The Season That Changed Us Forever

Men’s Basketball: 1988-89

THE COACH AND THE SOCCER STAR AT THE OLYMPICS

BYTE-SIZE LESSONS
SETON HALL
Fall 2008
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In 1989, the NCAA Championship slipped away from the Pirates by the closest of margins. A look back at the drama of that momentous season.

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How the University is increasing the exchange of faculty, students and ideas across international borders.

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Bryan Terry
The Power of Dialogue

I’ll never forget the words of a senior United Nations diplomat who visited campus several years ago: “There are two kinds of people, those who accept differences and those who don’t.” A quick survey of world history will verify that the root of so many conflicts — whether political, cultural or religious — is to be found in this formulation.

It seems to me that the question is not how we see differences; rather, what do such differences mean, and how, then, do we trust one another? Seton Hall has had a unique mission — to bridge such differences and to answer those questions.

In 1953, Seton Hall was the very first American university to establish a center for dialogue between Christians and Jews. This was the result of the visionary efforts of a number of talented professors, and in particular of two who have gone before us: Monsignor John Oesterreicher and Sister Rose Thering. Fifty-five years later we see their mark on our Jewish-Christian studies department and on our world.

Their work continues.

I think of Pope Paul VI’s words about dialogue in 1964. He said that “the transcendent origin” of dialogue “is found in the very plan of God.” He urged us to expand our consideration of dialogue as a method of achieving unity among peoples and faiths. In dialogue “one discovers how different are the ways which lead to the light of faith, and how it is possible to make them converge on the same goal.”

We engage in dialogue in many ways. One of the most important is the core curriculum that will put all Seton Hall students “on the same page” with each other and equip them to engage more fully in the world of ideas. This academic program has already begun to transform the experience of both the newly arrived students and the faculty who have signed on to teach the courses.

In May, I visited Yad Vashem, the Holocaust memorial in Jerusalem, which honored Sister Rose. With me was a delegation from Seton Hall that included faculty, students, benefactors and the University’s dear friend Luna Kaufman, herself a Holocaust survivor. We were there during Israel’s 60th anniversary celebration, and we saw so many fruits of Oesterreicher and Thering — of their bold planting of the seeds of dialogue.

The mission continues.

And it continues in new and exciting ways thanks to today’s dedicated scholars. One sterling example of the work being done today is Rabbi Alan Brill. The rabbi and a number of Seton Hall’s most generous benefactors — Leon and Toby Cooperman and Eric F. and Lore Ross — who endowed the chair in Jewish-Christian studies, are making a difference. Rabbi Brill ably represents Seton Hall in ongoing interfaith dialogues locally and across the globe.

The truth is this: Whether rabbi or pope, nun or university president, all of us recognize the differences which can easily separate us, but we also recognize a remarkable bond as children of one God. Dialogue, rarely easy, builds upon and inevitably improves this relationship. Conversation reveals the commonality as well as the differences among us. We must speak to one another.

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The unique work of a great Catholic university is to be an enlightening and a healing force in our troubled society.
I saw the story about class rings in the alumni magazine and decided to tell my tale. I graduated from Seton Hall in 1967 and was commissioned through ROTC then as well.

In 1980 I found myself in Vietnam leading a rifle platoon as part of an air cavalry squadron. On one afternoon, while on a routine sweep, we took a short break then resumed our movement. At that time I noticed on a arm a number of red ants trying to feast. It was hot, I was sweating and had lost a few pounds. As I beat off the ants, my class ring flew off my finger and into a pile of mud.

I frantically felt around for the ring as my men continued to move farther away from me. While I valued my ring, I surely did not want to get separated, so after a few minutes I gave up my search.

Your article brought back memories of my own class ring. I graduated from the College of Arts and Sciences in 1961. I vividly recall my ring every day until I lost it that summer while swimming in the surf at the 19th Avenue Beach in Belmar.

During a summer in the late ‘50s, our family had a membership at a swimming and picnic area called Cedar Hollow in Old Tappan, N.J. One day, my husband, Joseph P. McKenna ’52, was in the water playing catch with our son, and his Seton Hall ring flew off along with the ball. After making many dives to try to retrieve it, Joe came up empty-handed and gave up the thought of ever finding his ring again.

The man-made lake was drained at the end of the season. So, armed with a couple of rakes, we went back to try our luck finding the ring. While some members of the family stayed on the beach imploiring help from St. Anthony, St. Therese the Little Flower, or any other heavenly body, Joe raked up the mud where he had been standing that day. After a number of tries, the ring became hooked on a proy of the rake. Unbelievable but true. We were all ecstatic.

Fast forward to 2007. Joe had lost quite a bit of weight. While facing the toilet, he reached over to flush and the ring slipped off his new slender finger and disappeared. Sometime later, we called in a plumber to repair a problem with that toilet. He put a long tool with a mirror on the end through the pipe. "Looks like a ring is down there," he announced. He pulled the tool back up, and once again we had the ring.

I van Capp grew up in Old Tappan, N.J. and graduated from Seton Hall University with a degree in Business Administration. He currently resides in Paramus, N.J. and has been on the Board of Directors for Our Lady of the Mount Academy since 2001.

I have no problem with shortselling. On occasion, I do short sell. It’s the abusive practices that I think really need to be outlawed.

– Scott Rathbun, St. John’s School of Business, on Fox News’ Bottom Line Business Report.

During the summer of 1960, while swimming in Barnegat Bay, my 1961 class ring slipped off my finger in 6 to 8 feet of water. Upon returning to school in the fall, I purchased another ring to replace the one that was lost. On both occasions, I had my full name, Frank A. Campione, engraved on the inside.

In early June 1961, a friend of my brother’s, who lived full time in Ocean Gate and knew my brother’s last name, went swimming in the Bay around the location where the original ring was lost. As he was swimming underwater, he noticed a shiny object at the bottom and retrieved a ring. When he examined it, he noticed the name Campione on the inside.

The following weekend when the family went to our summer home in Ocean Gate, I saw my brother Bob, told him he found the ring and gave it to him.

I have kept these 47 years. At the time, I could not afford to pay for the rings and my parents purchased both for me. They were proud of the fact that I was the first family member on both sides of the family to graduate from college. Mom, who was 89 in two weeks, often reminiscences about this incident.

– John Menas, Whitelaw School of Diplomacy and International Relations, in an op-ed in The San Diego Union on "The Teacher of Business".

This is really going to help disabled students and I’m happy about that.

– Ed Lucas, Seton Hall alumnus, on the YES Network’s feature article on the school.

As a Catholic institution, we strive to focus our budget priorities not only on student housing on campus, but also on being consistent with our mission of maintaining affordable and accessible education.

– Dennis Garbino, vice president for finance and technology, in The Chronicle of Higher Education.

He basically said, “Let’s have truth in packaging: If you are a Catholic university, let’s be Catholic.”


This is another junction for Pakistan to pick up the pieces and move toward a better future.


The rising test scores highlight a year of ambitious change at Newton that has succeeded in restoring prestige and hope to a beleaguered school, one that had been worn down by academic setbacks and buffeted by street violence just outside its doors.


“50 Ways to Lose a Class Ring”

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My ring was a woman’s model with a black smooth onyx stone, it had the letters BS on one side and the year ‘83 on the other. As it is now 25 years since I graduated, it would be a gift if that ring were to be found (or could be reproduced?)

– Barbara C. Donahue ’83

We we reallecstatic. unbelievable but true. we were all ecstatic.

I immediately ordered a new ring from the manufacturer, Diegus and Clust.

The design of the rings was being revised at the time. The dragon perched atop the shield was to be replaced with an open book with three circles on its pages, and the spelling of the motto, “Hazard Zit Forward,” was changed to “Hazard Zit Forward.” I liked the old design better especially the dragon! and luckily I was able to get an exact duplicate of my original ring.

The new ring was treated more carefully and I wore it less and less. I started dental school that fall, and in time, for practical reasons, I stopped wearing any kind of ring – a habit that persists to this day. My second class ring ended up in a safe deposit box and so it remains in mint condition.

The first one is probably still down there in the sand in Belmar.

– John F. Tintle ’61

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The following weekend when the family went to our summer home in Ocean Gate, I saw my brother Bob, told him he found the ring and gave it to him.

Now I have two 1961 class rings, which I have kept these 47 years. At the time, I could not afford to pay for the rings and my parents purchased both for me. They were proud of the fact that I was the first family member on both sides of the family to graduate from college. Mom, who was 89 in two weeks, often reminiscences about this incident.


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first things first

What are the top education issues the president-elect (and new secretary of education) will need to address? Joseph DeFerrari, Ed.D., dean of the College of Education and Human Services and an educator for more than 40 years, offers his views:

No Child Left Behind

The most pressing issue is reform of the No Child Left Behind legislation that is part of the Bush legacy. It is underfunded, too complicated, punitive in nature and basically a mess. Even its supporters agree that it needs to be restructured.

Math and Science Skills

The second critical issue facing the nation is the disappointing performance in science and math skills that continues to plague our schools and our children. While some progress has been made in these areas, the American Electronics Association contends that barely one-third of students are proficient in science and math. The implications are profound for our nation and our ability to compete in an increasingly technological world.

Charter Schools, Vouchers and More...

A third challenge involves alternatives to our traditional system of public school education, such as charter schools, home schooling, privatization and the use of vouchers. John McCain has been committed to these alternative forms, while Barack Obama has been less enthusiastic about them, although he recently promised to "first things first"

TH E DISC O V ER Y Z O N E

What do you want to know? Send us your questions by writing to "The Discovery Zone," Seton Hall magazine, 457 Centre Street, South Orange, NJ 07079 or by sending an e-mail to shawriter@shu.edu with "The Discovery Zone" in the subject line.

BY THE NUMBERS

Book Smart:

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Source: Manager William Novi Field Archives and Special Collections Center in conjunction with Walsh Library. These statistics are based on either a fiscal or calendar year.

Getting the Word Out

Seton Hall has created a new Office of Emergency Management and adopted a new campuswide communications system called PirateAlert.

The PirateAlert system allows the University to communicate quickly with students, staff and faculty through text messaging, telephones and e-mail. The University, with a single call or quick session on the computer, can reach thousands of people simultaneously with an emergency message.

The system, designed by the National Notification Network, will be used only for emergency situations, or when classes are canceled on the South Orange campus and the School of Law in Newark.

Seton Hall will upload contact information for all current students, faculty and staff. Everyone will get an e-mail with registration information, enabling them to manage their own contact information through the new system’s Web site. Individuals will be responsible for keeping their information up-to-date, and they may choose how they wish to be notified.

Everyone will be required to receive notifications sent to their Seton Hall e-mail address; all other methods (personal e-mail, cellphone, home or business telephone and text messaging) are optional.

The University will test the PirateAlert system at least once every semester.

Universities everywhere have taken a closer look at their emergency management plans in the wake of the tragedies at Virginia Tech and Northern Illinois University. PirateAlert is one of many initiatives under way to improve emergency management at Seton Hall. In March, the University conducted an emergency drill at the South Orange campus in conjunction with local police, fire departments and rescue squads. A similar drill was held on the Law School campus in Newark over the summer.

Not Forgotten

Former White House press secretary Tony Snow was awarded an honorary degree from Seton Hall shortly before he died on July 12 after battling colon cancer. Snow was honored at commencement this year but was unable to attend and speak to the graduating class because of his illness.

"Tony worked hard on his address," University President Monsignor Robert Sheeran ’67, S.T.D., told the Seton Hall community after Snow’s death. "He had hoped, up to the last minute, to be able to travel and to share his reflections with us. In his last e-mail to me he wrote, ‘Thanks so much for your prayers, but also for your mission. There has never been a greater or more profound need for robust Catholic education.’"

“That says a lot about the man and his priorities; we are so grateful for Tony Snow.”

Snow had a distinguished career as a journalist and commentator, and he served as President George W. Bush’s press secretary from May 2006 to September 2007. Seton Hall lost another of its honorary-degree recipients just weeks earlier, when national political journalist Tim Russert died on June 13.

Russert, host of the NBC News program meet the Press since 1991, addressed Seton Hall’s 1999 graduating class.

Both men will be remembered by Setonians who value the pursuit of truth and the ideal of servant leadership.

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flicks and politics

The presidential campaign season reminded me, as such seasons usually do, of the power of image in shaping our understanding of politicians and political history. The cinema is often seen as a chief culprit in offering romantic or otherwise distorted images of American history to the public. To be sure, the movies usually aren’t our best educator. But the cinema is an art form that, at its best, poses questions about politics and our role as citizens in shaping our future and understanding our past.

At times, film functions as political instruments. Oliver Stone’s recent film, W., a satire about President George W. Bush, is as much a gesture as it is a study of the Bush presidency. The young Abraham Lincoln, masterfully portrayed by Henry Fonda, is an awkward, novice trial lawyer who nevertheless conveys the sense of a man destined for greatness.

Young Mr. Lincoln (1939)
Legendary filmmaker John Ford’s idealized but totally enthralling portrait of our greatest president. The young Abraham Lincoln, masterfully portrayed by Henry Fonda, is an awkward, novice trial lawyer who nevertheless conveys the sense of a man destined for greatness.

The Manchurian Candidate (1962)
Made at the height of the Cold War, this combination political satire/thriller/horror film is one of the most intelligent jabs at American paranoia.

The Candidate (1972)
Robert Redford stars as a young lawyer who runs for the Senate, only to learn how much he must compromise his principles. A good film about the shaping and selling of leaders in modern, media-based society.

JFK (1991)
Oliver Stone’s conspiracy epic about the assassination of President Kennedy caused a firestorm of controversy in the press, but there are few films that deal as forcefully with a topic of longstanding public concern. The video edition contained a “Rock the Vote” ad urging young voters to head for the polls in 1992.

Advise and Consent (1962)
Otto Preminger’s masterpiece about our political system. In a melodrama both sordid and uplifting, Congreve wrestles with an intransigent president over the appointment of a secretary of state. There is no better “inside” look at Washington.

The Last Hurrah (1958)
As its title suggests, this is a wistful, melancholy film, about a fading era of American politics embodied in the last campaign of an aging politician, wonderfully portrayed by Spencer Tracy.

Nixon (1995)
Another Oliver Stone film, this time about our most disgraced president. The film is surprisingly respectful, even as it pulls no punches. Sir Anthony Hopkins gives a brilliant, nuanced performance as Richard Nixon.

John Adams (2008)
Although this biopic, based on the bestselling book by David McCullough, is too focused on the private life of our second president, it is one of the most engaging films about the founding of the United States.

Advised by Christopher Sharrett, Ph.D., teaches film history, theory and criticism in the Department of Communication.
On a Mission

MICHAEL JACOBSON HAS FOUND HIS CALLING — IN THE FIGHT AGAINST CANCER.

Just after dusk on April 12, silence fell over the crowd of Seton Hall students, faculty and alumni who gathered at the Richard and Sheila Regan Fieldhouse. A bagpiper began a slow, melancholy rendition of "Amazing Grace," while a large-screen projector displayed the names of people who had succumbed to cancer. More than 500 white luminaria lined the track, one for each of the dead.

This luminaria ceremony — probably the most emotional part of Seton Hall's "Relay for Life" fundraiser for the American Cancer Society (ACS) — would never have been possible without the dogged perseverance of junior Michael Jacobson. 20. Jacobson, who has a genetic predisposition to cancer, was committed to founding a Relay program here from the moment he stepped on campus.

More than 3 million people in 20 countries form Relay for Life teams each year to raise money for cancer research. The teams pledge that at least one member will walk or run around a track for an entire night. "The luminaria ceremony is the really special part. When you hear all of the names of the people you’re honoring, that’s when you realize why you’re there," says Jacobson.

After chairing two successful Relay events at Seton Hall, Jacobson has just signed on to become a national advocate after dusk on April 12, silence fell over the crowd of people who had succumbed to cancer. More than 500 white luminaria lined the track, one for each of the dead.

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After chairing two successful Relay events at Seton Hall, Jacobson has just signed on to become a national advocate for cancer research in Washington, D.C., a big step toward his goal of working for the ACS after graduation.

He kicked off the University’s 2008 Relay campaign with an ambitious fund-raising target of $50,000, which is $10,000 more than the previous, inaugural year.

For months ahead of time, Jacobson and the 30 other student members of the Colleges Against Cancer club had motivated the student body to raise money. In January, they organized a kick-off rally in the lounge of the University Center. The kick-off’s theme was “Superheroes,” and the club members ran around campus dressed as superheroes to attract attention to the cause.

On the Sunday before the Relay, they decorated the cafeteria with Relay logo materials and colors, leaving a sea of purple balloons, purple banners and purple table slips.

Their creative efforts paid off: more than 600 people grouped in 57 teams signed up, 12 more teams than the previous year. Still, when the night came, Jacobson was nervous about reaching that $50,000 goal.

The first few months of fundraising had brought in only $3,000. "I was so pessimistic at first," he recalls. Around 2 a.m. on the night of the Relay, Jacobson looked over the shoulder of Deirdre McGuinness, director of Relay for Life at the Metro New Jersey ACS office, as she checked the final donation count on her computer. The total? $50,950.

A few more donations trickled in over the next few weeks, bringing the 2008 total to $58,000 and Seton Hall’s two-year total to more than $100,000.

The school had no Relay for Life program before Jacobson enrolled in the fall of 2006. He says he chose Seton Hall for that reason. He intended to start one.

Jacobson’s family has been barraged by cancer, due to a mutation in the BRCA gene. People with specific mutations in this gene family have an increased risk of certain cancers. "I’ve had three grandparents suffer through cancer, and I can’t even count how many aunts and uncles. Every couple of years it’s somebody else," he says.

Jacobson, who hails from Prospect Heights, Ill., got hooked on Relay in high school after seeing the surprising camaraderie among participants. "Our school and a neighbor school — archrivals — were all camping together, putting aside our differences for this one night," he recalls. "After that it just kind of took off."

The day after he submitted his Seton Hall tuition deposit, Jacobson called the Metro New Jersey office of the ACS to find out how to start a program at his new school.

It was a slow start, full of administrative and logistical holdups. "But he was very energetic — a go-getter," says Elizabeth Bakes, associate director of alumni relations.

At that time, Bakes was manager of special events in the Department of Public Relations and Marketing. "His enthusiasm was contagious," she adds. She helped Jacobson find a venue and obtain official permission for the event.

Later in the fall, Jacobson asked Michael Billington, who had cancer; to speak at the kick-off rally for the first Relay. Billington would have been a senior at Seton Hall, but had dropped out for treatments for his rhabdomyosarcoma, a rare childhood cancer. Billington eagerly accepted the invitation to speak.

"You could hear a pin drop when he was talking, and then all you heard was sobbing," Jacobson recalls.

Billington also agreed to lead the survivor’s lap of the 2007 Relay, on March 23. But by that time, his tumors had returned. He led the survivor lap around the gym while connected to an oxygen tank. Two weeks later, he died.

This year’s event was held on the one-year anniversary of Billington’s death. "It was a wonderful memorial to him," says Jacobson, who is still close with the Billington family. "His mom gave me a big hug that night and said, ‘Thanks for giving me something to be happy about today.’"

Jacobson, a double major in political science and nonprofit studies, this summer accepted a position as advocacy chair of Colleges Against Cancer’s national lead team. So far, that’s meant lobbying for legislation that would ensure health insurance coverage of college students with cancer — like Billington — who have to take medical leave from school.

In the spring, Jacobson plans to study for a semester at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C. He’s already been talking to McGuinness about how to get involved in the Georgetown Relay. "He really takes Relay with him wherever he goes," she says, "and the spirit of the ACS — the advocacy and the legislation — even more."
Have iPod, Will Study

NEW TECHNOLOGY BRINGS FLEXIBILITY AND DEPTH TO THE ‘CLASSROOM’ EXPERIENCE.

A few years ago, Stillman School of Business Professor Tony Loviscek, Ph.D., had a student whose wife gave birth at the start of the semester. The young man soon found himself focused on diapers and feedings instead of finance and management, but rather than drop Loviscek’s course, he listened to lectures online or on an iPod (presumably during some of those late-night feedings) and submitted his assignments via e-mail. The student didn’t attend classes, not in person, at least, but earned a solid ‘A’ for his work.

Distance learning, 21st-century style. Thanks in large part to increasingly tech-savvy undergraduates and graduate students and a growing demand from far-flung outsiders seeking access to Seton Hall’s campus that relies entirely on the Web to teach, test and interact with students. Teachers can even use streaming video technology (many students’ computers have cameras) to hold “office hours” or measure a student’s communication skills, a key ability for someone studying, say, nursing or therapy.

Of course, digital-only learning isn’t for everyone. Seton Hall offers more than 100 courses exclusively online that target undergraduates and graduate students. Freshmen are not allowed to take online courses, Fisher says, and SetonWorldWide provides students with a detailed list of techniques on how to be successful as a virtual student. “You have to be a good self-manager,” Fisher warns. “You have to be motivated to learn.”

Professors, meanwhile, have embraced online tools with surprising alacrity. The TLTC in 2004 conducted a survey and found 67 percent of faculty used technology in some way. Fisher will soon do a new study, and he suspects that number will be much higher now thanks to near ubiquitous use of e-mail. Many instructors, he said, have been pleasantly surprised to discover that putting parts of their courses on the Web enhances, rather than detracts from, the in-person learning experience. “If you have limited face-to-face time you probably don’t want to take the time to have students read something or watch something,” he says. “Why take up even 10 minutes of a 50-minute lecture? Why not let your students do that outside of class so you can have a more valuable experience in the classroom?”

Paula Alexander, Ph.D., an associate professor of management at the Stillman School, says teaching electronically requires instructors to be more transparent. She loads her based materials or other information. A convert, indeed.

Alexander, who teaches some discussion-heavy courses such as Corporate Social Responsibility, admits to being a skeptic of online teaching in its early days. She wondered if the conversations that are so much a part of her teaching style would translate on the Web or even in a videoconferencing setting, such as the one she has used to teach students at the Yeshiva. Five years later, she says, “I’m a convert.” Not only are students getting the interaction they need — often through online discussion groups — they are able to make up missed classes or review particularly tough material because all the courses are archived online. In fact, Alexander, who teaches a videoconferencing course with the Yeshiva this fall, is excited about new ways the Yeshiva students can get even more out of her class. It is wonderful, she says, that the Yeshiva now has wireless broadband connections so that the students can go online during her lectures and look up Web-based materials or other information. A convert, indeed.
When the Cedar River’s banks overflowed this June, devastating Angie Chaplin’s Waverly, Iowa, community with a “500-year” flood, she drew upon one of the most critical lessons of her life: how to lead others. It was a lesson she’d learned at Seton Hall, through SetonWorldWide’s online Master of Arts in Strategic Communication and Leadership (MASCL) program. It’s a lesson she now shares with others, as a nonprofit leadership instructor in Iowa and as a MASCL faculty member.

After the flood struck, Chaplin sprang into action with her husband, Casey, and their sons, 8-year-old Jacob and 6-year-old Jeremy — cleaning out homes and serving meals to volunteers, while hundreds of residents felt the disaster’s impact.

Coping with their losses in the wake of the receding river, many residents placed blame on city officials. “Hearing community members speak out during a public meeting made me think there are lessons to be learned, even in disaster,” Chaplin recalls. “There had to be a way to help the city extract those lessons.”

Chaplin contacted the city administrator and offered to lead a debriefing. Once she received the go-ahead, she sought expertise from SetonWorldWide’s MASCL network. Col. Rob Cerjan, M.A. ’06 offered to work with Chaplin on the project, utilizing a debriefing format used in the Army. Together, Cerjan and Chaplin facilitated a review of Waverly’s emergency operations center and produced a report that focused on crisis communication. “This experience is a proud accomplishment, and the credit goes to MASCL for the connections made and lessons taught,” Chaplin says. “When I started the program, I never imagined it would make such an impact in my community.”

Chaplin’s journey began when she enrolled in SetonWorldWide’s MASCL program and was introduced to The Leadership Challenge, a book and leadership development program written by Jim Kouzes and Barry Posner. “They had me from page one,” she laughs.

Drawn to the practice of “Model the Way,” which encourages leaders to find their own voice, Chaplin made a discovery. “An ‘a-ha moment’ came when I realized I was suppressing my voice,” she explains.

At that time, Chaplin lacked confidence, a situation that stemmed from a personal health crisis — morbid obesity. Encouraged by her fellow Seton Hall students and teachers, she examined her life. “My physical, emotional and psychological health were deteriorating, and I realized I had allowed my weight to inhibit my ability to lead,” she says.

Four months after she started Seton Hall’s program, Chaplin underwent gastric-bypass surgery. By graduation, she had shed more than 100 pounds, but the transformation was more than physical. “The surgery was a step toward a healthier life, not a solution,” Chaplin says.

“Leaders can’t do everything, but we can do something,” she adds. “Whether it’s running, teaching, leading or serving, we have an obligation to do what we can, where we can, when we can. It’s as simple as that.”

Shannon Rossman Allen is a freelance writer based in Fort Worth, Texas.
It can’t be 20 years since Seton Hall made it to the Final Four, can it? Twenty years since the Pirates played in the national championship game and lost 80-79 in overtime to Michigan? Since P.J. Carlesimo, the coach with the beard, led the team from the basement to the penthouse, capturing the hearts of New Jersey and the fancy of the college basketball world?

Yes, it has been 20 years. Some of today’s students weren’t even born when the greatest basketball season in Seton Hall history was played. But a lot of Pirate fans remember, and were part of the frenzy. Here is how it happened.

A season of optimism

As an assistant athletic director and the team’s media liaison, I was fortunate enough to be an insider. The three-week ride in the NCAA Tournament was the craziest time of my professional life, and the most fun.

The Final Four season was so amazing on many levels. “Seton Hall’s magic run in 1989 was like an ongoing fairy tale,” said Michael Tranghese, who was the associate commissioner for the BIG EAST Conference at the time. (He became commissioner a year later.) “Every time they won, you kept thinking back to where they had been just a few years earlier. It remains as one of the great stories in BIG EAST history.”

Reporters who witnessed the team’s good nights after what seemed like an endless string of bad nights also were pulled in.

“It’s still the most fun I’ve had professionally covering a team,” said Tom Luicci, who reported on the Pirates for The Star-Ledger in Newark. “You didn’t want it to end. And for a team that had not had a lot of success, they handled it really well.”

The season started with some optimism, but not a barrelful. The Pirates were coming off a 22-13 year and their first NCAA bid in school history. It was quite an accomplishment for a team that finally had started to climb after seasons of mediocrity.

Still, most college basketball observers were ready to dismiss the team. Preseason prognosticators had the Pirates in the lower half of the BIG EAST standings, and conference coaches ranked Seton Hall seventh out of nine teams.

But Seton Hall’s coaches and players felt differently. “All of the guys spent that summer doing the extra work, the extra training,” said John Morton, the team’s standout guard. “We were excited that we made the NCAAs and we wanted it to continue. I never played on a team with so much good chemistry.”

Tough competition

The season opened in November at the Great Alaska Shootout. The Pirates won their opener over Utah, then knocked off Kentucky and defending NCAA champion Kansas to win the Shootout title.

“Walking away from Alaska, I thought, wow, we’re going to be good,” said Bruce Hamburger, an assistant coach. In December, the Pirates went to New Orleans and won the Sugar Bowl Classic, defeating Virginia and DePaul.
THE ROAD TO THE FINAL FOUR

The 2008-09 season will mark the 20th anniversary of the men’s basketball team’s memorable run to the 1988-89 NCAA championship game. It was a team that will be forever remembered as the squad that led Seton Hall’s arrival as a big-time force in college basketball.

Despite the Pirates’ overtime loss in the title game, the season remains the most successful in school history and catapulted Seton Hall into the national athletic consciousness. The season remains one of the most astonishing college basketball campaigns of any school in the New York-New Jersey metropolitan area.

To mark the occasion, a documentary film commemorating the team and its achievements is due for release in February 2009. Excerpts from conversations with those who experienced this historic journey are below; the full 90-minute film will be available as a souvenir DVD through the Pirate Blue Athletic Fund (pirateblue.com).

THE TEAM

Ever being around that team, I didn’t expect them to do what they did. I knew they were good; but you know, the Final Four, that was for schools like Kentucky, and UCLA, not Seton Hall. — Steve Smith

Without what the team did, without the class and dignity they showed, the enthusiasm they gave, this school today wouldn’t be what it is. There’s no doubt about that. — David Siroty

THE COACH

P.J. Carlesimo is very well respected. That’s largely due to his work ethic. He works tremendously hard. People follow his example of work, not the other way around. — Joseph Quinlan

Going to the Final Four was a significant achievement for him because he had been under some pressure. In a lot of ways he put more pressure on himself than outside entities could do. That’s just the way that he works and the way that he does things. — Joseph Quinlan

THE EXCITEMENT

The year before, you’d see ‘Sellout’ posted on the ticket screens at the Meadowlands. We just couldn’t believe it. You would see people fill the arena. First the first level, then up the half court upstairs. Then they started creeping into the corners. As the place filled, you would see people way up at the top, and we just giggled. — David Siroty

I coached the baseball team for 31 years. In ’89, everybody on the baseball team was looking to get back to the dorm or wherever so they could catch the basketball team on TV. Sometimes that conflicted a bit with baseball, but we managed to get the games over and get back so they could watch. — Mike Sheppard

All of a sudden we’re getting calls from people around the country. Duke and Michigan alums asking, ‘Can we have your tickets?’ We didn’t even know how we would get tickets to the few season ticket holders we did have, let alone how to distribute them through a lottery. There were nonstop meetings. We were here 20, 21 hours every day. I remember going with Mark Berard to the airport with the boxes of Final Four tickets. The street value of what would happen if that box opened and there are tickets all over Newark Airport? The boxes were heavy and we had to keep them with us at all times. So we saw a wheelchair and just took it and put the boxes on it. We just couldn’t carry them anymore. ‘What’s in the box?’ everybody would ask. We would try not to tell, but when people at the airport and down at the gate would say, ‘You have to check those bags.’ We would say, ‘We can’t. We can’t tell you; we’d say. Eventually we would have to whisper that they were Final Four tickets. One airport employee freaked out: ‘Oh my God, Final Four tickets? That’s unbelievable.’ — David Siroty

Every restaurant, every bar, everybody had pictures up and blue and white signs saying, ‘GO PIRATES. Let’s do this!’ Week by week, it was a gigantic tidal wave. Everybody got the fever. — Mike Sheppard

The guys all had cowboy hats. They bought them as a team in Denver with their meal money because they had won the West. — Steve Smith

THE FOUl CALL

I did not watch the championship game tape for a long time. Ten years. One night it was on ESPN Classic. It was late in the game, so I watched it. The referee called it as a foul so it was. Everybody has their own opinion on it and what they would like to have seen. — Joseph Quinlan

Continued from page 17

national attention

Seton Hall was due in Seattle just four days later, so it was decided the team would spend a couple of days in Santa Monica, Calif., instead of trekking back to New Jersey. The team decided to let its regular beat reporters know where they would be staying, if the writers agreed not to divulge which hotel.

Next up were the UNLV Runnin’ Rebels and Coach Jerry Tarkanian, who had the best career coaching record in the nation. Seton Hall held only a four-point lead at halftime, but pulled away in the second half for an 84-61 triumph.

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in the second half, scoring an amazing 62 points and pulling away for a comfortable 95-78 win. Forwards Andrew Gaze, the Australian Olympian, and Darryl Walker, the steady New York City native, led the way with 20 and 19 points, respectively.

Seton Hall was headed to the national championship game. Michigan, fresh from its victory over Illinois, would be the opponent, led by All-American forward Glen Rice. This was college basketball’s ultimate game, and Seton Hall would be in it.

So close, and yet . . .

The Pirates arrived at the Kingdome late that afternoon and went through their usual pre-game routine. Carlesimo had a practice of walking through the media room before the game to talk with the Pirates local beat reporters. The routine had resulted in wins, so Carlesimo wasn’t going to change anything. The national media was wide-eyed, not believing a coach would take time to make casual conversation with reporters before playing for the national championship.

The Michigan game started a little like the Duke game. The Pirates fell behind early, then closed the gap until they were down just 37-32 at halftime. Seton Hall grabbed the lead with 2:13 to go, and at the end of regulation play the teams were tied at 71 points each.

The Pirates still had gas in their tank for overtime play, as John Morton nailed a go-ahead 3-point shot that put Seton Hall ahead 74-72. But at the end, it was a fatefull foul call with three seconds left that allowed a Michigan guard named Rumeal Robinson to sink two free throws. The run was over. Michigan had won, 80-79.

Morton, by the way, finished with 35 points. No player has scored that many points in a national championship game since that day. After the game, the Pirates would not blame the foul call for their defeat. Their perspective was incredible for a group of college players who had come so close winning the national championship. Greene may have said it best after the game: “It’s disappointing to come this far and lose, especially the way we lost it. But you’ve got to remember how far we’ve come. Four years ago no one thought we had a chance at anything like this.”

It’s been 20 years now. And we remember that chance. It’s quite a memory.

We’re out of space and there are still so many things about the Final Four that we didn’t get to. Like the huge welcome for the team by thousands of Pirate fans at the Recreation Center. And the parade for the team on South Orange Avenue a few days later. (Yes, it really did happen on South Orange Avenue.)

Or the Mass in the desert in Arizona. But those stories will have to wait, maybe until the next anniversary of the greatest season in Seton Hall basketball history.
Jürgen Heinrichs, Ph.D., has an ambitious mission: “to make every aspect of Seton Hall University responsive to the needs of an increasingly international world and student body.” Fortunately, the associate professor in the College of Arts and Sciences is getting a lot of help — and has already made progress in defining how it will be done.

As the University’s chairman of the Internationalization Laboratory Leadership Team, Heinrichs last February turned in preliminary findings on what is a top priority for Monsignor Robert Sheenan ’67, S.T.D. The vision of Seton Hall’s president is for a more internationalized university within a world that is ever smaller and more interdependent.

The University has had an international presence since its founding in 1856, according to the team’s report. “In fact, Ernesto Regil, the 20th student to enroll in the newly founded institution, came from Merida, Mexico,” the report notes. Within a few decades, students were arriving from Spain, Cuba, Canada, France, Puerto Rico, Venezuela, Belize and Panama, reflecting Seton Hall’s catholic — meaning universal — identity, as well as its Catholic one.

Today, the University hosts nearly 300 students from 67 countries, and each year it sends students abroad in more than 10 international programs and 15 faculty-led study-tours.
How the new internationalization initiative plays out in practice will be decided by the findings of Heinrichs’ team, which now has almost 40 members; he describes the group as a good mix of experience and fresh ideas. The committee includes faculty, students and staff to ensure everyone at the University is aware of the initiative and can do their part to carry it out.

The group works with the Center for International Initiatives at the American Council on Education (ACE) in Washington, D.C. ACE invited Seton Hall to participate in its Internationalization Laboratory in 2007. For this and last year’s academic years, Seton Hall has participated in ACE-supervised training workshops, campus visits, review processes and assessments.

Economic challenges are among the toughest issues to be resolved, says Heinrichs, including the prohibitively expensive cost of living in urban America and the need to make sure students who want to study here or abroad aren’t hindered by a financial inability to do so. Aside from the need for financial assistance, there is also a need to attract foreign students whose presence at Seton Hall is educational to American students. The team also must incorporate an approach “that is written into the institution’s very identity.”

The team’s report is the first of a four-part journey to a comprehensive internationalization strategy. From this discovery phase will come recommendations, an agreed-upon plan and, finally, a rollout of initiatives that will be tracked and monitored.

“Internationalizing our Seton Hall campus in the years to come has the potential to be a defining initiative for the University,” says Monsignor Sheeran.

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The Faces of Internationalization

When you pass students chatting on the walkways of the University Green or overhear animated discussions in the Pirates Cove snack bar, you’re likely to hear conversations in Spanish, German, Mandarin or Farsi.

As the nation’s oldest diocesan Catholic university, Seton Hall has always embraced students of all races and religions, challenging each one to better the world with integrity, compassion and a commitment to serving others.

These days, Seton Hall’s students are coming from many more places. The growing population of international students shares a common goal: to obtain a superior American education and a prestigious degree. But their reasons and routes to get here are as varied as their countries of origin.

Here are a few of those students’ stories.

Guillermo Escobedo Hoyo was no stranger to the United States when he arrived last year at the John C. Whitehead School of Diplomacy and International Relations. But he had really expected to wind up in Canada.

Escobedo Hoyo, who grew up in Pachuca, Mexico, just north of Mexico City, spent two years at prep schools in Granby, Mass., and Ludlow, Vt. He then received a law degree from the Universidad Autonom a del Estado de Hidalgo in Mexico, which took five years to complete, and unlike the American system, did not require an undergraduate degree first.

The son of a dentist and university professor father and a mother who is a lawyer and works for Mexico’s election institute (“our version of America’s electoral college”), Escobedo Hoyo decided not to practice law.

“I was looking for a school of diplomacy and international relations for a master’s program,” he says. He was aware of only one such program in the U.S. and several more in Canada. “I was just browsing around online when I discovered the Whitehead School,” he says. “I didn’t know about it, and figured I’d be heading to one of the Canadian schools.” But the Whitehead School was just the ticket, because it not only trains students in diplomacy and international relations, but also has a strong affiliation with the United Nations.

He came to South Orange in February 2007 for an interview with Catherine Ruby, the director of graduate admissions. He was impressed with what he saw. “For some reason,” he adds humorously, “I got accepted.”

“I always wanted to go into IR,” he explains, adding that diplomacy and the law complement each other, yet...
“Internationalizing our Seton Hall campus in the years to come has the potential to be a defining initiative for the University.”

are different in practice. “Law is much more straightforward,” he says, with precedents and rulings carefully delineating the boundaries. “Policy research, on the other hand, involves wading through pages of text, sort of trying to get to the point.”

His motivation for studying international relations, however, is very personal. The head of the state police in his home region — someone who went to law school with his mother — was gunned down by a hit squad dispatched by local drug lords. The drug traffic violence in Latin America is spreading, he says, and increasingly out of control, with Mexico evolving from a place where drugs are transferred to a place where they are produced.

Escobedo Hoyé wants to do something about this growing blight, and his graduate thesis paper will explore the topic of violence prevention in Latin America. “Maybe I can contribute a little bit to that solution,” he says. “Who knows?” He is not ruling out any areas of exploration, from drug legalization to stronger enforcement and cooperation. “It seems a little far-fetched. But I do know this: If you’re not passionate about what you’re doing, it really doesn’t matter.”

HELPING OTHERS FIND THEIR WAY IN A NEW LAND

among the students who have come the farthest and transcended the greatest cultural differences, is Ziying (Lesley) Zhang, who grew up in the city of Foshan on China’s mainland.

Initially a student of Macau University of Science and Technology, Zhang transferred to Seton Hall after his sophomore year to pursue a bachelor’s degree in business, which he obtained in spring 2008.

Why Seton Hall? “If you live in China, you can’t take a campus tour to make comparisons,” he says. So he checked out the Web sites of St. Joseph’s and East Michigan universities, among others, and received an offer from the University of North Carolina at Pembroke. But as a digitally savvy student, Seton Hall’s Web site really appealed to him: “Seton Hall’s promotion was very cool.”

Zhang also was recruited as part of Seton Hall’s focus on internationalism. His Chinese school has a scholarship-based exchange program with the University, explains Zhang, “and I wanted to try something new; to learn some new experiences in the United States.”

“Seton Hall has really, really satisfied me in my plan,” he adds. Zhang is now studying to get his master’s degree in accounting at the Stillman School of Business.

Zhang’s arrival here two years ago displayed his determination to find his way in a new land. No one picked him up at the airport after his arrival from China, so he showed a Seton Hall brochure to a taxi driver outside the terminal and was driven to the campus. “Someone later said I ‘fell in a crack,’” he says of this experience.

Zhang vowed to make sure other international students have an easier transition. “That’s why I’m now helping on the reception planning for the new foreign students,” he says of his job as a graduate assistant with responsibilities for welcoming and acclimating the waves of international arrivals.

Once he got to South Orange two years ago, Zhang found that students and faculty “were very nice in helping me get familiar with the campus” — and in

the schoolwork. “I’ve made lots of excellent friends here,” he says, though on the romantic front, he jokes, “I’m still available.”

Among his new friends are several of what he estimates to be about 50 Chinese-national students “in all kinds of departments.”

Among his likes and dislikes about America are the food and the transportation system. “I’d never seen a ramp before,” he says of his now-favorite chicken sandwich at the cafeteria. “It tastes good, actually.” Less palatable, though, has been navigating public transit outside South Orange and its environs. “I had to learn to drive and buy my own car,” he says. “It was not that easy for a newcomer.”

He has been home to China three times since his arrival, and his mother came to this country for his bachelor’s degree graduation. He plans to remain here after earning his master’s degree to find a job. Although the culture and language are still a problem, he says, the people are very nice. “It’s not as hard as in China to start talking with them,” he says. “I want to practice what I learn here in the U.S. before getting any further experience.”

DISCOVERING HER REAL ROOTS

elicits Ruebben grew up in Werne, Germany, a small city of 32,000. She felt drawn to America from an early age.

When she was a child, her mother read to her about the Civil War and Harriet Beecher Stowe’s Uncle Tom’s Cabin, and something about the African-American experience gripped her. The family listened to records by Harry Belafonte and her mother’s favorite actor was Sidney Poitier. Later, she discovered hip-hop.

With that kind of deep interest, it wasn’t surprising that Ruebben began studying for an English degree at the University of Münster. But her life took a real turn after meeting with Seton Hall professor Larry Greene, Ph.D., who was teaching in Germany as a Fulbright Scholar and is now her adviser for her master’s thesis.

on African-American internationalism in the 1920s and 1930s. Greene’s course at Münster, covering African-American culture, language and the Harlem Renaissance, struck a cord with Ruebben. With Greene’s urging, she decided to pursue such studies further through an exchange program at Vassar College in Poughkeepsie, N.Y., where she worked in the German department to fulfill her financial commitment. She took more courses on American history and fell in love. She married a fellow Vassar student, Rama Jaima, a native of Antigua in the West Indies.

Today, she and Jaima live within the epicenter of a different kind of renaissance: the resurgence of Newark under Mayor Corey Booker. Ruebben also finds herself in the United States at a critical time in African-American history: to witness the 45th anniversary of Dr. Martin Luther King’s “I have a dream” speech and the nomination of the first major party African-American candidate for president, Barack Obama.

“It’s amazing to be here in this place and time,” she says. “I live right on the border of South Orange and Newark,” and she notes that the landscape changes completely as she heads back and forth from school. “I feel like I really need to be here now.”

As she has evolved into becoming an American, she says that Greene has been both her mentor and friend; he is alternately her counselor and guest for dinner. With his help, she says her ultimate goal is to play her own role — whether through politics or cultural action — in America’s fight against stereotypes and racial prejudices.

Bob Gilbert is a writer based in Connecticut.
BEIJING DIARY

There were plenty of concerns for athletes headed to the 2008 Summer Olympics in Beijing: oppressive heat, choking humidity, poor air quality, political protests and crowded streets among them. These are not favorable conditions for an athlete, especially a long-distance runner.

Very few of these concerns materialized, however, as Kim Keenan-Kirkpatrick can attest. The Seton Hall associate athletics director was there for all of the exhilarating and sometimes heartbreaking action as an assistant coach for the United States track and field team.

“It was very exciting to be in a position to help enhance our Olympians’ chances of medalling,” said Keenan-Kirkpatrick. “Representing our country on the sports’ grandest stage is an opportunity that very few people are afforded. I am truly honored.”

Working exclusively with America’s long-distance team, Keenan-Kirkpatrick organized training runs, attended team meetings and did everything from carrying ice vests to making sure the athletes got to their television interviews. Along the way, she immersed herself in the Chinese culture and enjoyed the Olympic excitement as a fan.

The night of the opening ceremonies was particularly special.

“Originally there were limited spots open for our coaching staff to march in the opening ceremonies,” Keenan-Kirkpatrick said. “I found out the evening before that two extra spots had opened up for those who wanted to walk. I was so excited! What an incredible honor!”

Before the ceremony she joined the American teams as they lined up to meet President Bush, the first lady and the first President Bush. She was able to shake the current president’s hand and pose for a picture with Laura Bush.

“When we entered the stadium, I was walking with several of our race-walkers,” Keenan-Kirkpatrick said. “As we passed a few sections of the crowd, a few chants of ‘USA’ began. It was difficult to believe. I was in awe, just thinking: I am marching in the opening ceremonies of the Olympics!”

Track and field competition began a week later. Since the American training camp was in the city of Dalian, nearly 300 miles from Beijing, Keenan-Kirkpatrick’s duties had her flying back and forth before she settled in at the Olympic Village in Beijing three days before the events began.

Coaches were given a charter bus tour of the marathon course.

“I was amazed at the areas that our driver was able to maneuver through,” Keenan-Kirkpatrick said. “There was a part of the course through Temple of Heaven Park where there wasn’t more than five inches between the bus and the trees. We drove down a narrow walkway with pedestrians running for their lives.”

On the first night of the track events, Keenan-Kirkpatrick helped Shalane Flanagan, Kara Goucher and Amy Begley prepare for the women’s 10,000-meter race. Flanagan won the bronze medal in an American record time.

But the work of an assistant coach means long days and little rest.

“The race ended at 11:15 p.m. and then the athletes had to go to the media,” Keenan-Kirkpatrick said. “Then after the press, comes the drug testing. By this point it was almost 2 a.m. and Shalane still had to get in a warm-down around the track.”

After four laps, a half-mile walk to find a taxi, the ride back and a quick bite at the cafeteria, she was ready for bed at 3:40 a.m., with her alarm set to go off at 6:30.

The American women were less successful in the marathon, where Keenan-Kirkpatrick witnessed the heartbreak that often is part of Olympic competition. Deena Kastor, the bronze-medal winner in the Athens games, was America’s best chance at a medal.

“At 7:30 a.m. sharp, they were off and running. Deena was done. She had hurt her foot before the 5K mark and could not go on.”
Kljestan was the only player to appear in all five matches for the U.S. during the Olympic qualifying tournament.

FANCY FOOTWORK

After twice earning All-American honors playing for Seton Hall, the sky was the limit for men’s soccer standout Sacha Kljestan. In 2006, he was chosen fifth overall by Chivas USA in Major League Soccer’s draft and has since become an All-Star performer for the California-based team.

Sacha Kljestan is one of the game’s most popular young stars and has been featured in a national television commercial for Adidas as well as a recent “Got milk?” advertisement.

His greatest achievement came this summer when he represented the United States in the Olympic Games as part of the under-23 national team.

Kljestan’s inclusion came as little surprise. Already a veteran of the under-20 team, he captained the under-23 team on a December 2007 trip to China and was the only player to appear in all five matches for the United States during the Olympic qualifying tournament in March. Kljestan’s performance earned him several call-ups to the men’s national team as it competes in World Cup qualifying matches.

Kljestan took to the pitch as a starting midfielder as the Olympics began and the Americans opened against Japan. Battling extreme heat and humidity, the U.S. team won 1-0 in front of 37,177 fans. Kljestan’s first Olympic experience proved as memorable as it was successful. “It was awesome,” he said. “This is the best feeling in the world. It’s crazy out there just knowing everybody is watching and knowing this is the Olympics, what we’ve worked so hard for.”

Next up was a match against the Netherlands. With his team trailing 1-0, Kljestan tied things up in the 64th minute with a right-footed blast — his first goal of the Olympics. Later the Americans led 2-1 with time winding down, but the Dutch scored in the third and final minute of added time, and the game ended in a draw. Kljestan, who was named Man of the Match, spoke of his emotions after scoring. “It’s always been a dream of mine to do something special in the Olympics. I felt on that goal I accomplished a good play, along with the team making a good play all together. I was happy and wanted to celebrate, so I’m glad everyone came and joined in. It was a special moment for me.”

The U.S. entered its final game of pool play against Nigeria, likely needing a win or a tie to move on to the next round. A penalty early on forced the U.S. to play at a man disadvantage for 87 minutes, and Nigeria had a 2-0 lead late in the match when Kljestan sparked a spirited rally. In the 87th minute, the U.S. was awarded a penalty kick and Kljestan easily converted it into a score to cut the deficit to one. But the team’s final charge fell short, and the Americans were eliminated from the Olympics.

Kljestan’s experience has given him high hopes for the future of American soccer. “I want people to know we’re not far away from doing well in tournaments like this,” he said. “We’re getting close, and I think with a few fortunate bounces in this tournament, we would have been through to the quarterfinals sitting pretty. I’m very disappointed with the way things ended, but I want people to know we’re getting close and when the World Cup comes around, I hope we do great.”

through the streets of Beijing,” Keenan-Kirkpatrick said. “Then tragedy struck. All of a sudden, we all received texts and calls that Deena was done. She had hurt her foot before the 5K mark and could not go on. We were all devastated."

Another American marathoner, Magdalena Boulet, was forced to withdraw due to a knee injury, leaving Blake Russell as the sole American finisher.

As the games continued, Keenan-Kirkpatrick met a number of high-profile Olympians. “I got a photo of our country’s swim phenom, Michael Phelps, graciously posing with one of our shot putters,” Keenan-Kirkpatrick said. “I also had the opportunity to meet Kobe Bryant, Lebron James and Jason Kidd while waiting with a friend for a pass.”
Leaders of Men: Ten Marines Who Changed the Corps
By Anne Cipriano Venzon, M.A. ’77 (Scarecrow Press, $45)

A handful of young men attracted to the U.S. Marine Corps because of the Civil War transformed the USMC from a quasi-constabulary in 1861 to one of the world’s elite fighting forces by 1918. This book details what it means to be a Marine by looking at this group of men and their roles in events ranging from Lincoln’s Gettysburg Address to the “peacekeeping” mission in China in the 1920s.

Jesus: Word Made Flesh
By Gerard S. Sloyan ’40/M.D. M. ’44 (Liturgical Press, $19.95)

The author, richly familiar with Jesus’ Jewish world, helps the reader discover a Jesus who is thoroughly situated in his own time and place. This book challenges readers to see both the historical Jesus who preached to the people of Judea, Samaria and Galilee and the post-resurrection Jesus whom Christians recognized in faith as Lord and Savior.

When the Good Pensions Go Away: Why America Needs a New Deal for Pension and Health Care Reform
By Thomas J. Mackell Jr. ’64, Ed.D. (John Wiley & Sons, Inc., $39.95)

The author suggests remedies for our retirement system, which has been hobbled by the conflicting interests of the healthcare and pension service providers, the aging population and the inertia some policy makers exhibit. Mackell proposes a “New Deal” for pension and healthcare reform and includes his “Top List” of recommended activities to address these issues.

Note to authors:
To have your commercially published book considered for “Pirates in Print,” send your information and a review copy to Seton Hall magazine, 457 Centre Street, South Orange, NJ 07079. Please request our guidelines first by writing to shuwriter@shu.edu.

Book descriptions contain direct quotes from book covers and publisher-provided materials.
When Robert Baldini ’53 lost his father as a young man, he found himself searching for guidance as he struggled to choose between pursuing his education and working to help out his family. He was an only child.

“My mother always said ‘do what you think is best,’” says Baldini. “My mother wanted me to make the decision. It wasn’t like today where parents stress the importance of education.”

Baldini says when he arrived at Seton Hall, he found solace in the Chapel of the Immaculate Conception, where he continued wrestling with his decision and facing feelings of guilt that he was somewhat abandoning his mother by choosing to continue his education.

“The chapel became very meaningful because I spent practically every day there,” Baldini recalls. “I sat in the back row, and I prayed to God for direction.”

“I have a great deal of faith in God. As a young man not really knowing what to do in life, the Chapel served as a retreat, a significant place for prayer and reflection.”

Baldini says when he arrived at Seton Hall, he found solace in the Chapel of the Immaculate Conception, where he continued wrestling with his decision and facing feelings of guilt that he was somewhat abandoning his mother by choosing to continue his education.

“The chapel became very meaningful because I spent practically every day there,” Baldini recalls. “I sat in the back row, and I prayed to God for direction.”

The Chapel is a very special place to me. It is a spiritual sanctuary at the heart and soul of the Seton Hall campus.”

“’It’s a family affair in terms of patronage to the Chapel,’” Baldini says of the place that served as his sanctuary when he attended Seton Hall and throughout the years as a member of the University’s Board of Regents.

Emphasizing the important role his daily visits to the chapel had in shaping his life as a student, Baldini says that “I really felt connected, more than connected — I felt like I had an inside spiritual track. I hope it will serve as a beacon and refuge for many who work and study in the Seton Hall community.”

No doubt, Baldini has two Seton Hall students — his granddaughters — in mind.

For more information on donating to the Chapel, please contact Pamela Ferguson, associate vice president for development, at 973-378-2643.

The Advancement: Spirit of Giving section is produced by the Department of Development. Writer: Dorett Smith

Photos at left by Greg Leshé, above by Chuck Moss
Dr. David W. Yacavone ’66/M.A. ’68, of Virginia Beach, Va., retired from the U.S. Navy after 30 years of service and accepted a position with the Veterans Administration.

60s

Paul J. Bidel ’53, of Hackettstown, N.J., was elected president of the board of directors of The Arc of Warren County, a nonprofit group supporting those with developmental disabilities. He was also elected to the Senior Hall of Fame in Hackettstown. ... Dr. Lucile A. Joel ’53, of Drakest, N.J., received a lifetime Achievement Award from the Society of Psychiatric Advanced Practice Nurses of the New Jersey State Nurses Association and an Honorary Recognition Award from the American Nurses Association. ... Nicholas Scala ’53, of Bloomfield, N.J., was nominated for a 2008 ProAct Best Men of Valor Award. ... Don DeBella ’56/M.A. ’60, of Blairstown, N.J., retired in August after 21 years as an administrator in New Jersey’s Wayne Public School District and 40 years in education.

70s

Jennifer H. Kidwell ’70, of North Las Vegas, Nev., was elected Region 5 president for the Association of Information Technology Communities at Rider University in February. ... Andrea Kasper-Pazinko of Bernardsville, N.J., was selected as the 2008 Teacher Recognition Award for Demarest Elementary School in Bloomingdale, N.J. ... John J. Lazzarotti ’88/M.B.A. ’98, of Westfield, N.J., is a financial advisor in South Brunswick’s Westfield office. ... Michael Levine ’89/M.B.A. ’91, of Burlington, N.J., launched a financial-planning practice, the GoldenSheath Group, Inc., in Maplewood Village, and renovated the almost 60-year-old building that houses the practice. ... Margaret Raymond Flood ’86/D.M. ’94, of Phoenixville, N.J., spoke at the 2008 Fort Lawton Conference on “Egyptology for Litigators.”

90s

Father Nicholas L. Gregoris ’92, of New York City, was appointed full-time chaplain of the Arco of Warren County, a nonprofit group supporting those with developmental disabilities. He was also elected to the Senior Hall of Fame in Hackettstown. ... Dr. Robert S. Jones, M.S. ’93, of Nyonton, Pa., was elected to serve on the board of trustees of the Pennsylvania Osteopathic Medical Association. ... Elizabeth C. Mather ’95, of Randolph, N.J., earned a certified long-term care credential from the Corporation for Long-Term Care Certification. ... Donna Alice ‘95, Ph.D., of Oakland, Calif., is founder and pastor of New Revolution Community Church and assistant professor of preaching and worship at Lancaster Theological Seminary. Her sermon titled “A Crucified Colossus, a Living God” was published in Those Preaching Women: A Multicultural Collection. ... Elisabeth Wytrych ’97, of New Castle, Del., was named chief nursing officer at Washington Hospital Center. ... Christine (Willett) Candarella ’88, of Northfield, N.J., was the 2008 recipient of the Somerset County Teacher Recognition Award for Demarest Elementary School in Bloomingdale, N.J. ... John J. Lazzarotti ’88/M.B.A. ’98, of Westfield, N.J., is a financial advisor in South Brunswick’s Westfield office. ... Michael Levine ’89/M.B.A. ’91, of Burlington, N.J., launched a financial-planning practice, the GoldenSheath Group, Inc., in Maplewood Village, and renovated the almost 60-year-old building that houses the practice. ... Margaret Raymond Flood ’86/D.M. ’94, of Phoenixville, N.J., spoke at the 2008 Fort Lawton Conference on “Egyptology for Litigators.”

Where It All Began: Dickinson attrib- uted much of her interest in theater to Deirdre Yates, M.F.A., professor of communication. When Dickinson was a sophomore, Yates cast her as Ma. Pat and Janine in The Colored Museum, the University’s first play featuring an all-African- American cast. “Deirdre was a phenomenal director. She made the rehearsal process free and open and fun,” Dickinson was hooked.

A Guiding Force: Once Dickinson gradu- ated, Yates convinced her to audition for the University/Resident Theater Association, the country’s oldest and largest consortium of pro- fessional theater training graduate programs and associated professional theater companies. “She coached me … [and] I was accepted to the University of Illinois Champaign-Urbana, where I received my master’s degree in fine arts. The rest is history.” She and Yates have kept in touch, and Dickinson recognizes the profound influence her mentor has had on her: “To this day, I let her know that she helped change my life.”

Lesson Plan: Inspired by her Seton Hall professors, Dickinson began to teach as an assistant professor at Spelman College in Atlanta, where she taught drama for five years. “Working with the exceptional staff, faculty and students was a great learning experience that has absolutely prepared me for what I am doing today.”
Erin Kelly ’00, of Elizabeth, N.J., raised more than $11,000 in April with the “Play Ball for Miracles Tournament,” an event she created to raise funds for the Children’s Miracle Network and for families of firefighters who have a child with a serious illness.

Marriages
Rebecca Norton ’03 to Jeff Piette
Angélica Mena ’01 to Mauro G. Tecler Jr., M.B.A. ’06

Baby Pirates
Kathy (Coyne) ’00 and Matthew Beerwine ’09/M.B.A. ’04, a girl, Peyton Lorraine, September 2, 2007
Laura A. Hamilton, ’03, a girl, Jade, December 3, 2007
Sakruw (Sakhrani) Tlasan ’03 and Pink, Ines, a boy and girl, Ana Frances and Lucia Edward, March 3, 2008
John Evangelista ’06 and Rebeca, a boy, Alex Michael, February 9, 2008
Jeanette (Smith) Walters ’05 and Tom, a girl, Kathleen Siena, September 28, 2007
Dorakha (Dikely) Souallian ’90 and Steve, a girl, Dalbyn Libby, May 15, 2008
Ryan T. McDonald ’07/M.B.A. ’02,
M.B.A. ’02 and Jennifer (Hilton) ’02/M.B.A. ’01, a boy, Logan Thomas, June 26, 2007
Rebecca E. (Hofstet) Dennis ’00 and Zachary, a girl, Madeleine Grande, April 9, 2008
Brian P. Scovello ’00/I.D. ’03 and Jacqueline A. (Ladd) ’05, a girl, Mona Aron, April 1, 2008
Brian Greenfield ’01/M.A.T. ’05 and Genesis (Iannone) ’05, a girl, Miles Marie, July 5, 2008
Melissa (Volto) Schambek ’01 and Shawn, a girl, Taylor Page, April 1, 2008

In Memoriam
Monogram Michael A. Komar ’32
Arnold L. Lettieri’39
John W. Sgambit’41
Edward ‘01,
M.B.A.’02

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Ronald F. Gilrain ’49
Sister Elizabeth A. Hanke ’50
Robert T. Love II ’50
Vincent L. Colvin ’51
Albert J. Quillin ’51
Anthony F. Andreacchio ’52
James W. Budde ’52
Eileen J. Mulvaney ’52
Joseph R. Piersall ’52
Frederick R. Wilson ’52
Hermie J. Sease ’53
Therese D. Sheehan, M.A.E. ’54
Joseph S. Gilman ’54
Claude Aune ’56
Steven W. Rachich ’58
Harald W. Cooney ’59
Peter S. Pepe ’59
Patricia O. Kiberd ’61
John J. Markey, M.A.E. ’61
James C. McIlwain, Sr., M.A.E. ’61
Christine V. Smith ’61
Henry J. Waring ’61
Lt. Col. Edward J. Benna Sr. ’62
Paul D. Buckley ’62
Donald J. Managan ’63
Domenic Klein ’63
Henry B. Russell ’63
Mary S. Denny ’64
Arthur Felinger Jr. ’65
Sister Angelene Nelson ’65
John J. Roman ’65
Bruce A. Genta ’67
Laura A. Ingenito, M.A.E. ’67
Ronald P. Paladino ’67
Madeline C. Dole ’68
William L. Matte Sr., M.B.A. ’68
Joseph D. Scalise ’69
Bernard F. Sims, M.A.E. ’69
Ralph L. Rashed ’70
Daniel F. O’Shea ’72/B.M. ’75
Father August J. Xoa, M.A.E. ’72
Don E. Mecone, M.A.E. ’72
Catherine K. Elbaek, M.A.E. ’76
William A. Perschbacher, M.A.E. ’76
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Just relaxing: Courtney Mia Matthews was born on Jan. 21, 2008, to Marlo (Donofrio) Matthews ’94 and Jim Matthews.

The Student Alumni Association has launched My Time...The Seton Hall Traditions Project to record an oral history of all those who have played a part in making the University the institution that it is today.

Over the next two years, the association will record the stories of alumni, parents, students, staff members and friends — a collection of recollections about their time and traditions at Seton Hall.

Using this data, collected online and through in-person interviews, the association will create educational pieces, interactive web exhibits and displays to educate future generations of Pirates about their University.

Take an active role today. Share your Seton Hall story...

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Have you been promoted? Earned an advanced degree? Been honored for professional or personal achievements? Recently married? Added a baby Pirate to the ranks? We want to know! Visit us at www.shu.edu/alumni and share your success. Your news may be published in a coming issue of the Seton Hall magazine.

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Just relaxing: Courtney Mia Matthews was born on Jan. 21, 2008, to Marlo (Donofrio) Matthews ’94 and Jim Matthews.
credit crunch

How will I pay for college? This is a daunting question in the best of times, and these are not the best of times. The skittishness lenders have shown when making decisions about mortgages has now spilled over into the student loan industry; money is just harder to find.

Fewer financial institutions are granting loans, and students and their parents have felt the pinch. In some cases, students have resorted to charging tuition bills to credit cards.

Many worry: Will the situation get worse? When will it get better? Though only time will provide clear answers, Seton Hall turned to Bryan Terry, Ph.D., associate vice president for enrollment services, for his assessment of the situation.

The student loan market has changed considerably in the fallout from the mortgage crisis. Can you describe what has happened?

With the economy being what it is, banks are not as willing to lend as they were. At this point, the problem does not affect federal loans but it does affect some state student loans and all private lending.

What this means is that while a student isn’t having trouble getting loans as part of a federal student aid package, additional money, which is often used for housing expenses, is harder to come by.

Seton Hall is a big user of New Jersey Class Loans, state-sponsored loans that have a great interest rate but are based on bonds. While those loans went through this year, there is some question about next year.

Many lenders are dropping out of the private loan industry because there’s nothing secured about it. You’re asking an 18-year-old student, who doesn’t have a lot of credit, to pay back a loan. Banks were willing to put a lot of faith in a student because once he gets out of school, he gets a job and pays the loan back. Now banks are looking for much better credit risks than they were. In a lot of cases, students aren’t getting the extra housing money to live on campus. It is a concern.

The government has stepped in to fill the gap on some loans. How does the government’s guarantee fit in?

Federal and private loans are different things. For a while there were questions about whether or not lenders would stay in the federal lending program because it wasn’t profitable. Sallie Mae, Nelnet and others were thinking of pulling out because they simply didn’t have the liquidity. Then the Fed stepped in and said, “We’ll buy the loans so it’s no longer a risk on your part. We’re going to buy the loans so you can stay liquid.”

Seton Hall wouldn’t have been so affected by this kind of a pullout because our students are good about paying things back. Some schools may have an institutional default rate of 42 percent. That’s not good. Seton Hall’s is less than 10 percent.

How can people learn more, or better their chances of getting a private loan?

The situation is still evolving. When readers see this, the landscape in the private loan industry will have changed, and we may have different rules than we have now.

Right now, we see students getting approved for private loans. But will that always happen? I can’t really answer the question. There are so many lenders dropping out, I don’t know what will happen.

It may just be federal loans that are available in the future. With those loans, a senior can borrow a maximum of $5,500, for example. After that, the student must make up the gap. If the lending to address that gap goes away… we haven’t made that call yet.

But, even in a bad situation, there are different programs out there to help. We use TuitionPay, which is something borrowers make monthly payments on rather than taking out money and paying it back after graduation. I expect to see more of those kinds of options pop up.

While I’m not painting a pretty picture, one thing people can do is prepare. As soon as the Free Application for Federal Student Aid comes out online [at www.fafsa.ed.gov] shortly after January 1, 2009, students and families need to fill it out. The earlier the application is in, the better chance people have of understanding their financial picture for next year.

Join fellow alumni and friends for the 23rd annual Many Are One alumni awards gala. Be one of more than 500 guests to honor a select group of accomplished alumni and raise money for the Alumni Association’s endowed scholarship fund, which benefits children of alumni who attend Seton Hall.

For more information, visit manyareone.net.