Rooted in the Catholic intellectual tradition, SHU’s new Core Curriculum engages students and faculty in the journey of a lifetime as they work to fashion lives of meaning and purpose.

The Human Journey
Dear Friends,

As our knowledge grows exponentially, one of the greatest challenges facing us in higher education is how to help our students integrate what they learn across different disciplines. This is especially true when we consider how quickly our access to knowledge is multiplying. In these pages, we highlight Sacred Heart University’s exciting new undergraduate core curriculum, *The Human Journey*, which was designed by our faculty and implemented this fall to do just that.

It will bridge the disciplines in humanities and the sciences as we engage our students in making fundamental inquiries into all aspects of what it means to be human.

“**In these pages, we highlight Sacred Heart University’s exciting new core curriculum, *The Human Journey***.”

Nine years in the making, this extraordinary effort is solidly rooted in the Catholic intellectual tradition. It provides a program for academic and personal development that works to explore how to live a life of purpose and meaning. These themes build on our longstanding Catholic mission of educating the whole person and will further distinguish Sacred Heart as a national leader.

You’ll also find a feature in this magazine that reveals how nearly 90 percent of Sacred Heart’s students are currently receiving some form of financial aid. A total of $23 million in University assistance went to our undergraduates last year, and you might be surprised to find out how many different forms that financial assistance can take. And you’ll discover compelling evidence on every page for how hard Sacred Heart’s community members work to make the most of their human journeys, both collectively and individually. Our faculty, students and staff are raising the academic profile of the University all over the world, as evidenced by the top rankings we continue to earn in national publications like *U.S. News & World Report* and *The Princeton Review*; new cooperative agreements with other institutions of higher learning; faculty and student awards; and the steady growth in our academic, athletic and residential life programs.

Of course, the human journey is sometimes tragic, too. We discovered that this year, as we grieved with our colleagues at Virginia Tech and prayed for them at a time of unimaginable loss. In response to that tragedy, we took a number of actions on campus to enhance the overall security and safety of our community.

We are reminded, as always, of how this University draws on the rich heritage of our Catholic Intellectual Tradition to provide our students with the framework they need for lives of continuous learning, leadership and service to others. As you read the many stories in these pages of how we do just that, I want to thank you for your ongoing confidence and support of this great University. Nothing we accomplish would be possible without you.

With every best wish, I am

Sincerely,

Anthony J. Cernera, Ph.D.
SHU Unveils the New Core Curriculum

SHU’s new core curriculum helps students see the connections across all disciplines and how they relate to the Catholic intellectual tradition.

Commencement 2007

1,813 students graduated during SHU’s 41st commencement ceremony.

Student Lending

Paying for college can be overwhelming, but SHU’s financial counselors help families make sense of the maze of opportunities.

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BC » SPECIAL EVENTS  The Men’s and Women’s Basketball Doubleheader, SHU vs Fairfield U.
SHU Among the Best in *U.S. News* and *The Princeton Review*’s Annual Best Colleges Guides


Sacred Heart University, the second-largest Catholic university in New England, is one of only eight schools to be added to this year’s *The Princeton Review*’s Best Colleges guide. In the *U.S. News* rankings, SHU has climbed 12 spots in two years, from 50th in 2006 to 44th in 2007 and now earning the 38th spot in the category of master’s universities in the North.

18th Annual Pioneer Scholarship Open at Great River Golf Club

SHU’s 18th Annual Pioneer Scholarship Open golf tournament took place on Monday, June 4th at the Great River Golf Club in Milford, Conn.

The Pioneer Scholarship Open golf tournament raises valuable scholarship funds for deserving SHU students. 100% of the net proceeds from the tournament directly support the University’s Scholarship Fund.


The Pioneer Scholarship Open helps students achieve their dream of a college degree. Nearly 90% of SHU students receive some form of financial assistance, without which, college may not be a reality. Last year, the tournament raised $75,000 to benefit the student scholarship program at SHU.

Left, Trustee Jim Morley, Jr. (left) presents Trustee Cup to long-time SHU Trustee Bob Matura. Above, T. J. Lanese of Lanese Construction Inc.
Welch College of Business Named Among the Best in *The Princeton Review*

The John F. Welch College of Business is an outstanding business school according to *The Princeton Review*. The New York-based education services company has selected the school for inclusion in the 2008 edition of its book, *Best 290 Business Schools* (Random House/Princeton Review Books), available in bookstores October 9, 2007. SHU’s Welch College of Business is one of 23 business schools that *The Princeton Review* is adding to the guidebook this year. Also this year, Sacred Heart University was chosen for inclusion in *The Princeton Review*’s *The Best 366 Colleges: 2008 Edition*.

In addition to its campus in Fairfield, Connecticut, Sacred Heart University established an MBA program in Luxembourg in 1991 which today has over 200 graduates.

Welch College of Business Dean Stephen Brown commented, “The John F. Welch College of Business is an engaging, stimulating, and exciting environment. Being included among *The Princeton Review*’s Best Business Schools comes on the heels of an exceptional year in the life of our school and this honor is yet another point of pride for our vibrant learning community.”

According to Robert Franek, VP/Publisher, *The Princeton Review*, “We select schools for this book based on several criteria. They cover three areas: our regard for their academic programs and other offerings, institutional data we collect about the schools, and opinions of students attending the schools. We are very pleased to add SHU’s Welch College of Business to our book this year and to recommend it to our readers and users of our website as one of the best institutions they could attend to earn an MBA.”


Cooperative Agreement Signed with ICN Business School

The John F. Welch College of Business at Sacred Heart University and the ICN Business School signed a cooperative agreement on June 5. The agreement promotes scholarly activities and international understanding by allowing graduate students from both institutions to take courses in either a French or an American university, and by allowing professors to teach and conduct research in both institutions.

The John F. Welch College of Business has its main campus in Fairfield, Connecticut, as well as an international campus in Luxembourg, The ICN Business School, formerly the Institut Commercial de Nancy, was created in 1905 and now has 2,000 students enrolled in six graduate and three undergraduate programs.

SHU Receives Quality Improvement Award

Sacred Heart University’s Center for Strategic Planning for Not-for-Profit Organizations recently received a Connecticut Quality Improvement Award (CQIA). The Center, established within the John F. Welch College of Business to provide business assistance to qualified groups at no cost, helps MBA students develop a sense of community and an appreciation for those less fortunate through unique opportunities to share their talents and serve others. Under the guidance of an experienced advisor, MBA students at the Center assist not-for-profit organizations with the development and implementation of strategic, business and marketing plans, providing valuable services to area non-profits while gaining hands-on experiences that transcend academics.

The CQIA Innovation Prize was presented to William Joyce and Deacon Daniel Ianniello, advisors and board members of the Center for Strategic Planning for Not-for-Profit Organizations, at CQIA’s 19th Annual Conference on Quality and Innovation.
Sacred Heart University’s College of Education and Health Professions marked its 10th anniversary by expanding to a state-of-the-art 50,000-square-foot facility at 7 Cambridge Drive in Trumbull in July.

Located just three miles from the University’s main campus in Fairfield, the new center accommodates programs in Teacher Certification, Educational Leadership, Nursing, Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapy, Athletic Training and Exercise Science, among others. Together, these departments educate some 300 undergraduates and more than 1,500 graduate students. The move allows Sacred Heart to centralize its professional programs in education and health. The new facility provides ready access to an on-site library and expanded laboratory space, while also providing a student lounge and cafeteria.

Like the University’s main campus, the new site is entirely wireless, allowing students to use their laptop computers from anywhere inside or outside the building.

Students will take core and elective courses on campus and will continue to use other University facilities such as residence halls and the William H. Pitt Health & Recreation Center. While there is plenty of on-site parking, an expanded schedule of shuttle bus service minimizes traffic and allows easy access to the new hub.

The transition to a single site comes after more than two years of consultation and the evaluation of numerous options. According to Dr. Patricia W. Walker, Dean of the College of Education and Health Professions, “In just the 10 years since our programs in education and the health professions were brought together in this College, these fields have undergone enormous change. To move us toward our newly developed vision, the College required additional classrooms, expanded labs and discipline-specific library resources. New seminar and tutorial rooms will provide needed space for small group study in our problem-based and team-based learning curricula. The closer proximity to Cooperative Educational Services (CES), the Kennedy Center, the Visiting Nurse Services (VNS) of Connecticut and other community partners will be an added advantage of the new location.”

Sacred Heart University will invest at least $10 million in the project over the next five years to ensure that students in these high-growth areas have access to up-to-date facilities equipped to accommodate both present and future students. The demand for credentialed professionals such as nurses and teachers has skyrocketed in recent years, and Sacred Heart University has become a state leader in addressing those needs. Dr. Thomas V. Forget, the University’s Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, noted that the past 10 years have seen unparalleled growth in SHU programs in those areas.

“Some recent milestones indicate the level of our commitment,” he pointed out. “We are now the top independent educator of teachers and administrators in the state. We are offering the first Doctor of Physical Therapy program in Connecticut, which saw its inaugural graduates in May, and the first entry-level Master’s Degree in Occupational Therapy in Connecticut. We pioneered the state’s online RN-to-BSN program and have initiated exciting programs in Remedial Reading, Educational Technology, Clinical Nurse Leadership, and Geriatric Health and Wellness. Our new center in Trumbull will allow us to prepare the next generation of leaders in these critical areas—with room to grow for the decade to come.”
Seventh Annual Seminarians and Rabbinical Students Conference

Each year, the Center for Christian-Jewish Understanding holds the Seminarians and Rabbinical Students Conference to provide a foundation for dialogue among young clergy as they begin their ministries. More than 200 students have participated in the seminarians program since its inception in 2000. This year, the seventh annual Seminarians and Rabbinical Students Conference on May 29-31 drew 35 seminarians of various faiths from across the country for presentations by leading scholars in Christian-Jewish relations, including Rabbi Irving Greenberg, Jewish Life Network, New York; Dr. Eugene Fisher, U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, Washington, DC; Rabbi Eugene Korn, Associate Executive Director, CCJU; and Dr. Mary C. Boys, the Skinner and McAlpin Professor of Practical Theology at Union Theological Seminary in New York.

Above: Elliot Dorff speaks at the Seventh Annual Seminarians and Rabbinical Students Conference

CCJU Sponsors Third Annual “Colleagues in Dialogue” Conference

The Center for Christian-Jewish Understanding held its third annual Colleagues in Dialogue Conference on April 17-19 at Union Theological Seminary in New York City. The conference is part of the Center’s ongoing work to foster deeper theological understanding, dialogue and collaboration among Jewish and Christian religious leaders through its Institute for Religious Leaders. Emerging rabbis, priests and ministers are introduced to the problems and opportunities in Jewish-Christian relations through the Institute’s annual Seminarian and Rabbinical Students Conference. The Institute’s annual Colleagues in Dialogue Conference then supports the continuing religious education of clergy as they begin their ministries by solidifying professional relationships.

The 2007 Colleagues in Dialogue Conference welcomed 31 former participants who presently serve as rabbis, cantors, priests and ministers across the country. The program featured a discussion with Dr. Mary C. Boys, author, scholar, educator and the Skinner and McAlpin Professor of Practical Theology at Union Theological Seminary, New York City, since 1994. The conference also included a joint scripture study and discussion led by Rabbi Eugene Korn, Ph.D., an associate executive director at the Center. In addition to theological study and dialogue, participants experienced the Jewish and Christian history of Manhattan in a guided tour of the religious landmarks of New York City’s financial district as part of a three-day program.
Dr. Cernera Shares Business Strategies with Region’s Corporate Leaders

A regional event that brings business leaders “Inside the CEO’s Office” came to Sacred Heart University on Feb. 23, where they learned from University President Anthony J. Cernera about some of the challenges and joys he faces as the head of a growing Catholic educational institution. Cernera’s presentation to about two dozen people at the Pitt Center Board Room was part of an ongoing series that the Bridgeport Regional Business Council (BRBC) introduced three years ago to provide insight into how a CEO grows as a person on the job and how a CEO grows his or her business, according to Paul Timpanelli, president and CEO of the BRBC.

Offering a hint into his management style, Cernera said he strives to keep staff focused on the University’s mission. “What do we do best here? It’s the institutional focus on strategic planning. We continually talk about where we’re positioned, how to get where we want to go, what adjustments we need to make,” Cernera said. “People can get caught up with the goals and objectives. That’s the wrong thing to worry about. The most important thing that a CEO does in the strategic planning process is to say, ‘Here’s the mission of the institution,’ and then you can talk about the goals and objectives and about redefining and reevaluating those. They’re just means towards the end,” he said.

Asked about the qualities that make a successful CEO, Cernera said the ability to keep learning is paramount. “Keep learning the business [in which you work] but keep learning [in general] as a habit of life,” he said. Additionally, he said, “A good leader should be able to say, ‘I made a mistake’ and ‘I don’t know.’”

Samuel Tingley, Jr., senior vice president for JP Morgan Chase, which sponsors the “Inside the Office” speaker series, said the event allows business leaders to listen to and learn from accomplished individuals in an intimate setting. “This is a unique opportunity for local business people to speak with presidents and CEOs at their place of business and see where it’s all being done. It’s one thing to be sitting in the ballroom of a local hotel and hear someone speak. It’s another thing to actually come onto a campus or into a company,” Tingley said.

Diane Krahm, an agent for AFLAC and a sergeant in the Fairfield Police Department, said the point that Cernera drove home for her was the importance of knowing one’s position in the business community, staying focused on the vision and having the confidence to work around any obstacles.

FRESH FROM SHU PRESS:

**DRIVEN UNDER THE INFLUENCE**
Essays in Theology, 1974-2004
By Frans Jozef van Beeck, S.J.

The Dutch-born Father Frans Jozef van Beeck has been a Jesuit for nearly 60 years. A respected theologian and teacher, he has written several books on ecclesiology and on the Catholic Church’s relationship with Judaism. Father van Beeck’s multi-volume project, *God Encountered: A Contemporary Catholic Systematic Theology*, is still a work in progress. *Driven Under the Influence* is a provocative sampling of his unpublished ideas over a 30-year period. The essays chosen here suggest the breadth and depth of his scholarly interests. They range from fundamental issues such as Christology and Trinitarian theology to encounters with non-Christians, especially Jews, to thorny contemporary issues such as the ordination of women, to very personal reflections on literature and faith. It is a collection sure to stimulate and inspire. To order, visit www.sacredheart.edu/shupress.cfm or call 203-365-4769.
On Tuesday, March 20, World Wrestling Entertainment (WWE) conducted a Career Action Day at Sacred Heart University. The program educated students about the varied professional opportunities available in global corporations, and gave them a chance to speak with department executives from the Stamford, Connecticut-based company.

“I remember what it was like to be a student, and come junior or senior year, you want guidance,” said WWE’s Executive Vice President of Consumer Products Donna Goldsmith, who led the program. “Presenting like this, the possibilities are much more real to the students, it’s much more exciting. This is a terrific way to reach out to our future executives.”

Career Action Day kicked off with a pair of successive video presentations in the Edgerton Center for the Performing Arts, attended by approximately 500 students. Goldsmith followed the video, stepping to the podium to talk about the different aspects of the sports entertainment business, including live television, e-commerce, merchandise sales, pay-per-view broadcasting and feature-film production.

The presentations in the Edgerton Center were followed by breakout sessions in University Commons and the Faculty Lounge. Each session focused on one of four specific branches of the sports entertainment business: interactive media/technology, creative services, consumer products and corporate communications.

“The purpose was not to recruit, but to create a presence on campus, to be a vehicle to network with the faculty and the student body,” said Jennifer Spear, WWE’s Director of Human Resources. “We wanted to show them the different career paths we have. Our executives came to talk to students about what they do, how it impacts the overall business, and how that’s related to what students are studying in school.”

This is the first time the WWE has reached out to a university in this manner, but Goldsmith says the company may use the experience at SHU as a blueprint for working with other schools. “Sacred Heart’s curriculum is nicely matched for what we do—media studies, business, IT,” Spear said. “From that perspective, doing this at Sacred Heart was a no-brainer.”

According to SHU Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences Claire J. Paolini, who worked with WWE to organize the program, the original intent of Career Action Day was to target only students with specific academic aspirations. “But it very quickly became an opportunity for students of all majors, from all our colleges, to learn about working with a company like WWE,” Paolini said. “There are students from all kinds of backgrounds who would be attracted to working with this type of company. Students don’t always understand how many different employment opportunities are available in big corporations—it’s a mini cosmos. In an organization like this, for every star there are 50 to 100 people behind the scenes doing all the things needed to make it work.”

After the breakout sessions, students were able to meet with WWE recruiters and submit resumés.

THE SIGN AT THE RBC BEARINGS INC. BOOTH SAID IT ALL: “EXPLORE THE POSSIBILITIES.”

Available positions covered a broad spectrum of disciplines, from Fortune 500 companies to non-profit organizations. While many of the companies represented were coming back to SHU, a number of companies had signed up for the event for the first time, making this the largest Career Fair in Sacred Heart history.
By thinking outside the box, Sacred Heart University has found a way to put a cork on the idea that binge drinking and drug use are common behaviors at many college campuses.

Up until now, the marketing campaign for alcohol and drug abuse has mainly relied on strategies that have been used for over 30 years. Those strategies, which some argue are outdated, include guest speakers, anti-drinking and anti-drug presentations, mock drunk driving vehicular crash simulators, or the ever-popular scare tactic: “This is your brain; this is your brain on drugs” campaign.

“They are all good, but we also have a lot of research that has shown us they don’t do as much as we think,” said Richard Madwid, Project Coordinator for Sacred Heart University’s Counseling Center.

To combat the marginal success of the nearly three-decades-long anti-drug campaign, SHU’s Counseling Center enlisted the help of Jeff Linkenbach, Ed. D., from the University of Montana, who started the innovative idea of Social Norming on college campuses. Social Norming is a new approach to the prevention of high-risk drinking behavior among college students that promotes positive, fact-based messages that challenge perceptions and get students to realize what “normal” college behavior actually is.

In the fall, the Counseling Center conducted an anonymous study of nearly 800 students, asking for their own drug and alcohol history and their perception of their peer groups on campus. What the Counseling Center found, Madwid said, was that in reality the majority of SHU students only drink two times a week or less. Now, instead of trying to scare students straight on the negative impact of drug use, SHU is promoting the idea that not every student on campus is an abuser or binger.

Moon rocks on loan from NASA arrived from their safe-keeping vault at People’s Bank. Delivered by armored truck and accompanied by educators from the Discovery Museum who have undergone special training by NASA in order to handle them, students viewed the moon rocks firsthand.

People’s Bank. Delivered by armored truck and accompanied by educators from the Discovery Museum who have undergone special training by NASA in order to handle them, students viewed the moon rocks at SHU’s Pitt Center.
Catholic Studies Minor Introduced

A growing demand for courses emphasizing Catholic Studies has led Sacred Heart University officials to provide students with an opportunity to pursue a minor in that field of study. Building on an existing Catholic Studies Certificate program, which requires four courses or 12 credits, students pursuing the new minor will take six courses: a universal introductory course, four courses from a specific list of offerings that integrate Catholic Studies into other disciplines, and a capstone.

“We began with Catholic Studies courses, and as interest mounted we put together a Catholic Studies Certificate. Because of student demand, we were able to expand that into a Catholic Studies minor,” said Dr. Claire Paolini, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences.

The Catholic Studies minor is not just about religion, said Dr. June-Ann Greeley, a professor of religious studies who helped design the new minor. “It’s an understanding that learning has a moral foundation. That’s at the heart of the Catholic intellectual tradition. It asks students to explore, in a unique way, their readings, their texts, their understanding of history, and their way of looking at media, art, politics, social groups or literature.”

University College Reaches Out with Bilingual Website

In an effort to reach a broader group of prospective students, Sacred Heart University’s University College has tapped into the Hispanic community—one of the largest demographics in Fairfield County—by launching a mirrored Spanish version of its University College website.

As the home of continuing education at SHU, University College focuses on adult and part-time college students by offering a wide array of programs; flexible scheduling; convenient campus locations in Derby, Fairfield and Stamford; and online classes.

The idea to launch a bilingual site came about a little over a year and a half ago, according to Mary Lou DeRosa, Director of University College Initiatives, after a Roper Hispanic Internet Survey showed that Hispanics are online at home an average of 9.2 hours a week and rely on the Internet to learn about products, share opinions and improve their lives. Sacred Heart engaged Sandoval Associates, a local consulting firm with knowledge of the Hispanic community, to conduct an assessment of the educational needs of adults by meeting with Hispanic employees of the University as well as researching the local community. A new marketing plan was created that included bilingual print and radio ads and press releases.

Soon after came the launch of the new website. Nancy Sidoti, Dean of University College, remarked. “We really are making an effort to serve a population that lives between two cultures and has made the Internet part of their everyday lives.” Launching the new website opened new lines of communication to a larger population, and is another way “for University College to keep its commitment to the University’s mission—combining education for life with preparation for professional excellence.”

SHU Devotes a Week to Earth Day

A single day isn’t enough to properly honor our planet and educate about its protection, so Sacred Heart University celebrated Earth Day with an entire week of events.

“We wanted to set in place a whole program of awareness about all the elements of Earth Day,” said Dr. June-Ann Greeley, Assistant Professor of Religious Studies and one of the organizers of SHU’s Earth Day events. “It seemed better to do as much as possible, so all students could find something they’re interested in.”

The series, which ran from Saturday, April 14, to Monday, April 23, included films, a lecture, a virtual march, a telethon and more. The SHU cafeteria served one organic entrée each day, the Bio Club sponsored a cleanup of a local beach, and education students conducted environmental lessons at elementary schools in Fairfield and Bridgeport.

On April 16 in the Edgerton Center for the Performing Arts, Dr. Mark Mitchell, founding president of the Connecticut Coalition for Environmental Justice, offered a lecture on “Fighting Racism, Poverty, and Pollution—The Environmental Justice Movement in America.” The films scheduled for screening throughout the week were Fast Food Nation, Who Killed the Electric Car?, An Inconvenient Truth and March of the Penguins. Each was preceded by a short presentation by professors and students.

“We were hoping to give people an opportunity to feel like they can do something about the problems our environment faces,” Greeley said. “Apart from just being aware, it’s very important for students to actually think about helping to make a change.”

Check out the Spanish version of our site: www.sacredheart.edu/uc_espanol.cfm
Dr. Michael Emery, a member of the faculty since 1994, has been promoted to Associate Dean of the College of Education and Health Professions. Emery will be responsible for developing faculty and curriculum within the College, promoting scholarship activities, preparing for various program accreditations and credentials, and helping the College's faculties develop clinical practice outlets.

“I’m really excited about doing this,” Emery said. “I think it will bring some great new challenges, and hopefully some positive new things for the College will come out of it. I’m really looking forward to the opportunity to work more closely with faculty in other departments of the College in addition to my own.”

Emery, who was promoted from associate to full professor this year and will maintain his previous role as Department Chair of Physical Therapy and Human Movement Science, was also selected as a 2007 Catherine Worthingham Fellow of the American Physical Therapy Association (APTA), the most prestigious recognition granted by the organization. He received the honor at a ceremony in Denver, Colorado, on June 29 as part of the association’s annual national conference.

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,” Emery said. “To be selected for this makes me feel very appreciative of the years I’ve practiced in physical therapy, and of the opportunities that I’ve had in my professional career, a large number of which have come through my time at Sacred Heart.”

Bob McCloud, an Associate Professor of Computer Science & Information Technology, has earned a Fulbright Fellowship to teach computer science in Kosovo, a small European nation in the former Yugoslavia.

The traditional Fulbright Scholar Program, sponsored by the United States Department of State, accepts only 800 U.S. faculty and professionals to teach abroad each year. McCloud left in August for the American University in Kosovo to teach digital animation and web design for the 2007-2008 academic year.

McCloud, an honors graduate of Williams College, did his graduate work at the University of Pennsylvania and the University of Bridgeport, where he earned his doctorate. The author of a book on digital animation using Flash, he has taught at SHU for eight years and also serves as the Faculty Mentor to the Division I field hockey team. His research focuses on arcade game theory and using those algorithms to teach programming. He will be introducing a course on that topic at SHU. In addition, McCloud is in the second year of a three-year Davis Foundation research grant, and his book on Internet research tools will be published by Prentice Hall.

“I want to come back here [to SHU] having left the foundation for a strong computer science department at the American University in Kosovo,” McCloud said.

The Sacred Heart community will also benefit from McCloud’s international experience, Department Chair Dominick Pinto said. “In particular, he oversees a computer science course that’s for all the undergraduates; it’s not a major course, so he reaches a lot of students that the rest of us in the department don’t reach. His experience will broaden everybody’s horizons. Technology is not just technology in the United States, it’s everywhere. He can make the student body aware of what technology is like out there,” Pinto said.
From the Heart

Professor Semel Chosen for “Teaching about Terrorism” Workshop

Sacred Heart University Assistant Professor of Criminal Justice Matthew Semel first flew to Israel with his wife in the summer of 1992. There, the couple celebrated their Jewish faith by visiting the ancient city of Jerusalem and saw Muslims among the crowds of worshipers.

Semel noticed many similarities in Israelis and Palestinians, reminding him of a popular Israeli song of how the Israeli city of Ramat Gan and the Palestinian city of Jenin both have the same beautiful sky. But the relationship between these neighbors has been anything but peaceful. Territorial and religious differences have long been highlighted by violent attacks, counterattacks and suicide bombings.

“We’re all children of Abraham, so we’re fighting our cousins and brothers and sisters,” Semel said. “It’s a situation that seemed incapable of being resolved. I wanted to understand more about it.”

Semel studied counterterrorism in Israel last year and was chosen to participate in a fellowship, SWOTT (Summer Workshop on Teaching about Terrorism), held at the University of Maryland this past June. He hopes education and research will uncover the root causes of terrorism in the U.S. and abroad—and stop the violence. Since 9/11, those calling for studies on why America was attacked were often accused of sympathizing with terrorists, but Semel said this is not true.

“I’m not justifying this,” he said. “Nothing can justify going into a shopping mall and blowing yourself up or hijacking a plane and flying it into the World Trade Center. But I think it’s important for us to know the hows and whys about this.”

The eight-day SWOTT fellowship was developed as an intensive short-course on the fundamentals of terrorism. Academics learn new techniques used to teach terrorism and gain access to high-level officials working in the intelligence and counterterrorism fields. The workshop covers issues that dominate U.S. foreign policy studies, classic works on terrorism, and features speakers who are experts in the field.

The fellowship is “designed for teaching in a creative and active way,” he said, “so I hope it helps my teaching because I really love my students here and want to be the best teacher I can be.”

Religious Studies Faculty Members Win University College Faculty Excellence Award

Professors Brian Stiltner and Val Buckley, both of Religious Studies, were awarded the University College Faculty Excellence Award. Stiltner won the award for full-time faculty member and Buckley won for affiliate faculty member. Students from University College nominated faculty that they found particularly dedicated and that inspired their passion for learning, and presented the awards the morning of Commencement.

Professor Stiltner’s new book, *Faith and Force: A Christian Debate About War*, was released in May 2007 by Georgetown University Press. Stiltner has plans to speak about the book at Auburn Seminary NYC and Holy Family Parish in Inverness, IL, both in November.

Pictured above, left to right: Nancy Sidoti, Brian Stiltner, Elizabeth Cross, Carol-Anne Dabek, Val Buckley, Claire Paolini, George Reiss
Speaking Out: 2007 Speakers

**February 2007**

African-American poet and playwright Jay Wright presented a reading of excerpts from *Transfigurations* on February 6 to celebrate Black History Month. The event was co-sponsored by the Office of International/Multicultural Affairs.

Robin Roberts, co-host of ABC’s *Good Morning America*, presented a public address about her life, leadership and passions on February 8. The event was sponsored by SHU’s Student Affairs Lecture Series in commemoration of Black History Month.

The Center for Catholic Thought, Ethics and Culture and the Women’s Studies Program presented a roundtable discussion on Gender and Violence on February 28. Panel topics included historical and religious legacies of violence against women, domestic questions and legalities, and the psychology of trauma. Participants included Annette Bailey, Social Work; June-Ann Greeley, Religious Studies; Michelle Loris, English and Psychology; Christel Manning, Religious Studies; Jennifer McLaughlin, History; and Patrick Morris, Criminal Justice.

**March 2007**

Guy Consolmagno, Jesuit brother, author and Vatican astronomer, spoke about the integration of his scientific work and religious beliefs on March 21.

David Dunford, a former U.S. ambassador with unique insights into the Middle East, shared his expertise with Sacred Heart University students, faculty and the public on March 22 during a five-day visit to campus in mid-March as a Woodrow Wilson Visiting Fellow. Dunford, who grew up in Connecticut, met informally with Middle Eastern Studies students, delivered a public lecture and spent time in several classrooms, including Political Science Professor Lesley DeNardis’s International Political Economics class.

**April 2007**

Eileen Gannon, OP, an NGO Representative to the United Nations, presented a lecture on “Women, Poverty… and Everything Else” on March 27. The lecture was sponsored by The Center for Catholic Thought, Ethics and Culture.

Father Mark Villano, M.F.A., gave an introduction and commentary when the Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies, the Center for Christian-Jewish Understanding and Campus Ministry screened the movie *Au revoir les enfants* (Goodbye Children) by Louis Malle on March 29. Father Mark is currently the Director of Campus Ministry at Sacred Heart University.

The Department of Economics and Finance held a forum on “Recent Trends in Global Financial Risk” on April 12. Speakers included Mr. Stephen Leach, Managing Director, Citigroup Global Markets; Dr. Federico Galizia, European Investment Bank; Mr. John Gerlach, Associate Professor of Finance, Sacred Heart University; and moderator Dr. Lucjan T. Orlowski, Professor of Economics, Sacred Heart University.

The Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies and Campus Ministry sponsored a panel discussion on “What We Would Like Others to Know About Us” on April 12, where representatives of different denominations presented and discussed their traditions. Participants included Rev. Geoffrey Hahneman, Ph.D., Episcopalian; Rev. Alexander Havadtoy, Ph.D., Calvinist; Rev. Daniel Spollett, M.Div., Congregational; Rev. Bryan Levine, M.Div., Lutheran; Prof. Kate Ott, Ph.D., Roman Catholic; Rev. Craig Gabor, M.Div., United Methodist; Rev. Fr. Demetrios Recachinas, M.Div., Greek Orthodox; and Moderator Rev. Jean Ehret, Ph.D.

**May 2007**

The Department of Economics and Finance held a forum on “Leaders Rebound after Career Disasters” on April 16. SHU President Anthony J. Cernera, Ph.D., hosted the event, which was sponsored by the John F. Welch College of Business.

Team Bergamo, a group seen on ESPN 2 coverage of the Martial Arts U.S. Open, performed “Extreme Breaking” at Sacred Heart on April 24. The event was sponsored by the SHU Martial Arts Club.


Attorney Elaine Jones, retired director of the Legal Defense Fund for the NAACP, delivered the keynote address at a forum entitled “Women as Agents of Change: The Law, Education and Society … from Brown v … to No Child Left Behind” on May 30. Forum panelists included Dr. Irene Cornish, Superintendent of the Stratford School District; Dr. Ann Clark, Superintendent of the Fairfield School District; Dr. Edna Vega, Director of Implementation, New York Educational Initiative (for minorities) and Amanda Johnson, Project Strong, Bridgeport, Connecticut. The event was sponsored by the University’s College of Education & Health Professions, the Stratford School District and New Haven’s Teaching American History Project: The Story of American Freedom.
Hardy Named New Vice President for Human Resources

Robert M. Hardy was promoted to Vice President for Human Resources at Sacred Heart University on March 5. In addition to being responsible for the Human Resources function at the University, Hardy is a member of the President’s Cabinet.

Hardy came to SHU in 1999 as the Director of Training and Development before transitioning into the role of Director of Human Resources. He has worked in partnership with the senior leadership team of the University to create a state-of-the-art Human Resources function. In addition, he chaired the University Benefits Committee. An adjunct faculty member in the John F. Welch College of Business since 1994, he earned the University’s Outstanding Service Award in 2006.

Before joining Sacred Heart, Hardy worked as the Manager of Employee Training and Development at GE Capital in Danbury, Connecticut. Prior to that, he worked at WITCO Corporation in Greenwich, Connecticut, as a Training and Development Manager, and at Sprint Communications in Purchase, New York, as a Customer Service Training Manager.

Hardy earned his Bachelor of Arts degree in Corporate Communications at Central Connecticut State University, and a Master of Arts degree in Corporate Communications from Fairfield University. He also studied leadership development at Harvard University.

He is a member of the Society of Human Resources Management (SHRM), the College and University Professional Association for Human Resources (CUPA-HR), and the American Society of Training and Development.

SHU Community Gets Free Access to Over 2.1 Million Songs and Videos

Ruckus Network, Inc. recently announced that it is providing a multimedia network that supplies free music downloads specifically for college students to the Sacred Heart University community.

Ruckus has already proven successful at more than 100 colleges and universities across the country. Now, SHU students can join them in legally downloading and sharing music, creating playlists, sending personal messages to friends and neighbors, browsing profiles and media libraries, and meeting new friends through the Ruckus network. Students can also build their personal music libraries from Ruckus’ collection of more than 2.1 million high-fidelity, virus-free songs.

Ruckus eliminates copyright infringement through its licensing agreements with record labels and artists. Faculty and staff can also take advantage of the partnership’s optimized infrastructure for a low monthly fee.

“In partnering with Ruckus and the Connecticut Conference of Independent Colleges, we are offering our students another way to connect with their campus communities, as well as a safe, legal and free way for them to obtain and share premium digital media,” said Saburo Usami, Director of Networking, Telecomm, and IT Security at Sacred Heart University. “The service gives the Sacred Heart community the music and video content they want without sacrificing campus bandwidth, so the deal benefits everyone at the University.” Students can begin using the service immediately by visiting www.Ruckus.com. To join, they must click on “Join Ruckus” and enter their school email address.
Sacred Heart University students unloaded 45,000 pounds of potatoes from a tractor trailer on March 30 and distributed them to local food banks, churches, soup kitchens and homeless shelters, creating a rare opportunity for such service organizations to provide fresh produce to their clients.

Sacred Heart was the first university in the state to host a Potato Drop, a project of the Virginia-based Society of Saint Andrew—a faith-based, non-denominational, non-profit hunger-relief organization that matches growers who have surplus produce with agencies that distribute meals and bags of groceries to the hungry.

Sarah Novotny, a mathematics major at Sacred Heart University, was awarded a grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF) to participate in a study this summer at the Rochester (N.Y.) Institute of Technology.

Each year, the NSF awards “Research Experience for Undergraduate” (REU) grants to support student participation in studies in any of the areas of research funded by the Foundation. Novotny, a senior who eventually plans to earn a doctorate in mathematics, worked closely with advisors and other students on projects in graph theory. “It was kind of like getting a preview of my career,” she said.

Students from all over the country worked together on the graph theory project. Each received a stipend to attend the eight-week session and to cover travel expenses to postsession conferences to present the research results. Rose Marie Kink, Chairman of the Math Department, said this is the first time that any Sacred Heart math student has received an NSF grant. “Sarah is very industrious, intelligent, even brilliant. She deserves all the praise that we can give her.”
Catholic Scholars Present Weighty Issues in Capstone Projects

When Kristin Tweed applied for Sacred Heart University’s Catholic Social Thought Scholars Program freshman year, there was nothing to suggest it would change her life.

Four years later, Tweed, a senior psychology and education major from Smithtown, New York, said her participation in the program and its required Capstone Project broadened her horizons and influenced her career path.

“By getting involved and working at an elementary school in my freshman and sophomore years, I figured out that I wanted to be a teacher. Everything changed, but for the better,” Tweed said at the annual Capstone presentations held on April 20 at the Pitt Center.

For her Capstone, Tweed researched laws governing the education of students with learning problems and created a brochure in English, Spanish and Portuguese containing beneficial information for parents of such children.

As part of his Capstone Project on HIV/AIDS, Senior Jonathan DeRosa coordinated a “Walk for the Cure,” which raised over $8,000, created an educational program for middle school children, and wrote an informational brochure. “The best I can do is spread awareness so people will stop spreading the disease,” said DeRosa, a psychology major and Spanish minor from Braintree, Massachusetts.

Tweed and DeRosa were among 11 students—three in the Catholic Studies Certificate Program and eight Catholic Social Thought Scholars—who offered Capstone presentations before an audience of about 30 parents, faculty and fellow students. Their Capstones dealt with weighty issues, including the death penalty, hunger and poverty, and environmental stewardship.

Dr. June-Ann Greeley, a professor of religious studies and acting director of the Catholic Social Thought Scholars Program, said the Capstone presentations were more than just a visual representation of the work students have done. “It’s a commitment to certain values, like the thought that we are all joined together,” she said. “We have a responsibility to go out and do good in the world.”

SHU Grad Student Leads Local Fight for Environmental Justice

Some people might think Katherine Woodhead’s job with the Bridgeport-based Fairfield County Environmental Justice Network (FCEIN) is diverting her from her dream of becoming a teacher, but she says this unusual path is taking her exactly where she needs to go.

Woodhead became the first community organizer for FCEIN, an affiliate of the Connecticut Coalition for Environmental Justice, in June 2006. The purpose of the Coalition is to educate residents about existing and potential environmental hazards in their neighborhoods, helping them develop leadership skills and arming them with the knowledge and confidence to fight the corporations and governmental agencies that may be putting their health at risk.

She primarily works with adults in communities where residents feel they are not given the same level of respect as those in wealthier communities like Westport, Darien and Greenwich. “They have a real sense of that injustice. They get tired out and develop a strong sense of hopelessness. They think nothing can be done,” said Woodhead, a native of Woodstock, Vermont, who will receive her master’s degree at SHU in December and her elementary education certification next spring.

“An organizer’s job is to bring community residents together to stand up and fight for something they want to change,” she explained. “Our work is based on the belief that people have the right to live, play and work in a healthy and safe environment. The joy of the work is meeting people for the first time and seeing how they transform themselves. They start leading meetings and talking with politicians. It’s also great when you win,” she said, referring to the FCEIN and CCEJ’s first major victory in Bridgeport last spring. It involved a property in a residential neighborhood owned by a company that was denied a permit to use it as an industrial storage yard.

Other projects have involved a local trash incinerator and the proposed barge transport of trucks from New Jersey to Bridgeport. “We’re also going to make sure that the [state] Department of Transportation follows through with a plan to retrofit Bridgeport city buses, and that the Board of Education follows through with retrofitting Bridgeport school buses with technology that would filter out harmful pollutants,” Woodhead vowed.

Still, her ultimate goal is to become a teacher in Bridgeport. “I really believe that this job will help me in the classroom. My job has taught me how to express complex issues and problems to people in a way that they can understand.”
TODAY’S STUDENTS

SHU Junior Selected as Student Delegate for Eastern Athletic Trainers’ Association

Mindi McLaughlin has always loved sports, especially competing on the softball fields and volleyball courts of her hometown of Manchester, Connecticut. But that was only half of her career equation.

In 2003, as a senior at Manchester High School, McLaughlin studied anatomy. “I just fell in love with science,” McLaughlin said. “So I figured I’d put the two together, and I got athletic training.”

Now a junior at Sacred Heart University, McLaughlin has taken her pursuit of athletic training to a height few others can boast: She was recently selected as Connecticut’s sole student delegate to the Eastern Athletic Trainers’ Association (EATA).

“The program was born to promote student leadership and to provide students with a voice in the organization,” said Tim Speicher, an EATA member, clinical assistant professor and interim program director of SHU’s Human Movement and Sports Science Program. Speicher added that student delegates are receiving national exposure, as other NATA districts are adopting the program model. McLaughlin has already enjoyed a successful college career, doing clinical rotations with the athletic trainers of the SHU women’s lacrosse and soccer teams, and also working with the Fairfield University women’s basketball team and with all the sports programs at Staples High School in Westport, Connecticut.

That work, combined with her personal skills, is what earned her the nomination to the EATA Student Delegation. She sees this new opportunity as an important step in her education, a chance to be an ambassador to others who hope to study athletic training, and a great stride toward achieving her career goals. “It’s a big responsibility for me to take on, but I’m excited and ready for it,” she said. “And I think it will definitely give me a good foot in the door for my profession.”

Doctoral Student Juan Morales Receives Minority Scholarship

Wishes came true for Sacred Heart University doctoral student Juan Morales this past spring. At the Connecticut Physical Therapy Association’s (CPTA) Spring Conference, he was awarded a Minority PT Student Scholarship.

“I was hoping I was going to get it, but you can only wish for these things,” Morales said. “When it happened I was really happy—I called all my family and my closest friends.”

Morales, 26, was born in Port Chester, New York, then moved to his family’s homeland of Chile later in his childhood. After attending two years of college in Chile, Morales moved to Connecticut in 2004 to continue his studies at SHU. He completed his bachelor’s degree in Exercise Science in 2006, and is now pursuing a doctorate in Physical Therapy.

“Juan is a hard-working, responsible young man, in addition to being a scholar of significance in the Physical Therapy program,” said Salome Brooks, a clinical assistant professor of Physical Therapy at SHU. “He valued coming back to the United States to complete his studies, did so without his family being around, and figured out how to negotiate the system and get himself into school. I don’t know how he did it, because even the folks who live here don’t know half the opportunities that are available.”

Morales’ international resume includes working as a physical therapy aide at San Martin Hospital, Conociquiem Burn Unit Hospital de Santiago and Sportsmedik Orthopedic Sports Medicine Center, all in Chile. Morales’ U.S. work has included serving as a physical therapy aide at Integrated Rehab Services and a wellness instructor at Crosby Geriatric Wellness Center (both at SHU), and volunteering for over 100 hours each at the Bilingual Education Bridgeport Program and Habitat for Humanity Bridgeport. Concurrently, Morales has maintained a 3.9 college grade point average. “Because he’s bilingual and because he’s lived in Chile, it’s not only a language advantage that he has, it’s a cultural advantage as well, in that he’s worked with South and Central American folks,” Brooks said. “He stated in his letter to the CPTA that he would contribute a solution to the problem of under-representation of bilingual minorities in the field of physical therapy. Less than 1.5 percent of licensed physical therapists are Hispanic, and less than 1 percent are black. So Juan recognized that he could contribute to making the field more diverse.”

Morales said that after he finishes his doctorate, he plans to work in the Bridgeport area either in geriatrics, neurological rehab or sports medicine, and that he’d also like to work with minority populations and in public health. “I plan to work here for a long time,” Morales said. “But eventually, in the future, I’d like to have a center in Chile similar to Gaylord Rehabilitation Center [in Wallingford, Connecticut]. That’s my long-term dream.”

Nominees for the $500 Minority PT Student Scholarship must be students in good standing at SHU, Quinnipiac University, University of Connecticut or the University of Hartford, or be a Connecticut resident attending a physical therapy program at an out-of-state university. The award winners are chosen based on scholastic achievement, professional involvement and community activities.
Poster Session Reveals Student Interests, Research Findings

The titles of many poster projects presented at Sacred Heart University’s eighth annual Undergraduate Research Poster and Showcase Session on April 27 were lengthy and complex—a reflection of the amount of time students put into this year’s efforts.

For instance, there was Lucas Bernacki’s “Microsatellite Analysis of the Limulus Polyphemus Population of Long Island Sound,” Kara Callahan’s “Characterization of the Role of Mismatch Repair in Heterocyclic Amine Mutagenesis in Salmonella,” and the group project of “A Gene with Homology to the Cytochrome P450 Pfam Domain Is Down-Regulated during Sexual Development in Schizophylum Commune.”

The research these students conducted revealed interesting findings and, in many cases, practical applications for humans and animals. As an intern at the Animal Clinic at Connecticut’s Beardsley Zoo in Bridgeport, for example, Meredith Baker studied metabolic bone disease in Howler monkeys, which resulted in useful information on causes and treatment options. And Persida Kastrati, a senior Biology major from Stamford, Connecticut, said the research she did with three other students on a gene that shuts off—or in scientific terms down-regulates—found that the gene produces proteins similar to Cytochrome P450, which are found in all organisms, including humans.

Biology majors Amy Wolcott, a senior from East Haven, Connecticut, and sophomore Stephen Mastriano, of Meriden, Connecticut, treated E. coli strains with nitrous acid and came up with some troubling results. “Sodium nitrate is a preservative used in lunch meats and when it’s in an acid environment, like our stomach, it turns into nitrous acid, which is bad,” said Wolcott, who enjoyed the “real-life experience” that the research and poster presentation allowed.

Not all the student researchers arrived at conclusions. Some projects are ongoing and will continue with other students at the helm. And other projects, like Tariq Lescouflair’s, aren’t intended to provide answers, but rather to provoke thought. His project, “Chaos: Order Masked by Disorder,” examined chaos theory and the Butterfly Effect, which asks whether the mere flapping of a butterfly’s wings could set off a typhoon across the globe.

Professor Marlina Slamet, Chair of the Poster Session Committee, said this year’s event at University Commons featured 31 posters from about 60 students in a variety of disciplines—Biology, Chemistry, Mathematics, Psychology, English, Computer Science/Information Technology and Media Studies/Digital Culture.

Claire Paolini, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, called the research and presentations a wonderful opportunity. “It’s very important for students, especially students who are going on to graduate school, to have this kind of background,” she said, “because they can highlight the fact that they were in a grant competition and were successful in making the final presentation. It prepares them for that kind of practical use of the theoretical. This is what we mean by active and engaged learning.”

SHU Fraternity Raises Funds, Public Awareness to Fight Diabetes

Matthew Tarro, center, a 20-year-old Sacred Heart University junior communications and technology major from Pawtucket, Rhode Island, lives an active, normal life and serves as an advocate for diabetes education and research. Just about the time he was diagnosed, members of his fraternity, Alpha Sigma Psi, got involved with the American Diabetes Association (ADA) Walk in Fairfield.
An exhibition of works by the renowned twentieth century American artist Romare Bearden opened at Sacred Heart University’s Gallery of Contemporary Art on January 21 with a reception and live jazz by the Carol Sudhalter Duo. Programming associated with the exhibit included an art talk and a teacher workshop by Fulbright Fellow and Connecticut Museum Educator of the Year recipient Mary Kordak.

Bearden’s works were composed of paintings, collages and prints that displayed the wide range of his intellect. His work reflected the places he lived, from Harlem to Pennsylvania to North Carolina, and his interests, from art history to music to social concerns and literary references. His works were widely acclaimed and exhibited during his lifetime in the United States as well as throughout Europe.

Romare Bearden: Scenes from the Portfolios featured 24 prints in varied media and one collage, and opened in cooperation with the Jerald Melberg Gallery in Charlotte, North Carolina, Bearden’s birthplace. The exhibit and its related events were sponsored by Connecticut Commission on Culture and Tourism; Earl & Connie Young; American Association of University Women; Connecticut and Bridgeport Area Branch; Fairfield County Chapter of The Links, Incorporated; General Electric Scholars Program at SHU; SHU’s Office of the Vice President for Academic Affairs; the College of Education & Health Professions; and the John F. Welch College of Business; and with the support of the Connecticut Commission on Culture and Tourism and the National Endowment for the Arts.
ART EXHIBIT FOCUSES ON WOMEN’S STRENGTHS

Thirteen area women artists exhibited their work in “Caryatids” from April 29 through May 30 at Sacred Heart University’s Gallery of Contemporary Art. Co-sponsored by the Women’s Caucus for Art, Connecticut Chapter, and juried by Jessica Hough, the exhibit featured Rose Bernabucci, G. R. Boggs, Victoria Branch, Sharon Coffin, Liz Dexheimer, Anne Doris-Eisner, Roxanne Faber Savage, Elizabeth Helling, Karen Kalkstein, Jacqueline Lorieo, M. G. Martin, Lisa Oswald and Gay Schempp.

Gallery Director Sophia Gevas explained the theme of the exhibit this way: “Caryatids are carved, draped, supporting female figures. While the most famous of these are the figures on the porch of the Erechtheum on the Acropolis in Athens, Greece, the motif has been used for many other purposes: to support fireplace mantels or as a decorative motif in vases, for example. In their everyday lives, women have always been the supporters of life, and this exhibition seeks to examine current artistic interpretations of women in these fundamental roles supporting their children, husbands, parents and each other.”

Using Caryatids as a theme, works in this exhibition depicted women who “support” in all facets of life. Works in watercolor, monotype, collage, mixed media, and porcelain, as well as terra cotta, marble and wood sculptures were selected by the juror. The works ranged from evocative, abstract organic forms to realist female images of all ages.

The juror awarded First Place to the prints of Roxanne Faber Savage (Fairfield), Second Place to the porcelain and terra cotta works of Victoria Branch (New Haven) and Third Place to Gay Schempp’s (Winsted) monoprint.

The Student Exhibit is held each year in the spring to showcase the works of the students in the Department of Art and Design. The approximately 60 works are chosen by a jury of professional artists, graphic designers, and illustrators. Jurors also award prizes for Best in Show, and first, second, and honorable mention in numerous categories (beginning graphic design, advanced, etc.).

Students may submit works that they have created during, or for, classes held in the past two semesters. Media include painting, drawing, photography, graphic design, illustration and 3-D design. Subject matter is at the discretion of the jurors; however, many of the works have been created for specific classes.

Pictured above, left to right: Rod Labadie, Whitney Mills, Louis Gentile.
Sacred Heart University students showed solidarity with the Iranian student movement, which is against that Middle Eastern country’s oppressive government, with a Freedom Concert on Wednesday, April 25, at the Edgerton Center for the Performing Arts. The concert of words and music featured guest speaker Lily Mazahery, a leading human rights lawyer and activist, and live performances by Charlie “Chaz” Cybulski, Jeff LeBlanc, Pete Grecco, and Honest Abe and the Emancipators.

“Our generation faces the task of solving the problems that threaten to envelop our world in war, poverty, pollution and hate. These are great challenges, but endowed with the privilege of living in a free society, we hold in our hands the ability to make a difference,” said Jason Guberman-Pfeffer ’09 of Stratford, a Political Science major who, together with fellow student Cybulski, came up with the concert as a means of raising consciousness about human rights around the world, particularly in Iran.

The concert was a product of the University’s Middle Eastern Studies Program, which is dedicated to not only engaging students in the classroom, but outside the classroom as well. “In Iran you wouldn’t be able to have a concert like this, you wouldn’t be able to have a female vocalist, you wouldn’t be able to have students getting together to stand up for basic issues,” Guberman-Pfeffer said. “Iranians should have civil liberties and civil rights like we do. We take these rights for granted.”

The Freedom Concert was sponsored by the Middle Eastern Studies Program, Commuter Council, International Club, International/Multicultural Center, Student Events Team, College Democrats and College Republicans.
Sacred Heart University celebrated Black History Month 2007 with a national tour of *Raisin’ Cane: A Theatrical Portrait in Prose, Poetry and Jazz* starring Jasmine Guy, star of stage, screen and television. The tour opened on the East Coast January 26, 2007 and toured nationally for six weeks.

Jean Toomer’s seminal work *Cane*, the incomparable short novel that started the sparks flying, is given its full due in this musical theater work. The first live staging of *Raisin’ Cane* took place at Sacred Heart University’s Edgerton Center for the Performing Arts during Black History Month in 2006. Ever since, the ECPA and SHU have worked to bring the piece to a wide range of audiences spanning the United States.

For *Raisin’ Cane*, Chamber Music PLUS Artistic Director Harry Clark commissioned a totally new jazz score by jazz master Avery Sharpe. The theatrical narrative is a tour-de-force for an African-American actress to embody the thoughts and emotions of powerful and diverse thinkers, artists, religious leaders and politicians. *Raisin’ Cane* found just such an actress and entertainer in Jasmine Guy, who began her career as a dancer for the Alvin Ailey American Dance Center.

She moved to acting and television with a part in the television film *At Mother’s Request* and a starring role as co-ed beauty Whitley in the *Cosby show* *A Different World*, which enjoyed a six-season run, and for which she also wrote several episodes.

In addition, she made her feature film debut in Spike Lee’s politically charged college comedy/musical *School Daze* (1988) and co-starred in Eddie Murphy’s *Harlem Nights* (1989). Additional television credits include such movies as *Runaway* (1989), *A Killer Among Us* (1990), and *Stompin’ at the Savoy* (1992). Even after *A Different World*, Guy was constantly in demand to guest star on such shows as *Melrose Place* and *NYPD Blue*. She returned to the stage as a musical theater actress in touring companies of *Grease, The Wiz* and more recently in the musical *Chicago* as Velma Kelly.

The jazz score creates a panoramic theatrical presentation of words, music and graphic images. These include photos and paintings of the key artists as well as striking photos and paintings of the period showing Harlem residents in everyday work situations and in joyful celebratory dance and musical jazz settings.

**SHU Band Director Conducts All-District Concert**

The Bridgeport Public Schools Fine & Performing Arts Department presented its 26th annual All-District concert at the Klein Memorial Auditorium on May 24. The program, “Reflections of Bridgeport,” featured performances by the All-City Choir, Jazz Ensemble, and Band. Keith Johnston, Sacred Heart University’s Director of Pioneer Bands, was the guest conductor for the band, conducting works by David Holsinger, Richard Saucedo, and Karl King.
SHU STRIKES GOLD IN ADVERTISING

The Sacred Heart University Graduate Admissions program was well decorated at the 22nd Annual Admissions Advertising Awards, sponsored by Admissions Marketing Report. The program won four awards, three of them gold, in the annual competition, the oldest of its kind in the U.S.

The four awards were for “News- paper Ad/Single” (gold), “Magazine Ad/Single” (gold), “Transit/Billboard” (gold) and “Newspaper Ad/Insert” (silver). The ads were part of the marketing campaign for the newly AACSB-accredited John F. Welch College of Business, and were designed with the St. Vincent, Milone & O’Sullivan advertising agency of New York City.

“We are thrilled to receive such recognition for this campaign,” said Meredith Woerz, director of Graduate Admissions. “The innovative nature of the John F. Welch College of Business causes this business school to stand out from the rest, and we are pleased these award-winning advertisements are helping to spread the message.”

The awards are organized by the Admissions Marketing Report, a leading marketing publication for higher education. This year over 22,000 entries were received from over 1,200 colleges and universities in all 50 states.

In addition to Graduate Admissions awards, the University also won a merit award for its annual report, designed by Keating Associates of South Natick, Massachusetts.

A TRIBUTE TO VIRGINIA TECH VICTIMS

On April 20, 600 Sacred Heart University students paid tribute to the victims of the tragedy at Virginia Tech with a moving display. With many students sporting maroon and orange, the Virginia college’s colors, the students lined up in groups of 20 and then assembled on SHU’s Campus Field to form the letters “VT.” Photographs taken at the assembly were sent to Virginia Tech as a sign of solidarity and shared grief.

Junior Brian Germain had worked through the night gathering information on each of the victims. After a student-led prayer, 32 students read the biographies aloud in a solemn tribute to the fallen Virginia Tech students and professors. Money collected at the event was sent to VT to assist in creating a memorial.

“These students were our age, and this tragedy really hit home,” said student government president Jim Daly. “This gave all of us a chance to share our grief.”

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Annual Awards Dinner Raises Funds For Student Scholarships While Honoring Community Leaders

SHU held its 18th annual Discovery Awards & Scholarship Dinner on Wednesday evening, May 2nd, at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Old Greenwich, Connecticut. More than $500,000 was raised for student scholarships.

The black-tie gala honored actress and community activist Susan Saint James and Fairfield resident Bill Conaty, the senior vice president of Corporate Human Resources at GE, both with Discovery Awards. Reverend Lawrence J. Carroll, the pastor of Fairfield’s St. Pius X Parish, was presented the Curtis Medal of Honor.

Two SHU scholarship recipients, Michelle Mortali, a junior from Hamden, and Meghan Wilcox, a graduating senior from Bedford, Massachusetts, addressed the audience, telling their benefactors how scholarship dollars have made a difference in their lives.

Saint James, known for her title roles on the hit television series McMillan and Wife and Kate & Allie, earned 10 Emmy nominations throughout her acting career. She has been active in the Special Olympics for 35 years and has served on the board of the Connecticut Special Olympics since 1983.

Conaty spent his entire career at General Electric. A Fairfield resident and a SHU Trustee since 1994, he sustained a key partnership between GE and SHU, introducing numerous GE best practices to the University. In 2004, he was named Human Resources Executive of the Year by Human Resource Executive magazine. And, a recent profile in BusinessWeek praised him for taking “a department that’s often treated as a support function” and turning it “into a high-level business partner.”

Prior to his present assignment, Father Carroll served at parishes in Trumbull, Greenwich, Easton, Stratford and Brookfield. He also enjoyed a long ministry at his alma mater, Notre Dame High School, as a teacher, spiritual director and assistant principal.

Dave Price, weatherman and a feature reporter for CBS News’ The Early Show, entertained the audience as the master of ceremonies for the evening. Event chairs are Sacred Heart University Trustees Mark E. Freitas, president & CEO of Frank Crystal & Company; Linda McMahon, CEO of World Wrestling Entertainment; and Bill Mitchell, vice chairman of Mitchells of Westport and Richards of Greenwich.

Over the past 18 years, the Discovery Dinner has raised millions of dollars for financial assistance to deserving scholars. All proceeds from the evening benefit the University’s Scholarship Fund.

Top left, from left, Sacred Heart University’s Discovery Award honorees Bill Conaty and Susan Saint James with SHU President Anthony J. Cernera, Ph.D., and Curtis Medal honoree Reverend Lawrence J. Carroll.

Top right, from left, Susan Saint James received Sacred Heart University’s Discovery Award from her friend and SHU Trustee, Linda McMahon.

Bottom left, Dr. Anthony J. Cernera with Reverend Lawrence J. Carroll.

Bottom right, from left, Sacred Heart University Trustees and Discovery Awards & Scholarship Dinner Chairs Mark E. Freitas, Linda McMahon and Bill Mitchell join SHU VP of Institutional Advancement Mary P. Young, Susan Saint James, and SHU President Anthony J. Cernera.
SHU Receives Upward Bound Grant

For the past 18 years, Sacred Heart University has secured more than $4 million in federal funding to help high school students enter and succeed in post-secondary education programs. This year, SHU earned yet another grant to benefit high schoolers seeking college degrees, as Congressman Christopher Shays (CT-4) announced that the Department of Education was awarding the University an Upward Bound grant for $283,142.

“I am grateful to the Department of Education for selecting Sacred Heart to receive this funding,” said Shays. “The University has an established record of success with this program, and has made higher education a reality for so many students who would not otherwise have the skills necessary for success beyond secondary school.”

Upward Bound is an outreach program that provides fundamental support to participants preparing for college, especially high school students from low-income families; high school students from families in which neither parent holds a bachelor’s degree; and low-income, first-generation military veterans who are preparing to enter postsecondary education. Upward Bound projects provide academic instruction in mathematics, laboratory science, composition, literature, and foreign languages. The program also supports tutoring, counseling, mentoring, cultural enrichment, and work-study programs.

Carylanne Rice-Ehalt, who directs Sacred Heart’s Upward Bound program, expressed her gratitude for the opportunity to continue providing educational opportunities to Bridgeport area youths. “Sacred Heart University has been staunchly committed to the goals of the Upward Bound program since its inception in 1989,” she said. “We have alumni working in the medical, legal and educational fields who still remain in contact with the program so that they can contribute back to their community.”

Library Partners with Office of Alumni and Parent Relations

Academic Search Premier—Alumni Edition

The University Library and the Office of Alumni and Parent Relations are working together to provide University alumni with access to the EBSCO research database, Academic Search Premier—Alumni Edition.

Alumni Edition is a subset of the Academic Search Premier database already used by students, faculty and staff of the University. The slightly abridged version provides access to approximately 2,400 full-text journals and magazines and is searched in the same manner as the full edition. Three years ago, in an attempt to raise alumni interest in library services, the Library began to offer borrowing privileges to graduates. Both the Library and the Alumni Office hope that this new offering will create alumni interest and involvement in the Library and its programs.

College of Arts and Sciences Earns National Science Foundation Grant

Sacred Heart University has been awarded a $119,000 grant by the National Science Foundation through the highly competitive Course Curriculum and Laboratory Improvement Program. The project, "From ILAP to iLabAP—Linking Investigative Biology Laboratories to the Mathematics Curriculum," was developed as a joint project by faculty of the departments of Biology and Mathematics, and is under the supervision of Professors Kirk Bartholomew and Jennifer Mattei of Biology and Rose Marie Kinik and Hema Gopalakrishnan of Mathematics. The primary goals of the project include developing a model for integrating mathematics and science laboratory instruction throughout the University, increasing the “real world” nature of biology laboratories, linking laboratory instruction in biology to the mathematics curriculum, and helping students improve their retention and application of math concepts.
New York—if you can make it there ... well, you know the rest. And has Mark Freitas made it in New York! Mr. Freitas, a distinguished member of Sacred Heart University’s Board of Trustees, is the President and COO of Frank Crystal & Company, an insurance firm based in Manhattan’s financial district. Frank Crystal ranks among the top 20 insurance brokerage firms in the U.S., and in the top five percent in the world. Mr. Freitas began his career as an account executive at the firm and became the youngest senior vice president and managing director. He was appointed COO in 1999, and became president in 2000.

Mr. Freitas has served the SHU community with equal distinction. He has co-chaired the University’s largest annual fundraiser, the Discovery Dinner, and has served on many key committees, all of which have helped to shape the modern face of the institution.

A 1981 graduate of the University of Connecticut, Mr. Freitas has contributed greatly to his alma mater as well. Among other aspects of involvement, he serves as director of the UConn Foundation, is a member of the Leadership Cabinet of the School of Business, and has established an endowment fund for the School of Business as well as an athletic scholarship. In 2005, UConn named its 2000-seat ice rink in honor of this influential alumnus, dubbing it the Mark Edward Freitas Ice Forum; Mr. Freitas played hockey for the Huskies during his academic tenure at the Storrs, Connecticut, campus.

Mr. Freitas has co-chaired the University’s largest annual fundraiser, the Discovery Dinner, and has served on many key committees, all of which have helped to shape the modern face of the institution.

In addition to his roles in the academic community, Mr. Freitas contributes his time and resources to philanthropy. Most notably, in 2005 he founded the Mark Edward Freitas Foundation to support programs dedicated to helping children and adolescents who are physically, intellectually or financially challenged. He also serves on the Board of Trustees of the Signature Theatre Company and the board of the Robert F. Kennedy Memorial Foundation, where he has co-chaired their annual dinner and worked to advance the mission of promoting human rights in the U.S. and throughout the world.
If one views the typical education as a routine meal that provides a helping of general knowledge and a dollop of specialization in a particular field of study—just enough sustenance to maintain existence—then by comparison Sacred Heart University is about to set a splendid table.

The University’s new core curriculum will give its students an abundant academic meal with an ample serving of educating the whole person; that is, feeding the spirit as well as the mind.

Continuing the metaphor, the University’s development of a new undergraduate core curriculum and its inaugural implementation this fall will provide students with a gourmet feast that will nourish them for life academically, professionally, personally and spiritually by inviting them to study the connections of academic disciplines and of life’s critical questions.
Administrators and faculty began the process of revising the core curriculum in 1998 at the directive of University President Anthony J. Cernera, Ph.D., who charged a committee to create a core that was consistent with the University’s mission, was coherent and integrated, and engaged students in the Catholic intellectual tradition. This new core responds to the University’s strategic plan of academic excellence through academic rigor. It was recommended to Cernera in May 2006 and was approved by the University’s Board of Trustees in October 2006.

Cernera had not requested the changes because he thought the current core was flawed, but rather because of the University’s visionary approach to education, which, in this case, put Sacred Heart ahead of a national curve.

There has been a recent cultural change in higher education, recognizing that, in a global world, graduates need a broad, deep understanding of the humanities, the arts, the sciences, oral and written communication skills and critical thinking skills. They need to understand teamwork, something about other cultures, and something about the global world.

A decade ago Cernera and other University officials recognized the need to adapt education to a world that is changing rapidly and radically and anticipated that students would need broader skill sets to successfully navigate that world.

“Education is not just about informing students, but rather it is about cultivating in them a body of knowledge, encouraging them to think critically, to evaluate information and ideas.

“The 21st century is the global century. We have to embrace other cultures, understand their perspectives, and learn their responses to the basic questions of human meaning. Our students are going to be engaged with members of cultures from around the world in ways that we can’t imagine,” said University Provost Thomas Forget.

“Education is not just about informing students, feeding them facts, but rather it is about cultivating in them a body of knowledge, encouraging them to think critically, to evaluate information and ideas, and equipping them to apply the information they gain at the college level in useful, meaningful ways,” stated Mark Jareb, an Assistant Professor of Biology.

“In a number of fields there has been specialization, almost too practical a level of learning, teaching techniques and protocols as opposed to teaching somebody how to think. One of the results is that, when these students are exposed to a new situation, they are unable to deal with it,” Jareb said.
“The core aspires to teach students to approach a problem or idea from multiple perspectives” Jareb continued. “I can only see that as something that will enrich students…that will effectively help them in any kind of problem-solving situation in any career. Ultimately, they learn to be thinking individuals and participate in society at all levels.”

The effects can also be felt in the classroom, said Jareb, explaining, “When students are able to bring things from other courses, you end up with a richer discussion in class.”

“When this happens in classes accidentally, it’s very pleasant,” added English Professor David Curtis. “You’ll be teaching something and a student will say, ‘We talked about this in my philosophy class,’ and you feel like you’ve hit a home run.”

The idea with the new core is to have students hit the ball out of the park consistently.

Providing an Educational Framework
The core curriculum consists of three components—The Foundational Core, The Common Core: The Human Journey and The Elective Core. The Foundational Core courses include Academic Writing, Effective Communication, Information Literacy and Mathematics.

“To be successful in a global 21st century students need to have good oral and written communication skills. They need to have a facility with information literacy because that gives them a way of understanding how to ethically and correctly collect, evaluate and use data. They need to have fundamental knowledge of college mathematics,” said English and Psychology Professor Michelle Loris, who also serves as Associate Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences and chair of the University’s Core Committee.

The Common Core: The Human Journey is the centerpiece, or what Loris calls “the jewel in the crown.” It invites students to reflect upon questions about the meaning, value and significance of human life through five courses – The Human Journey: Historical Paths to Civilization (History), Literary Expressions of the Human Journey (Literature), The Human Community: The Individual and Society (Social and Behavioral Sciences), The Human Community and Scientific Discovery (Natural Sciences) and The Human Search for Truth, Justice and the Common Good (Philosophy and/or Religious Studies). Students take four of these five, selecting one of the two science courses.

WHAT’S THE MEANING OF LIFE?
This year’s freshman class is the first to take a series of courses called “The Human Journey”

Emily Latainer, 17, kicks off a sandal as she helps dissect a chapter in “The Odyssey” during a morning class at Sacred Heart University. It’s a book the freshman read once before in her small Dobbs Ferry, NY, high school before coming to SHU.

This time, Latainer and her classmates must compare the journey of Odysseus—the epic poet’s hero—to their own journey as human beings.

They must decide what the tale suggests about being human, what makes the ancient Greek society just, and what gives Odysseus’ life meaning and purpose.

They are big questions that Latainer and her classmates will grapple with again and again over the next four years. This year’s freshman class is the first to take a series of courses called “The Human Journey.”

Part of the university’s new core curriculum, the classes will be taken by all Sacred Heart undergraduates, starting with the Class of 2011.

The common core explores the meaning of life through several lenses: literature, history, social and natural sciences, and finally, philosophy and religion.

“It’s not that we’re telling them what the meaning of life is,” said Michelle Loris, associate dean and chairwoman of Sacred Heart’s core curriculum. “What we are doing is, in the Catholic intellectual tradition, getting students to wrestle with the big questions of meaning and value.”

Loris teaches one section of the class. Holding “Left to Tell” up one day last week, Loris encouraged 17 freshmen to draw comparisons between the inhumanity [Author Immaculee] Ilibagiza faced—hiding for 60 days in a bathroom from Hutu tribesmen determined to kill
In the Elective Core, students will take elective courses in the Humanities, Social and Natural Sciences, Mathematics, Philosophy and/or Religious Studies. These courses introduce students to the perspectives and methodologies characteristic to the disciplines, and allow electives which may serve as supporting courses toward the major.

These three components provide the framework for an academic education and human experience that will prepare students for the ever-changing global community.

“Students can no longer afford to see the world as a set of isolated, self-contained cultures that exist completely independent of one another. Therefore, a curriculum that helps them understand that all things are connected and that everything has a moral component will prepare students very well for life in the 21st century,” said Kathryn LaFontana, an associate professor of psychology and chair of the psychology department.

In Keeping with Our Mission
Educational institutions in recent decades had moved in the direction of career training and away from an earlier philosophy of educating the person as a whole. However, SHU’s new core curriculum dovetails nicely into the University’s mission of educating the whole person and making students well-rounded individuals.

“It’s a central aspect of our mission to help young people develop the fullness of their natures and enhance their ability to make contributions to the world,” Forget said.

“I believe that it will augment the mission, and since the mission is a living, evolving part of the University, the new core will bring renewed energy to the mission and shape it in many subtle ways,” LaFontana added.

The new core curriculum develops all aspects of human life, preparing students as life-long learners, as intellectuals, as individuals, as professionals, as responsible, caring human beings andcontributing members of society close to home and to the world at large. It supports the University’s focus on the Catholic intellectual tradition by raising expectations for students’ academic rigor while continuing to enrich their humanity.

Catholic intellectual tradition is characterized by intellectual inquiry. It expresses the compatibility of faith and reason. Faith and reason work hand in hand.

It is characterized by “rigorous scholarship and commitment to spiritual and ethical values,” according to Cernera. In the context of the University and its mission, the Catholic intellectual tradition is concerned with the development of the whole person “as he or she prepares to achieve success within a chosen profession, while assuming responsibility for making the world a better place,” he continued.

“If one is to engage the world and shape its future in light of one’s beliefs, then it is essential to recognize and respond to the voice of God speaking through the signs of the times. The Catholic university is a place where the deepest aspirations and convictions of the human person and the human community can be discussed and fostered,” Cernera asserted.

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Catholic intellectual tradition is characterized by intellectual inquiry, not dogmatism, emphasized Loris. It is a bridge between faith and reason. “Faith and reason work hand in hand. They are a complement to each other. One principle of the Catholic intellectual tradition holds that the world is imbued with the Divine and so the study of everything in the world is valuable and important,” Loris said.

An Integrated Learning Experience
The hallmark of the new core curriculum is the bridging of disciplines, providing students with an integrated learning experience. Professors are retooling courses in literature, history, religion, philosophy, natural sciences and social sciences, engaging in cross-disciplinary collaborations that will provide a more coherent approach to understanding the arts and sciences for all students, not just the students majoring in those disciplines.

“It is a momentous event in the life of any university when the administration and faculty develop a core curriculum. It becomes the central statement of the University that says, ‘This new core is fundamental to our students becoming knowledgeable and educated persons; it is foundational to their studies in the major and to their lifelong learning; and it is essential preparation for them to take their place in a global and ever-changing world,’” according to Loris.

Loris also stressed that it’s important for students to think about the human person and the human community from the perspectives of each of the four disciplines—English, history, the natural and social sciences, and religion and philosophy. “So, if I’m an English major it’s important that I graduate with an understanding of the sciences and mathematics. If I’m a science major it’s important that I graduate with an understanding of the arts and humanities. Such an education assumes that there is a profound humanizing value in acquiring skills of critical analysis; in reading and understanding works which indicate human excellence; and in engaging questions of human meaning, purpose and value.”

Jareb is currently piloting a natural sciences course for the Common Core that will introduce students to the scientific method and how it relates to the Catholic intellectual tradition. “From a scientific literacy standpoint, I view it as something that’s relevant in everyday life in terms of current events, environment, technology, and health-related issues. In their careers students may not work on anything scientific but their lives are affected by science and technology on a daily basis.”

“This is everybody’s core curriculum and not the liberal arts core curriculum that students feel they have to suffer through for two semesters before getting on to their major courses. We want people to invest in this, to say these are not just foundational courses in the sense that we get them over with and then we build the real building on top of them, but they’re foundational in the sense that there is no building without them,” Curtis said.
Introducing the Common Core

All students will be introduced to the new curriculum during their freshman year. Beginning this fall with the incoming freshman class, students will take the first two core courses, English and history. In sophomore year they will take the science core courses and in junior year they will take the philosophy and religion courses, each one building on the previous courses.

The goal of the new curriculum is to help students see the connections among the various disciplines and the Catholic intellectual tradition, LaFontana said. “We hope that it will provide students with a true liberal arts education, so that they do not simply take a smattering of courses from various disciplines, as if selecting from a buffet, but rather see their education as a coherent whole, like a gourmet meal.”

“Some people want to have a more traditional education and a liberal humanistic one and we do that really well.”

Settings a New Standard

The new core curriculum may also influence the approach to education for other colleges and universities. It will position Sacred Heart University to become a leader in liberal learning in the Catholic intellectual tradition.

“Although the Catholic intellectual tradition is a vitally important part of the new core, other universities, both those that are secular and those from different religious traditions, can learn from the interdisciplinary integration that our core strives to achieve. Such integration is fundamental to the liberal arts tradition, which is shared by many universities with diverse structures and goals,” LaFontana said.

“Undergraduate education has for many years been compartmentalized. Students take a course in sociology, for example, and there may be no effort to draw a meaningful connection to another discipline. We are trying to use the core curriculum as an opportunity to break down these boundaries,” said History Professor Tom Curran.

“We're making an attempt to have some kind of common experience for the students. It's built around the concept that there are ideas that every college student should be willing to talk about or should be interested in talking about,” Curtis said.

“Facilitating the accreditation is important but the real importance is what students take away, what they learn,” Cain said.

“If students are able to see that certain disciplines that they thought were very different from one another really do have strong connections, this understanding will carry over into all of their coursework. We also hope that the new core will give students stronger critical thinking skills, which will improve their overall academic performance,” added LaFontana.

Learning objective statements, by having clear rubrics that the professors will agree to use with some of the work they do. It’s not top down. It’s not an oversight of classes or professors. It’s looking at what students are learning, and having valid intellectual demonstrations that they know particular things,” Cain said.

“We're committed to making sure that all the faculty involved and the stakeholders in it have had input on the assessment model, that we agree on general guidelines, outcomes and objectives, and that we have a valid, well-articulated and measurable assessment component,” Cain said. “I've had great cooperation from the rest of the faculty and administration.”

Assessment is important and difficult, but it will serve multiple purposes. The assessment will help give the University’s new core a framework or backbone, it will ensure intellectual and academic rigor, and it will maintain the University’s accreditation. “Facilitating the accreditation is important but the real importance is what students take away, what they learn,” Cain said.

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Although the formal introduction of the University’s new undergraduate core curriculum in Fall 2007 was still months away, a campus event on April 18 at University Commons offered a glimpse of the kind of collaboration that will fuel the integrated learning process.

English Professor Roberta Staples and History Professor John Roney, part of The Common Core: The Human Journey, presented a colloquium for English and History students titled “What a Piece of Work Is Man,” which examined human life through the words of Italian Renaissance philosopher Pico della Mirandola in his Oration on the Dignity of Man and William Shakespeare’s Hamlet from both historical and literary perspectives. The colloquium takes its name from Hamlet’s Act II soliloquy.

According to Tom Curran, a history professor and chair of the history department, Pico della Mirandola raises the subject of what a human being is, and it’s a dramatically different point of view from what was characteristic of medieval thought. “For historians, the Renaissance represents a break with a long tradition during which human beings were seen as fixed in their status from a social mobility point of view. They were seen as being placed by God at a certain point when they were born and they were not expected to leave that. In the Renaissance we have a dramatic change in the way people viewed man. They see him as a human being with limitless potential. Both of these Renaissance-era pieces speak directly to that concept.”

History professors teaching about the Renaissance and English classes are tackling Hamlet, so the colloquium became a natural extension of that, said English...
“With students growing up in what columnist Tom Friedman calls ‘a flatter world,’ global understanding becomes increasingly necessary. We want very much to encourage our students, faculty and staff to understand all sides of a story, open the minds and hearts and horizons of us all, and help us make a personal connection to global issues.”

Scientific Discovery (Natural Sciences) and The Human Search for Truth, Justice and the Common Good (Philosophy and/or Religious Studies)—will be unified by a common focus on four fundamental and enduring questions:

- What does it mean to be human?
- What does it mean to live a life of meaning and purpose?
- What does it mean to understand and appreciate the natural world?
- What does it mean to forge a more just society for the common good?

“These four questions cannot be fully answered by any individual student, faculty member, or course, but by considering these questions and thinking about many possible answers to them, we hope to provoke thought and encourage dialogue,” LaFontana said.

“I don’t think we have the answers. These are deep, enduring philosophical questions,” Loris agreed. “The AAC&U, the premier institution that fosters understanding of the liberal arts and liberal learning, recognizes the importance of integrated learning and values education. In one of its published statements it said higher education needs to pose the big questions to students, to provoke thought, stimulate dialogue, encourage research. As human beings we need to do that to understand ourselves better, to understand each other better, and to understand our whole human community.”

She continued: “Whatever field students go into, this is the kind of education, the intellectual rigor, ethical thinking, moral reasoning, academic preparation that will make an indelible mark and will positively influence their personal and professional lives whether they’re a nurse, a doctor, a college professor, or an IBM executive. This kind of training will distinguish them, set them apart. When they look at the world, these four fundamental and enduring questions will emerge. These questions will be part of the template of the way they think about their professional and personal world—and they’ll do it in an intellectually rigorous way, that makes a difference in how you live your life, how you approach your life.”

Even though the journey is different for everyone, students can learn a great deal from examining the ways in which it differs for different people, different cultures, and different times. “They can also learn much from exploring the ways in which we are all on similar journeys, despite these differences,” LaFontana concluded.

“Professor David Curtis, explaining: “We toyed with joining forces to teach Hamlet or presenting a historical perspective on the play. Instead, we decided it would be more effective to take an idea in Hamlet that the students would be dealing with and see how that idea played itself out in real time in the Renaissance.”

With the new core curriculum, Curran envisions several similar presentations each semester that students may be required to attend.

“The logistics of it are complicated, but at the same time manageable.

It’s not going to be the case that we’ll get every student in the same room at the same time. But there might be two of these things a month, maybe five or six during a semester,” he said.

“If every student gets at least one or two opportunities to see something like this—to sit and listen and maybe participate in a conversation with a couple of experts from different disciplines who address the same general material from different angles, I think it is going to be a valuable experience”
SHU Joins Top 23 Universities in AAC&U Leadership Consortium

The new undergraduate core curriculum, with its ambitious academic and personal accomplishments components, has earned Sacred Heart University a place among the country’s elite institutions of higher education.

Caryn McTighe Musil, senior vice president of the Association of American Colleges and Universities (AAC&U), attended Sacred Heart’s Faculty Institute at University Commons on April 10 to announce that SHU is one of 23 institutions chosen from the AAC&U’s 1,100 members to participate in a major new initiative, Core Commitments: Educating Students for Personal and Social Responsibility, as a member of a national leadership consortium.

Believing that a true liberal education involves more than academic growth, the AAC&U’s multi-tiered initiative asks college and university presidents to sign a Call to Action—which University President Anthony J. Cernera, Ph.D., has already signed. It is a pledge to give particular attention to five key dimensions of students’ personal and social responsibility—striving for excellence, cultivating personal and academic integrity, contributing to a larger community, taking seriously the perspectives of others, and refining ethical and moral reasoning.

In essence, it calls upon educational institutions to go beyond the role of providing students solely with academic knowledge to include in their duties the shaping of students’ values, a task that in the past was left to parents, faith traditions or communities, said Musil, program director of the initiative.

“Sacred Heart University is honored to be included in the Core Commitments initiative,” Cernera said. “Developing students’ sense of responsibility—to themselves and to society—is an integral part of a college education. Cultivating students’ abilities to make responsible decisions professionally, personally, and socially will serve them well today and in the future.”

“Recognition by a group like AAC&U that we’re among the leading institutions nationally is yet another third-party endorsement of this institution’s development and place within the academy nationally. That’s pretty significant for us,” said SHU Provost Tom Forget.

Musil said Sacred Heart’s seamless pairing of its longstanding mission and new core curriculum made the University a perfect candidate for the AAC&U’s leadership consortium. “I was particularly pleased at the way in which your University mission already embedded so many of the deep qualities and goals of this Core Commitments initiative as an everyday understanding of the purpose of this University,” she stated. “You have an exemplary gem of a new core curriculum, which I think will become a model other institutions will want to look at.”

Musil added that she was particularly impressed that SHU has a developmental arc for the new core curriculum, in which students will be asked to integrate what they’ve learned in the first three common core courses during a fourth capstone course involving the human search for truth, justice and the common good.

Representatives from the 23 selected institutions, including the United States Military Academy at West Point, St. Anselm College and the United States Air Force Academy, will serve on the leadership consortium. They will work together over the next two to five years to rethink how to integrate the education of personal and social responsibility so that it becomes the collective responsibility of the educators at all AAC&U institutions.

Cernera said the same principle applies to the implementation of the University’s new core. To varying degrees, the core objectives require the involvement of every member of the SHU campus community, he said.

“This project, this undertaking is the responsibility of all of us,” he emphasized, and asked all faculty to continue the good work that has begun with the new core by taking this project and fully integrating it into the learning life of the University, both inside and outside the classroom.

THE LEADERSHIP CONSORTIUM MEMBERS

- Allegheny College
- Babson College
- Bowling Green State University
- California State University at Northridge
- Concordia College – Moorhead
- Elizabethtown College
- Miami University
- Michigan State University
- Middlesex Community College
- Oakland Community College
- Portland State University
- Rollins College
- Sacred Heart University
- Saint Anselm College
- Saint Mary’s College of California
- St. Lawrence University
- United States Air Force Academy
- United States Military Academy
- University of Alabama at Birmingham
- University of Central Florida
- University of the Pacific
- Wagner College
- Winthrop University

From left, Sacred Heart University’s Provost, Dr. Thomas V. Forget; Dr. Caryn McTighe Musil, senior vice president at The Association of American Colleges and Universities; SHU President Dr. Anthony J. Cernera; and Dr. Michelle Loris, associate dean of SHU’s College of Arts and Sciences.
Vincent Kennedy McMahon opened his commencement address to Sacred Heart University’s Class of 2007 by saying that he had no pearls of wisdom to share with them. And yet, by the time he’d finished speaking, the Chairman of the Board of World Wrestling Entertainment, Inc., had accomplished what even the most gifted speaker rarely can: he left those in the audience with a sense of hope that anything is possible, even in the face of overwhelming obstacles.

McMahon, who received a Doctor of Humane Letters degree during the commencement ceremony, spoke of his humble beginnings in a trailer park, his academic problems, personal bankruptcy and a series of dead-end jobs before his meteoric rise in the entertainment world and his status as a billionaire. Even after achieving monumental professional success, McMahon said he was not immune to failures, pointing out his unsuccessful venture in the XFL. “It’s important in life that you’re not afraid to fail,” McMahon said. “If you are not afraid to fail, then you will be successful in life.”

The audience received McMahon with the same warmth and enthusiasm he showed to them. “I’ve been a fan of the WWE since I was a little kid. It was really cool to hear his story. He came from nothing and worked his way up to be one of the most renowned entertainers and businessmen in the world,” said Tim Bucolo, of Mt. Kisco, New York, who received his degree in criminal justice. “He’s an inspiration. If you work hard and put your mind to it, you can accomplish anything,” Bucolo said.
Maureen Daly, mother of Jim Daly, president of the SHU Student Government and a member of the Class of 2007, was equally impressed with McMahon. “I think he was a good choice for the school considering how he started his career and how he has parlayed it into this multimillion dollar organization,” she said.

Even some of those who are not WWE fans found inspiration in McMahon’s remarks. “I thought he was very honest. I think that it was true to form. He’s had a hard life and now he’s a billionaire,” said Tavio Hobson of Seattle, who received a diploma in political science.

Graduates also drew inspiration from other speakers. In his invocation, University Chaplain Jean Ehret said each degree is “a call to mission, a call to make this world a better place to live for everyone.”

“We want you to go from this place into the world to repair it and renew it.”

Because SHU’s 41st commencement coincided with Mother’s Day, University President Anthony J. Cernera first thanked all the mothers in the audience for their gifts of “life and love and hope” before sharing with graduates his own recipe for success, which includes four important lessons about lifelong learning, humility, hope and love. “We want you to go from this place into the world to repair it and renew it,” he said.

Cernera also bestowed an honorary degree upon Douglas Bohn, who began his SHU career in 1964 as an instructor of mathematics. Bohn retired July 1 from his current positions as registrar and assistant vice president for academic affairs. Cernera called Bohn “a model of courage, faith, persistence and dedication” and thanked him for his lifetime of service to the SHU mission and students.

**COMMENCEMENT SPEAKERS**

**Vincent Kennedy McMahon**, Chairman of the Board of World Wrestling Entertainment, Inc., delivered the commencement address at Sacred Heart University’s 41st Undergraduate Commencement on May 13 on Campus Field. A pioneer in television syndication, a marketing superstar and a high-profile media personality throughout the world, McMahon makes his presence known as a leader in the broadcast and entertainment industries. In recognition of WWE’s work to support children over the past 20 years, McMahon was appointed in 2005 to the Make-A-Wish Foundation of America National Advisory Council.

**David B. Perini, Sr.**, chairman emeritus of the Perini Corporation, addressed the University’s Graduate Commencement on May 12 in the William H. Pitt Health and Recreation Center. Perini served as director, chief executive officer and chairman of the Perini Corporation, one of the nation’s top 20 construction firms—a leader in hospitality building projects and a major force in overseas construction projects for the U.S. Government. President of the Perini Memorial Foundation, he and his wife Eileen are trustees of the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, where they established the David B. Perini, Jr., Quality of Life Clinic in memory of their son. The clinic provides medical care and counseling to enhance the lives of pediatric cancer survivors and research to reduce or eliminate the harmful side effects of cancer treatments. The clinic has become a national model for the
Sacred Heart University Holds 15th Commencement in Luxembourg

On June 9, SHU held its 15th Commencement Exercises for students earning master’s degrees (MBA) and graduate professional certificates at the University’s campus in Luxembourg. This year, 12 students representing 10 countries graduated.

At the ceremonies, the University presented Father Jan Peters, a Jesuit educator from the Netherlands and the former president of the International Federation of Catholic Universities, with a Doctor of Humane Letters degree, honoris causa. The commencement address was delivered by Dr. Stephen Brown, Dean of the John F. Welch College of Business. Dr. Anthony J. Cernera, President of the University, presented the diplomas.

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The weekend saw a total of 1,813 people graduate from the University, including 35 with Doctor of Physical Therapy degrees, a first for both SHU and the State of Connecticut. They received their degrees in a separate ceremony Saturday at which 655 others received master’s degrees in various disciplines.

In that ceremony, David B. Perini, Sr., chairman emeritus of the Perini Corporation, received an honorary degree and delivered the University’s Graduate Commencement address. His inspirational message encouraged the graduates to be true leaders by example. “Strive for balance in your lives, keep the faith, live for others, and never forget in all your relationships with family and your business and professional lives that nothing, nothing is more powerful than your personal example,” he said.

First Doctor of Physical Therapy Degrees Awarded

The University bestowed a total of 1,813 degrees this year, including 35 Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) degrees, 655 master’s degrees, 994 bachelor’s degrees, 53 associate’s degrees and 76 professional certificates. The graduating class of DPT students is a first for both SHU and the State of Connecticut.

SHU’s DPT program was the first of its kind in Connecticut when it admitted its inaugural class in the fall of 2004. The program is fully accredited at both the state and national levels, allowing this year’s 35 graduates to sit for physical therapist licensing examinations anywhere in the United States.

Perini and McMahon both received honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degrees at the ceremonies, as did SHU’s Assistant Vice President for Academic Affairs/Registrar, Douglas J. Bohn. Bohn began his career at SHU in September 1964 as an instructor of mathematics. After seven years of teaching, Bohn became the University Registrar. As Registrar and the Assistant Vice President for Academic Affairs, he has shepherded every student through the graduation process since then. After more than four decades, Bohn stepped down from his long-term responsibilities on July 1st, but he will continue to assist the University in the Office of Institutional Research.

treatment of cancer survivors. They also established the Perini Family Survivor Center, which aids survivors of adult cancers.

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Top Left, Dr. Anthony J. Cernera, Dr. Stephen Brown Top right, Fr. Jan Peters Lower Left, Laura Falletta Lower Right, Left Fr. Jean Ehret, Fr. Jan Peters, Dr. Anthony J. Cernera, Monsignor Guy-Réal Thivierge
Ideally, the last question is one that has been top of mind for many years as families budget for what is one of the largest expenses any household will face. Close to 90 percent of Sacred Heart University’s full-time undergraduates will receive some form of financial aid, amounting to nearly $23 million in University assistance last year. This makes accessing and understanding the options essential.

Fortunately, the University has an exceptional staff of financial counselors under the seasoned leadership of the Dean of University Financial Assistance, Julie B. Savino. They excel at helping families make sense of the maze of opportunities, and the benefits and risks of each one.

The variety of financial aid available is amazing. Among federal sources of assistance are Pell Grants for U.S. citizens (or permanent residents) who demonstrate financial need. The awards can range from $400 to $4,310. Students who meet the qualifications for Pell Grants can apply for two new programs. The Academic Competitive Grant (ACG) awards graduated amounts for the first two years of study, and the SMART Grant is designed for those majoring in certain sciences or a critical foreign language, with grants of up to $4,000 for each of the last two years of study. Qualified undergraduates with exceptional financial need can apply for Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants of up to $4,000 a year. The Federal Perkins Loan allows students in exceptional financial need to borrow up to $3,000. And for other students with needs beyond what financial aid covers, the Stafford Loan Program allows borrowing in graduated amounts over the course of the four years of college. In the third and fourth years, the amount eligible rises to $5,500.

Typically, the student’s home state will have special programs available for local residents. In Connecticut, undergraduate residents with financial need may qualify for Connecticut Independent College Student Grants. Further, those who participate in community service projects may be eligible for additional aid. The Capitol Scholarship Program is for Connecticut undergrads with SAT scores of at least 1200 or a ranking in the top 25 percent of their class. They can apply for awards of up to $3,000 while attending a private college or university. Students should check with their state’s Board or Commission for Education.

Sacred Heart University has a wide variety of scholarship awards available, and the Office of Student Financial Assistance has full details. Eligibility for a $10,000-per-year award is reserved for those who graduate as valedictorian or salutatorian, achieve high scores on the SAT or ACT, and have maintained at least a 3.4 GPA. Assistance ranging from $3,000 to $7,000 per year comes to academically gifted students through the Trustee Scholars Program, and a special fund named for the University’s founder, Bishop Walter W. Curtis, makes grants of $2,000 per academic year for full-time commuters who live at home.

Other awards are specially designed for transfer students, those who began their advanced education at a community college, and undergrads actively involved in such activities as athletics, campus ministry, and academic research, among many others.
University Scholars Program: For entering first-year, full-time undergraduates who completed high school as a valedictorian or salutatorian, received 1200 SAT or 27 ACT, and a minimum of a 3.4 H.S. GPA. Annual renewal of scholarship requires 3.4 GPA. $10,000 per academic year.

Trustee Scholars Program: For entering first-year, full-time undergraduates who meet two of the following criteria: rank in the top 20% of their high school senior class, score at least 1100/24 on SAT/ACT, and have a high school GPA of 3.2. Annual renewal requires 3.2 GPA. $3,000-$7,000 per academic year.

Curtis Commuter Program: Entering first-year, full-time undergraduates who are Connecticut residents and commute to SHU. Annual renewal of award is based on students remaining as commuters from their parents’ permanent residence in Connecticut. $2,000 per academic year.

Phi Theta Kappa international Honor Society: Entering full-time, transfer students who are members of the Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) International Honor Society. Students must have a GPA of at least 3.4 and transfer at least 30 credits. Annual renewal of the scholarship is based on maintaining a 3.4 GPA. $4,500 per academic year.

Connecticut Community College Scholarship: Entering full-time, transfer students from a Connecticut community college. Students must transfer with a 3.0 GPA and at least 30 credits. Annual renewal is based on maintaining a 3.2 GPA. $1,000-$4,000 per academic year.

Transfer Achievement Award Program: Entering full-time, transfer students from another post-secondary institution. Student must transfer with a minimum of a 3.2 GPA and 30 credits. Annual renewal of scholarship is based on maintaining a 3.2 GPA. $1,500-$3,500 per academic year.

Student Activity Recognition Awards: Full-time undergraduate awards to students based on leadership and participation in University programs. Financial need is often a requirement. Awards include Athletic Grant/Scholarship, Pioneer Band Grant, Student Government, Christian Leadership Award, Honors Scholarship, Undergraduate Research Stipend, Classroom Learning Assistant (CLA), Resident Assistant (RA), and others. In varying amounts.

Honors Program: For first-year, full-time undergraduates who meet all the following criteria: top 10% rank in high school class, 3.7 GPA, and 1250 on their SAT scores with a minimum of 650 in Verbal. The scholarship is contingent on enrolling in the Honors Program. $2,000 per academic year.

Sacred Heart University Grants in Aid: Undergraduates with financial need. In varying amounts.

WHAT’S SO PREFERABLE ABOUT PREFERRED LENDERS?
Sacred Heart University’s Office of Student Financial Assistance is in business to assist prospective students and their families. In doing so, it sifts through thousands of potential lenders on behalf of those students whose financial aid package does not meet all of their individual needs. It looks out for the best loans, the best terms, and the best services for its students.

Having evaluated what can be a bewildering array of options, it presents students with a “short list” of what are called preferred lenders. These are banks and other agencies with demonstrably competitive interest rates, benefits, and customer services. They have a track record of success with people in similar circumstances, especially at Sacred Heart, and they are typically brands that Sacred Heart families already know and trust.

Lenders are evaluated based on a number of important criteria: reduced default and origination fees, reduced interest rates, and cashback and rebate programs, for instance. The Office also takes into consideration such factors as repayment schedules, customer service, each institution’s reputation from an industry standard, the mission of the organization, and Sacred Heart University borrower experience.

Last year, the University identified seven lenders that offered the lowest rates and most competitive packages, and the large majority of borrowers chose one of the seven.

The so-called preferred lenders are by no means the only game in town, and families are free to choose any other recognized lender. When shopping for a loan, borrowers can weigh the benefits provided by SHU’s preferred lenders with any lender of their choosing and act accordingly.

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In addition to personal guidance, the University’s website provides abundant data including a link to ELM Resources at www.elmresources.com/s-about-lenders.php. This is the same system that the University uses to process and track loans. This link provides a list of Stafford lenders and in some cases a direct link to the lenders.
Pioneers Claim Five Titles at New England Championship

Sacred Heart’s track and field teams both finished fourth at the 2007 New England Championships held at Dartmouth College. The Pioneer men and women field athletes led the way with five wins at the event. SHU matched their all-time total of six New England titles at the weekend event and came home with their best-ever finishes.

The SHU men finished fourth in a field of 37 teams with 51 total points. The Pioneers’ previous best finish was fifth last year. The Pioneer women came away with 70 total points for a fourth place finish in a 34-team field. SHU topped their best-ever finish of eighth at the 2004 meet.

Pioneer senior Evan Lasher (Pleasant Valley, NY) defended his New England Championship in the shot put and added a new title to his trophy case with a win in the discus as well. Lasher added a fourth place finish in the javelin to his weekend to pick up All-New England honors in three events. The senior ends his stellar career with 13 All-New England performances, a school record.

Lasher bested the shot put field with a toss of 56’5.25” (17.20m), giving him the title in the event for the second straight year. He followed that with a win in the discus, an event he won at the NEC Championship by setting a new conference record (53.53m). Lasher unleashed a throw of 171’00” (52.12m) for his third career win at the New Englands. Lasher finished fourth in the javelin with a throw of 197’1.00” (60.07m).

The Pioneer 4x100 relay team of senior Alonzo Meek (Wayne, NJ) and juniors Scott Giordano (Hamden, CT), Michael Barrett (Islip Terrace, NY) and Arman Dixon (Beacon, NY) streaked across the finish line in 41.01 seconds to claim the gold medal, edging out the team from Rhode Island who finished in 41.12. Giordano picked up All-New England honors in the 200-meters as well, finishing fourth in the event. Giordano ran 21.42.

SHU juniors Marsha Locke (Danbury, CT) and Jamie Kilis (Marlborough, CT) and freshman Brittany Dexter (Ballston Lake, NY) all claimed wins in the field while four Pioneers finished in the top seven of the heptathlon. Locke and Kilis took home All-New England honors for the second straight year in claiming their first career titles. Locke won the shot put with a toss of 45’10.00” (13.97m). Teammate Lenahndem Tankeng (Yonkers, NY) came in third behind Locke with a throw of 43’8.50” (13.32m) for All-New England honors.

Dixon won the 200-meter race and the 55-meter dash title in the New England Championships, and placed second in the long jump. His 28 points were the most scored by any individual, and he was voted “New England Indoor Men’s Track and Field Athlete of the Year” by the New England coaches.

Kilis was victorious in the javelin, coming up with a throw of 134’1” (40.88m) and was followed in third by her younger sister, freshman Bonnie Kilis (Marlborough, CT) who threw 127’02” (38.77m).

Dexter continued her breakout freshman season by claiming the New England Championship in the high jump, an event she won at both the indoor and outdoor NEC title meets. Dexter cleared the bar at a height of 57.75”. She finished seventh in the event at the indoor New England meet.

In the heptathlon, junior Melissa Kostan (Salem, NY) led the charge, racking up 4,551 points to claim second place overall. In third was sophomore Sarana Hyatt (St. Albans, NY) with 4,504 points and in fourth was freshman Bonnie Kilis with 4,290 points. Junior Brianne Hudak (Corinth, NY) finished seventh overall with 3,962 points.
As the Sacred Heart University marching band played the theme from *2001: A Space Odyssey*, a large cloaked figure walked to center court, and to dramatic fanfare was revealed to the crowd as ... Bucky. Apparently SHU's trusty old mascot had elbowed his way into one last appearance in the limelight, and had to be escorted away by Public Safety.

Then the real moment arrived, the moment that 1,523 fans packed the Pitt Center to see: the unveiling of the new Pioneer mascot, "Big Red," at halftime of the women's basketball game on February 10 versus Robert Morris College.

As the band played, the dance team danced, and the cheerleaders cheered, men's basketball coach Dave Bike announced to the crowd, "I think it's time to bring in a substitution." With that, Big Red ran onto the court, loudly lauded by the near-capacity gathering of students, alumni and fans.

"The whole event surpassed our expectations," said Mark Adzigian, SHU's associate athletic director. "The crowd was rocking—they were really into it. We were very pleased with the enthusiasm of the crowd and with the way they responded to Big Red. It was a great day."

SHU sporting events had been in a mascot drought for four years after Bucky was retired following a decade of sideline service.

Daly said that the priorities of Big Red's design were first to embody the Pioneer identity and second to account for ergonomics and flexibility. "Some mascots' costumes don't allow you to move around much, but Big Red is going to be able to do just about everything," Daly said. "Dunk, ice skate, run around—you name it, Big Red will be able to do it."

The committee led the processes of design and promotion, and Student Government wrote the check—all in the name of boosting Pioneer spirit. And judging by the crowd's reaction on February 10, the boost worked.

"The introduction was awesome," said Ryan Leahey, a junior who plays for the men's golf team. "It's a better costume than Bucky—it's more up-to-date, and not cheesy-looking. Big Red will bring a lot more spirit to the school and to our games."

Big Red stands 6-foot-7 and sports a raccoon hat and a faux-leather hunting shirt and pants, looking decidedly Daniel Boonesque. After his official introduction, the new mascot boogied with the dance team, threw T-shirts and towels to fans, and then hobnobbed with students in the stands.

"The energy and excitement the students were showing me were like nothing I've ever seen at this school before," said Big Red. "The energy and excitement the students were showing me were like nothing I've ever seen at this school before," said Big Red, whose sans-costume identity remains secret. "They were even more energetic than at the women's basketball conference championship against Quinnipiac last year. People kept saying things like, 'You're awesome.' 'You're the man.' Everyone was really excited."

Now that Big Red's debut is over, fans can expect to see him cheering the Pioneers at all basketball and football games. But that's not where his work ends. "Once we really get Big Red under way," Adzigian said, "we'll start having him go into town to meet people at local schools and hospitals. We'll start building a whole community relations program around him."

And so a new era of Pioneer spirit begins.
Sacred Heart Honors 129 Seniors at Annual Awards Banquet

The Sacred Heart University Department of Athletics held its 15th Annual All-Sports and Senior Awards Banquet at the Trumbull Marriott on May 8, 2007, honoring 129 senior student-athletes and others. Dr. Gary Rose, Sacred Heart Faculty Athletic Representative, served as the evening’s Master of Ceremonies as the Department of Athletics recognized the accomplishments of the student-athletes on and off the field from among its 32 athletic programs.

SHU Athletic Trainer Battles His Biggest Foe

Throwing the pigskin around in the fall, swinging for the fences in the spring, and lacing up his sneakers for a game of hoops in the hot summer sun, Leo Katsetos’ calendar was filled with sporting events year-round as a teenager growing up in Virginia. Now 30, Katsetos still stays fit, lifting weights while working with basketball players and other athletes as associate head athletic trainer and a clinical instructor at Sacred Heart University.

“I like helping athletes get better and back on their feet,” Katsetos said. Despite living a healthy lifestyle, Katsetos began to experience mysterious symptoms in the fall of 2003. “I was getting numbness and tingling in both legs, like when your foot goes to sleep,” he recalled. “Being a trainer, I tried to diagnose myself. I thought it was a herniated disc.”

After a visit to an orthopedist and an MRI of his spine yielded no answers, a neurologist gave Katsetos some bad news. An MRI of Katsetos’ brain led to a December 2003 diagnosis of multiple sclerosis (MS). “My aunt had already been diagnosed with MS,” Katsetos said. “But I never looked into it and didn’t know much about it.”

Katsetos immersed himself in books and articles for months, researching the disease. “I learned how scary it is,” he said. “You hear some stories of people who wake up and they’re blind. I know people who were blind for two or three months, and their eyesight came back. Some people are in a wheelchair two to three months. You never know when or how it’s going to hit you.”

Katsetos said he has good days and bad days, which usually consist of fatigue or numbness and tingling in his legs. “My vision affected me initially,” he said. “When I drove to work, I closed my right eye and looked out the left to read street signs, and I’d always had good vision.”

Once armed with knowledge about MS, Katsetos decided to fight back. He talked to more people about his condition and he formed a team, Sacred Hearts for Hope, for the MS Walk, an annual fundraising event held at Sherwood Island in Westport. Sacred Hearts for Hope raised close to $60,000 for MS research over the past two years, and it has raised over $20,000 so far this year.

He realizes there are many MS sufferers with worse symptoms than he has, and has dedicated his life to helping others with the incurable disease, while savoring his “good days.”

“You take life for granted until something hits you that makes you realize the little things that are so important,” he said of being diagnosed with MS. “Being focused on the present, I can appreciate what I do today. Tomorrow will definitely be here soon.”

For more information about the MS Walk and the Western Connecticut Chapter of the Multiple Sclerosis Society, please visit: http://ctp.nationalmssociety.org/site/PageServer?pagename=CTP_homepage

Men’s Golf Wins New England Division I Championship

Sacred Heart University won the New England Division I Golf Championships after leading the 17-team field after the first day’s action with a 296, five strokes ahead of second place Central Connecticut and Yale at 301.

Former SHU Hockey Players Win French Championship

Former Pioneer hockey players Eddy Ferhi (above) and Martin Paquet recently helped Grenoble win the French Elite League Championship. The two former SHU standouts played key roles in helping their team to the title.

For complete schedules of all SHU sports teams, visit www.SacredHeartPioneers.com.
Sacred Heart Claims NEC Women’s Commissioner’s Cup

In the closest race in Northeast Conference history, Sacred Heart University narrowly edged out Long Island for the 2006-07 Women’s Cup, winning 115.78 to 115.27. The second-place overall finish for Sacred Heart matched its highest-ever overall placing (2003-04). The Pioneers also finished the year with a school record of 192.93 combined points.

SHU’s Jon Corto Signs with the Buffalo Bills

After an impressive showing at rookie minicamp in May, Sacred Heart’s Jon Corto (Orchard Park, NY) was signed by the Buffalo Bills. Corto is the second former Pioneer player to have a shot at the NFL.

SHU’s Maureen Hohn Selected for 2007 North-South Senior All-Star Game

Sacred Heart senior Maureen Hohn (Lutherville, MD) was selected to participate in the 2007 North-South Senior All-Star Game on June 16th. The Intercollegiate Women’s Lacrosse Coaches Association and STX jointly sponsor this event, which showcases the nation’s top seniors.

Equestrian Team Hosts First Head-to-Head

The Sacred Heart University women’s equestrian team hosted its first-ever NCAA head-to-head competition when the Stonehill College Skyhawks came to Lion Hill Farm in Easton on Sunday, February 11. Riders competed in jumping and on the flat (riding pattern).

Three Pioneer Baseball Players Named First Team All-NEC

Senior pitcher Jay Monti (Marlboro, NY), senior utilityman Rob Tencza (Meriden, CT) and junior DH Jeff Hanson (Woodstock, NY) were all named First Team All-Northeast Conference by a vote of NEC coaches.

Four Pioneers Garner All-NEC Honors

The SHU women’s lacrosse team had three representatives on the All-Northeast Conference first team, seniors Brianna Bubeck and Maureen Hohn, and sophomore Mary Montesarchio, while sophomore Amanda Williams received a second-team nod as a midfielder.
In a joint press conference on June 1, Sacred Heart and Fairfield University announced they will compete for the first time as Division I programs in the upcoming 2007-08 season in both men’s and women’s basketball. The two schools played each other at the Arena at Harbor Yard on November 18 in a double-header starting with the women’s game at 4:30 pm, followed by the men’s game at 7 pm. This year’s game was the first of a multi-year deal between the two schools. Although the games were well-played by both teams, the SHU women came up two points short with a final score of 58-56, while the men lost 84-75.

“We’re obviously very happy to be a part of this new endeavor,” said Dr. Anthony Cernera at the press conference. “Both of our institutions find themselves rooted in a tradition that began over 2,000 years ago—education that includes the entire person. Service to the community is a hallmark of the mission of both schools. This basketball rivalry over the next three years will be a continuing part of that service.”

The men’s teams battled one another for the first time in both schools’ basketball history, while the women’s squads faced each other for the first time as Division I opponents. The Stags and the Pioneers women’s teams last played each other as Division II foes during the 1980-81 campaign. The women’s teams played one another 11 times between 1973-74 and 1980-81 with the Stags holding a slight 7-4 advantage. The Sacred Heart men’s basketball team earned the number two seed and lost in the championship game of the Northeast Conference tournament to Central Connecticut State last season. The Pioneers finished 18-14 overall and 12-6 in the NEC.

Head Coach Dave Bike, who has 446 career victories, began his 29th season at the helm of the Pioneer program. “I remember how excited the people got about the old battle of Park Avenue with Sacred Heart and Bridgeport,” said Bike. “I hope that this new rivalry with Fairfield will do the same thing for all the local basketball fans.”

The Pioneers women’s basketball team won the NEC title in 2005-06, and last year won 20 games for the second straight season. Head coach Ed Swanson, who began his 18th season in 2007-08, guided the Pioneers to a 22-10 overall record and 15-3 NEC mark last year.

“I’m a Mets fan and when I go to the interleague games between the Mets and Yankees I enjoy the passion of the fans. I think our series with Fairfield will have the same kind of passion.”

The Fairfield University men’s basketball team comes off a 13-19 overall season with a 10-8 mark in the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference. The program began its second season under Head Coach Ed Cooley in 2007-08. The Stags women’s basketball team started its first season under Head Coach Joe Frager, who came to Fairfield after capturing the 2007 Division II National Championship at Southern Connecticut State University. The squad recorded a 15-15 overall slate and an 11-7 conference record.

“This is a special day for me, both on a personal and professional level,” said SHU Director of Athletics Don Cook. “I graduated from Fairfield during the Spanish-American War,” he joked. “And I also had the privilege of being the Director of Athletics and baseball coach here many years ago.”
Alumni

SHU GRADUATES LIVING THE UNIVERSITY’S MISSION

Justin Liberman ’02 Does Hollywood His Way

A fter graduating from Sacred Heart in 2002 with a degree in Media Studies, Justin Liberman—young, determined, and eager to gain professional experience—landed an unpaid internship working with famed writer/director Michael Mann (Miami Vice, Heat) on his then forthcoming feature Collateral. Once funding was secured with the signing of major Hollywood players Tom Cruise and Jamie Foxx, Liberman was given a promotion to Production Assistant and—more importantly—a paycheck. He worked alongside Mann from the earliest days of script development to its theatrical release. His last day on the job was the day the film opened to critical acclaim.

What did the aspiring filmmaker take away from the experience? Liberman thinks for a moment and replies with typical candor: “I learned I couldn’t play the assistant game for long.”

Even before setting foot onto Sacred Heart’s Fairfield campus, Liberman knew he wanted to direct. But then why choose Sacred Heart? Why not one of the more widely recognized filmmaking hothouses like NYU or Southern Cal?

“There’s a lot of hype and image around some other schools,” he explains. “Sacred Heart has a small program, which allowed me a lot of close personal attention and freedom. I believe you’re either born with the ability to tell a story or you’re not. After that, it’s a matter of learning what makes film significant and how to use it.”

He points to Media Studies faculty members Greg Golda, Jim Castonguay, and Sid Gottlieb, saying they were more personal mentors than professors in his undergrad development. “Sid really helped me understand the romanticized importance of cinema—where Jim was terrific with the intellectual and artistic responsibility of the art and Greg gave me the fundamentals: how to use the tools of filmmaking, what a camera really is and how to use it. These are the absolute cornerstones of filmmaking.”

So graduation, a cross-country trek to Hollywood, and more than a year working hands-on alongside “the best living American director” [Mann], and all he takes away is the realization that he needs to work for himself? He laughs. “I also got to know Emilio.”

That’s Emilio Rivera—former gang member, drug addict, and convicted felon—who is now clean, straight, and one of Hollywood’s strongest actors, and who starred in Liberman’s award-winning debut short film, Y Nada Mas.

Justin Liberman ’02 Does Hollywood His Way

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The film is a study of the Latino subculture of Venice Beach, California—specifically the challenges facing the Mexican-American male, struggling to hold onto some form of identity amidst the gentrification of the area. Liberman—a self-confessed "white, middle-class, Jewish kid from Connecticut"—wrote the script himself, inspired by what he witnessed daily while living in Venice Beach.

"I believe you’re either born with the ability to tell a story or you’re not. After that, it’s a matter of learning what makes film significant and how to use it."

When he showed Rivera the script, the actor shook his head in disbelief. “He looked at me, and he said, ‘Are you part home-boy? How did you write this?’”

Liberman self-financed the film, which debuted at the Tribeca Film Festival before going on to acclaim in a dozen other festivals, including winning Best Cinematography at the Malibu International Film Festival. And with the acclaim came the backing.

His second project, Pretty Dead Flowers, was fully funded by a pair of young entrepreneurs looking to break into producing. Shot entirely on location in Quebec, Canada, the film stands as a tribute to 1950s French New Wave filmmaking and such pre-eminent filmmakers as Jean-Luc Godard and François Truffaut. Pretty Dead Flowers—the story of an aging supermodel needing to confront the fact that beauty, like fame, is fleeting—is every bit as strong as its two predecessors, whose combined budget was more than $60,000. “It’s about a breakup and a chance meeting and...” he pauses to choose his words. “And a man who can’t deal,” he finishes in vaguely ominous tones. His subtle hint that the story is drawn from semi-autobiographical inspiration only adds to the intrigue.

After Red Balloon there is the feature-length script he is developing. Naturally reticent to discuss it at length, only the working title escapes his lips—Three Can Keep a Secret if Two Are Dead—and the relatively self-evident acknowledgement that the story isn’t a lighthearted comedy. “It’s a tough story,” Liberman says. “The hero’s not very nice. You know, some people are just bad people.”

Again, ominously vague while entirely sure. It’s easy to see why the assistant game just wouldn’t do.

“I believe you’re either born with the ability to tell a story or you’re not. After that, it’s a matter of learning what makes film significant and how to use it.”
New Grad Lands Dream Job as Analyst

Some children fantasize about ponies or have visions of sugar plums, but as a child Meghan Wilcox saw numbers swirling around in her brain, which may account for the dream job she landed shortly after graduation as a junior analyst for Lawrence Kudlow and Company, LLC, an economic research and consulting firm for institutional and private investors with offices in New York and Fairfield, Connecticut.

It’s a small company with a big impact. Founder and CEO Lawrence Kudlow is the host of the CNBC television show Kudlow & Company, which covers Wall Street to Washington—in other words, economics to politics, and how one affects the other—every weeknight at 5 p.m. The show is also broadcast on Sirius Radio and XM Radio.

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Wilcox, who received her degree in Finance and Business Economics this past May, looks at economic indicators, tracks them and helps forecast the economic outlook in different sectors, such as the housing market. “My dad is a financial consultant and I always loved numbers and business,” explains Wilcox, who grew up in Bedford, Massachusetts.

She had never envisioned landing a job of this caliber so soon after graduation, however, she admits. “It’s pretty cool. He’s a very nice man,” she says of Kudlow, “a very laid-back person, an upbeat person. He’s also a good role model.”

Kudlow works hard six days a week running his company, hosting the TV show and hosting The Larry Kudlow Show every Saturday, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. on WABC Radio. She is relieved that, in the eyes of her co-workers, “I’m not just some little girl just out of college. I’m treated as an equal.”

Kudlow contacted SHU when he recently opened an office at 1375 Kings Highway East in Fairfield, seeking recommendations for an available position. Wilcox was among those recommendations. She began working part-time in March and moved to full-time in May. Wilcox is enjoying the “hands-on” work, seeing what shapes the market, what affects the economy. “What one person says can affect the market for the day. I like the underlying factors. I’ve really gotten a good understanding of the basic economy and politics. Larry really works hard to bring that to the people, how politics influences the economy,” she said.

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SHU Alumnus Ordained in Bridgeport

Father Mariusz Olbrys, a graduate of Sacred Heart University, was ordained to the priesthood at St. Augustine Cathedral in Bridgeport on May 19th by the Most Reverend William E. Lori, Bishop of Bridgeport. A native of Poland, where he received his early education, Father Mariusz completed his studies at the Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C. He celebrated his first Mass at Holy Name of Jesus Church in Stamford, his home parish in Connecticut.

Father Mariusz Olbrys giving Communion to his Mom, Teresa. Photo by John Glover.
Have you ever dreamt about what it would feel like to walk down the red carpet? How about walking down it seven times?

David Boone graduated from Sacred Heart University in 1987 with a BS in Media Studies and a minor in Political Science. In 1998, he was hired by Billy Crystal to work on the 70th annual Academy Awards, and he has been writing for the show ever since. Boone has worked with Billy Crystal three times, Steve Martin once, and Whoopi Goldberg twice. This year will be Boone’s seventh time walking down the red carpet.

“Every year is fun,” says Boone. “One year I actually saw myself afterwards on E!”

Boone believes that the open-minded attitudes of his professors helped him achieve his goals and brought him to where he is today. “Classes in political science were really important to me in terms of learning to use your mind, think for yourself, and have your own opinions,” he says. “There was no right or wrong answer.”

One professor whom Boone remembers in particular is Dr. Gary L. Rose, Professor and Chair of the Department of Government and Politics. Of Boone, Dr. Rose says, “He had an excellent sense of humor, and I distinctly recall his detailed knowledge of the entertainment industry. He was one of our truly unique students.”

Boone’s political science background inspired him to write jokes for fellow alum Kevin Nealon when he was doing “Weekend Update” on Saturday Night Live. “He gave a big boost to my career, and so did Jay Leno, who was the first person I ever wrote material for after I graduated,” says Boone, who has been nominated for many awards, including the Writers Guild Awards, the Academy Awards, and the Tony Awards. His advice for any aspiring writer is simple: “If I can do it, you can do it. A lot of doors get shut in your face, but if you still want to do it even after the door closes, you will succeed. I was writing for 10 years before I got a call from Billy Crystal. I could have given up, but I knew it was something I always wanted to do.”
1971

Robert Chiapetta joined The Bank of Greenwich as vice president in charge of business development.

Richard P. Giarniero has been selected by Law & Politics as a Super Lawyer in Connecticut for 2007. Super Lawyers are nominated by their peers; there is considerable polling, a peer evaluation and a detailed research process by which Law & Politics selects lawyers who they feel are the top 5% in the state. Attorney Giarniero is a principal of The Giarniero Law Firm, LLC in Stratford, Connecticut. He is known for his work in the entertainment and financial industries and is a long-time supporter and sponsor of Sacred Heart University basketball.

1972

Brian Garvey is the dean of the Honors School at Monmouth University, West Long Branch, New Jersey.

1974

Greg Collins is currently a land acquisition manager.

Peter L. Timpanelli was promoted to president of Pulsafeeder on April 3, 2006. They are located in Punta Gorda, Florida, and Bridgeport, Connecticut.

1975

John G. Moran retired from United Illuminating Company as supervisor of general customer field services.

1976

Julie Dziuba Buchanan was promoted to assistant director in the Office for Faculty Affairs at Yale University’s School of Medicine.

Alan Gregory retired from GE and is currently with Hubbell Wiring Devices in Milford, Connecticut.

1978

Susan Peters Brams is currently Campaign Coordinator for U.S. Congressman Joe Knollenberg (R-Michigan), who is running for his eighth term. He serves as Chairman of House Appropriation Subcommittees.


1979

Ann D. Jevne was elected by the Connecticut Society of CPAs to serve a three-year term on its 17-member Board of Governors. Ms. Jevne is a partner in the Norwalk CPA firm of Schwartz & Hofflich, LLP. She also holds the Personal Financial Specialist, Certified Financial Planner, Certified Divorce Specialist, and Accredited Estate Planner designations.

1982

Karen Nolting (1985 MBA) was named vice president, chief operating officer at Habitat for Humanity of Coastal Fairfield County, Bridgeport, Connecticut. This Christian housing ministry works in partnership with families and organizations to build homes.

1984

John C. Byrne is the chief operations officer of Cumberland County, Pennsylvania, and oversees 1,300 employees with a $180 million budget. He also received his national firefighter’s certification from the New York State Fire Academy.

Andrea Fernandez teaches at St. Ann School in Milford, Connecticut, and finds teaching in a Catholic school environment to be very rewarding.

1986

Marcia Goodwin is employed as an independent IT contractor for AT&T.

1988

Juda Epstein was announced as the recipient of the 2006 A.O. Samuel’s Young Leadership Award.

Vernice Hall-Santos has been a school psychologist in the New Haven Public Schools for 27 years.

1989

Cathryn Thompson Baylock was re-elected to the Burlingame, California, City Council.

1990

Lynn Fichtel (1989 MAT) is an assistant principal in the New Fairfield school district in Connecticut.

1991

Jodi Thomas was elected Judge of Probate for the 28th Probate District. Jodi received her law degree cum laude from Quinnipiac University School of Law in 1995 and practiced as a litigation attorney for many years. She lives in Colchester, Connecticut, with her husband of 12 years and their three-year-old son.

1992

James Brennan (MBA) is a football official in the Big East Conference and worked as a Side Judge in the 2006 Orange Bowl in Miami (Penn State vs. Florida State).

1994

Jen Sicigano was selected as Person of the Week by the East Haven Courier in May 2006. Jen is a first grade teacher at D.C. Moore Elementary School in East Haven, Connecticut, where she also went to elementary school.
1995
Bill Barry (MAT) is principal at Putnam High School in Connecticut. He interned at the high school when he was in college. 

Mark Brezosky is the deputy managing director/eastern area manager for Imperial Capital Bank.

Jeffrey Smith was promoted to the rank of Sergeant with the Ridgefield, Connecticut Police Department in February 2006. Sgt. Smith has been a member of that department for nine years.

Fred Musante (MAT) won second place for educational reporting for his series of news articles and editorials on the student enrollment imbalance between Stratford High School and Bunnell High School at the New England Press Association Better Newspaper Contest for 2006.

1996
Carlo Leane is a Connecticut state analyst/control specialist.

1997
Matthew Boeckeler works in Cambridge, Massachusetts as a robotics engineer for Schering-Plough Research Institute.

Glendia Fowler-Cartwright received her M.A. in 2001 from New York University in Educational Communications and Technology.

Michele Gioia (MBA) is a property manager with 2 Novas, LLC, and husband, Phillip (2000 MBA) is vice president of sales with Barr Pharmaceuticals.

Michelle Herrman accepted a position at University Business Magazine as Associate Editor.

1998
Sean P. Ballou is a researcher for Glaxo-SmithKline, a pharmaceutical company in Northborough, Massachusetts. His travels take him to Florida, Canada and the home office in Belgium. Sean lives in Acton, Massachusetts.

Dana (Scinto) Colangelo currently resides in Fairfield with her husband and two daughters.

Jason Lambert has been appointed principal at Martin Kellogg Middle School in Newington, Connecticut. He had been an assistant principal at Newington High School since 2003.

Brian P. Murphy was appointed principal of Great Oak Middle School in Oxford, Connecticut. He was one of two finalists in an application pool of 40.

Jonathan Silhavey was promoted to Operations Manager/On-Board Services with MTA Metro-North Railroad where he has worked for seven and a half years. He also co-produced a public safety video with Sacred Heart students entitled “The Train Always Wins.”

1999
Jennifer Coiman was promoted to the newly created position of manager, marketing and business development at OperationsInc, a human resources consulting firm.

Bill Guerrero (MBA) was elected president of the National Association of College Auxiliary Services Eastern Region professional association. He is currently the executive director of the Purchase College Association, Inc.

Michael (Mitch) Elgarico recently graduated from Columbia University’s Teachers College with a Master of Arts in Higher and Post Secondary Education degree. He will be moving to California where he has been named Associate Director of Admission at Stanford University.

Darcie Fitzsimons was part of the top producing team of the Mid State Board of Realtors for 2006. She is a realtor with Joan Vallee Team of Realty First.

Dana (Westing) Gabriel is the founding editor of the Greenwich Citizen, a 15,500-circulation weekly newspaper in Greenwich, Connecticut.

Don Harrison is the founding editor of the Greenwich Citizen, a 15,500-circulation weekly newspaper in Greenwich, Connecticut.

2000
Michael Bird (MBA) has been appointed chief financial officer of Waveny Care Network of New Canaan, Connecticut. Michael is a member of the Connecticut Association of Long-Term Care Financial Managers and the Connecticut Association of Not-for-Profit Homes for the Aged.

David Collum works at a local law firm managing client service and external communications.

Matthew Maciejewski has been working in the oil shipping and trading industry since 2001. He is currently the head of the demurrage department at Glencore, Ltd., a commodities trading company, in their Stamford, Connecticut office. He currently resides in Greenwich, Connecticut, and enjoys spending his free time traveling. He’s been to 21 countries on four continents and hopes to add to that soon.
Kathy Sheehy (2000 6th Year) was named principal at the Booth Hill School in Shelton, Connecticut.

Shawn Stillway, a second grade teacher at Thomas Hooker School in Bridgeport, was honored as an Outstanding Teacher by the Bridgeport Public Education Fund for 2006.

Peggy Feldt is an avid athlete and has a position as an athletic trainer for Trinity Catholic.

2003

David Carlor is currently a Senior Analyst for GE Capital in Danbury, Connecticut. He has produced his very own first project, a great hip hop album, called Unconscious Reality Volume 1.

Justin Liberman’s film, Y Nada Mas, won honors at the Malibu International Film Festival. His first film was accepted at Tribeca Film Fest.

Tom Pesce (2004 MAT) graduated with a Professional Diploma in School District Leadership and Administration from Mercy College. He teaches fourth grade in the Blind Brook School District in Rye Brook, New York and performs professional magic shows and motivational leadership programs for high schools and universities throughout the Northeast.

Judith Szilagyi-Neary (2003 MBA) is the clinical care manager for Ovations, a United Healthcare Company, providing clinical leadership for the Northeast Region of the Medicare line of business. She has served on the faculty of Norwalk Hospital and held leadership positions with clinical expertise in the areas of Emergency Room Nursing, Critical Care, Community Nursing, Skilled Nursing, and Medical Technology Research.

Mary Jane Paris has started her own consulting business, Positive Impact, this year.

Tracie Saxonmeyer is now teaching fifth grade in New Canaan, Connecticut. She had a year-long substitute position at Jennings Elementary School in Fairfield, Connecticut.

Michael Trenck (2003) has joined the Ridgefield Fire Department.

Gary Turco works for the Speaker of the House in Connecticut.

2004

Christopher Louis started a career in the healthcare administration field as an administrative resident at Blake Medical Center in Bradenton, Florida.

Anita Majka has joined the Fairfield Financial Mortgage Group.

Melissa (Longo) McCarthy is a cardiac nurse at the Stonybrook Medical Center in New York caring for patients during pre/post cardiac procedures.

Jennifer Shea is currently employed by the Derby, Connecticut Board of Education as a biology and chemistry teacher.

2005

Danya Jimenez is an associate producer at Fusion TV in Bristol, Connecticut.

2007

Jon Corto was signed by the Buffalo Bills. He finished his final season with the Pioneers with a team-leading 104 tackles, ranking second in the Northeast Conference playing linebacker. He finished his college career as the program’s second all-time leading tackler with 300.

Engagements

Aldona M. Barius (1985) to Louis J. Lengyel, Spring 2007

Tiffany Lyn Check (1998) to Darren Boyd Richards, September 8, 2007


Kristi Cortina (2005 MAT) to Kevin McCarthy, July 21, 2007


Leslie D’Addio (2005) to Christopher Silva, August 2008

Allison Enderly (2005) to Michael Gallagher


Matthew Harlow (1990) to Carlene Taylor, October 19, 2007

Raymond Lomax (1992) to Darcey Cobbs, April 2008

Matthew Maciejewski (2000) to Kimberly Kelley (1999), Spring 2008


Kenneth Martin (1999) to Lauren DeMaio, May 2008

Abigail Miles (2006 MAT) to Thomas Piacenza, August 17, 2007

Kristen Mary Mostowy (2003) to Rob Wayne Lehmacher, June 7, 2008
Marriages

- Donald Osvay (1998) to Evamarie Nicholas, September 2, 2007
- Aileen Quinn (2005) to Christopher Chaney, August 2008
- Robert Roche, Jr. (1988) to Diane Iacurci, Summer 2007
- Christina Rockett (2003) to Andrew Kozlowski, July 2008
- Hillary Royer (2003 MAT) to Eric Sirois, June 30, 2007
- Tracy Taylor (2001) to William Hoppock, June 9, 2008
- Valerie Vancza (1996) to Edward Lucas, July 2008
- Lauren Burdo (2001) and Rafael Ocasio, Jr., October 8, 2006
- Michael J. Garbarino (2005) and Jennifer Underhill, June 24, 2006
- Andrea Hubbard (2002) and Kristopher Wallis, April 20, 2007
- Kathleen Laskowski (1999) and Stephen Myers, August 12, 2007

Births

- Michael Nagy (1995) and Alison Vidnansky, April 22, 2006
- Lisa Noll (1997) and Robert Hardy, June 4, 2006
- Stephanie Palmieri (2004) and Paul DiSario, October 14, 2007
- Xavier Sanchez (2005) and Rachel Martino, May 27, 2007
- Katie Semelrath (2002) and David Bertoldi (2009), October 7, 2006
- Cheryl (McGill) Condello (2000, 2001 MAT) and husband Eddie, a daughter, Alexa, September 23, 2006
- Jason Cosimano (1994) and wife Dorothy, a son, Vincent Joseph, September 26, 2005
- Karen (Pagliuco) Guastelle (1988, 1994 MBA) and husband Mike, a son, John Michael, April 11, 2006
- Kristen Lalla (1997) and husband Tony Cappa, a daughter, Kaelyn, March 22, 2006
- Steven Lizotte (1992) and wife Janine, a son, Nathan Gil, July 17, 2006
- Kelly (Doyle) McNally (1997) and husband Chris McNally, twins, Allison Marie and Aidan Edward, January 15, 2006
- Jennifer (LaBonte) O’Connor (2003) and husband Rick, a daughter, Paige Michele, January 10, 2006
- Elizabeth (Afonso) Pellegrino (1995) and husband Lorin (1994), a son, Lorin Andrew, September 6, 2003
- Bianca (Souto) Perrone (1997) and husband Anthony, a son, Anthony Joseph, May 26, 2006
- Kerr (Cuddy) Tuttle (1997) and husband John, a daughter, Margaret Rose, June 2006
- Rachel (Harrison) Anderson (1996) and husband Jeff, a son, May 17, 2006
- Erin (Harrison) French (2001) and husband Greg, a daughter, Lauren Elizabeth, April 24, 2006

In Memoriam

- Thomas Calabrese, February 19, 2007, husband of Marian (Bunny) and father of Jason (1996)
- Izora Cumming (1984), September 8, 2006
- Kathleen Duguay (1983), March 6, 2007
- Joseph Gabriel, September 16, 2006, husband of Patricia Gabriel (1979, 1987 MAR)
- Robert J. Hull (1990), September 26, 2006
- Beverly Lieberman (1986), September 11, 2006
- Dr. Anthony Szilagyi (1971), February 9, 2007
- Elizabeth “Betsy” Murphy Taff (‘67), November 9, 2006
November 12, 2007
State of Denial — Bob Woodward
Edgerton Center for the Performing Arts
7:00 P.M.

Bob Woodward has worked for The Washington Post since 1971. He has won nearly every American journalism award, and the Post won the 1973 Pulitzer Prize for his work with Carl Bernstein on the Watergate Scandal.

In 2004, Bob Scieffer of CBS News said “Woodward has established himself as the best reporter of our time. He may be the best reporter of all time.”

November 15, 2007
Dead Man Talking: Starring Ken Richters
Edgerton Center for the Performing Arts
8:00 P.M.

It’s 1910 & Mark Twain, the man who said “Go to Heaven for the climate, Hell for the company!” finds himself at Heaven’s Gate defending his life.

November 18, 2007
SHU vs Fairfield U.
Edgerton Center for the Performing Arts
8:00 P.M.

December 4, 2007
Lisa Ling
Edgerton Center for the Performing Arts
7:00 P.M.

Lisa Ling has covered the looting of antiquities in war-torn Iraq, investigated the increasingly deadly drug war in Colombia, and examined the complex issues surrounding China’s one-child policy.

February 19, 2008
Diversity On the Field and Off — Tony Dungy
Edgerton Center for the Performing Arts
7:00 P.M.

In his 6th season as head coach of the Indianapolis Colts, Tony Dungy has led the Colts to five playoff appearances, four AFC South titles, two AFC Championship appearances, and a 29-17 victory in Super Bowl XLI. Dungy has long been active in the community, launching Mentors for Life and supporting children’s charitable programs like Family First, Big Brothers/Big Sisters and Boys and Girls Clubs.