Alumni Profiles in Success

Outlining the achievements of several SHU Grads making their mark on the world,

ALUMNUS NAME: Tom Campbell

GRADUATION YEAR: 2008

MAJOR: Business

OCCUPATION: Analyst, Goldman Sachs

SHU COLLEGE: John F. Welch College of Business
Dear Friends,

In this year’s annual report, we focus on success. Not on success in the typical way most people define it—money and power—but in the way we define it as an institution of higher learning in the Catholic Intellectual Tradition. To those of us who belong to Sacred Heart University’s extensive community, success means a life fully lived, with a commitment to spiritual and ethical values as we strive to make the world a better place.

In September 2009, the depth of our commitment to spiritual and ethical values culminated in the formal blessing of our new sanctuary, the Chapel of the Holy Spirit. Visitors from as far away as Europe and Canada filled our new Chapel for the dedication ceremony, which you can read about in these pages. Our spring magazine will include a complete feature on the successful opening of the Chapel and its inaugural year.

To highlight the many successes of Sacred Heart alumni around the world, we’ve profiled the unique journeys of some of them here. These include a corporate attorney who started out thinking she’d go into business, a business graduate who followed in the footsteps of his father to become a Wall Street trader despite a family tragedy, a history teacher dedicated to immersing himself in public service, artists who bring excitement to advertising, and an accounting major who now serves the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

Naturally, in this annual report you’ll also catch up on the news of our professors, students and staff. For instance, you’ll discover why Sacred Heart’s Department of Physical Therapy is one of the top in the nation, you’ll read about our latest athletic highlights, and you’ll find out how our students and faculty measure up when it comes to intercollegiate competitions in art, science and business.

Sacred Heart is a place where people often discover surprising things about themselves as they learn how to become lifelong learners and leaders. I hope that, like me, in reading these stories you’ll feel proud to be part of a community where success isn’t measured in dollars, but in friendship, responsibility, intellectual curiosity, and working together to serve the greater good.

We are indebted to you for your ongoing support and confidence in our efforts to be a premier University with a growing international reputation. We owe our success to you, and hope that your path to success is as exciting as ours has been—and will continue to be.

With every best wish,, I am
Sincerely,

Anthony J. Cernera, Ph.D.

“To us, success means a life fully lived, with a commitment to spiritual and ethical values as we strive to make the world a better place.”
Profiles in Success
Sacred Heart University alumni take unique paths to success when they leave the University. Here, we highlight some of their exciting journeys.

SHU Leads in PT Education
SHU has become a leader in the field of training physical therapists. The University ranks as the best in CT and among the best in the nation.

Commencement 2009
Colorful commencement ceremonies drew thousands of well-wishers to campus on the weekend of May 16-17.

Growing Ahead of Schedule
The Sacred Heart Fencing team is making their presence felt in the NEC.

Departments

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47 » CLASS NOTES  Catch up with old friends: who’s doing what and where they are now
Visitors from as far away as Canada and Europe filled the Chapel of the Holy Spirit on Sunday, September 27th, as Sacred Heart University formally blessed its new sanctuary. The Most Rev. William E. Lori, Bishop of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Bridgeport, presided at the Rite of Dedication.

The ancient liturgy, which lasted nearly two-and-a-half hours, began with a ceremonial greeting in the spacious narthex—or lobby—from University President Anthony J. Cernera to Bishop Lori. Dr. Cernera presented the Bishop, who is also the Chairman of the University’s Board of Trustees, with the architectural plans for the new Chapel, which seats 550 persons. Concelebrants, including the Most Rev. Basil Losten, Bishop Emeritus of the Ukrainian Catholic Diocese of Stamford, processed into the new Chapel accompanied by a 50-member student choir and the sounds of a new 2,000-pipe tracker organ and other musicians.

The ceremonies are rich with symbolism and included blessing water and sprinkling the walls and the congregation with holy water; anointing the altar and the interior walls with sacred oil, and incensing the altar and the people. Midway through the service, Bishop Lori offered this prayer: “Light of Christ, shine forth in the Church and bring all nations to the fullness of truth.” At that moment, all the lights in the new sanctuary were turned on, and the giant mosaics behind the altar were bathed in dazzling light.

Regular student use of the Chapel began that evening with the normal Sunday night Liturgy. Morning prayer and daily Mass will be offered in a smaller chapel, and numerous special events are planned all year to celebrate this milestone moment for the Sacred Heart community.
The Connecticut State Board of Education has granted full approval to SHU’s Isabelle Farrington School of Education for its programs preparing teachers and school administrators. The certification is for the period September 30, 2008 through September 30, 2013.

The five-year approval follows a lengthy process that included self-analysis, individual program reports and an extensive on-site evaluation conducted over three-and-a-half days in April. The University, which is the largest private educator of teachers and school administrators in Connecticut, met all of the standards outlined by the State Department of Education. The state has adopted the national standards used by NCATE, the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education, meaning that Sacred Heart is in the process of achieving national accreditation.

Marketing Students Say “Tea Matters!”

Dr. Laurence M. Weinstein, a professor of Marketing in the John F. Welch College of Business, invited his students in Marketing Management 361 to explore ways to communicate the benefits of drinking tea—especially Bigelow Tea—to the SHU community. Members of his class this spring broke into groups in a competition judged by their professor and by Cindi Bigelow, CEO of the Fairfield-based national tea company that bears her family’s name. The winning team—Brian Flumere of Milford, MA; William O’Brien of Syracuse, NY; and Vinny Castelli of Syosset, NY—earned the right to apply as much as $5,000 to put their plans into place. As a result, their “Tea Matters” expo took place the week of April 27. The group set up a tent on the Flik Patio, inviting passersby to “Have a cup of tea on us,” accompanied by music. Each day, a different Bigelow Tea was featured—from a Monday “pick-me-up” to a Friday springboard to the weekend, loaded with antioxidants. Giveaways included “tea shirts” and “tea bags”—the latter being popular drawstring bags.

School of Education Receives Full Five Year State Program Approval
The Genographic Project

Do we all share the same gene pool? Students gathered to discuss this idea in “The Genographic Project,” a landmark study suggesting that all human beings trace their lineage to a group of sub-Saharan ancestors in eastern Africa. At two separate meetings, students assembled to discuss this worldwide study, in which many had also participated, and the implications that we are all cousins. The seminars are customarily directed by an interdisciplinary team of SHU professors. In this case, they were Dr. Kirk Bartholomew of Biology, Dr. Lesley DeNardis of Government & Politics, and Dr. Kathryn LaFontana of Psychology.

Band Fraternity Hosts College Bands from Across the Northeast

On Valentine's Day weekend, Sacred Heart University’s National Honorary Band Fraternity hosted 250 university band members from across the Northeast. Members of Kappa Kappa Psi's Lambda Nu chapter welcomed their counterparts from schools across the region and participated in sessions on fundraising, leadership and preserving band history.

Center for Not-for-Profit Organizations Offers a Helping Hand

Project Return has a big challenge in providing care for troubled teen girls. That challenge was made more complex by its outdated computer and business systems. The Westport-based group got a boost from the John F. Welch College of Business’s Center for Not-for-Profit Organizations in the spring of 2008, when MBA students—who are required to write a significant research paper that incorporates the management principles they've learned—chose Project Return as their focus. MBA students surveyed the program’s computer systems and began researching ways to standardize Project Return’s data collection. They also worked with software vendors to determine how they could integrate accounting systems and donor tracking systems. This past semester, MBA students developed a marketing plan for “Heal”—one of Project Return’s new programs that encourages troubled teenage girls to do charitable work.

WSHU Voted Best College Radio Station

We’ll chalk it up to such hard-hitting, addictive news sagas as the 2008 election, the economic collapse and the new President’s first hundred days that NPR station WSHU, based out of Sacred Heart University, beat out such hip music stations as Fordham’s WFUV and WestConn’s WXCI for Best College Radio Station this year in a poll conducted by Fairfield County Weekly. WSHU subscribes to the tried and true NPR formula: “Morning Edition” in the mornings, classical music in the afternoons, “All Things Considered” and “Marketplace” in the evenings—all sprinkled with local news updates. And there’s “Car Talk,” “A Prairie Home Companion,” “This American Life” and “Wait, Wait, Don’t Tell Me” on the weekends.

WSHU Music Director Kate Remington.

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On April 24, Sacred Heart University undergraduates presented the results of months of academic research at the 10th annual College of Arts and Sciences Undergraduate Research Poster and Showcase Session. The event drew a capacity crowd to University Commons to explore the work of more than 70 SHU students from a variety of disciplines, including biology, chemistry, computer science/information technology, mathematics, media studies/digital culture, psychology and sociology. For the second year in a row, the College of Education and Health Professions was also represented, with exercise science and athletic training, and for the very first time this year, criminal justice, history and political science also participated.

Dr. Timothy W. Corson, a Yale postdoctoral associate, was one of 16 judges on hand for the three-hour session. “I am very impressed with the quality of the work,” he said. “The skills put to use here and the experience gained will be of clear benefit to many of these students in graduate study, where poster presentations are a regular part of academic scholarship.”
Spring Break Students Head South for Service

About 80 Sacred Heart University students and advisors traveled south to participate in spring break Habitat for Humanity projects in Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina, Tennessee and El Salvador. Alternative spring breaks are a well-established tradition at Sacred Heart, where many hundreds of students and staff members regularly volunteer in the community. As Dr. Matthew R. Kenney, interim director of Campus Ministry, said to the departing students, these ventures point to what is best about Sacred Heart. “You are God’s presence and God’s hands and feet for these people. God bless you!”

Presidential Honor Roll Includes Sacred Heart

The Corporation for National and Community Service honored Sacred Heart University with a place on the President’s Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll for exemplary service efforts. Launched in 2006, the Community Service Honor Roll is the highest federal recognition a school can achieve for commitment to service learning and civic engagement. In all, nearly two-thirds of the University’s undergraduates participate in regular community service.

SHU Featured in National Guide to Service Learning

The 2008-2009 Guide to Service Learning: Colleges and Universities includes Sacred Heart University for the first time among the nation’s top schools promoting volunteerism connected with academic coursework. Sacred Heart offers courses in close to 20 majors that either require or allow service in the community as an accredited focus of the class.

CURTIS Week Introduces Students to Service Opportunities

The chocolate almond cake made a big hit at the Bridgeport Rescue Mission, and that was just one of the things that helped sweeten Lindsay Pucino’s last week of Christmas vacation. The Sacred Heart University sophomore spent the time as a student leader during CURTIS week, SHU’s immersion program in inner-city Bridgeport. This year, the program helped acquaint 20 University students—from freshmen to seniors—with the challenges and the satisfactions of service to others, accompanied by three student leaders. This year’s highlights included working with clients at homeless shelters, reading to pupils in elementary schools and working with nursing home residents.
New Master’s Program in Exercise Science and Nutrition Launched

Building on its top-ranking programs in allied health fields, Sacred Heart University recently inaugurated a master’s degree in Exercise Science and Nutrition.

Sacred Heart’s new Master’s degree program is unique, in that the course offerings include a Nutrition component with advanced study in Exercise Science, notes Dr. Michael J. Emery, chair of the Department of Human Movement & Sports Science. That department houses the new program as well as SHU’s renowned Doctor of Physical Therapy Program, which has been called the best in Connecticut and one of the top five in New England.

The new program in Exercise Science and Nutrition requires 37 academic credits and students may attend full- or part-time. Students will benefit from SHU facilities, such as a new human performance lab, a motion analysis lab, and a state-of-the-art health and fitness center. Graduates will be prepared for professional careers in hospital settings, long-term rehabilitation centers, health and fitness clubs; they may also work with athletic teams or recreation programs.

DHE Grants SHU $115,000 for Summer Program

The Connecticut Department of Higher Education granted Sacred Heart University $115,000 for a summer institute entitled “Combining Inquiry and Applied Physics in Elementary Science Education.” The intensive two-week program, which ran from July 6-16, drew over 30 teachers from Bridgeport, Fairfield, Monroe, Norwalk, Trumbull and Waterbury, in addition to teachers from area parochial schools.

The teachers, many of whom participated in a similar SHU program last summer specializing in environmental science, received three graduate credits and a stipend for participating.

According to Assistant Professor of Education Paul W. Massey, the summer institute is designed to strengthen teaching skills in the physical sciences using “inquiry-based approaches, performance-based assessment and technology.” It is the second part of a three-year cycle that will conclude next summer with earth science.
Dean Paolini to Serve on State Advisory Council

Dr. Claire J. Paolini, dean of Sacred Heart University’s College of Arts and Sciences, has been named to serve on the International Education Policy Advisory Council for the Board of Governors for Higher Education in the State of Connecticut. The appointment was made by Connecticut Commissioner of Higher Education Michael Meotti. The College’s founding dean, Dr. Paolini earned her Ph.D. in Portuguese and Spanish from Tulane University.

PROFESSORS GRODZINSKY AND SCARPATI EARN FACULTY EXCELLENCE AWARDS

Dr. Frances Grodzinsky, a professor of Computer Science and Information Technology, and Professor Stephen Scarpati, a clinical professor of Accounting and Information Systems, were honored on Commencement Sunday with special recognition for faculty excellence.

Dr. Barry Herman Receives Humanitarian Award

The Italian-American Historical Society of Connecticut presented Dr. Barry Herman with a special Humanitarian Award at its annual dinner on April 19. A Hamden resident, Herman was a professor of Education at Sacred Heart University for the past 22 years.

DR. JASON MOLITIERNO NAMED DIRECTOR OF HONORS PROGRAM

Dr. Jason J. Molitierno, an associate professor of Mathematics, has been named as the new director of the Thomas More Honors Program. The program uses student-centered techniques to develop critical thinking, research and communications skills while offering members a wide range of extracurricular learning and cultural activities. Dr. Molitierno earned a bachelor’s degree in mathematics from Connecticut College and a Ph.D. in mathematics from the University of Connecticut. The program follows the standards of the National Collegiate Honors Council.

Documentary On Nomadic Life Premieres On Campus

In celebration of the Persian New Year, Sacred Heart University’s Farrington School of Education presented the premiere of The Bakhtiari Alphabet, a documentary on nomadic pastoral life and education in Iran, on April 3. Directed by Reza Ghadiani and Sacred Heart University Associate Professor Cima Sedigh, the film follows the Bakhtiari tribe, a nomadic community in Iran, and provides insights related to the challenges of educating children in a nomadic community.
What’s on America’s mind? As always, Sacred Heart University’s Polling Institute has its finger on the nation’s pulse. Here’s a roundup of recent polls, seen in media outlets including Forbes, Newsday and America Online.

University College Names Dean
Mary Lou DeRosa, MBA, has been named dean of the University College. The interim dean of University College since November 2007, she manages the enrollments for 700 part-time adult students and the Stamford campus. The University College portfolio includes the Center for Financial Education, the Center for Spirituality and Ministry, and English as a Second Language.

DeRosa has over 14 years of experience in higher education. Most recently she was the Director of New Initiatives and has expanded the enrollment of non-traditional learners at SHU by launching a Hispanic marketing campaign and creating community college articulation agreements. She received her BA in Communication Arts from the University of Dayton and her MBA from Sacred Heart. A graduate of the 2008 class of the HERS Institute at Wellesley College, the 2005 Business Council of Fairfield County Leadership Class and the 2003 UPenn Entrepreneurship in Education Institute, she currently serves on the board of the Fairfield County Chapter of the Financial Planning Association and The Unquowa School.

In Memoriam: Dr. David Rice
Sacred Heart University mourns the passing of Dr. David Rice, associate vice president for Academic Affairs. He joined SHU in August 2007 and developed the leadership of academic events and programs, coordinating commencement and freshman convocation, managing the Provost Council agenda, overseeing the University’s Academic Program Review protocol, and leading special projects such as retention improvement. Dr. Rice is survived by his wife Terri.

Americans Split on Nuclear Energy Safety
A national poll of 800 residents found a nearly even split between those suggesting nuclear energy was very or somewhat safe (46.1%) and those who said it’s somewhat dangerous or very dangerous (44.7%). The two dangers that concern a majority of Americans are problems with radioactive waste storage and possible plant meltdowns. Despite these concerns, over one-third of respondents (36.8%) expect the number of nuclear weapons to increase worldwide as a result of building more nuclear power plants, and over half (54.2%) suggested that nuclear power plants will be safer in the future because of newer technologies.

Long Islanders Are Concerned About Area Hate Crimes
A poll conducted among Long Island (NY) residents in conjunction with WSHU Public Radio showed that a majority (86.8%) of respondents are “very concerned” (56.3%) or “somewhat concerned” (30.5%) about recent hate crimes. When comparing current hate crimes to two years ago, nearly two-thirds of respondents, 65.0%, viewed hate crimes on Long Island as increasing or remaining constant but high.

Even Environmentally Conscious Americans Aren’t Measuring Their Carbon Footprints
A national poll revealed that only 7.1% of 800 respondents have ever attempted to measure their own personal or household carbon footprints—despite the fact that a strong majority (80.1%) said they were completely or mostly convinced that global warming is occurring. Overall, 31.8% were aware of the term “carbon calculator” but less than half of this group understood how it works. A larger percent, 65.0%, said they were aware of the term “carbon footprint,” with most suggesting they understood the term. Nearly all respondents, 94.0%, said they were willing to change their own lifestyle to reduce the impact of climate change.
1. Dr. John Petillo was named dean in February of 2009.

JOHN F. WELCH COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

What’s New in the Welch College of Business?

Among an elite membership of fewer than 10% of business schools worldwide, the John F. Welch College of Business is accredited by AACSB International, the premier global accrediting body for schools of business. In 2008, the Welch College of Business was included among the Princeton Review’s Best Business Schools. This past year, Sacred Heart continued to up the ante in business education by adding a new dean and an innovative MBA program with a new MBA director.

Dr. John Petillo Named Dean of the John F. Welch College of Business

Dr. John Petillo took over as dean of the John F. Welch College of Business on March 2. He brings a rich background of leadership in both higher education and business to the Welch College, previously serving as chancellor and chief executive officer of Seton Hall University and as president of the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey. He was regional president of First Union Insurance Services and president and chief executive officer of the Newark Alliance, a distinctive private-public partnership to enhance the economy and quality of life of the City of Newark. Dr. Petillo earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Classical Languages and a Master of Arts degree in Counseling from Seton Hall University, a Master of Divinity in Pastoral Theology from Darlington School of Theology, and a Ph.D. in Counseling and Personnel Services from Fordham University.

According to President Anthony J. Cernera, Ph.D., “Sacred Heart University prides itself on educating the complete person—for success in one’s career and in the larger world. In Dr. Petillo, we have a man who embodies this approach. The John F. Welch College of Business continues to grow and to flourish, and Dean Petillo brings incredible strengths to the position: he is a leader for the 21st century.”

Welch College of Business Offers Welch MBA and Names New Director

Financial events over the past decade have forever changed the way we do business. In response, the John F. Welch College of Business at Sacred Heart University will offer the Welch Master of Business Administration program this fall—a program designed for working professionals who aspire to leadership positions in today’s global economy. According to Dr. John J. Petillo, dean of the Welch College of Business, this fall’s class consists of students whose “work experience and academic achievements are an indicator of their potential, desire and vision for the future.”

For candidates with a business degree from an accredited college or university, the MBA can be accomplished in 36 credits; others will need to complete two additional courses. The integrated core will consist of intensive programs to develop cross-functional skills. Finance, marketing, operations and accounting will be taught simultaneously in a “business process” approach. Spearheading the Welch MBA program is Anthony D. Macari, J.D., who has been with Sacred Heart since 2008 as a clinical assistant professor of finance and had previously been director of its Stamford campus. Macari has extensive academic and professional experience; in addition to his teaching and administrative duties at Sacred Heart, he was a cofounder and partner in Carlyle Brands Consulting, where his clients included Lehman Brothers, SchoolNet and Cardean University. He was also a director of strategy and assistant dean for business and legal studies at New York University. At Fortune Brands in Old Greenwich, Connecticut, Macari was director of business development and of planning and forecasts. “With plans advancing for the Welch MBA this fall and executive training programs on the table, we are pleased to have Tony on board,” said Dean Petillo. “His experience as a teaching faculty member, coupled with his background in executive education and corporate training at New York University, will be valuable assets to our programs.”
The Center for Christian-Jewish Understanding (CCJU) held its annual institute for seminarians and rabbinical students on May 19-21. Now in its tenth year, the institute invites emerging rabbis, priests and ministers to learn from one another. Scholars lead presentations on the history, theology and current issues in Christian-Jewish relations. The 2009 program welcomed 36 participants from over a dozen Jewish and Christian seminaries across the country. Graduates of the program can participate in CCJU’s “Colleagues in Dialogue” program that convenes every year in New York City.

French Priest Explores Eastern Europe’s “Holocaust by Bullets”

Father Patrick Desbois, a French Catholic priest, finds himself with the unlikely responsibility of speaking for an entire generation as he relentlessly pursues a trail of tears leading to the graves of nearly two million murdered Jews. These residents of Ukraine and Belarus were systematically rounded up and executed. This was done not in the style that has become familiar to the West in out-of-the-way gas chambers hidden from public view, but in broad daylight with the knowledge and often unwilling cooperation of the local populace.

Desbois shared the results of his painstaking research with an audience of 200 at Sacred Heart University in a forum sponsored by the University’s Center for Christian-Jewish Understanding on March 4. He was drawn to the subject by the vague recollections of his French grandfather, who was imprisoned during World War II in what was then the Soviet Union. Eventually, he began exploring the rumors of a once-thriving Jewish community in Eastern Europe that was wiped out by gangs of Nazi gunmen. His stories are as relentless and unforgiving as bullets. He and his team have investigated more than 850 execution sites and mass graves, and he expects their investigations will take them next into Poland and Russia.

Used to the threat of mass deportation, he explained, a village’s Jewish population would respond quickly to the loudspeaker announcements that everyone should gather at a common spot for immediate transport to Palestine. There they would be huddled into large holes in the ground and shot: hence the “Holocaust by Bullets.” The Nazi rule was “one bullet, one Jew,” so many victims were merely disabled by the gunfire before being buried alive.

This ethnic cleansing took place in full view of thousands of witnesses—and accomplices—and yet it has remained buried until Desbois’s research. He signed copies of his book on the subject, Holocaust by Bullets: A Priest’s Journey to Uncover the Truth Behind the Ukrainian Holocaust, and encouraged interested parties to visit his organization’s website at yahadinunum.org.
2009 SPEAKERS

JANUARY 2009

Major League superstars Joba Chamberlain of the New York Yankees and Jon Lester of the Boston Red Sox conducted a “Hot Stove Conversation,” discussing every aspect of baseball—and the historic rivalry between the two teams—before nearly 2,000 fans on January 27. The players were interviewed by Andrew Marchand of ESPN Radio. Four local fans—boys aged 9 to 12 from Fairfield, Trumbull and Milford—had the privilege of standing on stage with their idols and asking a few great questions. Offstage, the pitchers signed autographs and mingled with fans and the press. Media outlets from the New York Times to WFAN were among the many represented in the Pitt Center. Part of the University’s Student Lecture series.


FEBRUARY 2009

Amy Dickinson, author of the syndicated advice column “Ask Amy” and panelist on NPR’s Wait, Wait Don’t Tell Me, talked about her new memoir, The Mighty Queens of Freeville, on February 8. Part of WSHU’s “Join the Conversation” series.

Environmental advocate Dr. Majora Carter, who earned a MacArthur “Genius” grant in part for her work in creating riverfront parks, building green roofs and implementing the Bronx Environmental Stewardship Training (BEST) program, spoke about “Greening the Ghetto” on February 11. Sponsored by the Student Affairs Lecture Series.

Celebrated filmmaker Apo Torosyan presented The Morgenthau Story on February 12, a vivid film exploring the heroic efforts of Henry Morgenthau, Sr., the U.S. ambassador in Constantinople before World War I who helped save thousands of lives in the years following the Armenian genocide. Sponsored by the Center for Catholic Thought, Ethics and Culture.

Boston College theology professor Dr. Roberto Goizueta discussed immigration issues on February 18 in a lecture entitled, “No Prophet Is to Rise from Galilee: Re-imaging the Border.” The former president of both the Catholic Theological Society of America and the Academy of Catholic Hispanic Theologians, Professor Goizueta has written extensively on U.S. and Latin American theologies, culture, immigration and social responsibility. Sponsored by SHU’s Center for Catholic Thought, Ethics and Culture.

Former Connecticut State Historian, author of over 30 books and Pulitzer Prize nominee Dr. Christopher Collier discussed “Educational Policy for Connecticut’s Public Schools” on February 25. Sponsored by the Department of Government and Politics.

Author Nick Taylor spoke about “Lessons from the Great Depression: What the New Deal’s Public Works Program Can Teach President Obama and Us Today” on February 24. Sponsored by the Department of History.

MARCH 2009

A Criminal Justice Forum panel on March 4 included Assistant Special Agent in Charge Marc A. Lorenti of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Bridgeport Police Detective Anthony Davila, Captain of Administration for the Stamford Police Department Thomas Wuenemann, State Trooper Debbie Gutierrez, and Paul Healy, Executive Director of Emergency Management and Public Safety at Sacred Heart University. Sponsored by the Department of Criminal Justice, the Department of Public Safety and the Office of Career Development.

Fairfield County educators explored “Catholic Social Teaching: A Class Act” during a communion breakfast at Sacred Heart University on March 8. Sponsored by Centesimus Annus Pro Pontifice of Fairfield and SHU’s Isabelle Farrington School of Education.

Robert Ellsberg, publisher and editor-in-chief of Maryknoll’s Orbis Books, spoke on March 19 about Dorothy Day, the controversial Catholic activist and a leader of the pacifist movement in the United States. He has just completed editing Day’s diaries and is working on a collection of her letters. Co-sponsored by the Ryan-Matura Library, the College of Arts and Sciences, the Department of Religious Studies, and the University’s Center for Catholic Thought, Ethics and Culture.

Media critic, filmmaker and scholar Dr. Jean Kilbourne spoke about the impact of advertising in a lecture called “The Naked Truth: Advertising’s Image of Women” on March 23. Part of the Student Affairs Lecture series and sponsored by the Kappa Delta sorority.
Kerry Kennedy discussed her *New York Times* bestseller, *Being Catholic Now: Prominent Americans Talk about Change in the Church and the Quest for Meaning* on March 23. Daughter of the late Senator and U.S. Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy, she is the founder of the Robert F. Kennedy Memorial, which works to advance justice and human rights. Ms. Kennedy brought “Speak Truth to Power” to the University campus last year, including an all-star staging of the play by the same name, in support of the international struggle for human rights.


Political cartoonist Tom Tomorrow, creator of *This Modern World*, presented a lively slide presentation and discussion of politics and the media during SHU’s 12th Annual Media Studies Symposium in April. *This Modern World* appears regularly in approximately 80 newspapers across the country.


Emmy winner Joe Alicastro, a veteran news producer for NBC, spoke about his career on April 20. Mr. Alicastro, who began teaching at SHU this semester, focused his talk on digital journalism and the evolution of news production. Part of the Vision Project’s Photography in a Digital World lecture series.

Stephen Baker, author of *Numerati*, and Watts Wacker, author of *The 500 Year Delta* and *The Deviant’s Advantage*, delivered a lecture entitled “Your Future, Your Place in It!” on April 22. Presented by the Council of Graduate Students.

Dr. Joan Kelly of Sacred Heart’s Center for Spirituality and Ministry delivered an address entitled “Exploring the Footsteps of St. Paul” on April 28 to commemorate the Catholic Church’s worldwide observance of the 2000th anniversary of St. Paul’s birth. Sponsored by the University’s Campus Ministry; University College; the Center for Catholic Thought, Ethics and Culture; and the Religious Studies Department.

Ategra Capital Principal Brett Dougherty moderated a panel on “Surviving the Economic Crisis: A Public Forum for Investors” on May 21. Panelists included George Bory, Managing Director, Head of Credit Strategy, UBS; Greg Dyra, Managing Director, New Legacy Capital; Jonathan Holtaway, Chief Investment Officer, 1st Portfolio Corp.; Dr. Lucjan Orlowski, SHU professor of Economics; and Vinh Tran, Director, Alternative Investments, Bank of America and author of *Evaluating Hedge Fund Performance*. Sponsored by the John F. Welch College of Business, WSHU and the Stamford CFA Society.


### THE HUMAN JOURNEY CORE COLLOQUIA SERIES

The University’s Core Curriculum, recognized as a national model in values education, helps the community of learners address the fundamental questions of human meaning and purpose. Throughout the year, numerous colloquia are offered that further explore these foundational concerns. This past year’s series included:

- Being Catholic Now
- Evolution and Morality
- Media Literacy and the Human Journey
- *Gattaca*
- Ecology and Spirit
- The Genographic Project
- The Exonerated
- Sophocles: Fate or Free Will?
- Does the End Justify the Means?
- Brideshead Revisited
- No Prophet Is to Rise from Galilee: Re-imagining the Border
Sacred Heart University media studies major Sam Dowd really racked up the frequent flier miles this year by spending spring break in Central America and heading to Paris for six weeks beginning May 27. His spring break was a decidedly alternative version with the long-standing Sacred Heart mission in El Salvador. His time in Paris was spent working with Father Patrick Desbois exploring Eastern Europe’s “Holocaust by Bullets,” the village-by-village execution of nearly two million Jews in Ukraine and neighboring countries.

Junior Interns in Paris and Explores Eastern Europe’s “Holocaust by Bullets”

SHU Knights Of Columbus Carry Crosses To New Haven

On Monday of Holy Week, April 6, two Sacred Heart University students took up their crosses and carried them 21.7 miles to the City of New Haven. Paul Carrier and Sam Dowd, leaders of the University’s Knights of Columbus Council 9251, were responding directly to the invitation of Jesus in the Gospel of St. Mark: “If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.” The journey began at the Fairfield campus and ended at the K of C in New Haven, where the world’s largest Catholic lay fraternity was founded in 1882. Each student bore an 80-pound cross, pausing to spend the night in East Haven at a K of C Council.

Students Team Up with Researchers at German Science Institute

SHU seniors David Peregrim and Matthew Rigoli spent fall semester in Seewiesen, Germany, at the foot of the Alps as the only undergraduate researchers at the world-famous Max Planck Institute, collaborating closely with scientists. Their unique experience was organized by biology professor Barbara Pierce with her colleague, Dr. Scott McWilliams of the Department of Natural Resources Science at the University of Rhode Island. They collaborated on a $420,000 grant from the National Science Foundation that helped support the students.

Students Present at Intercollegiate Forums

Three Sacred Heart University students were featured presenters at prestigious intercollegiate forums. Junior finance major Nick Diesio examined the current economic crisis and chaired a roundtable discussion at the Northeast Regional Honors Conference in Annapolis in March. Michael V. Fazzino, a junior business administration and political science major, and Amanda Francini, a sophomore psychology major, participated in “Be the Change,” a conference at Babson College sponsored by the Core Commitments program of the American Association of Colleges and Universities in April.

Junior Named One of 12 National Honorees

Kelly Considine was one of 12 students nationally to receive a scholarship from Delta Epsilon Sigma, the National Honor Society for Catholic colleges and universities. The recognition is based on academic accomplishments, leadership and service. Considine is majoring in biology and chemistry, with minors in criminal justice and math. She is a member of the University’s Thomas More Honors Program and plans to complete a master’s degree in chemistry at Sacred Heart before working on a Ph.D. in biomedical engineering.
Five Selected for Prestigious Juran Scholarship

Juran Institute, internationally respected for its efforts to promote quality in the business world, has selected five students from Sacred Heart University’s John F. Welch College of Business to receive the inaugural Juran Scholars designation. Each student will receive $10,000 to help with tuition expenses. “We feel it is important to provide this recognition on behalf of our founder, Dr. Joseph M. Juran, who felt education is the best way to improve the quality of our society,” said Joseph A. DeFeo, Juran CEO.

Winners of the scholarship are senior Ashley Fortuna of Stafford Springs, Connecticut; and juniors Anne Archer of Littleton, Colorado; Morgan Kelly of Naugatuck, Connecticut; Christopher Kinghan of Rye, New York; and John Ross of Fairfield, Connecticut. The scholarships go to business majors with at least a 3.2 grade point average who participate in community service. The junior scholarships are renewable for senior year.

Candidates were interviewed by the Juran Scholars Selection Committee at Sacred Heart University. This year’s committee included Ralph Lim, interim dean of the John F. Welch College of Business, Julie Savino, SHU’s dean of Student Financial Assistance, and Virginia Harris, SHU’s executive director of Foundations and Grants. After recommendation by the Selection Committee, the Juran Institute, which has its world headquarters in Southbury, Connecticut, but serves an international clientele, made the final selection of scholarship recipients.

From left are 2009 Juran Scholars Anne Archer, Christopher Kinghan, Ashley Fortuna and Morgan Kelly. Missing from photo is John Ross.

A Recipe for Hope in Honduras: Just Add Water

As Sacred Heart University senior Michael Fazzino knows, sometimes the things we take most for granted in this country—like food and clean water—are difficult to come by in other parts of the world. He spent the month of May working in La Ceiba, Honduras, at the Children of the Light Village and brought along a special gift: $1,200 to install a massive 5,810-gallon water tank for the project.

Fazzino met the founders of this Children of the Light Village project, which serves street children in Honduras, three years ago. He has since traveled to Honduras several times to live and work with them. Over the past year, Fazzino and the ONE Campaign at Sacred Heart University raised money for the Children of the Light to install the new water tower. ONE, which Fazzino founded on campus, is part of a global college network designed to fight poverty and disease. The SHU chapter is a national leader in educating young people about ways to help others both locally and abroad.

The previous water tower held only 1,320 gallons, an inadequate supply for the residents and elementary school students living on the premises. Another organization purchased the tank itself. ONE Campaign funds were used to rent a crane to raise the tank to the tower and buy essential hardware. Fazzino and friends Genevieve Garity of Emerson College and Andrew Carlquist of Fairfield University assisted in putting the new tank in place.

The $1,200 donated went towards installing a 5,810-gallon water tank. Pictured here is the old water tank, on the tower, waiting to be replaced by the new one, at left.
Superstar rapper 50 Cent wowed the crowd inside of SHU’s William H. Pitt Center on March 27. Born in Queens, New York, Curtis “50 Cent” Jackson rose to fame with his 2005 debut album *Get Rich or Die Tryin’*, which sold nearly 900,000 copies in its first week. He has since remained at the top of the music charts while also establishing himself as an actor in such films as *Home of the Brave* and *Righteous Kill*, in which he starred opposite Al Pacino and Robert DeNiro. He is also a published author; a successful business partner to brands such as Reebok, Glaceau Vitamin Water, and Right Guard; and owner of G-Unit Records.
Student Art Exhibition

Art lovers were in luck this spring when the Department of Art & Design presented 60 student works selected by jurors David Cundy, clinical professor in the Mass Communication Department at Iona College; SHU alumnus Jason Roeder ’06, art director at Marketing Drive in Norwalk, CT; and Vladimir Shpitalnik, professor of illustration at Paier College of Art in Hamden, CT. The exhibit included digital art, drawings, oil and watercolor paintings, colored pencil works, collages, package design and computer-generated magazine layouts.

Gallery of Contemporary Art Showcases “Earth”

The Gallery of Contemporary Art staged “The Elements: Earth,” its fourth and final exhibit in a series about the elements. The presentation, which opened January 25 with a reception and talk by Eva Lee on “Art Meets Neuroscience,” ran through March 5. The 16 artists showed work in media ranging from traditional pastels and photographs to neuroscientific data translated into a digital video installation.

Haitian Musicians Visit Campus

Keith Johnston, Sacred Heart University’s Director of Bands, welcomed two accomplished Haitian musicians, oboist Jean Gerald and clarinetist Mackelder Santilus, to campus in March. He first worked with these young men while teaching in Haiti last summer. The musicians met with students and performed for the community.

Haitian musicians Mackelder Santilus, left, and Jean Gerald performed during their visit to SHU last spring.
Annual Spring Concert

The annual spring concert at Sacred Heart University featured 4 Heart Harmony, the University Concert and Liturgical choirs and soloists on May 3. The concert was directed by Dr. John Michniewicz with accompanist Galen Tate, percussionist Ralph DeMasi, and bassist Jim Andrews.

Media Arts Exhibit

The Department of Media Studies and Digital Culture, the Media Students Association and SHU’s Channel 3 joined forces to present the 2009 Media Arts Exhibition (the Max) on May 2. The exhibit showcased photography, video, television, magazine, radio, video game design, animation, screen writing and more from students in Media Studies and Digital Culture.

Art & Design Expo Showcases Student Talent

Sacred Heart University’s Art & Design Department hosted the 17th Art & Design Expo on April 7 at the Gallery of Contemporary Art. The exhibit included student artists and featured guest lecturer and well-known artist Miggs Burroughs. Nearly 200 high school students attended the Expo from six area high schools.

Edgerton Center Hosts Summer Theatre Workshop

Students in the Summer Musical Theatre Workshops, co-produced by the Edgerton Center for the Performing Arts and Connecticut Family Theatre, performed in the mainstage production of Oliver following both sessions of the workshop on August 7-8. The cast also featured professional actors and SHU students.

Senior Portfolio Night

There’s no mystery as to why companies like WWE, ESPN, Sikorsky Aircraft, Byte Interactive, Ryan Partnership, Vogue, Harpers, Ferragamo Handbags, MTV, Tommy Hilfiger and many others have been working with students from Sacred Heart University: we have some of the hottest young graphic designers and illustrators, as seen on campus on April 30 during Senior Portfolio Night.

From left, Broadway star Kevin Gray played Fagin, along with Patrick Agonito as Oliver, and Peter Charney as the Artful Dodger, in a production of the beloved musical Oliver!

From left, Instructor Greg Golda, left, presented Lacey Gilleran with the “Above and Beyond award.”

Dr. John Michniewicz (left), director of the academic music program, led the SHU choir.

Instructor Greg Golda, left, presented Lacey Gilleran with the “Above and Beyond award.”

Miggs Burroughs, a prolific and well-known graphic artist, painter, postage stamp designer, inventor and television producer, addresses the crowd.

From left, Art & Design student Mary Dannegger talks with sophomores Lindsay Soraci, Katie Reilly and Meaghan Conklin about her work during Senior Portfolio Night last spring.

From left, Broadway star Kevin Gray played Fagin, along with Patrick Agonito as Oliver, and Peter Charney as the Artful Dodger, in a production of the beloved musical Oliver!
This summer, SHU has begun offering tuition assistance to veterans and service members under the Post-9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2008, helping members of that population study in its graduate and full- or part-time undergraduate programs.

SHU will assist those eligible as part of the Yellow Ribbon GI Education Enhancement Program, a provision of the Post-9/11 GI Bill that allows degree-granting institutions of higher learning to voluntarily enter into an agreement with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to fund tuition expenses that exceed the highest public in-state undergraduate tuition rate. As part of the program, Sacred Heart may contribute up to 50 percent of those expenses, and VA will match the amount.

“The new Post-9/11 GI Bill takes veterans’ educational opportunities to a whole new level,” says Mary Lou DeRosa, SHU’s dean of University College. “There are now better benefits in terms of eligibility criteria, the eligibility period and the financial value.”

The funds for tuition and fees for eligible veterans and service members will be sent to the University. Additionally, students in the program may receive funds directly from the Yellow Ribbon Program for monthly housing allowances, books and supplies, tutorial assistance, work study benefits, rural allowance, and licensing and certification fees.

DeRosa notes that SHU’s participation in the program fits perfectly with the University’s mission. “It’s the right thing to do for the service men and women who have put their lives on hold for our country, and it’s wonderful that we have the opportunity to help them with their education when they return from their service,” she says.

DeRosa also points out that in return, veterans provide a benefit to other SHU students by their presence and unique understanding of world issues. “Veterans bring a different perspective to the classroom,” she says.

SHU has designated Jon De Benedictis—a recruiter and admissions coordinator for University College—as the point person for students entering SHU under the Yellow Ribbon Program. De Benedictis says he’s already been in touch with several veterans and service members, including a few who are still serving in Iraq. “They want to get set up so that once they’re out of the service, they come home and they unwind a little bit, and then they jump into school here at Sacred Heart,” he says. “One of the nice things now is that they’re able to get a quality education at an institution where they’ll receive individualized attention. Getting them here to take courses is one thing, but I think it’s important that once they’re here, we make them feel like they’re really part of the community at SHU.”

The importance of the program is apparent also to Dr. Gary Rose, the author of several books on government and a frequent commentator for various media regarding national politics.

“Sacred Heart University’s willingness to participate in the GI Bill’s Yellow Ribbon Program demonstrates the firm commitment of our institution to the brave men and women who have served our country during a time of crisis,” Rose says.

On June 16, Senator Chris Dodd (D-CT) publicly commended the institutions taking part in the Yellow Ribbon Program. “The participation of numerous Connecticut colleges and universities...is remarkable and impressive, although not surprising,” Dodd said. “Connecticut’s colleges and universities have long supported the men and women who serve our country. This program allows America’s military heroes to attend some of the best colleges and universities across the nation, providing them with the critical resources needed to assimilate back into civilian life and pursue their academic and career goals.”

SHU has committed to extend the Yellow Ribbon benefits to up to 100 students for this academic year. According to the VA, two million vets are eligible for benefits, and the GI Bill expansion will spend about $62 billion over 10 years for a projected average annual benefit of $19,600 per vet.
What is the best path to a successful life? Sacred Heart University alumni take unique paths to success when they leave the University, but all of our graduates hold this in common: an education in the Catholic intellectual tradition, characterized by rigorous scholarship and a commitment to spiritual and ethical values. With its emphasis on the liberal arts, this tradition prepares SHU alumni to achieve success within a chosen profession while assuming responsibility for making the world a better place. Here are some of their remarkable journeys.

As an analyst for Goldman Sachs in London who assists European clients investing in U.S. equities, Tom Campbell regularly draws on the education and skills he learned at Sacred Heart University’s John F. Welch College of Business.

“My professors were knowledgeable and experienced,” says Tom. Perhaps even more importantly, “they were accessible, always willing to talk with me about my ideas, plans and aspirations.”

Now that his days revolve around the computer at work, Tom says that the way laptops are integrated into the classroom at Sacred Heart was especially valuable. He arrived on the job prepared for the real world, starting with his internship in the London office of Goldman Sachs. During this 10-week program, he rotated through different areas within fixed income currency and commodities (FICC).

“My internship was an amazing experience that exposed me to all areas within the bank,” he explains. “I was able to sit with sales and trading desks in foreign exchange, U.S. equity, European equity, money markets, commodities, interest rates, bonds and emerging markets, just to name a few.”

Not surprisingly, given that Tom was the only American on the intern program in London, he was far more familiar with U.S. equity markets than U.K. markets. The U.S. equity desk turned out to be the perfect fit for a permanent position.

“The way I had to combine my studies at SHU with traveling for the University’s golf team also helped prepare me for the fast-paced life I live now,” Tom says. “To really succeed in life requires balancing obligations. My time at Sacred Heart was invaluable in preparing me for my current role.”
“It’s so much fun to be back at Sacred Heart...This is a school where students are given a broad, diverse, meaningful education. In the Catholic intellectual tradition, Sacred Heart ensures that students graduate with all the tools needed for a successful career and a successful life.”

Heather Schroder’s mom will tell you that her daughter was destined to become a lawyer. After all, by junior high school Heather was involved with the junior Chamber of Commerce and Young Republicans. But, for Heather, the path to a law career was further down the road. She elected to major in business at first. “I thought it had the most potential of any major to help me become successful,” she explains.

Despite her 4.0 GPA, though, Heather didn’t really find her passion until Dr. Gary Rose’s First Amendment class. “It was the greatest class ever,” she remembers. “We had weekly debates about controversial issues involving freedom of speech, religion and the press.” She immediately switched her major to political science and, with Dr. Rose’s encouragement, completed an internship at the Capitol with then State Senator David Cappiello, where she discovered a whole new world—and loved it.

Heather went on to Syracuse University College of Law, earning her law degree as well as her Master’s in Public Administration. After almost a year with a law firm in New York City, she returned to Connecticut and became assistant corporate counsel for ATMI, Inc., a company that specializes in process solutions and manufacturing for both the semiconductor and life sciences industries. She’s also teaching a new core curriculum course at SHU called “The Individual and Society,” conveying her enthusiasm for the law and politics to Sacred Heart students.

“It’s so much fun to be back at Sacred Heart,” she says. “This is a school where students are given a broad, diverse, meaningful education. In the Catholic intellectual tradition, Sacred Heart ensures that students graduate with all the tools needed for a successful career and a successful life.”
Assistant Corporate Counsel, ATMI, Inc.

Graduation: October

College of Arts & Sciences

Major: Political Science

Occupation: Assistant Corporate Counsel, ATMI, Inc.

SHU College: College of Arts & Sciences

Graduation Date: 2004
From left are Sacred Heart University alumni Kevin O’Malley Jr., Kimberly Derleth, Robert Van Etten Jr., Donna Roethel and Marc Lorenti. All work for the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

**MAJOR:**
Business + Accounting

**OCCUPATION:**
Assistant Special Agent in Charge, U.S. Department of Homeland Security and Customs Enforcement

**GRADUATION DATE:**
1982

**SHU COLLEGE:**
John F. Welch College of Business
Counterterrorism, border security, critical infrastructure, disaster response and recovery: those are just a few fields under the auspices of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), the umbrella organization created after 9/11 to keep the nation secure. Those who become ICE Special Agents must meet “rigorous qualifications, both physically and intellectually,” explains Marc A. Lorenti. “It’s not like you’re sitting behind a desk. You’re out there making split-second decisions, many of them life or death.”

So what’s the perfect college major for someone as determined as Marc was to enter the risky, fast-paced world of federal law enforcement? Accounting, of course. “Think about it,” Marc says. “Most criminal investigations have a financial side. Otherwise, there would be no reason to be a criminal.”

Marc chose Sacred Heart University for its strong accounting program and put himself through school partly with an athletic scholarship in return for managing the men’s basketball team. He also held student government offices all four years of college, ending up as senior class president.

Following graduation, Marc worked as an internal auditor for Georgia Pacific Corporation and took the necessary exams to apply for the job of a special agent. His first job was with the U.S. Treasury, working in the criminal investigation division of the IRS, a job he saw as a “stepping stone to the U.S. Customs Service, which interested me for the vast variety of work, from money laundering to narcotics and arms exports.” Today, as an Assistant Special Agent in Charge for DHS/ICE in the New York Field Office, Marc is “right where I envisioned myself to be. I knew the path to get here would be a solid education, and Sacred Heart gave me the knowledge I needed to succeed.”

In fact, the University prepares its graduates so well that four other Sacred Heart alumni have also succeeded in navigating the complex path to work within the U.S. Department of Homeland Security as ICE Special Agents: Kimberly S. Derleth ’02, Donna Roethel ’86, Kevin O’Malley, Jr. ’98, and Robert E. Van Etten, Jr. ’03.

“It’s kind of unique that this small Catholic institution has produced so many people who have qualified as special agents employed by Homeland Security,” Marc reflects. “As an individual, you need a lot of drive and the right attitude to succeed in this line of work. You also need a solid educational foundation. Sacred Heart gave all of us the education we needed to work in this fascinating field and protect the American public.”
In 1980, Karin Douglas enrolled in Sacred Heart University’s paralegal studies program at the encouragement of her friend, the late Evelyn Conley, an attorney and wife of the University’s founding president, Dr. William H. Conley. In gratitude for her excellent academic experience, Karin created the Evelyn M. Conley Scholarship. While the paralegal program at SHU is no longer operating, the Conley Scholarship Fund now provides financial assistance to an outstanding pre-law student each year.

Karin never wastes an opportunity to promote one of her special causes. When baseball icon Joe Torre spoke at Sacred Heart, Karin asked him if, during his treatment for prostate cancer, Torre was educated about lymphedema—a debilitating side effect that often follows cancer surgery with removal of some lymph nodes and causes a painful swelling of the arm or leg. She wasn’t surprised when he said no.

Karin learned about lymphedema firsthand following her own breast cancer surgery and treatment in 1992. She also discovered how little medical professionals knew about this condition, and started educating professionals and the public, forming the first lymphedema support group in Connecticut and creating the Lymphedema Alert pink wristband now used in many U.S. hospitals to warn medical professionals to avoid using at-risk limbs for procedures. As a director of the National Lymphedema Network, Karin has spoken around the country, spreading her message that knowledge is power.

To that end, Karin also became involved in Sacred Heart University’s Physical Therapy Department. Thanks to her advocacy, the department secured a $25,000 grant from the Breast Cancer Alliance to support a training program for health care practitioners in Complex Decongestive Therapy, which is used to treat lymphedema. She also created the Dr. Margaret Palliser Endowment for Physical Therapy in 2001, in honor of Sister Margaret, the Sacred Heart assistant vice president for mission who also experienced lymphedema following cancer therapy. That endowment offers scholarship assistance to SHU students interested in women’s health.

“The availability of this training was a dream come true. I met the 20 students at lunch, and they were tremendously grateful for the opportunity to pursue this education close to home.”
Alumna Karin Douglas, ‘84 (left), with Physical Therapy Department Chairman Dr. Michael Emery in one of the physical therapy clinical labs at the College of Education and Health Professions’ Cambridge site.

**Major:** Paralegal Studies  
**Occupation:** Regulatory Agency Compliance Coordinator (Retired), ITT Flygt  
**Graduation Date:** 1984
Social Studies Teacher—Bassick High School + Connecticut State Representative

Occupation:

Major: Business + Education

Graduation Date:
1991, MAT 2003

Social Studies Teacher—Bassick High School + Connecticut State Representative
“Balancing my teaching job, politics and my family means that I have to juggle a lot of balls in the air, but I have a great support system. Plus, my education at Sacred Heart taught me to do the best I can for others by sharing whatever I gained through my education to help effect change for a better world.”

When Andres Ayala teaches history, he often starts by asking his high school students to flip through the pages of textbooks and look at the pictures. “They start seeing these amazing photos, and I ask them to analyze those pictures and try to place themselves back there in time. What would you do if you were one of those people in that time? What would you see, smell and feel?”

What has always excited him most about history, Andres says, is looking at primary sources to discover how people lived their lives. “I love to read the letters they wrote to each other and look at old newspapers and artwork. I try to understand what’s going on in the world today in the context of historical events.”

Of course, some day in the future, history students are going to do the same, and Andres Ayala will no doubt be in some of those textbook pictures and primary sources. Andres is not just a social studies instructor, but a history maker himself: in addition to being elected State Representative for the 128th District in 2006, Andres served the 137th Common Council District in the City of Bridgeport for five terms. In 2002, he played a key role in organizing the First Annual Walk to End Homelessness in Bridgeport, which he has chaired for five consecutive years, raising over $100,000 to assist the only emergency shelter for families in the city. He also became the first Latino in Bridgeport to become president of the City Council.

“Balancing my teaching job, politics and my family means that I have to juggle a lot of balls in the air,” he admits, “but I have a great support system. Plus, my education at Sacred Heart taught me to do the best I can for others by sharing whatever I gained through my education to help effect change for a better world.”
It’s a world many only see on television: working with stars like David Beckham, Britney Spears, Shakira and Enrique Iglesias. Brainstorming the next “big idea” for companies like Pepsi, Levi’s, and Kimberly Clark. Delivering breakthrough ad campaigns and building brands through innovative thinking and marketing strategies.

“It’s a job that’s both exciting and demanding,” says Laura Vardzik, Associate Creative Director at Tracy Locke, one of the country’s top advertising agencies.

Both Laura and Ania chose Sacred Heart University for its distinguished Graphic Design and Illustration programs and for its liberal arts foundation. Ania earned a B.S. by choosing electives like biology and astronomy—classes she feels opened her way of thinking through problem-solving and understanding the products she markets. Laura, meanwhile, discovered that “the professor-to-student ratio at Sacred Heart provided ample
opportunities for one-on-one interaction and attention.” Jack De Graffenried, Laura’s Illustration professor and adviser, encouraged Laura, a Graphic Design major, to take her drawing abilities further. Under his guidance, Laura graduated with a B.A. in Graphic Design with a secondary emphasis in Illustration, enabling her to have a dual skill set, which she uses in her current profession. Laura was also a member of the Sacred Heart University Art Club and served as Vice President for one year. Prior to joining TracyLocke, she worked at Pitney Bowes and News America Marketing. Ania accepted her position at TracyLocke following her internship there between her junior and senior years at SHU.

“We design concepts from brainstorming to the finished product,” Ania says, “always trying to come up with fresh ideas for bringing concepts to life through the best art.”

“I’m doing what I’ve always wanted to do,” Laura agrees. “We get to be creative every day and work with amazingly talented people. We come together to make the impossible possible and have fun doing it.”
Sacred Heart recognized early on that the country’s need for physical therapists would continue to grow. About 90,000 physical therapists practice in the United States and long-term employment prospects for the profession are stronger than ever as our population ages and the profession develops new ways to treat people of all ages in a wide variety of settings.

In addition, the University was among the first institutions to recognize that physical therapy professionals would benefit from being trained at a doctoral level, so that they would be prepared to offer direct access to clinical care and provide diagnosis, treatment and referrals. To meet this need, Sacred Heart recruited Dr. Emery to begin developing a master’s degree program in physical therapy here 15 years ago. By 2004, he had spearheaded Sacred Heart’s doctoral program in physical therapy and put it firmly in place.

That was just five years ago. Since then, Sacred Heart has rapidly become a leader in the field.

U.S. News & World Report lists Sacred Heart’s physical therapy program as the best in Connecticut and among the best in the nation. In the magazine’s list of “Best Graduate Schools 2009,” SHU ranked among the top five programs in New England. Over 60 new students were admitted to the doctoral program this fall—the biggest class yet—and Dr. Emery expects the program to continue to grow.

“Private institutions like Sacred Heart really have to provide added value to attract students,” he notes, “and we do that well. Ours is a truly unique program.”

Dr. Emery describes Sacred Heart as a place where “there’s really an opportunity to move with the times in an agile way and keep up with changes.” One reason he was so excited to join the University is because Sacred Heart made the decision to develop professional education programs, such as those in business and the health professions, along with innovative liberal arts programs for undergraduates.

No matter who’s talking about reforming health care in this country, one consistent focus is the need to provide care that is “more cost-effective and efficient without sacrificing quality,” says Dr. Michael Emery, professor and chairman of Sacred Heart University’s Department of Physical Therapy and Human Movement Science. “Fortunately, physical therapists from Sacred Heart are well positioned for the future, no matter what changes there are in our health care system.”
Sacred Heart’s Department of Physical Therapy owes its reputation partly to an exceptional faculty widely recognized not only for the quality of their teaching, but for the depth of their scholarship and the breadth of their professional clinical expertise. Last year, for instance, physical therapy professor Dr. Pamela Levangie earned top national honors as a Catherine Worthingham Fellow from the American Physical Therapy Association (APTA), which recognized her with that association’s highest accolade based on her 35 years as a physical therapy educator.

Dr. Levangie has made “lasting and significant advances in the science, education and practice of the profession of physical therapy,” according to Dr. R. Scott Ward, president of the APTA.

Fewer than 100 of the APTA’s 65,000 members serve as Worthingham fellows. Yet, just the year before, Dr. Emery was similarly honored. Sacred Heart also holds the distinction of having two of their physical therapy professors receive the coveted American Physical Therapy Association Baethke-Carlin Award for Excellence in Academic Teaching.

Another aspect of SHU’s Department of Physical Therapy that regularly earns notice is its focus on Problem-Based Learning (PBL) Design, which allows students to learn about the theories and practice of physical therapy while solving clinical problems. Classes are organized around carefully designed patient or professional practice problems, which students study, discuss and research in small groups. This highly interactive, intensive, tutorial learning style “gives graduates a clinical readiness that many graduates from other programs lack,” says Dr. Emery.

Sacred Heart’s top-notch facilities also attract students. There are two large physical therapy clinics on the Main and Cambridge campuses, as well as a Motion Analysis laboratory where students can pursue topics in human movement science. Sacred Heart also provides contractual physical therapy services in skilled nursing facilities, assisted living centers, sports teams and programs for children with special needs.

This past summer, 97 physical therapy doctoral students were fanned out into clinical placements among 420 sites in 30 different states across the country.

“We require our students to work in at least three different settings,” explains Dr. Emery, “including acute care, rehabilitation and a community-based environment.”

What does the future hold? The department’s aim is to continue meeting the needs of physical therapy professionals in an ever-evolving health care system, promises Dr. Emery, who says that SHU will continue to expand to meet area and national needs. One of these areas will be the ongoing development of professional education programs so that Sacred Heart “can serve as a resource to professionals throughout their careers, not just at the entry point.” Recently, for instance, the University added an orthopedic physical therapy residency program to provide professionals with advanced training.

“One of the best things about being at Sacred Heart is that the University is always open to new ideas and programs,” Dr. Emery says. “That’s a very good thing when you’re in the business of preparing highly knowledgeable and skilled professionals.”

Sacred Heart offers a graduate program of study leading to a Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) degree. The DPT is a clinical doctoral degree that prepares graduates to enter the physical therapy profession. Program applicants must hold a baccalaureate degree and have completed the necessary prerequisites, or they must be undergraduate degree candidates at Sacred Heart. Qualified students can opt to complete an undergraduate degree and a DPT degree in just six years at Sacred Heart if they elect undergraduate majors in exercise science, psychology or biology.

THE PROGRAM IN PHYSICAL THERAPY
Sacred Heart University offers a graduate program of study leading to a Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) degree. The DPT is a clinical doctoral degree that prepares graduates to enter the physical therapy profession. Program applicants must hold a baccalaureate degree and have completed the necessary prerequisites, or they must be undergraduate degree candidates at Sacred Heart. Qualified students can opt to complete an undergraduate degree and a DPT degree in just six years at Sacred Heart if they elect undergraduate majors in exercise science, psychology or biology.
Recently, nearly 20 students and professors from Sacred Heart University’s Department of Physical Therapy gathered in Baltimore with about 2,400 colleagues for an American Physical Therapy Association Honors and Awards Program. The SHU group was honored at the event for national leadership in the field based on the Marquette Challenge, which gathered funds for research and service. In its first year of participation, Sacred Heart University raised over $10,000 for the Challenge and was recognized with both an Honorable Mention Award and as the Most Successful Newcomer.

The University’s leadership contribution to the Challenge resulted from last fall’s special educational seminar on campus featuring nationally known therapist and educator Dr. Josh Clellan. The event drew participants from throughout the Northeast. Among the organizers were Sacred Heart doctoral candidates Yanira Figueroa, who was also named Minority Scholar of the Year, Ruth Crossley and Jennifer Colonna.

For the second time in three years, a member of Sacred Heart University’s Department of Human Movement Science has earned national honors as a Catherine Worthingham Fellow. The American Physical Therapy Association (APTA) has recognized Dr. Pamela K. Levangie, a professor and associate chair of the department, for her “sustained national leadership, influence and achievement in the field of physical therapy.”

In 2007, Dr. Michael Emery, professor and chairman of the department, was similarly honored. The association’s highest accolade was formally presented to Dr. Levangie at the APTA national conference in Baltimore in June. It is named for a widely respected leader in the discipline for more than 50 years, Dr. Catherine Worthingham.

In announcing the recognition, Dr. R. Scott Ward, president of the APTA, explained that Professor Levangie was selected for a body of work that has resulted in “lasting and significant advances in the science, education and practice of the profession of physical therapy.” He added that she has demonstrated “frequent and sustained efforts” on behalf of the profession.

Professor Levangie holds a Bachelor of Science degree from Northeastern University and her master’s and doctoral degrees from Boston University. She was nominated for this prestigious honor last fall by the faculty of her department. Fewer than 100 of the association’s 65,000 members serve as Worthingham fellows. “The fellowship category was established in 1980, so there’s a relatively small group of people in the profession who have been recognized,” Dr. Emery said, adding that the fellows of the association meet annually to provide comment to the APTA’s board of directors on a variety of issues within the field. He called Professor Levangie “the most deserving of this national recognition, and she continues to be a most valued colleague and member of our department.”

U.S. News & World Report lists Sacred Heart University’s physical therapy program as the best in Connecticut and among the best in the nation. In the magazine’s “Best Graduate Schools 2009,” SHU is ranked 52nd nationally, placing it as one of the top five programs in New England, along with Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston University, the University of Vermont and Simmons College. Sacred Heart has been a regional and national leader in the field, having introduced the first doctoral program in Connecticut in 2004.
Sacred Heart University presented a total of 1,427 degrees this year, including 35 Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) degrees, 433 master’s degrees, 884 bachelor’s degrees, 25 associate’s degrees and 50 professional certificates. Colorful commencement ceremonies drew thousands of well-wishers to campus on the weekend of May 16-17.

Saturday’s Graduate Commencement, in the William H. Pitt Health and Recreation Center, included an address by Norbert Becker, an international business leader from Luxembourg and member of the University’s Board of Trustees. He offered a sweeping overview of the present global business climate and encouraged the graduates to put the lessons they learned at Sacred Heart to good use in confronting the many challenges of the present economy. Mr. Becker was presented an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree by the University in the year 2000.

An afternoon Commencement Mass was celebrated by Bridgeport’s Bishop William E. Lori, who is also chairman of the University’s Board.

Sunday’s Undergraduate ceremonies on Campus Field took place in frigid temperatures and blustery winds. The guest speaker was Dave Price, the weather anchor and feature reporter for CBS’s The Early Show, who entertained the graduates and their families with an often humorous analysis of the challenges they confront. The University presented him an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree in recognition of his professional and personal accomplishments and especially his close relationship with Sacred Heart.

A second doctorate was presented, in absentia, to Connecticut jazzman Dave Brubeck, designated by the Library of Congress as a “Living Legend” of the arts. The recent winner of Notre Dame’s Laetare Medal, he has been making music—and headlines—for more than 65 years.
Growing Ahead of Schedule
“We’re at a place where we can compete and have a chance at making the top 20 in the country and possibly the top 15 in the next couple of years. It’s a place where students can have a great collegiate experience, improve their fencing, compete with the best college fencers and have a chance to be an All-American.”

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state championship team at Bridgeport’s Central High School. He has also been a coach at the Candlewood Fencing Center in Danbury, CT, since 2002.

His assistant coach, Paul Luciano, fenced in college for Rutgers University, where he was a first-team All-American in 1996. He coached the fencing teams at Fairfield High School for seven years, where he won both the boys’ and girls’ state championships in 1993.

Between Vrabel and Luciano, the SHU team benefits from the guidance of over 50 years of fencing experience.

What attracted Vrabel to Sacred Heart? “The opportunity to build a program,” he says. “The other thing is that it’s just a very nice atmosphere to work in. It’s very positive, we get good support from the athletic department and good support from the coaches and athletes from other teams. We’re recognized as a serious sport at SHU. We have good respect from the other folks that we’re serious athletes just like the other major sports.”

The last reason, but certainly not the least, is SHU’s academic program. “There are a lot of quality athletes who can really benefit from the educational opportunities at Sacred Heart,” says Vrabel, as he points out that nine of his fencers are in the honors program. “We stress academics a lot. We’re really proud of our academic results as well as our athletic results.”

As for recruiting for future seasons, Vrabel says that it’s getting easier and becoming even more fruitful.

“One of the good things about us is our location,” Vrabel says. “We’re less than an hour from New York City and not far from Boston, so there are a lot of top competitions outside of the college realm that go on here. For people coming from other parts of the country, this is a really desirable place to be, right in the heart of one of the major meccas for American fencing.”

Vrabel notes that SHU’s location also makes playing a tough schedule possible without much ancillary effort. The Pioneers fence 12 to 14 of the top 20 teams in the country each year. Because most of those schools are in the northern half of the Eastern seaboard, the team can get to meets easily. “We can do this without having to take time out of school because we can just hop on the bus. We don’t have to be flying around the country and interfering with time in the classroom.”

Another benefit of the fencing program is that it’s one of the few in New England that offers scholarships. “So among the other things students can get here, a fairly sizable part of their college costs could be taken care of, too,” Vrabel says. “We are relatively competitive in that area—not many colleges have athletic grant money in fencing.”

Lastly, Sacred Heart is a place where incoming fencers can make an immediate impact on a program. “You can sit on the bench or maybe not even make the team in some other programs, or you can actually play at Sacred Heart, help continue to build a strong program, and have an opportunity to compete in the NCAA Championships,” Vrabel says. “Some programs have a star system, but we don’t have that. Everybody has to pull his or her weight just as hard, and that also means everyone who comes in has a fair chance to compete.”

As much as the fencing program has grown, Vrabel looks forward to even more success soon.

“We’ve really come on strong over the last couple of years, and we have some really top-level fencers with us now,” he says. “So we’re at a place where we can compete and have a chance at making the top 20 in the country and possibly the top 15 in the next couple of years. It’s a place where students can have a great collegiate experience, improve their fencing, compete with the best college fencers and have a chance to be an All-American. We haven’t had any yet, but hopefully that, too, will happen in the next couple of years.”

Clockwise from top: 1. Justin Dion (left) of the Epee Squad. 2. Nate Quigley of the Epee Squad. 3. Krista Bacci, who began her collegiate fencing career with a D-rating, in one season improved to a B-rating and was named first-team all-league player for three consecutive years.
Pioneer Programs Claim Five NEC Championships and Prestigious Commissioner’s Cup

For the second consecutive year, the Sacred Heart University athletic program has been awarded the Northeast Conference Commissioner’s Cup, winning the 2008-09 title on the strength of five league championships this season. In addition, SHU won the NEC Women’s Cup Championship for the third straight year and, for the first time in program history, won the NEC Men’s Cup Championship as well, sweeping all three awards. The Pioneers posted the highest point total in NEC Overall Commissioner’s Cup history with 244.07 points and in NEC Women’s Cup history with 140.85 points.

The 2008-09 season at Sacred Heart included NEC Championships in women’s basketball, women’s lacrosse, men’s golf, men’s tennis, and softball. The 2009 women’s lacrosse and men’s golf teams became the first programs at Sacred Heart to earn back-to-back NEC Championships, while the men’s tennis team and the softball team took home their first-ever NEC titles this spring. The Pioneers finished among the top three in the final NEC standings in women’s and men’s cross country, field hockey, football, women’s indoor track & field, men’s and women’s outdoor track & field, men’s basketball, baseball, women’s tennis and women’s golf.

“Winning the overall Northeast Conference Commissioner’s Cup is a special capstone achievement for Sacred Heart University,” commented Athletic Director C. Donald Cook. “Winning in both the men’s and women’s categories just adds an extra measure of satisfaction to what was an immensely satisfying accomplishment a year ago when the University won its first overall Commissioner’s Cup. This year’s sweep of all three categories (men’s, women’s, overall), including setting a new NEC record for overall and women’s points, is a wonderful validation of hard work and dedication at every level.”

Sacred Heart has completed its 10th season of competition on the Division I level and in the Northeast Conference. The Pioneer athletic program has won 16 Northeast Conference Championships during that time span, with 10 coming in the last two years of competition.

Pitt Center Director “Breaks” Record During Fundraiser for Moray Scholarship

The Sacred Heart Mixed Martial Arts Club held an extreme breaking demonstration in April to benefit the Lisa Moray Scholarship Fund, raising over $1,000. Gary Reho, director of the William H. Pitt Health and Recreation Center, broke 126 boards in 8.2 seconds during the event, breaking a world record. Gary is a member of the United States Breaking Association (USBA) and World Breaking Association (WBA), and he advises the Mixed Martial Arts Club.
138 Seniors Honored at Awards Banquet

The Sacred Heart University Department of Athletics held its 17th Annual All-Sports and Senior Awards Banquet on May 4, honoring 138 senior student-athletes and others at the Trumbull Marriott. Jeff Holtz, the voice 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 32 athletic programs.

The awards portion of the program was highlighted by the presentation of the Eastern College Athletic Conference (ECAC) Medal of Merit, the highest award given by the Department of Athletics. Throughout the ECAC region, this medal is presented to the senior male and female athletes who combine the best in athletic and academic excellence. This year’s recipients were Carsten Snow (Amherst, NH) of the women’s track & field team and Joey Henley (Kent, WA) of the men’s basketball team.

Two Students Earn Places on Academic All-American Teams

Junior Kalani Efstathiou (Beaverton, OR) of the men’s volleyball team has been named to the 2009 CoSIDA/ESPN The Magazine Academic All-American District I At-Large team. A mathematics major, he was recently named to the EIVA All-Academic team, holding the highest GPA of any player in the league.

Senior forward Joey Henley (Kent, WA) of the men’s basketball team was also named to the CoSIDA/ESPN The Magazine All-District I team. Henley, a graduate student, has a 3.71 GPA in his graduate studies, after compiling a 3.40 GPA as an undergraduate business major. He has been a three-sport standout in football, basketball and track and is the only player in conference history to be named All-NEC in two sports (basketball and outdoor track).

Kathleen Henry Named NEC Scholar-Athlete of the Year

New graduate and business major Kathleen Henry (Basking Ridge, NJ) was named the 2008-09 Northeast Conference Female Scholar-Athlete of the Year. The award, sponsored by the league’s Faculty Athletic Representatives, is bestowed upon the NEC male and female student-athletes who have the highest GPA in the Conference at the conclusion of the academic year. Henry opened her career by capturing the NEC Freshman of the Year award at the league’s Cross Country Championship meet in 2005. The NEC Cross Country Championship’s fifth overall individual finisher in each of her first two seasons of intercollegiate competition, she led Sacred Heart to its first-ever conference title as a freshman and a third-place finish in 2006. Most recently, Henry took fourth in the 10,000 meters at the 2009 NEC Outdoor Track & Field Championships.
Amanda Williams Named NEC Women’s Lax Player of the Year

Senior Amanda Williams (Monroe, CT) was named the 2009 Northeast Conference Women’s Lacrosse Player of the Year in a vote conducted by the league’s head coaches. Pioneer head coach Laura Cook was voted NEC Coach of the Year by her peers after guiding the Pioneers to a share of their second straight NEC regular season title.

Williams also earned a spot on the All-NEC first team and was joined by senior midfielder Mary Montesarchio (Cortlandt Manor, NY) and junior goalie keeper Chelsea Wagner (Aurora, CO). Three Pioneers earned All-NEC second team honors: junior attacker Carissa Hauser (East Northport, NY), junior defender Jackie Pierce (Cortlandt Manor, NY) and freshman midfielder Kate Kmiotek (Farmingville, NY).

Alisa Apo Named NEC Women’s Basketball Player of the Year

Sophomore guard Alisa Apo (Freehold, NJ) was named the 2009 Northeast Conference Women’s Basketball Player of the Year in a vote conducted by the league’s head coaches. Apo, last season’s Rookie of the Year, was also named to the All-NEC first team along with senior teammate Kaitlin Sowinski (Hopkinton, RI). Freshman Callan Taylor (Overland Park, KS) earned a spot on the NEC All-Rookie team while head coach Ed Swanson was named the Brenda Reilly Coach of the Year after leading the Pioneers to an 18-0 conference record and the #1 seed in the tournament.

Apo becomes the second player in Sacred Heart history to earn the NEC Player of the Year award after leading the Pioneers to the 2009 NEC Regular Season Championship. Apo took home three Choice Hotels NEC Player of the Week awards this season and ranked in the top five among league leaders in five different categories.

Joe McGuigan Inducted Into Soccer Hall of Fame

Former Sacred Heart men’s soccer head coach Joe McGuigan has been selected for induction into the Connecticut Soccer Hall of Fame. McGuigan led the men’s soccer program for 20 years before retiring at the end of the 2004 season. He joins current head coach Joe Barroso in being inducted this year.

McGuigan helped guide the program from Division II to Division I, racking up 124 victories on the bench during his tenure. Originally from Scotland, he was a standout player for the Pioneers from 1968-72. In 1970, he became the first All-American athlete in Sacred Heart University history. McGuigan virtually rewrote the Pioneer record book during his playing days.
Sacred Heart University hosted its 20th Annual Discovery Awards and Scholarship Dinner on April 22 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Old Greenwich, CT. Over the past 20 years, the Discovery Dinner has raised millions of dollars for financial assistance to deserving scholars, and this year the event raised more than $550,000 for Discovery Scholar Grants. The annual gala honors notable individuals while raising funds for SHU's Discovery Scholar Grants, which provide a tuition-free education to low-income students in Fairfield County. The Discovery Scholar Grants, established in 2008, allow Sacred Heart to offer financial assistance to Fairfield County students whose family incomes are at or below $50,000. The plan provides each qualified student with 100% tuition coverage.

SHU’s Discovery Dinner invites the community to recognize and celebrate the gifts of caring and accomplished people—those who embody the tradition of the University in their lives. They represent a wide diversity of professions but hold in common a passion for excellence and a devotion to their fellow citizens. This year’s honorees included acclaimed chef, author and restaurateur Lidia Matticchio Bastianich and human rights activist and best-selling author Kerry Kennedy.

Lidia Matticchio Bastianich is an award-winning chef, restaurateur, cookbook author and Public Television cooking show host. Her latest series, *Lidia’s Italy*, was nominated for an Emmy in 2008. In addition to over ten years with Public Television, Bastianich is well known for her acclaimed restaurants including the three-star Felidia and Del Posto restaurants in New York. Active in a number of charitable causes, she added another accomplishment to her resume when she cooked for Pope Benedict XVI during his visit to the United States.

Kerry Kennedy founded the Robert F. Kennedy Center for Justice and Human Rights and has led delegations to more than 40 countries. She also chairs Amnesty International’s Leadership Council. A graduate of Brown University, she earned her law degree from Boston College. Kennedy has been a vocal activist for human rights since 1981. Her writings include *Speak Truth to Power*, which explores the lives of important human rights advocates, and *Being Catholic Now*, the New York Times bestseller that shares the views of 37 prominent Americans on change in the Church and the quest for meaning. She brought “Speak Truth to Power” to Sacred Heart last year and returned to campus in March to discuss her latest book.

Dave Price, weatherman and feature reporter for CBS News’s *The Early Show*, was the evening’s master of ceremonies. The event was chaired by SHU Trustees Mark E. Freitas, president and COO of Frank Crystal & Company; Linda McMahon, CEO of World Wrestling Entertainment; and Bill Mitchell, vice chairman of Mitchells of Westport and Richards of Greenwich.
Alumni Set Record in Annual Fund Contributions

This past year, Sacred Heart University alumni saw no reason why national financial woes should slow their dedication to their alma mater. Not only did alumni keep on giving, but they did so in record numbers.

According to Anthony A. Cernera, SHU’s director of Annual Giving, 11.58 percent of undergraduate alumni gave to the Annual Fund this year, up from 8.24 percent in 2008; 2,202 alumni donated this year, the highest total in the 46-year history of the University. Moreover, total Annual Giving increased by 3.6 percent based on gross figures while many universities saw their totals drop.

“We have a lot of people who might have lost a job this year, or maybe things were tighter and they weren’t able to give as much as in previous years,” Cernera says. “But they still felt it was important to give even a little something, and a lot of people giving a little adds up to a lot.”

In addition to loyalty to their University, Cernera attributes the alumni’s generosity to the fact that alumni have stayed close to their alma mater. More people attended SHU alumni happenings in the past year than ever before, including homecoming weekend, sports-team reunions, lecture-series receptions, donor events and “Pioneers in Business” networking functions.

“Part of what’s remarkable about our participation rate is just how active the young alumni have been in supporting their alma mater,” Cernera says. “It speaks volumes about their character and the types of alumni we have here at SHU that they are this generous.”

Sacred Heart University Curtis Society Member

Twenty-five years after graduating from Sacred Heart University, Karin Douglas is still in a class by herself. A long-time Stratford resident, she attended the University’s Paralegal Studies program, earning her associate’s degree in 1984. It was, she recalls, a highly respected program that gave her a leg up in the business world since it allowed her to combine her engineering skills with a thorough knowledge of related legal issues.

A magna cum laude graduate, she continues to earn “highest honors” as a member of Sacred Heart’s exclusive Curtis Society. This special cadre of supporters has chosen to remember the University through a planned gift—whether a will, a life insurance policy, the eventual gift of real property, or the creation of a trust. A non-traditional student in every way—she matriculated when she was in her early 50s—Karin Douglas makes it sound simple: “I have made it a priority in my life to do what I can to help others reach their goals and dreams.”

To that end, she established the Evelyn M. Conley Scholarship Fund to assist students in her original academic field: Paralegal Studies. The trust is named for her good friend and long-time neighbor, the late Mrs. Evelyn Conley, the University’s first “first lady” and the wife of its founding president, Dr. William H. Conley. When the program was phased out, she generously agreed to apply the gift to graduating seniors who had been admitted to law school.

In a like fashion, Mrs. Douglas turned a personal challenge into something that would benefit others. In 1992, she received the traumatic diagnosis of breast cancer. While the treatment was successful, it left her with what was then a little understood medical condition: lymphedema—a swelling (edema) of her arm after lymph node dissection. Her doctors could tell her little about the condition, so she took it upon herself to learn as much as she could and quickly became an activist in the field.

Mrs. Douglas created the Dr. Margaret Palliser Endowment for Physical Therapy at Sacred Heart’s College of Education and Health Professions. The fund honors Sister Margaret Palliser, a long-time administrator at the University who was also successfully treated for cancer and, similarly, left with lymphedema.

Sister Margaret recalls meeting Karin Douglas upon arriving at Sacred Heart in 1993. “At that time, she was already on fire with her mission to educate health professionals about ways to treat lymphedema and to make it possible for women in the United States to receive that treatment. I am deeply humbled that Karin chose to create an endowment in my name for the education of physical therapists in the treatment therapies for lymphedema.” The Palliser Endowment awards scholarships to PT students in SHU’s award-winning program who show an interest in women’s health.

Curtis Society bequests of this kind will keep on providing financial assistance in perpetuity. The principal cannot be touched, and only the interest income is tapped each year to assist the recipients.
Sacred Heart University welcomed four new members to its Board of Trustees: Norbert Becker, Patrick J. Carolan, M.D., Lawrence Foley, and Vincent A. Roberti.

**NORBERT BECKER**

Norbert Becker has been involved in global professional services for three decades and is a founding partner and chairman of Atoz, a high-end independent advisory firm offering comprehensive tax and financial advisory services. In 2007, he co-founded Compagnie de Banque Privee “CBP,” a private bank incorporated in Luxembourg, which he serves as chairman. Mr. Becker is also involved as an independent director with other companies in Luxembourg and abroad, including Skype and Paypal, both wholly owned subsidiaries of eBay. In addition, he serves as an independent director of a number of investment companies. Sacred Heart sponsors the only American-accredited MBA program in Luxembourg, and he has been a member of the Board of Regents, SHU’s advisory body there, since 2005. Mr. Becker was awarded an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree by the University in 2000.

**DR. PATRICK J. CAROLAN**

Dr. Patrick J. Carolan, an orthopedic surgeon, is returning to the SHU Board, where he served from 1995-1997. He is the chief of orthopedics at St. Vincent’s Medical Center in Bridgeport. An alumnus of Fairfield University, Dr. Carolan served for many years as physician to the university’s athletic teams and received that institution’s Outstanding Alumni Service Award in 1980. A 1963 graduate of UMDNJ-New Jersey Medical School, he has been active in local community and cultural affairs. He has been a member of the advisory committee for SHU’s College of Education and Health Professions.

**VINCENT A. ROBERTI**

Vincent A. Roberti chairs the board of SHU’s Center for Christian-Jewish Understanding, and he is a former member of the University’s Board of Regents. He is chairman and chief executive officer of Palisades Media Corporation and its subsidiary, Palisades Pictures, as well as managing director of Palisades Media Asset Fund and chairman of Navigators Global, a Washington-based government affairs communications firm. Variety named him one of the “top ten” emerging leaders in the independent film industry in 2004. Mr. Roberti attended Fairfield University and divides his time between Connecticut, New York City and London. Among numerous accomplishments in business, he was credited as being instrumental in shepherding through the $67 billion merger of AT&T and BellSouth. A four-term Connecticut state representative, Mr. Roberti is a trustee of the American Foundation for AIDS Research, the Empire State College Foundation, and the Catholic Alliance for the Common Good. He has long been active in state and national politics and was an advisor for more than 75 House and Senate races.

**LAWRENCE G. FOLEY**

Lawrence G. Foley recently retired from SAC Capital Advisors, where he was a Portfolio Manager since 1994. A graduate of The College of the Holy Cross, he and his wife Megan have been active in community and philanthropic affairs. Their Family Foundation assists a wide variety of causes, including churches and Christian agencies, community development, health care and the arts. Mr. Foley serves as a Trustee of The Fairfield Country Day School, sits on the St. Vincent’s Medical Center Foundation Board and is on the Board of Directors for Constellation Wealth Management.
A member of Sacred Heart University’s Board of Trustees since 2003, Mark E. Freitas received an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree from the University in 2008 for his exceptional record of success in business and in the larger community. Among his many Sacred Heart commitments, he is a leadership donor and serves each year as co-chair of the Discovery Awards and Scholarship Dinner that raises funds for student financial assistance. A recent, first-time father, he lives in Greenwich, Connecticut, and Palm Beach, Florida.

Mr. Freitas spent a remarkable 25 years with Frank Crystal & Co, headquartered in New York City, serving as its president and chief operating officer. His intelligence and integrity have made him a national leader in his industry and a sought-after authority on complex financial issues.

Mark Freitas thrives on building long-term relationships and looking out for the concerns of others. He has been active in a number of important community causes himself and continues to play many key roles at Sacred Heart University. As University President Anthony J. Cernera notes, “Mark is an outstanding member of our Board: a gifted and very giving volunteer. Even with a host of business and philanthropic commitments, he recently stepped forward to head the University’s Institutional Advancement Committee. Sacred Heart University and our students owe him a great debt for his caring and his service.”

In 2005, Mr. Freitas established the Mark Edward Freitas Foundation to advance a number of significant causes, especially those that support children and adolescents who are physically, intellectually and financially challenged. In the past several years, the foundation has provided generous assistance to numerous religious, educational and cultural institutions. Principal beneficiaries have included Catholic charitable agencies and several health care organizations.

His former pastor at St. Catherine of Siena Parish in Riverside, Connecticut, Monsignor William A. Genuario, is a fellow SHU trustee. He describes his long-time friend this way: “Mark, mindful of his humble and Catholic beginnings, is very conscious of the many blessings he has received in his life and has made it his priority to ‘give back’ to the community. His charitable endeavors are carefully chosen to achieve the maximum good for those most in need, and he especially looks for ways to give young people a hand up.”

In addition to its religious beneficiaries, the Freitas Foundation has been a major benefactor to Best Buddies International, an agency that assists those who are intellectually challenged, as well as the Shake-A-Leg Foundation, an organization that provides therapeutic services to children and adults who have been disabled by a spinal cord injury.

A 1981 alumnus of the University of Connecticut, where he lettered in hockey, Mr. Freitas was honored in 2005 when his alma mater dedicated the Mark Edward Freitas Ice Forum in his name. He has been inducted into UConn’s School of Business Hall of Fame, serves on the school’s leadership cabinet, is on the board of the UConn Foundation, and has established a business scholarship and an athletic endowment. Mark Freitas looks for opportunities to encourage educational initiatives, particularly those that help young people in special circumstances of need.

Mr. Freitas also serves on the board of the Robert F. Kennedy Center for Justice and Human Rights and has supported its work on behalf of international civil and human rights. Founded by Ethel Kennedy in honor of her late husband, the Center has presented its “Speak Truth to Power” program to wide acclaim on the University’s campus. Their daughter Kerry, who is the recipient of a Sacred Heart University Discovery Award, praises Mr. Freitas as a man who generously supports worldwide human rights—“while never forgetting needs that are closer to hand. His love of those with developmental challenges is evident in his commitment to such organizations as Best Buddies. He is a great friend to my family and me—and to so many others.”

For Mark Freitas, it is one more way to make a significant difference and to help ensure that the world will be a better place.
The 20th Annual Pioneer Open Golf Tournament took place on June 8 at Rockrimmon Country Club in Stamford, CT. This year’s honorary chair was actor and alumnus John Ratzenberger of Cheers and Pixar fame, with Trustees Jim Morley and Larry Foley as co-chairs. This year, the event raised over $220,000, all of which directly supports the University’s Scholarship Fund.

For more information on these programs, please contact the office of Alumni Relations at 203.365.4827 or via email at alumni@sacredheart.edu.

The Parent Affinity program is designed to offer parents the opportunity to participate in building upon the loyalty, tradition and Pioneer spirit that each student and family experiences at Sacred Heart University. Also, by sharing your family’s thoughts and experiences, you can make an impact on future students and their families by assisting in our recruitment and development efforts.

The Alumni Legacy program is designed to offer you the chance of recommending a prospective candidate to be considered for undergraduate or graduate admission to your alma mater. It is also an opportunity to stay connected with the University and get involved with the many regional and on-campus events planned throughout the year.

We look forward to your participation, which will allow us to continue to strengthen and grow the Sacred Heart University community.

SAVE THE DATE!
Get your swing down and clubs ready for the 21st Annual Pioneer Open Golf Tournament take place on June 7th, 2010.

GET IN THE PROGRAM
Teachers’ League honored Joan of Education. The Orange teaching for the Orange Board retired after 35 years of Joan DeFilippi Marrone has Health Network.

the Western Connecticut Mental in the Waterbury Area office of Worker Associate for DMHAS Affairs. John is a Clinical Social DMHAS Office of Multicultural Group under the auspices of the GLBTI Workability of sexual minority staff and clients. His efforts resulted in the partial resurrection of a dormant DMHAS GLBTI Work Group under the auspices of the DMHAS Office of Multicultural Affairs. John is a Clinical Social Worker Associate for DMHAS in the Waterbury Area office of the Western Connecticut Mental Health Network.

Joan DeFilippi Marrone has retired after 35 years of teaching for the Orange Board of Education. The Orange Teachers’ League honored Joan on June 9th with a party for family and friends at Anthony’s Ocean View in New Haven, CT. Future plans include a trip to London with her husband Joseph (’73) and spending more time at their home on Cape Cod, MA.

1976

Marie (Masso) Hepp is an Oncology Outreach Education Coordinator for the Regional Cancer Center of Lee Memorial Health Systems in Ft. Myers, FL. Marie and her husband celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary on April 7, 2009.

1978

Michele (Kovach) Johnson has joined the Bank of Fairfield as the Vice President of Compliance.

1979

The Connecticut Society of Certified Public Accountants (CSCPA) has installed Ann D. Jevne, CPA, PFS, CFP, CDS, AEP of Ridgefield, CT, to serve as president for the organization’s 2009-2010 activity year.

1981

Steve Gniadek (MBA) was named as controller for the Town of Redding, CT.

1985

Christine (DeMarchis) Martinello recently launched “Real Mom Radio”—a program by moms and for moms, offering a place to learn, have fun together and share “real mom” wisdom. She co-hosts the show and does a segment called “The Momager (mom and manager) Moment.”

1986

Beverly Salzman recently became a part-time local childcare coordinator for Cultural Care Au Pair, which offers cultural exchange students from 47 countries for affordable live-in childcare.

1987

Mirella (Scafidi) Johnson is a corporate paralegal and global corporate manager at Carrier Corporation, a division of United Technologies Corporation. She resides in Farmington, CT, with her husband and 14-year-old son.

1988

Kathleen McGannon retired at the end of June 2008. She continues to volunteer at Longmont United Hospital (LUH) in Longmont, CO, as a Caring Clown named Rosebud. She also serves as the clown coordinator and was recently elected to the Board of Directors of Volunteers at LUH. As a board member, she will be responsible for setting volunteer policies, fundraising and recruiting volunteers.

1991

Tracy Johnson was unanimously voted to the position of director of pupil services by the Boards of Education in Chester, Deep River, Essex and Region 4, all in Connecticut.

1992

Alberto Martins was named as a principal at the accounting firm of Dworken, Hillman, LaMorte & Strechala in Shelton, CT. Alberto has been with the firm since 1992.

1996

Michael Devine (MAT) was recently named as the principal of Hull High School in Hull, MA.

1997

Greg Coyle recently graduated from Albertus Magnus College with a dual master’s degree in Business Administration (valedictorian) and the Science of Management, summa cum laude. Gregory also received his Doctorate from Capella University in Public Health, summa cum laude. He is the executive director of clinical services and public relations for the Connecticut VNA’s All About You Homecare.

1998

Robert Antonellis was recently promoted to chief of the Asia Terrorism Analysis Unit at the FBI. In November 2008, the FBI legal attaché in India and the FBI assistant director placed Robert on the FBI Rapid Response Team, which was sent to Mumbai, India, following the terrorist attack.

Christian Ayala has been accepted into the Ph.D. program in Material Science and Engineering at the University of Connecticut for the fall of 2009.
1999
Don Harrison was honored for his seven years of service as the editor of the Greenwich Citizen newspaper by the Boys & Girls Club in Greenwich, CT, in July. Serving as emcee was SHU’s Director of Athletics Don Cook, also Don’s brother-in-law. Proceeds from the event benefited the Boys & Girls Club’s athletic program.

Christopher Winters was named interim headmaster for Greenwich High School on July 1, 2009.

2002
Justin Liberman is attending Columbia University to pursue an MFA in film directing.

2003
Melissa (Losi) Armstrong graduated with her Master of Arts in Teaching Degree from SHU in August 2008.

2004
Katie Milmore has been with Home Box Office, Inc. since 2005 and was recently promoted to marketing coordinator-DVD in the Consumer Marketing Department. Her former role was in the Affiliate Sales Department working on the Time Warner Cable Account Team as team administrator/executive assistant to the vice president of Affiliate Sales.

2005
Lauri Fernandez is a second-grade teacher in Wallingford, CT.

Meghan Kelley received the “Rising Star Teacher Award” from the Blackboard Awards presented by Manhattan Media. Meghan was recognized for her outstanding work teaching science to sixth and seventh graders in Manhattan’s public schools.

2007
Jennifer Nadeau (MAT) was named Killingly Public Schools “Teacher of the Year” for 2009.

2008
Kevin O’Brien was hired by the Hartford Police Department in June 2008 and completed the police academy in December 2008. He recently completed the Field Training Officer Program and is now in his own cruiser.

Engagements
Danielle De Name (‘00) is engaged to Louis Simone. A fall 2010 wedding is being planned on Long Island.

Liz Egan to Joe Vicidomino (‘05). Their wedding is planned for July 9, 2010.

Lauren Feehey (‘08) is engaged to Joseph Gangemi (‘07). A May 2010 wedding is planned.

Shayla Fortin (‘05) to Michael Tuorto (‘05). The couple will be wed on June 26, 2010.

Kathleen Gelchion is engaged to Jim Daly (‘07). A wedding is planned for June 25, 2010.

Maid of Honor Christina Rivera announces the engagement of Kathryn Gross (‘04) to Gary Flynn-Santoro (‘04). A May 2010 wedding is planned.

Suzanne Haar (‘05) is engaged to Erik Johnson (‘04, ‘05 MAT).

Meghan Hickey (‘07) to Gregory Woods. The couple plans to be married in the fall of 2010.

Liz Minutoli (‘05) to Andrew Cutrone (‘05). A wedding is planned for July 30, 2010.

Marriages
Christian Ayala (‘98) to Michelle Roy. The two were wed on June 19, 2009.

Janine Favuzza (‘01) wed David Gelfond on January 17, 2009, in Tulum, Mexico.

Jennifer Postiglione (‘06) and Ray Mencio (‘05) were wed on July 18, 2008.

Jennifer G. Zalewski was wed to Mario Donini (‘97) on November 28, 2008. Mario is currently employed by Yale New Haven Health Systems as a senior financial analyst. His wife is a middle school math teacher in Milford.

Caitlin McNamee (‘08 MBA) and Robert Andrews (‘04) were wed on June 20, 2009.

Kristi Migne (‘05, ‘06 MAT) to Sean McCann (‘05). They celebrated their wedding on August 29, 2009.


Victoria Pezzulo (‘05) and Robert Lee were married on September 27, 2008.

Jennifer G. Zalewski was wed to Mario Donini (‘97) on November 28, 2008. Mario is currently employed by Yale New Haven Health Systems as a senior financial analyst. His wife is a middle school math teacher in Milford.

Jonathan Parsons (‘08) has recently joined the Women’s Basketball Coaching Staff at Brown University in Providence, RI. Parsons joins the Bears from the University of New Haven, where he spent a year as a volunteer assistant coach while also serving as the graduate assistant for NCAA Compliance and Student Development. During his undergraduate time at SHU, Jonathan Parsons spent four years with the Men’s Basketball Program as the head student manager under Head Coach Dave Bike.
Births

Emily (Houlihan) Blakeslee (’00) and husband Dan Blakeslee welcomed their first child, Ryan Patrick, on April 6, 2009.

Cathy (Swenson) Blomeke (’92) and her husband Mark welcomed their second child, Madison Catherine, on January 29, weighing 7 lbs., 14 oz. Madison joins big brother Tyler.

Scott Fitzgerald (’04 MAT) and his wife Andrea welcomed their first child, Rylan Matthew Fitzgerald, into this world on Monday, July 6. He weighed 8 lbs., 15 oz.

Matt Boeckeler (’97) and his wife, Maria Gaudioso (’98), welcomed new daughter, Nina Theresa, into their family January 21, 2008. Her 5-year-old sister Brianna Maria could not be happier!

Krista (Metrinko) Gimenez (’02) and Stefan Gimenez welcomed their first child, Daniel John Gimenez, on September 13, 2008. Daniel was born weighing 8 pounds and he was 21-1/2 inches long.

Laura (Mackey) Hulsaver (’03) and her husband Mark welcomed their first child, Brooke Shea, on April 23, 2009.

John Johnson (’00, ’01 MAT) and his wife Allison announce the birth of their first child, John C. Johnson IV (“JJ”), on May 3, 2009.

Jim (’94) and Jackie Kraemer of Merrick, NY, welcomed Samantha Rose on August 18th, weighing in at 7 lbs., 10 oz. and measuring 19.5 inches. Samantha joins brothers Chris and Patrick. Jim is Vice President of Customer Experience at Alpharetta, GA based Aon Integramark.

Samantha Erin (DeVita) Kollar (’03), and husband, YN1 Joseph John Kollar, welcome the birth of their second child, Zachary Joseph, born on May 11, 2009. He joins big sister Olivia Marie Kollar, born December 24, 2006. The family is currently stationed in Annapolis, MD.

Michael Nagy (’95) and his wife Allison Nagy had a daughter, Emma Elizabeth Nagy, on August 21, 2008.

Nicole (Rizzo) Rivera (’02, ’03 MAT) and Carlos Rivera (’01, ’04 MBA) welcomed their beautiful daughter, Abigail Rose, into the world on February 23, 2009. Abigail weighed 7 lbs., 6 oz. and was 20 inches long.


Colleen (McDermott) Rooney (’99) and Michael Rooney (’99) welcomed baby Brendan Michael Rooney into the world on December 9, 2008. Brendan weighed 9 lbs. 12 oz. and was 22 inches long.

Amy (Foster) Wernicki (’01) and Jim Wernicki welcomed their second child, Cohen James, on March 26, 2008. Big sister Maggie was excited that her baby brother arrived the day before her second birthday.

In Memoriam

Christine Busher (’05) passed away on June 29, 2009 following a short illness, surrounded by her family. She was a generous spirit and well loved. Christine graduated from the Occupational Therapy Program and served as an adjunct faculty member facilitating problem-based learning tutorial groups. Christine also served as an Executive Board Member for the Connecticut Occupational Therapy Association. Christine was a dedicated professional and a warm and generous person; she will be missed by her clients, students and colleagues.

Cynthia Carano (’07) passed away on February 13, 2009. She was a beloved teacher at Preston Veterans’ Memorial School.

Thomas E. Howard (’83) passed away on May 19, 2009. Thomas worked in sales at Olin Corporation for 32 years before starting his own company, Resource Consulting LLC. Thomas is survived by his wife, Heather Lennon Howard, two brothers, two nieces and two nephews.

Center for Irish Cultural Studies Travel Program

Sacred Heart University’s Center for Irish Cultural Studies is hosting a new, non-credit educational and cultural travel program for adults next spring. Come and join us in Dingle, Ireland, from April 30-May 9, 2010 for a living experience of Celtic culture through lectures, guided walks, workshops and cultural activities.

When \ April 30–May 9, 2010  
(program sign-up deadline is February 1, 2010)

Info \ For more information, log onto shuireland.sacredheart.edu or call the Irish Studies office at 203.365.7626.
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Discovery Awards and Scholarship Dinner will take place on April 21, 2010.

For more information, please visit www.sacredheart.edu/discoverydinner.cfm.