed.D. from the University of Bridgeport in September 2007. Her doctoral dissertation was a legal and historical analysis of discipline in secondary public schools, which included zero tolerance with guidelines for the State of Connecticut. She is a Social Studies teacher in Norwalk and has been a middle school teacher for the past 18 years. She lives in Milford with her husband Don, and is the mother of two sons, Mike of Stratford, Connecticut, and Joe of Santa Monica, California.

1978

Linda Gottlieb, owner of FIT Training in Milford, was featured as the cover story in Personal Fitness Professional magazine. She has spent more than 25 years as a nationally certified trainer and wellness coach.

1980

Congratulations to Richard Barrett (1980 & 1987) and his wife Peggy, the proud parents of Colleen, 2008 magna cum laude SHU graduate; Richard, 2006 SHU graduate, currently at RBS Greenwich Capital; and Brian, who has just completed his freshman year at SHU.

1981

Joseph Iannotti was named vice president and corporate controller at Rayonier, Inc. in Jacksonville, Florida.

1982

Joseph F. Fetcho retired from AT&T as senior project manager, new products.

Dr. Maureen Maloney, who earned her Ed.D. in Education from the University of Bridgeport in 2003, recently retired from her position as professor and chair of Psychology with Housatonic Community College. After the death of her husband she has most recently been employed part-time at HCC.

1983

Richard Fohrenbach, Sr., IT Analyst at Sikorsky Support Services Inc (SSSI), headquartered in Trumbull, Connecticut, delivered a speech in May at the Deltek Insight meeting at the Venetian Hotel in Las Vegas on the worldwide implementation of a web-based time collection system for over 120 Sikorsky field service representatives.
1986

Mark Jardin was named chief operating officer of Aetna Global Benefits, Aetna Inc.’s international benefits division, located in Hartford, Connecticut. His position encompasses customer and member operations, employer services, provider relations, medical management services, and information technology.

1987


La Nelle Harris-Jackson teaches second grade at Stratford Academy.

Congratulations to Roscoe and Sheila Samuel on their son Lionel’s graduation from West Haven High. Lionel will be attending Sacred Heart as a freshman in the Fall 2008.

1988

Jim Ferris joined the Broadway cast of The Lion King in June. Jim has been a member of the first national touring company of The Lion King since 2004. Past credits include the national tour of Hello, Dolly!, the Far East tour of Grease, as well as numerous regional theaters throughout the country. Jim has the unique ability to perform any of the four starring roles in the show at any time. He is the stand-by for the roles of Timon, Pumba, Zazu and Ed.

1991

Lisa Bronowicz is the executive director of Open Hands, a nonprofit that provides services to the elderly, disabled, and economically disadvantaged in Santa Fe, New Mexico. The agency’s mission is to help individuals live with independence and dignity, and it provides adult day services, home safety modifications, a medical equipment loan bank, and emergency financial assistance.

1993

Elizabeth Donnenfeld (MAT) was named director of community relations for the Jewish Federation of the North Shore in Massachusetts.

John Lichosik (MAT) became the athletic training education program director and assistant professor of Carroll College in Waukesha, Wisconsin.

1994

Sarah Gauthier Galluzzo is a freelance writer. She holds a master’s degree in writing from Manhattanville College in Purchase, New York. She lives with her husband Joseph (Jay) Galluzzo (MBA ’01) and two young children by Mill River in Fairfield. She was recently commissioned by the Stepping Stones Museum in Norwalk to write two storybooks to go along with the Healthyville Exhibit. This nationwide initiative was created to help kids live healthier lives. Sarah also writes nonfiction and works as a freelance advertising copywriter.

Richard Jackson, Jr. (MBA) is a vice president in the credit review group of Global Markets & Investment Banking at Merrill Lynch & Co. in New York.

Jim Kraemer has accepted a position as VP of marketing for Alpharetta, Georgia-based Aon Integramark. Jim is responsible for client communications and customer retention efforts for the provider of debt protection products in the financial services industry. Jim, his wife Jackie and their two sons, Chris (age 8) and Pat (age 7), reside in Merrick, New York. Jim also volunteers his time as an assistant coach for a local youth ice hockey team.

Earl T. Ormond (MAT) recently joined Pepe & Hazard LLP as an associate in the Commercial Litigation practice. Earl brings more than 20 years of experience as a litigator, in-house counsel and police officer to his position. He received his legal education from Quinnipiac University School of Law (J.D.) where he was a member of the Phi Delta Phi Legal Honor Society and received distinguished academic honors in Trial Practice. He received his undergraduate degree from Southern Connecticut State University.

1995

Brian (1997 MBA) and Patty (Dillon) Picard will be celebrating the second anniversary of their construction company, Sunset Associates LLC. They have been married six years and are the proud parents of Dylan, 4, and Lily, 1.5 years old.

1996

Ellen Dunn (MAT) was promoted to assistant principal at Darien High School in Connecticut.

Margaret (Parker) Fix (MAT) was married to Michael Fix in April of 2001. She is a special education and Title 1 teacher in Coventry, Vermont. They have one son, Evan, who was born in 2003. She was named to the 2006/2007 edition of Who’s Who of America’s Teachers.

Christopher Fray (MAT) was chosen by the Board of Education as the 2008 Westport Teacher of the Year. He teaches at Staples High School in Westport, Connecticut, where he has taught courses in computers, American government, Spanish and Mandarin Chinese.

1997

Jessica Hope Bowman has earned her National Board Professional Teaching Certificate as a Middle Childhood Generalist. She is a fifth grade teacher in Stuart, Florida, and lives with her husband, John Bowman (1995), and sons Benjamin and Nicholas. Jessica earned her M.A. Ed in 2005 from the University of Phoenix and John earned his MBA in 2007 from Everglades University.

Laura (Baldino) Durant is an elementary school teacher in the North Branford school system in Connecticut.
Russell Hart (MAT) was honored as the 2007 State of Connecticut representative for Outstanding Teacher of American History by the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution and the local Sarah Williams Danielson Chapter of DAR. He is a teacher at Plainfield Central School.

Michele Herrmann accepted a position at University Business Magazine as associate editor.

1998

Timothy Aucoin is human resources manager at the Siemon Company in Watertown, Connecticut. He currently resides in Ansonia with his wife Michelle (Dorsch) (2000) and their daughter Madison.

Stephanie (Smith) Diamond published four children’s books by Soundprints, the publisher she interned with during her senior year at SHU. In July, she and her husband were to move to Bujumbura, Burundi, in East Africa, to work for the U.S. Embassy.

Joshua Cole, Esq. lives in White Plains, New York, with his wife Melissa-Jean Rotini, Esq. They are both graduates of Syracuse University College of Law. Josh is employed at Mayo Crowe, LLC as an attorney practicing in commercial finance.

Claudia (Soldiviero) Albanese was named Teacher of the Year for 2007-2008 for Manalapan High School. She resides in Manchester, New Mexico, with her husband Damian.

1999

Dr. Timothy Crader was promoted to vice president of Global Sales for EYP Mission Critical Facilities, a global, 350-person engineering firm based in NYC. Also, on June 8, 2007, Tim successfully defended his dissertation and received a Doctor of Business Administration (DBA) degree from the University of Phoenix.

Amy (Finkle) Grant is the director of business development for UnitedHealthcare.

Suzanne Manning was named Business Person of the Year by the Milford Chamber of Commerce. She is the publisher of Milford Living Magazine, Q Magazine and BeWell Magazine, as well as the president of Red Mat Holdings, a custom publishing company.

Shirley Mosby was nominated by the Norwalk, Connecticut, Democratic Town Committee to fill a vacancy on the Board of Education. Her goal is to see that all children receive an excellent education.

Michael Sciamanna and wife Jessica (Heideman) (2001) reside in Shelton, Connecticut, with their two sons, Jacob (2) and Brady (1). Michael is a vice president with Bank of America and Jessica is a residential counselor for the Kennedy Center.

Kim Timpany (MAT) is the associate director of leadership development with the student activities and university unions department at Virginia Tech.

Lt. Christopher Ficke, PT, MS, OCS, USN was honored for his professional achievements and outstanding service to the country at the SHU Physical Therapy Alumni Recognition Awards Dinner, November 2007.

Elizabeh Hyer has accepted a new position as director of marketing at Crosstex International in Hauppauge, New York.

2000

Cyrus Bartolome was ordained for the Diocese of Bridgeport on May 19, 2007. Father Cyrus is a parochial vicar at St. Mary’s in Bethel, Connecticut.

Michael A. Corarito, BSN, RN-DCSW, has been promoted to director of clinical services/director of nursing for AllianceCare Health Services in West Palm Beach, Florida.

Brooke Hourigan achieved Certified Financial Planner status from the Certified Financial Planning Board of Standards. She has worked in the financial services industry for eight years.

Erik B. Haakonsen (2000, 2003) has been appointed as the new director of technology and network administration for the Weston school district. He will be responsible for the school district’s entire information technology system, including computer infrastructure, all equipment purchases, budget development, and staff training. Erik was most recently director of business development for Network Synergy.

Frances Moore has been named editor of the Darien News-Review. She was most recently employed as managing editor of the Westport News and she was previously at Golf Digest for five years. She holds a master’s degree in journalism from Quinnipiac. While an undergraduate at SHU, she was captain of the soccer team and the entertainment editor of the Spectrum.

2001

Karen Fallon (2003 MSPT) is working at Griffin Hospital as a physical therapist and resides in Seymour, Connecticut, with her husband Michael.

Brian S. Goncalves graduated from Quinnipiac University School of Law (J.D.) and Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law (LL.M., Intellectual Property) and has joined Frommer Lawrence & Haug LLP in New York City.

Jeff Leake (6th Year) was elected treasurer for the Hartford-based Connecticut Education Association (CEA) for a three-year term.

Kevin Sanders is a teacher of Special Education, as well as the Special Education Department Chairperson, at Havenview Middle School in Memphis, Tennessee.

Daniel Scavone (6th Year) returns to his alma mater, Holy Cross High School in Waterbury, Connecticut, as principal for the 2008 – 2009 school year.

Capt. Jeremiah Sampson, PT, MS, OCS, USAF and Capt. Benjamin Hando, PT, MS, OCS, USAF were honored for their professional achievements and outstanding service to the country at the SHU Physical Therapy Alumni Recognition Awards Dinner, November 2007.

Katrina Stopper was awarded the degree of Doctor of Chiropractic from the Los Angeles College of Chiropractic at Southern California University. She accepted a position as a practitioner with the Del Mar Chiropractic Sports Group in San Diego.

2002

Erik Christian Hanson had his original play, TO DARFUR, accepted into the Quo Vadimus Arts ID America Festival in New York City. The play was selected from over 300 submissions from the United States and countries throughout the world.

David Krafick (6th Year) was named principal of Park Avenue School in Danbury, Connecticut.

Jessica Magri is a Bone Marrow Transplant Nurse at St. Jude’s Children’s Research Hospital in Memphis, Tennessee, and is expecting her second child with husband Kevin Sanders (2001) in February.

Kimberly Rich (2004 MPT) works for Bear Stearns in New York City as head physical therapist. Bear Stearns has their own physical therapy department located in their gym in their New York City building.

Susan Tarrant (MAT) became the principal of St. Ignatius School in Yardley, Pennsylvania.

Kate Sammon graduated in June from St. John’s University School of Law and has accepted a position as an associate for Forchelli, Curto, Schwartz, Mineo, Carlino & Cohn, LLP.

2003

Stephen Giunta works at his alma mater as the supervisor for the Call Center/Help Desk in the Information Technology Department and his wife Jessica (Gruzkiewicz) Giunta is an English teacher at St. Timothy Middle School in West Hartford, Connecticut. They reside in Naugatuck, Connecticut.

Kathleen (Haughhey) Trenske (2005 MAT) is working as an editor for an educational publishing company in Shelton. She is also an adjunct professor at Sacred Heart University.

Christopher Hughes (2004 MS) was promoted to computer engineer at Qualcomm in San Diego.

Samantha (DeVita) Kollar resides in Annapolis, Maryland, where her husband Joseph is stationed. Samantha is the director of client development for a consulting firm in Baltimore.

John Lampe (MAL) has returned as director of the Choral Club of Clinton, Connecticut.

2004

Maryann Bonacci became a vice president for TD Banknorth in the Weston Branch. She manages day-to-day operations.

Michael Collins (MAT) became the head coach for the Seymour High School girls’ basketball program in Connecticut, returning to his alma mater.

Christopher Louis and Erin (Roche) Louis live in Bradenton, Florida, and both work in the healthcare field.

Heather M. Schroder, Esq. is a May 2007 graduate of the Syracuse University College of Law (J.D.) and the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs (M.P.A.) where she was awarded both the Outstanding Graduate and Special Service Awards. Heather has passed both the Connecticut and New York bar exams, is admitted to practice law in Connecticut and New York, and is pending admission in the District of Columbia. Heather is currently an associate attorney at the firm of Windels, Marx, Lane & Mittendorf, LLP in New York City.

Robert J. Trenske is a professional wedding photographer. He is running his own business in Fairfield, RJT Pictures, LLC. He was recently selected as a finalist in the nationwide Wedding Photography Directory (WPD) wedding photography contest.
2005

Tajhma Burroughs, an occupational therapist in the rehabilitation department at Yale-New Haven Psychiatric Hospital, was chosen to present at the American Occupational Therapy Association conference in St. Louis.

Daniel Rich works on Long Island, New York, as a senior passenger sales executive for Air Charter Service USA, which also has offices in London, Dubai and Russia.

Rita Smircich was elected president of the Entrepreneurial Women’s Network for the 2007-2008 program year. She is a wedding planner and coach and owns her own event planning company.

Shannon McKellick currently teaches fifth grade social studies in Wilbraham, Massachusetts.

2006

Amanda LaPara is working at North Jersey Media Group, the publisher of The Record and Herald News, as a marketing assistant. She coordinates contests, sweepstakes and events to promote and market both newspapers.

Justin Martorano recently completed his Master of Science degree in Sport Business Management from Manhattanville College in Purchase, New York.

2007

Joseph Churba received the Connecticut Society of CPAs Merit Award, which is presented annually to the top-ranking graduating senior majoring in accounting from each of the Connecticut colleges and universities.

Ellen Satter (MBA) opened a scrapbooking store, Momento Arts, in Milford, Connecticut.

Ashley Winseck is employed at Greenwood Publishing Group in Westport, Connecticut. She works in the marketing department where she assists with the publicity plans for all titles.

Kelly Walsh completed a six-month Information Technology Professional Internship at Disney’s Animal Kingdom in Orlando. She developed a touch screen application to test the cognitive abilities of primates.

Births


Melanie Flavin (1993) and husband John Hogan, a son, Sean Patrick, January 12, 2008.


Amy (Finkle) Grant (1999) and husband Robert, a son, Jack Edwin, April 2007.

Christopher Hughes (2003, 2004 MS) and wife Jocelyn, a son, David Christopher, June 23, 2006.

Samantha (DeVita) Kollar (2003) and husband Joseph Kollar, a daughter, Olivia Marie, December 24, 2006.

Gina (Curtin) Liebhauser (1995) and husband Andrew, a daughter, Abigail Meredith, February 1, 2007.


Shaina (Stahlberg) Toomey (1997, 2000 MSPT) and husband Jody, a daughter, Abigail Rae, November 21, 2006.


Gina (Norelli) Kain (1998) and husband Matthew, a son, Kevin Warren, April 14, 2008.


Engagements


Marriages


Lindsay Collum (2000) and Andrew Reilly, October 13, 2007.


Sheila Earley (1993 MBA) and Aaron Schneider, May 27, 2006.


Monica Forget (1999) and Jason Fiegel, May 24, 2008.


Vimala George (2001) and Michael Ruszkowski, October 20, 2007.


In Memoriam


Left, Jason Prevelige, Class of 2004, proposed to his fiance Leanne Gissas, also Class of 2004, on stage at the Edgerton Center in June of 2008. The two were brought together on the Edgerton Center stage as a result of being involved with the University’s choral program.
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—U.S. News & World Report

“Best in the U.S.”  
—The Princeton Review

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