Innovative Digital Learning
REDEFINING ACTIVE AND COLLABORATIVE LEARNING FOR THE VIRTUAL CLASSROOM
Summer was officially launched with Sacred Heart’s 49th Commencement ceremony, where more than 1,900 graduates were inspired by speakers whose topics ranged from the importance of having a curious mind to the nature of American ideals. Since then, the pace has been busy here on campus.

We’re proud to report that Sacred Heart continues to be a trendsetter in creating new programs to meet the evolving needs of our community and the global marketplace, like the new hybrid MBA program. Offered by our Jack Welch College of Business, this program provides working professionals with the opportunity to take advantage of SHU’s unique curriculum through the convenience of online learning. In addition, Sacred Heart announced the creation of a new College of Nursing as of July 1, the next logical step in support of our long-standing and rapidly growing nursing program.

Two years ago, we established an Office of Digital Learning on campus because today’s world demands digital literacy. This issue of our magazine devotes a feature story to that program, where director Jaya Kannan explains that, despite how digitally adept young people seem to be, they often don’t understand the full range of technology’s academic applications. This office is dedicated to helping people at all levels successfully integrate technology into learning.

Of course, meeting the needs of the University’s growing number of programs means that we must also continue to expand and improve upon our facilities. In June, SHU broke ground on the Center for Healthcare Education on Park Avenue in Bridgeport. This new building will house our Colleges of Health Professions and Nursing, and we’re excited about the expanded space and state-of-the-art equipment the building will provide.

As summer winds down, however, I am most impressed, as always, with our students. They continue to win artistic, academic and athletic awards. More importantly, Sacred Heart students are always compassionate and enthusiastic about lending a helping hand—like the marketing student interviewed here who has participated in service learning programs in Paraguay and El Salvador, the exercise science students who recently hosted a fitness fair for senior citizens and the fraternity students determined to raise awareness of the need to fight violence against women. SHU students continue to conduct themselves with grace and dignity while demonstrating empathy for those less fortunate than themselves.

As Mary Alice Donius said when she was recently named our new dean of the College of Nursing, the focus at Sacred Heart is always on educating the whole person while emphasizing social justice and community service. Our great University doesn’t just educate students. We prepare citizens to lead satisfying and meaningful lives around the world.

“This is a mission that’s founded in the Catholic intellectual tradition, and one that I’m proud to serve,” Donius said.

I couldn’t agree more.

With Best Regards,

John J. Petillo, Ph.D.
President
Features

**New College of Nursing Meets Program Growth**
The new College of Nursing reflects the program’s steady growth and the national outcry for more health care professionals as Baby Boomers age and people live longer.

**The Artistic Passion of Edward Garrity ’15**
Making things with his hands was always Garrity’s biggest passion. Now the *summa cum laude* graduate is embracing uncertainty and diving headfirst into the competitive art world.

**Commencement 2015: Reflection and Inspiration**
This year’s 49th Commencement provided 1,900 graduates with words of wisdom and inspiration on topics ranging from American ideals to the importance of having a curious mind.

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49 CLASS NOTES
Catch up with old friends: who’s doing what and where they are now.
Sacred Heart announced the creation of a new College of Nursing, effective July 1, joining the University’s other five colleges—the Jack Welch College of Business, the Isabelle Farrington College of Education, the College of Arts & Sciences, the College of Health Professions and University College.

“This is the logical next step for our long-standing and rapidly growing nursing program,” said President John J. Petillo in his announcement.

This fall semester, the College of Nursing will have approximately 500 undergraduate and close to 900 graduate nursing students. About half of the 1,400 students are online students. The College will employ 30 full-time faculty members. Launched in 1980 as an RN to BSN, today it offers a wide range of academic programs: first professional degree students, a campus-based family nurse practitioner program, a doctorate of nursing practice, a nursing program designed specifically for on-site students and several programs for online students, including RN to BSN, RN to MSN and MSN programs in three different tracks. All of these programs are accredited by the Commission of Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE).

“The transition to a College of Nursing will help us compete nationally with nursing colleges—not only for the best undergraduate nursing students, but also for the most talented master’s and doctoral students and doctoral-level faculty members,” noted Laura Niesen de Abruna, provost and vice president of Academic Affairs at SHU. She also emphasized the strength of SHU’s online nursing programs. “We are drawing students and faculty from all over the country. Our online nursing faculty members are full-time professors who are committed to Sacred Heart and are available and responsive to our students.”

Mary Alice Donius has been named dean of the new College of Nursing. Initially attracted to SHU because of its mission, she says the College is “very congruent to what I believe nursing education and practice are all about. SHU prepares students to successfully enter an increasingly competitive work force, but also compels them to grow intellectually, morally and spiritually.”

Donius arrived at Sacred Heart a year ago, after serving as dean of the School of Nursing at the College of New Rochelle for seven years. Her prior experience also includes director of Medical Center Education for Sound Shore Medical Center in New Rochelle, N.Y.; a faculty practice at Sound Shore Medical Center in New Rochelle; and clinician and educator positions in a variety of hospital settings and at the Columbia University School of Nursing. She directed Columbia’s undergraduate program as well.

At Sacred Heart, says Donius, the nursing faculty has been instrumental “to the way the nursing program has grown in its educational offerings. Their commitment to the advancement of this institution has been so significant that it has been upgraded to a College, and that’s a huge accomplishment for SHU.”

The decision to transition the University’s School of Nursing into a College of Nursing not only reflects the program’s steady growth over the past 35 years, she adds, “but is also a response to the growing need for health care professionals as people live longer and the Baby Boomer generation continues to age.”
Sacred Heart broke ground in June on a new building to house its Colleges of Health Professions and Nursing. Located at 4030 Park Avenue in Bridgeport, the Center for Healthcare Education will be three stories high, comprising 117,000 square feet on 8.7 acres. The building was designed by SLAM — a national firm based in Glastonbury.

“The expanded space and updated equipment will offer new opportunities for learning and ensure that students graduate well prepared to make their mark in the booming health care industry,” says President John J. Petillo.

The Center will offer specialized single-profession services and a collaborative, holistic approach to needed services for everyone from pediatric to geriatric populations. Disciplines that will collaborate in the clinic include physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech-language pathology, exercise science, athletic training, physician assistant and nursing. Along with a medical gym and individual treatment rooms, the clinic will have an aquatic therapy pool and an audiology suite. Clinic staff will also have access to the motion analysis and human performance labs and a driving simulator. The clinic will serve as an outpatient teaching lab when not in use for clinical services.

The building will also house state-of-the-art laboratory and classroom facilities and a simulated outpatient suite for evaluation and treatment of ambulatory patients. A multipurpose amphitheater will be available to host professional development activities for health care providers in the community, and will be the center for coordinating community-based programming supported by the Colleges, such as global health and service learning activities.

> WATCH A VIDEO OF THE GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONY.
> VIEW THE PHOTO GALLERY.

Students Find State Financial Recovery Lagging

Sixteen students from the Jack Welch College of Business spent their spring semester working on an economic outlook for the state of Connecticut for 2015–2017. This is an annual project for the students in Professor Lucjan T. Orlowski’s economic and financial forecasting class.

Two representatives of the group, Kimberly Ball and Adrien Viani, recently presented their findings during a forum at the Frank and Marisa Martire Business & Communications Center. They noted that Connecticut was more severely impacted by the most recent financial crisis than many states and, as a result, residents are not seeing the same kind of recovery that is happening elsewhere.

As young people entering the work force, the students are asking policymakers and industry leaders to recognize these issues and remedy them.

> VIEW THE FULL REPORT.
Student Receives Fulbright Grant

Christopher Minardi ’15 has been chosen to receive a Fulbright U.S. Student Award. Beginning this fall, he will spend nine months in Albania’s capital city, Tirana, using his IT and television and film production background to create a web-based educational platform that can be accessed by Albanian teachers, students or anyone interested in online learning.

The Fulbright U.S. Student Program offers opportunities for students and young professionals to undertake international graduate study, advanced research, university teaching and primary and secondary school teaching worldwide. Minardi, a media studies major with a concentration in film and television and a minor in graphic design, credits the counseling and guidance he received from his professors and administrators at SHU for helping him stay focused and prepared for each step of the Fulbright application process.

“Experiencing new cultures and the chance to learn while helping others outside of a traditional college environment is going to be challenging and very rewarding,” he says.

Fourth Annual Media Exchange Focuses on Women and Minorities

Graduate students from the master’s in communication (MACOMM) program hosted the fourth annual SHU Media Exchange on June 18. This year’s event served as a platform for discussion on the growing media industry where women and minorities are breaking barriers. The free event began with a reception and tours of the newly constructed Frank and Marisa Martire Business & Communications Center, followed by a panel discussion.

The moderator for the event was television news anchor and talk show host Faith Daniels. The distinguished panelists included Anita Ford Saunders, director of Marketing Communications at United Way of Central and Northeastern Connecticut; Ana Ceppi, vice president of Business Development at Univision Communications; and Rob King, senior vice president of SportsCenter and News at ESPN.

Students Inspired by Washington, D.C.

Professor Gary Rose, chair of the Department of Government, Politics and Global Studies, has run eight trips to D.C. for presidential inaugurations. He decided to end that tradition this year in favor of a trip when the capital was less crowded, allowing students to cover more ground. As a result, a group of 32 students experienced the full breadth and depth of the nation’s capital in March.

Their itinerary included a briefing at the U.S. Supreme Court, a moonlit tour of Washington monuments, a special tour of the U.S. Capitol and a visit to the Smithsonian Museum.

This opportunity was made possible in part by a generous grant from Robin Cautin, dean of the College of Arts & Sciences. “They were a wonderful group of students to work with, and I could tell that throughout the trip they were gaining an appreciation of the values upon which our country was founded—the true purpose of the trip,” says Rose.

ESL Classes Now Offered in Stamford

The Stamford Graduate Center is now offering a full- and part-time English language program Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., as well as TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language) preparation classes during the day and in the evening. The full-time program is applicable to international students on an F1 visa. The site will also be a test center for Institutional TOEFL tests, and a course in business communications will be offered in the evenings. For more information, please call 203-365-7528.

“We believe there is a huge need with the international community in Stamford,” says Professor Madeleine Golda, director of SHU’s ESL program. “Au pairs, health care professionals, international students, employees and families of employees working for international businesses might benefit from this program.”
Students Participate in Third Annual Academic Festival

University Commons served as a hub for spirited intellectual exchange on April 24, when 93 students presented their research projects for SHU's Third Annual Academic Festival.

The Venice lagoon, legal gambling and the exercise preferences of school-age children were just a few of the diverse research subjects featured on 55 posters displayed during the afternoon to showcase the students' hard work. The student researchers (juniors, seniors and graduate students) eagerly engaged with viewers about their methodology and conclusions. Also part of the event were 34 talks in separate classrooms that allowed students to give more detailed presentations and several honors students to fulfill requirements for their studies. The all-day festival concluded with awards for 16 posters judged to be “excellent” or “outstanding” in several categories.

The festival has come a long way from its beginning in 2000, when it was limited to students in the College of Arts & Sciences. The expanded program, now open to all five colleges, has been in place since 2013. The festival's emphasis on independent research makes it popular with both students and faculty. Working on the projects is excellent preparation for graduate school and enhances students' resumes.

> GET MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE ACADEMIC FESTIVAL.
> VIEW THE PHOTO GALLERY.

University College Honor Society Inducts New Members

Eleven new students were recently inducted into the Alpha Sigma Lambda (ASL) National Continuing Education Honor Society, which honors nontraditional adult learners. Membership is reserved for students with a minimum of 24 credit hours at SHU who maintain a GPA of at least 3.2. These students have achieved academic excellence while balancing the demands of professional and personal life.

The newly inducted members of ASL were honored at a ceremony in the presence of family and friends. In addition to spotlighting their exceptional achievement as scholars, the honor is another credential in their career portfolios.

Anita Dilisio, a general studies major who recently received a gold medal award from SHU, says, “It is an honor to be associated with both Sacred Heart's University College and Alpha Sigma Lambda. Learning is a gift that should never be taken for granted at any age.”

Also honored were Herbert Ruiz and Kevin Mendoza of Norwalk, Stratford residents Amanda Johnson and Joanne Jean-Baptiste, Winifred Maloney of Madison, Oxford residents Bryan Waterbury and Connie Cole-Ingher, Twila Balint of Cheshire, Sharron Alkerstedt of Shelton and Debra Taglianetti of East Rockaway, N.Y.

History Students Travel to Virginia— and Back in Time

Ten enthusiastic history majors recently took their third annual trip—this year to Charlottesville, Va. Organized by Professor Julie Mujic, who was accompanied by Professor Jennifer McLaughlin, the trip served to immerse students in learning history outside the classroom. “The students were up and ready to go at 7:30 every morning, excited to soak in history all day. They demonstrated a level of maturity and enthusiasm for learning that kept us on the go from the moment we left campus.”

The group’s first stop was Montpelier, President James Madison’s home, where they toured the house and learned of its history as a former plantation farmhouse. The journey continued the following day to Appomattox, a national historical park where General Robert E. Lee signed his surrender to General Ulysses S. Grant. Students also visited Monticello, Thomas Jefferson’s home, and the University of Virginia to attend an academic conference about the Civil War.

The students were “ideal representatives of the University,” says Mujic. “The trip kept us all marveling at inventions, landscapes and the challenges of historic preservation.”

Biochemistry student Dale Mack talks about his project with Professor Indrani Dutta, also a judge.

Inductees at last spring’s ceremony

The group in Montpelier with the James and Dolly Madison statue.
Freshmen Present Innovative Business Plans in a Shark Tank Format

Forty-four groups, each comprised of four or five freshmen from the Jack Welch College of Business (WCOB), presented their plans for new businesses recently at the Frank and Marisa Martire Business & Communications Center.

The event, which began with a poster session, was sponsored by Christopher Rosen, COO of Hyperbaric Medical Solutions. The students, who represented eight sections of SHU’s mandatory Intro to Business class, had to create a new business, research risks and rewards, determine their breakeven points and consider plans for future expansion.

Ideas ranged from an all-female fitness gym to a chargeable mug with temperature control. The winning poster was for the Cozy Sleep Sack—a solar-powered, heated sleeping bag that also serves as a phone charger. It was developed by Nicole Cavatato, Katerina Christopoulos, Kristen Citerella, Christina Dimauro and Jacqueline Foley.

The eight winning teams presented their plans before an audience, then answered questions—in a Shark Tank-like format—from a panel of judges that included Pedro Caceres, CEO of Operational Success Business Consulting; Sal Ferro, president, CEO and managing partner of Alure Home Improvements, Inc.; Gerry Libertelli, veteran entrepreneur and Internet developer; Mike Maguire, chairman and former CEO of Structural Graphics; Vincent Miceli ’05, who has worked in private wealth management at UBS as well as with seed funding and early-stage ventures; and Rosen.

First place went to Weel Dee, an application for student renters and landlords. The runner-up was Magna Case, a magnetic phone case, and third place went to Mobile Muncheez, a food truck that provides snacks into the early hours of the morning.

Using SALT™ to Boost Student Financial Skills

Sacred Heart has teamed up with SALT™, a financial education resource created by the nonprofit American Student Assistance® (ASA). SALT, available online at saltmoney.org, is a dynamic multichannel service that teaches students and alumni how to borrow less for college, choose the right loans, make repayment stress-free and build financial literacy.

Morgan Kelly, associate director of Student Financial Assistance, helped bring this project to life. While she was working on her MBA in 2011, she did research on the need for financial literacy. “There are far too many students who have no understanding of personal finance, and our goal is to change that,” she says. All current SHU students, as well as alumni, will have access to the website, and students will be able to call and speak with a neutral, unbiased adviser to discuss student loan questions.
Minister of Finance Receives Honorary Doctorate

SHU in Luxembourg celebrated a special academic convocation last February in honor of Minister of Finance Pierre Gramegna, who received a Doctor of Laws degree, honoris causa. Board of Trustees Chairman James T. Morley conferred the degree onto Gramegna, who has been Luxembourg’s Minister of Finance since 2013. He addressed the crowd with his thoughts on “What the Role of the Minister of Finance of Luxembourg Could Look Like in 2030.” The citation was read by former University of Luxembourg Rector Rolf Tarrach. Gramegna was hooded by SHU in Luxembourg Academic Director Alfred Steinherr.

Diplomacy 101: Students Meet and Greet the Consul General of Luxembourg

Prior to studying abroad in Luxembourg City this summer, a group of undergraduates had the opportunity to meet with Jean-Claude Knebeler, the consul general of Luxembourg and executive director of the Luxembourg Trade and Investment Office in New York. Mary Trefry, associate professor of management, introduced Knebeler, who was accompanied by colleagues Laurence Pierron, executive assistant to the consulate general of Luxembourg, and Brigitte Goergen, commercial attaché for the Luxembourg Trade and Investment Office.

Knebeler currently has jurisdiction over Pennsylvania, New Jersey, New York and the New England states. Furthermore, he is the executive director of the Luxembourg Trade and Investment Office covering the eastern half of North America, facilitating both American investment in Luxembourg and commercial development of Luxembourg companies in the North American market.

Gargoyles, Angels and Marketing, Oh My!

This summer, students participated in an intensive study abroad program at the Sacred Heart University campus in Luxembourg. The SHU in Luxembourg program is housed in the Chamber of Commerce, right in the heart of the financial district of the city. Faculty members from the Fairfield campus accompany the undergraduates in Luxembourg to teach and participate in site visits. Additionally, students are supervised by a program coordinator and an undergraduate resident assistant from Fairfield.

This year, students signed up to take one or two classes abroad for either two or four weeks. A total of 35 students attended the program from May 17 to May 31, while eight continued until June 14. Class options included “Gargoyles and Angels: The Ways of Faith in Western Europe” taught by Professor June-Ann Greeley, “Marketing in the European Union” taught by Professor David Taylor and “Social Entrepreneurship” taught by Professor Leanna Lawter.

Because of its prime location, students had the chance to visit several other countries, including France, Germany and Belgium. The classes incorporated various visits to educational sites such as the U.S. Embassy; the Luxembourg Parliament, where the students met the president of the Parliament; a social entrepreneurship conference; and many historical and cultural locations, such as Notre Dame Cathedral and a concentration camp in France.

The program, which runs every summer, is ideal for students who are unable to spend an entire semester abroad because of extracurricular activities or other restrictions.
There is a terrific comedy sketch from the Norwegian television program Øystein og meg (Øystein and Me) in which a desperate monk seeks help operating a newfangled piece of technology—a closed book. A second monk walks in, playing a sort of medieval tech support, and gently lifts open the cover. "I got that far," the desperate monk explains, "but then I stopped because I was afraid some of the text would disappear." Tech support then puts into action the blisteringly complex notion of turning the page, showing how the text remains printed, safe and secure, regardless of which page one is viewing. The desperate monk considers these advances. Then, scratching his head, he holds up a scroll. "When you're used to paper rolls, it takes some time to convert to a . . . what is it? . . . beek."

Philosophically, the point is sweetly simple: every technological advance was at some point new. "High-tech" is a relative term, referring only to that generation of technology that is more complex than the one which preceded it. At a moment in time, the book was groundbreaking. And, of course, the joke relies upon our common experience of modern computer technology, our fears of hours of hard work disappearing with a single click or the machine not doing what we expect of it.

But there's another joke that lies beneath the surface of the first. Consider that one need not speak Norwegian, watch a Norwegian comedy show—indeed, even know that said program ever existed—to enjoy the 2:44 television clip. On YouTube alone, various edits of the scene have comfortably more than six million views, thanks to the link being shared through Facebook, Twitter, email and the like. (View on YouTube here.) So not only have our personal interactions with technology become so ubiquitous as to be recognizably funny beyond cultural and linguistic borders, but our human interactions via technology have become such a part of the fabric of our being that the irony of effortlessly using tech to share a joke about tech is hardly even considered.

We breathe digital technology. It is fundamental to our current means of existence, whether we are aware of it or not. Even those who shy away from the Internet and smartphones unwittingly rely on digital technology to correctly monitor and secure their bank accounts, their health records, the flow of water in their pipes and the traffic lights at the end of their block.

"High-tech" is a relative term, referring only to that generation of technology that is more complex than the one which preceded it.
Yet technology’s assimilation into the hallowed halls of academia has been to this point tepid at best, prompting even President Obama himself, from his 2014 State of the Union pulpit, to call for better technological integration in the classroom in recognition of the economic need for a workforce fluent in digital technology.

There are a number of reasons for the slow uptake in the classroom, but most stem from the simple fact that teachers do not have the familiarity with digital technology that the students themselves have had since birth. Face it: your kid can search Google for the answer to a question in about a quarter of the time it might take you to explain it and probably days faster than you would take to get to the library and do the research “old school.”

Additionally, those teachers have a well-founded suspicion of the Internet-as-resource. There is a degree of trustworthiness to a book; it has been edited, proofread and usually fact-checked. Though the Internet certainly hosts numerous peer-reviewed journals and websites of high credibility, distinguishing them from the milieu of dross—particularly at an undergraduate level—can be challenging in the best of circumstances. Thus teachers often see themselves as the defenders of knowledge-seeking pitted against a world of information-spewing.

Jaya Kannan, director of Sacred Heart University's Office of Digital Learning (ODL), is quick to point out that this young generation of “digital natives”—the term for those seemingly fluent from birth in Twitter, Instagram and Snapchat (not Facebook, of course—that’s so thirtysomething)—is native on social media only, not necessarily technology’s academic applications. In that case, the students are often as hesitant as the teachers to venture outside their comfort zone. Still, the real world calls unforgivingly for digital literacy.

Hence, the ODL was established in October 2013 by Provost Laura Niesen de Abruna with the stated mission of supporting faculty as they integrate new technology tools in the classroom and redefine digital pedagogy methodologies.

It’s not an easy transition.

"The first thing to understand is that teachers are not supposed to be experts in everything," notes Jeanine DeFalco of SHU’s English Language Institute, who frequently uses social media in her English as a Second Language coursework. "Teachers are just supposed to be experts in getting students engaged." And that, DeFalco
asserts, requires an acceptance that students in the digital age quite simply process information differently from their analog-educated seniors.

On the most basic level, there needs to be the acceptance that digital technology is pervasive, and no student is going to spend time flipping through library index files when a simple Google search will put all the knowledge of the known universe in their laptops. Likewise, no adult understood the Dewey Decimal System instinctively. They were taught it in the same way today’s students can be taught the skills used to determine reliability and authenticity of a website.

Digital natives, comfortable or not with the academic applications of digital technology, certainly and verifiably process information in a different fashion than their elders. To insist on teaching them in old-fashioned ways is to insist that the tide not wet the king’s feet.

That said, responding to the need to integrate technology is much more than simply putting a computer in every classroom, both DeFalco and Kannan agree.

Ruben Puantedura’s SAMR model for analyzing digital pedagogy practices. “Digital pedagogy is still just pedagogy,” she explains. “The same fundamental best practices principles apply here, too. Teachers have to ask themselves: ‘Is there a clear pedagogical purpose for integrating the digital tools? How can this strengthen learning?’”

Is Enda McGovern’s marketing class using a 3-D printer to create a phone case simply a clever gimmick? Is it an example of inexpensive product creation? Or are they exercising lateral thinking for their colleagues in other disciplines, making fossil replicas so that anthropology students can hold and touch samples they would otherwise miss entirely?

Is Wendy Bjerke’s exercise science class dropping pins on Google Maps because they can, or is it something more significant, like incorporating the Centers for Disease Control’s Walkability Audit Tool so that students can exercise not only their bodies but their democracy as they press local townships to improve the safety and accessibility of their walkways for the health of their citizens and the prosperity of their towns?

McGovern and Bjerke were but two examples showcased in ODL’s Teaching Innovations event held on campus this past spring. In all, 24 stations were manned by faculty and/or students, all eager to share their experiences of incorporating digital tools into their work.

“It’s impossible to learn in a vacuum,” says Kannan. “In that sense, every learner is a connected learner, and I want our students to see that they are part of a connected learning network.”

With the Office of Digital Learning a mere two years old, Kannan is hesitant to boast. But as she looks around at a University cross-pollinating ideas—not only between departments but between colleges and even disciplines—you can’t help but hear the smile in her voice.

“We’re standing on fertile ground,” she says.
Sacred Heart University Launches New "Hybrid MBA Program"

As our society changes, colleges and universities must adapt and grow. Sacred Heart continues to create and add new programs to meet the ever-evolving needs of both our community and the global marketplace. All of our programs are thoughtfully designed and implemented to prepare graduates with the knowledge, flexibility and skills they need to succeed in accomplishing their goals.

Beginning in January 2016, Sacred Heart University’s Jack Welch College of Business (WCOB) will be offering a hybrid MBA designed to provide working professionals with the benefits of SHU’s unique, integrated core curriculum, along with the convenience of online learning. The new Welch Hybrid MBA will offer a blended program of online learning with 15 on-campus Saturday sessions over a two-year period.

The first year consists of online completion of all required classes in accounting, finance and management. During that time, there will be three Saturday sessions to help participants build relationships with their classmates and the faculty. The second year focuses on the integrated core and capstone experience, which involves business plan development and action learning projects. In addition to online classes, there will be 12 Saturday sessions at either the Fairfield or Stamford campus.

“The active learning that takes place in our program is what prepares our MBA students to reach the next level in their managerial careers,” says Anthony Macari, executive director of graduate business programs for the WCOB. “They develop a greater working knowledge of innovation, how to grow a company and how the various functions in a company have to fit together for it to thrive. We’re excited about the Welch Hybrid MBA because it provides flexibility for professionals who want to experience our master’s, but can’t commit to onsite classes on a weekly basis.”

Admission to the program began July 1. Applicants are expected to have a strong academic track record and at least five years of substantive work experience, which will allow a waiver of the GMAT.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT Pam Pillo at pillop@sacredheart.edu or 203-365-4716.
2015 Speakers

**JANUARY 2015**

Professor John K. Pierre, vice chancellor of Southern University Law Center, spoke on January 22 about the continued turmoil of modern times and the still-fragile relations between races as faculty and students gathered to pay tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the marches in Selma, Ala., that sought voting rights for African-Americans. Presented by the Volunteer Programs & Service Learning Department.

**MARCH 2015**

Author Jean Shinoda Bolen, a Jungian analyst and activist who is respected worldwide for her work in psychiatry, health, healing, neurology, peace and the women's movement, spoke on March 14 about the “Indomitable Spirit in Activists and the Archetype of Artemis.” Bolen was visiting SHU on a weekend break from her participation in the U.N.'s March 9–20 Commission on the Status of Women.

**APRIL 2015**

Army veteran Adrian Bonenberger, who served two tours in Afghanistan, talked about his war memoirs, *Afghan Post*, on April 14 as part of the Literary Spring Lecture Series. Sponsored by the Ryan Matura Library.

**FEBRUARY 2015**

Jeff Bauman, Boston Marathon bombing survivor, spoke to a packed Edgerton Center on February 4 about his physical and psychological road to recovery after losing his legs in the tragedy. Part of the Student Affairs Lecture Series.

Economist Peter Warrian, a senior research fellow at the Munk School of Global Affairs, University of Toronto, as well as a co-founder with his wife Margaret of the Lupina Foundation, spoke on February 18 about the challenges of achieving a lasting and comfortable peace between peoples with differing faiths and abating the fallout from decades of violence in Northern Ireland. Sponsored by the Office of Mission and Catholic Identity and the Center for Irish Cultural Studies.

Bonnie Hammer, chairman of NBC Universal Cable Entertainment Group, spoke on March 25 as part of the series “Women Can Have It All.” Linda McMahon, co-founder and former CEO of World Wrestling Entertainment (WWE), hosts the program, which is sponsored by the Jack Welch College of Business and examines how women can balance career, family and personal time.

Gary Cohn, the president and COO of investment banking and securities firm Goldman Sachs, offered a “fireside chat” conversation on April 28, covering key business topics with SHU President John J. Petillo in front of students, faculty and staff. Cohn’s visit coincided with the celebration of the opening of the new Finance Center in the Frank and Marisa Martire Business & Communications Center.

**APRIL 2015**

Rachel Urquhart, author of *The Visionist*, spoke on April 21 as part of the Literary Spring Lecture Series. Urquhart writes for such publications as *SPY, Vogue, Elle, The New Yorker* and *The New York Times*. Sponsored by the Ryan Matura Library.

Sacred Heart University celebrated the new home of the Jack Welch College of Business (WCOB) on April 21 with a visit from the College’s namesake, Jack Welch, and his wife Suzy. A reception and tours of the Frank and Marisa Martire Business & Communications Center preceded a public conversation in the building’s two-story atrium between SHU President John J. Petillo, former General Electric CEO & Chairman Jack Welch and Suzy Welch, former editor-in-chief of Harvard Business Review.

John Chalykoff, dean of the WCOB, introduced the trio. The talk was followed by a signing session for the couple’s new book, The Real-Life MBA. Hundreds of people attended, including former NY. Mets Manager Bobby Valentine, who is SHU’s executive director of Athletics.

Leading off, Chalykoff extended thanks to the Martires for helping to fund the new site, the Petillos for naming a suite and the Welches for “their long-time and continued support” of the WCOB. Petillo initiated a question-and-answer session, asking about inspiration for the book.

“We traveled around the world for a year or so talking to people in all industries, and we noticed work had become a grind,” Suzy said. “We got a sense that people are not moving in the same direction. Alignment is important—it’s the grease that makes companies go.”

Jack, who will mark his 80th birthday this November, spoke to performance. Under his watch as GE chair from 1981 to 2001, the company’s value rose 4,000 percent. Not a bad climb for someone who started at GE in 1960 as a junior chemical engineer. He said performance is defined by numbers and behaviors. “As a manager, you want to be fast, hire great people, share ideas, promote those from within, get fresh eyes from outside. Start with a mission, and your behavior is how you get there. Numbers are the results, the achievements.”

He defined four types of businesspeople: “There’s the type you want to have behind you who helps get the numbers you want; the type that doesn’t have the numbers and acts like a horse’s ass; the type that has the behavior, but is not making the numbers, whom you give a chance; and the type that makes the numbers but doesn’t have the behavior. The latter is the worst kind—a jerk who’s doing something totally against your mission,” he said.

Trust and truth was also a topic, with Jack noting, “When you go to a meeting, you want the truth, not spin. Truth gives you speed, but you’ll never get truth if you don’t have trust. Be candid, be straight, speak the truth and give people a reason to trust you.”

Suzy suggested that employee evaluation is important. “Managers need to let their people know where they stand.” Jack added, “Business is a game, and you want to win. You want to make everyone on the team—just like a baseball team—know where they stand.”

Corporate culture can also be a stumbling block for companies—“the barnacles of bureaucracy,” as Suzy termed it.

Jack explained, “We know what it’s like to work for a company that’s rigid with rules. People don’t want that anymore, to march up the ladder, pay their dues and, after 20 years, get an office with a door that closes. There are lots of 30-year-olds out on their own making a lot of money. Be the broom sweeper, and clear the obstacles out from in front of everyone.”

He also pointed to lack of engagement as a business pariah. “Sixty-five percent of people who go to work today are not engaged. Can you imagine that statistic in a game? Thirty-five percent on the field, 65 percent in the locker room? Getting people going again, on the same team and winning, is really the goal of our book.”

To students in the room, Jack offered some final tidbits of advice: “ Decide what you’re really good at and what makes you happy, and build your career at that intersection. Make your boss smarter and look good, and you’ll never have problems. Keep tech smart and keep learning. If you stand still, everyone will run right past you.”

Jack and Suzy Welch Talk about Trust, Truth and Being Tech Smart
Faculty Members Awarded Tenure at May Reception

THE FACULTY WAS CELEBRATED IN MAY AT THE UNIVERSITY’S ANNUAL Faculty Awards Reception. During the ceremony, Provost Laura Niesen de Abruna announced that seven faculty members have been awarded tenure by the board of trustees. They are:

Kwamie Dunbar of Oxford, associate professor of finance. Dunbar graduated with a bachelor’s degree from the University of the West Indies, a master’s degree in business administration from Sacred Heart University, a master’s in applied mathematics from Fairfield University and a doctorate in financial economics from Fordham University. He is the former director of Credit Risk Research at MasterCard International. Prior to that, Dunbar spent several years at GE Capital and GE Asset Management in various capacities. He teaches at both the undergraduate and graduate levels for the Jack Welch College of Business (WCOB). His research concentrates on asset pricing, international financial markets, monetary policy transmission, credit derivatives and dynamic portfolio optimization.

Anna E. Greer of Bridgeport, associate professor of exercise science. Greer graduated with a bachelor’s degree in health and exercise science from Furman University, a master’s degree in health education and behavior from the University of Florida and a doctorate in health promotion, education and behavior from the Arnold School of Public Health at the University of South Carolina. She also holds a certificate of graduate studies in gerontology from the University of South Carolina. Her interests include physical activity initiation and healthy aging. Greer is a member of the Certified Health Education Specialists, Certified Health and Fitness Specialists, the American College of Sports Medicine and the Gerontological Society of America.

Dawn Melzer of Trumbull, associate professor of psychology. Melzer holds a bachelor’s degree from SUNY Binghamton and a master’s and doctorate from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. Melzer joined SHU in the fall of 2009. She previously taught at Adelphi University, Stonehill College and the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. She incorporates her research experience with young children into her classes and collaborates with her students on her research.

Heather Miller-Kuhaneck of Southington, associate professor of occupational therapy. Miller-Kuhaneck graduated with a bachelor’s degree from Boston University, a master’s degree in occupational therapy from Ohio State University and a doctorate in public health from the University of Connecticut. Her interests include pediatric occupational therapy with a specialty in autism and sensory integration, as well as working with families and siblings of children with autism. Miller-Kuhaneck has received several awards and grants for her research in these areas.

Patrick Morris of Norwalk, associate professor of criminal justice. Morris has been a member of the faculty since the fall of 2005 after a 26-year career with the Norwalk Police Department. His research interest is law enforcement response to domestic violence. He holds a bachelor’s degree from the University of Delaware, a master’s degree in public administration from the University of New Haven and a doctorate from CUNY Graduate Center. He currently teaches courses in the undergraduate and graduate programs in criminal justice.

Christopher Kelly of Hamden, associate professor of theology and religious studies. Kelly earned his bachelor’s and master’s degrees in religious studies from the University of South Florida and a doctorate from the University of Iowa. Kelly’s general area of expertise is historical theology and church history from Christian late antiquity to the early Middle Ages. His particular academic interests are in the development of Christian monasticism, particularly as it migrates from East to West. He also has interests in pedagogy, specifically with respect to the Catholic intellectual tradition.

Mary Treschitta of Fairfield, associate professor of art and design. Treschitta has 30 years of experience in graphic design and holds a dual master’s degree in art/education. Additionally, in 2009 she completed her master’s in fine arts, specializing in graphic design, at the Miami International Institute of Art and Design. She is president of Visual Connection, a graphic design studio, and is currently the creative director for The Independent, a New Haven newspaper.

Dunbar, Greer, Melzer, Miller-Kuhaneck, Morris, Kelly and Treschitta also received promotions from assistant professor to associate professor. Other promotions were Patricia Carl-Stannard, professor of social work, from clinical assistant professor to clinical associate professor and Brian Stiltner, professor of theology and religious studies, from associate professor to full professor. #
Professor Lori Bindig Takes On Gossip Girl

Lori Bindig, professor of communication and media studies, has written a new book entitled Gossip Girl: A Critical Understanding. Bindig is also director of the media literacy and digital culture graduate program and director of the performing arts minor.

Her research spans a variety of fields, but primarily focuses on the intersection of media and youth culture, with an emphasis on femininity within consumer culture. Her newest book explores the cultural impact of the hit teen television show Gossip Girl. Through a critical cultural studies lens, Bindig examines the media industry practices responsible for the creation of the Gossip Girl book and television series, as well as the underlying values regarding the show’s representations of gender, race, class, sexuality and consumerism.

Bindig is also the author of the books Dawson’s Creek: A Critical Understanding and The O.C.: A Critical Understanding. “People think it’s silly to study television shows,” she says. “But [we] spend more time with media than with anything else. We’re so immersed in media culture, it’s imperative that we understand the motivations of the people who create the media we watch, the underlying values that the media promote (that we often take for granted) and the impact media make on our lives.”

Studying television marketed to teens is important to Bindig because the programs “are targeted to young people just starting to form their world views,” she explains, saying it’s important to understand how those views are shaped by popular media.

Andy Kolar Elected President of Connecticut Percussive Arts Society

Assistant Director of Bands Andy Kolar has been elected president of Connecticut’s Percussive Arts Society (PAS) chapter. The goal of PAS is to be a global leader in percussion and drumming by providing unparalleled and interactive resources in percussion education, performance and research.

“With the other officers, I hope to follow the lead of previous administrations while also branching out into some new areas and markets,” said Kolar. “The percussion community is truly unique in our connection to every corner of the percussion world, and our chapter is happy to support and promote PAS and everything they have to offer. If you’re a percussionist in Connecticut and you aren’t already a member of PAS, you’re truly missing out on an incredible opportunity to network, perform and learn in your own backyard.”

In addition to year-round promotion of percussion around the state, Connecticut’s PAS chapter hosts an annual Day of Percussion, which is a day full of clinics, master classes and performances.

> VISIT THE CONNECTICUT CHAPTER OF PAS WEBSITE.

Nursing Professors Tackle Timely Topics in Third Edition of Textbook

Nursing professors Susan DeNisco and Anne Barker have published the third edition of their book, Advanced Practice Nursing: Evolving Roles for the Transformation of the Profession. Jones & Bartlett Learning is the publisher. This book is a core advanced practice text used in both master’s level and doctor of nursing practice programs. It is framed around the AACN’s Master’s Essentials as well as the Essentials for Doctoral Education, featuring the most up-to-date content. Throughout this new edition, DeNisco and Barker address the rapid changes in the health care environment with a special focus on health care finance, electronic health records, quality and safety, as well as emerging roles for the advanced practice nurse.

Professors Susan DeNisco and Anne Barker
Laura Niesen de Abruna Named to the Council of Independent Colleges Task Force

Laura Niesen de Abruna, provost and vice president of Academic Affairs, has been named to a three-year term on the Council of Independent Colleges (CIC) Chief Academic Officers Advisory Task Force, beginning March 1 and running through February 2018. The Task Force is made up of nine chief academic officers and three chief “other” officers. (This year they are chief advancement officers.) The group is responsible for planning the annual Institute for Chief Academic Officers.

The CIC is an association of nonprofit independent colleges and universities that has worked since 1956 to support college and university leadership, advance institutional excellence and enhance public understanding of private higher education’s contributions to society. It is the major national organization that focuses on providing services to leaders of independent colleges and universities as well as conferences, seminars and other programs that help institutions to improve the quality of education, administrative and financial performance and institutional visibility.

Nursing Professor Linda Strong Receives Daughters of American Colonists’ Award

Nursing professor Linda Strong, a public health nurse for more than 33 years, was honored recently with an award of $1,000 from the Connecticut State Society—Daughters of the American Colonists (CTSSDAC). A check was presented to her by Christy Hendrie, a family nurse practitioner graduate of SHU’s School of Nursing and new state regent for the CTSSDAC. The presentation took place at the Hall Neighborhood House in Bridgeport, where Strong operates Aging with Grace, a community health outreach program. The check will help fund the purchase of much-needed health screening equipment for anyone served by Hall House.

The CTSSDAC was founded in 1921, and besides its focus on preserving the history of Early American colonists, it engages in educational activities, establishes scholarships to assist needy students and makes contributions to charitable activities.

“My daughter, Sarah Hendrie Ekman, was a 2004 SHU graduate and interned in public health nursing with Dr. Strong,” Hendrie explained. “Sarah is now a cardiothoracic step-down nurse at Danbury Hospital and credits Dr. Strong as an influence. Because of Sarah’s experience, I enrolled in the family nurse practitioner program. Those touchpoints and the needs of Dr. Strong’s program at Hall Neighborhood House drove my decision to support it.”

Associate Dean Gail Samdperil Earns Top Service Award

Gail Samdperil, Ed.D., ATC, has been selected one of the National Athletic Trainers’ Association’s (NATA’s) 2015 Athletic Trainer Service Award recipients. Samdperil is the associate dean at the College of Health Professions and a clinical associate professor.

The Athletic Trainer Service Award recognizes NATA members for their contributions to the athletic training profession as volunteers at the local and state levels. These recipients have been involved in professional associations, community organizations, grassroots public relations efforts and service as volunteer athletic trainers. Candidates must have both held the certified athletic trainer (ATC) credential, conferred by the Board of Certification, and have been a NATA member for at least 20 years.

“We are always excited to recognize the dedication, excellence, inspirational outlook and commitment of our honorees, and this year is no exception. These recipients serve as role models to their peers and represent some of the best of the best of the athletic training profession,” said NATA Honors & Awards Committee Chair Chuck Kimmel, ATC.

The award presentation was made during NATA’s 66th Clinical Symposia & AT Expo in St. Louis on June 25, 2015.

Nursing Professor Linda Strong stands in the Ella Jackson Senior Center at Hall Neighborhood House in Bridgeport, where she operates the Aging with Grace community health outreach program.

Professor Gail Samdperil works with athletic training students.

Click the mouse icons throughout the magazine for additional online content.
Team Research on Body Image Published in *Journal of American College Health*

In its May issue, the *Journal of American College Health* published a paper authored by a team of Sacred Heart University professors and personnel, including a chart of body types that could change the way body image studies are conducted.

The paper, titled “One Size Doesn’t Fit All: New Continua of Figure Drawings and Their Relation to Ideal Body Image,” reports the results of an on-campus study conducted by the Body Image Task Force student group, led by three SHU faculty and staff: Jocelyn Novella, assistant director of the University’s Counseling Center and a doctoral student at Oregon State University; Debbie Danowski, assistant professor of communication and media studies and author of books on eating disorders; and Jennifer Gosselin, a former assistant professor of psychology.

The research, conducted in 2011, was designed to reveal students’ preconceptions about their body types and required participants to identify their physiques on a chart. The researchers quickly realized that common illustrations of varying body types—ranging from thin to overweight—did not accurately represent the other body types found in the population, which could lead to faulty findings.

The team approached Jack de Graffenried, associate professor of the Department of Art & Design, who assigned the project to then-student Bryan Cocco. He helped develop a visual scale that more accurately represented common body types, called the “Presentation of Images on a Continuum Scale.” This scale was used to conduct the research and was published along with the findings. It is being made available to outside research teams.

Not surprisingly, the research showed that college women disclosed a disparity between what their bodies look like and what they want them to look like, a disparity connected with lower self-esteem. College men had a similar though lesser disparity tied to a drive for muscularity.

Body image renderings were done by Bryan Cocco, an art student at the time the research was conducted.
ARTIST EDWARD GARRITY ’15 IS CERTAIN OF ONLY ONE THING: UNCERTAINTY
Edward Garrity ’15 is a big fan of questions. Answers, not so much.

“THAT’S WHAT’S SO FANTASTIC ABOUT ART,” SAYS GARRITY, WHOSE FIRST EXHIBITION, I THINK THEREFORE I AM RIGHT NOW, WAS RECENTLY ON DISPLAY AT THE EDGERTON CENTER’S ART & DESIGN GALLERY.

Questions upon questions upon questions.

“You plant a seed in someone’s mind by an image or a statement, or even just the placement of a piece, and your thoughts, your answers, become their questions. And that exploration, that discussion, continues on.”

Garrity grew up knowing he wanted to make things. “I was born with all the creative genes in my family,” he says. The youngest of four—Garrity has two brothers and a sister who work as a sales rep, Spanish teacher and plumber—he initially wanted to be a carpenter. “Making things with my hands was always my passion,” he says.

The creative outlets in his Middlebury high school were limited, however, so even though he stayed as productive as he could, he had no real experience to offer direction to his creativity. Then he arrived at Sacred Heart, where he sat in Professor Nathan Lewis’ painting class. He says, “A switch went off and I thought, ‘This is it.’”

Graduating summa cum laude with a bachelor’s degree in arts and concentrations in both graphic design and studio arts, Garrity is now ready to dive headfirst into the competitive world of art and design in spite of considering himself an “Insignificant Figure, Lost, In His Insignificant Thoughts,” which also serves as the title of one of the self-portraits from his show.

“The painting shows the silhouette of a small man staring up at an enormous tree, the trunk of which rises up and out of the frame of the canvas. Perhaps the work is meant to defy boundaries and definitions, implying that any answer—if such a thing exists—can never be contained in a neat little box; it can only be implied. Perhaps it refers to what Garrity calls the “metaphysical dilemma”—that context is purely situational and serves as a challenge for viewers to consider their own context while reacting to his.
Whether it was the Concert Band, Pep Band, Percussion or String Ensembles, Director Keith Johnston and his student musicians filled the Edgerton Center with memorable music at Pioneer Blast, Chamber Ensembles and their Spring Concert.

The SHU Dance Company and Dance Ensemble both put on impressive performances this spring with "The Movies" by the Company, featuring routines to famous movie music, and with the Spring Recital by the Ensemble.

**Band**

**Dance Program Shines on the Edgerton Stage**

The SHU Dance Company and Dance Ensemble both put on impressive performances this spring with "The Movies" by the Company, featuring routines to famous movie music, and with the Spring Recital by the Ensemble.
Theater Arts

The amazingly talented students in the theatre arts program brought the Edgerton Stage and Little Theater to life through many performances during the spring semester. These included Sweeney Todd, The Fantasticks, Wait Until Dark, High School Technical and Theatrefest.

Choir

Under the direction of John Michniewicz, the University Choirs hosted many wonderful concerts in the spring semester, including Gospelfest, Blues in the Night, SHU LOVE Pops and The Music of Motown.
Faculty Exhibit Tackles Health Care

“Crossroads: Rural Health Care in America,” a multimedia show created by the Art & Design Department, was exhibited in the department’s gallery in February. The show featured photographs and editorial work by Professor Richard Falco and the screening of a related documentary film directed by Falco with Joe Alicastro, coordinator of news and broadcasting for the master’s in communication (MACOMM) program. The exhibit also featured large-scale text graphics designed by Professor Jonathan Walker.

The show’s narrative followed the medical staff, community organizers and patients who are part of an innovative health care network in the Mississippi Delta. The documentary highlighted in vivid detail that there are communities in this country that refuse to give up. Instead of focusing on the hopelessness of their situation, those communities have chosen to focus on a solution.

Student Work Shines at The MAX

The Department of Communication and Media Studies hosted its biannual media arts exhibition (The MAX) in May, showcasing the best in student productions including photojournalism, audio, video magazine production and critical writing. This was the first time The MAX was held in the new Frank and Marisa Martire Business & Communications Center.

Annual Art & Design Student Exhibit

From left: Ministry Miner by Elizabeth Mastrocola, Study After O’Brien by Maribel Paredes and Half-Past Whenever by Holly Johnson. All were done with watercolor and colored pencils. The exhibit was on display in the Art & Design Gallery during March and April.

Seniors Display Impressive Talent on Portfolio Night

The annual Senior Portfolio Night in the Art & Design Gallery was overflowing with impressive work by talented art students. The event also offers the opportunity to meet with the artists and discuss their full portfolios before they head out as professionals into the art world.

Learning the Ropes of Art & Design

The Art & Design Department hosted the 23rd Annual Art & Design Expo in April, an event that brings in local high school students interested in fine art. The students toured the Art & Design Gallery and listened to a guest speaker, the internationally acclaimed illustrator Bob Dacey.
The Winter Guard participated in the 2015 WGI World Championships in Dayton, Ohio, in April. In their class, there were three rounds of competition with just the top 15 making it into the finals out of 72 competing programs. SHU finished 13th in the finals, besting many other prestigious programs and universities such as San Diego State, University of Central Missouri and James Madison University.

> WATCH A VIDEO of their performance.

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**Winter Guard Marches and Twirls into WGI World Championship Finals**

**Sixth Annual Elements Concert**

The performing arts program presented their sixth annual Elements concert in February, including talent from Band, Choir, Dance and Theater Arts. This combined performance is a true testament to how successful the program has become.

LEFT Theatre Arts' improv group, The Awkward Handshakes. Facing is Declan Lynch.
Thanks to the Paul L. Jones Trust Fund, the College of Nursing Is Better Able to Prepare Nurses

The College of Nursing has received a $30,000 grant from the Paul L. Jones Trust Fund to support graduate nursing students enrolled in the nursing practice doctorate program (DNP). The grant is designed for scholarship support and will be distributed to students coming into the DNP program.

“This funding will help DNP students coming into the program with costs of tuition, books and supplies,” says Mary Alice Donius, dean of the College of Nursing. “Students with a GPA of 3.5 or above and who demonstrate financial need are eligible.”

The DNP degree represents the attainment of the highest level of preparation in advanced clinical nursing practice, and Sacred Heart’s program prepares nurses for advanced roles in education, clinical practice and executive leadership. “Our third group of students graduated from the DNP program this past May, and it was compelling to see the significant growth and achievement of these graduates,” says Donius. “This funding has allowed many students to further their education, accomplish their goals and make significant contributions to the field of nursing and health care.”

This is the third time Sacred Heart has received funding from the Paul L. Jones Trust Fund. These grants will help prepare an educated nurse workforce that will influence better patient outcomes at multiple levels of health care and will also prepare the next generation of nurse educators.

Horizons Enrichment Program Receives $20,000 Grant

The Horizons program recently received a grant of $20,000 from the Fairfield County Community Foundation (FCCF). Now in its fourth year of operation on SHU’s campus, Horizons serves children from Bridgeport schools by providing them with a strong life foundation through academic training, high-quality enrichment and the tools to become good citizens.

Executive Director Jeffrey Rumpf is grateful for the support from FCCF, which has helped with funding, training and building the donor base with an annual Giving Day. “We’re so thankful to them for helping us pioneer this very successful effort to overcome the achievement gap,” he says. “This year’s grant award will allow us to expand with an additional 16 youths from Bridgeport and will provide the transportation, swimming pool and enrichment that are so important for these kids.”

Bank of America Boosts Program-Based Learning with $10,000 Grant

The Bank of America Charitable Foundation has awarded a $10,000 grant to the Bank of America Problem-Based Learning Projects for Not-for-Profit Organizations program, designed to expose students to real-world business problems, requiring them to come up with real-time solutions. Bank of America and this grant specify that students work with nonprofits completing a variety of tasks, from marketing and strategic planning to business plan preparation and more. This is the second consecutive grant of $10,000 Sacred Heart has received from the Foundation.

“We would like to thank Bank of America for supporting the Welch College of Business and for providing our undergraduate and graduate students with the opportunity to collaborate and come up with real-world solutions for area nonprofits. It’s a win-win for everyone,” says Professor Stephen Brown, director of the Center for Not-for-Profit Organizations, where many of these projects originate.
Leslie Taveras-Torres is a student and an explorer—and she believes the two go hand in hand. The senior marketing major at the Jack Welch College of Business (WCOB) has spent much of her life exploring her own culture and the culture of other countries. Born in Long Island but raised in the Dominican Republic, her family returned to the United States in 2006. Since then, in addition to visiting family and friends in South America, she has participated in service learning programs in Paraguay and El Salvador. But her most recent adventure—a semester abroad in Italy—was a life-changing event.

Taveras-Torres studied at Rome’s John Cabot University last year from August to December. There she took courses, visited historical sites across Rome and was able to travel to a number of European cities. She also took dance lessons, met the Dalai Lama and competed in a road race on ancient grounds.

Meeting the Dalai Lama, she says, was clearly one of the highlights of her program. Taveras-Torres participated in a three-day summit in Rome with 200 delegates representing John Cabot and other universities. Fifteen students from John Cabot were chosen to attend, and five students from the entire assembly were invited to personally meet the Dalai Lama with the opportunity to ask him a question. Taveras-Torres was one of those five.

“I’ve always been interested in social constructs and see myself one day working for the United Nations or in government,” Taveras-Torres explains. “I asked him to address the concepts of peace and disarmament in light of all the aggression being played out across the world today . . . specifically, what could be done to help foster peace. His answer was to take a human-focused approach through the basic foundations of love and nurturing and to build through education and understanding instead of intimidation, anger, greed and violence.”

Rome, Taveras-Torres says, is an international melting pot, and she loved meeting people from around the world. She credits the WCOB’s undergraduate preparation, which included workshops on cultural differences, etiquette, public speaking and even golf lessons—as well as networking dinners—for helping her be better prepared for her overseas program. She stresses the importance of seeking international experiences as a great classroom for personal growth.

“So many students never leave the United States or choose to go only where English is spoken as the primary language,” she observes. “In today’s interconnected world, travel opportunities abound, and it’s important to take the risk, move beyond your comfort zone and experience a new culture. If we’re going to make a difference in the world as adults, we all need to see that world, taste its foods, face communication struggles, figure out how to deal effectively with strangers and different traditions and learn to appreciate one another. Thinking globally is the best way to set ourselves up for success.”

While abroad, Taveras-Torres also had the opportunity to travel to Greece, where she participated in a 10-kilometer (6.2-mile) road race in Athens, a traditional preparatory event for the Athens Marathon. Training and competing in that race, she says, was her birthday present to herself—she turned 21 while there.

She says these cumulative experiences have made her stronger personally and have confirmed her interest in pursuing a professional life in diplomatic service.

She spent part of the summer of 2015 traveling in Morocco and studying Arabic (she already speaks some French and is fluent in Spanish). “There’s so much more to do in our lives beyond the Internet and traditional study,” Taveras-Torres concludes. “Why go to South Beach or Los Angeles on spring or summer break if you can visit Paris, Prague, Rio or Madrid? A small change can make a big difference. As the Dalai Lama taught me, ‘love, kindness, and (global) awareness are the very basis of our society.’ We are the only ones who can change the world.”

Top Leslie at the Colosseum. Middle A secret passage on the back streets of Rome. Bottom Leslie in the company of the Dalai Lama at the World Summit of Nobel Peace Laureates.
Racking Up Hours in Award-Winning Community Service Program

Students, faculty and staff completed more than 50,000 community service hours for the 2014–2015 year, with the majority of those hours given by students. The bulk of the hours involved supporting local charitable efforts and nonprofit organizations in Bridgeport and other surrounding towns.

The Office of Volunteer Programs & Service Learning has a mission to ensure that students are a part of the community in a meaningful and positive way. Assignments include park cleanups like the beach cleanup at Seaside Park in Bridgeport while others are more personal, such as mentoring and tutoring in the Bridgeport Public Schools.

“A huge piece of our community service is the willingness that the students, faculty and staff have to serve our immediate community and communities around the world,” says Laura Scroggins, assistant director of volunteer programs.

“And our students benefit just as much as the communities do. They build character and broaden their world view as they serve.”

Delta Tau Delta Stands Up Against Violence Toward Women

Young men and women, faculty and high-profile town officials all gathered at SHU recently to take part in an international movement against violence and sexual abuse toward women in an effort dubbed “The White Ribbon Campaign.”

SHU’s Delta Tau Delta fraternity has, for the second year, coordinated an event to help raise awareness. The group’s aim is to engage men in the process of personal, relational and social change by having them sign pledges, review literature and hear the stories of victims. Trumbull resident Connie Rich shared her disturbing tale about abuse suffered at the hands of an uncle and her own husband.

Approximately 150 people at the event were welcomed by the fraternity’s Chapter President Jack Wilson and Philanthropy Chair Christian Daley, both SHU students. Other speakers included First Selectman Michael Tetreau and Police Chief Gary MacNamara of Fairfield.

Green SHUs Host Spring Cleanup

In April, members of the Green SHUs, an environmental awareness club, were out in force for a cleanup at the Birdseye Boat Ramp in Stratford. It was another great example of our students giving back to the community in a meaningful way for all.
North End Community Day Creates a Sunny Splash

The day, highlighted by bright sun and mild temperatures, was a blessing in itself. SHU’s Community Day only made it that much more pleasant and fun.

Held April 11 at the North Branch Library and Community Center in Bridgeport, the annual event was coordinated by members of the University’s Panhellenic Council and guided by Andrea Canuel, program manager for SHU’s Office of Volunteer Programs & Service Learning, and Director of Greek Life Laura Arena. The event featured members of 13 fraternities and sororities coordinating games and related activities for children and families. There were also tables offering helpful information to seniors. Highlights included a bean bag toss, face painting, a photo booth, ring toss, hockey slap shot, inflatable bowling, sack races, ping pong ball toss, baseball and more. All activities were provided at no cost, and there were even snacks and beverages provided free by the @The Kitchen Truck operated by Chartwells, which is SHU’s catering partner.

The event coincided with SHU’s Greek Week. “The Greek houses get points for participation, and the most active receive awards at a concluding ceremony,” notes Arena. “It’s important that the competition’s focus is on giving back to the community and impacting the North End.”

Members of Iota Phi Theta volunteer at North End Day.
Students Give Barnum Museum Insights for Future Growth

Still recovering from a devastating tornado in 2010 that left their landmark facility in shambles, executive leaders of Bridgeport’s Barnum Museum welcomed a benchmarking analysis conducted by students in the Jack Welch College of Business, under the guidance of Professor Valerie Christian.

The analysis was presented to Barnum’s Executive Director Kathleen Maher, Business Manager John Temple Swing, Curator Adrienne Saint-Pierre and Peter Roche. P.T. Barnum ancestor and honorary board member Elinor Biggs sat in, as did Christian and SHU’s Vice Provost Mary Lou DeRosa, who helped moderate.

After examining a number of public landmarks and museums, looking especially at criteria such as admission and membership pricing, revenue, funding and amenities, the students recommended that Barnum engage current and new visitors using interactive and enriching experiences, generate greater brand awareness and attract greater capital.

Maher was pleased with the findings. “Knowledge of the successes and even the perceived ‘not so great’ efforts of our colleague institutions will provide us with relevant information to build a new, 21st-century Barnum Museum.”

MBA Students Work on Burr Mansion Revitalization Project

“Never let ’em see you sweat” is what business mentors will tell you, and four Sacred Heart University MBA students put that advice to the test recently as they presented their “Phase II Business Plan and Economic Impact Study of the Burr Mansion Revitalization” to a panel of executives and community leaders at the Fairfield Museum and History Center.

The students—Sophie Mander-Mgbekonye, Francesco Sardo, Dmitry Solovyev and Ethan Voltolini—teamed together as part of their capstone course taught by Professor and MBA Director of the Jack Welch College of Business Valerie Christian.

The team’s challenge was to review the recommendations of a prior consulting team with regard to additional usages and revenue streams that could be realized at the landmark Burr Mansion property at 739 Old Post Road, Fairfield, a space owned by the town and operated by the museum. The panel to whom the group presented included Mark Barnhart, director of business development, Town of Fairfield; Michael Jehle, executive director, Fairfield Museum; Melissa Rossi, associate brand manager, Energizer; Georgiana Platt, Burr Mansion manager; Jack Lett, chairman of SHU’s Not-for-Profit Center; and Christian.

Gaming Against Cancer at Seventh Annual Relay For Life

Sacred Heart held its seventh annual Relay For Life fundraiser on April 24 in the William H. Pitt Center. The event was free and open to the public.

This year’s theme was Game Night, with a play-on-words slogan: “Life may be a Twister, but SORRY cancer, We Are in it to Win it.” Relay For Life at Sacred Heart is organized by students in support of the American Cancer Society. The event, which was more theme-oriented than ever before, raised over $41,000.

Relay For Life is made up of many different teams, consisting of friends, campus clubs, alumni, Greek Life organizations and more. There were 341 people and 48 teams registered, a record for this event. Lily DiPaola ’16, who was co-chairing the event with Olivia Traina ’17, says most students choose to participate “because, unfortunately, we’ve all known someone who has had cancer, and we know how hard the journey can be. Relay For Life is a community event where everyone comes together to celebrate the fight and support each other.”

Student Taylor Magnotti cheers on Professor Michael Giarratano, a cancer survivor, during the “Survivor Lap” of Relay For Life.

From right are business students Christina Sanzo, Danielle Licursi, Enzo Luppi Mackenzie, Catherine McLean and Sarah Lucas, with Professor Valerie Christian, who were all presenting their analysis at the Barnum Museum in Bridgeport.

MBA students present their plans for the Burr Mansion at the Fairfield Museum and History Center.
Transforming Lives in Rural Guatemala

Nine students recently traveled to Guatemala with the goal of learning about the community and identifying ways to help them achieve a better life.

The students and their adviser, History Professor Charlotte Gradie, stayed at the nonprofit CERNE (Centro de Educación y Recuperación Nutricional Emanuel) medical clinic where they painted the inside of the clinic and its one-room schoolhouse. The trip included a one-day excursion to an Ixil Mayan village, where the students helped residents paint the community center. The week ended with an overnight stay in Antigua, the picturesque capital.

The group also worked with the medical clinic in identifying the cause of respiratory illness plaguing the community. It was discovered that the ONIL stove, part of a line of products focusing on home health, efficiency, safety, cleanliness and reduction of living expenses, would meet the community’s need for an efficient, smoke-free stove.

Working through the nonprofit HELPS International, the student group raised funds to provide stoves for five village families. They have since received news that the stoves have been installed. Duran hopes that this initiative will continue to transform even more lives.

School of Nursing Provides Health Care in the Dominican Republic

Five faculty members recently conducted a medical mission trip to Paraiso, Dominican Republic, along with 10 family nurse practitioner (FNP) students. An essential component of the FNP curriculum is an emphasis on health promotion and disease prevention within a strong community framework. The program provides essential clinical experiences required for practice in family primary care.

The project initially began after Professor Michelle Cole and Director of Global Programs and Assessment Christina Gunther visited the area last June and found women’s health services and pediatric care to be lacking. In collaboration with the Western Connecticut Health Network and the Danbury Hospital Global Health Program, their goal was to prepare Hospital PAP, a 32-bed facility that would assess the health care community’s wellness, as well as expand their services.

During the trip, more than 300 patients received direct patient care including examinations, diagnostic testing, medications and referrals. Additionally, over 50 adult patients were screened for cardiovascular risk factors. “It was an unbelievable opportunity to travel with a group of Sacred Heart faculty and my fellow colleagues and to serve a community greatly in need of health care,” says student Amanda Schultz.

Exercise Science Students Help Host Fitness Fair for Senior Citizens

Nineteen students in Professor Peter Ronai’s Exercise and Aging class put their fitness-evaluation skills to the ultimate test as leaders of the Vitality Fitness Health Fair on April 24 in the fitness center at the Watermark at 3030 Park, a retirement community in Bridgeport.

During the two-hour event, visitors received a map highlighting a series of stations set up to evaluate their health and fitness. Two students were busy at each station, testing balance, gait speed, hand grip strength, body composition, short physical performance, blood pressure and how fast each senior could complete the “gallon jug transfer test.”

The students worked closely with Watermark Fitness Director Cynthia McGuire to plan the event as a class project incorporating testing techniques Ronai taught in class. In addition, 24 students from the class have volunteered at the center throughout the semester as part of the service learning component of the Exercise and Aging class, offered in the College of Health Professions.
Impressive Improvements

THINGS HAVE BEEN BUSY OVER THE SUMMER MONTHS at the William H. Pitt Health and Recreation Center. Multiple renovations have been completed, creating an updated and more inviting atmosphere for our student-athletes. A big thank you goes out to all involved in making these improvements.

1 — Student-Athlete Academic Center (formerly the Pitt Boardroom)
2 — Campus Field track: new blacktop and turf
3 — Men’s and women’s lacrosse locker rooms: new lockers and graphics
4 — Tennis courts: new colors, logos and signage
Paul Lyons ’03

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE MEMORY AS A PIONEER?
Game Day—the comradery and ritual of pregame preparation. Everything from the team meal the night before a game, following strange superstitions to keep routine in the locker room on game day, film sessions with the guys, the national anthem right before game time and the competition of the actual game. As a current player it’s easy to take it all for granted, but after you graduate and your playing days are finished, you find it’s something you miss quite a bit.

DO YOU STILL FOLLOW THE PIONEERS, AND WHAT ARE YOUR THOUGHTS ON THE PROGRAM TODAY?
Yes, I absolutely still follow the team and program. I usually come back to campus for at least one game a year. I’m excited about the potential of the program and Coach Basti’s commitment to unlocking that potential. I look forward to when the program wins the NEC tournament and gets an AQ bid to compete in the NCAA tournament.

AS A PIONEER CLUB MEMBER, WHY DO YOU THINK IT’S IMPORTANT TO GIVE BACK TO SHU?
Being a scholarship athlete during my tenure at Sacred Heart, it’s important to me to be able to pay that forward. The Pioneer Club is a way to give back and provides the optionality that allows me to directly support the Men’s Lacrosse Program.

WHERE DO YOU LIVE NOW AND WHAT ARE YOU UP TO THESE DAYS?
I currently live in Hicksville, N.Y. with my wife, Nicole, and our 3-year-old son, Hunter. I work as a vice president/controller for an asset management firm based in New York City called Fortress Investment Group.

DO YOU STILL KEEP IN TOUCH WITH ANY OF YOUR FORMER TEAMMATES, AND IF SO, WHO?
As I’m sure is true for most people, life certainly finds a way to get busy between family responsibilities and work obligations. But I try to make it a point to catch up with lacrosse alumni at the different events that are held throughout the year either on campus or in New York City.
On the Field

+ THE PIONEERS’ LATEST SPORTS SUCCESSES +

SHU Captures NEC Institutional GPA Award

The Department of Athletics was honored for its academic success recently, earning the 2015 Northeast Conference Institutional Academic Award. The Pioneers’ 22 NEC teams combined for a grade point average of 3.279 in 2014–15.

“It is extremely important to all of us at Sacred Heart University that our student-athletes excel at academics as well as in their chosen sports,” said University President John J. Petillo. “That our student-athletes are among the NEC leaders in GPA is a credit to their hard work as well as the balance that is encouraged by their coaches. This recognition means as much as any championship.”

In addition to the overall department award, SHU earned four NEC Team GPA Awards. Baseball (3.271), football (2.970), women’s lacrosse (3.461) and men’s tennis (3.547) posted the top cumulative GPA within the league during 2014–15.

“Congratulations to all of the nearly 800 student-athletes that comprise our Department of Athletics,” said Executive Director of Athletics Bobby Valentine. “The hard work and commitment to their academic pursuits is inspirational and truly shows their dedication to being student-athletes. This honor would not be possible without the support of the faculty and staff of Sacred Heart University, and I extend a heartfelt thank you to them for their dedication.”

Across all 31 varsity sports, the Pioneers had 51 student-athletes post a semester GPA of 4.00 during the year, with 467 earning Dean’s List recognition. In addition, 423 student-athletes were recognized with academic honors by their respective conferences.

Cooksey and Joseph Named NEC Scholar-Athletes

James Cooksey of the baseball team and Jesslyn Joseph of the women’s lacrosse team were both named Northeast Conference Spring Scholar-Athletes in their respective sports. All NEC Scholar-Athlete award winners must have earned a minimum of 60 semester hours at their institution, maintained a minimum cumulative grade point average of 3.20 and participated with distinction as a member of a varsity team.

This is Cooksey’s second consecutive honor. He completed his undergraduate degree this past semester with a 3.87 GPA while double majoring in finance and business economics. Still with a year of eligibility remaining, the relief pitcher was selected All-NEC for the second consecutive season. He led the team with seven wins, 76.0 innings pitched, a .258 opposing batting average and two saves, and also ranked in the top three with a 3.79 ERA, 45 strikeouts and 24 appearances. A two-time NEC Pitcher of the Week, Cooksey’s numbers placed him in the top eight of the NEC in each category except strikeouts.

Joseph becomes Sacred Heart’s first-ever NEC Scholar-Athlete in women’s lacrosse. The junior, majoring in business, boasts a 3.788 GPA. On the field, she shared the team lead with 34 goals, ranking seventh in the conference with an average of 2.12 per game, en route to being named First Team All-NEC. In league action, she raised her play, scoring 26 goals, which was one behind the conference leader. She was also second in points per game and shots per game, as well as third in draw controls per game, leading the team with 38 draw controls. Scoring a dozen goals in the final two games of the year, she ended her season by earning the NEC Player of the Week honors.

Along with the Scholar-Athletes, the NEC announced its Spring Academic Honor Roll, consisting of student-athletes with a 3.20 or better grade point average, as well as the Commissioner’s Honor Roll, recognizing those student-athletes with a 3.75 or better grade point average. In total, Sacred Heart had 165 student-athletes named to the Academic Honor Roll, with 46 making it onto the Commissioner’s Honor Roll.
Shu Baseball

THE PIONEERS ENDED 2015 WITH A 23–32–1 RECORD, WINNING THEIR FOURTH Northeast Conference Championship, the third in five seasons.

Trailing 4–3 entering the top of the ninth, the baseball team rallied and scored two runs. Dan Wertz completed the ninth to cap 5.1 innings of hitless relief, securing Sacred Heart the Northeast Conference Championship with a 5–4 victory over top-seeded and defending champion Bryant at Dodd Stadium.

Jayson Sullivan began the championship rally with a leadoff triple down the left field line. This set the stage for Tournament MVP Jesus Medina, who tied the game with a single over the drawn-in infield. Despite an out in the next at bat, Medina was able to move up to second on a wild pitch before Victor Sorrento came to the plate with a chance for the go-ahead base knock. Sorrento delivered, roping a single up the middle to score Medina standing up. PJ DeFilippo singled to try and extend the frame for insurance, but Bryant was able to keep the score at 5–4 entering the bottom of the ninth. Wertz would not need the insurance, sitting down the Bulldogs 1–2–3 and setting off the championship celebration.

The team opened play in the 2015 NCAA Regional Tournament with a 10–0 loss to national seventh-seeded Texas Christina. Unfortunately, despite totaling 15 hits during its bracket game against Stony Brook in Texas, including a 4–5, two-RBI day by Cody Doyle, the team could not overcome a five-run Stony Brook first inning. The season came to an end with an 11–6 loss by the Pioneers to the Seawolves in an elimination game at the Fort Worth Regional at Lupton Stadium.

Women’s Track Takes First NEC Triple Crown Since 1997

THIS SPRING, SACRED HEART WON THE 2015 Northeast Conference Outdoor Track and Field Championship. This makes the Pioneers the first team since 1997, and just the fourth team overall, to win the NEC Triple Crown, consisting of a cross country, indoor track and field and outdoor track and field NEC championship in the same season.

Emma Bolduc became the third Pioneer to claim an individual gold in the 5,000 meters, joining Elizabeth Hutchins and Kolbi Smith, to bring her point total to a SHU-high 23. Nicole Bartosch was right behind her, bringing in 22 as the only Sacred Heart athlete with three individual medals. Smith increased her point total to 20 with her second medal of the weekend.

Bolduc ran away with the 5,000-meter title, finishing with her fastest time of the season. Crossing the line in 17:13.3, she also was under the ECAC standard. Finishing next was Hutchins, who one day after winning the 10,000-meter was 10 seconds clear of third place with a time of 17:30.35. Shannon Hickey and Jennifer Hahne also brought in three top finishes, finishing ninth and eighth, respectively. The two crossed back to back in 18:20.15 and 18:21.24, respectively.

Hahne also turned in a breakthrough performance in the 1,500-meter, finishing the event with a season-best 4:40.28 en route to earning a silver medal. Rounding out the individual medal winners was Smith in the hammer throw and Mareena DiMilia in the javelin, as SHU earned 13 points in each.

The 4 x 100-meter relay team also won bronze. Ashia Wright, Angela Harrison, Elizabeth Klein and Dylan Baker qualified for the ECACs in the process, combining to finish in a season-best 47.97 seconds. ✤
#TEAMSHU Returns for 2015 CT Challenge Bike Ride

Sacred Heart University once again participated in the 11th Annual CT Challenge Bike Ride on July 24–25. The Pioneers rode as #TEAMSHU in honor of Christopher Cook, son of former Executive Director of Athletics C. Donald Cook. Christopher passed away last April after a long battle with cancer. He was a master in business at Indirect Equipment Finance at Hitachi Capital America Corporation.

The CT Challenge helped Christopher rebuild his body during his fight with cancer through the CT Challenge Center for Survivorship, which the ride helps fund. The CT Challenge helps cancer survivors live happier, healthier and longer lives, as well as assist with the well-being of caregivers.

“Last year was my first experience with the CT Challenge Bike Ride, which took place in the midst of an especially difficult period for me and my family,” said C. Donald Cook. “My son had died just a few weeks earlier, and I was not in a good place. In spite of it I rode 10 miles. For someone who hadn't been on a bike in over 50 years, it took a lot to get on that bike. I rode Chris' bike. Had he survived he would have been on it. That's all the motivation I needed.”

Cook also talked about the benefits that the CT Challenge gave him and his family. “There's no loss to compare to surviving one's child,” he said. “There's no getting over it. The next best thing is prayer and to take advantage of embracing loving, reassuring people. The CT Challenge has them in abundance. I met people who have been through it, survivors as well as those who experienced loss. Hugs from them meant everything last summer!”

He believes the staff at the Center are “the most selfless, special human beings God placed on this planet. I consider myself blessed that my life's journey intersected with theirs through the Bike Ride.”

For the 2015 CT Challenge Bike Ride, the CT Challenge awarded scholarships to college students who created a team which included Team SHU. A $10,000 scholarship is awarded to cancer survivors who attend Sacred Heart as full-time students.

This year, #TEAMSHU set a team fundraising goal of $20,000 for the 2015 CT Challenge Bike Ride, with $0.75 of every dollar raised by #TEAMSHU supporting the Sacred Heart scholarship. They have far exceeded their goal, raising over $40,000 in advance of the September 25 campaign cut-off date.
HOMECOMING 2015

SAVE THE DATES
Friday, October 16 – Sunday, October 18

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 16
Alumni Awards Ceremony & Luncheon — 12:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17
Big Red’s Beer Garden and Family BBQ — noon
Football Game — 1 p.m.
(Pioneers vs. Cornell University)

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18
Alumni Mass in the Chapel of the Holy Spirit — 12:30 p.m.

VIEW THE FULL SCHEDULE AND REGISTER FOR ALL EVENTS AT
http://alumni.sacredheart.edu/SHUHome15 | #PioneerNation | #SHUHome15
Pioneer Spirit

FROM THE DESK OF THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT

It's been a very busy summer for the Sacred Heart University Alumni Association. We have been visiting and catching up with so many alumni in their own backyards with our SHU Summer Series. From the bustle of Boston to “down the shore” in Long Branch, N.J., and several other stops in between, we were so happy to bring our Pioneer Pride to our alumni in their hometowns!

We are beginning the final year of our term with our existing Alumni Association executive board, but we are just getting started. In a continued effort to bring Sacred Heart to your hometown, I am happy to announce that we are working to establish local Alumni Association chapters and are looking for motivated alumni to get involved in their local areas.

While bringing Sacred Heart University Alumni Association events to your hometown is an important initiative to us, we must not forget how important it is to come back to campus, where we all share so many memories. Recently, I had the opportunity to visit campus with my best friend who hadn’t been there in about 15 years. I saw Pioneer Pride light up in her eyes again as she walked around and saw how much her alma mater has continued to grow. Her memories of Mass in the “old gym” and rugby on the quad flooded back to her as we walked around campus. But even as she saw the beautiful new chapel and the well-manicured grass of the quad, she also saw that 5151 Park Avenue still captured the same community spirit she recalled so fondly as a student over a decade ago.

We’ve got a busy, exciting year ahead, and while our campus continues to respond to the needs of an ever-changing world, we, the Alumni Association, are providing opportunities for a mutually beneficial relationship between our 36,000+ alumni and the University that has captured our Heart. Please join us this year for our exciting Homecoming Weekend and look for more opportunities to reconnect with The Heart in your own backyard.

Hail to SHU,

Cheryl (Janus) McCloskey ’01, ’03 MAT

Congratualtions to Our New Alumni Association Board Members

Sylvia Barchue ’05 is associate director for Clinical Operations at James J. Peters VA Medical Center in Bronx, N.Y. Barchue received her nursing degree in London, a bachelor’s degree in leadership from Sacred Heart University in 2005 and a master’s degree in organization and management with a specialization in leadership from Capella University in Minneapolis. She holds a certificate in nursing management from Fairfield University and is a graduate of the Northeast Healthcare Leadership Institute. Barchue won the University College Alumni Leadership Award from Sacred Heart University in 2013.

Andrew Borts ‘14 is a graduate of the Jack Welch College of Business. As a student, Borts double majored in finance and economics and minored in business administration. Borts is a member of the Graduate Training Program at UBS, where he currently supports equities trading for UBS’ 7,000 financial advisers nationwide. He also co-chairs the Graduate Training Program Committee for all of the Americas. Borts was a member of Sacred Heart’s men’s soccer team and currently lives in Manhattan.
This summer, the Sacred Heart University Alumni Association went on the road to host meet-ups in eight different cities for the inaugural SHU Alumni Summer Series! Happy hour events were held during the months of May, June and July, starting with a kick-off party in Red’s Pub on campus! These exciting networking opportunities brought alumni together to meet fellow Pioneers in their city. Look out for SHU in your neighborhood soon!

INTERESTED IN ORGANIZING A SACRED HEART ALUMNI EVENT IN YOUR CITY?
Contact Katie Gallagher at gallagherk2@sacredheart.edu or 203-365-4801.

IRELAND
March 30 – April 6, 2016

Connect with SHU Alumni and friends during this unique international experience!

BOOK YOUR TRIP BEFORE SEPTEMBER 30, 2015, AND SAVE $200 PER PERSON!

Contact Katie Gallagher at 203-365-4801 or gallagherk2@sacredheart.edu for more information or to book your trip!
GRADUATION IS A LIFE PASSAGE THAT SHOULD INSPIRE REFLECTION. This year’s 49th Commencement provided ample opportunities to do so, as more than 1,900 graduates heard words of wisdom and inspiration from speakers whose topics ranged from American ideals to the importance of curiosity.

University President John J. Petillo took this opportunity to remind graduates that he was inaugurated as president at the same ceremony four years ago where they were installed as freshmen. “At your installation, I strongly suggested that you use these four years to discover and be curious—about the liberal arts, your prospective profession and, most importantly, yourself,” he said. “Today’s passage is a gateway for you to continue to be curious. Be hungry for learning; build on what you have learned here. The books that you have used here should be kept as a reminder not only of what you have learned, but of what is still out there to be understood.”

George Mitchell, former U.S. senator from Maine and former senate majority leader, received an honorary Doctor of Laws degree before addressing the class of 2015. “It’s a great honor to receive this degree from such a growing and vibrant University,” he said.

Mitchell provided the students with some background on U.S. history before noting that with the collapse of Communism and the Berlin Wall, “American ideals are now valued worldwide. The United States was a great nation long before it was a military or economic power,” he said. “No person or country is perfect, but we are lucky to live in this society with all its imperfections.”

He concluded by advising students to give back throughout their lives. “You have an important role to play in preserving and improving our way of life. . . . What you do is important, but more important is how you do it. For most human beings, life is a never-ending search for respect,” he said. “There are many ways to gain respect, but none is more important than public service. The more successful you are, the more money and status you achieve, the more evident it will become that there is more to life.”

Cheryl Janus ’01, ’03 MAT, president of the SHU Alumni Association, encouraged graduates not to leave Sacred
“Values are more relevant than ever in today’s turbulent age—values that can speak to all of us, whatever our beliefs and however often we fail to live up to them. Values that Sacred Heart University stands for . . .”

— MARK THOMPSON, PRESIDENT AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER OF THE NEW YORK TIMES COMPANY

Heart behind. “As you continue your career path and take important steps into the next chapter of your life, I encourage you to always keep Sacred Heart close to your heart, remembering all of the knowledge, experience and memories it has given you over the past few years,” she said. “This is a gift that cannot ever be replaced or taken away from you, and I invite you to show your gratitude to your alma mater by attending events and wearing your SHU apparel with pride. It is never too soon or too late to come back to the Heart.”

Class President Hayley Pereira ’15 advised her classmates to “make the best of all you have been given, and continue to strive to do your best. It’s always a great day to be a Pioneer!”

Nicole Campbell, a Gales Ferry resident nursing graduate, described her SHU experience as “unbelievable. From the day I stepped on campus, it was home,” she said. “The people that I met and the warm, friendly atmosphere of a small school are not something I would have found anywhere else.”

Added Elias Gharios of Mystic, who picked up a degree in finance, “I would do it all over again exactly the same way. I love this school so much. It comes down to all the things I was able to get involved with while I was here and that I created a family here. I will miss them.”

During Saturday’s Graduate Commencement, the keynote speaker was Mark Thompson, president and chief executive officer of The New York Times Company. He compared today’s time of bewildering change and fragmentation with the period described in Hilary Mantel’s Wolf Hall trilogy and the adaptation that recently aired on PBS. “Businesses, public institutions, families and individuals find themselves confronting opportunities and threats that didn’t exist 10, even five years ago.”

He shared some of the changes that The New York Times has experienced, noting that while the newspaper has more subscribers than ever because of the digital pay model launched in 2011, revenue from classified ads has dwindled by more than 90 percent. “Without constant big bets, we would soon be history,” he said.

Thompson also told the graduates that if they want to be successful in today’s environment, they will need skills in addition to expertise, talent, focus, a willingness to work hard and ambition. They will also need adaptability, resilience and to know what they stand for. “Values are more relevant than ever in today’s turbulent age—values that can speak to all of us, whatever our beliefs and however often we fail to live up to them. Values that Sacred Heart University stands for,” he added.

Thompson was also presented with an Honorary Doctor of Laws degree.

Milford resident Martha DeFeo, who received her MBA from SHU’s Jack Welch College of Business, said the things she learned at Sacred Heart have already been valuable at her job at Energizer in Milford. “The capstone project that combined the various disciplines was especially helpful,” she said. “It helped me understand the needs of the other departments at my job and the importance of all of us working together.”

> WATCH VIDEOS FROM BOTH CEREMONIES.
> VIEW THE PHOTO GALLERY.

Nursing grads lined the Edgerton stage during the annual pinning ceremony.
The professors. The connections. The small class sizes. The opportunities. These are some of the many qualities which have drawn students to Sacred Heart University over the years. Megan Pathoomvanh applied before she even toured the campus, having been interested in SHU because of its physical therapy program. “Once I toured the campus, I knew I loved it based on its tight-knit community and evolving features,” she says. Pathoomvanh was eventually advised to major in athletic training to better prepare her for the PT program. As she matriculated through the program, she “gained knowledge, respect and a passion for athletic training” that led her to stick with this new career path.

After graduating from Sacred Heart last year, Pathoomvanh moved to Norfolk, Va., where she is currently pursuing her master’s degree in athletic training at Old Dominion University. She recently submitted an article to the *Journal of Sports Rehabilitation* and hopes to publish several others, including research on chronic ankle instability. In addition to her didactic work, she is also the head athletic trainer at Norview High School where she provides medical coverage for all sports including football, field hockey, volleyball, cross country, track, basketball, wrestling, baseball, softball, tennis and soccer. Her training at Sacred Heart has given her the skills to create individual treatment and rehabilitation plans for athletes with injuries. Pathoomvanh notes that her favorite part of the postgraduate experience has been building a trustworthy foundation for her students to come to her with any problems, not just physical issues. “I have fostered wonderful relationships with these students,” she says, “and they make my job worthwhile.”

In addition to academic rigor and specialized studies, Sacred Heart University also offers students the opportunity to participate in service-learning and medical mission trips, something Franly Rosario took advantage of when he traveled to Guatemala. Having studied occupational therapy, Rosario said that this trip allowed him to put into practice the skills he learned both in and out of the classroom. “The experience reminded me that first and foremost I am part of this profession because I genuinely enjoy helping people,” he says, a message SHU strives to instill in the entire student body. Today, Rosario is a full-time occupational therapist at Mount Sinai Roosevelt in New York City. He works within the acute rehabilitation inpatient department helping patients gain the functional skills necessary for them to return.
home safely. His master's degree in occupational therapy from SHU included fieldwork opportunities that gave him the knowledge to apply these skills in a real-world clinical setting as an occupational therapist.

Like Rosario, Taylor Lane was also impacted by her experiences at Sacred Heart. After receiving her master's degree in teaching at the Griswold campus, she starts student teaching this fall at the Joel School in Clinton. "I am so thankful for the five-year education program at SHU," she says—a program that brought her back to her own high school in Griswold. Along with her passion for education, Lane found a love of service during her time at SHU. In the past year, she went on two volunteer trips to Guatemala to help an organization called Viamistad provide recreational experiences to children and adults with special needs. "It was the most beautiful place I have ever been to because of all the love, culture and deep human connection that I experienced," she marvels. "I think SHU prepared me for this life-changing journey, because my professors always stressed the importance of service and the joy it can bring into your life."

During her time at SHU, she founded the Sacred Heart chapter of HerCampus.com, an online magazine targeted at the female college student demographic. She credits Professor Michelle Loris for being a major influence on her during her years at SHU. "She taught me what it takes to succeed and how to be the best I can be," Brendan says. "Professor Brown taught me invaluable lessons that I will always remember, and I would like to thank him for that." Stokes is currently finishing a master's in business administration with a concentration in finance and will soon take his test to become a certified public accountant. He is scheduled to start work as an auditor for the accounting firm of BlumShapiro in January 2016. This past May, he assisted in a leadership program for rising juniors entitled Dare to Lead that gives participants a glimpse into the life of an accountant.

Brendan Stokes also recognizes one of his professors for preparing him for the real world in many ways. He studied accounting as an undergraduate student and has always "enjoyed the connection with the professors who I could truly go to for help and assistance," he comments. One such professor is Stephen Brown in the Welch College of Business. "He taught me what it takes to succeed and how to be the best I can be," Brendan says. "Professor Brown taught me invaluable lessons that I will always remember, and I would like to thank him for that." Stokes is currently finishing a master's in business administration with a concentration in finance and will soon take his test to become a certified public accountant. He is scheduled to start work as an auditor for the accounting firm of BlumShapiro in January 2016. This past May, he assisted in a leadership program for rising juniors entitled Dare to Lead that gives participants a glimpse into the life of an accountant.

Stokes notes that SHU has changed “drastically” since he began as a freshman, yet it continues to help students thrive academically and professionally. He praises the success of the Martire building and its new technology, which “will greatly help students with group work and projects.” He is excited to continue down his career path and thanks SHU for its many opportunities, adding: “My time at Sacred Heart has definitely impacted me for the better.”
Opening of Martire Business & Communications Center Celebrated

APPROXIMATELY 100 LOCAL DIGNITARIES, TRUSTEES, SPECIAL GUESTS AND FRIENDS, along with about 300 students, faculty and staff from the Sacred Heart University community, gathered on March 14, 2015, to celebrate the grand opening of the Frank and Marisa Martire Business & Communications Center on the corner of Park Avenue and Jefferson Street. The building will house the University’s prestigious Jack Welch College of Business (WCOB) and rapidly growing Department of Communication & Media Studies.

The building is named for the Martires in appreciation of their years of service and leadership at Sacred Heart, as well as a multimillion-dollar philanthropic commitment to the University. Frank Martire is a 1969 graduate of SHU and vice chairman of SHU’s Board of Trustees. He is chairman and CEO of FIS (Financial Information Systems). He and Marisa reside in Ponte Vedra Beach, Fla., and also have a home in Connecticut where they raised their family.

The building offers state-of-the-art facilities that include an active trading floor; dedicated conference rooms for business meetings and internships; screening venues; “smart” classrooms with multimedia technology; satellite equipment and movable furniture for various learning configurations; a multimedia forum for leadership institutes, lectures and screenings; interactive labs, including a motion capture lab for motion picture animation and video game design; two large television studios for TV, video and film production; and a radio station. The building was designed by Sasaki Associates—the same firm that designed the University’s award-winning Chapel of the Holy Spirit and Linda E. McMahon Commons.

“I cannot begin to express the gratitude that the University community owes to Frank and Marisa. They are generous and forward-thinking. We are incredibly lucky that they saw what we were trying to achieve and wanted to be a part of it,” said SHU President John J. Petillo. He also encouraged the students in attendance to spend a lot of time in the Martire Center and “be curious in this building.”

“The Frank and Marisa Martire Business & Communications Center is designed to provide students with topnotch facilities and the latest technologies, so they can master everything from business fundamentals to trading room skills, accounting basics to global savvy,” said John Chalykoff, dean of the WCOB. “Ultimately, our goal is to help our business students build a resume that will attract top employers from around the world.”

A highlight for business students will be the active trading floor, which includes 30 workstations; 13 Bloomberg terminals; eight 42” LCD screens; eight LCD wallboard tickertapes displaying market information, news headlines and real-time data from the NASDAQ and the NYSE; LCD display monitors for group presentations; televisions providing up-to-the-minute financial news; an executive conference room for meetings; breakout rooms where students can work on team assignments; and a team study area. There are also videoconferencing links to SHU’s European campus in Luxembourg.

“Our Department of Communication & Media Studies is dedicated to developing the next generation of leaders who hope to impact how we create, promote and manage media,” said Robin Cautin, dean of the College of Arts & Sciences. “We combine the social and cultural analysis of media and communication technologies with media production, including digital video, broadcast and print journalism, television, radio, photography, sports media, advertising, public relations and digital multimedia. The new facilities, technology and equipment will allow our students to go out into the marketplace trained in the most up-to-date methods. We are extremely
grateful to the Martires and all the donors for their generosity and their support of our students.”

The building will offer the following amenities especially for students in the communications and media studies program:

• Television station and media facilities designed to give students valuable professional experiences. Facilities include two full-size studios, one flash studio with a robotic camera, two control rooms, two media labs and two screening rooms. In addition, both the forum and the media theater are wired to the control rooms, enabling students to produce professional multi-camera, live-streamed programs.

• A motion capture lab that will be used for animation and game development and to teach actors in the new theater program how to act for animation.

• A radio station with state-of-the-art Wheatstone boards, a master control for the station with a booth for the talent and a secondary sound edit and recording suite for radio programming.

Following a video, the official unveiling of the building name and a formal program that included performances by SHU student musicians and remarks from the Martires, guests were treated to a tour of the building. The Town of Fairfield also proclaimed March 14 as Frank and Marisa Martire Day.

The Martires are excited about the building and what it will provide for SHU students. “There are so many different functions; it will have so many uses. A state-of-the-art building like this puts Sacred Heart in a position to be second to none,” Frank Martire said.

Marisa Martire emphasized how important it was to her and her husband to do something that would positively impact students. “It’s not about us. We hope you will enjoy the time you spend in this building and will benefit from it,” she said. §

> VIEW PHOTOS OF THE EVENT ON FLICKR.
Sacred Heart University hosted its 26th Annual Discovery Gala on Saturday, March 28, in the new Frank and Marisa Martire Business & Communications Center on SHU’s Fairfield campus. Over the past two decades, SHU’s Discovery Gala has raised millions of dollars for student financial aid to provide an opportunity for students who might otherwise be unable to attend Sacred Heart. This year, the event raised more than $550,000 for Sacred Heart’s scholarship programs.

The Gala gave guests an opportunity to see the newly dedicated Martire building. It was transformed into an Art Deco night club, bringing friends of the University together to enjoy delicious food, spirits and live music, which evolved from light jazz at cocktail hour to a full dance band. Guests took a break from dancing the night away to participate in interactive, hands-on tours of the building that included lots of fun surprises as they “discovered” the state-of-the-art facilities built for SHU students.

This year’s honoree was Ravi Singh, who was hailed as a “pioneer in business and communications”—a fitting recipient for the first Gala in the new building. Singh is president of TruMid Financial LLC, an electronic bond trading firm. His notable career in the investment banking industry includes a term as managing director and head of alternative investments globally in the asset management division of Credit Suisse. This followed 19 years with Goldman Sachs where he headed the prime brokerage business and served as partner. A graduate of Columbia University, Singh has influenced the communications industry through his affiliation with Magic Pictures International. He is a trustee of Barnard College and serves on the boards of the Dwight School Foundation, ALLY Foundation, YOGASMOGA and Headland Strategic.

Guests also heard from Michaela Albano ’15, who was the grateful recipient of funds from SHU’s scholarship programs. She graduated in May with a double major in business administration and economics with a concentration in international business. She started the Lespwa – Hope for Haiti Club at SHU, which organizes volunteer trips there to help those in need. She herself has been traveling back and forth between Haiti and the U.S. since she was 14, working on sustainability and development in one of the villages. During her winter break this year, she went to Bangladesh to work in an orphanage as part of a SHU service learning trip. She is one of many scholarship students who were on hand to mingle with guests and share their gratitude for the funds provided by the Gala.
Pioneer Open: Another Win for Scholarships

The 26th Annual Pioneer Open Golf Tournament took place on June 22 at the prestigious Stanwich Club in Greenwich. Over the past two decades, the Pioneer Open has raised millions of dollars for financial aid, providing opportunities for students who might otherwise not be able to attend Sacred Heart. Alumni and friends of the University enjoyed a memorable day of championship golf on the challenging greenways of Stanwich’s legendary course.

Citi Field Fundraiser a Home Run for SHU Baseball

The baseball team hosted a special fundraiser at Citi Field, home of the New York Mets, on August 15, featuring a game against the Pirates, a meet-n-greet with Executive Director of Athletics Bobby Valentine and a performance by R&B artist Ne-Yo following the game. Guests enjoyed the view from the Honda Clubhouse Suite. All proceeds from the event went to the baseball program.

ABOVE Bobby Valentine on the field before the start of the game. LEFT Bobby Valentine with baseball parent Jim Cooksey. RIGHT Baseball coach Nick Giaquinto, center, with former SHU baseball players Fred Mead, left, and Bill Foglio.
Sacred Heart University’s common core stands as one of the institution’s signature pieces, and those of us who teach in the program are charged with introducing both the content and the principles that constitute the Catholic intellectual tradition (CIT).

What follows is but a snippet of a longer piece I wrote to provide some articulation of how my sections of the capstone courses in the Human Journey common core can be both a reflection of and a contribution to the CIT.
Fundamentally, the CIT is a communicative process that provides ways of thinking and behaving. In this process, how we go about communicating is just as important as the content, the what, that is communicated. A primary concern for me is this recognition that the CIT is about a means of transmission rather than the specifics of what is handed on. This process possesses a number of characteristics that serve to keep it adaptable. Two of them directly concern what I try to do in my course.

The CIT is characterized by an “analogical” imagination that can be contrasted with a “digital” imagination. The analogical seeks to find similarities and points of unity between apparently discordant things, be they events, peoples, stories, etc. It refuses to exclude and opts for “both/and” when confronted with a dilemma. The digital prefers an “either/or” response. Such inclusivity automatically expands the realm of the CIT.

The second characteristic is a sense of universal hope. The CIT maintains a resolute conviction that no matter the circumstances, there is hope for everyone, everywhere. No matter how bleak, nothing is beyond redemption. Given these characteristics, how does the CIT find expression in my classroom?

We read various texts. Some have an obvious place in the CIT, but the inclusion of others into some sort of Catholic “canon” is less certain. How does one make a case, for instance, for the Epic of Gilgamesh, a 3,000-year-old poem from Mesopotamia? At first glance, it does not appear characteristically “Catholic”; yet it can be sheltered under the CIT when read and utilized in a particular way. The story of Gilgamesh is not a happy one. It is a tale of transformation but not resolution. The son of a high priest and a minor goddess of wisdom, Gilgamesh is the semi-divine ruler of Uruk, an independent city-state in ancient Mesopotamia. Two-thirds god and one-third human, he is described as having the perfect body and as being jaw-droppingly handsome. Despite (or perhaps because of) his unique genealogy, Gilgamesh is a terrible ruler. He abuses the citizens of Uruk for his own personal pleasure, beating up all the men and taking to bed all the women. When we first meet him, Gilgamesh is defined by his indulgence in sex and violence. The question the text wants us to ask is “Why?”

In response to the lament of Uruk’s beleaguered people, the gods fashion a rival for Gilgamesh, another semi-divine being named Enkidu, who can match the fierce king’s abilities and thereby distract him from his abusive behavior. As it happens, the two quickly develop a strong fraternal bond. They go on numerous adventures and accumulate much glory and fame. Their hubris, however, insults the gods, who then decide that Enkidu must die. His death is neither swift nor heroic, and Gilgamesh agonizes as his companion lingers for days.

Enkidu’s death is a crisis moment for Gilgamesh. For the first time death enters his consciousness. His awareness of his own context is suddenly filled with ominous dread. He now has to decide how to respond. Disoriented by the loss of his friend, Gilgamesh chooses to flee, but only to procure what he needs to mount an attack. His opponent is mortality, and the weapon he needs is in the possession of Utnapishtim, the only mortal man ever granted immortality by the gods. But Utnapishtim lives far away in a mysterious garden of delight frequented only by the gods. Fueled by his conviction that he is too great to suffer the fate of ordinary men, Gilgamesh undergoes an arduous journey to arm himself with whatever knowledge Utnapishtim can share so that he may defeat death.

Over the course of his quest, a transformation begins to occur. Gilgamesh is weakened and humiliated by the task so that he becomes a shadow of his former, formidable self. Just before he eventually finds Utnapishtim, he receives some advice from Siduri, a goddess of wine. She counsels him that his quest is futile and that he should go home and care for a wife and children. Gilgamesh is not about to give up, so he pushes on and confronts Utnapishtim. The immortal is thoroughly unimpressed with Gilgamesh’s continued bravado and his now less-than-attractive physical appearance. As a result, Gilgamesh never does learn how to attain immortality, but Utnapishtim gives him something of a consolation prize. He tells him where to find a small plant that does not grant immortality, but does make one young again. After finding the plant, Gilgamesh heads back to Uruk, deciding to share it with the city elders before eating some himself. This detail is rather telling. It hints at the possibility that the tyrant king may be changing. Perhaps his concerns are beginning to expand beyond his own desires.

Not long after setting out, Gilgamesh stops to refresh himself and lays down his prized possession to bathe in the cool waters of a natural spring. Unseen in the depths below, a serpent is roused by the scent of the magical plant. It rises up onto the bank, whereupon it gobbles up the hard-won flora and is instantly transformed into a baby snake. Gilgamesh is devastated. He drops to his knees, tears streaming down his face. He cries out, “Was it for this that I toiled with my hands, is it for this I have wrung out my heart’s blood? I have nothing.” Heartbroken, he has lost the one glimmer of hope he had to face his greatest opponent. Gilgamesh decides to go home. There is no expression of rage against the snake or the gods. There is no “woe is me” pathos in the vein of the great Greek tragedies. There is no resolution moment in which Gilgamesh comes to realize and reconcile his mortality. It is as if he can do naught but acquiesce. I would argue that it is in this moment that he perceives the human condition at its bleakest and is dumbfounded.

The CIT maintains a resolute conviction that no matter the circumstances, there is hope for everyone, everywhere. No matter how bleak, nothing is beyond redemption.
But what has all this to do with the CIT? Let us recall that the CIT has never been averse to adopting and reworking various elements from other traditions, be they practices, ideas or stories. This ought to be especially true if such elements further enquiry into the enigma of human life. If the “both/and” emphasis within the tradition can enculturate the gospel as the mission spectrum expands, let us “baptize” the Epic of Gilgamesh. We do so not with a mind to improve it or to make it acceptable to read, but to make available its inherent wisdom. Additionally, if the CIT is primarily a “how,” not a “what,” then how we teach the Epic makes it possible to include it.

The Epic of Gilgamesh communicates subtly, employing a masterful use of irony. Uncovering its subtleties requires a concerted effort on the part of the reader, a willingness to suspend the digital imagination and plug in the analog. For me, the myth ranks among the greats because of the complexity of its characters and its unrelenting vision of a lack of order, sense, purpose and justice in the cosmos. The Catholic tradition has its fair share of complex characters, but it does not share the pessimism that drips from the pages of the Epic. That said, we’ve all been there. Gilgamesh can be an “every person.” His sense of frustration and confusion is ours.

The existential angst precipitated by the death of Enkidu is a sudden awareness of the immanence of the human condition. I would contend, though, that this angst had been with him from the beginning, but he ignored its presence and smothered its implications. Why does King Gilgamesh indulge in sex and violence? Could it be that these two physical activities raise him above his lingering one-third mortal self, albeit for just a short time? In them, he loses himself and draws close to that which transcends; he approaches the divine. And for Gilgamesh, an in-between being, approaching the divine presents the possibility of wholeness. His conquests in the bedroom and on the battlefield provide some sense of validation, a momentary stay against chaos. While engaging in these activities he is free, and the latent angst is overpowered.

Enkidu was the one person close to being Gilgamesh’s equal and therefore best able to silence the death knell. When he dies, Gilgamesh can no longer hide from or drown out the awareness of what I call his “context.” He gets an inkling of who he is in relation to the cosmic drama of life. The shadow of death finally eclipses his heart. But because of his nature and long years compensating, he reacts childishly, violently taking out his frustrations on those around him and heading off to find Utnapishtim and a way out. Awareness of context demands a response. This is a key concern for me. How does one authentically respond to the common lot of humanity?

One can find many answers to this question in the CIT, but again, the CIT is not about providing answers as much as a means for asking questions. It offers an abundance of resources for the serious-minded to begin dealing with ultimate concerns like death. But the awareness of context has to come first for an authentic response to follow. In every story we read in my class, the main character(s) faces a crisis moment (or moments) followed by a moment of choice. The crisis moment reveals the context, which then necessitates a response. Some dreaded revelation marks a turning point.

It is not until the snake steals his prize that Gilgamesh finally gets it. His lack of defiance or determination to go back for another plant is suggestive of an awareness of the futility of his predicament. This is one way we can understand the narrative from the point of view of the CIT. It is also a good starting point, for an awareness of the perception of futility is in the purview of the CIT, a tradition that also provides a means to begin responding authentically to such a perception.

Gilgamesh goes home a beaten man living in a gloomy and chaotic world, a sentiment that is at odds with the vision of the CIT. But there is one further subtle detail we should note. The final tablet in the Gilgamesh epic recounts the praises the citizens of Uruk heap upon their now-deceased king. In one telling line, we read, “they laid out their offerings; his dear wife, his son, his concubine, his musicians, his jester, and all his household.” Could it be that there is some reason for hope in this story of a man screwed over by the universe to such an extent that he can find no strength and no words to respond? Could it be that Gilgamesh did, in the wake of his devastation, choose to take Siduri’s advice after all? In accord with the sense of universal hope constituent to the CIT, just maybe there is a small glimmer of hope in this story. We cannot make too much of it, but the possibility exists that Gilgamesh may have responded to the threat of mortality in the nurturing environment of family. At the very least, his story survives the death experience.

This brings us back to the importance of narrative. We are a species that communicates through narrative. We enjoy telling and hearing stories. My students may enjoy reading some of our stories, but they all-too-frequently forget that they are part of their own narratives. If I can get them to consider who it is they are and where it is they have come from, it prompts them to consider who they want to be and what they want to stand for. This, I would argue, is a central concern of the CIT and a vital component of the education we try to offer at Sacred Heart University. If understood as a process, the CIT provides the means and the critical vantage point from which undergraduates at Catholic institutions can begin to consider the fundamental questions of human experience.
Lynn Sussina (MBA) is vice president/credit risk manager of the Savings Bank of Danbury.

Dave Boone entered his 12th year as head writer for the Tony Awards.

Donald Macrino (MAT) is headmaster of St. Bernard School in Uncasville.

Michael Malota joined Strovis as CFO.

Richard Cochran traveled back to Ireland after participating in an Irish History & Literature Study Tour at Trinity College with SHU 30 years ago.

Kieran McGirl ’15 is NESN’s Next Producer

“Ever since I was a little kid, it was my dream to be a filmmaker,” says Kieran McGirl ’15, who recalls that dream being inspired while he was watching Charlie Chaplin on a portable DVD player in an airport. “I was enamored by the fact that these old silent films were still relevant, still engaging, still beautiful,” he says. “From that day on, I knew I wanted to tell stories and entertain people.”

McGirl—winner of the NESN Next Producer contest—is now living that dream, and he credits the individual attention from his Sacred Heart professors for helping him achieve success. Two professors in particular had an impact on McGirl. Professor Greg Golda, who served as McGirl’s adviser in the Communication & Media Studies Department, “took me under his wing throughout my time at Sacred Heart,” McGirl says. The other, Professor Andrew Miller, introduced McGirl to the New England Sports Network’s (NESN) film contest.

The contest called for contestants to make films, with the winner being showcased on NESN and earning a prize of $20,000. “I realized I had an awesome story right in front of me,” says McGirl. The story revolved around his high school friend and ice hockey phenom, Johnny Gaudreau. Drafted by the Calgary Flames, Gaudreau won a scholarship to play ice hockey at Boston College and became known as college hockey’s best overall player.

There were many obstacles to filming The Rise of Johnny Hockey, but McGirl hurdled them all. For instance, he needed the rights to Gaudreau’s first NHL game, and when the NHL Network’s offices wouldn’t return his calls, “I walked down to the offices and said I wouldn’t leave until someone responded to my call or came down to see me.” He got the rights.

For the finale of NESN Next Producer, it came down to McGirl and a team from Boston University for the grand prize. Unexpectedly, the judges split it, giving the BU team the money and internships, while offering McGirl a plum job. He now works as an Original NESN Entertainment Producer on documentaries featuring members of the Boston Red Sox. His career success is buoyed by his time at Sacred Heart—where his talent and passion met support and opportunity.

> VIEW McGIRL’S FILM ON YOUTUBE.
Alice Ferreira ’91 Earns Top Leadership Award from Bridgeport Regional Business Council

Leadership Greater Bridgeport, an affiliate of the Bridgeport Regional Business Council, presented the first annual Jayne Kuchma Leadership Greater Bridgeport Alumni Award to Alice Ferreira ’91 at their Annual Meeting and Commencement on June 11.

Ferreira serves as the vice president of communications for United Healthcare Community and State. She has spent more than 20 years in communications, working in education, television and health care, and has earned industry awards for public relations and crisis communication.

Over two decades of community service, she has also dedicated her time, skills and knowledge to many exceptional nonprofit organizations. She currently serves on the board of directors for the Connecticut and Rhode Island chapters of the American Red Cross; the Kennedy Center, a rehabilitation center for disabled children and adults; and the Barnum Museum, a National Register Historical Site and museum dedicated to the life of P.T. Barnum.

In addition, Ferreira helped found Sensitivity Day in the Trumbull public schools. This is an opportunity for students to be exposed to the challenges of various physical and learning disabilities through hands-on learning programs and other avenues for increasing awareness of those with disabilities. She is the recipient of a 2007 Alumni Achievement Award from Sacred Heart.

Jayne Kuchma, for whom the leadership award is named, was a graduate of Leadership Greater Bridgeport Class 14 and served as a board member for that organization. A lifelong area resident, she demonstrated her commitment to the region in countless ways. Professionally, her work with her family’s real estate development firm, Kuchma Corporation, had a tremendous impact on Bridgeport. Like Ferreira, Kuchma also believed in giving back to her community. She held numerous positions in her church and volunteered to help others in a variety of ways.

A press release announcing Ferreira as the first recipient of the Kuchma Award described her this way: “Alice’s efforts are tireless, compassionate and true to her caring nature. Every organization that is touched by her knowledge and kindness has flourished and grown deeper as a vibrant source of charity and learning. Always behind the scenes, Alice is the voice of clarity and humility, always setting the bar at the level that best serves the lives of the community, and always ready to envision the future.”

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1991
Andres Ayala (’03 MAT) was approved as the commissioner of the Connecticut Department of Motor Vehicles.

Frank Bramble (MAT) had his artwork displayed at the David M. Hunt Library in Falls Village.

1993
Vince Scarpetti was named superintendent of the Orange School District.

1996
Suzanne Greco is president of Subway Restaurants.

1997
William Hull (6th Year), superintendent of Putnam School District, has been named the University of Connecticut Neag School of Education’s Superintendent of the Year.

Kathleen Souza-Pontes (MAT) wrote a children’s book entitled August Skies.

1998
Laura Butcaris is regional supervisor of Elements Fitness in Tampa, Fla.

Arthur Gerckens was elected president of the Derby Board of Aldermen.

1999
Joseph Ragonese (’03 MBA), senior property manager at Berger Commercial Realty, was listed in “Who’s Who in Palm Beach County Business” by the Palm Beach Post.

2001
Joe Petreyck wrote a book entitled Pump It Up: Exercise Your Heart to Health!

2003
Justin Liberman was included in Connecticut Magazine’s 2015 “40 under 40” listing.

2004
MaryAnn Bonnacci was promoted to relationship manager in commercial lending for TD Bank in Wilton.

Christopher R. Wermuth (MAT, ’12 6th Year) is principal of Long Meadow Elementary School in Middlebury.

2005
Michele Johnson was promoted to senior vice president at Bankwell Financial Group in New Canaan.
2006

Jeffrey Burt (6th Year) was named assistant superintendent of teaching and learning in Milford.

Kelsea Hale, a supervising senior at Nathan Wechsler & Company in Concord, N.H., joined the New Futures board of directors.

Tina Lesser was promoted to corporate director of quality and patient safety for Valley Health Systems in Holyoke, Mass.

Robert Pescatore (12 MSCS) was a winner of the “Capture the Flag” competition at the U.S. Cyber Challenge (USCC) Eastern Regional Cyber Camp.

2007

Sarah Cyr’s artwork was featured at Whitemore Library in Naugatuck.

Keely Backus (MAT) was recognized as Norwich’s 2015 Teacher of the Year.

2008

Stephen Winter, vice president of commercial leasing at Related Companies, was featured in the Commercial Observer magazine.

Susan Czapala (6th Year) is principal at Silas Deane Middle School in Wethersfield.

Corey Iamonico is an athletic trainer at Staples High School in Westport.

Scott Trungadi (MAT) is assistant principal at Central Middle School in Greenwich.

2009

Shannon Bush (MAT) was named assistant coach for the women’s basketball team at Siena College.

2010

Mark DiSanto (’13 MS) published an article in the February 2015 issue of Strength and Conditioning Journal.

Jeffrey Heppner received the Watson Award, given in recognition of selfless service, at graduation from U.S. Army basic training in Fort Sill, Okla.

Sheila Marmion (MSOT) was selected as District 6 selectman by the Fairfield Democratic Town Committee.

2011

Allegre De Vita was the New England Region winner for the Metropolitan Opera National Council Audition.

Eric William Silva was ordained a deacon for the Diocese of Bridgeport in June.

Taylor Pettit graduated from the Albany Medical College physician’s assistant (PA) program and will be a PA with Albany Medical Center EmUrgentCare Center.

2012

Paul Brown (’14 MS) was named the new fitness manager at Meadow Ridge, a senior living community in Redding.

Kelly Straniti is the 2015 Republican nominee for mayor of Norwalk.

2013

Dana Juron (’07) and Andrew Juron (’07) welcomed a daughter, Penelope Rue Juron.

Ashley Lewis (’09) and Kyle Lewis (’10) welcomed a son, Sean Michael, on January 1, 2015.

2014

Thomas Burke is a graduate student at Yale University’s Divinity School and actively involved with Team RWB, a community-based organization helping veterans adjust to being home from duty.

Eric Williams (6th Year) was named assistant principal at New Milford High School.

2015

Detective John Knoche (MACJ) was promoted to sergeant in the Ridgefield Police Department.

Jason Lehmann (6th Year) was appointed principal of East Hampton Middle School.

Nicole Moran (MSN) was appointed director of hospice and palliative care for the new VNA & Hospice of the Southwest Region in Bennington, Vt.

2016

Detective John Knoche (MACJ) was promoted to sergeant in the Ridgefield Police Department.

Jason Lehmann (6th Year) was appointed principal of East Hampton Middle School.

Nicole Moran (MSN) was appointed director of hospice and palliative care for the new VNA & Hospice of the Southwest Region in Bennington, Vt.

Births

Beth Aiuto (’08) and Chris Aiuto (’08) welcomed their new baby this past winter.

Nicole Ferro (’07) and Justin Coughlin (’08, ’09 MBA) welcomed a baby in mid-November 2014.

2017

Christina Bologna (’12) to Chuck Marcelin (’13). They will wed October 1, 2016.

Tracie McClure (’01) welcomed a son, David John McClure, on October 17, 2014.

Engagements

Christina Bologna (’12) to Chuck Marcelin (’13). They will wed October 1, 2016.

Nicole Ferro (’07) and Justin Coughlin (’08, ’09 MBA) welcomed a baby in mid-November 2014.

Births

Beth Aiuto (’08) and Chris Aiuto (’08) welcomed their new baby this past winter.

Nicole Ferro (’07) and Justin Coughlin (’08, ’09 MBA) welcomed a baby in mid-November 2014.

2018

Molly Weir to Dan DuVall (’08). They will wed October 10, 2015.

Christina Fanelli (’08) to Bryce Mitchell (’08). They will wed April 30, 2016.

Deirdre Finnegan (’09) to Daniel Kelly. They will wed November 20.

Erin Haynes (’11) to Mike Lunderville. They will wed July 23, 2016.

Abby Hecht (’09) to Bobby Aanonsen (’09). They will wed May 29, 2016.

Lisa Illinger (’09, ’11 DPT) to Uday Rajaram.

Cheryl Janus (’01, ’03 MAT) to Ryan McCloskey.
Lauren Viola to Zach Lane ('11). They will wed July 16, 2016.

Alana Marchesi ('07) to Frank Fortunato. They will wed January 17, 2016.

Jenna Morales ('08, '12 MS) to Christopher Seirup. They will wed April 3, 2016.

Allyson Nevins ('12) to Mike Oberlander ('11). They will wed April 30, 2016.

Amanda Pinto ('12) to Simo Kraguljac. They will wed November 7.

Ashley Savage ('10) to Adam Petrasovic ('10). They will wed October 10.


Theresa Larkin ('08, '09 MAT) wed Richard Deecken ('08) in the Chapel of the Holy Spirit on July 11, 2015.

Erica Wark wed Corey Laursen ('08, '10 MBA) on July 11, 2015, in Toronto.

Amanda Pinto ('12) to Simo Kraguljac. They will wed November 7.

Laura Scaglione ('08) to Kyle Smith ('09).

Nicole Scalise ('13, '14 MAT) to Mario Valenti ('11).

Cara September ('09) to David Kent Mills.


Jessica Smith ('13) wed Jeffrey Keffer on August 22, 2015.

Felicia Neuber wed Michael Tarantino ('08, '10 MBA) on June 5, 2015.

IN MEMORIAM
— WE REMEMBER OUR FALLEN PIONEERS —

James Cody '75
Ruth Green ‘86
Michael Harris ’73–’78
Patricia A. Kennedy ’74
Linda Kiyak ’98
Marcia Kleinman ’95 MAT
Donald Laudano ’74
Joan Marie Mantone ’90
Christopher Nielsen ’78
Vivian Phelan ’72
Deborah Jean Post ’73
Diane (Dede) Quin-Cortez ’91
Deacon Timothy Sullivan ’71
Carol Wantman ’02 (6th Year)

Marriages
TOP Andi Coiro ('08) wed Andre Geraghty ('09) on May 22, 2015.
MIDDLE Jaqueline Stephens ('08, '11 MSOT) wed Christopher Carr ('10, '12 MAT) on May 24, 2015.
BOTTOM Lizzie Lemire wed Chuck Ristano ('04) in the Basilica of the Sacred Heart at the University of Notre Dame on November 1, 2014.