OUR hearts BEAT STRONG

THE EVOLUTION OF A GREAT UNIVERSITY
In previous issues of this magazine—especially last year when we were celebrating the 50th anniversary of the University—we have talked about our exciting expansion in terms of property and new buildings and facilities, as well as the new programs we have developed along the way to meet the continuing needs of our students and the marketplace where they will look for jobs. The lead story in this issue is about our success in the area of enrollment. We are very fortunate that over the past few years, Sacred Heart has been a popular choice for students, and that has led to the largest freshman class in SHU history for two successive years.

Of course the aforementioned changes to our campus and our programs have had a great deal to do with our enrollment success, but we believe it goes beyond that. We think it also has to do with the very special community at Sacred Heart. Our faculty and staff are completely focused on the students, and students feel that from their very first exploratory visit to our campus. In addition, our admissions team works very hard to find the kind of students who will be successful here. Just like it behooves a physician to treat the “whole” patient and not just the symptoms, we believe it makes sense to consider a student’s interests and life experiences as well as grades and test scores. By accepting the kind of students who will fit into the Sacred Heart family, we also improve the number of students that stay at Sacred Heart and successfully graduate.

We also continue to share the exciting research and writing that our faculty is doing. This issue includes a feature on Professor Jonas Zdanys, his poetry publications and his love of teaching poetry to his students. We also feature Biology Professor Barbara Pierce, who received a $111,253 grant to further her research on migratory birds. The grant will allow undergraduate students to participate in research at two of the world’s premier avian wind tunnels—one in Germany and one in Canada. She is one of many faculty members who have received grants that not only advance their own research but also provide opportunities for students.

Another example is our story on the grant we received from Bank of America, which provides an opportunity for our business students to gain real-world experience working on projects for area nonprofits. This is a true win-win as it benefits both the students and the nonprofit organization that they work with.

The pages are filled with other exciting news—new programs, new equipment such as our new birth simulator for nursing students, our new SHU Safe phone application and so much more. Please enjoy it, and have a wonderful spring!

John J. Petillo, Ph.D.
President
Features

To Poet Zdanys, All People Are Artists
Professor Jonas Zdanys has published over 40 works of poetry and fiction. Here he talks about passing wisdom forward and how creating art is a profoundly human act.

New Grant Supports MBA Students
A new Bank of America grant benefits not-for-profit organizations and MBA students passionate about putting their knowledge to good use through the Problem-Based Learning Lab.

Students Bring Pioneer Spirit Near and Far
Over winter break, nearly 60 students volunteered on mission projects as close to home as Bridgeport and as far away as Bangladesh, helping people of all ages.

Departments

02 FROM THE HEART
Insider information on achievements, events and people, from and around campus.

39 ADVANCING SHU
Moving the University community forward with gifts, giving and advancement.

44 ON THE FIELD
The latest on SHU athletic successes, developments and special events.

52 CLASS NOTES
Catch up with old friends: who’s doing what and where they are now.
Online Learning Program Wins National Award

SHUsquare, a Sacred Heart-built online learning program that promotes connectivity among faculty and students, has won a national education award from the Online Learning Consortium (formerly the Sloan Consortium).

Designed to enliven teaching and learning, SHUsquare is an online community for First-Year Seminar students and faculty to share ideas, work and resources across various disciplines and between courses. Its motto—“Keep the Conversation Going”—refers to its intent to encourage autonomous learning beyond the traditional classroom. The program won the Online Learning Consortium award in the “Effective Practice” category.

“It won because it’s quite unique in a first-year program to have this kind of formal process for networked learning,” says Jaya Kannan, SHU’s director of the Office of Digital Learning.

Kannan says SHUsquare represents the kind of educational opportunity that aligns perfectly with the goals of a liberal arts university. “In an undergraduate liberal arts curriculum, the focus on critical thinking is crucial to achieving academic excellence,” she says. “SHUsquare is a very original and pedagogically sound way to go beyond the traditional approach of just staying within courses, expanding students’ minds to make meaningful connections between disciplines.”

The program began with a pilot in the 2012–13 academic year and quickly evolved into a networked community of nearly 20 seminars. SHUsquare now has more than 50 pages of content, including videos, discussion groups and multimodal projects, and continues to grow each semester.
Building Named to Honor Former President Melady

The administration building has been named in honor of Thomas Patrick Melady, who served as president at SHU from 1976 to 1986 and was named President Emeritus when he moved on. His service came during a time of great change as the University began to move from a small commuter college to an acclaimed regional University. His vision played an important role in strengthening academic excellence at Sacred Heart and ensuring it not only became the nationally known University it is today, but also retained its reputation as a special place where members of the community are treated with respect and dignity.

Melady made his mark away from Sacred Heart University as well. He served as an American ambassador under three presidents and as a sub-cabinet officer for a fourth, and was always active in foreign affairs and international relations. From 2002 until his death on January 6, 2014, he was a senior diplomat in residence at the Institute of World Politics in Washington, D.C.

Robin L. Cautin Named Dean of College of Arts & Sciences

Robin Lynn Cautin has been named dean of the College of Arts & Sciences. Cautin most recently served as dean of Undergraduate Education, associate provost and professor of psychology at Manhattanville College in Purchase, N.Y. In her new position at SHU, she oversees the implementation of the University’s new core curriculum, which launches in fall 2015; the internationalization of the College and its curriculum; the development of graduate programs; and the continued integration of high-impact practices and the latest technological advances.

At Manhattanville, Cautin oversaw the development, delivery and assessment of all undergraduate academic programs. She also coordinated development and planning for new programs, coordinated teaching assignments and managed related administrative duties.

“I was attracted to SHU because of its mission, its emphasis on service and its strong commitment to academic excellence,” says Cautin. “SHU prepares students to successfully enter an increasingly competitive workforce, but also compels them to grow intellectually, morally and spiritually. Its focus is on educating the entire person while emphasizing social justice and community service. For the University, it’s not just about developing future employees, but rather citizens in a global community, leading satisfying and meaningful lives. This is a mission that’s founded in the Catholic intellectual traditions, and one that I’m proud to serve.”

Cautin is a noted scholar in the history of psychology—clinical psychology in particular—and she is co-editor and author of the five-volume Encyclopedia of Clinical Psychology, which was published by Wiley-Blackwell in January 2015.

She completed her postdoctoral fellowship in clinical psychology at Columbia University and her doctorate in clinical psychology at Case Western Reserve University. She earned her bachelor’s degree with distinction in psychology and philosophy at the University of Delaware.
Chemistry Department Enjoying New Facilities and Equipment

The Chemistry Department had much to be thankful for this past fall, given the recent completion of Phase I of office and lab renovations and investments in new equipment. Phase II is planned for next summer and will include the addition of a multipurpose lab and a new seminar room for graduate students.

Professor Eid A. Alkhatib, department chair and director of the master’s in chemistry program, has been overseeing the upgrades. The faculty also had major input.

“We renovated the organic chemistry lab and research room, built two new labs—one for physics and one for instruments—constructed three new research labs, created 10 new offices for faculty and established a seating area for students to interact with faculty,” says Alkhatib.

Equipment purchases were equally comprehensive, including a new gas chromatograph/mass spectrometer (GC/MS), an organic compound analysis instrument; a thermogravimetric analyzer (TGA), used in various analytical applications; a high-pressure liquid chromatograph (HPLC) organic analyzer; a spectrofluorometer for spectroscopy analysis; an ultraviolet/visible spectrometer (UV/VIS) and an infrared spectrometer.

During National Chemistry Week in October, the department held an open house to give staff, faculty and University executives a look at the new spaces, materials and hardware. One of the highlights of their reception was the ACS Student Affiliates’ representation of the Periodic Table of Elements, constructed using cupcakes.

Students Excel at New York College Fed Challenge

On October 31, five students in the Department of Economics and Finance represented the John F. Welch College of Business in the New York College Fed Challenge. Kyle Czarnecki ’15, Scott Gaffney ’15, Elias Gharios ’15, Ken Arnold ’16 and George Ferris ’18 made up the team. For the second year in a row, their faculty adviser was Professor Gerald McCloghry.

The Fed Challenge is an economic forecasting competition among universities nationwide. Each team is responsible for creating and executing a 15-minute presentation in front of the employees of the New York Federal Reserve Bank. After their presentation, the economists from the New York Federal Reserve Bank spend 15 minutes asking questions of each team. The score is based on both the presentation and questioning.

The team scored higher than in previous years and, though they did not qualify for the semifinal round, they consider the competition a great experience and a highlight of their college careers.
School of Nursing Installs Birthing Simulator

In its ongoing effort to provide state-of-the-art education, the School of Nursing has acquired a birthing simulator. The mannequin provides a lifelike point-of-care learning experience for the school’s undergraduate and graduate nursing students. Sacred Heart is the first school in Connecticut to use this innovative technology.

Nicknamed “Victoria,” the tetherless and wireless unit is part of a family of NOELLE maternal and neonatal care simulators designed and manufactured by Miami-based Gaumard Scientific. Housed in SHU’s Nursing Simulation & Clinical Skills laboratories, Victoria has an articulating endoskeleton and smooth elastomeric skin, and offers an authentic delivery and birthing mechanism with sophisticated monitoring capabilities. The system features comprehensive clinical scenarios, including shoulder dystocia and postpartum hemorrhage.

“The laboratories provide students the opportunity to learn and practice in a realistic and risk-free environment. These experiences offer invaluable opportunities to enrich and enhance learning as well as to increase student confidence, and Victoria will be an important component in that mission,” says Beth Boyd, director of Nursing Simulation & Clinical Skills at SHU. “Victoria has the capability of providing innovative and realistic experiences. We are eager to incorporate this latest technology into our School of Nursing curriculum and to provide interactive strategies and engaged learning for our students.”

One of the first students trained with Victoria was Theresa Bertolino, a junior nursing major from Hyde Park, Mass. “Sacred Heart’s goal is to make us as prepared as possible before we’re in a live setting with live patients, with real moms and real babies,” Bertolino says. “To have a mannequin that is realistic is a great resource, a great learning opportunity. I’ve worked on other simulators that weren’t as lifelike, but with Victoria you can do things like hold her hand and make more genuine contact—it gives a lot more opportunities for realistic scenarios.”

Student Business Supports Mission Trip

Heartfelt Designs, a T-shirt design business run by students to support charitable efforts, wrote its first check to the University’s Office of Volunteer Programs & Service Learning. The check is in the amount of $1,000 and helped fund student mission programs in El Salvador.

From left are Professor Steve Scarpati, Alexa Duffy, Director of Volunteer Programs & Service Learning Matthew Kaye, Edward Garrity, Natalie DiGennaro, President John Petillo, Octavia Pierce, Taylor DiBella, Erin Morgan and Professor David Bloom.
SHU Safety Week a Success

During the week of October 6–9, Student Government partnered with various campus organizations to host SHU Safety Week. It was designed to educate the Sacred Heart community about how to prepare, prevent and plan for emergency situations.

Each day of SHU Safety Week 2014 was connected to a particular safety theme. These included sexual assault prevention, social media safety and on- and off-campus safety. Some of the week’s activities included a demonstration by theater arts program students dressed as superheroes on how to download the SHU Safe app, the “It’s On Us” pledge board presented by Greek Life students in support of the national anti-sexual assault campaign, a self-defense course for women, a Victim Vigil to pray for sexual assault victims, a safety tips contest via social media, a video with safety tips presented by SHU student-athletes and a campus-wide test of our Emergency Alert System. As a result, the Student Government team believes that students are more educated about safety and more prepared should an emergency occur.

Senator Chris Murphy spoke on campus October 22 to commend Sacred Heart on the implementation of its SHU Safe phone application. He has called on the U.S. Department of Education and the U.S. Department of Justice to adopt the innovative technology and use it as a model for other colleges.

The University released SHU Safe as an application for both iPhone and Android users. It offers quicker access to emergency services as well as other safety features, acting as an emergency communication tool between the University community and Campus Security. SHU Safe offers three major features: emergency call, iReports and safety check.

The emergency call feature allows users to access emergency services at the push of a button. The user can choose police, fire or EMS and will be immediately connected with Campus Security if on campus. If the user is not on campus, the call will be routed to the 911 center of the town where he or she is located.

Campus Security can see the location of the caller anywhere on SHU property as long as the phone is connected to the SHU Wi-Fi system. The only exception is the Stamford Graduate Center, but if the app is used there, it will connect to the Stamford Police Department.

Sacred Heart is one of the first universities nationwide to launch a system so advanced that it can pinpoint where an individual is inside a building. Unlike traditional GPS locations that can only identify a building, SHU Campus Security can identify exact locations within buildings through the app, which can drastically reduce response times.

The iReports feature allows users to report suspicious activity or call for help in nonemergency situations. Users can report everything from a suspicious person to vandalism or theft. The feature can also be used to call for help with a flat tire, locked door or other nonemergency. The iReports feature may be used anonymously.

The safety check feature allows for a check-in with someone in the user’s contact list. For example, if a student is going to be walking home from class late at night or going for a jog after dark, he or she can let a contact know the expected arrival time. If the feature is not deactivated by the appointed time, the contact will receive a text.

In his remarks, Murphy thanked Sacred Heart. “This is just the latest example on the part of Sacred Heart of a robust commitment to being a leader in enhancing campus safety,” he said.

President John Petillo commended Mike Trimble, vice president for Information Technology & Security, and the entire Public Safety team for recommending and implementing the SHU Safe application, noting that student and staff safety is the University’s primary concern.

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Community members gathered on November 10 in the Chapel of the Holy Spirit to commemorate Kristallnacht, an event that shocked the world 76 years ago. The program’s featured speaker was Rabbi Abraham Skorka, who has received international recognition for his academic achievements and close collaboration with Pope Francis. The event was also attended by representatives from neighboring synagogues, the Islamic community, local Christian churches and the Catholic community from nearby parishes.

Also referred to as the “Night of Broken Glass,” Kristallnacht was a pogrom against Jews in Nazi Germany and Austria on November 9–10, 1938, carried out by Sturmbteilung paramilitary forces and non-Jewish civilians. Thousands of Jewish-owned stores, buildings and synagogues were destroyed, and hundreds of Jews were murdered. Some 30,000 more were arrested and incarcerated in concentration camps.

Skorka, who with the Pope co-authored On Heaven and Earth, a book on interfaith dialogue, was introduced by SHU’s Father Anthony Ciorra, assistant vice president for Mission and Catholic Identity. He referred to the rabbi as “a messenger of peace to build bridges, a friend and cherished colleague.”

The commemoration, which began with Skorka giving the homily at Mass in the Chapel on Sunday evening, concluded with a dinner for 60 invited guests representing all of the major religions. Music selections were provided by the SHU Choir, and guests had the opportunity to engage in conversation with Skorka.

Literacy Program Helps Teachers Better Understand and Teach Core Standards

As demands on teachers increase and government and parents alike clamor for greater clarity, measurement and results, ensuring that teachers understand and rise to evolving educational requirements and standards is more critical than ever. Achieving these requirements becomes even more difficult in school systems that serve challenged student populations. Sacred Heart’s CT Literacy Specialist Program, under the guidance of Karen Waters, director of the advanced reading certification program, recently hosted an interactive staff development event aimed at closing gaps and helping Bridgeport teachers enhance their skills.

Called “Navigating the Common Core: The Shifts, Text Complexity and Close Reading,” the workshop was designed to help teachers better understand the standards and utilize specific strategies that address student needs, Waters says. The Common Core standards were adopted by 44 states across the country and are part of a national movement to provide a consistent framework for what students in K–12 should know at the end of every grade level in English/language arts and math.

The six-hour training included 30 teachers from Columbus School and their new principal, Steven Douglas. Other SHU guests included Jim Carl, dean of the Isabelle Farrington College of Education, and Ann Clark, chair of the Education Leadership Department. The event established the beginning of a formal partnership between Bridgeport Public Schools and SHU.

Education Professor Karen Waters, facing at left, conducts a professional development workshop with Bridgeport teachers. Facing at right is Isabelle Farrington College of Education Dean Jim Carl.
JULIA ROMANO ’15 EATS UP FRESH CHALLENGES like other people gobble cereal for breakfast. The communications major has made Dean’s List every year while building a powerhouse resume through internships at the Professional Golfers Association, the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society and Jumar Marketing. She has also embraced choir and academic clubs.

“These activities have allowed me to come out of my shell and grow into a young adult,” she says. “Sacred Heart is the kind of place that cares about your success. It’s a great day to be a Pioneer!”

Increasingly, other students are showing they agree with her. At a time when many colleges are struggling with declining enrollments, Sacred Heart has seen a significant increase in freshman applications and enrollment, a higher academic profile of incoming students and a vast improvement in student retention.

Not surprisingly, Sacred Heart’s rapid transformation from a modest commuter school of 200 students to New England’s second-largest Catholic university—one hailed as a “best college” by the likes of The Princeton Review, U.S. News & World Report, Forbes and Colleges of Distinction—has caused a buzz.

“People are looking at Sacred Heart and wondering how we’re doing this,” says Julie Savino, executive director of Financial Assistance.

INSPIRING MINDS, UNLEASHING HEARTS
The driving force behind the University’s rapid growth and growing reputation as an academic powerhouse has been a passionate institutional commitment to continuous improvements. These improvements are meant to inspire the minds of our students while...
unleashing their hearts, by reflecting Sacred Heart’s ideals of encouraging intellectual curiosity and achievement, academic rigor and excellence and dedication to community and social justice. This commitment is clearly articulated and guided by a student-centric Strategic Plan that maps out goals designed to improve the overall student experience at Sacred Heart.

“This plan isn’t just a document of ideas, but a very action-oriented plan with specific strategies,” says Associate Professor of Finance Rupendra Paliwal, who has been involved with developing and updating the plan’s content.

Paliwal believes that the Strategic Plan has been key to the University’s success because it specifies “an engaged collaboration across all of the divisions of SHU,” adding that the plan also reflects President John Petillo’s belief that SHU should take an entrepreneurial approach to education. By doing so, “the plan has energized the faculty and encouraged them to be creative risk takers,” Paliwal says.

Provost Laura Niesen de Abruna, who joined Sacred Heart in 2012 and brought with her a dedication to increasing the quality of undergraduate and graduate teaching and learning, believes that the Strategic Plan successfully emphasizes “high-impact practices” at Sacred Heart.

“In her view, Sacred Heart’s academic reputation has grown as a result of a number of strategic initiatives outlined in the plan, such as building new facilities, nurturing student interests in targeted activities and adding Division I Athletics, but most of all by constantly improving “the quality and variety of new academic programs at the undergraduate and graduate levels. We have added 15 new graduate programs at the master’s and doctoral levels in the past three years. Our faculty members are very flexible and entrepreneurial, which has been the major reason for our academic success.”

In essence, the Strategic Plan is a blueprint meant to help every member of the community embody the school’s mission and shape decisions that impact key aspects of life at SHU. The result, says Founding Dean of University College Stephen Brown, is that “a culture of excellence and commitment to academics and student development has emerged at Sacred Heart, one that continues to develop organically.”

By now, it’s abundantly clear that the plan’s top goal—to increase Sacred Heart’s “academic excellence and distinctiveness”—has been met and even surpassed.

Don’t expect the University to rest on its laurels, however, says Kathy Dilks, executive director of Graduate Admissions. “We continue to examine societal needs and trends, what other institutions in the region are providing and how best to leverage our resources and capabilities to provide world-class learning experiences.”

“Our faculty members are very flexible and entrepreneurial, which has been the major reason for our academic success.”

— LAURA NIESEN DE ABRUNA, UNIVERSITY PROVOST
“Sacred Heart is now what we envisioned we could be—\textit{a dynamic, nationally recognized, leading Catholic university—and we’re just hitting our stride.}”

\textit{—James M. Barquinero, Senior Vice President of Enrollment, Student Affairs and Athletics}

Creating and Expanding Top Academic Programs

There are many examples of how successful SHU has been recently in developing new and rewarding academic programs. For instance, within the College of Health Professions, “We’ve added new graduate and undergraduate programs, thus attracting a larger and more diverse pool of well-prepared students,” says Dean Patricia W. Walker. “These have included graduate programs in nursing, exercise science and nutrition, speech-language pathology and healthcare informatics.”

The College is also developing an undergraduate program in physician assistant studies, and has expanded its graduate offerings to include professional doctoral programs in nursing and physical therapy. Today, SHU’s doctoral-level program ranks at the top in Connecticut and among the top five in New England, and Sacred Heart offers the region’s broadest range of programs in the health sciences.

Graduate programs at Sacred Heart have more than doubled overall, from just 10 in 2010 to 22 this year, and recent offerings include master’s degree programs in digital marketing, human resource management, accounting and finance, plus a rapidly growing program leading to a doctorate of business administration in finance.

When developing new and distinctive programs in any academic area—whether those programs are for undergraduates or graduate students, or even students in need of flexible weekend and online learning opportunities—SHU administrators collaborate closely with faculty, both to refine and improve on existing programs and to explore emerging academic and professional needs, Dilks explains.

“This collaboration is tied to institutional goals and priorities, and has resulted in the unprecedented expansion of our programs and continued growth in our student populations,” she says.

The College of Education, for instance, is spearheading the development of a new undergraduate major in interdisciplinary studies. “This will be attractive to people who are interested in becoming elementary school teachers,” he reports, “because there’s a growing need for elementary school teachers with better academic preparation, especially in mathematics and the natural sciences.”

The College is also modifying its master’s degree in teaching to become a master’s in education, he adds, in part to add courses that will prepare teachers to be qualified to assess the learning needs of their own students and make the necessary accommodations in the classroom.

Of course, it isn’t enough to develop new academic programs. The University has also developed enrollment strategies to attract students who will be the right fit for those programs, as well as facilities to support the University’s ongoing commitment to meet the needs of its growing community.
“We have renovated existing facilities and added new ones to improve the student experience,” says Paliwal, “and evidence of that is everywhere you look. The core idea here, whether we were looking at residence halls, the library, academic classrooms or laboratories, was to create top-quality learning spaces and more opportunities for interactions between students and faculty. In this way, we have improved opportunities for active, engaged learning both in and out of the classroom.”

For instance, freshmen in the Jack Welch College of Business now take a class that requires them to develop a business plan and present their ideas to a panel of outside judges, points out Dean John Chalykoff. And, in that College’s problem-based learning lab, “Students consult with firms and nonprofits on major business problems.”

Meanwhile, in March 2015, Sacred Heart opened its newest academic building, the Frank and Marisa Martire Business & Communications Center, which includes a trading floor where students can learn marketable skills by working in a finance technology lab. “All the classrooms in that building are designed for active learning,” Chalykoff points out. “In addition, several of our Fairfield classes conduct joint projects with international students in Macau and Bangkok; every student is now required to do an internship; and there are opportunities for our students to travel to Luxembourg, Ireland and China.”

DEVELOPING A FACULTY OF SCHOLARS WITH PROFESSIONAL EXPERTISE

As Sacred Heart continues to deliver on the promise of exceptional learning, the University is attracting an even higher level of faculty and professional staff, leveraging its great reputation, notes Dean of Students Larry Wielk.

“Our faculty members are scholars who are deeply drawn to Sacred Heart’s culture of positive restlessness and continuous improvement, centered first on students,” he says. “It’s a culture that continues to move us forward, as we explore new pedagogies to reach and engage the next generation of students.”

With the plan calling for more interaction between first-year students and full-time faculty, the University revamped the First-Year Experience program and hired new faculty members. The faculty is the best thing about Sacred Heart, says Welch Scholar Michael Slaughter ’16, a double major in accounting and finance.

“They really care about your personal growth and development, and they are always willing to help their students at all times during the day,” says Slaughter, who is on the men’s lacrosse team, a Welch Mentor and one of five U.S. recipients of the Commodities Futures Brokers & Traders Association Scholarship. “My experience at SHU has been phenomenal.”

Sacred Heart’s faculty continues to be strengthened by the expansion of the University’s academic offerings and the accomplishments of both faculty and students, Walker believes. “Our faculty members have active scholarship agendas, and they bring that scholarship into the classroom,” she says. “Our students work with the faculty on research projects, and the results of these collaborations have led to publications and presentations in peer-reviewed venues.”

The University’s Strategic Plan maps out ways to continually ramp up faculty development opportunities. Many of those are already in place, like the College of Education’s new mentorship program between professors with expertise in educational technology and digital pedagogies, and professors who are interested in creating modules to offer some of their coursework in an online or blended framework and need guidance to do so.
Faculty in all of the colleges receive support from the University for advanced studies, as well as for presentations at local, regional and national meetings. They are also given opportunities to participate in University-sponsored and other programs to enhance their understanding of the Catholic intellectual tradition and are encouraged to compete for teaching and scholarship awards that support their research projects.

In addition, says Walker, many faculty members participate in international and local service learning efforts. “These experiences are brought back to the classroom to enhance their teaching,” she says.

AN EDUCATION WITH HEART—AND A PERSONAL TOUCH

What originally attracted Carl to Sacred Heart was “very much its entrepreneurial spirit and the University’s ability to make connections with its student body,” he says. “One of the things I continue to be struck by is the wonderful relationships that the faculty cultivates with the students.”

In the spring of 2014, for instance, he attended a Beatles Retrospective in the Edgerton Center, “and there were a variety of different people on stage at any one time, with students and faculty and staff all playing music together.” That, in his view, is “quintessential Sacred Heart.” He adds, “Even though we’re a growing family of over 7,000 students, it’s a family nonetheless.”

For Director of Athletic Recruitment Jamie Romeo, what makes the University unique is that “we appreciate that we are many communities making up one big community.” This makes it easy to engage students who are as interested in playing the violin, say, as they are in studying accounting. “We tell each student that your resume will not just be about academics, but about everything else you involve yourself in here, too.”

Despite the school’s rapid growth, Romeo believes SHU has maintained “the essence of who we are, which is an institution that offers that one-on-one personal touch.”

Executive Director of Admissions Kevin O’Sullivan learned this lesson as an undergraduate here. Before starting college in the fall of 2001, he had been admitted to Sacred Heart but hadn’t bothered visiting; he had already made up his mind to attend another area college. However, the journey to drop his deposit off at the other college led him past the exit for Sacred Heart, and his father suggested that they stop and tour the campus.

He had already missed the admissions tour, but O’Sullivan was greeted personally by alumnus Doug Steele, an All-American lacrosse player who earned his business degree at SHU before joining Admissions. “Doug made me feel welcome and walked me around campus, where just about every student we met told me to choose Sacred Heart because they loved it here so much. When we got back to Admissions, I turned to my dad and said I’d made up my mind to come here.”

What this experience taught him, O’Sullivan says, is what he tries to convey to his staff: that high school kids are looking, more than anything else, for a place where they feel a sense of belonging. “We’re not just recruiting new students,” he says. “We’re shaping their lives, and it’s a wonderful experience.”

It’s no surprise that everyone from first-year students on up feels the energy on campus born of personal interactions. “This is the result of President Petillo’s leadership,” Paliwal explains.

“One of the things I continue to be struck by is the wonderful relationships that the faculty cultivates with the students.”

— JAMES CARL, DEAN OF THE COLLEGE OF EDUCATION
"The president highlighted from day one that faculty and students need to build relationships through direct engagement. He leads by example by going to the dining hall for lunch, making himself available on campus and being active on social media. The students all feel like they know Dr. P."

OUR HEART BEATS STRONG: TAKING TODAY'S INTERNATIONAL LEARNING COMMUNITY INTO THE FUTURE

Like many prospective applicants who walk onto Sacred Heart’s campus, Alexandria Boering ’17 was immediately struck by the warmth of the interactions she saw on campus—and the energy and opportunities she observed, too. “I could see myself being here,” says the molecular and cellular biology major, who interned in a rheumatology practice recently and intends to apply to medical school after graduation.

Boering is taking full advantage of the leadership and learning opportunities available. For instance, she has been co-president of the Alpha Epsilon Delta Biology Club, a member of the University’s figure skating team and vice president of recruitment for the American Medical Students Association. “I always love how much there is to do on campus,” she says. “When I have time outside of homework, I can meet up with people who share similar interests because of the clubs and organizations I’m involved in, or attend one of the many campus events sponsored each day.”

None of these opportunities appeared by accident at Sacred Heart. In addition to developing learning opportunities inside the classroom, the University’s Strategic Plan has also set forth a comprehensive, action-oriented vision of SHU as a top-ranked institution that delivers transformative learning beyond classroom walls.

Sacred Heart has become a distinguished international learning community with campuses in the U.S and Europe, offering more than 70 undergraduate, master’s and doctoral degrees. The honors program has grown to enroll 100 students, and there are increased research and study abroad opportunities for undergraduates. The University also continues to develop its residential life services, athletics programs and extracurricular activities to give students a holistic education in the Catholic intellectual tradition.

Today, Sacred Heart is a “fantastic educational institution,” says marketing major Marie Nakos ’15, “because it’s not just about classroom learning, but about students becoming more cultured, mature, involved individuals with knowledge gained from a variety of experiences.”

“We’re not just recruiting new students. We’re shaping their lives, and it’s a wonderful experience.”
— KEVIN O’SULLIVAN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF ADMISSIONS

Her own experiences have included studying abroad at SHU’s campus in Luxembourg, taking part in the theater arts program, getting involved in Greek Life, being a Welch Mentor and interning at NBC Universal. “Getting an internship with NBC was such an honor and felt like a culmination of all the hard work I’ve put in at SHU,” she says. “Having a company of that caliber on my resume will surely open doors.”

And that, in essence, is what a Sacred Heart education is all about: opening more doors for students.
COLLEGE OF BUSINESS ANNOUNCES
Summer Institute for Global Business Management

Beginning in July, Sacred Heart University’s John F. Welch College of Business (WCOB) will offer a four-week Summer Institute for Global Business Management (SIGBM) at its Fairfield campus. The program will be offered to rising seniors and those who recently completed an undergraduate program. It is intended to help participants develop a fundamental understanding of the challenges business leaders face and the many dimensions of global business management.

“It is imperative that we continue to develop programs that will help our students succeed in today’s expanding global environment,” says John Chalykoff, dean of the WCOB. “In addition to learning to think globally, students will develop skills in effective collaboration, critical thinking and decision-making, business and financial analysis, strategy development, economics and leadership.”

Participants will have the opportunity to take part in practical experiences through corporate visits and discussions with business leaders and faculty, who will combine theory with real-world experience. Students who succeed in this course will qualify for a GMAT/GRE waiver if they choose to pursue an MBA or master’s in finance and investment management at Sacred Heart. Students can also choose to complete the optional Business ESL class for consideration for the TOEFL requirement.

“We believe this program will appeal to domestic and international students who want to learn how to overcome business challenges on their way to becoming leaders in the global marketplace,” Chalykoff adds.

The inaugural session of the SIGBM will run from July 13 to August 7, 2015. For more information, please visit www.sacredheart.edu/sigbm or contact Douglas Ouimette at 203-371-7851 or ouimetted@sacredheart.edu.

Why Not Write the Great American Novel?

The College of Arts & Sciences has launched a new minor in creative writing open to all undergraduate students. The new minor is a 18-credit program that offers tracks in writing prose and poetry, with the goal of helping students explore what it means to be a practicing poet and fiction writer. The minor will benefit students in any field—nursing, criminal justice, education, marketing, the humanities and the sciences—who have an interest in learning how to write more clearly and persuasively. Creative writers learn how writing can be used to express meaning and to convince and engage a reader, which are essential skills for all professions.

Students will benefit from practical engagements with writers on the faculty who are actively working as poets and fiction writers. Those choosing this minor will also have the opportunity to collaborate with the University’s Center for Irish Studies, which connects students with Ireland’s Listowel Writers’ Week and provides an important study abroad opportunity for those interested in participating in that prestigious international literary event.

The minor in creative writing is a strong addition to the University’s traditions in the visual, musical and performing arts, and will help affirm our commitment to making possible a full range of opportunities for undergraduates to engage in all avenues of artistic expression.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION on these programs, visit these links:
www.sacredheart.edu/admissions/undergraduateadmissions
www.sacredheart.edu/admissions/graduate
The film and television master’s (FTMA) program at SHU hosted its first film festival in Stamford from September 25 to 28. The festival celebrated the cinematic arts with a wide variety of screenings, master classes, workshops and parties.

The Opening Night Awards Gala was held at the Avon Theatre in downtown Stamford, where screenwriter and Connecticut native Anthony Tambakis (Warrior) was honored, along with student filmmakers from the FTMA program. Throughout the festival, interactive activities focused on the works of student filmmakers, who were joined by film scholars and highly accomplished television and movie legends. Festival venues included the historic Avon Theatre, the Stamford Innovation Center and the Palace Theatre.

**Festival Showcases Student Filmmakers and Industry Veterans**

The John F. Welch College of Business has purchased a 3D printer for SHU professors and students to use in classrooms and for academic projects. The printer is a U.S.-made MakerBot Replicator 2 that features an 11-by-6-by-6-inch build volume and 100-micron layer resolution. It is housed in the Ryan Matura Library to keep it easily accessible to all departments.

“Being able to bring this kind of cutting-edge technology into Sacred Heart is exactly what our educational mission encompasses—the idea being that we can give our students access to and experience with the tools and skills that this generation of young adults will use in their careers,” says John Chalykoff, dean of the College of Business.

The idea for procuring the printer came from Enda McGovern, associate professor of marketing and sport management, who implemented the technology into his marketing principles course. His students used the printer to make prototype, demo and proof-of-concept models of products they created as part of a semester-long project. McGovern also integrated the printer into his international marketing course.

**3D Printer Enhances Student Learning and Creativity**

From left, marketing students Zachary Ryan, Taylor Ann D’Agostino and Mikayla Doyle set up the 3D printer for operation.

ABOVE The Avon Theatre in Stamford played host to the first annual FTMA Film Festival last fall. INSET Professor Justin Liberman presents festival honoree, Screenwriter Anthony Tambakis, with his award.
A total of 98 nursing students participated in the third annual Blessing of the Hands ceremony in what has become a moving and meaningful tradition. The event took place in the Chapel of the Holy Spirit on September 19 before a full house of family members and nursing school alumni.

“We began this program because we wanted to focus on tradition, as that is a theme that resonates with the students,” said Kim Foito, clinical assistant professor of nursing. “The onset of the clinical experience is a milestone. The nursing faculty at Sacred Heart recognizes the value of spirituality, and this celebration embodies the great significance our hands represent in healing.”

After having their own hands anointed by Father David Buckles, the nursing faculty blessed the hands of the students. The group included juniors who are starting their clinical rotation and seniors who will continue this year.

International Education Week

During International Education Week from November 17 to 21, SHU hosted information tables on study abroad opportunities, the global studies major, the College of Health Professions, Fulbright scholarships and Volunteer Programs/Service Learning. Other activities included internationally themed lectures, a student art show, a Peace Corps information session and the music of Brazil by the Joe Carter Trio.
Survey Says Region Is Eighth Best for College Students

The American Institute for Economic Research has named Bridgeport-Norwalk-Stamford the eighth best small city for college students. The Institute compiled data from various metro areas across the country, taking into consideration information about student life, culture, economic health and opportunity.

Business Faculty Forum Focuses on Religion and Economics

More than 200 people filled University Commons recently to participate in a “Religion and Economics” discussion co-sponsored by the Office of Mission and Catholic Identity and the John F. Welch College of Business. The talk was an annual event—the latest installment in the University’s “Religion and . . . ” program and part of the Human Journey Colloquia Series.

Kwamie Dunbar, assistant professor of finance and associate dean of the Welch College of Business, opened the program, which was moderated by Father Anthony Ciorra, assistant vice president for Mission and Catholic Identity at SHU. Featured panelists were SHU faculty members, including Lucjan Orlowski, director, DBA in finance, and professor of economics and finance; Stephen Rubb, professor of economics and finance; and Peter Maresco, clinical associate professor of marketing.

The panelists were solicited for their insights about the role of religion in economics and the relationship between Wall Street and Main Street. As a discussion starting point, Ciorra offered that business and economics are on the rise as concentrations at faith-oriented universities. He noted that there are 320 business majors among incoming SHU freshmen alone. This fact begged the question, as Ciorra posed it, “What business do business schools have in a Catholic university?” The lively discussion continued from there.

Welch College of Business Among Princeton Review’s Best Business Schools

The Princeton Review has once again named the John F. Welch College of Business (WCOB) one of the nation’s top schools in the new 2015 edition of its book, The Best 296 Business Schools. John Chalykoff, dean of the WCOB, acknowledges that the University benefits from an ideal location for business education at the heart of one of America’s busiest corporate centers. “We have been able to attract a first-rank faculty of experienced practitioners and respected educators, and our students have ready access to mentoring opportunities and internships literally right at their door.”

First-Ever Diwali Campus Celebration

Diwali, one of the biggest festivals marked by Hindus, is celebrated worldwide for five continuous days each year, with the third day being the main Diwali event or “Festival of Lights.” Various colorful varieties of fireworks are commonly associated with the festival. The cultural portion of SHU’s celebration was coordinated by Jayanth Regula, a computer science graduate student, and several other Indian graduate students. Funding and assistance with space and food were provided by the University’s Office of Global Affairs, English as a Second Language (ESL) program and Computer Science Department. The event attracted more than 200 participants and featured Indian cuisine, dance and singing performances and a traditional fashion show.

Students dress in traditional Indian fashions during the Diwali celebration last fall.
Capstone Projects Ensure Students Experience Hands-On Learning in a Real-World Setting

EARLY GRADS SHINE WITH SENIOR HONORS PRESENTATIONS
Seniors Stephanie Sorbara and Kyle Rogus presented their Senior Honors capstone presentations at the end of the fall semester to fulfill their requirements as students in the Thomas More Honors Program. The two are set to graduate early; another 40 of their honors-level peers will make presentations in the spring.

“Most seniors at Sacred Heart don’t normally give public presentations, but these are seniors doing honors-level capstone work,” she says. “We want to showcase our honors students as well as promote the intellectual climate on campus.”

Sorbara, a biology major, presented on the topic “Gut Bacteria and Their Influence on Metabolic Disorders.” “I went through a lot of databases of journal research, noticing how gut bacteria affect metabolism and health in general,” says Sorbara, who plans to apply to medical school.

Rogus, an exercise science major, tackled the topic “Electromyographic Comparison of the Traditional Inverted Row Versus a Suspended Inverted Row Exercise.” He studied upper body strength gain results between varying suspension training systems. He currently has an internship at Quinnipiac University in the school’s Strength & Conditioning Department and is applying to schools that focus on physical therapy. “Long range, I would like to be a physical therapist working with athletes,” he says.

MBA STUDENTS SERVE COMMUNITY WITH CAPSTONE PROJECT
Four graduating MBA students from the John F. Welch College of Business met with leaders of the Fairfield Museum and History Center this fall to present their capstone project: a marketing plan and a proposal to improve the facilities at the town’s Burr Mansion.

Students Melissa Rossi, Lindsay Michaels, Anna Zawadzki and John Hoey explained the plan in a presentation that included research findings in areas of marketing and finance, with suggestions for alterations to the facility’s rate schedule, amenities and website.

“The presentation was excellent and gave an effective overview of how modest investment in improving the Burr Mansion’s facilities could yield improved revenue,” says Michael A. Jehle, executive director of the Fairfield Museum and History Center.

Working on this live project benefited the students in many ways, such as giving them the chance to apply competencies in a real-world setting, enhance teamwork skills and assist in the good work of a not-for-profit organization, explains Valerie Christian, assistant professor of management, who taught the capstone course. “The University’s mission is deeply rooted in helping others,” she says. “For business students, projects like these model the critical importance of being a good corporate citizen.”

“It has been a great experience to work on a ‘real’ assignment,” says Zawadzki, who works as accounting manager for Shelton-based OEM Controls Inc. “This was not just about a grade for another course—it was real.”

SENIORS SHOW HEALTH SCIENCE PROJECT WORK AT POSTER SESSION
In December, 24 seniors showed posters reflecting a semester’s worth of research during the Health Science Department’s Senior Capstone Poster Session. Professor Clotilde Dudley-Smith, one of two faculty members leading the program, explains that participating students “choose a research question and conduct evidence-based research culminating in an extensive health science capstone paper and poster presentation.”

Dudley-Smith, who created the course in 2010 and has seen it grow from five to 165 participants, commended the students on their work. She and her department counterpart, Professor Raja Staggers-Hakim, assessed each poster display, speaking with students and scoring their work. “This process is important with regard to preparing students for the academic rigor of a graduate program,” says Staggers-Hakim.

Some students went an extra mile with their projects. Nursing student Natalie Giardina was one of them. Her work, titled “The Effects of Reiki Therapy on Patients Experiencing Anxiety, Depression & Chronic Illness,” showed that Reiki can be an effective secondary treatment to traditional medicine.

Meanwhile, senior Gia Spinelli’s project, “The Effects of Acupuncture on Infertility in Women,” noted that 6.7 million women experience infertility each year and that acupuncture can be a beneficial treatment.
Faculty Art & Design Exhibit

The Art & Design Department kicked off the annual Faculty Art & Design Exhibit on November 24 with an opening reception. The annual exhibit is an opportunity for the Sacred Heart community to view some of the best work by the department’s professional artists and designers. 

At the Faculty Art & Design Exhibit opening are, from left, Carl Schumann, Stefan Buda, Nathan Lewis, Jack deGraffenried, Jon Walker, Mike Denysenko and Mary Treschitta.

Student Artwork Chosen for Prestigious Competition

Artwork by illustration students Anna Johnson '15 and Kaitlyn Kreitzman '16 was selected into the Society of Illustrators of Los Angeles (SILA) West 53 Nationally Juried Competition in December. Illustration West is an annual competition and exhibition highlighting the year’s best illustrations—from L.A. and from all around the world.

Inspiring Exhibit on Heart Disease

In October, SHU hosted the American Heart Association’s “Faces of Heart Gallery” at the Art & Design Gallery. Sponsored by Stamford Hospital’s Heart & Vascular Institute and supported by the College of Health Professions, the show offered an inspiring collection of photographs and stories of courage, strength and hope in the face of cardiovascular disease and stroke.

Four related programs aligned with the gallery exhibit. On October 3, the Student Nurses Association offered free blood pressure and heart rate screenings. On October 8, Deena Kaye, director of Go Red For Women in Fairfield County, led a discussion about women’s health, nutrition and fitness. On October 9, an AHA representative demonstrated hands-on CPR, and professionals discussed how electronic health records impact the medical experience.
Eli Young Band Performs on Campus
The Eli Young Band performed in the William H. Pitt Center on October 3. The popular band delighted a full house of SHU students with its brand of country and Southern rock music.

Joe Carter Trio Performs João Donato Tribute
The Academic Music Faculty Concert Series presented the Joe Carter Trio, with guest artist Duduka Da Fonseca, on October 22 in the Edgerton Center. The musicians performed the music of Brazilian pianist and composer João Donato, one of the architects of the Bossa Nova style that developed in Brazil in the late 1950s. The Joe Carter Trio is led by Joe Carter, director of the academic music programs at Sacred Heart. Featured performer Da Fonseca is a Grammy-nominated drummer and author, born in Rio de Janeiro, and one of the top practitioners of the Samba Jazz style. The trio also includes faculty member Leco Reis on acoustic bass.

Faculty Brass Quintet Presents a Night of American Music
On November 21, the Faculty Brass Quintet put on an exciting American music concert in the Schine Auditorium. The diverse program focused on traditional music and helped raise money to benefit the University’s canned food drive.

From left are Walker Beard, Kevin Lam, Jason Bouchard, Keith Johnston and Damon Coachman.
Theaterfest

I Remember Mama

Dogfight: The Musical

Almost, Maine

THEATRE ARTS PROGRAM
Fall 2014

Improv
Interactive Program Helps Prevent Bullying

On October 29, the University sponsored the third annual “Sing Out!”—an interactive program designed to help students discuss, define and offer strategies to overcome bullying. The program featured Terry Neu, an international presenter on bullying, as well as 4 Heart Harmony and soloists and was directed by John Michniewicz.

Members of the choir participate in “Sing Out! A Concert Against Bullying.”

Christmas Wrap-Up

The 2014 holiday season was filled with Christmas spirit thanks to SHU’s vibrant performing arts program. Among the many offerings were the annual Lessons and Carols, the annual “A Choral Christmas Extravaganza,” the concert band’s performance of “Yes, Virginia, There Is a Santa Claus,” SHU Dance Company’s Holiday Extravaganza, “An Irish Christmas” with special guests Mick Moloney and Athena Tergis and carols with the SHUpermen at various holiday parties.

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT:
Snowflakes fall during “A Choral Christmas Extravaganza,” led by director of Choral Programs John Michniewicz; the SHU Dance Company performed holiday classics during the Holiday Extravaganza on November 8; members of the SHUpermen sing carols during a holiday party at the president’s residence; Lessons and Carols in the Chapel of the Holy Spirit; musicians Mick Moloney and Athena Tergis perform on the Edgerton Stage during “An Irish Christmas”; the Concert Band performs holiday music during “Yes, Virginia, There is a Santa Claus.”
Barbara Pierce, associate professor of biology at Sacred Heart University, has received a grant award of $111,253 from the National Science Foundation (NSF) in support of her research project on migratory birds. Her area of specialization is physiological ecology, and her research project is titled “Collaborative Proposal: Fat Metabolism and Oxidative Stress in Exercising Migratory Birds.” The NSF grant extends through August 31, 2017.

Pierce’s research is an extension of her dissertation for her Ph.D. She says she started out working with mammals with thoughts of becoming a veterinarian. However, once she got to college, she fell in love with research. Pierce was working with a professor who was researching birds, and she came to love them as well.

Pierce’s research focuses on the specific nutrient requirements of birds during migration and the influence of these nutrients on the birds’ ability to complete migration. She has found that migratory songbirds are able to distinguish between foods differing only in fatty acid composition, that songbirds prefer foods with specific unsaturated fatty acids and that birds with certain fatty acids in their fat stores use less energy during flight than birds with other types of fatty acids.

She is currently examining how antioxidants and changes in the fatty acid composition of deposited fat affect energetic performance in birds. Her research also examines the adequacy of small urban forest fragments as stopover sites for migrating songbirds and whether or not these small fragments offer the specific nutrients birds require during migration.

“If we can figure out why they save energy while burning certain fats and can then translate that to mammals, it would be a tremendous breakthrough,” she says. “There is a lot of public interest in dietary antioxidants and how they promote human health. Migratory birds offer a really interesting model for the relationship between antioxidants and fat metabolism, because birds have relatively low rates of free radical production despite their high metabolic rates.

“Birds generally have higher maximum life spans than mammals of similar size, so our research is basically looking at how a bird’s internal antioxidant system responds during periods of high-energetic demand, like flying,” she adds. Her research will also look at how this system changes between seasons when birds are only migrating (fall) and when they are migrating while preparing for the breeding season (spring).

Pierce is using two of the world’s premier avian wind tunnels—one at the Advanced Facility for Avian Research at the University of Western Ontario, Canada, and the other at the Max Planck Institute for Ornithology, Germany. In fact, she recently returned from Canada where she continued her research. “We fly the birds in the wind tunnel for hours; they love to fly,” she says, noting that the birds are given a choice of flying in the tunnel or staying in their cages, and they always choose flying. “We fly them for six to eight hours and then take blood and tissue samples.”

Many migratory bird populations are declining because of the loss of suitable stopover habitats during migration, which forces birds to stop at small forest fragments that may or may not contain the nutrients they need to complete their migration, Pierce notes. “This research will not only give us insight into a unique and apparently very effective internal antioxidant system that may enhance our knowledge of human antioxidant systems, but will also add to our knowledge of the nutritional requirements of migrating songbirds and allow us to increase the quality of stopover foods available to these birds,” she explains.

One of the things that excites her most about the NSF grant is the opportunity it provides for undergraduate students to participate in the research and have a study abroad experience at the same time. The grant will allow a student to be in Germany from May to July to raise baby starlings while doing a project on growth and development and molt patterns. In addition, an undergraduate will spend the entire semester in Canada, and two students will spend a semester in Germany during the 2016-17 academic year.

“The grant has provided a lot of opportunity for undergraduates to have a study abroad experience while collaborating with international researchers in Canada and Germany,” she says.

“There is a lot to be learned from birds and the way they prepare for migration, the way they distinguish the differences among fatty acids within one hydrogen bond and the way some can double their size in just a few days, depending on what they choose to eat,” she concludes. “It’s exciting to be able to share this research with my students.”
STANDING TALL—HE TOWERS COMFORTABLY OVER SIX FEET—his voice has the soft mahogany tone of the poet who thinks in song. “Lithuanian is an inflectional language,” he explains. “The Lithuanians are a profoundly poetic people. They have traditional folk songs for everything they do—there’s a cooking song and a harvesting song, and the cattle farmer will have a milking song—and so they used to sing to themselves and in community. These are the people I grew up with.”

In Lithuania?
“No, New Britain.”

Meet Professor Jonas Zdanys: poet and translator, teacher and talker, New Britain, Connecticut, born and bred.

“The neighborhood was Lithuanian,” he explains. “We had no TV. Until I was 5, Lithuanian was the only language I ever heard. Then I went to kindergarten and the teacher had no idea what to do. So she just spoke slowly and loudly.”

He pauses. “Sometimes I think I only earned a Ph.D. in English to prove to my kindergarten teacher that I can do this.”

She shouldn’t have any doubts now. Zdanys’ first published poem appeared in a national journal when he was only 15. His senior thesis at Yale, “Brothers of the Scythe: Selected Post-war Lithuanian Poetry,” was, as the title suggests, a collection of modern Lithuanian poetry that he translated. Published in 1978 as Selected Post-war Lithuanian Poetry, it was not only his first published book but also the first book of its kind.

Since that time, he has published more than 40 other works of original and translated poetry and narrative fiction. He worked at Yale for 18 years, teaching seminars in English and comparative literature and serving as a dean and assistant to the president. From there, he took on the role of Connecticut’s chief academic officer, a post he held for 11 years, assuming ultimate responsibility for the academic integrity of the state’s 47 institutions of higher learning.

He is also currently in receipt of two grants: one from the Lithuanian Ministry of Culture and another from the Lithuanian Poet Zdanys
Teaches a Third Way of Thinking
BY TIMOTHY DEENIHAN
Culture Institute and the Books from Lithuania program. The first grant will allow Zdanys to publish *Ikaro prisikelimas* ("The Resurrection of Icarus"), his fifth collection of poems to have been written and published entirely in Lithuanian. The second grant will support his work on a volume of translations of the work of Lithuanian Poet Laureate Kornelijus Platelis, titled Solitary Architectures.

Now the gray in his hair and beard may hint at the wisdom of his years, but it’s the twinkle in his horn-rim-bespectacled eyes that tells of the impish curiosity that brought him to, as he says, “close the circle” in 2009 and return to teaching as professor of English at Sacred Heart University.

“The idea of mentoring others, of passing wisdom forward, is fundamentally appealing when you reach a certain age,” he says. It’s a simple observation, honest and utterly devoid of any affectation. An innocent matter of perspective. Zdanys is married 36 years, with two daughters and a granddaughter, and, however spritely he may feel, he’s not blind to the fact that his career is approaching what some might call the “twilight years.”

One suspects, however, that there’s something more at play in Zdanys’ decision to return to teaching—or, more specifically, to teaching poetry as he does at a faith-based university. “Poetry has a unique capacity to connect you to the idea—or fact—of God,” he says, an idea he explored in his work *Cormorants*. The book is a collection of poems searching for that theopoetical connection through both imagery (the cormorant has a long history in numerous cultures and faiths as being emblematic of the divine) and structure. Each poem has a strict accounting of 12 lines with eight syllables, referring not only to a potential higher order to the universe but also making quiet reference to Psalm 96 (12 X 8), which calls us to “sing to” and rejoice in God.

He begins to explain what he calls a “third way” of thinking. For most of the population and for most of the time, the world is observed—or irrationally, hot-tempered and emotional. But a third way exists, Zdanys says, transcending the other two and opening up the possibility of the aesthetic: arational thought, as he refers to it—a matter of being present enough to fully feel, while being detached enough to fully observe—a supremely creative state that brings us, Zdanys would argue, closer to God.

“All people are artists,” the professor says, quoting a placard in an art museum in Vilnius, Lithuania. “But only artists know this to be true.”

He explains: “The creation of art is a profound and deeply and significantly human act. My goal is to let that blossom. It’s fundamentally inside all of us. Sometimes it’s smothered, but ‘please,’ I tell my students, ‘continue to explore the world of expression and the aesthetic.’”

“You always hear, ‘Write what you know.’ But why do that? Where’s the adventure or creativity in that? Write about what you don’t know. And see what happens.”

It’s a challenge that requires an unfamiliar level of courage from his students, nearly all of whom are good citizens living within the rules, whether they be societal or linguistic—a note that brings the conversation right back around to Zdanys’ bilingual upbringing.

The Lithuanian he was raised speaking is without strict order and structure. In his language, words have no assigned place in any given sentence. They change position all the time, the endings of words determining their relationships to other words, keeping the same meaning while managing to impart what different nuances of feeling the poet or author may wish to convey.

English, on the other hand, demands strict adherence to the rules of grammar and syntax. The primary—and often only—language of most of his students leads to a more conservative and structured way of understanding the world, to a sense of expected order that abhors anything resembling change and deviation.

And so it is, then, that a tall, graying man in academic glasses, softly spoken of voice, teaches teenagers about change and breaking the rules. It’s not revolutionary. It’s simply living the poetry Zdanys has loved and sung all his life.

“I don’t come to work,” he says, and again with the infectious smile. “I come to talk with people. I get the opportunity here to show up and talk about poetry and writing and life—I can’t think of a better way to spend the day.”
Faculty Spotlight

FROM THE HEART

Professor Marie Hulme Wins Prestigious National Writing Award

English instructor Marie Hulme has been awarded third prize in the annual national story competition held by the prestigious Hackney Literary Awards for her short story “Special Romantics.” The piece was published in the most recent issue of the *Birmingham Arts Journal* and can be read online here: http://birminghamartsjournal.com.

Hulme recently completed her master’s degree of fine arts in creative writing at Fairfield University. She also holds a bachelor’s degree in English from Smith College, a master’s in English and American literature from New York University and an M.A.T. from Sacred Heart where she received the Gold Medal of Excellence. Her nonfiction work, excerpted from a collection of vignettes entitled *Love Letters to London*, about her life in London as a young journalist for ABC News, was recognized by the PEN Women of San Francisco’s international writing contest in 2011 and 2012. Marie’s fiction was also a semifinalist in the Tucson Festival of Books literary competition in March 2014.

Michael C. White, award-winning historical novelist and director of the Fairfield University M.F.A. program, is a fan of Hulme’s work. “Her prose was—and continues to be—gorgeously poetic, visual, vivid, sensuous and concrete,” he wrote.

VP of Mission and Catholic Identity Michael W. Higgins Launches New Blog

In his new blog, *Pontifex Minimus*, Professor Michael W. Higgins offers weekly reflections on diverse ecclesial issues, shedding light on the dynamic, continuously evolving Catholic intellectual tradition.

In a recent post, Professor Higgins shines light on legislation enacted in several states to protect a person’s religious freedom in connection with business dealings.

IN A POST DATED April 8, entitled Religious Freedom Assailed From Right And Left, Professor Higgins wrote:

How do you protect people of faith from having to do something that runs counter to their creed without, in the process, discriminating against those who do not subscribe to the same creed, or as importantly, differ with positions taken within their own faith community but still profess allegiance to its core values?

TO READ MORE OR SUBSCRIBE to the blog, visit www.sacredheart.edu/pontifexminimus
Faculty Shares Views on Importance of Creative Thinking in the Workplace

On October 8, students gathered for a faculty workshop on “Creativity in the Workplace: Creative & Innovative Thinking from the Classroom to the Boardroom.” The program emphasized the importance of the creative and innovative thinking abilities developed through the University’s liberal arts programs and how these are key to workplace success. The talk was part of SHU’s Human Journey Colloquia Series and co-sponsored by the Cultural Alliance of Fairfield County. Mary Lou DeRosa, SHU’s vice provost for Special Academic Programs, introduced the panel, which included five faculty members from various disciplines.

June-Ann Greeley, associate professor of theology and religious studies, expressed the idea that liberal arts are fundamental to an individual’s growth, providing such skills as critical inquiry and reflection; challenging assumptions and communal engagement, leading to a broader understanding of the human condition; maturation of communication and argumentation abilities; and a personal autonomy balanced by a consciousness of “the other.” Jim Castonguay, professor and director of the master’s in communication program, noted that a majority of employers endorse a liberal arts education. He added that liberal arts support media literacy, including the ability to access, analyze and communicate information of all kinds.

Mary Treschitta, associate professor of art and design, teaches problem solving in creative ways and shared that people in the workplace must have the ability and comfort level to make and correct mistakes as a path to innovative solutions. Offering a financial view, Kwamie Dunbar, assistant dean of the John F. Welch College of Business and assistant finance professor, noted that for business school majors, critical thinking is necessary to analyze numbers, work with business models and evaluate risks.

Finally, Anca Micu, associate dean of the John F. Welch College of Business and associate professor of marketing and sport management, weighed in. “It’s important for employees to be analytic creatives, to bring both left brain and right brain together to produce inspired and measurably effective programs,” she said.

Pete Ronai Named 2014 Honor Recipient

Exercise Science Professor Pete Ronai has been selected by the New England Chapter of the American College of Sports Medicine as the 2014 Honor Award recipient. An accomplished clinical exercise physiologist, he has been awarded a fellowship by the American College of Sports Medicine and is also a prolific author and editor in the area of exercise rehabilitation.

Professor Emeritus Publishes Book on Post-War El Salvador

In January 1992, the long and brutal civil war in El Salvador terminated with a peace accord signed in Mexico City. Six months later, SHU sent a delegation of professors there to reach out to shattered communities in need of help.

One of those delegates was Ralph Corrigan, a tenured writing and communications instructor. He returned to the war-scarred country twice more and has documented his experiences in a new book published by Sacred Heart University Press, *El Salvador at a Crossroads*, in which he covers the stories of a people recovering from nearly 13 years of violence and bloodshed.
Two Professors Named to Connecticut Magazine’s 40 Under 40 List

Professors Justin Liberman and Damon Maulucci of Sacred Heart University’s film and television master’s program (FTMA) have been named to Connecticut Magazine’s annual 40 Under 40 list for 2015. The two were applauded for their professional accomplishments, including Maulucci’s critically acclaimed feature film Detonator and Liberman’s upcoming feature Mary Joe, as well as for successfully founding the FTMA program at Sacred Heart’s Stamford Graduate Center.

“This will continue to be an exciting year. Justin and I both have films we’re looking to shoot in the state in 2015, and we are thrilled to be recognized for our work and the success of the FTMA program,” Maulucci says.

“Adds Liberman, “This is a nice honor, and I hope it helps bring exposure to the FTMA program. We are really trying to build a film tradition here at SHU, and the more we garner recognition for our work—alongside our students’ work—the more the tradition grows. It’s going to be an important and exciting year for our program. In 2015, we continue to grow and expand and look forward to organizing an incredible second annual FTMA Film Festival in September.”

Professor Ralph Lim Appears in SNL Short

Finance Professor Ralph Lim recently enjoyed playing a small role in a skit on Saturday Night Live. The SNL short was a spoof movie trailer called “The Group Hopper” that pokes fun at movies made from popular novels such as Maze Runner and Divergent.
Teresa Thetford Named Department Chair and Founding Program Director of New Physician Assistant Program

Teresa Thetford has been named department chair and founding program director of the developing physician assistant (PA) program. She will work closely with the dean of the College of Health Professions on development, accreditation and implementation of the new program.

Prior to this, Thetford was the assistant dean for Interprofessional Health Studies and founding PA program director at Marshall B. Ketchum University, where she successfully developed the first PA program in Orange County, Calif. Previously an assistant professor at the Yale School of Medicine PA program, she holds a Doctor of Health Science degree in leadership and organizational behavior and a master’s degree in education and leadership from A.T. Still University. She also has a bachelor’s degree in physician assistant studies from the University of Southern California. 

Sue DeNisco and Julie Stewart Present at National Conference

Professor Sue DeNisco, director of SHU’s doctor of nursing program, and Professor Julie Stewart, director of the family nurse practitioner track, were the keynote/plenary speakers at the National Doctor of Nursing Practice Conference on October 9 in Nashville, Tenn.

This seventh national conference provided a forum for advanced practice nurses, leaders, policymakers and scholars to further explore and share competencies of the DNP-prepared nurse that can influence health-care practice, delivery and patient outcomes. More than 650 participants attended with goals of learning how best to contribute to improving the health of populations and also to identify how the DNP-prepared nurse impacts health care in relation to improving the patient experience of care. DeNisco’s and Stewart’s presentation described how DNP students who participate in an interprofessional global health experience in either Jamaica or Guatemala with the School of Nursing are better prepared to influence health-care practice, delivery and patient outcomes of the underserved and disadvantaged populations in the United States. 

Icon indicates there is more content that can be viewed by visiting www.sacredheart.edu/magazine
IN MEMORIAM

Longest-Serving Faculty Member
Professor Edward Malin, 1946–2014

The Sacred Heart community is mourning the death of Edward Malin, a professor in the Isabelle Farrington College of Education and the longest-serving member of the SHU faculty. His imprint is clearly seen in SHU’s history.

Malin came to Sacred Heart in 1970 as a member of the Psychology Department. His career at SHU has included 20-plus years as chair of a range of academic departments. He also served in a variety of administrative roles, including associate dean, acting vice president for Academic Affairs and provost. He contributed to important University projects and planning committees throughout his career.

Since rejoining the Education faculty in 2002 (he first managed the department in the late 1980s), Malin instituted an electronic assessment system and led the unit to full state program approval and to full national accreditation by NCATE with two programs achieving national recognition. He also became increasingly active in regional and national education issues.

Malin was most recently honored two years ago with Sacred Heart’s prestigious Bishop Walter W. Curtis 50th Anniversary Medal, which is presented to gifted and accomplished faculty members who embody the central elements of the University’s core values.

Away from campus, Malin enjoyed sailing, scuba diving and digital photography. He acted in regional theater, preferring Shakespearean roles. He was dedicated to his family, which includes his wife Judy, three adult sons, their wives and eight grandchildren.

Longtime Music Professor Leland Roberts, 1936–2014

Leland Roberts has died in San Antonio, Texas, where he moved after completing his career at Sacred Heart. A member of the faculty when SHU opened its doors in 1963, Roberts, who taught in the Music Department, was the recognized elder statesman of the SHU faculty for many years. He received an honorary doctorate at Commencement when he retired in 1999. A memorial was held at SHU.

His first wife of 43 years, Monica Barcas Roberts, also worked at SHU as the AV coordinator. She passed away in 2004. Among his survivors are his wife Peggy; his three children, Lynne, Kenneth and Lisa; and seven grandchildren.

Sylvia Watts, Director of the Academic Incentive Program, 1936–2014

Sylvia A. Watts, age 78, of Norwalk died on September 28 at Norwalk Hospital. Born in Yonkers, the daughter of Anthony and Sylvia (Delbango) DePhillips, she was the beloved wife of John W. Watts for over 55 years.

Raised in Baltimore, Sylvia was a graduate of the College of Notre Dame, Maryland, and earned her Ed.D. from Columbia University. She worked as an educator, first at Central Catholic High School in Norwalk for 12 years, and then at Sacred Heart for over 30 years. She was a member of various academic associations and was the longtime director of the academic incentive program at Sacred Heart. She enjoyed animals and traveling to vacation homes in Vermont and South Carolina, and she especially loved her grandchildren.
Freshmen Say Sì to Fall in Rome

In a collaborative effort between the Academic Affairs and Undergraduate Admissions departments and partner John Cabot University in Rome, SHU’s Office of Global Affairs has launched a new Freshman Fall in Rome (FFR) program. The FFR program is a signature experience, enabling SHU students to spend their first semester in Rome, Italy, at the University’s partner school before continuing classes on SHU’s home campus in the spring semester.

The FFR program began in August with a successful launch that included onsite orientation, combined activities for group bonding, city familiarization and cultural exploration of self and “other.”

“The FFR program gives students an international foundation early on in their academic experience,” says Carrie Wojenski, director of Global Affairs at SHU. “It’s an exciting and stimulating way for students to begin their college career and helps them discover their talents, abilities, strength and character. There is no better way to learn about yourself, expand your world view, acquire marketable skills and develop the habits of mind, heart and spirit that will prepare you to engage purposefully in a global world.”

Participating students have responded positively. “We learned everything that we could in the three days of our SHU orientation,” says one participating freshman. “I feel grateful that Carrie is leaving us loaded with knowledge and skills that will help us get the most from the next few months.”

The program offers small class sizes and specialized curriculum tailored to SHU core graduation requirements. Students live in carefully chosen, University-managed environments.

“It is an ideal situation for freshmen who are intellectually curious, ready for a transformative experience, love to learn through seeing and doing, have a keen interest in international travel and are open to immersing themselves in a different culture,” adds Wojenski.

Based on the success of the FFR program, SHU plans to expand its scope to include additional sites.

Study abroad students, from left, are Lauren Pettinelli, Maria DeLorenzo, Kaitlyn Voswinkel, Anuska Bhandari and Ashley Wilson in St. Peter’s Square, Rome.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT SHU’S WIDE VARIETY OF STUDY ABROAD OPPORTUNITIES, visit the program website at www.sacredheart.edu/academics/studyabroad.
Interns Witness Rare Birth of Gentoo Penguin at Irish Aquarium

The first Gentoo penguin ever hatched in Ireland was born recently at the Oceanworld Aquarium in Dingle after three years of unsuccessful breeding efforts, and Sacred Heart interns were there for the happy event.

Located in Dingle Town in County Kerry on the west coast of Ireland, Oceanworld is a renowned ocean studies facility and hosts courses offered by the Department of Biology through the SHU in Dingle study abroad program. Over the past two years, SHU and Oceanworld have established a cooperative research and internship program for undergraduates in biology.

Nicole Barney ’15 and Keara Bohannon ’17 were the first two interns to participate in this program. Both were fortunate to be at Dingle for the triumphant birth as part of this two-month internship, as they were immersed in ongoing collaborative research projects focusing on coastal ecology. The aquarium had 12 penguins prior to the new chick.

Both students talked about the value of their internship in terms of real-world, hands-on experience as well as the intercultural benefits. “This type of internship program, for biology students in particular, is an invaluable experience,” says Bohannon, adding that it not only allowed her to do research, “but also to gain real work experience” in a foreign country.

Barney credits both SHU’s Biology Department and Dingle for opening doors for students. “This opportunity is immensely valuable because it gives students the ability to experience life in a different country and to learn so much more than what is simply taught in the classroom,” she says.

IAPP Partnership Will Enhance Internationalization Initiative

Sacred Heart is one of 12 higher education institutions selected to participate in a combined initiative by the Norwegian Centre for International Collaboration in Education and the Institute of International Education (IIE) to expand U.S.-Norwegian engagement and foster strategic university partnerships.

During the eight-month International Academic Partnership Program (IAPP), IIE’s Center for International Partnerships in Higher Education will guide the institutions through a strategic planning process and training activities designed to assist them in implementing and sustaining partnerships with counterparts in Norway.

“I am thrilled that Sacred Heart University has been accepted as a member of the inaugural IIE IAPP Norway program,” says Carrie Wojenski, director of the Office of Global Affairs. “As part of SHU’s larger internationalization initiative, this development opportunity and the experience brought by IIE will enhance our ability to create strategic partnerships in Norway, as well as develop mutually beneficial, reciprocal relationships with Norwegian institutions.”

The partnership program offers timely resources for campuses in both countries to explore areas of academic cooperation, including exchanging students and scholars and collaborating on research projects and degree programs.

Norway is also a commitment partner of IIE’s Generation Study Abroad initiative—as is SHU. The initiative is a five-year campaign to double the number of U.S. students studying abroad. As part of the Norwegian government’s commitment to Generation Study Abroad, Norway will help pay the costs of a weeklong study tour to Norway to explore mutual areas of interest and meet with potential partner campuses.

“Globalization has changed the way the world works, and higher education is an area where the U.S. and Norway can build strong institutional relations and promote collaboration among our universities that will foster deeper ties between the two countries,” says Allan Goodman, president of IIE.
Father David Buckles Named University Chaplain and Director of Campus Ministry

Father David Buckles has joined Sacred Heart as its chaplain and director of Campus Ministry. He will oversee all pastoral and spiritual activities for students and faculty and continue the University's tradition of ensuring a strong educational foundation anchored in academic and spiritual learning and community service.

Buckles comes to Sacred Heart from the Diocese of Lafayette in Indiana, where he was a parish priest and pastor. In that capacity, he worked with the local community and Purdue University, where he had previously spent three years in campus ministry. That experience, he says, prepared him for this new assignment, adding that he was immediately and strongly drawn to Sacred Heart for its commitment to the comprehensive development of its students and its strong Catholic philosophy.

“There’s a powerful energy and enthusiasm on campus that you feel the moment you visit,” Buckles says. “The University’s goal is to build a more traditional parish-style model that supports overall efforts dedicated to structure, process and personal development. My role will be to help students acclimate, find answers that suit their growth and college experience and help them prepare for a life that includes service and strong Catholic values.”

SHU will be expanding its campus ministry, Buckles adds, and he plans to hire a campus minister and an associate chaplain. “Here at SHU, I see the Catholic philosophy being lived out,” he reflects. “That bridges behaviors, attitudes, helping one another and doing ‘good’—personally, as a community and in service outreach. I’m very pleased to be on campus and look forward to serving the SHU student and professional community.”

Buckles earned his bachelor’s degree from Wabash College in Indiana and a canon law degree from the Pontifical University of St. Thomas in Rome, Italy.

Pasquariello Named Director of Career Placement for CAS

Patti Pasquariello is the new director of Career Placement in the College of Arts & Sciences. In her role, she will develop employer relationships and assist students and alumni with resume development, interviewing skills, job and internship search strategies and career and graduate school planning. Additionally, she will coordinate Career Center activities with the Offices of Undergraduate, Graduate and International Admissions.

Pasquariello joined Sacred Heart in 2008 and served as associate director of Undergraduate Admissions. There she focused on relationship management, recruitment, early student engagement and counseling. She holds a bachelor’s degree in sociology and a minor in psychology of human development from Merrimack College.

Carrie Wojenski Selected for Academic Leadership Academy

Carrie Wojenski, director of the Office of Global Affairs, has been accepted for the 2015 Academic Leadership Academy to be held at The Nittany Lion Inn, State College, Pa., from June 21–25. This prestigious program provides participants with an opportunity to establish a network of academic administrators to facilitate problem solving, communication and professional development.

The program involves two phases. Phase one is the four-day face-to-face seminar at Penn State’s University Park Campus. Phase two comprises six two-hour virtual sessions among the participants. The leadership academy is set up to provide leadership training for individuals in academic affairs who show promise of moving into positions of greater responsibility.

“I was pleased to nominate Carrie as one of the promising young professionals in my division,” says Provost Laura Niesen de Abruna.

Gibbs Named Executive Director of Alumni Relations

Todd Gibbs returns to SHU as executive director of Alumni Relations, University Advancement. He will focus on developing and expanding alumni engagement through leadership giving and participation in University programs and activities.

Gibbs, who holds a bachelor’s degree in biology and health science studies from Quinnipiac University, comes to SHU from Pegasus Therapeutic Riding. There he served as the executive director and managed the nonprofit’s comprehensive program with a strong focus on fundraising, relationship development, brand creation and public relations.

Wormley Named Executive Director for University Advancement

Nicholas Wormley has been named executive director for University Advancement. In this role he will focus on creating and nurturing giving opportunities for athletic capital projects and raising funds to support the operations of Sacred Heart’s Division I athletic program. This includes enhancing a culture of philanthropic endeavors focused on improving athletic facilities, scholarships and operation accounts.

Wormley joins SHU from Quinnipiac University, where he served most recently as associate vice president for Alumni and Parent Development. There he managed a portfolio of approximately 300 alumni, parents and family prospects to match donor interests with institutional priorities and fundraising proposals.
Fall 2014 Speakers

**SEPTEMBER 2014**

Michael Sandel, Harvard University professor and author of *Justice: What’s the Right Thing to Do?*, addressed the class of 2018 on September 10. The freshmen read Sandel’s book over the summer, and the lecture kicked off the 2014–15 Student Affairs Lecture Series.

Jack Curry, longtime analyst and reporter for the New York Yankees, spoke about the sports media industry during an intimate forum with sports communication students on October 20.

**Professor Robert C. Farrell**

Robert C. Farrell of Quinnipiac University discussed “The March of Equality and the Civil Rights Act of 1964” on September 17 as part of SHU’s annual commemoration of Constitution Day.

Cathy Cavanaugh, director of Teaching and Learning at Microsoft Worldwide Education, spoke on “Digital Equity and Innovation in Education” on September 26.

**Jim Downs**

Jim Downs, an associate professor of history at Connecticut College and author of *Sick from Freedom: African-American Illness and Suffering During the Civil War and Reconstruction*, gave a lecture entitled “Dying to Be Free: The Medical Consequences of Emancipation” on October 21. The event was sponsored by the Thomas More Honors Program, the School of Nursing and the departments of History, Sociology and Biology.

**Stacey Schieffelin**

Stacey Schieffelin, founder and president of ybf (your best friend) beauty, LLC and Models Prefer, spoke on October 15. Part of the series, “Women Can Have It All,” presented by University Trustee Linda McMahon and sponsored by the John F. Welch College of Business.

**November 2014**

Mary Ann McDowell, associate professor of biological sciences at the University of Notre Dame and chair of the Faculty Advisory Committee of the Eck Institute for Global Health, presented the 10th annual Hesburgh Lecture, “Fighting for Global Health,” on October 22. It was part of the University’s Human Journey Colloquia Series.

**Brian McNely**

Brian McNely, director of undergraduate studies at the University of Kentucky, offered a lecture entitled “What Will You Write?” in honor of the National Day on Writing, October 20.

**November 2014**

Author, journalist and technology industry expert Clive Thompson spoke on October 27 about how everyday people use various technologies.

**Alumnus Bill Hall**


**November 2014**

Members of the Green SHUs environmental club presented a colloquium on November 19 that included 10 easy ways that members of the community can commit to a greener lifestyle. The tips were presented through amusing videos and discussion.

Boomer and Carton Entertain Edgerton Crowd

Boomer Esiason and Craig Carton of WFAN’s national weekday morning show, *Boomer & Carton*, recently entertained about 600 fans in the Edgerton Center. Their program has become a top-rated morning show and is simulcast on the MSG TV network. The presentation was part of the 2014–15 Student Affairs Lecture Series.

The duo covered a variety of topics, including how they came to be a team. Carton got into broadcasting after earning a degree from Syracuse University, while Esiason had a 14-year career as an NFL quarterback. Carton confessed that when WFAN suggested putting them together on the radio, Esiason’s wife checked him out on Wikipedia and strongly advised against it.

During the program, Esiason proudly wore his new SHU hockey shirt and Carton picked at a tower-sized burger he was challenged to eat as the two discussed their careers, sports and families.

They offered advice to several SHU students during the Q&A portion of the program. “Go after what you want—don’t believe those who say you’re never going to make it,” Carton advised one student. He urged another to take advantage of every opportunity at SHU, adding, “Know that you will make the best friends of your life here.”

Former prisoner Oscar Michelen, and his attorney, David McCallum, spoke on November 19 about McCallum’s wrongful conviction that led him to spend 29 years in prison for a murder he did not commit.

Members of the Green SHUs environmental club presented a colloquium on November 19 that included 10 easy ways that members of the community can commit to a greener lifestyle. The tips were presented through amusing videos and discussion.
Hello, Fellow Pioneers!

Now that spring has sprung and winter has said its bitter goodbyes, it’s a good opportunity to come back to campus and see the new footprint of Sacred Heart University! It might be hard to recognize the area around Park Avenue as many new buildings for academics and student support have been constructed and are now open for all to see. These new buildings are in response to the ever-changing and ever-growing student population coming from across the nation and from abroad to partake in the proud tradition of academic excellence at Sacred Heart. Just as we did many (or not so many) years ago, they come with enthusiasm and a drive to succeed and serve others. They embody Pioneer spirit in the classrooms, on the fields and in the community. When you combine the dynamic current student population with the passion of our 36,000+ alumni, the Heart continues to grow strong.

Our Alumni Association Board of Directors met for a retreat earlier this spring where we went back to basics and recommitted to providing a mutually beneficial relationship between Sacred Heart and you, her cherished alumni. Now I invite you to recommit to Sacred Heart and join us on campus or in your community to reconnect with your fellow alums and with our alma mater. I encourage you to stay in touch with the Office of Alumni Relations via Facebook, Twitter, the website or email newsletters. We have many exciting events coming up—something for everyone—and would love to see you there.

Hail to SHU,

Cheryl Janus ’01, ’03 MAT

Looking for new connections?  
The Sacred Heart Alumni network now fits in your pocket.

Download the SHU Alumni App powered by Evertrue!

1. Download the Evertrue app in the Apple App Store or the Google Play Store.
2. Search for the ‘Sacred Heart University’ community.
3. Enter your email address and start building your Pioneer network!

Questions? Contact the Office of Alumni Relations at alumni@sacredheart.edu or 203-365-4801.
A Voice for All Alumni

Walking across the stage at graduation is a feeling most will treasure forever. With diploma in hand, many former students reflect upon their experiences and all the work that has brought them to that celebratory point. Colleges and universities, including Sacred Heart, hope that the relationship of graduates with their alma mater does not end at that moment, but rather starts a lifetime of continued connectedness and school pride that they carry forward wherever their travels may lead.

With more than 36,000 alumni stretching across the globe, the Sacred Heart Alumni Association’s goal is to nurture and enrich the relationship between a diverse alumni community and the University. It does this by working with the Office of Alumni Relations to create opportunities for engagement through peer-to-peer interaction, networking, volunteerism, event attendance, philanthropy and continued education, while recognizing alumni achievements and meaningful life experiences.

The activities of the Sacred Heart Alumni Association are led by a board of directors that comprises a diverse group of up to 30 elected and appointed alumni who embody demographic, geographic, occupational and graduation year diversity. United through a commitment to service, directors act as ambassadors representing the voices of all alumni and work to further the missions of both the University and the Alumni Association.

“As our University continues to grow, so too does the importance of having an interested, engaged and participatory alumni community,” says Todd Gibbs, executive director of Alumni Relations, who advises the board and works with them on various initiatives. “We rely heavily on the care, leadership and expertise of the alumni board to advance alumni initiatives. The continued development, maturation and expansion of this group are critical to building a culture of alumni excellence. This is a very exciting time to be connected to Sacred Heart.”

WE ARE VERY INTERESTED IN HEARING FROM ALUMNI WHO would like to learn more about Alumni Association board service or who want to nominate a fellow alumnus for consideration. Please contact Todd Gibbs at gibbst@sacredheart.edu or 203-365-4526.
Sacred Heart alumna Billie Shea has been named the 2014–15 recipient of the William Cieslukowski First-Year Principal Award, presented by the Connecticut Association of Schools (CAS).

CAS honors new principals who “demonstrate exemplary instructional and organizational leadership, a willingness to take risk and the ability to overcome adversity.” Shea, who earned an M.A.T. degree from SHU in 2004 and a sixth year degree in administration in 2013, is principal of Stanton Network Elementary School in Norwich.

“I feel deeply honored to have been chosen. I accept it proudly on behalf of Norwich Public Schools and my colleagues at Stanton Network School,” Shea says. “Stanton is a turnaround school within an urban district facing the difficult challenges that poverty creates. Our team works tirelessly and is determined to make a difference in the lives of our students. To be recognized for our work in the early stages of our turnaround plan is exciting and rewarding.”

Jim Carl, dean of SHU’s Isabelle Farrington College of Education, noted that the award demonstrates the respect Shea’s colleagues have for her, adding, “The educational leadership professors here at Sacred Heart are so proud of her. Norwich is an excellent district with supportive parents, educators and staff. As principal of a turnaround school, there are certainly challenges, which is another reason this award to Billie is so special.”

Annual First-Year Principal awardees are chosen for each level of public education. The roster of prior winners includes several other SHU graduates:

— Robert Nagashima, Wakelee Elementary School, Wolcott (2012–13)
— Kristina Martineau, Valley Regional High School, Deep River (2012–13)
— Nicholas Spera, Marine Science Magnet High School, New London (2012–13)
— Christopher Sandford, Wheeler Middle/High School, North Stonington (2011–12)
— James Wygonik, Lyme-Old Lyme High School, Old Lyme (2011–12)
— Margaret Zacchei, Alfred Hanmer School, Wethersfield (2009–10)
— Bruce Lazar, Chalk Hill Elementary School, Monroe (2008–09)
— Josephine Smith, Dr. Ramon E. Betances Elementary School, Hartford (2007–08)
— Jason Lambert, Martin Kellogg Middle School, Newington (2007–08)
— Bryan Luizzi, Brookfield High School, Brookfield (2007–08)

“We are very pleased that so many of our former students are making a difference in the educational lives of children,” says Ann Clark, chair of the Department of Leadership and Literacy and associate clinical professor.”
PIioneer
Alumni Events

The fall 2014 semester found Pioneer alumni getting together to celebrate both on and off campus.

1. 50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION OF BETA DELTA PHI SORORITY
   University Commons on Campus | October 18

2. MEN’S LACROSSE ALUMNI FALL GAME AND BANQUET
   Campus Field and the Great River Golf Club in Milford | October 18

3. COMPUTER SCIENCE AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY ALUMNI RECEPTION
   Pitt Center Board Room on Campus | November 7

4. SHU VS. RUTGERS ALUMNI RECEPTION
   Stuff Yer Face Restaurant in New Brunswick, New Jersey | December 23

5. BIG RED’S ANNUAL BIRTHDAY BASH
   Pitt Center Board Room on Campus | February 7

6. MEN’S ICE HOCKEY ALUMNI GAME
   SoNo Ice House in South Norwalk | February 7

THE H.W. WILSON FOUNDATION HAS GIVEN $100,000 TO Sacred Heart University to establish an endowed scholarship in memory of Kaitlyn Doorhy. Doorhy passed away just before she was to begin her junior year at Sacred Heart after she was hit by a motor vehicle while walking to campus.

The scholarship will be given each year to a junior student from Long Island with financial need. It is anticipated that the first award will be given for the 2015–2016 academic year.

Harold Regan, president of the H.W. Wilson Foundation, said the board of the Foundation was deeply moved by the news of Doorhy’s untimely passing. “We pray for Kaitlyn’s family and hope this gesture can add to the many joyful memories of her extraordinary life,” he said.

The Foundation was established by Halsey W. Wilson in 1952 to support the needs of company employees and retirees. By 1957, the Foundation directed its funding efforts to support libraries, library associations, historical societies, cultural programs and scholarships for library and information science programs accredited by the American Library Association. Major donors to the Foundation included Mr. and Mrs. H.W. Wilson and the H.W. Wilson Company.

“We are very grateful to the H.W. Wilson Foundation for this generous gift in Kaitlyn’s memory,” said Todd R. Gibbons, executive director for Alumni Relations at SHU. “It will ensure that Kaitlyn is remembered each year and that future students will learn about all that she meant to Sacred Heart.”

Doorhy was also honored by her four roommates who planted a tree in her memory outside the Chapel of the Holy Spirit on the SHU campus. The tree was dedicated during Family Weekend in October, and a plaque was placed nearby before a crowd that included approximately 70 of Doorhy’s visiting friends and family members.
There’s More Than One Way to Give

There’s more than one way to support the scholarship and academic programs at Sacred Heart. Whether you are an alumnus, parent, trustee, friend, current student or faculty member, all gifts are welcome and creativity is encouraged. Keep reading to find out how parents, a trustee and two professors supported the John F. Welch College of Business (WCOB) and enhanced the experience of our students.

Parents Support New Entrepreneur Business Plan Contest

Christopher F. and Linda A. Rosen are not only the co-chairs of the SHU Parent Council, which engages parents in ensuring that students receive a quality and enriching educational experience, but they practice what they preach. As a prominent entrepreneur, Chris Rosen made the decision to support the New Entrepreneur Business Plan Contest that is now mandatory for freshmen in the WCOB. “These types of programs actively develop students. Creating an actual business plan challenges our potential entrepreneurs’ creativity and serves as the ultimate learning tool,” he says. The Rosens donated $10,000 to the program, which allowed the College to host the contest, present awards to the winners and establish an incubator fund to further develop selected business plans.

The contest involved 30 teams of first-year business students, presenting their business concepts in front of an audience of more than 150 peers, esteemed judges and various faculty members—an incredible undertaking for mostly unpracticed young people. Six teams were selected as finalists, and they had 10 minutes each to lay out their concept details, including value proposition, competition, financial analysis and marketing strategy. Next they responded to questions from the five judges, all of whom are entrepreneurs who have developed businesses of their own. Many likened the session to the popular television series Shark Tank.

Chris Rosen is chief operating officer of Hyperbaric Associates of America, a builder and manager of facilities that provide hyperbaric oxygen therapy, and managing director of Huntington-Hampton Corporation, an apparel manufacturing company. Previously, he was co-owner of Vital Apparel Group, a leading active apparel company that was sold to New Balance in 2007. Linda Rosen is a real estate professional at Signature Premier Properties.

Matching Grant Allows Expansion of WCOB Research Project

Richard M. Schaeffer, trustee at Sacred Heart University and former chairman of the New York Mercantile Exchange, was excited to learn about SHU’s request for grant funding from the Chicago Mercantile’s CME Group Foundation. With an esteemed background in the world of finance, including service on several boards as chairman, director and special adviser to General Atlantic LLC, his support of the University is highly valued. He serves as SHU’s Investment Committee chair, providing insight and guidance necessary to support the University’s mission.

When the CME Group Foundation awarded SHU a $25,000 grant, Schaeffer matched it with an additional $25,000 gift, thereby allowing the John F. Welch College of Business to expand its scope of research. The CME Group Foundation grant sponsors research on the link between price volatility of commodity futures and its impact on the real economy. The matching grant by Schaeffer will allow for expansion of this timely research by including analysis of a broader range of commodity futures. Among other outcomes, the project is expected to make a valuable contribution to the ongoing debate on
the potential impact of the decline in oil futures prices on macroeconomic conditions in the U.S. and across the globe.

Two doctoral students will be employed in the project as research assistants and two undergraduate finance majors as technical assistants. The outcome of the project will be incorporated in the DBA in finance program research agenda. It will be presented at a special seminar scheduled to take place at the SHU Graduate Center in Stamford in November 2015. Participants will include CME representatives, academic scholars, students and members of the financial community.

The John F. Welch College of Business has achieved a stellar reputation with its addition of degree programs and new learning opportunities that are both internal and hands-on, earning its place as a top choice for students among its competitors.

**Professors Provide Seed Money for Student Investment Club**

Sacred Heart University has launched a new extracurricular student venture where return on investment IS the return on investment! The mission of the SHU Student Investment Club is to engage students—under the watchful guidance of faculty and professional financial advisers—to make prudent financial investments aimed at enriching the University's endowment while teaching valuable skills and providing practical hands-on experiences.

The club was the brainchild of SHU Finance Professors John Gerlach and Bridget Lyons, who each provided $5,000 in seed money to help get the club going—an amount that eventually reached $25,000 through additional contributions. The club is open to interested SHU juniors and seniors pursuing finance degrees at the WCOB. Eight teams of three students each are working on investment proposals that will be examined by a panel of two SHU alumni advisers who are investment professionals and either Gerlach or Lyons. The panel will review the merits of each proposal, examine related research and history with the student teams and then consult with financial analysts from Goldman Sachs.

Goldman Sachs also oversees the University's endowment funds and has made its wide array of investment resources available to the club, including its comprehensive research database.

“This very practical learning will give students relevant, hands-on experience doing research on investment ideas, analyzing the data and recommending an investment course of action to investment professionals,” Gerlach explains. “These opportunities will enable students to be much better prepared for jobs in the financial industry. Additionally, if we reach our goals of achieving a two to three percent above-market return on our investments, it will enhance the University's endowment fund.”

The longer-term goal, Gerlach adds, includes attracting more alumni and students to participate in the club so as to eventually encourage alumni investment in club trading and keep club activities interesting and challenging for SHU students.
WHAT IS THE PIONEER CLUB?

The Pioneer Club is the lifeblood of the Athletic Department. By making contributions to the Pioneer Club, Sacred Heart alumni, parents, fans and friends help to support SHU Athletics’ 31 Division I varsity programs and student-athletes. Pioneer Club support helps to fund the Athletic Department’s operating budget, and these dollars are used for travel, equipment, recruiting and other operational costs.

IN FISCAL YEAR 2014

(JULY 1, 2013–JUNE 30, 2014), 2,774 DONORS CONTRIBUTED OVER $658,608 IN SUPPORT OF THE PIONEER CLUB.

Growing the Pioneer Club in dollars and participation is critical to the future growth and potential budget enhancements of the Athletic Department.

$658,608
PIONEER CLUB SUPPORT

14.9%

$3,763,966
STARTING BUDGET
($4.4 MILLION TOTAL OPERATING BUDGET)

85.1%

SHU’S ATHLETIC PROGRAMS

continue to strive for national prominence, and in the past year the Pioneer Club has helped our athletes reach many important milestones:

6
ALL-AMERICAN SELECTIONS

42
CONFERENCE CHAMPIONSHIPS

42
CONFERENCE COACHES OF THE YEAR

4
CONSECUTIVE NORTHEAST CONFERENCE BUILDING COMMUNITIES AWARDS

1
NATIONAL COACH OF THE YEAR

BUT WITHOUT THE SUPPORT OF ALUMNI, PARENTS AND FRIENDS, none of this could have happened. Every gift makes a difference, and every dollar the Pioneer Club receives will go to work where it’s needed most. Donors can designate their gift to a specific sport or to help support the overall student-athlete experience.

WHAT IS THE PIONEER CLUB?

BY MAKING A GIFT TO THE PIONEER CLUB, YOU ARE HELPING SACRED HEART SECURE ITS PLACE AS A LEADER IN COLLEGIATE ATHLETICS. THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT.

DONATE ONLINE: Visit www.sacredheart.edu/goheart and support the program of your choice

BY PHONE: Call The Pioneer Club at 203-365-4860

BY MAIL: Please make your check out to Sacred Heart University and include your sport of choice in the memo of the check. Mail to: Office of University Advancement, Sacred Heart University, 5151 Park Ave., Fairfield, CT 06825

42 SACRED HEART UNIVERSITY
Sacred Heart MBA students and nonprofit organizations throughout Fairfield County are already benefiting from a $10,000 grant provided by the Bank of America Charitable Foundation for the new Bank of America Problem-Based Learning Projects for Not-for-Profit Organizations program. The program combines elements of two existing programs in the University’s John F. Welch College of Business (WCOB)—the Center for Not-for-Profit Organizations and the Problem-Based Learning Lab.

The Bank of America program supports problem-based learning projects each academic year that focus on a critical need of a local not-for-profit organization. The service is provided free of charge to the nonprofits through SHU’s Center for Not-for-Profit Organizations.

The first project has already taken place, with three MBA students—Rob Coloney, Rachel Nielsen and Dave Vitols—working with Fairfield County’s Community Foundation to continue an effort started by a previous team to develop training materials for employees of local nonprofits. The students were mentored by Dawn Ciambriello ’14 (MBA), who not only has professional experience with employee development, but also served on the first project team while obtaining her MBA. She received a stipend that was paid for through the Bank of America grant.

For their capstone course, taught by Valerie Christian, assistant professor of management, the students worked closely with Elaine Mintz, director of the Center for Nonprofit Excellence at the Community Foundation. The previous team had completed a needs analysis through a survey and interviews with managers and executives at the organizations under the umbrella of the Community Foundation. They identified seven areas of need for employee training. The new trio of students took the top three areas on the list—finance skills, project management and presentation skills—and, after conducting more in-depth interviews, developed materials on each of the topics. They presented their work to Mintz, other executives and members of the Foundation’s board of directors in December.

Following the presentation, Mintz described the work as “phenomenal. They brought resources to our table when we didn’t have the internal staff or the money to hire a consultant. So far, we have gotten consultant-quality work from both teams. We are extremely pleased with the partnership.”

Karen R. Brown, vice president of programs for the Foundation, was also thrilled with the work done by the students. “A lot of energy and passion went into their work. This is extremely relevant for highly stressed, resource-limited nonprofits,” she says.

The experience was great for the students as well. “I grew up ingrained in the nonprofit lifestyle, as my parents were involved in nonprofit health care,” Coloney says. “It was special enough to help one nonprofit, but to have the opportunity to develop a curriculum that will be used in many organizations was extremely rewarding.” Coloney also praised the work of the first SHU team, calling their contribution “invaluable.”

Nielsen appreciated the opportunity to work on a project that “really mattered. It was a great experience to take everything we learned in class and work together to help an actual nonprofit,” she says.

Adds Vitols, “Success in the end will be determined by the future when we see how the materials are implemented and whether employee skills improve as a result of our work.”

Christian says that working on a live project benefits the students in many ways, giving them the chance to apply competencies in a real-world setting, learn to deal with an unstructured and multifaceted consulting assignment, enhance teamwork skills in a tight-deadline situation, deal with subject areas outside of their comfort zone and assist in the good work of not-for-profit organizations.

Ciambriello thoroughly enjoyed her experience as a mentor even though the group did not need much help, she says, adding, “I developed a passion for the project and was excited to have the chance to see it through.” She will also mentor the next group to work on the project.

The next projects to receive assistance from the grant will be in collaboration with the Center for Family Justice in Bridgeport, the Burr Mansion in Fairfield, the Stratford Public Library and the Wakeman Boys and Girls Club.
“BEING NATIONALLY RANKED FOR THE FIRST TIME is a testament to the hard work and dedication of our student-athletes,” said third-year Head Coach Mark Nofri.

That national ranking seemed especially well-deserved as Tyler Dube caught a 23-yard touchdown pass in the fourth quarter to earn the team its second consecutive Northeast Conference crown. The touchdown pass gave the Pioneers a 14–7 victory over #21 Bryant University and clinched the league’s automatic berth to the FCS Championship.

The Pioneers had two players named to The Sports Network FCS All-America Team. Senior safety Hill earned second team honors as offensive lineman Jaime Martinez was placed on the third team. Head Coach Mark Nofri was named the NEC Coach of the Year for the second consecutive year, as the Pioneers had a league-high 14 selections to the All-Conference teams.

Senior football player Sean Bell (Medford Lakes, N.J.) was named to the 2014 Capital One Academic All-America® Second Team, as selected by the College Sports Information Directors of America (CoSIDA). Bell is the first Pioneer student-athlete to earn the honor in nearly a decade and the third in school history.

“I am happy that Sean has been recognized for his efforts in the classroom and on the field,” said Head SHU Football Coach Mark Nofri. “He is the epitome of a Sacred Heart student-athlete. Sean has been an integral part of our success the past two seasons, while achieving at the highest level academically. I am proud to have him as part of our program and University.”

Bell, a business major with a 3.91 cumulative grade point average, has earned Dean’s List in each of his first six semesters at SHU by surpassing a 3.6 GPA in each of those semesters. Twice he has achieved a semester GPA of 4.0 and has never had a semester GPA under 3.792.

A Bishop Eustace graduate, Bell had a career-record season on the field as a senior, helping the Pioneers to a 9–3 overall record and supporting the SHU football resurgence during the past two seasons, with the Pioneers advancing to the FCS Championship each year.

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For the first time in program history, the football team was ranked in the final national top-25 polls. The Pioneers ranked 23rd in the Coaches Poll and 24th in The Sports Network FCS Top 25 poll. Sacred Heart is only the second NEC program to ever finish the year ranked in both national polls.

FOOTBALL EARNS FIRST NATIONAL RANKINGS AND WINS NEC CHAMPIONSHIP

PIONEERS CAPTURE 2014 NEC CHAMPIONSHIP

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WHERE DO YOU LIVE NOW AND WHAT ARE YOU UP TO THESE DAYS?
I currently live and work in Greenwich as an assistant vice president and wealth management adviser for Merrill Lynch's Wealth Management Division. Our team has created a unique family office experience for our clients as we assist them in all aspects of their finances, including asset management, estate and trust planning, credit and lending, private banking and financial planning. I am also a CFP® certificant, a designation awarded by the Certified Financial Planner Board of Standards, Inc. Over the past seven years, I also coached travel hockey for the mid-Fairfield program, which was an extremely rewarding experience for me.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE MEMORY AS A PIONEER?
I enjoyed my four years as a member of the men’s ice hockey team. We had a great group of guys from all over North America, and we had a lot of fun on road trips and just hanging out on campus.

DO YOU STILL KEEP IN TOUCH WITH ANY OF YOUR FORMER TEAMMATES, AND IF SO, WHO?
Yes, I try to keep in touch with the people I played with during my four years. Some of them include Chris Connerty, Kyle Tyll, Rocco Molinaro, Noel Henck and Konn Hawkeye.

DO YOU STILL FOLLOW THE PIONEERS, AND WHAT ARE YOUR THOUGHTS ON THE PROGRAM TODAY?
Yes, I have started following the team again. It has been a pretty challenging past five years for them, but I finally feel as though they are back on the right track. They have made some great additions and steps in the right direction, which I think will make them competitive again not only in the Atlantic Hockey League, but nationally as well.

AS A PIONEER CLUB MEMBER, WHY DO YOU THINK IT’S IMPORTANT TO GIVE BACK TO SHU?
I’m very thankful for my time at SHU, and I think it’s important for current and future students to be able to have access to the same great experiences that I had. It’s amazing to see the progress we’ve made in both the infrastructure on campus and the quality of the education, and I think a lot of that success can be attributed to the support from the alumni community.

> FOR INFORMATION on becoming a member of the Pioneer Club, visit bit.ly/SHUPioneerClub
Nofri, Morrison Earn Top Coaching Honors

Two Sacred Heart coaches have earned recognition for their outstanding leadership abilities on the field. The two-time defending Northeast Conference football team had a league-best 14 all-league selections this past season, leading third-year Head Coach Mark Nofri to be honored by his coaching peers as the NEC Coach of the Year for the second consecutive year. Women’s Cross Country Head Coach Christian Morrison was voted the Northeast Conference Cross Country Coach of the Year for the second successive season. Morrison led his team to its second consecutive NEC title this past season.

With Nofri’s guidance, the Pioneers won their second consecutive NEC Championship with a 9–2 overall record and a 5–1 mark in league play. Sacred Heart defeated two nationally ranked opponents, the first such wins in program history, and earned its first-ever national ranking. Nofri is the first coach and fourth-ever since Bob Ford (Albany, 2007 and 2008) to win back-to-back NEC Coach of the Year honors.

It’s the fourth time Morrison has been voted the Women’s Cross Country Coach of the Year and his 10th overall honor. He received his two other Women’s Cross Country Coach of the Year awards in 2003 and 2005.

Women’s Ice Hockey Finds New Home at Sports Center of Connecticut

The Sacred Heart University Women’s Ice Hockey program has a new home this season. The Pioneers will play and practice at the Sports Center of Connecticut, located in Shelton.

“The Sports Center of Connecticut is a top-notch facility, and we could not be happier to call it our home,” says Sacred Heart Head Women’s Ice Hockey Coach Tom O’Malley. “Our student-athletes are excited to practice and play in such a facility, and I think that all who attend our games will enjoy the fan experience that the rink provides. My staff and our players are all looking forward to a great season in our new home.”
FIVE PIONEERS PLACED IN THE TOP 13 to earn All-Northeast Conference honors as the women’s cross country team repeated as NEC champions for the first time in program history on November 1. The five All-NEC selections were the most in program history as well, surpassing the previous best of four set in 2008 and 2013.

Senior co-captains Emma Bolduc and Elizabeth Hutchins led the way as the two both ran their personal best to finish back-to-back in third and fourth place. Bolduc set a new program record at Stanley Quarter Park and tied a personal best as she crossed the line in 17:36.3.

Hutchins finished four seconds later with a personal best of 17:40.8, improving on her previous best by 22 seconds. With these times, Bolduc and Hutchins moved into third and fourth place, respectively, on Sacred Heart’s All-Time 5k list; Kimberly DeLoreto and Brianna Castrogiovanni are the only two SHU runners with faster finishes. Multiple Pioneers also set new personal best records at the race. The average time of Sacred Heart’s top five runners, 18:01.82, was a new program record.

Three weeks later, on November 22, the team captured the ECAC Division I University Division Cross Country Championship at Van Cortlandt Park. SHU narrowly edged Holy Cross and Monmouth by six points and 10 points, respectively, to win the title. It is the second ECAC Championship for the team, as they also won in 2012.

“What a season we’ve had!” said Head Coach Christian Morrison. “We won Northeast Conference and ECAC Championships, achieved a regional ranking and tied our best finishes ever in the New England Championships and NCAA Northeast Regional meet. This ECAC title really puts a cherry on top of a fantastic season. I couldn’t be prouder to be the coach of this group of women.”

Sacred Heart’s top seven runners all recorded a Van Cortlandt Park personal best, led by Bolduc and Hutchins, who finished their careers by placing back-to-back in second and third place to earn All-East Honors. Hutchins became just the third Pioneer ever to earn All-New England, All-Northeast and All-East in the same season in two separate years. Bolduc became the 10th SHU runner to win All-East, All-Northeast and All-New England in the same year.

Bolduc improved on her personal VCP best by 46 seconds, as she completed the 5k course in 18:12.7. Her second-place finish is a 19-place improvement from her 21st-place finish last year. Bolduc has now earned All-East honors in three consecutive years. Hutchins finished with a time of 18:17.6 to improve on her course best by nine seconds. It was her second consecutive top-five finish.

I couldn’t be prouder to be the coach of this group of women.

—HEAD COACH CHRISTIAN MORRISON

Volleyball Bingo Increases Crowd, Adds to Fun at Home Games

During the fall season, there was a new twist for spectators at Sacred Heart University’s home women’s volleyball games—bingo! The brainstorm of Bobby Valentine, executive director of intercollegiate athletics, the game involves swiping a bar code to receive the bingo app. The numbers on the card displayed are related to the action in the game.

Robert Machan, head coach for women’s volleyball, says the bingo app increased both attendance at home games and interest in the action. “If you have the fourth ace, you are going to be all the more excited by every ace. It’s also a great way to learn the rules of the sport,” he points out.

The app was developed by Scott Grandpre, assistant coach for women’s volleyball. The spectator who pushes the bingo light on the app once a bingo has been completed wins a prize. Prizes have included gifts cards, gift baskets and more.

Machan and Grandpre believe the bingo app could be expanded to include many more—if not all—SHU sports. “I envision bigger and better prizes for Warrior of the Week or Superfan of the Fall Season going to the person who has the most wins in a week or a season,” Machan says.
The wrestling team opened its 2014–15 dual meet season as the Diplomats of Franklin & Marshall visited the Pitt Center on November 23. Head Coach Andy Lausier transformed the match into an entertainment event, displaying the new brand of SHU Wrestling.

The event was titled “Pioneer Palooza,” with many student organizations competing to win a grand prize of $1,000 by proving to a panel of judges that they have the most school spirit on campus. The competition was judged on visual appearance, creativity and overall volume throughout the wrestling meet. Professional lighting, music and visual effects in combination with high-energy fans created an electric atmosphere, fueled by a Fan Festival before the match with free popcorn, free photo booth and a boxing arcade game where fans competed to win prizes.

The inaugural Pioneer Palooza was a huge success. Despite Sacred Heart losing a hard-fought 21–13 dual match to the Diplomats, the coaches achieved their goal of creating support for wrestling and excitement on campus. Over 2,000 fans battled for the grand prize, with many volunteers providing enthusiastic support to ensure the Fan Fest and dual meet proceeded as planned.

“SHU Wrestling is so fortunate to have a dedicated and committed following of families and friends,” says Lausier. “A big round of applause goes out to AMG Entertainment. Getting SHU Wrestling alumnus Anthony Priore and his crew involved in Pioneer Palooza was undoubtedly the best decision in planning the event.”

Following the event, Lausier was asked repeatedly whether there will be another Pioneer Palooza next year. His response made everyone cheer: “Yes, bigger and better!”

In what was the program’s first postseason game since 2008, the field hockey team traveled to Monmouth University for the 2014 MAAC Field Hockey Tournament. The fourth-seeded Pioneers battled the top seed and host Monmouth in semifinal action after finishing the regular season at 9–8, including a 3–2 record in MAAC play. They came into the tournament having won four of their last six. SHU’s nine wins this year are the most the program has had since 2006 when it went 15–5. Despite a late goal by Liz Bergman, who tried to spark a comeback as she converted a penalty stroke with 3:44 remaining, the team fell to Monmouth 2–1.

Six Pioneers received All-MAAC honors this year, and 11 were named to the All-Academic Team. The six players receiving All-Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference honors at the MAAC Championship Award Show included Liz Bergman, Mary Altepeter and Sarah Bergman, who were all selected to the first team, while Christine Mace, Rachel Claroni and Nichole Tolli were chosen for the second team.
SHU’s Luxembourg MBA Program Provides Global Experience for Students

FOR TOM DRABEK ’12, MBA ’13, EARNING HIS MBA through Sacred Heart University’s Luxembourg MBA with internship program was a life-changing experience and one he highly encourages others to try. “Luxembourg is one of the major financial business centers of Europe. You couldn’t find a better place to get the global experience needed in today’s business environment,” he says.

“It was great to not only study with people from all over the world, but to actually be in another part of the world,” says Drabek, whose classmates hailed from such places as France, South Africa, India, Germany, Belgium and, of course, Luxembourg.

Drabek also appreciated the option of participating in SHU’s new accelerated program, which took just 16 months to complete and included a paid internship. “The internship component meant that I didn’t need previous work experience to participate in the program. My timing was perfect. I was the first American student to go over and participate in the accelerated program with the internship.”

Drabek, who first fell in love with Luxembourg during a two-week study abroad program as an undergraduate, did his nine-month internship with Lombard International Assurance SA, a life insurer focusing on single premium policies for high net worth individuals (HNWIs). The company deals with very wealthy clients with substantial policies. “I primarily assisted the unquoted securities team,” Drabek explains. “I learned how to take an unquoted asset through the due diligence process required to decide if such an asset can be accepted into the policy. I also reorganized hundreds of physical files according to the system used in the digital database.”

Drabek took advantage of the opportunity to see other parts of Europe. “The trains are fast. You can get from Luxembourg to Paris in two hours by train, and it’s relatively inexpensive. Brussels is just three hours away,” he points out.

Another advantage of the program for Drabek is that he now has a network of friends with very different backgrounds since the participants in the various courses were not only those enrolled in the MBA with internship program but also professionals working in Luxembourg who did the part-time program. “All these people from different countries bring a lot to the table. It was a great way to come up with best practices,” he notes. “The professors were great about not being biased toward one way of doing things. Everything was considered and discussed. Now we are all connected on LinkedIn, and I have a global network.”

These days, Drabek is back in Connecticut and running an indoor air quality franchise with his dad. “We offer mold inspection, remediation, water cleanup, duct cleaning and more,” says Drabek, adding that his marketing degree and MBA are critical to the success of the Shelton-based business.

“The Luxembourg MBA was an exceptional experience, and I would recommend it to anyone,” Drabek concludes. “If you are thinking about going over there, you have to be open to different cultures. Go with an empty cup and fill it up with all you can while you are there. The Luxembourg experience will influence the rest of my career and personal life. When you live in another country, you get an outside view of our own country. It makes you more open-minded.”
Students Go Near and Far for Winter Recess Mission Projects

While many of us were enjoying family time during the late December and early January holidays, nearly five dozen Sacred Heart University students and a handful of advisers were busy with mission projects both at home and abroad during their winter break.

Coordinated by the campus-based Office of Volunteer Programs & Service Learning, four mission projects were in play. The earliest was to Bangladesh from December 27 to January 9. There were five students and three advisers in the group, including Matthew Kaye, director of the Office of Volunteer Programs & Service Learning, and his wife Tess. Sacred Heart Associate Professor Khawaja Mamun from the Economics Department, who is also Bangladeshi, met up with the students in Dhaka. The group traveled to Dhaka and Patuakhali, partnering with the nonprofit organization Distressed Children & Infants International.

A second group, consisting of 12 students and three advisers, including SHU professors Maria Lizano-DiMare and John McTighe, traveled to the Dominican Republic January 3 to 11, specifically to Santo Domingo, Barahona and Bahia de las Aguilas. They worked alongside COPA Community Partners. Another 20 students and three advisers, including Professor Randy Glading, trekked to New Orleans, La., and Lucedale, Miss., from January 4 to 11, collaborating with the George County Chapter of Habitat for Humanity.

Sticking closer to home, 17 students and four advisers embedded themselves in Bridgeport, staying at the Urban Center of St. Charles Parish from January 7 to 11 as part of CURTIS Week.

Speaking about her experience in Bangladesh, Ashley Chory ’15 said, “The people there have a lot to offer with regard to morals and priorities. Education is their highest priority, and every child that can afford to go to school goes. They are ambitious and strive to be engineers and doctors, regardless of gender. We stayed in an orphanage, and the girls there, who came from nothing, were so proud of every step up they were able to make.”

Kyle Blake ’17, the student leader for SHU’s annual CURTIS Week service and immersion program, found the experience to be an eye-opener. “We were immersed in the culture of Bridgeport and saw different needs and things many people don’t see, such as schools for non-English-speaking single mothers who need to learn the language to be successful and related preschool programs at Caroline House where they cared for the moms’ children.”

Added Larry Carroll, assistant director in the Division of Mission and Catholic Identity, “CURTIS Week was a very productive experience that reflects the passion and commitment that Bishop Walter Curtis had for Bridgeport.”

Kaye summed up the winter service mission program, saying, “Sacred Heart University students are dedicated, motivated and engaged. These programs tap into the Pioneer spirit and provide opportunities that are unique as well as helpful to communities.”

ABOVE Madison Mercier and Brianna Schussler with children on the Dominican Republic trip. BOTTOM LEFT From right, students Ashley Chory and Ramandeep Dhillon in Bangladesh. BOTTOM MIDDLE Nicole Mikisinski and Ryan Cantwell work during the Mississippi Habitat trip. BOTTOM RIGHT Junior Kelly Simpson stocks shelves in the food pantry at the Thomas Merton Center in Bridgeport during CURTIS Week.
When you get Christina Gunther talking about international study abroad opportunities provided through the College of Health Professions, the conversation quickly moves from travelogue and course listings to social justice, unique hands-on training and life-altering experiences. Gunther, director of Global Programs & Assessment, isn’t just an advocate—she’s a coach, mentor, diplomat, social worker, international tour director and global healthcare champion. And she’s working to change the world, one student, one country and one cultural experience at a time “with a talented group of faculty.”

The College of Health Professions, says Gunther, is committed to providing students with international opportunities to promote global health awareness, cultural competence and education that help people engage in social justice. Global programs include short-term study abroad, mission and service learning and clinical experiences. Whenever possible, an interdisciplinary model is provided, and students are exposed to what amounts to a crash course in international health-care awareness, inequities, politics and, hopefully, potential solutions.

Qualifying students choose from existing programs in various countries, including Guatemala, Haiti, Jamaica, Ireland, Luxembourg and Mexico. New programs are constantly being minted, with efforts now on track to create opportunities in Cuba and Ghana.

Gunther says that cultural awareness training is an important precursor to studying abroad and that it begins with examining our own culture more closely. Without that understanding, she says, it’s harder to comprehend challenges facing other countries and peoples.

“Many of us in the United States and other developed countries take access to good health-care services for granted, or at least know it’s there and available when we need it,” Gunther observes. “Government support programs like Medicaid and adequate medical services do not exist everywhere. These study abroad experiences open our students’ eyes, help them develop confidence and often can affirm their career choices.”

Many of the students who participate elect to return to the countries where they study to share their enthusiasm, commitment and raised awareness. “That advocacy also is critical and is an outgrowth of the strong service learning ethic found at SHU and the faculty’s commitment to teaching ethical care,” Gunther says. 5

## Parks Passport Program Launches in Bridgeport

On November 8, SHU joined the Bridgeport Parks and Recreation Department and Bridgeport libraries to host a kickoff event for a new community program to promote physical activity and park use. The project, titled GO PLAY! Parks Passport, is funded by the Richard and Barbara Nacerio Faculty Scholars program and took place at Veterans Memorial Park in Bridgeport. Highlights included children’s games, face painting, health screenings for all ages, book readings and giveaways and the Snappy Dawgs food truck. Participants will also receive their own free copies of the GO PLAY! Parks Passport, which invites passport users to visit eight Bridgeport parks.

At each park, passport holders use clues provided in the passport to explore and find a GO PLAY! stone post. They can use that park’s passport page and post to reveal a fun fact about the park, and can place the passport page over the top of the post image to the passport page, creating a Parks Passport stamp. Suggestions are also provided for fun play in the park.

Once a family completes the passport, they drop it off at one of the Bridgeport public libraries by April 30, 2015. Everyone who completes a passport and turns it in by that date will be entered into a drawing to win one of two age-appropriate bicycles. 6

### Promoting Global Health Awareness

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Nursing students Kayla Farrell and Hannah Cronan improve health education for Guatemalan children on a recent mission trip.

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1970
Michael V. Behn has been named president and chief operating officer of The Sandri Companies.

1971
Michael Fasano has been named one of the Top 10 Family Lawyers in Connecticut by the National Academy of Family Law Attorneys. He is a founding partner of Duffy & Fasano Attorneys at Law in Woodbury.

1979
Joseph DePasqua ('84 MAT) is the 2014 Capital Region Education Council Teacher of the Year.

1986
Gerry Phillips (MBA) has been named general manager of Olympic Steel’s Milford facility.

1988
Deborah Golden (MAT) was elected to the board of directors of Stamford Dollars for Scholars.

1991
Michael DeCesare retired from the Connecticut State Police Department after 22 years of service. He was a sergeant in the Major Crime Squad for most of his career. DeCesare now works with GEICO in their Special Investigations Unit.

1994
Craig Zysk (MBA) has been named vice president of sales and marketing at Aerosim Flight Academy.

1998
Linda Ducay (MAT) is the NICU family support specialist at Capital Health in Hopewell, N.J.

1999
Karen Geffert is director of human resources for Hearst Connecticut Media Group.

2001
Erin Harrison has been named associate publisher/editor-in-chief of InsideCounsel magazine.

Dan Pascone ’06, ’12 MBA

LIFE HAS A FUNNY WAY OF GOING FULL CIRCLE. For Dan Pascone, Sacred Heart University has been impacting his life since his arrival on campus in 2002. He met his wife, Shannon (Martin) Pascone (’06, ’07 MAT), at SHU. He also landed his first job at Prudential Financial at a SHU Career Fair. Nine years later, he is still with Prudential in the role of divisional vice president of the National Sales Desk with Prudential Annuities. To complete the circle, Dan ensured that Prudential was present at this year’s Career Fair. “My organization will participate in the SHU Career Fair for the first time in several years. I hope to source talent from Sacred Heart University wherever I go in my career,” he says.

Pascone is currently a member of the Alumni Association’s board of directors. “While pursuing my MBA, I was able to get a glimpse of all the cool things happening at the University. I did a couple of projects where I learned a little bit about the development of the University, and it was something that intrigued me. I thought the alumni board was a way I could give back to the University and network with other alums.”
2003
Alex Harvey (MAT, ’09 6th Year) is assistant principal of Holmes Elementary School in Darien. Previously, he was an administrator in the Greenwich public school district.

Christopher Potanas is chief surgery resident at Newtown Veterinary Specialists.

2004
Marc Marin (6th Year) is director of instructional technology at Middlesex Middle School in Darien. Previously, he served as assistant principal at Middlesex for six years.

Billie Shea (MAT, ’13 6th Year) has been awarded the 2014–2015 Connecticut Association of Schools First-Year Principal of the Year Award. She is principal of John B. Stanton School in Norwich.

2005
Robert Ciaffaglione, a shopper marketing manager at Beiersdorf, was featured in Shopper Marketing magazine as a “Person to Watch” in his field.

2007
Christina Ulreich (MAT) was awarded the 26th Annual Sara Mass Award, which is given annually to a Bethel school employee who has made a positive difference in the lives of the town’s students. She is an instructor in the district’s language initiative.

2008
Karen Scatamacchia (MAT) has been named mortgage loan originator at Bankwell. Previously, she worked at Bank of America.

2010
Jeff Heppner has been accepted into the U.S. Army Warrant Officer Flight Training Program. He is fulfilling a lifelong dream of becoming a helicopter pilot.

2012
Laura Hamilton (MAT) is a Latin teacher at Amity High School.

2013
Tara Yusko (6th Year) is an assistant principal at Seymour High School. Previously, she was an English teacher and administrative intern at Lyman Hall High School in Wallingford.

Births
Sarah Morrill (’00) and her husband, Robert Cocchiaro, welcomed their son, Kai Douglas, on July 17, 2014.

Marriages
Alyson Angelo (’11) wed Joseph Giambrone on September 20, 2014.

Nicole Donaldson wed Danny Roque (’12 MAT) on June 14, 2014.

Valerie Giarra (’07, ’08 MAT) wed David Haase (’07) on July 14, 2014, in Riviera Maya, Mexico.

Leslie Pinto (’07, ’09 MAT) wed Dominic Ciliotta (’07, ’08 MAT) on July 5, 2014.

IN MEMORIAM
— WE REMEMBER OUR FALLEN PIONEERS —

1968
Donna Andraszi

1972
Charles T. Paul

1974
Paul Forte

1978
Elizabeth McGehee
Patricia Schreiber

1979
Helen Jenks
Andrew Orosz

1980
June Beard

1981
Adolph Plenefisch
James Wityak

1984
Adaline DeMarrais

1986
Bernice Tobin

1989
Anthony J. Piccolo

1993
Sylvia Harinstein

1994
Lisa Connors
Christopher S. Somers

2001
Margaret Strachan
Join us for a memorable day of championship golf at The Stanwich Club, conveniently located in the charming Connecticut suburb of Greenwich. The magnificent views and challenging greens make this exclusive club one of the most exceptional golf courses in the United States. Come experience this legendary course to help raise important funds for a most worthy cause - the Sacred Heart University Scholarship Program.

“*In the gilded Connecticut burg of Greenwich, Stanwich shines as an epic test of golf in an area filled with world-class courses*.”

-LINKS Golf Magazine

www.sacredheart.edu/pioneeropen